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Removing the bee swarm Photo provided



Paulo Trento preps his spot. Photo Cathy Tyson

From left, Allie Fink, Alicia Hober and Arlee Farrell help install a variety of native plants for butterflies and Community Park visitors to enjoy. Photo Cathy Tyson

## Pint-Sized Gardeners Plant Butterfly-Friendly Natives

### Bee Guy Rescues Field Trip

By Cathy Tyson

Cue the bat, or rather bee, signal. Except unlike Batman, Parks and Recreation staff needed a bee hero to save the day. Just a few hours before young helpers from Merriewood Children's Center were slated to walk over to install native plants in a brand new butterfly garden, bees congregated

a little too close for comfort. "What are the odds that a swarm of bees would decide to take refuge in an oak tree that is right next to the butterfly garden?" said Parks, Trails and Recreation Director Jennifer Russell just a couple of hours from scheduled planting.

Although he didn't have a cape or a bat/bee mobile, Lafayette bee guy Steven Harris happened to pick up his phone and was available to come immediately and gently collect the swarm and move it to a more appropriate location.

... continued on page A12

#### Quote of the Week:

"It is an honor and a privilege to have the opportunity to give our young people a voice." Read Teens to Talk Writing, Publishing and Broadcasting with Cynthia Brian, page A6.

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#### This Week Read About:

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## Jack Zembsch: A Little Person with a Big Voice

By Sophie Braccini



Jack Zembsch with his mother, Kim. Photo Sophie Braccini

Jack Zembsch knows resilience. He's needed a lot of it just to grow up, and he's only 11 years old. The Moraga resident has been supported by his community since the days when his family was fighting to get coverage for a procedure that was critical to his survival.

Zembsch was diagnosed in early infancy with an extremely rare condition called metatropic dysplasia. This form of dwarfism is characterized by severe spinal deformity. By age 6, his spine was bent beyond 90 degrees, which compromised his lungs and heart. After he met with pediatric surgeon William MacKenzie in Delaware, he underwent spinal ligament surgery in 2009, followed by nine weeks in halo traction.

"It's been miraculous; the surgery changed his life," says his mother, Kim Zembsch. "He was losing his lung and heart function. After the surgery he came back standing straight, he was part of the upright world and he could breathe." Zembsch continues to get treatment, including-expandable rods inserted in his back that allow his lungs' growth and normal breathing. They need to be adjusted every six months.

Now his energy and smarts have made him a national spokesperson, going to Washington, D.C. to advocate and to become a face for the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons.

... continued on page A12

### Life in Lamorinda B1-B12

#### Earth Day is April 21!


Join the festivities at Orinda's Wagner Ranch (page A7) or the Lafayette Library and Learning Center (page B1).



### Sports C1-C3

#### Gaels Seek to Defend WCC Golf Crown

Hunter Hewitt has the view from the green on page C2.



### Camps D1-D6

#### Summer Camp Guide

28 specialty half-day camps and classes.



### Our Homes E1-E12

#### "Heart of the Home" Tour

Cathy Tyson takes a sneak peek at indoor and outdoor entertaining spaces featured on tour to support Miramonte Parent Club (page E1).





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## Lafayette Civic News

### Public Meetings

#### City Council

Monday, April 22, 7 p.m.  
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,  
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

#### Planning Commission

Monday, April 15, 7 p.m.  
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,  
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

#### Design Review

Monday, April 22, 7 p.m.  
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,  
Arts & Science Discovery Center,  
3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

#### School Board Meetings

**Acalanes Union High School District**  
Wednesday, April 17, 7:30 p.m.  
Del Valle Education Center, 1963  
Tice Valley Blvd., Walnut Creek.  
[www.acalanes.k12.ca.us](http://www.acalanes.k12.ca.us)

#### Lafayette School District

Wednesday, April 10, 7 p.m.  
Regular Board Meeting  
Stanley Library  
3477 School St., Lafayette  
[www.lafsd.k12.ca.us](http://www.lafsd.k12.ca.us)

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

#### City of Lafayette:

[www.ci.lafayette.ca.us](http://www.ci.lafayette.ca.us)  
Phone: (925) 284-1968

#### Chamber of Commerce:

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

## County Supervisor Andersen Visits Lafayette

By Cathy Tyson



Jay Lifson, executive director of the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce, and Supervisor Candace Andersen pose at her first Brown Bag Lunch event.

Photo C. Tyson

A mix of local business people, concerned residents and city council members attended a recent brown bag lunch event with relatively new county supervisor Candace Andersen. In her first low key, interactive get together to update folks on

what's going on with the county, the meeting was off to a positive start with the generous platter of home-made butterscotch brownies she brought to share.

The former Danville mayor was elected after the retirement of Gayle

Uilkema as Contra Costa County Supervisor for District 2; she says the issues and concerns are similar on the county level to Danville, but there are more zeros in the costs.

Top on her discussion agenda was the fire station situation in Lafayette, cautioning that the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District has serious fiscal issues and that while property tax values are going up in Lamorinda, the rest of the county has not been as lucky with its tax base that supports the district, along with pension worries.

She supports the shared Lafayette-Orinda fire station concept and is looking forward to the results of two studies that are not yet complete that will provide insight into how to best deliver fire and emergency medical services. The first examines how the county responds to emergencies; the second looks specifically at ConFire's service model and how it could work more effectively. Both studies should be complete by

the fall of 2013.

Other discussion points included how the county delivers health services via its hospital and clinics - the advent of Obamacare in the not too distant future could be a huge cost savings. The board of supervisors is also working on ways to streamline the process and cost of obtaining home-based business permits from \$800 to \$100.

Dealing with the fallout of AB 109 is a challenge for the board - the bill requires realignment of thousands of non-violent state prisoners to local jails. It "seems to be going well so far," said Andersen. She commented that she enjoys her job and has been surprised at how fiscally conservative her fellow supervisors are. "We've got our work cut out for us," she said, and "we have to live within our means." Words of wisdom considering the upcoming union contract negotiations, county-wide infrastructure issues and unfunded facilities maintenance that all need to be addressed.

## Countdown to Earth Day

Sustainable Lafayette and the Chamber of Commerce are hosting an Earth Day Celebration at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sun-

day, April 21. It's a picnic and party with live music, a bounce house for kids and interactive activities about all things earth. Kicking off the busy family friendly day is a self-

propelled parade that departs at 10:45 a.m. from Stanley Middle School. The public is invited to bring festively decorated bikes, skateboards, scooters or sneakers

on the stroll from the school to the library. Yummy organic food from local vendors will be available to enjoy al fresco. (See article page B1) C. Tyson

**LAFAYETTE CONSIDERS BAN ON PLASTIC GROCERY BAGS**

The Lafayette City Council will soon consider an ordinance that would ban single-use plastic bags and charge a small fee for paper bags. At the April 22 meeting the environmental task force will recommend the ban to the city council. Those interested in voicing their opinion on the matter are welcome to comment at the meeting which starts at 7 p.m. in the Community Hall, Lafayette Library and Learning Center. C. Tyson

please...  
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...thanks!  
**NEWSPAPER**

## Lafayette Police Department Crime Statistics

Two-week period: March 17-30, 2013  
Alarm responses (50)

**Battery (3)** Betty Lane  
Hidden Oaks Dr  
Dewing Ave

**Burglary**  
Auto (5) Legion Court  
Mt Diablo Blvd  
Corte Rinaldo  
Walnut St  
Sundale Rd/Village Ctr

**Commercial (1)** Mt Diablo Ct

**Residential (1)** Moraga Rd

**DUI (3)** Mt Diablo Blvd  
Pleasant Hill/  
Springhill Rds  
Olympic/Pleasant Hill

**Grand Theft (3)** Reliez Valley Rd  
Walnut Lane  
McGraw Lane

**Petty Theft (7)** N Lucille Lane  
Mt Diablo Blvd  
Moraga Blvd (2)  
Middle Rd  
Solana Ct

**Stolen Vehicle (2)** Mt Diablo Blvd  
Marlene Dr

**Traffic Stops (218)**

**Vandalism (3)** Pleasant Hill Rd  
Mt Diablo Blvd  
Morecroft Rd

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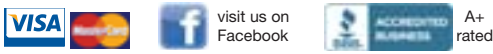
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## Police Give Thanks for Years of Volunteer Service



**Erik Strand** Photo Cathy Tyson  
Police Chief Eric Christensen recognized Reserve Officer Erik Strand for 25 years of volunteer service to the police department and for generously donating his time and energy to serve the com-

munity. Although Strand was an invaluable help to the Lafayette Police Department and had completed extensive training at his own expense, with a full-time day job and three kids at home, he stepped down because he felt it was time to focus on his family. He was a Level 1 Reserve Officer, able to work alone and perform the same duties as a regular officer.

"Nobody has a bigger heart," said the chief at a recent city council meeting. Strand reluctantly posed for a photo and when asked for his reasoning behind the years of service he explained that some family members had been tragically killed by drunk drivers and this was his way of giving back.  
C. Tyson

## Cancer Seminar at the Lafayette Library

Esophageal cancer is the eighth most common type of cancer, according to the American Cancer Society; approximately 16,000 people were diagnosed with it in 2011. With many different types of treatment available it's easy to become overwhelmed. John Muir Health will present an esophageal awareness seminar from 6 to 8 p.m. April 12 featuring physicians specializing in gastroenterology, medical oncology and thoracic surgery, a registered dietitian and esophageal cancer survivor Ellen Tauscher at the Community Hall. Tauscher represented California's 10th con-

gressional district, which includes Lamorinda, for seven terms and worked as the Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security Affairs. They'll be discussing warning signs, latest medical treatments, early detection and what you need to know to stay healthy. With many signs appearing to be common digestive problems, esophageal cancer can be difficult to detect in its early stages, although having difficulty swallowing is a frequent symptom. The event is free; organizers request that you register via www.johnmuirhealth.com. C. Tyson

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letters@lamorindaweekly.com

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### MORAGA HOME SALES DATA FOR THE 1ST QUARTER OF 2013 COMPARED TO HOMES SOLD IN 2012

	Under 2000 sq. ft.		2000-2500 sq. ft.		Over 2500 sq. ft.	
	2012	1stQ 13	2012	1stQ 13	2012	1stQ 13
<b>Avg. Days on Market</b>	28	6	18	9	37	27
<b>Avg. Sales Price</b>	\$747,000	\$828,750	\$911,000	\$983,428	\$1,247,000	\$1,358,227
<b>Avg. Sales Price Per Sq. Ft.</b>	\$429	\$466	\$407	\$436	\$390	\$406

The above is a collection of market data about homes sales in Moraga in 2012 with a comparison to the first quarter of 2013. As you can see, Moraga is getting off to a fantastic start. Interest rates are still very attractive and money is available. Unless something unforeseen happens I expect these results to continue through the end of the year.

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# Moraga Civic News

## Public Meetings

### Town Council

Wednesday, April 10, 7 p.m.  
 Wednesday, April 24, 7 p.m.  
 Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School,  
 1010 Camino Pablo

### Planning Commission

Monday, April 15, 7 p.m.  
 Moraga Library, 1500 Saint Marys Rd.

### Design Review

Monday, April 22, 7 p.m.  
 Moraga Library, 1500 Saint Marys Rd.

### School Board Meeting

**Moraga School District**  
 Tuesday, May 14, 7:30 p.m.  
 Joaquin Moraga Intermediate  
 School Auditorium  
 1010 Camino Pablo, Moraga  
 www.moraga.k12.ca.us  
 See also AUHSD meeting page A2

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

### Town of Moraga:

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

### Chamber of Commerce:

www.moragachamber.org

### Moraga Citizens' Network:

www.moragacitizensnetwork.org



## Police Report

**April Fools' Party, 4/01/13** No joke for a Miramonte Drive resident. Although there were only seven people in the home, apparently they were making a lot of noise at 10:30 p.m. and drinking alcoholic beverages. The resident was issued an Unruly Party Warning Notice, and the festivities promptly ended.

**Kids on the roof, 4/01/13** Cops were called to Los Perales Elementary School on a report of three subjects on the roof. Upon arrival, cops looked around and were unable to locate the subjects.

**Can you pull over? 4/01/13** A sedan veered off the roadway and into a ditch. Apparently the driver was actually aiming for a driveway, but lost control of the car on the wet street. One of the elderly passengers needed to use the restroom. There were no injuries and a tow truck was able to un-ditch the car stuck off of Canyon Road.

**Annoying protesters, 4/01/13** April Fools' prank or free speech? A group of LaRouche protesters set up shop on the sidewalk in front of the Post Office. They had posters and were handing out flyers. An anonymous caller reported they "were not setting a good example for the kids who live in Moraga." Because they were engaging in constitutionally protected free speech, there was no violation. Cops suggested they shop in the area to contribute to the local economy.

**Not sewing needles, 3/31/13** Two 22-year-olds were parked in a car on Camino Ricardo at Whiting Court flicking their cigarette ashes out the window. Police approached them and could smell booze, so they were given field sobriety tests. Jackpot; a search of the car found several methamphetamine pipes, aluminum foil used to smoke oxydocone, a clonazepan tablet and three hypodermic needles.

**Driving with suspended license, 3/30/13** A silver Mercedes was stopped on Moraga Road near Donald Drive for speeding - going 49 in a 35 zone. The 22-year-old driver had a suspended license for D.U.I. The fellow was arrested and released at the scene after signing a Promise to Appear. His father happened to be in the car, so he took the wheel and drove them home.



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# Saint Mary's College Introduces New President

By Sophie Braccini



From left: Past president Brother Mel Anderson, president-elect James Donahue and current president Brother Ronald Gallagher. Photo provided

For the first time in its 150-year history, Saint Mary's College is hiring a lay president. Dr. James A. Donahue will begin his term July 1 as the school's 29th president. Donahue is currently the president of the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley and was introduced to the Saint Mary's community as a distinguished scholar and a committed,

engaged Roman Catholic. Brother Donald Johanson, Provincial of San Francisco Province of the Order of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, introduced Donahue on March 27. "It is with complete trust and confidence that I entrust the college to James Donahue's capable hands," he said. Michael Beseda, vice president

for college communications, added later that the Brothers of Saint Mary's are 100 percent behind the hiring of the lay president. "All the Brothers I talked to were ecstatic about the decision," he said. "They were surprised to find in Dr. Donahue someone so perfectly aligned with their values." The president-elect promised to

dedicate himself with all that he has to make Saint Mary's College the finest academic institution it possibly can be. Donahue immediately demonstrated his understanding of the college's values. "What Saint Mary's offers today is what the world desperately needs and desperately wants," he said. "Our mission is clear: to probe the fundamental questions of human existence in the context of the Catholic and Lasallian tradition, to develop and understanding of the human person, in all of our complexity... and a commitment to service to others and to creating a community that is inclusive, diverse and respectful... this is the mission that draws me to Saint Mary's College."

Donahue was selected after an extensive six-month international search, which was guided by a 17-member search committee made up of trustees, faculty, staff and alumni. "His exceptional qualities as an outstanding leader in higher education, academic scholarship, proven track record in financial management and fundraising, and commitment to Catholic higher education made James Donahue our unambiguous choice to be the college's first lay president," said Russell Harrison, chair of the board of trustees.

# School District Argues Statute of Limitations in Civil Case


By Sophie Braccini

Contra Costa Superior Court Judge Judith Craddick asked attorneys March 29 for more written arguments before she decides if the statute of limitations applies to the civil case put forward by Kristen Cunnane against the Moraga School District and three former administrators for negligence that led to her sexual abuse by a teacher in the 1990s. According to Louis Leone, an attorney representing the school district, the hearing had been postponed for several months in order for the parties to seek a mutual agreement. "The mediation lasted for two full days and ended after the attorneys for Ms. Cunnane and the insurance carrier for the district could not reach an accord," he said. During arguments before Judge Craddick the school district's attorneys maintained the line of defense they established back in October 2012; Leone argued that Cunnane's case was filed after the time allowed

under the statute of limitations. "The law requires timely filings in order to give defendants a fair chance and to prevent situations like this one, in which the evidence and allegations are nearly 20 years old," said Leone. Cunnane's attorneys disagreed. "They (the defendants) say it's too late for her to seek justice. Their position, essentially, is that Kristen should have known they were engaged in a massive cover-up. The argument is offensive and it will not prevail," said attorney Paul Llewellyn. "The more we learn about what was going on in the Moraga School District in the 1990s, the more committed we are to holding the District accountable for what Kristen and others suffered as a result of the District's failure to protect its students and the related cover-up." Superintendent Bruce Burns indicated the day before the hearing that the district was continuing to seek a

settlement with Cunnane. In the meantime a former Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School teacher, identified as Carol Scozzafava, told reporters from the Contra Costa Times that she warned administrators multiple times of possible child molestation at the school in the '90s; she said no one listened to her and she was pushed to resign. "This was the first time I had heard the name of that teacher," said Burns. "I looked in our files and all we have is a standard letter of resignation." Burns, who joined the District years after the molestation scandal, added that he is personally eager to find more facts. "If someone has more information we want to hear about it," he said. "We want to understand fully what happened so we can prevent anything of the sort from ever happening again." In 1996 JM science teacher Dan Witters was accused by several stu-

dents of sexual abuse; he committed suicide a short time later. Three years ago, Cunnane came forward and accused her former JM physical education teacher, Julie Correa, of sexually abusing her over a period of years. Correa was convicted and is now serving an eight-year sentence. Cunnane filed a civil suit against the Moraga School District, retired JM principal Bill Walters, retired assistant principal Paul Simonin and retired superintendent John Cooley when it surfaced a year ago that some district staff knew about Witters' conduct before charges were brought forth and failed to report it, as mandated by law. Cunnane's claim is that this negligence enabled and empowered Correa to abuse her without fear of repercussion. Two other unidentified women filed suits last October for more than \$15 million each claiming the same defendants' inaction led to them being sexually abused by Witters.



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Average Electric Usage (kWh) in 20 years	250	500	750	1,000	1,250	1,500	1,750	2,000	2,250
Average Electric Bill in 20 years	\$119	\$306	\$599	\$910	\$1,221	\$1,532	\$1,843	\$2,154	\$2,465
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\*Based on 6.7% inflation from the utility company. <sup>1</sup>Includes all necessary expenses <sup>2</sup>Combination of Utility Company and PPA

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## The Story of the Strange Little Pink Flyer and Cyber Security

By Sophie Braccini

Residents in the Rheem Valley Manor neighborhood had a perplexing experience last month. On March 18 several of them found bright pink flyers stuck to their front doors or garages offering free electronic and metal recycling by a company the flyer identified only as "A.P." Pick-up was promised by 7 a.m. March 26, but when many items that were left out were not picked up and the alleged business proved hard to reach at the phone number provided on the flyer, concerned citizens brought the situation to the attention of Moraga police.

According to Detective Will Davis, much of the information printed on the flyer is not legitimate – the license number is fictitious, the phone number is not associated with any business and there is no business named A.P.

Davis also said he did not find any "recent alerts in our area regarding scams purporting to pick up metal for recycling."

Lamorinda Weekly called the number on the flyer and spoke with a man who identified himself as Enrique Torres. He said he picks up material and resells it to others for recycling.

By March 27 new flyers were distributed in Moraga offering a recycling pick-up date of April 1. Davis continued to investigate and contacted the district attorney's office. "The legality of this type of business has to be checked," said the detective. "The D.A.'s office is going to follow this case and will look into it."

Davis recommended that residents be very cautious about recycling electronic equipment. "One way ID thieves get their victims' info is from old computer hard drives," he said.

### Reporting Cyber Fraud



Brian Cook Photo Andy Scheck

Special Agent Brian Cook of the F.B.I. spoke to the Moraga Chamber of Commerce March 29 on the topic of cyber fraud. Cook gave a chilling presentation about the extent of cyber attacks both on governments and private entities. He did not have a lot of information on how to protect one's private information online—it seems that almost anything can be cracked and accessed—but he asked that the F.B.I. be contacted when cyber fraud happens; the phone number, available 24/7, is (415) 553-7400.

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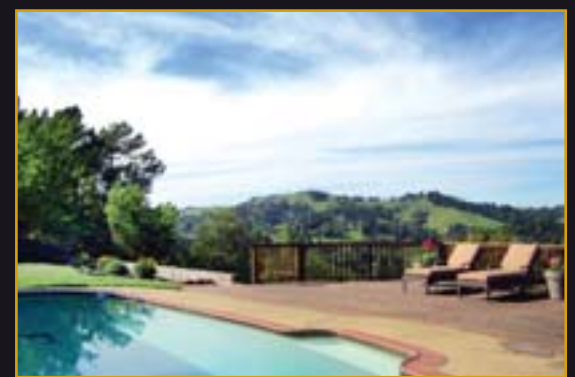
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## Orinda Civic News

### Public Meetings

#### City Council

Thursday, April 25, 7 p.m.  
*Special Meeting*  
Auditorium, Orinda Library,  
26 Orinda Way

#### Planning Commission

Tuesday, April 23, 7 p.m.  
Auditorium, Orinda Library,  
26 Orinda Way

#### Finance Advisory Committee

Wednesday, April 24, 6 p.m.  
Community Room, City Hall,  
22 Orinda Way

#### School Board Meeting

##### Orinda Union School District

Monday, May 13, 6 p.m.  
OUSD Office  
25 Orinda Way, Suite 200  
www.orindaschools.org  
See also AUHSD meeting page A2

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

#### City of Orinda:

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

#### Chamber of Commerce:

www.orindachamber.org

#### The Orinda Association:

www.orindaassociation.org



## ORINDA POLICE DEPARTMENT MONTHLY CRIME STATISTICS MARCH 2013

#### CALLS FOR SERVICE

**False Residential Alarms:** (123)

Officer responded calls

**Assault with a Deadly Weapon:** (1)

Camino Pablo

**Auto Burglary:** (3)

Spring Rd, El Castillo, Pico Ct

**Commercial Burglary:** (3)

Camino Sobrante (2),  
Brookwood Rd

**Residential Burglary:** (5)

Camino Sobrante, La Espiral,  
Glorietta Bl, La Cresta Rd,  
Longview Terrace

**Grand Theft - From Vehicle:** (1)

Camino Pablo

**Vandalism - Felony:** (1)

Estates Dr

**ARRESTS:** (13)

**Possession of Dangerous Drugs:** (1)

Brookwood Rd

**Probation Violation:** (2)

Las Vegas Ct

**Felony - Other:** (1)

Camino Sobrante, Orinda Wy

**Warrant - Arrest:** (2)

St Stephens Dr, Moraga Wy

**Driving Under The Influence**

- Misd <.08: (1)

Glorietta Blvd/Moraga Wy

**Driving Under The Influence**

- Misd >.08: (1) Donna Maria Wy

**Domestic Battery:** (1)

Del Valle

**Assault with A Deadly Weapon:** (1)

Camino Pablo

**Commercial Burglary:** (2)

Camino Sobrante, Brookwood Dr

**Forgery - Fraudulent Documents:** (1)

Overhill Rd

**Juvenile Alcohol-Related Arrests:** (0)

No arrests reported

**ORINDA BART STATION**

**Incidents and Arrests Reported:** (0)

No stats available at this time



**Maureen Wilbur**

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## Moraga Adobe Purchase Appears Likely

By Laurie Snyder



The Moraga Adobe in 1922.

Photo courtesy of the Historic American Buildings Survey of California



The Moraga Adobe in April, 2012.

Photo provided by Kent Long

The Friends of the Joaquin Moraga Adobe (FJMA) and J & J Ranch announced April 3 that after three years of negotiations they have reached agreement on the terms for FJMA's purchase of Orinda's historic Moraga Adobe structure. While FJMA leaders indicated at press time that several details of the agreement still had yet to be finalized, they also

said that the deal would enable FJMA to purchase roughly 2.3 additional acres of land surrounding the structure, as well as the structure itself.

"2012 was a really tough year for us. So this is really good news," said Matt Branagh of J & J Ranch as he reflected both on the deal and on the loss of his father and business partner. The elder Branagh and his wife,

Mona, tragically lost their lives in a July 2012 plane crash.

"Bobbie Landers, Kent Long, and S.B. Master, the board of advisors for Friends of the Adobe, did a really good job of making clear what their goals were," said Branagh. "We both wanted to be able to end up being able to use [the Adobe], and that's what we achieved."

Master, FJMA vice president, said the additional acreage to be purchased by the Friends "includes the crucial view shed, the protection of which has been a special concern of FJMA. Our plan is to operate the Adobe as a history and learning center, highlighting the history of the Adobe and the Joaquin Moraga family, as well as the history of the pre-Gold Rush, land grant era of the Lamorinda region, with access for school groups and the public."

This most recent agreement would create changes to the J & J subdivision plan previously approved by Orinda's planning commission – meaning that the updated plan must be submitted for further review by the commission.

The appellation "J & J Ranch" is derived from the names of cousins Juan Bernal and Joaquin Moraga, recipients of 1835 land grants for the area which encompassed the roughly 20 acres on a south Orinda hill between Miramonte High and Del Rey Elementary schools where the planned subdivision will be located.

Although FJMA will also still need to raise the funds necessary to execute the purchase, the leaders of both J & J Ranch and FJMA are confident that a bright future is in store for the Adobe which, though designated as a California State Historic Landmark in 1954, has suffered greatly at the hands of vandals over the years. "It will be a great asset to the community," said Branagh.

To learn more about the project and about the Adobe's history visit the websites of the city of Orinda, [www.cityoforinda.org](http://www.cityoforinda.org), and FJMA, [moragaadobe.org](http://moragaadobe.org).

## Teens to Talk Writing, Publishing and Broadcasting with Cynthia Brian

By Laurie Snyder



Cynthia Brian (4th from left) with some of her teen writers.

Photo provided

Budding teenage writers will have the chance to get up close and personal with Lamorinda Weekly columnist and teen writing coach Cynthia Brian in a special event from 7 to 8 p.m. April 30 at the Orinda Library. Brian, who has

been active in coaching teens in the Lamorinda community for a number of years, works with young people to create this newspaper's "Teen Scene" column and produces "Express Yourself! Teen Radio." Some of the teens she cur-

rently works with will also be at the event.

"Being the teen coach for the *Lamorinda Weekly* for the past few years has been an extremely enriching and rewarding experience. It is an honor and a privilege to have the opportunity to give our young people a voice. We are blessed with so many talented teens with opinions and ideas," says Brian.

She is an author and editor of several books, including "The Business of Show Business" and "Be the Star You Are! For TEENS," a collection of 38 inspirational stories which she believes will help readers "learn how to cope with courage and face challenges with humor and self-confidence." Proceeds from the sale of the latter are being used to support her award-winning charity, Be the Star

You Are! – a non-profit organization dedicated to "empowering women, families, and youth through improved literacy and positive media."

Teens considering careers as broadcast media professionals or interested in learning what it takes to work for community newspapers and other publications are encouraged to attend Brian's talk, as are young people just beginning their first forays into the world of writing. "As a gardener I nurture plants, as a coach I grow people. I look forward to meeting more teens who are interested in joining our *Lamorinda Weekly* star team," she says. Pre-registration is not required for this free program, which is being sponsored by the Friends of the Orinda Library. For more information, call the library: (925) 254-2184, extension 15.

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**12th Annual Wagner Ranch Wildlife Festival Promises Afternoon of Fun**

By Laurie Snyder

In celebration of the 41st anniversary of Earth Day, Bay Area residents will have a special opportunity to get up close and personal with nature from 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday, April 21, as the Friends of the Wagner Ranch Nature Area host their annual Wildlife Festival.

Now in its 12th year, the widely popular event promises an afternoon of fun for history enthusiasts, tree huggers, and life-long learners of all ages – and maybe even a bit of reverence by attendees for their beautiful surroundings. “The olive grove is thriving, including a newly planted row of young olive trees,” says FWRNA president Steve Gentry. “The flora and fauna will be furiously using the abundant moisture of spring to prepare for summer.”

Wagner Ranch has been a key source of environmental education for Orinda youth for more than 30 years through such programs as Native American Studies, Pioneer Days, Rancho Days, Animal Studies, and First Thanksgiving, which are presented by a retired school district naturalist and nature aides.

The area boasts 18 acres of ponds and streams, meadow and forest. Festival goers will be able to relax and enjoy music and food under old growth oaks, engage in wildlife-themed arts and crafts, play games and, best of all, learn more about the cool critters which call the Lamorinda area home. Local wildlife expert and columnist, Gary Bogue, will be on hand for this year’s festival, as will Lindsay Wildlife Museum representatives, and Jenny Papka of Native Bird Connections (www.native-

birds.org/), who will present a raptor show. Hear the buzz from bee guy Gentry, test drive an electric car, or get the latest dirt from the Soul of Soil, Dick Strong.

The grounds are also rich in history. Theodore Wagner, accorded the title of “General” for his role as a Surveyor General, acquired a substantial portion of land in the beautiful valley area now known as Wagner Ranch through his marriage to a member of the Sandow family. He built an impressive home on the site in 1882 – for a reported \$140,000. The foundation is still visible.

Wagner was also known to throw a good party, and would likely have enjoyed himself at this year’s event. To learn more about Wagner Ranch, become a member of FWRNA, or volunteer, visit: www.fwrna.org.

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**More Orinda Civic News on Page A11**



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**ORINDA \$3,200,000**  
5/4.2. Spanish Mediterranean Country Club with lake views. Small vineyard & lvl yard. Stunning! Fellner/Molloy DRE#01428834/01910108



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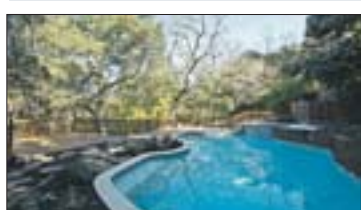


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## Letters to the Editor

Share your thoughts with our community!

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Editor:

Open Apology from the NCAA

We NCAA officials are surprised to learn that St. Mary's College (SMC) alumni disapproved with our ranking of their team in March Madness. After careful review, we determined that your team's RPI Ranking was not on par with other teams. Although we recognize that Gonzaga was ranked #1 in their region, the NCAA Committee determined that the West Coast Conference lacked depth. Lacked depth, you ask? Yes. SMC 's Gaels did defeat conference champions Harvard, Pacific and Creighton, two of which advanced to round 3. Big deal!

The NCAA scheduled St. Mary's [seeded 11] to participate in a play-in while we let CAL [seeded 12] into the playoffs with no extra games [despite CAL's losses to Harvard and Creighton]. This seems logical to us because Cal has a bigger arena, more alumni and can draw a better television audience. We cannot forget the bottom line. You must understand, after all, that NCAA officials seldomly watched St. Mary's play this year as our normal bedtime on the East Coast precedes your 8:00 p.m. start times. Perhaps you should play Big East, ACC and Atlantic 12 teams to get prime time coverage and play someone we know.

You SMC Alumni also faulted the 9:40 p.m. EDT game time [SMC vs. Middle Tennessee State] and the non-existent primetime coverage. You must understand that people from back East don't know you and don't want to stay up for these games. Knowing this, the NCAA jumped through every hoop to expand the audience for the late-night games. Tru TV even aired the SMC game before 'Marsha Clark and Chris Darden: the Real Story'. What more do you want?

We apologize for the short notice on your first play-in game. We NCAA officials sympathized with your lack of recovery time and hoped your hunger pangs, while playing in Dayton [during your West Coast dinner time], would cancel out your jet lag.

Finally, you mentioned the 2:45 p.m. EDT start time in Dayton on Round-2. Once again, bottom line! We had to squeeze you in before the Katie and Ellen Degeneres Shows to maximize our television audience. Look at it this way: The average of the two unfavorable start times equals primetime. What more do you want? In conclusion, some may say that the NCAA is biased against St. Mary's because of the sanctions. Not true! After all, we made Miami a number 2 in the East!

Congratulations Gaels on another great year!

Glenn Cass (SMC Alumni)  
Lafayette

Editor:

Missing from Amy Worth's State of the City address is a commitment to preserving Orinda's environment (news article, Lamorinda Weekly, March 27).

In her March 20 address given at the Orinda County Club, Ms. Worth mentioned, according to the Weekly, that Orinda officials have focused on public safety, planning, public works, and parks and recreation.

In the article, Ms. Worth, added another term: "partnerships." The partnerships are to be between the city and various county, state and federal agencies.

Partnerships: that's the problem. These partnerships involve such unelected California governmental bodies as the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) and the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG). Curiously, Ms. Worth is chairperson of the MTC, an organization that wants to spend \$180 million on a new headquarters in San Francisco and \$5.6 million for a ceremony to mark, in September, the opening of a new segment of the Bay Bridge.

But there's more. MTC and ABAG, according to a 2012 draft document, want Orinda to install, between 2014 and 2022, 226 units of new housing in Orinda. Of these 226 units, 84 are to be for "very low income" people and 47 for "low income" people.

Personally, I do not object to low-income people living in Orinda. However, I do object to non-Orinda, unelected bodies (like MTC and ABAG) telling Orinda how to run itself.

I do object to any plan to construct any buildings in Orinda that are over 35 feet in height.

Orinda has a precious environment. No outside governmental organizations should have the power to wreck Orinda's open spaces, trees, and natural beauty.

Richard S. Colman  
Orinda

#### 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](mailto:letters@lamorindaweekly.com) and let us know you'd like to be considered for the Public Forum.



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# Louder Retirement Should Not Unhinge Joint Venture

*Fire chiefs say MOFD/ConFire station consolidation plan stays on course*

By Nick Marnell

The Contra Costa County Fire Protection District closed Lafayette's fire station 16 in January. This month ConFire chief Daryl Louder announced his retirement—raising fears that these events will compound the uncertainty of providing fire and emergency services to Lafayette, including concerns over a proposed inter-agency fire station consolidation plan.

Louder approached the Moraga-Orinda Fire District in January with a proposal for a joint venture: combine his shuttered station 16 with MOFD's station 43, which was scheduled for renovation. The resultant station 46 partnership is expected to save each district an estimated \$1 million annually in operating costs. The proposed site for the new station is along El Nido Ranch Road in Lafayette, near the Orinda border.

Louder will stay in the job until the end of October. "There are a number of strategic issues I plan to work on during my remaining time with the district," he said. "Obviously, the joint fire station initiative is centric to Lafayette."

"I do not see the chief's departure having an effect on Lafayette," said Contra Costa County Supervisor Candace Andersen, who was upbeat about the prospects of the consolidation. "The MOFD/ConFire talks are moving along quickly, and I know that Louder is committed to working diligently to see if we can make this joint station happen," she said.

MOFD Fire Chief Randall Bradley concurred. "We are very close to an agreement that we can bring to our boards," he said. "Louder's departure should not impact the discussions and our ability to finalize an agreement."

Not everybody exuded the same confidence. Vince Wells,

president of United Professional Firefighters of Contra Costa County Local 1230, was not sure how Louder's retirement will impact the consolidation proposal. "He is the biggest proponent of this plan from the ConFire side," said Wells. "His leaving will certainly impact his credibility and ability to convince the board of supervisors that the merger is a good deal when he will not be around to see the deal through. It leaves us without a fire chief at a very critical time."

Lafayette resident George Burt also bemoaned the timing of Louder's exit. "To make painful decisions, and then leave, is tough. If he could have stayed, we'd be better off, because he would have been here to implement the changes." Burt praised Louder for at least trying to do something positive. "Louder's going to get the blame for a lot of things, but I'll give him credit for coming to Bradley with the consolidation idea," he said.

Notwithstanding the question marks, the consolidation effort remains on track, and Louder is committed to seeing the plan through. "We have been meeting with county counsel and MOFD on a proposal we can present to the board of supervisors. I'm hoping that we can have something to present by late April," he said.

As to the plan for finding Louder's successor, Andersen said she was appreciative that Louder gave the board over six months notice that he would be leaving. "This gives us the opportunity to search for and find a replacement who will be up to the task of leading a fire agency with severe economic challenges, and who is open to innovative solutions to meet the fire and emergency medical response needs of our community," she said.



**Moraga-Orinda Fire District Board of Directors Meetings**  
 The Moraga-Orinda Fire District holds Board Meetings on the first and third Wednesday of every month at 7 p.m. Any exceptions will be posted in advance.  
**Next meeting:** Regular Board Meeting, April 17, 2013, 7 p.m.  
 (Go to www.mofd.org as the meeting date approaches for location and more information)

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## Special Delivery

*MOFD attends to its first childbirth in 10 years*

By Nick Marnell



Back row, from left: Engineer Paramedic Jon Ford, Firefighter Paramedic Stephen Gehling, Firefighter Paramedic Anthony Stephens, Firefighter Chris Mathews; front row: Sameer Rathod, holding Vivek, and Chandni Rathod; not pictured: Captain Sean McGee. Photo Tod Fierner

The dispatch into Moraga-Orinda Fire District Station 45 on the evening of January 13 alerted the company to a medical emergency. A woman was in labor and delivery was imminent.

Captain Sean McGee and his firefighter/paramedic unit dashed out of the station, heading for Stanton Avenue in Orinda. The crew arrived at the home in three minutes and rushed to the master bedroom, where Chandni Rathod was seconds away from giving birth to her first child.

"I've delivered four babies in the field," said lead paramedic Stephen Gehling. "This one was easy." The baby was already crowning, and at 10:17 p.m., after Gehling applied his training and experience in emergency childbirth, into his hands arrived a 5-pound, 15-ounce boy, Vivek.

"He was seven days early," said Rathod, recalling that she was in a fog throughout the delivery process. The father, Sameer Rathod, said that he remained calm but joked with firefighters, "If you guys were even a minute or two later..."

After the delivery, the MOFD crew drove the mother and baby to Alta Bates Summit Medical Center for follow-up care.

The Rathods and the firefighters met at Station 45 on April 1 for a reunion, and Fire Chief Randall Bradley presented an MOFD Birth Certificate to the family and an MOFD Live Birth Award to the delivery crew.

"This was one of the fun days of our job," said Bradley.

"And we are eternally grateful," said the new dad.

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# Community Service

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](mailto:storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com) with the subject header In Service to the Community.

## Camino Pablo Elementary Gives Back

Submitted by Sally Whipple



CP students help load up books to donate to Reading Partners.

Photo provided

February was a month of giving at Camino Pablo Elementary School. Both the PTA and student council hosted programs to benefit different organizations and both were wildly successful. The PTA hosted a read-a-thon to raise money to help update reading intervention materials and at the same time hosted a book drive to benefit Reading Partners.

Reading Partners is a nonprofit organization based in Oakland that provides literacy intervention programs at elementary schools in low-income communities. Children at CP

donated over 1,000 of their favorite books. These books will be distributed to children who do not have access to libraries at their school and in their community.

"We feel so fortunate to live in Moraga. Our community supports the schools through our Education Foundation and giving time in the schools. The combination ensures that all children in Moraga have access to great libraries and the support they need in the classroom, to become confident and accomplished readers," said Denise Duff, CP's PTA president.

The CP student council also hosted a spare change drive to raise money for animals abandoned by Hurricane Sandy. After much counting and re-counting of coins, they collected over \$800.

"LifeSkills are the foundation on which we build a community of learners at Camino Pablo School," said Tom Rust, CP's principal. "Programs, such as this coin drive, help children apply those skills in real life by giving back to others."

## Spring Candy Scramble

Submitted by Maurice Williams



Photo Andy Schreck

The Lafayette Rotary Club continued its tradition of giving out free candy at the Lafayette Plaza Park. Many families with kids of all ages came out to enjoy the morning in the park where Rotary members threw

candy on the grass for the children. This year, for the first time, the Moraga-Orinda Fire Department was present with a fire truck for children to explore; Chief Eric Christensen and Lafayette Police Department allowed

kids to sit in a police car and on a police motorcycle. Rotary members also sold raffle tickets for a raffle to be held at the annual Concert at the Res May 11-- the biggest fundraiser supporting local school music programs.

## Kiwanis Members Install New Steps at Hacienda

Submitted by Dale Walwark



From left, Sam Sperry, Dick Ayres, and club president Graig Crossley.

Photo Dale Walwark

Members of the Kiwanis Club of Moraga replaced the steps that lead down to the stream at the Hacienda de las Flores. New ma-

sonry steps next to the La Sala building replace rotting railroad ties that were installed by other Kiwanians a number of years ago. The handrails

built then are in good condition and are being retained, according to Sam Sperry, chairman of the project for Kiwanis.

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**Community Service**

**Local High School Donations Help Teens in Need**

Information submitted by Sue Graham



Photo provided

on campus during a recent clothing drive. Miramonte, Acalanes, Bentley, and Los Lomas high schools participated in the clothing drive again this year, donating hundreds of gently-used pieces of clothing that will go to low-income teens in the Bay Area. Clothing is distributed through Boys and Girls Club of West Contra Costa County and Foster Care. Graham started the charity

Miramonte High School Principal Adam Clark stands with 1 Closet founder Laura Graham at a donation site

organization with her mom in 2011 as a way to help teens feel good about themselves and to stay in school.

**Civic News Orinda**

**Spruced Up for Spring**



Photo courtesy Charles Vollmar

Orinda's San Pablo Creek Bridge, located at the intersection of Orinda Way and Camino Pablo, received another touch-up recently thanks to Orinda resident Charlie Vollmar and a team of dedicated citizen volunteers. Working in partnership with Orinda's Department of Public Works, the structure was first power-washed and then repainted to a bright white. The beloved bridge, built in 1920, was designated as an historic landmark by the city in 1990.

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**From Front Page**

**Pint-Sized Gardeners Plant Butterfly-Friendly Natives**

... continued from page A1



The prospect of butterflies makes getting dirty even more fun!

Photo provided

Harris is on a list of volunteers, with the Mount Diablo Beekeepers Association, who remove swarms. Bee swarming is a natural phenomenon; bees leave their home hive because it's getting over-crowded as more nectar and pollen are stored in the hive. "Fat and happy honeybees, with no home to protect, are less likely to sting," advises the Mount Diablo Bee Keepers Association. While pollinating honey bees are generally a very good thing, they may not be a terrific combination with little helpers.

Looking to create a tasty nectar-rich environment Greg Travers, parks maintenance specialist worked with intern Lena Orlando and Merriewood's Kevin Feinstein to come up with the garden project filled with native flowering plants like monkey flower, sage, asters and mugwort that offer lots of tasty treats. Merriewood is an afterschool day care facility associated with Burton Valley Elementary School just over the hill.

Orlando carefully researched types of low maintenance native plants that will attract butterflies and mapped out the best spots for sun- and shade-loving plants that won't need much watering after they're established. She is studying horticulture at Oregon State University; although that's a long commute from Lafayette she takes her full load of classes online and anticipates graduating next summer.

Butterflies like to stay warm so three large boulders selected by Orlando, which have a bit of a natural dip in the center to hold water, were placed in the sunny center of the garden to be a natural heater.

With fresh water in the nearby creek, this particular location just across the footbridge and to the left in the community park is flanked by picnic tables and a play area for little ones; an obvious choice for optimal butterfly viewing. For now though, the hardy native plants need to grow

and actually flower to entice with the equivalent of chocolate cake for butterflies. Good thing the transformation from egg to caterpillar to chrysalis to butterfly may take a while.

Ambitious bee hero Steven Harris, 23, is happy to collect swarms since he's starting a honey business. A graduate of Acalanes and former student at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo majoring in agriculture and environmental plant sciences, he had taken classes on bee keeping. When not at his part-time jobs at Whole Foods and Diablo Valley Montessori he's busy getting "Bee Friendly Honey" up and running. His five-year plan includes starting a nursery business selling plants that draw honey bees and beneficial insect plants that attract lady bugs and praying mantis that eat bad bugs.

**Jack Zemsch: A Little Person with a Big Voice**

... continued from page A1

"When we've met with politicians to talk about funding for research, they'd listen to figures and facts, but the person in the room who

had the most impact was Jack," says his mother.

"If research had not been done by the time I was 7, I might be in the grave, or at least not living a very healthy life," Zemsch says.

"He is a great spokesperson because he is passionate, he has a story to tell, and he is a great example," adds his mother.

The Camino Pablo Elementary fifth grader now lives a normal life. He is in Boys Scouts, swims competitively, and was elected to the student council last year. "My goal in life is to become a leader and a spokesperson," Zemsch says. When his family went to Washington, D.C. to meet with the Delaware Senator Tom Carper and Senator Chris Coons, since his surgery was done in that state, he was one of the first to speak.

"I talked about keeping the NIH (National Institutes of Health) funded, so every association, such as the AAOS, continues to do research. Because of budget cuts, every association risks losing funding," says Zemsch. Everyone from Delaware pledged support; the vote will come soon and the family hopes that the NIH will at least continue to receive its current level of funding.

Zemsch believes that cutting resources to fundamental science is dangerous. "If they stop research they will kill a lot of people and the economy at the same time," he says. His mother understands that fundamental research is very expensive and has very little direct return on investment, but it is also the building blocks on which new cures and medications are

found, and is what makes this country a leader in the medical field.

Zemsch is also a powerful a voice at the local level. When the Moraga School District was working on its strategic plan, it interviewed Zemsch.

"I said that it would be nice to have more hands-on science in class," he says. "When we reach the end of a science chapter, the experiments are scheduled as the last part, and we rarely have the time to do it." He was also asked what his favorite class was. "I answered 'music,'" he says, "because it is the only class where I feel comfortable, even with my disability."

Moraga mobilized for Zemsch. The 'Team Jack Fund' was started by Karin Hein and Leanne Parsons. Today the fund helps send a family with a rare spinal condition to meet with MacKenzie. "They can meet with him at his hospital or at the yearly Little People of America (LPA) convention," says Zemsch's mom. LPA had its genesis with the filming of the Wizard of Oz; it was the first time that little people from all over United States got together and exchanged perspectives. They decided to continue to meet and created the LPA. Every year, patients and doctors meet there, interact and debate for two days, and patients can get a free doctor appointment.

Zemsch is waiting for the results of the budgetary vote. On the line is cutting-edge research on the gene that causes his condition. "If they find a cure for my disease," says Zemsch, "they can find a cure for other diseases related to that same problem."

# Earth Day in Lafayette

*A family-friendly event*

By Sophie Braccini



Lafayette Earth Day 2012

Photo provided

Last month in Lafayette, the Lamorinda Democratic Club invited Dr. Andrew Gunther, the executive coordinator of the Bay Area Ecosystems Climate Change Consortium, to talk about the impact of climate change on our area.

"We are entering a period of consequences," said Gunther, using a phrase by Winston Churchill to describe what is happening as a result of increasing greenhouse gas emissions.

The first local consequences, noted Gunther, involve water: less snow in the Sierras means less reserve for us, and increased pressure from southern California to get Delta water. Gunther says that people on both sides of the aisle are looking for solutions and he highlighted areas where progress would have the most impact: fuel efficiency, solar panels and eating less red meat.

The main message? "Change starts at home."

For those interested in making a change, the April 21 Earth Day Festival in Lafayette will be a good starting point. The 8th annual festivities will focus on helping Lafayette become one of the most sustainable cities in the Bay Area, with special attention this year on recycling.

Activities include: the 'self-propelled' parade, which starts at Stanley Middle School at 10:45 a.m.; interactive activities from the Lawrence Hall of Science and Lindsay Wildlife Museum will be offered from 11 a.m.

to 1 p.m.; the one-hour family friendly screening of the movie "Garbage Revolution" from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. in the Arts and Science Room of the Lafayette Library and Learning Center; and for the first time this year kids can expend energy in a bounce house. Food and music will be available from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the LLLC piazza.

Residents interested in reducing their carbon footprint can do so along Golden Gate Way; information will be available about gardening, how to raise chickens, and how to drive less, and visitors will be able to learn about environmentally-safe home cleaning products, land, creeks and open spaces around Lafayette and more. Solar panel installers will also have the latest on costs and incentives.

A big focus this year will be on reaching a 75 percent diversion rate in Lafayette. The current rates are in the 60s and the state's objective is 75 percent by 2020. Lafayette wants to be a leader on the road to zero waste.

"The patio area of the library will feature a 'No-Waste Zone,' which will display educational material and information on how residents can help Lafayette reach its goal of 75 percent waste diversion," says Sustainable Lafayette spokesperson Tina Goodfriend. "Residents can declare a pledge on ways they will help to reduce and eliminate waste in Lafayette by making a commitment on the

Pledge Wall. We are also going to have a display of 365 water bottles so people can see what a year's worth of water bottles look like."

Girl Scout troops will present waste diversion ideas and will earn badges for participating in the festival. FRG Waste will be at the Stanley parking lot on School Street from 10:45 a.m. to 3 p.m. collecting electronic waste. They will be collecting all electronic waste that has a plug – items such as outdated/non-compliant goods, computers, PDA's, monitors, phones and more (no microwaves or large appliances will be accepted).

The Earth Day Festival is a widely supported Lafayette event, organized and hosted by four different entities: Sustainable Lafayette, the Lafayette Library and Learning Center, the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce, and the City of Lafayette. The City of Lafayette Green Award winners for 2012 will be announced at noon during the festival, recognizing citizen and business environmental contributions to the Lafayette community.

For more information, visit [www.sustainablelafayette.org](http://www.sustainablelafayette.org). Lamorinda Weekly is a proud sponsor of this event.

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## Caring is Not Enough for Lafayette Resident

By Cathy Dausman

"We plan vacations, education; we even write grocery lists. Why don't we think about this?" asked Lafayette resident and "Caring is Not Enough" author Terry Ann Black.

"This" is the question of how survivors manage a loved one's affairs after death or catastrophe. A nurse, lecturer and author with over 46 years experience in the health care field, Black has spoken to many Bay Area service groups about this type of planning.

Black's passion "for people to be prepared" came out of a combination of work-related nursing experiences and personal experiences, including her father-in-law's and mother's deaths. When Black's father-in-law died unexpectedly in an auto accident in the early 1990s, she helped settle his estate. In the process she uncovered a safe deposit box key. Black thought her father-in-law might have been safeguarding his valuable collection of stamps and coins, but neither she nor her husband ever discovered where the key belonged.

Black's mother also died in an unrelated auto accident. Black said it was "a disaster" to administer that

estate. "She [Black's mother] had a 10-year-old [outdated] will, had given away stuff she had willed to people and left behind \$20,000 in credit card debt," Black said. She called the time spent as her mother's executor "confusing, depressing and unpleasant." She was so distracted functioning as executor that she said she never had the time to grieve.

When Black's co-workers suggested she compile a list to help others avoid this confusion, the pamphlet "Caring is Not Enough: A List of 50 Most Important Questions" was born.

In 1998 her family moved to New York state and she shelved the project. By 2005 the Blacks were in Lafayette and her son suggested she reissue her booklet. When Black asked him why, he answered: "Because of Terri Schiavo."

Schiavo suffered massive brain damage after collapsing in her Florida home in 1990. Schiavo's husband petitioned the courts to remove her feeding tube starting in 1998; her parents opposed the move. She died in 2005. Black discovered a lot had changed since the book's initial publication in the 1990s. ... continued on page B5



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For more information please attend the first festival meeting on April 18<sup>th</sup> 7PM at the Rheem Theatre or sign up at the Rheem Theatre lobby.

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# Lamorinda Moms Pick the Best of Lamorinda 2013

Submitted by Jennifer McCosker



With 192 member nominee submissions and an amazing 772 votes from members – a record high – Lamorinda Moms completed the Best of Lamorinda 2013 survey, which recognizes great resources within the Lamorinda area and provides a valuable information bank for Lamorinda Moms members as well as the community.

This year some old favorites won their categories, such as Best Storytime (Lafayette Library), Best Plant

Nursery & Florist (Orchard Nursery in Lafayette), and Best Brunch and Best Family-friendly Dining (Chow in Lafayette). Newcomers to Lamorinda were stiff competition and won some categories including Best Birthday Entertainer (The Garden Party Company), and Best Takeout/Delivery (Patxi's in Lafayette). Many categories were won by a slim margin of one to three votes. Congratulations to our Lamorinda moms for providing the best resource for finding babysitters, nannies (Lamorinda Moms Forum), and best birthday party location (Home).

Lamorinda Moms members received directions and a link to the online survey and had two weeks to complete it. Each current Lamorinda Moms member was eligible to vote once. All votes were anonymous. Members who voted could enter a

raffle to win one of two gift certificates, a \$25 gift certificate from Orchard Nursery in Lafayette and a gift certificate from Cloud 9 Organic Salon in Orinda for a haircut and blowout, a \$40 value.

The entrant with the most votes in the category won. There was one two-way tie and one three-way tie. The two-way tie was for Best Toy Store (Sweet Dreams in Orinda and Five Little Monkeys in Walnut Creek). The three-way tie was for Best Interior Designer (Anna Stahl Design, Kelly Scanlon Designs, and Found Design in Lafayette).

While many of the same categories were used from previous Best of Lamorinda surveys, 18 new categories were added this year, with most being professional services, and marked with an asterisk on the list below:

## The 2013 Winners

<b>Babysitting Resource</b>	Lamorinda Moms Forum	<b>Caterer</b>	Susan Foord Catering
<b>Nanny Resource</b>	Lamorinda Moms Forum	<b>Photographer</b>	Alicia Cervenka Photography
<b>Birthday Entertainer</b>	The Garden Party Company	<b>Plant Nursery</b>	Orchard Nursery & Florist
<b>Birthday Party Location</b>	Home	<b>Housecleaner/Housecleaning Service*</b>	Extreme Clean Company
<b>Children's Birthday Cake</b>	Lovely Little Cakes	<b>Realtor*</b>	Karen Richardson Group, Alain Pinel
<b>Children's Clothing</b>	Baby Gap / Gap Kids	<b>Architect*</b>	Ward-Young Architecture & Planning
<b>Toy Store</b>	Sweet Dreams	<b>General Contractor*</b>	J Willis Construction
	Five Little Monkeys	<b>Handyman*</b>	Luis Ovalle
	The Ballet School	<b>Landscape Architect/Design*</b>	Garden Lights Landscape Development
<b>Dance Class / Lessons</b>	Encore Gymnastics	<b>Appliance Repair*</b>	Adept Appliance Repair
<b>Gymnastics Class</b>	Music Together	<b>Appliance Retail*</b>	Friedman's Appliance
<b>Music Class</b>	Sherman Swim School	<b>Electrician*</b>	Redwood Electric
<b>Swim Lessons</b>	Camp Galileo	<b>Plumber*</b>	Volga Plumbing
<b>Summer Camp</b>	Kristine's Kuts	<b>Hardware Store*</b>	Orchard Supply Hardware
<b>Kid's Haircut</b>	Moraga Commons	<b>Interior Designer*</b>	Anna Stahl Design
<b>Playground</b>	Lafayette Reservoir		Kelly Scanlon Designs
<b>Walk / Hike with Kids</b>	Lafayette Reservoir		Found Design
<b>Picnic Spot*</b>	Lindsay Wildlife Museum		
<b>Rainy Day Activity</b>	Lafayette Library		
<b>Storytime</b>	Growing Tree Preschool		
<b>Pre-School</b>			
<b>Food / Drink / Fun</b>			
<b>Brunch</b>	Chow	<b>Health</b>	
<b>Carryout / Delivery</b>	Patxi's	<b>Pediatric Dentist</b>	Aloha Pediatric Dentistry
<b>Family Friendly Dining</b>	Chow	<b>Adult Dentist*</b>	Matthew T. Herrington, DDS
<b>Chinese Food</b>	Uncle Yu's	<b>OB/GYN</b>	Kurt Wharton, MD
<b>Pizza</b>	Pizza Antica	<b>Ophthalmologist / Optometrist</b>	Lamorinda Optometry
<b>Indian Food</b>	Swad	<b>Dermatologist</b>	Kelly Hood, MD
<b>Mexican Food</b>	El Charro	<b>Chiropractor</b>	Ori Family Chiropractic & Massage
<b>Italian Food</b>	Postino	<b>Pediatrician / Pediatric Office</b>	Lamorinda Pediatrics
<b>Japanese Food / Sushi</b>	Blue Gingko	<b>Primary Care Physician (Adult)*</b>	Mary Miller, MD
<b>Mediterranean Food</b>	Kabab Burger	<b>CNM/CPM</b> (Certified Nurse-Midwife/Certified Professional Midwife)*	Laura Warren - Kaiser Permanente
<b>Thai Food</b>	Amarin Thai	<b>Pregnancy / Maternity / Newborn</b>	
<b>Desserts</b>	SusieCakes	<b>Prenatal Yoga Class</b>	YogaWorks
<b>Seafood</b>	Yankee Pier	<b>Birth / Parenting Class</b>	John Muir Women's Health Center
<b>Steak</b>	Ruth's Chris	<b>Infant Specialty Shop</b>	Day One Center
<b>Sandwich Shop</b>	Morucci's Si Mangia Bene	<b>Lactation Consultant</b>	John Muir Women's Health Center
<b>Coffee Shop</b>	La Boulange Bakery	<b>Sleep Consultant</b>	Day One Center
<b>Outdoor Dining</b>	Metro	<b>Maternity Clothing Shop*</b>	Destination Maternity
<b>Romantic Dinner</b>	Postino	<b>Pampering and Fitness</b>	
<b>Mom's Night Out</b>	Metro	<b>Day Spa</b>	Lavande
<b>Cocktails*</b>	Metro	<b>Full Service Salon</b>	Cloud 9 Organic Salon
<b>Movie Theater</b>	Century 14	<b>Manicure / Pedicure</b>	Cloud 9 Organic Salon
<b>Live Music</b>	Orinda Summer Concerts	<b>Gym</b>	Renaissance ClubSport
<b>Live Theater</b>	Town Hall Theatre Comp.	<b>Fitness Class</b>	Oakwood Athletic Club
<b>Pumpkin Patch</b>	Clayton Valley Pumpkin Farm, Cl	<b>Mom &amp; Baby Fitness Class</b>	Baby Boot Camp
	Broadway Plaza	<b>Yoga / Pilates Studio</b>	Renaissance ClubSport - Leslie Jerge
<b>Pictures with Santa</b>			
<b>Professional Services</b>			
<b>Dry Cleaners</b>	Sterling Cleaners		
<b>Florist</b>	Orchard Nursery & Florist		
<b>Grocery Store</b>	Diablo Foods		
<b>Party Supplies</b>	Boswell's		
<b>Pet Grooming / Sitting</b>	Pet Food Express		
<b>Veterinarian</b>	Lafayette Animal Hospital		

For a complete list of winners' addresses, websites and phone numbers, please visit [www.lamorindaweekly.com](http://www.lamorindaweekly.com).

Lamorinda Moms is a non-profit social and support group for moms with children age five and younger within the greater Lamorinda area that strives to help members enrich their lives through cultivating new friendships, personal and professional growth, and community involvement. Since its inception in 1995, Lamorinda Moms has evolved to become one of the largest parenting organizations in the San Francisco Bay Area, with over 875 members and growing. For more information about Lamorinda Moms, visit at [www.lamorindamoms.org](http://www.lamorindamoms.org).

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# When a Tree Falls...

By Sophie Braccini



Photo Andy Scheck

During the winter, high winds and rain can be hazardous to trees and neighboring structures. And while a dry winter can make tree roots stronger, the threat of pests like the bark beetle increases in drought conditions. Understanding your trees, and what you need to do when they come down, or need to be taken down, can save a lot of time and money.

The first step is to make an assessment of trees on your property. Do they show signs of infestation? Are they leaning toward a neighbor's property or right-of-way? Are they a protected native species?

If a tree is native to the area, such as valley oak or black oak, removing a tree can be more complicated, requiring permits with various supporting evidence, mitigation and consequences for non-compliance.

Removing a protected tree without a permit in Moraga is considered a misdemeanor, while Lafayette requires compensation. "A person who destroys or removes a protected tree in violation of this chapter shall pay restitution to the city by replacing each six-inches or its fraction of the diameter of the protected tree with four replacement 24-inch box trees of the same species," reads Lafayette's municipal code.

The three Lamorinda cities cite that native trees contribute to the natural scenic beauty, habitat for wildlife, semi-rural character and quality of life in the area. Making sure your trees are healthy and not a potential hazard can lessen future complications.

When a tree falls on your property, most homeowner's insurance will cover the damage, after you've paid the deductible. But what happens if your tree falls on your neighbor's property, in the right-of-way and knocks out a power line, or if a tree located in the right-of-way needs to be removed?

For trees that are in the right-of-way, rules are different in the three Lamorinda cities. "If a tree has been planted by the city, then it is our responsibility to take care of it," says Sarah Allen, Lafayette planning technician, "but if it's always been there, it is the adjacent property owner who has to take care of it."

In Orinda, Public Works Director Charles Swanson indicates that in residential districts property owners are responsible for the trees in the right-of-way adjacent to their property. "If

a tree falls, the property owner will have to have it removed," he said, adding that in the downtown area where the city might have landscaped, they keep an eye on the trees.

If the tree is diseased or seems compromised, Swanson indicates that his department can be called to give an assessment. "We can do this (assessment), and will often recommend that an arborist be called," he adds. That assessment can be useful if a neighbor's tree starts leaning toward your property.

### Who's Responsible?

"When a tree falls from your property into someone else's, we consider it 'an act of God,'" says one local residential insurance broker who preferred not to be identified. "It is typically your neighbor's insurance company that will take care of the damage." That is, if there is no negligence on the part of the tree's owner.

"The best thing to do if you're concerned about a neighbor's tree is to try to find a neighborly solution," the broker says. "Maybe call the city services or an arborist to get a report and find a common sense solution." If the neighbor does not want to take action, the broker suggests sending a certified letter to the tree's owner so that if damage occurs there is documentation regarding the issue.

As far as tree/powerline interface, PG&E has the responsibility to trim and maintain the trees that might cause damage to their lines, and can access trees on private property if it deems the trees are a hazard, says local arborist David Wood.

Wood's bigger concern is the health of local pine trees. "After the high December rains we could have seen a lot of trees falling over, but the last 10 weeks have dried down the root system, making the trees a lot more stable," he says, "but now we will be in danger of tree mortality in the late summer or fall, and people should be watching out for bark beetles around their big pine trees."

Fresh signs of infestation are pitch tubes: gummy looking resins mixed with wood chips, anywhere on the trunk, most commonly on the first three feet. Old evidence of infestation looks like dry sugar at the base of the tree.

Fortunately, trees can be sprayed to save them. For a list of treatment options, visit the UC Davis Integrated Pest Management website at www.ipm.ucdavis.edu.

## What are the protected native species of trees in Lamorinda?

- valley oak (Quercus lobata),
- live oak (Quercus agrifolia),
- black oak (Quercus kelloggii),
- white oak (Quercus garryana),
- canyon oak (Quercus chrysolepis),
- blue oak (Quercus douglasii),
- interior live oak (Quercus wislizenii).

### Additional protected trees or requirements for specific cities:

#### Lafayette

- California bay (Umbellularia californica)
- California buckeye (Aesculus californica)
- Madrone (Arbutus menziesii)

#### Orinda

Riparian trees – a tree within 30 feet of the edge of a creek bank or a tree beyond 30 feet but in such proximity to a creek bank that it requires or tolerates soil moisture levels in excess of that available in adjacent uplands.

#### Moraga

Removal of all native trees requires a permit unless they are located within five feet of an existing building.

S. Braccini

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# Looking Good in Lamorinda

## Bright and Fun Fashion Trends for Spring

By Moya Stone



Essie Davis plays Phryne Fisher in "Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries" scheduled to air in April on PBS. Photo provided

The new twist on color this season is Toxic Pastels and bright hues in green and yellow. Black and white combo is also on trend, following Marc Jacobs' New York Fashion Week runway show highlighting bold geometric black and white prints. Long skirts are big as is the Grecian column dress. In slacks the low-waist is finally taking a backseat to the high-waist, which is more sophisticated and creates a nice long-leg look for the petite among us.

I spoke with manager Amy Humann from Specialtees about current trends selling in Lamorinda. She tells me that women want a change in silhouettes. "People are getting away from oversize," Humann explains, "and moving toward a more fitted look." Other popular fashions include peplins, patterned denim, and a high hem in front and low hem in back seen in dresses, skirts, and blouses.

The look in jewelry is still big, bigger, and biggest. It's popular to layer shorter statement pieces with long strands of thick chain necklaces in Lucite or plastic. Mixing metals is no longer taboo as we now embrace combining silver with gold, including various shades, like rose gold.

**Good News.** We welcome Francesca's, the newest women's clothing boutique in Lafayette. Located in the Clock Tower on Mt. Diablo Boulevard, Francesca's took over the old Sandy's space and actually offers similar but slightly more youthful styles of reasonably-priced attire. Francesca's is a franchise with boutiques located around the country, over 40 in California alone. Now that spring is in high gear, Francesca's has an array of looks for the season including dresses, skirts, blouses, short-shorts and tees. Also on offer are handbags and a large selection of costume jewelry.

**Good Finds.** We are very lucky to have in our own backyard The Cotton Patch located on Brown Avenue in Lafayette. Although mostly known for quilting, the shop's selection of bright cotton fabrics is perfectly suited for summer ensembles and it seems to me that spring is the right time for sewing projects. Thinking ahead to the hot summer months, create your own cool summer skirt in bright colored cotton. I also like the idea of a maxi dress with matching hat. Why not be the belle of the beach with a bathing suit cover?

**Good Happenings.** New York may have Fashion Week, but the Bay Area has Discarded to Divine. Brought to us by St. Vincent de Paul San Francisco, and now in its eighth year, D2D is a salon and auction of one-of-a-kind fashions and home décor items made by local designers from donated pieces of clothing and fabric. It's the ultimate fashionable up-cycle. This year's event will be held April 16 at Gensler's on Harrison Street in San Francisco.

Tickets are \$75 and include the opportunity to view the creations up close while enjoying wine, hors d'oeuvres and hobnobbing with some of the designers. All proceeds go to the St. Vincent de Paul San Francisco Wellness Center. Can't wait? Well then, attend the preview at the de Young Museum on April 12. Check the website for more information: [www.discardedtodivine.org](http://www.discardedtodivine.org).

**Good Views.** As an enthusiast of vintage fashions, particularly the 1920s, and a fan of mysteries, I am super excited about the new television drama, "Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries." Filmed in Melbourne, Australia the debut series was a big hit there and in the UK when it aired last year. Now it's coming to America on DVD and KQED is set to broadcast the series starting April 22. The mysteries are simplistic; however the costumes by Australian costumer Marion Boyce are the real treat. The Honorable Miss Phryne Fisher, played by Essie Davis, is a well-clad 1920s woman of the world with plenty of money, wits, and courage. Miss Fisher has an extensive wardrobe, so we get to see our heroine plotting her next move in silk kimono; chasing bad guys in fine tweed suits; and slinking around potential beaus in beaded gowns. It's a feast for the eyes. Put on your best cloche hat, or fedora for the gentlemen, and tune in.

Till next time, go forth in style.



Joseph Ribkoff drop neck sweater dress. Photo courtesy Specialtees

Moya Stone is a local fashion writer and blogger at [www.overdressedforlife.com](http://www.overdressedforlife.com).

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# “Once on This Island, Jr.” Returns at OIS

Submitted by Wendy Bond



OIS "Once on This Island" cast, back row from left: Alex Shandalov, Helen Radoff, Lauren Bond, Clare Riley, Olivia Bohuslav, Will Barber. Middle: Amanda Han, Julia Bond, Ava Killbourn, Kyla Meyer, Amber Randall, Madeline Kiss. Front: Kendall Roberts, Jack Lewis, Owen Reed, Ciara Kohr. Photo provided

For the first time in a decade, the eight-time Tony nominated production of the musical “Once on This Island, Jr.” will be performed in Lamorinda. Now is the chance to see this incredible show that also won Best New Musical in London in 1995. Students with the Orinda Intermediate School’s Bulldog Theater will be singing and transporting the audience to the Caribbean April 24-27.

The story focuses on a peasant girl on a tropical island, who uses the power of love to bring together people of different social classes (think of it as a mix of “Romeo & Juliet” and “The Little Mermaid”).

As the show begins, we are transported to that tropical island where, on a rainy, stormy night, a small girl cries out in fear. To comfort her, the

villagers tell her the legend of a peasant girl, Ti Moune, who rescues and falls in love with Daniel, a rich young man from the other side of the island, and the charismatic island gods who try to influence the outcome between the two. This joyous, yet tragic story of life, love, faith, and hope features non-stop music and dancing.

The production is directed by Justin Pyne, who served as musical director on “Guys & Dolls” last spring, and assisted by Jack Henry, a 2003 alumnus of OIS. “It’s great to work together as a team to tell such a powerful story on stage this way,” says Pyne. “We’re excited to share it with the families and students of Lamorinda.” The show is produced and choreographed by Christina Martin, who directed the fall OIS play.

The two casts of OIS students will spend over 40 hours rehearsing and preparing for the show, which will run April 24-27 at the Bulldog Theater at OIS. The 90-minute production will have one intermission. For more information on the show and cast, visit [ois-orinda-ca.school-loop.com/Theater](http://ois-orinda-ca.school-loop.com/Theater). Tickets will be available for purchase starting April 10 at [www.showtix4u.com](http://www.showtix4u.com).

## Caring is Not Enough for Lafayette Resident

... continued from page B1



Nurse and author Terry Ann Black

Photo Cathy Dausman

At that time deaths were handled in the hospitals through doctor’s orders with DNR (do not resuscitate) instructions.

With the creation of Advanced Directives the patient himself could leave instructions for final wishes. This “new stuff” was included in an updated version released in 2005 entitled “Caring is Not Enough: My Last Wishes and Personal Records.”

“I couldn’t name it ‘My Death Plans,’” said Black, inferring that wording was just too strong. Besides, she said, the booklet is not limited to use after a loved one’s death – it is also a useful tool after a home evacuation caused by an earthquake, flood or hurricane.

“It’s all one big picture,” she said. Work on the booklet was shelved again until Black met Lamorindan Lisa Fulmer at a dinner

party in November. Fulmer’s social media savvy encouraged Black to reintroduce her message, this time online.

Her current publication, “Caring is Not Enough: A Workbook for Emergency and End of Life Planning” is now in its fifth edition and features 150 questions. Copies are available in Spanish and a Chinese dialect. There even is a specialized copy dealing with questions designed to assist those in the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender communities. Black said it should take about four hours to fill out her forms, (available online at [www.caringisnotenough.net](http://www.caringisnotenough.net)) provided certain other paperwork (wills and advanced directives, for example) is already in place.

“It’s much easier than doing taxes. They’re simple questions,” she said.

For additional information on end-of-life planning, see the Lamorinda Weekly article, “Organized for the End” at <http://www.lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue0624/Organized-for-the-End-Orinda-couple-annually-updates-last-wishes.html>



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### Samira Says



Samira Davi is a Nurse Liaison for ManorCare Health Services in Walnut Creek. Samira has over 10 years of experience working in health care in Contra Costa County, which has gained her a wide view of what is important to the health care consumer. She will be posting common questions and comments in each issue of the Lamorinda Weekly. You are welcome to contact Samira directly at 925.270.8766

# The Best Way Home

Experience makes a difference for the patients transitioning hospital to home.

Many patients discharged from the hospital this year will require skilled nursing and rehabilitation before returning home. They will face a monumental

decision as to which team of doctors, therapists, nurses, and social workers they will trust to help them recover. Each day, ManorCare treats patients with complex conditions transitioning from hospital to home. Our outcomes and professional experience reflect that a patient’s best way home is through our doors. Last year our centers admitted over 161,000 patients for goal-oriented rehabilitation care after surgery, illness or injury. The majority of these patients returned home to lead independent, productive lives.

Whether a patient is recovering from surgery, illness or injury, ManorCare works with the patient, family members and physicians to create individualized care plans that recognize the unique needs of each patient. Discharge planning begins upon admission at ManorCare. Goals are set to help patients return home as quickly as possible. The combined efforts of the therapy, rehabilitative nursing, dietary and social services departments provide guidance, family support and the encouragement needed for patients to return to their independent lifestyles.

Our patients are coming to us younger and sicker and are expecting to recover quicker and return home. Our rehabilitation gyms are busier than ever, with patients working on regaining strength, stamina and the skills they need to reach their goal of returning home. Often patients may meet the criteria for discharge from the hospital, but that doesn’t necessarily mean that they are ready to return home, they may need rehabilitation to restore their physical abilities and re-learn skills, as well as to achieve the confidence they need to return to a productive lifestyle.

ManorCare Rossmoor Parkway and ManorCare Tice Valley provide post-hospital care for patients transitioning from hospital from home. Please feel free to call for additional information or to schedule a tour.

For more information please visit [www.manorcare.com](http://www.manorcare.com).  
For a short video visit us on YouTube: [www.youtube.com/hcmanorcare](http://www.youtube.com/hcmanorcare)



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# “Divine Inspiration” Exhibit Opens at Moraga Art Gallery

Submitted by Barbara Cella



Acrylic painting “Springtime at Saint Mary’s College” by Barbara Hudler Cella Photo provided

The Moraga Art Gallery’s new show, “Divine Inspiration,” includes paintings of Saint Mary’s College by resident artist Barbara Hudler Cella, and stone and glass crochet beadwork by guest artist Mona Bourell.

Cella’s inspiration to paint Saint Mary’s College began when she happened upon the college entrance when the tree-lined street was ablaze with the brilliance of the spring bloom. The resulting painting sparked more examination of Saint Mary’s special places and its shadows and colors.

A Bay Area native, Bourell has pursued her love of beadwork for more than 30 years and refers to her work as a unique vintage technique revived. It wasn’t until the mid-1980s, while living in Africa, that Bourell truly found her creative calling, inspired by the brilliantly colorful glass beads she found there.

The show, which runs through June 1, will include works by the gallery’s 14 resident artists and several guest artists. The gallery is located in the Rheem Shopping Center at 522 Center Street, Moraga. The show is free and open to the public. For more information, visit [www.moragaartgallery.com](http://www.moragaartgallery.com) or call (925) 376-5407.



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## First Art Exhibit at Moraga Country Club

By Sophie Braccini



Teresa Onoda painting in the hills of Moraga. Photo provided

Because Moraga Country Club includes about 25 percent of the town’s population, MCC Executive Director Frank Melón initiates or supports actions that foster synergy between the town and the club,

including the idea of displaying local art in the new Country Club House. “This exhibition falls right into our core values,” says Melón. “Presenting scenes of Moraga made by a local artists signifies our commitment to being part of and supporting this community.”

“We have such a beautiful new building, we wanted to display art here that would complement it,” adds House Committee Chair Ginger Bagai. The ongoing project will feature local artists who will display about a dozen pieces of art for several months. The first invited painter is Moraga resident Teresa Onoda.

“I organize art sales in wineries and have worked with Teresa at Walt Wines in Sonoma,” says MCC resident and exhibition curator Cindy Raleigh. “When Ginger started talking to me about this project at the end of last year, I immediately thought of [Teresa]. I was always very impressed by her art, and I thought she would be perfect for our first exhibition with a Moraga natural beauty theme.”

Onoda was excited about the project. “It is literally a dream come true,” says Onoda. “I remember when

this building was finished, the thought crossed my mind: Wouldn’t it be perfect to display my art there? I brushed off the thought and didn’t think about it again, until I got the call from Cindy.”

Since January Onoda has been working every day on the 12 large paintings she and Raleigh talked about for the exhibit. “It is a bit unusual for an artist to paint such large canvasses outside,” said Onoda. “I always go out with weights and tie the canvass down; otherwise, with such a large surface, it would be like a sail and fly away.”

Residents stopped by while Onoda was painting at some of the locations. “I love it when people share with me their love of the beauty of our town, and when children see an artist at work,” she said.

Onoda painted some of her favorite Moraga locations. Most of the paintings are portraits of nature including views of Mulholland Ridge, Mount Diablo and daffodils. Onoda and Raleigh also wanted to add paintings related to the country club, so some of Onoda’s paintings include golfers and one is of a giant golf club bag that will be hung by the pro shop.

“Most of the paintings will be upstairs, in the bar and restaurant,” said Bagai.

Organizing the display itself was an ongoing discussion between Raleigh and Onoda. MCC has some gorgeous views that needed to be taken into account by the curator and the artist. “The light, the colors, everything has to work together to carry the observer’s eye across; it is a real composition,” explained Raleigh.

Onoda’s paintings will be for sale but will stay in the club until the next artist’s exhibit begins. “We do not know yet who it will be,” said Bagai, “someone local, but with a different style.”

There is a public reception scheduled from 6 to 8 p.m. April 25. The \$25 cost covers food from MCC chef Kevin Ables and wine from local wineries. Reservations are required. For information, call the MCC front desk at (925) 376-2200.

Those interested in viewing the exhibit following the reception, and who do not have a MCC member to escort them, can call Raleigh for an appointment at (925) 247-4067.

## Disappointing College Admissions Results? Read On!

By Elizabeth LaScala, PhD

Now that acceptances, rejections and waitlist notifications have arrived, some seniors are not too happy with their admission results. Want to try again? That’s good because there are several hundred colleges ready and waiting to consider your application. If you are a senior who is still looking for the right college to attend next fall, here are a few tips to launch your search:

**1. The Common Application** (<https://www.commonapp.org/CommonApp/default.aspx>) can help. Common Application member institutions still accepting applications may be found by going to the website and clicking on College Search (<https://www.commonapp.org/SearchEngine/SimpleSearch.aspx>) under the drop down for Member Colleges and Universities. Indicate that you are interested in “First Year” and “Fall 2013” and fill in the month, day and year deadline box. If you are looking for colleges with a deadline on or after April 15, you will see a list of 192 institutions.

**2. The Universal College Application** (<https://www.universalcollegeapp.com/>) makes the search easy by going to this link (<https://www.universalcollegeapp.com/accepting>) and finding 30 UCA member colleges still open to new applicants.

**3. Using the College Board’s Big Future search engine** (<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/college-search>) is a bit trickier. Start by using the Type of School filter to select “4-year,” “private” and “public” (this eliminates for-profit institutions and 2-year colleges). Review the other filters and select your preferences for size, location, and majors. It is best to keep your search broad and use only the most critical parameters at this

point. Then click on the “Close and see results” box. Once you have your results, go to the “Sort by” dropdown box in the upper right area of the screen and click on “Application Deadline.” Your results will start with Jan. 1 and move through the calendar year. Depending on situation and when you do your search, you will want to move through the months until you get to deadlines that are still in front of you and give you enough time to explore the college, and complete and send the application.

Keep in mind that all information is only as good as what the colleges provide to these organizations. So be sure to verify deadlines and other application-related information by going to individual college and university websites. Note that schools with “rolling admissions” consider applications until their freshmen classes are filled. If websites are unclear, contact the undergraduate admissions offices by phone or email to gain clarity. You will be surprised at how delighted they will be to hear from you!

### Other Options Exist

If you are not convinced you are ready to begin your 4-year college experience, you may benefit from starting at a 2-year college and then transferring to complete your degree. Or perhaps a Gap Year is right for you. Many colleges look favorably on this decision as long as your year is supervised, structured and productive. Students may take a career-oriented job or internship, participate in a service-based project, and/or take coursework to enhance their skillsets.

Another option is taking a post graduate year to increase your GPA and improve your chances of acceptance at more selective colleges. This option may involve significant re-

sources. For example, the boarding schools that offer this opportunity charge approximately the equivalent of one year at a private college. Students essentially take different courses, but repeat their last year in high school and apply to colleges for the next admission cycle.

Although you may find it hard to accept that you didn’t achieve your goals the first time you tried, it is a fact of life that this is often the case. Not giving up, trying again and developing alternate plans are important lessons to learn and will serve you well as times go on.

The author thanks Nancy Griese-mer, DC College Admissions Examiner, for her kind permission to rework parts of her article on the same topic (<https://www.examiner.com/article/colleges-still-accepting-applications-for-fall-2013>).



Elizabeth LaScala Ph.D. guides college, transfer and graduate school applicants through the complex world of admissions. She develops best match college lists, offers personalized interview and essay coaching, and tools and strategies to help students tackle each step of the admissions process with confidence and success. Elizabeth helps students from all backgrounds to maximize merit and financial aid awards. Visit [www.doingcollege.com](http://www.doingcollege.com); Call (925) 891-4491 or email at [elizabeth@doingcollege.com](mailto:elizabeth@doingcollege.com).



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# Recalling Past Lamorinda Gun Use

By Cathy Dausman



1973 MHS yearbook

Photo provided

Gun use and control has been a hot topic among many Americans, but it wasn't long ago that there was sanctioned recreational gun use in "semi-rural" Lamorinda, even among adolescents.

The 1973 Miramonte High School yearbook lists a Rifle Club, supervised by Haldor Berg. The 1974 MHS yearbook chronicles the club's expansion to include archery; it listed a Mr. Muller as advisor. The yearbook says the club took field trips to Chabot Rifle Range and to an indoor archery range in San Pablo. Neither club name was mentioned in the 1972 or 1975 yearbooks.

Harold Hallikainen grew up in Orinda but never shot a gun. "My brother Dave did, though. I think his hearing was damaged by it," he said.

Dave Hallikainen hiked and rode motorcycles along the hills around Orinda where he came across cans used for target practice. He said "the

only shooting I did was behind a friend's house on [Orinda's] Van Tassel Lane. They had a rodent problem. After school we would take turns shooting them with a .22 rifle. No one gave us a hard time about it and to the best of my knowledge none of us turned into mass-murderers."

He also remembers Orinda Hardware sold guns. "Looking at them was the fun part of going there," he said. The guns were BB or pellet guns, a store employee recently clarified. The employee, who declined to be named, said the store sells one model with the relatively slow muzzle velocity of 350 feet per second.

"We only sell to those over 18," he emphasized, and each time they make a sale "the parents get a good talking to" about safety.

Hallikainen remembers firearms being present in several of his friends' homes, but said "we never touched them. Kids just knew not to handle

guns unless you were given the okay by an adult." One 1960s exception to that unwritten code happened, he said, when high school students driving around town shot out residential windows. Not surprisingly, alcohol was involved.

"They hit a house down the street from us and a girl's finger was injured from a bullet fragment," Hallikainen said. "Everyone was shocked."

Erik Olafsson, who was raised in Orinda and now lives in Canyon, said his brother owned a pellet gun when they were young, but added, "I was never interested in it, and have never owned a gun and never will."

He would be happy to have European style gun laws in the U.S. "My parents are Icelandic, and guns are banned there," Olafsson said.

"There's not usually a lot of gunfire around Canyon," noted resident Jonathan Goodwin, who said he didn't play with firearms as a child. "This area is so reverberant that people would likely complain about it."

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# YouTube Notoriety for Lafayette Man

By Cathy Dausman



Photo Cathy Dausman

Ian Walters of Lafayette holds an English degree from UC Davis, yet he's never read Victor Hugo's "Les Miserables." He hasn't seen the movie, either. Still, he's familiar with the plot, and has a special fondness for Fantine's haunting solo, "I Dreamed a Dream." Walters and his friend Susannah Long often played the song at full volume when closing up the bookstore where they worked. One night after work Walters parodied the song using the voice of Gollum, a Tolkien "Lord of the Rings" character, and sent it to Long on Facebook.

"Gollum is way more sad than Fantine," Walters pronounced, sounding just a tad bit professorial. Long encouraged him to post it on YouTube. Several thousand views later, the bit was noticed by the viral detection website BuzzFeed. As of this writing, the parody had earned more than 1.47 million hits. And that was just the start.

Days later, Walters posted a se-

quel on YouTube, using Smeagol's (Gollum's other name) voice, this time a parody of the Tears for Fears song "Mad World." That earned 1.16 million views.

In March, Walters released a third parody: "Gollum the Relationship Specialist," for which he sang "Now You're Just Somebody that I used to Know." Salt Lake City radio station KSL taped an interview with him in early March, Walters said.

"I always need a creative project," he said. He views his 15 minutes of fame as a platform as much for his talented friends as for himself. Contributors include Greg Weitzman, playing keyboard in the second video, Relationship Specialist artwork (shirt and matching tees) by Thelonious Elliott, and performance by singer/actress Gia Battista and videography by Collin Davey.

Although he has a financial agreement with BuzzFeed to create at least one more parody, Walters is not ready to quit his day job as sixth-grade math and history teacher at Oakland's Head Royce School.

The projects are really fun, Walters said, and they prove he's not taking himself too seriously. And just in case anyone is unfamiliar with his Lord of the Rings references, Walter's advice, in his own voice, is simply, "Go read the book."

You can view Ian Walters channeling Gollum on his YouTube postings: <http://www.dailydot.com/lol/youtube-guide-first-person-mario-freddie-wong/> <http://www.dailydot.com/lol/youtube-guide-post-traumatic-harlem-shake-disorder/> [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n\\_y\\_BNdKTdKU](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n_y_BNdKTdKU)

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# THE APP RAP

By Alex Pawlakos

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For many high school students, the arrival of spring is a reminder that the SATs are coming and preparations must begin. Luckily, there are some very useful apps that enable the dedicated student to get in a little extra studying in their spare time without having to lug around bulky SAT practice books. Although it is hard to find a good SAT study app that works on both iPhones and Android smartphones, there are good apps for each. For the Android phones, Virtual SAT Tutor-Vocabulary and Virtual SAT Tutor-Math are both excellent apps for SAT vocabulary words and math problems. For

the iPhone, Ace the SAT is excellent for math and Mind Snacks does the job for vocabulary. In the free versions of Virtual SAT Tutor, there are over 100 different vocabulary words and over 75 advanced math problems all of which have been used on actual SAT tests. The MindSnacks app uses really fun games to help you learn vocabulary, and Ace the SAT shows detailed step-by-step solutions for their math problems. For a small charge of \$1.99, the Virtual Tutor apps can be upgraded to include many more words and problems. For \$4.99, MindSnacks can be upgraded to include 25 lessons. Although studying

for the SAT tests may not be fun, these apps definitely make it more interesting!



Alex Pawlakos enjoys biking, weightlifting, and tutoring in his spare time. He is a reporter on Express Yourself™ Teen Radio.

## Middle Schoolers Learn Self-Defense Techniques

By Sophie Braccini



Tom Westernoff teaches a safety class at OIS.

Photo Sophie Braccini

In a recent letter to the community, Lafayette Chief of Police Eric Christensen warned residents that with the return of spring and prison reforms, risks could be on the rise. "I understand this is Lafayette, but I need you to lock your doors and windows when you leave your home. This one very simple act will deter a lot of would-be crooks," he wrote.

Moraga resident Tom Westernoff agrees. For years, the owner of the Karate and Fitness Place has trained Orinda Intermediate and Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School students to become aware of their surroundings and use self-defense techniques.

At a recent class, Westernoff asked one OIS eighth-grader to grab him by the neck. He then swiveled, crossed his arms over the boy's arms and, bending forward, pretended to kick him back with his bent elbow. This is one of the many moves West-

ernoff teaches the teens. For years now, he's been asked by both schools to conduct the self-defense unit for the seventh or eighth grade physical education class.

OIS eighth-grade student Thalia Ward said, "[The class] showed us different moves if we are attacked and also tells us about the stuff we should be aware of." Ryan Miller felt that the 'block and punch' was the most useful move he learned, adding that practicing is very useful for both boys and girls.

Although Westernoff lives in Moraga, a town with a good safety reputation, he is conscious of potential dangers. "There has been series of burglaries in Lamorinda. We all need to stay aware and watch out for what's going on. If you're walking down the street playing with your phone, you are not paying attention to what's going on around you," Westernoff told the students.

Westernoff wants adults in the community to maximize their safety as well. "When I get in my car, I always lock the doors before starting to check my phone," he said. He suggested kids use their keys or a backpack as a weapon if needed. He told them about street smarts and where to find help.

The teen girls said they never felt endangered in the community, but some boys said they have felt threatened at school and that the class helped them feel secure and more confident.

At the end of the class, volunteers broke a piece of wood with their fist. Girls were the first to line up. Everyone who tried succeeded in breaking the piece of plank.

"If you want to continue to be prepared," said Westernoff, "you need to practice your skills regularly and keep in shape."

## TEEN SCENE

### Is She Really Wearing That?

Comments on College Clothing

By Caie Kelley

How often do you hear, "You know, my favorite part of college is studying. I love all the textbooks and the tests?"

When cousins and friends discuss their semesters away from home, they don't talk about the academic side of college or grad school. Instead, it's all about the social scene, endless stories about those crazy nights, sorority and frat parties, and of course, the fashion statements on campus.

Since I'm in high school and plan on going to college, it's fun to find out from friends who are already there about the wardrobe rules.

Winnie Yoe, a junior at Dartmouth College, said East Coast schools were about being preppy. Leggings, Northface jackets, and fur boots were the most common items worn.

My cousin, Derek, who is at William & Mary, describes the fashion at his school in one word, "J. Crew." It's a bit of a generalization, but it appears that East Coast style is more conservative, with an emphasis on sophistication, classic styles, and layers.

Lamorinda friends at UC Davis, UC Berkeley, and UCLA testify that West Coast style is relaxed. Probably because of our moderate to warm weather, flip-flops and shorts rule in California. "I think people here put effort into

making sure they look like they didn't put any effort into their clothes," remarked Kari, a sophomore at UC Davis.

Ultimately, the consensus about fashion was the same. "You wear what you want, at any college," I heard over and over again. College logo sweatshirts and jeans are the unofficial uniform everywhere.

As Sam, a family friend explained, "Sure, there are the trends at universities but there is no one-size-fits-all look. Be yourself - that's the most important."

Although it's cliché, remaining true to yourself is always fashionable.



Caie Kelley is a junior at Miramonte High School and the Pop Culture reporter on the teen show, Express Yourself™. In her free time, she enjoys swimming, piano, and volunteering.

Teen Scene is YOUR voice. If you have something to say or have writing skills and want to be part of our Teen Scene team, email our Teen Coach, Cynthia Brian, [Cynthia@CynthiaBrian.com](mailto:Cynthia@CynthiaBrian.com).

The opinions expressed in Teen Scene are those of the writer and not necessarily those of the Lamorinda Weekly.

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# Happy Birthday to Moraga Produce!

By Susie Iventosch



Photos Susie Iventosch

Just one year ago, Roberto Cortez along with his parents and two siblings, opened Moraga Produce in the Rheem Shopping Center. This market is a great resource for finding all sorts of fruits and vegetables, and is very convenient. We all love farmers' markets, but you cannot always get there on 'market' day, so it is sure nice to have an option like Moraga Produce, that focuses on produce and is open daily.

I was quite curious how the family arrived at the decision to open such a specialty store in Moraga, so I caught up with Cortez for a little history.

"When I was a business administration major at Cal State East Bay, I worked for a market in Concord that was owned by a Korean couple," Cortez said. "Then one day, the husband died and his wife decided to sell the business. That's when I got the idea to buy the store."

A new graduate with his business degree, Cortez had a vision and made a proposal to his parents that the family buy the store, since he was familiar with how it

operated and had worked there for many years. Besides, he had just finished college and was looking for his next move.

"They agreed and together with my brother and sister we took over the store in 2007," he noted. "This is a family-run business."

Apparently, things went very well, and in 2009 they opened Walnut Creek Produce at the corner of Olympic and Tice Valley.

According to Cortez, because the Concord store is very close to Costco, customers from the Lamorinda area liked to stop by Concord Produce when they made their Costco runs.

"I had so many customers that kept asking us to open a store in the Lamorinda area, and finally we decided to start looking for a spot. We found a good one and that is how we came to open Moraga Produce last April," Cortez said.

So, there you have it! And, now, we have Moraga Produce!

Cortez and his dad drive into San Francisco every morning to pick up inventory from two farm-

ers' markets and they try to purchase locally-grown product when it's available. Currently, many of the fruits are coming in from Mexico and Chile, but soon the locally-grown cherries, peaches, nectarines and plums will be arriving and, already, they are selling strawberries from northern California.

On a recent stop, my basket was packed to the brim, full of colorful produce! I picked up two delicious ruby red grapefruit, which though from Texas, were quite small, but very sweet and juicy. I discovered Yosemite Gold tangerines, quite large for a tangerine, but very sweet and easy to peel, and something I'd not seen before. Everything from tomatoes, avocados, cilantro and leeks to cabbage, papaya, eggplant and strawberries came home with me that day. It was a fiber extravaganza! But, maybe the best of all was the thinner-than-a-pencil asparagus that we grilled for this week's recipe. In fact, before we grilled it, I had it sitting on the counter with a little olive oil and sea salt, and my husband began eating it raw!

Cortez says that he can accommodate special orders by the case, so all of you who love to do canning and put up preserves can keep that in mind. The prices are very reasonable and he personally selects the produce daily for the markets. The store also stocks an assortment of organic produce in addition to a selection of local dairy products and Semifreddi's bread.

"We like to offer our customers a good value and a great selection of produce, available every day!"

Moraga Produce  
576 Center Street, Moraga, Ca.  
(925) 377-1000

## Lemon Orzo with Grilled Asparagus and Eggplant

(Serves 6 as a side dish, or three to four as a main dish)

### INGREDIENTS

- 1 eight ounce package orzo
- 1 lemon, zested and juiced (about 1/4 cup lemon juice and 1 to 2 teaspoons zest)
- 1/4 cup extra-virgin olive oil (may need slightly more, to taste)
- 1 shallot, finely diced, sauteed in olive oil until translucent
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1/4 cup chopped parsley
- 1/2 teaspoon salt (I used 6 grinds on my Costco Himalayan pink salt grinder)
- 1/2 teaspoon black pepper
- Asparagus- half bunch skinny asparagus spears (I used the very skinny ones, but if you cannot find those, then use about 10 spears of regular asparagus.)
- Japanese eggplant, 1 to 2, depending upon the size and your taste
- 1/2 cup freshly grated Parmesan
- 2 tablespoons pine nuts, toasted

### DIRECTIONS

Cut tough ends from asparagus. Cut eggplant into 1/2-inch thick slices. (No need to remove skin.) Brush both veggies with olive oil and sprinkle with salt and pepper. Barbecue over medium-high heat, just until cooked al dente, and a little bit browned. Cool to room temperature. Cut asparagus into 3/4 to 1-inch pieces, and cut eggplant into bite-sized cubes.

Cook orzo according to directions to al dente, drain and place in large bowl. Toss with olive oil and add lemon juice and zest, cooked shallot, garlic, parsley, asparagus, eggplant and 1/4 cup of the Parmesan. Serve at room temperature and garnish with remaining Parmesan and toasted pine nuts.

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 [suziventosch@gmail.com](mailto:suziventosch@gmail.com).



**This recipe can be found on our website:** [www.lamorindaweekly.com](http://www.lamorindaweekly.com). If you would like to share your favorite recipe with Susie please contact her by email or call our office at (925) 377-0977.

## Special note about the last column:

In the last issue, we ran the story about baking your eggs until they are "hardboiled". We had one reader, who was really excited to try this for her Easter eggs, but, unfortunately, 10 of her 24 eggs cracked, well sort of popped, the way she describes it. Since mine had no such trouble when I tried this experiment, she and I are wondering if anyone else may have encountered difficulties. If so, please email me with your stories, so we can try to get to the bottom of her problem. Thank you!

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

www.lamorindaweekly.com

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

www.lamorindaweekly.com

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## ART

**Saint Mary's College Museum of Art exhibition – Carnival!** Exhibits include In Search of the Source: the Nile and Beyond by Lockwood de Forest; Ryan Reynolds: Landscape Assembled; Keith and the California Alps: paintings from the 1870s, '80s, and '90s — through April 14, Wednesday through Sunday from 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Saint Mary's College, 1928 Saint Mary's Rd., Moraga. Cost: \$5 for adults; free for kids K-12. For more info, call (925) 631-4379 or visit [www.stmarys-ca.edu/museum](http://www.stmarys-ca.edu/museum).

**The Moraga Art Gallery's new show, "Divine Inspiration,"** includes paintings of Saint Mary's College by resident artist Barbara Hudler Cella, and stone and glass crochet beadwork by guest artist Mona Bourell. The show, which runs through June 1, will include works by the gallery's 14 resident artists and several guest artists. The

gallery is located in the Rheem Shopping Center at 522 Center Street, Moraga. For more information, visit [www.moragaartgallery.com](http://www.moragaartgallery.com) or call (925) 376-5407. (See article page B6)

**The Lafayette Gallery is hosting a free reception from 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday, April 21,** to celebrate a new exhibit, "Inside/Outside," plus the reopening of the Sculpture Garden. The Gallery will celebrate with free wine, hors d'oeuvres and live music!

## MUSIC

**WCSA Lafayette Songwriters' Competition. Come join the Lauras** for the inaugural Lafayette WCSA Songwriters' Competition! You do not have to be a songwriter to attend this event. The meetings are at 7 p.m. the second Wednesday of each month at 81 Lafayette Circle, Lafayette. Cost: \$5. For more info, contact Laura Zucker by email at [zuckers@aol.com](mailto:zuckers@aol.com) or

visit [www.westcoastsongwriters.org/become-a-member](http://www.westcoastsongwriters.org/become-a-member).

**Bentley School will host its first annual Jazz Festival** in Lafayette at 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 20. The show will open with performances from the Bentley Jazz Master Class and the Stanley School Jazz Messengers. Tickets will be sold at the door.

**The Contra Costa Performing Arts Society will perform** a free concert at 10:30 a.m. Friday, April 26 at the Grace Presbyterian Church, 2100 Tice Valley Blvd, Walnut Creek. The concert opens with Henry Martin's sonata for clarinet and piano, followed by Debussy's Images 1 for solo piano. The program concludes with Poulenc's Flute Sonata for flute and piano. For more info, visit [www.ccpas.org](http://www.ccpas.org).

**Embark on a musical journey through Paris in the Walnut Creek Library** with versatile and popular vocalist Lorna K and her talented band of accordion, bass, and guitar musicians at 7 p.m. Sunday, April 24, courtesy of the Walnut Creek Foundation. Come to listen to Lorna and you will regret nothing. Free. Due to space limitations, pre-registration is required at: <http://tinyurl.com/chanson-realiste-2013>.

## THEATER

**The Performing Arts Department at Saint Mary's College** will present "A Lie of the Mind" by Sam Shepard as their spring production April 24-27 at 7 p.m. and April 28 at 2 p.m. in LeFevre Theatre, Saint Mary's College, 1928 St. Mary's Rd. Tickets: general \$15; seniors (65+) \$12; non-SMC students \$12; Saint Mary's College community of faculty, staff and students \$8. For more info and reservations call the Saint Mary's College Theatre Box Office at (925) 631-4670. Tickets are also available online at [www.brownpapertickets.com](http://www.brownpapertickets.com).

**The Acalanes High School DramaDons theater group** presents The Arabian Nights, May 1-4 at the Acalanes Performance Arts Little Theater, 1200 Pleasant Hill Rd., Lafayette. A favorite for all ages. Showtime is 7:30 p.m., doors open at 7 p.m. Tickets: \$10 general, \$7 students. Tickets may be purchased online at [www.ahsperformingarts.org](http://www.ahsperformingarts.org) or at the door. All proceeds benefit the Acalanes Performing Arts Boosters - Drama Discipline.

**Diablo Ballet concludes its 2012-13 season at 8 p.m. Friday, May 3** and at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday, May 4 at the Shadelands Arts Center Auditorium, 111 N Wiget Ln., Walnut Creek, with the Company's popular Inside the Dancer's Studio series, featuring George Balanchine's legendary Stars and Stripes Pas de Deux. Tickets: \$29 - \$38. For more info, visit [www.DiabloBallet.org](http://www.DiabloBallet.org) or call (925) 943-1775

**Part of Playwrights' Theatre series in the Old Barn at Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site** in Danville Sunday, May 5. The Cherry Orchard is an important example of how Chekhov and other European dramatists influenced the writings of Eugene O'Neill. Presented by Eugene O'Neill Foundation in partnership with the National Park Service. Tickets: \$25. For more info, visit [www.eugeneoneill.org](http://www.eugeneoneill.org) or call (925) 820-1818

## LECTURE & LITERATURE

**Young Adult author Yvonne Prinz will discuss two** of her books including "All You Get is Me" and "The Vinyl Princess" at 4 p.m. Thursday, April 25 in the Arts & Science Discovery Room at the Lafayette Library.

## KIDS, PARENTS & TEENS

**The 8th Annual Lamorinda Idol auditions are coming!** Created and sponsored by the Orinda Arts Council, Lamorinda Idol is a singing competition open to kids K-12th grade as of spring 2013, who either attend school or reside in Orinda, Moraga and Lafayette. Entries may be made by soloists or groups. Auditions will be held May 16 - 18, when finalists and runners-up will be selected by a panel of three judges. Registration for auditions will be from April 1 - 30 at [www.orindaartscouncil.org](http://www.orindaartscouncil.org). Finalists will perform at Orinda Theatre Sunday, Sept. 8. Category winners will receive cash prizes, the Audience Award winner will receive a special prize and all finalists will receive gift certificates.

**Springhill Elementary School's Green Team announces** their second annual Plant Sale from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, April 14 on the Springhill campus, 3301 Springhill Rd. on the lower playground. A perfect outing for the whole family! Proceeds from the sale will benefit Springhill's Green Team and Outdoor Classroom.

**Need money for college? The Contra Costa Association of Realtors Scholarship Foundation** is offering scholarships to residents of Central Contra Costa County that have completed one year of full-time college, completed courses with emphasis on real estate, finance and/or business and have a GPA of 3.0 or higher. If you qualify, scholarship awards can range from \$1,500 to \$2,500. For info and applications visit [www.ccarscholarship.com](http://www.ccarscholarship.com). Deadline is April 15.

**High school student artists in the 11th District are invited** to submit an original painting, drawing or other art form for the Annual Congressional Art Competition. One student's work will be selected by a judging panel of local artists to hang in the U.S. Capitol Building for one year along with student artwork from across the country. The winning student will also be flown to Washington, D.C. in June for the Annual Congressional Art Competition reception. Artwork is due the week of April 15. Artwork must be accompanied by a Student Release Form. For more information, please contact Adrienne Ursino at (925) 602-1880.

**The Friends of the Orinda Library is excited to announce** the commencement of 2013's Poul Anderson Creative Writing Contest, open to all students who reside and/or attend high school in Orinda. Entry categories are: Science Fiction, Essay/Memoir, Poetry and Short Story. Students may submit one entry in any of the four categories for a total of not more than three entries. Submission deadline is at noon Friday, April 18. Up to four winners will each be awarded \$250 prizes. Entries should be submitted to individual school representatives. For additional info, visit [www.friendsoftheorindalibrary.org](http://www.friendsoftheorindalibrary.org) or email Julie Rossiter, at [jjrossiter@me.com](mailto:jjrossiter@me.com).

**Seedling's Preschool 15th Annual Wheel Day! For kids** who love anything to do with wheels! The event promises numerous vehicles for your viewing, climbing and horn honking good time from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 20 at the Lafayette Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Dr., Lafayette. Free. Please consider bringing a non-perishable food item to be donated to Monument Crisis Center.

**The Diablo Valley Alumnae Panhellenic will host an** informational event for college-bound high school seniors and their parents "What About Sororities?" To be held at the Walnut Creek Main Library, Oak View room at 4:30 p.m.

Sunday, April 21. Seating is limited. For more information or to register please call Barbara May at (925) 256-0344. To receive an invite, send an email [tmamber6@gmail.com](mailto:tmamber6@gmail.com).

**SEED's (Special Education Enrichment Development Foundation) annual fundraiser** is almost here! Celebrate Cinco de Mayo and raise money to help our kids from 6 to 11 p.m. Friday, May 3 at the Walker Residence at 910 Reliez Station Rd., Lafayette. Tickets: \$25 (includes delicious Mexican favorites such as: made to order tacos, burritos, and quesadillas, dessert from Doodle Cakes and unlimited margaritas, sangria, beer and soda). Purchase tickets in advance at SEED's auction website: [seedauction2013.weebly.com](http://seedauction2013.weebly.com).

**The 37th annual Lafayette Nursery School Science Day of Discovery** – a hands-on science fair featuring exhibits and experiments designed for children preschool age through third grade from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, May 4 at the Lafayette Nursery School, 979 First Street, Lafayette. Cost: \$4 per child. Proceeds are donated through [donorschoose.org](http://donorschoose.org) to math and science programs at needy local schools. For more info, call Lafayette Nursery School at (925) 284-2448 or visit [www.lafayette-nurseryschool.org](http://www.lafayette-nurseryschool.org).

## OTHER

**The community of Canyon will host a multi-agency wildfire meeting** from 7 to 9 p.m. Wednesday, April 10 at the Canyon Elementary School, 187 Pinehurst Rd. The evening will be an exploration of the challenges a major wildfire would present to both the fire agencies and the community. For more info, call Canyon Fire Council Coordinator Jonathan Goodwin, (925) 376-4668 or email [CanyonFire@VFEmail.net](mailto:CanyonFire@VFEmail.net); MOFD Fire Chief Randy Bradley, (925) 258-4599 or [RBradley@mofd.org](mailto:RBradley@mofd.org).

**Lamorinda Adult Respite Center (LARC) is looking** for caring, fun, enthusiastic volunteers to assist once or twice a month. Activities include: games, crafts, daily live musical entertainment, lunch and exercise. Come join the fun and help enhance the lives of our local seniors. For more info, or to schedule a visit, please call Beth Montgomery at (925) 254-3465.

**Mount Diablo Adult Education (MDAE) has a large** selection of excellent woodworking courses for the spring. Hand Tools course provides a concentrated course on how to select, set up, maintain, and use the most necessary hand tools in a workshop. Twelve classes offered from 1 to 4 p.m. Friday, April 12 through June 28. Students may register online at [www.mdusd.k12.ca.us/adulted/life/longeducation.htm](http://www.mdusd.k12.ca.us/adulted/life/longeducation.htm) or at the Pleasant Hill MDAE office on One Santa Barbara road, Room 210.

**Bentley School is proud to present "Girl Rising,"** a thought-provoking film that takes a visual journey around the globe, exploring the lives of 10 young girls struggling to achieve adequate education. The free event is from 6:30 to 7 p.m. Friday, April 12 at Bentley School, 1000 Upper Happy Valley Rd., Lafayette. Pizza and other dinner snacks will be for sale from 7 to 9 p.m. Suggested donation of \$10 will go to a charity for girls.

... continued on next page

Please submit events to: [calendar@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:calendar@lamorindaweekly.com)

## Lamorinda's Religious Services



**St. Giles Episcopal Church**  
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## The Orinda Community Church

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Join us Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

## St. Anselm's Episcopal Church

A Loving Community

Sunday Services: 8 and 10 AM

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

## Lafayette United Methodist Church

955 Moraga Rd., Lafayette,  
284-4765, [office@thelumc.org](mailto:office@thelumc.org)

Worship	Sunday	10 am
Children/Youth Sunday School	Sunday	10 am
Youth Fellowship	Sunday	6 pm

Get connected.

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

49 Knox Drive | Lafayette | [www.LOPC.org](http://www.LOPC.org) | 925-283-8722

## ORINDA CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH

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Reading Room/Bookstore M - F 11 - 4; Sat 10 - 1  
[www.christianscienceorinda.org](http://www.christianscienceorinda.org)

## Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church

433 Moraga Way, Orinda, 254-3422  
[www.holyshepherd.org](http://www.holyshepherd.org)



8:15 a.m. Traditions Worship Service  
9:40 a.m. Education for all ages  
10:45 a.m. Contemporary Worship Service  
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LAMORINDA FLOORS

OTHER ... continued

**Eco-Chic: A Sustainable Fashion & Beauty Event.** Cloud 9 Organic Salon and Fawkeshunter Styling will be showing Orinda how easy (and chic!) it is to be green with a fashion presentation beginning at 11 a.m. Saturday, April 13 featuring designs from eco-fashion leaders Amour Vert and offering tips on how your wardrobe can be more eco-conscious and remain stylish. Free. For info, call (925) 258-9811 or email info@cloud9organictherapy.com.

**Wildlife Expert Gary Bogue will discuss "Creatures of the Urban Wilderness (your backyard)"** at 9:30 a.m. Monday, April 15 at Lindsay Wildlife Museum, 1931 First Avenue, Walnut Creek. Bogue will discuss the wild animals that live in and around your backyard, day and night— creatures that interact with you and have become a part of your life, often without you even knowing they are there. Brunch event tickets: \$25. To purchase tickets, contact Penny Adams at (925) 837-4046, P.O. Box 562, Diablo, CA 94528, or call the museum at (925) 935-1978.

**Join Spring Leadership Summit in an interactive presentation** "A Whole New Way: Leadership and Engagement in the 21st Century" from 4:30 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 16 at the Claeys Lounge, Saint Mary's College Soda Center, 1928 St. Mary's Rd., Moraga. The summit will examine how society thinks about leadership and what is needed to bring about the changes you care about most, focusing on particular challenges within the educational system.

**Orinda Action Day begins at 9 a.m. Saturday, April 20** with registration (drop-ins welcome, too) at the Library Plaza. It's time to lend a hand to help beautify our city! Projects are taking place on the Theatre Square and Village sides of town, at the schools, and at the creeks. Many projects are kid friendly. It's a good way for students to fulfill volunteer hours required by their schools. Enjoy fresh fruit, bagels and coffee, get a free T-shirt (while supplies last) and come back (around noon) for pizza when your project is finished. Sign up through Sign Up Genius at www.SignUp-Genius.com/go/30E0D4BABA629A02-orinda/3067927 or visit Orinda Action Day at www.orindafoundation.org or send an email to orindafoundation@gmail.com indicating preferred project category and volunteer names.

**Step into nature and history and enjoy the 12th Annual Wildlife/Earth Day Festival** in support of the unique outdoor environmental education programs for Orinda children from 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday, April 21. Delightful adventures include: pond explorations, live raptors shown by Jenny Papka, electric Volt and Leaf car test drives, delicious food, music, crafts, games, nature walks, and much more. There will be an Earth Day tribute by Chester Miner, Elder of the Cherokee Nation and the Guest of the Day will be Gary Bogue. The Friends of the Wagner Ranch will conduct this free festive program to celebrate and support environmental education and biodiversity programs in the Nature Area. For more info, visit www.fwrna.org. (See article page A7)

**Run, Walk, Jog...Eat, Dance, Play...Help support children and families affected by AIDS in Zimbabwe!** Get your family and friends together for the 10th Annual JF Kapnek Trust Family Fun 5k/1k Run at 9 a.m. Sunday, April 21 at Miramonte High School. There will be an African band, face painting, crafts for kids, goodie bags for kids, prizes, brunch, and a super cool T-shirt! Visit Active.Com to register. Keyword is: KAPNEK.

**The Rohr Jewish Learning Institute (JLI) will present Curious Tales of the Talmud: Finding Yourself in the Legends of Our Sages,** the institute's new six-session spring 2013 course that begins the week of April 21. The six-session course will be conducted on six consecutive Tuesday's beginning April 23 from 10 to 11:15 a.m. at Chabad of Contra Costa 1671 Newell Ave., Walnut Creek. The course will also be offered in the evening from 7:30 to 8:45 p.m. at the Contra Costa Jewish Day School, 3836 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette.

**Gather your friends together from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.** Monday, April 29 for a fun day of games, conversation, munching and door prizes at the Moraga Women's Society annual "Brunch, Bridge and Bunko" event at the Holy Trinity Cultural Center, 1700 School Street, Moraga. Tickets: \$30 per person, and can be obtained from any Women's Society member or call (925) 376-3187. Ticket deadline is April 22.

**An Evening with local teen author Cynthia Brian from 7 to 8 p.m.** Tuesday, April 30 at the Orinda Library. Whether you're curious about writing, getting published, or becoming a radio or TV personality, or just getting involved, bring your questions. For more information, call the Orinda Library at (925) 254-2184, ext 15.

**Chinese Art and Chinese Calligraphy from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.** Tuesday, April 30 in the Arts & Science Discovery Room at the Lafayette Library. The Contra Costa Chinese School will be at the library to teach the basics of brush handling, brush strokes and ink preparation for Chinese art and for Chinese calligraphy; learn brush strokes and construct Chinese words.

**7th Annual Moraga Community Faire will be held** from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, May 11 in the Rheem Valley Shopping Center. This annual event is planned and organized by the Moraga Chamber of Commerce. The core of this community gathering is its businesses, coming out to meet and greet the public. Other attractions will include a classic car show, wine tasting from our local vineyards, cool music from our schools' bands on our stage, and oodles of activities for the kids. Forms for booth

registration and classic car entries can be downloaded at www.moragachamber.org until the May 1 deadline.

**The Moraga Barn is excited to announce that its beautiful and historical building is now available for event rentals!** The Barn is the home of a new community event called PopIn at the Barn! The PopIn events will be themed, unique and fun events occurring throughout the year. The first one, an open house and market, will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, May 4th.

**Join the National Park Service for a free campfire program** on Saturday, May 4, at John Muir National Historic Site (NHS) in Martinez. The program begins at 7 p.m. and lasts roughly 1.5 hours. Rangers will lead the group in songs, skits and stories to celebrate the legacy of John Muir, one of the greatest naturalists and conservationists the United States has ever known.

**Tony La Russa's Animal Rescue Foundation's Animals** on Broadway will be Sunday, May 19 at the Broadway Plaza in Walnut Creek. Kick off the event by joining the one-mile fundraising Pet Walk. Pet Walk begins at 10:30 a.m. sharp (registration is from 8:30 to 10 a.m.) After, stay and enjoy an array of booths, mobile adoptions, face painting, a Pet Wellness Fair, Walnut Creek Police K9 Unit demonstrations, live music, and crafts for kids from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more info, visit www.arf.net.

CLUBS

**The Lamorinda Democratic Club's Thursday, April 11 meeting** will feature a discussion about health care policy in California and the nation, with Terry Leach, Executive Director of the UC Center for Health Quality and Innovation (7:15 p.m. club meeting; 8 p.m. speaker) at the Lafayette Library and Community Learning Center, 3491 Mt. Diablo Boulevard, Lafayette. Admission: \$5; students free. For more info, call (925) 567-3367 or visit www.lamorindademoclub.org.

**Lamorinda Republican Women Federated luncheon** meeting will be held at noon on April 18 at the Orinda Country Club. Former two term Congressman Bill Baker will be the speaker. For luncheon information and reservations contact Elsie Euing at 925-254-8617 by no later than April 12. The cost of lunch is \$25. Men are always welcome to participate.

**Lafayette Garden Club features Randall Barnes of Orchard Nursery,** who will discuss how to "Tantalize Your Taste Buds---learn to grow and cook delectable heirloom vegetables and herbs" at 9:30 a.m. Thursday, April 11 at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette. For more info, email sa613and@aol.com.

SENIORS

**Join Lafayette Senior Services for an afternoon of dancing** every first Wednesday of the month and learn some great new dance moves at the Lamorinda Dance Social. Professional dancers Karen and Michael will provide a dance lesson and live DJ services, playing your favorites and taking requests from 12:30 to 3 p.m. at the Live Oak Room, Lafayette Community Center. Cost: \$2 members; \$4 non-members. For info, call (925) 284-5050 to reserve a spot.

**"Spring has Sprung" Piano Jazz from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.** Friday, April 19 as part of the Con-

cert Contra Costa Performing Arts Society at the Lafayette Library, Community Hall. Cost: \$3 members; \$5 non-members.

**Widow Persons Support informal presentation, "The Roller Coaster of Aging: How to Add Joy to the Ride,"** with Dr. Ann Steiner, who will discuss the emotional aspects of uninvented changes, such as loss of a spouse or partner at 7 p.m. Monday, April 22 at Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church. All are invited with refreshments being served. For info, call (925) 788-3877.

GARDEN

**Once again, The City of Walnut Creek and The Gardens** at Heather Farm are teaming up to present a free workshop, "Discovering a Sense of Place (Part II)" with Patrice Hanlon, GHF garden manager and Susan Handjian from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 27 at the Gardens at Heather Farm, 1540 Marchbanks Dr., Walnut Creek. Explore Walnut Creek's "Creek Walk." Each session includes activities or walks to explore watersheds, plants, animals and insects that live in our area. Workshops can be taken individually or as a series. Pre-registration required. For info, visit gardenshf.org.

**Irrigation and New Norms for California Landscape.** Scott Sommerfeld, Landscape Architect and EBMUD representative for water conservation, will emphasize resource efficiency as the new norms for local landscapes, and discuss best practices for landscape and irrigation design, installation and maintenance and update us on the newest high efficiency irrigation equipment from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday, April 13 at the Lafayette Community Garden. These classes are interactive, informative and fun so come join us and prepare to get your hands dirty! It can be muddy and cold in the winter so dress appropriately.

**The Moraga Garden Club's much anticipated annual Spring Salad Luncheon** will begin at 9:30 a.m. Thursday, April 18 at the Holy Trinity Cultural Center in Moraga. Karen Baymiller, a local floral designer will present a demonstration with Petals and Pods. Guests and members will be treated to a delightful array of numerous salads, delightful deserts and fascinating

floral demonstrations. For more info, call Ellie Vaughn at (925) 376-0889.

**The Ninth Annual Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour** will take place from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, May 5. This free, award-winning tour features 40 Alameda and Contra Costa county gardens that are pesticide-free, conserve water, provide habitat for wildlife, and contain 60 percent or more native plants. This self-drive tour showcases a variety of gardens, from large parcels in the hills to small lots in the flats. Native plant sales and talks are offered at select gardens. Space is limited and registration is required. This tour will fill; register early to ensure a place. Volunteers are needed. Please register or volunteer at www.bringingbackthenatives.net. For more info, contact Kathy@KathyKramerConsulting.net or call (510) 236-9558 between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m.

**The Gardens at Heather Farm is excited to host a free Mother's Day event** in celebration of all moms! This fun-filled event will be held from 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday, May 12 at The Gardens, 1540 Marchbanks Dr., Walnut Creek. Enjoy light refreshments and a garden gift just for mom – compliments of The Gardens! For more info, visit www.gardenshf.org.

SCHOOLS

**Spend a day with friends celebrating the Heart of the Home** at the Miramonte Kitchen & Garden Tour from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday, April 18. Six unique and gorgeous kitchens and gardens will be open for a self-guided tour. Tickets: \$35. Space is limited so sign up early! Proceeds from the events will have an immediate impact on the quality of programs available to all Miramonte students. Tickets are available at Orinda Books, Orinda Florist, McDonnell's Nursery and Lazy K at Orchard Nursery. (see article page E1)

**Moraga Education Foundation invites Campo families to the 2013 MEF Spring Festival** celebrating a Day in the Life from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, April 24 at the New Rheem Theatre. Enjoy spectacular exhibits and performances from our K-12 students highlighting arts, science, music, library, PE, drama and more. Free.

Please submit events to: calendar@lamorindaweekly.com

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# Lynley Sides and The Glue Network

## Changing the Game of Social Media Campaigns

By Sophie Braccini



Lynley and David Sides at the award ceremony Photo provided

Sometimes stars align for the right people and the right project. This is what happened to Lafayette resident Lynley Sides when she was honored April 4 with an Entprising Women of the Year Award presented by *Entprising Women Magazine*. Her new venture, The Glue Network, is taking off and is changing the way corporations create the buzz on social media.

The idea is simple: The Glue Network marketing platform allows a company's customers to give a percentage of their purchase to a charity of their choice, and to share this giving transaction with friends on social media.

"The Glue Network is now a social giving platform that allows companies to do good for the world in a way that is good for business," explains Sides. She is a business per-

son first, and whatever she proposes has to be a way to expand business for companies. Her demonstration about the efficiency of the Glue platform is all based on metrics.

"After people give using The Glue Network card, they are prompted to share what they've just done on social media," explains Sides. "Thirty four percent of them do, which is twice the rate companies get when they ask their customers directly to share a buying experience on social media. The text going to Facebook that we generate includes the name of the sponsoring company with a clickable link. We measured the percentage of clicks obtained when people post these messages, and it is 20 times the number an online banner would get. For the company, it is a very efficient marketing investment."

Sides' career bloomed in the marketing field working for large electronic companies, then for startups. An electrical engineer with an MBA, she has a long history of giving back. "I was raised in a protected environment and my parents did not have a tradition of philanthropy," says Sides, "but I still remember that day, I must have been about 14 or 15, when I saw an article about this man who was making a big difference for a local housing project through his capacity of mo-

bilizing and motivating people." Inspired by him, Sides started a group right then to support local, less privileged, children.

"I continued all through my life to give back, but then came a time when I wanted to incorporate the social justice aspect into my everyday work," she says.

Her first venture was Sides and Associates, a consulting firm that incorporated Sides' desire to improve the world. Then one day she met Scott Hancock, founder of Los Angeles-based The Glue Network. "He was a visionary and an artist," she says. "His idea was to create events for young people that would raise money for certain causes." Sides remembers a surfing competition and concert where money was raised by selling tickets and T-shirts. Sides saw an opportunity to do even more and became a co-founder of the new Glue.

MADiL CEO Helmut Elze has been working with The Glue Network for a year now. "Our business model incorporates a commitment to giving 10 percent of our sales back to society." Elze explains that after checking out, his customers are re-directed to a page where 10 percent of what they just bought is now available to them to give to the charity of their choosing. "Clients have told us they love our products,

and are very excited by the charitable aspect they get to participate in," adds Elze.

"Everybody wins," says Sides. "The charity that gets money, the companies that get a lot of good online buzz, and the clients who get exposed to worthy causes and who get to make a difference."

There are two different sized platforms: one for small businesses, one for larger ones. For larger businesses, The Glue Network creates a 'white' site that's personalized to the company; they feature causes that are selected by Glue, and they can add their own, but they must meet Glue's ethics criteria. "We research the causes we work with; we know that they are efficient, well run and that all the money goes directly to the cause." For example, Lafayette-based Budd McKenzie and Trust in Education is linked.

When she went to Florida to receive her award last week, Sides felt honored. "I was chosen in the small business category and I was excited to meet all these amazing women who have grown their businesses to the next level," she said.

For more information about The Glue Network, visit [www.theglue.com](http://www.theglue.com).

Lamorinda Weekly business articles are intended to inform the community about local business activities, not to endorse a particular company, product or service.

## Blog Post to Pope Gets Local Play



Francie Low at the KQED Public Radio Station. Photo provided

Lafayette mom Francie Low has been writing about random, humorous everyday happenings since starting her blog, Shoezle, over a year ago. A recent blog written as a letter to the new pope outlined how to deal with the complexities of the name Francis. "With so much to learn in your new job, I thought I would try to help you out with some shortcuts managing your name," Low wrote on her blog post. "I know you didn't know this was going to be a job too, being a Francis. That's OK, it's new to

you. I have forty-eight years of experience to share." Low's letter then went on to include a humorous account of how to deal with nicknames, mispronunciations, and misspellings.

Low read her complete letter March 29 on KQED Public Radio as part of the "With a Perspective" segment and her letter was published on the KQED website April 3. To read the entire letter, visit [www.kqed.org/a/perspectives/R201304030735](http://www.kqed.org/a/perspectives/R201304030735) or visit Low's blog at [www.schoezle.com](http://www.schoezle.com).

J. Wake

## business briefs

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Casey Hanley working at Back to the Kitchen in Lafayette. Photo Sophie Braccini

Frustration can be a good motivator to start a new business. For Casey Hanley, it started with her first child and the difficulty she had to find fresh healthy food for her son when she did not have time to cook herself. "Most canned or 'pouched' foods for babies have been cooked at such a high temperature, to ensure long shelf life, that almost all the nutrients are gone," said Hanley. With the birth of her daughter she decided that what she was doing for them everyday, cooking savory vegetable purees and soups, she could do for other local parents. "I've created recipes that my kids love and are vegetable based," she says. "I wanted to create what parents need most: delicious fresh, local, organic vegetable recipes that are loaded with the vitamins and nutrients that are so important for growing up, and of course that are chemical and pesticide free." Hanley, who graduated with a master's in ethics and theology, and studied nutrition for infants, says all the recipes have been approved by her kids, now 1 and 3 years old, and by her husband who loves the soups; in fact, Hanley says that many of her clients buy the soups for the whole family. Some purees have single ingredients for little ones just starting with solid food; others have multiple ingredient compositions such as the carrot-squash and coconut. The food comes in 4-ounce containers, while the soups are sold in 16-ounce containers. "The menu changes every week because I like to work with seasonal produce," she says. "I'm also a small and adaptable operation that I can accommodate my clients if they want something specific." Hanley's purees and soups are sold in the refrigerated section at Diablo Foods. "My purees and soups are sold in glass containers, and we will give credit when they are returned," says Hanley. The food can be ordered online and delivered to your doorstep, and containers can be collected that way as well.

**Important News for Yarn Lovers: Busy Stix**  
3418 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Suite A, Lafayette  
[busystix.com](http://busystix.com)

Your heart might have been broken with the closing of Big Sky Luxury Yarn in Lafayette, but Marcia Brunning bought some of the inventory and decided to open a place of her own, Busy Stix. Located in the Forge building, her collection and choice will satisfy the pickiest knitter, with yarn such as Malabrigo with its impressive range of colors and textures. Brunning is also offering classes. On April 13 and 20, a two-day technique class will teach how to do

a provisional cast on, beginning lace, bobbles, I – Cord and how to use double pointed needles. On April 16, spinner Wendy Lacy will teach the beginning of spinning technique, introduction to fiber types and how to ply yarns together. For more information and to register, call (925) 284-1172.

**Care Indeed Named Affiliate Company Member of NAPGCM**  
Orinda Office: 61 Moraga Way #9  
(925) 317-3080

The National Association of Professional Geriatric Care Managers has recently welcomed Care Indeed as an affiliate company member. An affiliate company member is a company or organization that supplies products and services to geriatric care managers. A professional geriatric care manager is a health and human services specialist who helps families who are caring for older relatives. The GCM is trained and experienced in any of several fields related to care management, including nursing, gerontology, social work, or psychology. NAPGCM is a non-profit professional development organization whose mission is to advance professional geriatric care management through education, collaboration, and leadership. Care Indeed offers 24/7 phone support and serves the entire Bay Area – San Francisco, North Bay, East Bay, Peninsula, and South Bay.

**News from the three Chambers of Commerce Lafayette**

Chamber Mixer at YogaWorks in Walnut Creek at 5:30 p.m. April 10, 1131 Locust Ave. 2nd Floor, Walnut Creek.

Ribbon Cutting for three businesses sharing the building at 3381, 3383 & 3385 Mt. Diablo Blvd. at 5 p.m. April 11. Come celebrate the renaissance and transformation of this location with Carlos Gomez (Gomez and Associates), Catherine Jolivet (French for Fun) and Marilyn Chalmers (Chalmers Fitness).

Special night meeting for the Entrepreneur's Club at 5:30 p.m. April 18 at Bank of the West, 3583 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. Lafayette Entrepreneur's Club is a chamber-sponsored group providing practical business advice to its members, while offering friendly and informal networking opportunities. It is open to all local business people.

### Moraga

The chamber will not have a membership meeting before June; it is actively preparing for the 7th annual Community Faire scheduled from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. May 11. Registration is open until May 1 to all Moraga Chamber of Commerce members and to Moraga-based businesses. For information, visit [moragachamber.org](http://moragachamber.org).

### Orinda

Miramonte Parent's Club Heart of the Home Kitchen and Garden Tour of Orinda will feature six extraordinary indoor and outdoor kitchens from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 18. For tickets and information, visit [www.miramonteparnts.com](http://www.miramonteparnts.com). (See story page E1.)

If you have a business brief to share, please contact **Sophie Braccini** at [sophie@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:sophie@lamorindaweekly.com)

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# LAMORINDA SPORTS

## Masters Swim Meet Celebrates Community

By Rebecca Eckland



Masters swim meets is the diversity of the athletes who enter. Ex-Olympians and novice swimmers of all ages, some well into their 70s and 80s, all participate together.

"The largest age group this year," he said, "is the 55-59 age group." There were 615 registered to swim April 5-7 from 69 masters teams, bringing swimmers from all over the state to the Lamorinda area.

Donald Potter (47) competed in the 1650 free and the 500-mixed relay. Potter joined the Walnut Creek Masters four years ago and has been "hooked" ever since. "It's great to have a core focus like this outside work," he said. He swam Friday and, like many of his teammates, volunteered as a lane and head timer on Saturday.

Potter was joined by teammate Nay Anderson (58), who also swam the 500 Free, the 50 Back and 100 IM.

She hopes to be able to keep swimming without injury in the future. "I'm not much of a goal-setter, but I do plan on swimming for as long as I'm physically able to," said Anderson.

Brant Allen (49) of the Sierra Nevada Masters from Reno used the meet to gauge his fitness in preparation for the National Meet which will be held next month in Indianapolis.

"I want to swim until I'm old enough that people clap simply because I'm in the pool," he joked. Allen won the 50 Back and the 100 Free and took second in the 100 IM, the 50 Breast, 50 Free and 100 Breast.

Swimming can be a solitary pursuit: but events like this one bring everyone together to celebrate all our athletic beginnings. For results visit: [http://www.pacificmasters.org/swmeets/2013\\_04\\_05\\_PMS\\_SCY/](http://www.pacificmasters.org/swmeets/2013_04_05_PMS_SCY/)

Swimming has taught me about beginnings. I didn't learn to swim properly until I joined the Walnut Creek Masters Swim team, a swim team for adults of all skill levels, almost two years ago after I'd injured myself training for the 2012 Olympic Trials in the marathon. I thought my time with starting lines had ended.

But on April 5, I competed in the 2013 Pacific Masters Short Course Championships held at the Soda Aquatic Center at in the 1650 Freestyle and 400 Individual Med-

ley. It was my first time racing in either event. After 66 laps, I took second place in my age group in the 1650 free with a time of 21:41.

In the 400 IM, I made a "rookie mistake," in an incorrect turn between back stroke and breast, which disqualified me. My coach Kerry O'Brien noted that it was all part of the learning curve. "You won't ever make that mistake again," he said. And I won't. Not at the next "beginning."

Meet Director Chris Stewart explained that the unique part of

## Saint Mary's Wins in Nail-Biter

By Hunter Hewitt



Seif El Sherbini

Photo Tod Fierner

Saint Mary's men's tennis player Seif El Sherbini let out an emotional roar, and his teammates rushed over and huddled around him in triumph after a tough win. El Sherbini beat Chas Okamoto of Hawaii in a hard-fought match on April 7, securing the victory for his team in what was a highly competitive non-conference contest.

The Gaels defeated the Warriors 4-3, improving their overall record to 9-9 with a 3-1 record in West Coast Conference play.

"It is really special to be in the deciding match," the junior El Sherbini said. "The team was counting on me, and I told myself it was now or never. I just went for it and everything worked out."

Saint Mary's began the day

with an early 1-0 lead after sweeping Hawaii in the three doubles matches.

Senior Jesse Kiuru and freshman Thomas Hunt both prevailed in singles play, but the Gaels also lost three matches. With just one match left in play, the score was even at 3-3.

After El Sherbini and Okamoto split the first two sets, their final set came down to a tiebreaker. Fueled by the spirit and energy of his teammates cheering for him on the adjacent court, El Sherbini pulled away in the tiebreaker, capping off an emotional victory on a windy day in Moraga.

"Seif showed a lot of grit to come back in the deciding match," Gaels head coach Michael Wayman said. "The conditions were difficult

today with the wind, and we haven't had that yet this year. I was expecting a close one and I'm glad we came out on top."

With five matches left before the WCC postseason tournament, Saint Mary's is currently tied for second place in conference. Wayman hopes his team can maintain its position and enter the postseason with the second-best record.

"We would love to be in the top two of the conference heading into the tournament," he said. "There are a lot of good teams in this conference, but I feel that we are starting to come into our own."

Although he is not ecstatic about his team's record, Wayman is very optimistic.

"We have a young team, and we are playing very strong programs," he said. "I can't say I'm happy with our record, but the record is not as important as the competition and the progress. I don't feel that we have played our best tennis yet, but the players are competing very well."

While he looks ahead to the rest of the season, Wayman is also looking to the seasons to come.

"I'm very enthusiastic about where this program is going," he explained. "We are on the verge of having an incredibly good program in the future. We are really knocking on the door."

Saint Mary's takes the courts again today, April 10 when they host San Francisco at 3 p.m.

## Water Polo Clinics

CORE Water Polo Parent Informational Meeting and Social



April 24, 2013, 7:00-9:30pm

Location: 147 Gregory Lane, Pleasant Hill, Pleasant Hill Park and Rec Teen Center Lounge.

CORE Water Polo will be hosting a parent meeting and social for its current members and all new parents interested in learning more about our programs. This is a must attend for all parents looking to get their kids involved in the sport of water polo. It will be the official kick off to our upcoming Summer season and will include an important introduction to the club's new direction.

Programs take place in Lafayette, Moraga, Pleasant Hill and Concord.

Ages 9 - 18; College and Master's

For more information please contact

Kim Everist at [kimeverist@everistcorepolo.com](mailto:kimeverist@everistcorepolo.com)

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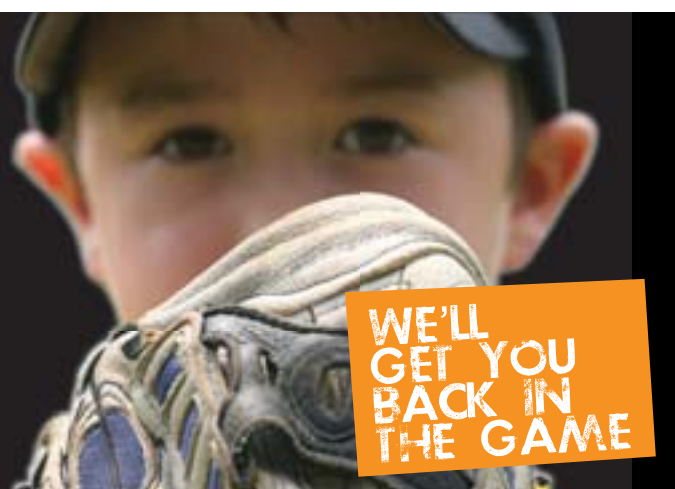


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## Gaels Seek to Defend WCC Golf Crown

By Hunter Hewitt



Ben Geyer

Photo Don Jedlovec

Two years ago, an unfortunate statistic haunted the Saint Mary's men's golf program: it had never won a West Coast Conference Championship. Last year, the Gaels were able to chip that monkey off their backs with a spare pitching wedge by claiming their first WCC Championship in school history.

After making history last season,

Saint Mary's has carried over the success and is now eyeing its second straight conference title.

The Gaels have put together an impressive 2012-2013 campaign, recording seven top-three finishes in nine highly competitive tournaments. With several returners from last year's championship team, they are poised for a repeat.

"We really want to defend our title," head coach Scott Hardy said. "Winning that two years in a row would be a great accomplishment for this group."

Saint Mary's is ranked No. 24 in the latest Golf Coaches Association of America Division I poll, and it has competed closely with many top-ranked teams this season.

Most recently, the Gaels placed third amongst a talent-filled pool in the U.S. Intercollegiate, a three-day tournament at Stanford Golf Club that concluded on March 30. Saint Mary's finished 10 strokes ahead of No. 7-ranked USC, and fell just behind No. 9 Stanford and No. 11 TCU, who finished first and second, respectively.

The Gaels have been led by senior Ben Geyer, a 2012 WCC all-conference selection and the reigning individual champion of the 2012 WCC Championships.

Despite Geyer's individual prowess, Hardy attests to his team's depth as the main reason for its success, acknowledging key components like senior Mac McClung, sophomore Jonathan De Los Reyes and juniors Dalan Refioglu and Alex Bungert.

Although reclaiming the WCC crown is the top goal, Hardy and Geyer believe their team is capable of much more. If Saint Mary's wins the conference, it will advance to the NCAA Regional Championships, where it could then potentially advance to the NCAA National Championships.

"I believe if we can make it to the NCAA Championships, we have a

very good chance of challenging for one of the top-eight spots and advancing to the match play portion," Hardy said. "I know we have players that could win a match against anyone in college golf, and I would love to see them get that opportunity."

Geyer echoed the confidence of his coach.

"We want to prove that we are the best team in the WCC, and then we

want to make it to the NCAA Championships," he said. "Once we get there, we will stride towards making it to match-play."

"We know that once we make it to match-play, anything can happen," he added. "We can beat any team in the country on any given day if we play well."

The three-day WCC Championship tournament begins on April 15.

## Moraga Baseball Association Box Scores

Submitted by Jin Meng

Mustang Division  
March 16

Yankees 17, Giants 6

Giants Highlights: Joshua Fleming 2-for-3, 1 Run, 2B and Max Weaver 2-for-3, 2 Runs, 3B, HR.

Yankees Highlights: Michael Kikugawa 3-for-3, 3 Runs, JT Clarke 3-for-4, 3 Runs, 2B, Evan Yabu 3-for-3, 2 Runs, and Ben Oxendine 2-for-3, 1 Run, 2B.

March 9

Cardinals 16, Giants 11

Giants Highlights: Luca Frippiat 3-for-3, 2 Runs, RBI, BB, 3B, Xander Goldman 2-for-4, Run, 2 RBI, 3B, and Charlie Revelos 2-for-3, with an outstanding catch in right field.

Cardinals Highlights: Shane Nelson 3-for-3, 2 Runs, 2 RBI, 3B, Sam McGonigle 1-for-2, 3 Runs, 2 RBIs, BB, Michael Coane 2-for-4, Run, and Jack Nunn 2-for-3, Run, 3 RBI.

Yankees 8, Red Sox 2

Red Sox Highlights: Becker 1-for-2, 1 Run and Avenal 1-for-2, 1 Run.

Yankees Highlights: Casey Linden 3-for-3, 2 Runs, 2 2B, JT Clarke 3-for-3, 2 Runs, 3B, and Ben Oxendine 2-for-3, 2 Runs, 2 2B.

March 2

Cardinals 13, Yankees 12

Cardinals Highlights: Nick Fitzpatrick 1-for-2, 2 Runs, 2 RBIs, HR, Nate Powers 1-for-2, Run, 3 RBI, 2B, Shane Nelson 1-for-2, 2 Runs, 2B, and Jack Erickson-King 1-for-2, 2 RBI, 2B.

Yankees Highlights: Casey Linden 3-for-3, 3 Runs, 4 RBI, HR, 3B, Alex Clare 3-for-3, 3 Runs, RBI, 2B, Xavier Esquer 1-for-3, Run, 2 RBI, 2B, Michael Kikugawa 1-for-4, Run, RBI, 2B

## Mats Stay Perfect



Luke Bohuslav

Photos Ohlen Alexander



Peter Martin

The Miramonte boys' tennis team has continued its perfect streak, improving to 18-0 overall and 8-0 in the DFAL. One of its recent wins came against cross-town rival Campolindo on March 28.

The Mats pulled out the 6-3 victory, winning Singles 1-5 and doubles 3.

Continuing the friendly rivalry at the No. 1 Singles spot, senior Luke Bohuslav beat sophomore Tilden Oliver 6-3, 6-3 for the second time this season. Peter Martin beat Nick Elliott 6-0, 6-0 and freshman Alex Hwang also won his match for the Mats 6-2, 6-0.

C. Graveson

## DFAL All-League

### Wrestling

Miramonte:

- 132 Alex Jang First Team
- 120 Josh Lopez Second Team
- 285 Leo Zepada Honorable Mention

Campolindo:

- 120 Grant Smith First Team
- 152 Eric Oeth First Team
- 170 Jackson Wiley Second Team
- 220 Sam Gelmis Honorable Mention

Acalanes:

- 138 Andrew Nakahara First Team
- 132 Brian Liliestien Second Team
- 138 Andrew Nakahara Second Team

### Boys' Soccer

Miramonte:

- John Warrington First Team
- Oliver Chew Second Team
- Nathan Evans Honorable Mention
- Michael Akay Honorable Mention
- Kyle Visher Honorable Mention

Campolindo:

- Kian Maghsoodnia First Team
- Ryan Donat First Team
- Seth Kofman Second Team
- Gus Keeble Second Team
- Kyle Gavce Honorable Mention
- Preston Kilwien Honorable Mention
- Jack Price Honorable Mention

Acalanes:

- Dan Glascock Most Valuable Player
- Eric Rogstad Most Valuable Defensive Player

- Ben Croze First Team
- Graham Lindgren First Team
- Max Mirner First Team
- Marko Helfrich Second Team
- Nick Warren Second Team
- Luc Van Oss Second Team
- Lenny Adkerson Honorable Mention
- Nick Lee Honorable Mention
- Malaak Hamzeh Honorable Mention

### Girls' Soccer

Miramonte:

- Megan Reid First Team
- Mali Tehany First Team
- Kristina Pearce Second Team
- Sophie Fuller Second Team
- Jane Fessenden Second Team

- Ashley Kawaguchi Honorable Mention
- Natalie Condon Honorable Mention
- Madeline Cuyler Honorable Mention

Campolindo:

- Julia Reshke Most Valuable Player
- Emily Orwig Most Valuable Player (Offensive)

- Lauren Petite First Team
- Samantha Vankoll First Team
- Shannon Stabler First Team
- Emily Melkonian Second Team
- Sophie Leksan Second Team
- AJ Moragan Honorable Mention
- Jessica Tuan Honorable Mention
- Bridget Coleman Honorable Mention

Acalanes:

- Kaitlin McGee First Team
- Becca Bostwick Second Team
- Erin Bishop Second Team
- Maddie Wheeler Honorable Mention
- Katharine Torchio Honorable Mention
- Lexie Silva Honorable Mention

### Boys' Basketball

Miramonte:

- Kiran Shastri First Team
- Joey Goodreault First Team
- Drew Anderson Honorable Mention

Campolindo:

- Matt O'Reilly First Team
- Justin Dunn Second Team
- Chris Hansen Honorable Mention

Acalanes:

- Buster Souza Second Team
- Matt Thomas Honorable Mention

### Girls' Basketball

Miramonte:

- Carly Gill Most Valuable Player
- Bree Alford First Team
- Megan Reid First Team
- Sabrina Ionescu Second Team
- Uriah Howard Second Team
- Keana Delos Santos Honorable Mention
- Allison Miller Honorable Mention

Campolindo:

- Ashley Ewing First Team
- Laura Hickey First Team
- Courtney Seyranian Honorable Mention

Acalanes:

- Jamie Jacobs Honorable Mention
- Marie Paladino Honorable Mention

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(we prefer to receive your original photo file, minimum size:

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# Hanson Goes the Distance

Submitted by Susie Romak



Tyler Hanson holding his medal after finishing the 3200 meter run at the Adidas Meet of Champions Distance Classic in Azusa, CA. Photo provided

Tyler Hanson, a senior at Miramonte High School, crushed his 3200m personal-best time at the 2013 Adidas Meet of Champions Distance Classic on March 23. Hanson ran a 9:10.29 to place second in the exciting nighttime Invitational portion of the event. Not only did he take 12 seconds off his best time, he is currently ranked third in the state of California, and ninth in the nation for this two-mile event. The meet was held at Azusa Pacific University.

Hanson, the No. 12 seed, was motivated to stay with the front of the pack. He was excited about his accomplishment. "When I crossed the finish line in second place, I couldn't believe that I had just run 9:10," he said. "More than anything, this will serve as an indicator for what is to come later this season."

# Top Honors for Lamorinda United U17

Submitted by Corinna Sassano and Joe Petite



Top row, from left: Coach Pedro Osorio, Jessika Martinez, Jane Fessenden, Megan Reid, Julia Reshke, Mali Tehaney, Courtney Attard, Lauren Petite, Rachel Lindenauer, Lindsay Wilson, Carly Moran; bottom row: Regan Gong, Abby Onderwyzer Gold, Farah Otero-Amad, Emily Orwig, Stephanie Munoz, Annie Loose, Sarah Mills, AJ Morgan. Photo provided

The Lamorinda United '95 girls' U17 team has started its 2013 season with a bang, winning two college showcases and posting a record of 8-0. At the Las Vegas Players Showcase, the girls beat the No.1 teams from Washington, Minnesota and Nevada on their way to a 4-0 record. Lamorinda was able to outscore its opponents 11-4. The highlight of the weekend

was the team's defeat of Heat FC. In a hard-fought game, Lamorinda overcame an early 2-0 deficit to rally and win the match 3-2.

According to getsoccer.com, the two Showcase wins vaulted the team to the No. 1 ranking in NorCal and No. 15 in the nation; United '95 is also ranked No.1 in the nation in Goals Scored and No.1 in Win Rate.

# Miramonte Runs to No. 1

Submitted by Alison Zamanian



From left: Rebekah Ent, Kera Deakins, Georgia Roden, and Tina Romak. Photo provided

The Miramonte High School girls' 3200 relay team improved on their school record by 23 seconds at the Nike Stanford Track & Field Invitational on March 30. The team ran 9:20.23, a time which currently puts them at No. 1 in California and No. 2 in the nation.

Lead runner senior Kera Deakins started out strong and held her personal best time at 2:24.8 for the first leg of the race. Senior Tina Romak marked a PR of 2:18.9, while passing three run-

ners in the second leg. Sophomore Georgia Roden held their second place position until she met the leader stride-for-stride, running a personal best of 2:21.8. Lady Mats anchor senior Rebekah Ent ran a phenomenal PR of 2:14.7, charging ahead and leading the team to victory.

Sprint coach Tristan Tool attributes their fierce competitive drive to the fact that this relay team has an extremely strong alternate in junior Lindsay Buckel.

# It's Magic

Submitted by Andrea Hilsabeck



Photo Ryan Caulfield

The Orinda Magic Emerald seventh grade girls' basketball team played in the WCBBA tournament and defeated the Alameda Vipers, Manteca Heat, and Woodland.

# Former Cougar Fastest Runner

Submitted by Mark Orders via Linda Sprouse at Colorado University



Moraga's Carrie Verdon in the World Junior Cross Country Championship in Poland on March 24. Photo Wayne Verdon

Former Campolindo cross country runner Carrie Verdon has continued to find success running for Team USA and for Colorado University. Verdon won two consecutive state finals while at Campolindo, and as a freshman, she recently earned a top finish at the IAAF

World Junior Cross Country Championship in Poland on March 24. Verdon led the U.S. crossing the line in 20th place with a time of 19 minutes and 33 seconds. She finished third overall at the U.S. Junior Championships in February.

# Race Ya!

Submitted by Abigail Buckley



Teddy Buckley. Photo Deven Hickingbotham

Racers from around northern California headed to Sugar Bowl Ski Resort for the Tahoe League Championships on March 23-24. Local Moraga ski racer and

Alpine Meadows team member, Teddy Buckley, finished first overall in Parallel Slalom in his age group U11/U10.

**Submit stories to**  
**sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com**

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## Lamorinda Weekly

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

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Sport events/stories/pictures: sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com  
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# SUMMER CAMPS 2013 / #2

half-day camps & classes

7th Annual Summer Camp Guide

presented by Lamorinda Weekly

Part 2, Featuring Specialty Half-Day Camps and Classes (Part 1, full-day and overnight camps, was published on March 13, 2013)

## Summer's Just Around the Corner

Are you ready?

Looking for something fun for your kids to do this summer? Whether your child loves to dance, build robots, ride horses, or play sports, you may find just what you're looking for in our annual Summer Camp Guide. If your child loves to sleep in or has days filled with swim team, the half-day camps and classes in this issue will give those water-wrinkled fingers a chance to dry out and might even convince sleepy-head to get up and try something new! To view our Full Day Camp Guide, which appeared in our March 13 issue, visit: [www.lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue0701/LAMORINDA-SUMMER-CAMPS-2013-1.html](http://www.lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue0701/LAMORINDA-SUMMER-CAMPS-2013-1.html)

### ACADEMIC

#### Amazing Math Classes (Moraga)

see ad pg. D3

Weeklong sessions taught by experienced, funny teachers through the Moraga Parks and Recreation Department. Sessions include elementary school math and science, sports and statistics, algebra I, high school geometry, and algebra II. Contact head teacher Michael Adler or Moraga Parks and Rec Department. Individual or small group tutoring also available.

Phone: (925) 888-7036

Email: [m.adler@sbcglobal.net](mailto:m.adler@sbcglobal.net)

Website: [www.moraga.ca.us](http://www.moraga.ca.us)

#### Camp Brainy Bunch (Orinda)

see insert

Providing single subject learning for the greatest summer growth. Campers realize their potential as inventors, communicators, performers, leaders, and writers. Choose from themed hands-on workshops in public speaking, creative writing, and science exploration. Daily lunch is included at no additional cost. Extended care options available.

Dates: Various (9 a.m. to 3 p.m. or 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.)

Phone: (510) 548-4800

Website: [www.CampBrainyBunch.com](http://www.CampBrainyBunch.com)

#### Orinda Academy (Orinda)

see ad pg. D4

Middle and high school prep, algebra 1 & 2, pre-calculus, geometry, English, U.S. history, Spanish, sign language and ESL. Personalized instruction with 9:1 student-to-teacher ratio. Orinda Academy classes meet state requirements for credit and are UC-approved.

Dates: June 17-Aug. 2 (9 a.m. to 1 p.m.)

Phone: (925) 254-7553

Website: [www.orindaacademy.org](http://www.orindaacademy.org)

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# SUMMER

Part 2, Featuring Specialty Half-Day Camps and Classes  
(Part 1, full-day and overnight camps, was published on March 13, 2013)

# 28

specialty half-day  
camps and  
classes listed

The Lamorinda Weekly Summer Camp listings are not paid advertising. Our intent is to provide a useful reference guide. In the event we have inadvertently printed misinformation please let us know. LW is not liable for errors or omissions.

## ACADEMIC

### Saklan School (Moraga)

see ad  
pg. D1

Summer @ Saklan is your passport to the world! Mornings are spent on The Saklan School campus with culture and language enrichment programs in German, Mandarin, French, Japanese, Spanish and Italian. Afternoons are filled with summer fun, including field trips, swimming, sports, games and crafts. Three-week sessions; full day, mornings or afternoons, with extended care available. Ages 3-11. Van transportation available.

Dates: June 10 - Aug. 9

Phone: (925) 376-7900

Website: [www.saklan.org/community/camp-saklan](http://www.saklan.org/community/camp-saklan)

### Summer Bridge Math (Moraga)

This program, intended to be both fun and educational, is designed to reinforce previous math concepts, while introducing future ones. Manipulatives and interactive problem solving will be a part of each session. Groups will consist of no more than seven students and will meet four times over the summer. Mr. Lorie will lead the sessions.

Dates: various dates and times are available

Website: [www.lorietutors.com](http://www.lorietutors.com)

## CREATIVE ARTS

### Academy of Language and Music Arts/ ALMA (Orinda)

Private lessons in all instruments, including guitar, piano, drums, band instruments, strings and voice. Private lessons in languages, including Italian, French, Spanish, Chinese, Japanese, ESL. Special summer group classes and performing ensembles, including Rock Combo, Jazz Combo, Vocal Ensemble, Drum Circle, Theatre and Acting Skills. All ages and levels are welcome; located at 99 Brookwood Rd., Orinda. Dr. James Fiatarone, Director.

Dates: various dates and times available

Phone: (925) 254-5056; (925) 254-5053

Website: [www.alma-leap.com](http://www.alma-leap.com)

### Bones and Bridges Creative Writing Camp (Lafayette)

Award-winning author Ruth Gendler inspires upper-elementary students who enjoy writing to explore creative writing, develop skills, and illustrate their work in a small group setting.

Dates: Session one: June 24-28 (1 to 3 p.m.); Session two: July 22-26 (10 a.m. to noon)

Phone: (510) 525-7853

Email: [info@ruthgendler.com](mailto:info@ruthgendler.com)

Website: [www.ruthgendler.com](http://www.ruthgendler.com)

### School of Musical Arts (Lafayette)

Lafayette's new School of Musical Arts (SOMA) offers a nurturing environment where young children have the freedom to develop confidence, self-esteem, and be creative. Summer classes include Piano and Voice (ages 4-8), Jazz Piano Improvisation: from Blues to Boogie (ages 8-12), and In Character for the Audition (ages 8-12). Class sizes: 8 students.

Dates: July 8-12 (Monday through Friday)

Phone: (925) 878-5159

Email: [xiomydma@gmail.com](mailto:xiomydma@gmail.com)

Website: [www.somapiano.com](http://www.somapiano.com)

### Sewnow! Fashion Design (Lafayette)

see ad  
pg. D4

Learn fashion design and sewing at sewnow! fashion studio. We offer a variety of one-week 1/2 day and full day camps for juniors (2nd & 3rd Grade), kids, and teens. Have fun, learn new skills and walk away with unique personalized fashion items. Camps include workbook, fabrics, notions, computerized sewing patterns, and custom embroidery.

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Email: [info@sewnow.com](mailto:info@sewnow.com)

Website: [www.sewnow.com](http://www.sewnow.com)

### Shakespeare For Kids (Lafayette)

Two-week camp for kids ages 6-14 interested in singing, dancing or acting in short Shakespeare scenes, and more. Tudor faire, feast and dramatic production for families at the grande finale at 7 p.m. July 19!

Dates: July 8-19 (9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.)

Website: [www.Shakespeareforkids.us](http://www.Shakespeareforkids.us)

### The Art Room (Lafayette)

see ad  
pg. D3

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Summer Camp  
Guide:

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

# CAMPS 2013 / #2

Camp listings collected and compiled by Wendy Scheck

## NATURE & SCIENCE

### Orinda Afternoons (Orinda)

Orinda Afternoons is a unique outdoor adventure camp for children ages 5-10. Camp begins and ends at our "base camp" in Orinda and features a daily hike or outdoor excursion with art, science, games and more. Healthy lunch and snacks included. Week-long themed camps run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. with before and aftercare available.  
 Dates: June 24 – Aug. 16  
**Phone: 925-254-1974**  
**website: www.OrindaAfternoons.com**

### Lindsay Wildlife Museum Wild Times Science Camp (Walnut Creek)

Enjoy new adventures with live animals, science experiments, crafts. Held in the museum's large air-conditioned community room, two private classrooms, and outdoors in adjacent Larkey Park. Four weekly half-day sessions include Dino-Mania (ages 4-6), Animal Habitats (ages 6-9), Animal Senses (ages 6-9) and Body Shop (animal care) (ages 9-12).  
 Dates: See website for dates, times and fees  
**Phone: (925) 935-1978**  
**Website: www.wildlife-museum.org**

### Green Stuff at UC Botanical Garden (Berkeley)

see ad  
pg. D4

Become a young botanist and explore our collection of plants from around the world, taste foods growing in our Crop Garden, experiment with growing your own seedlings, hunt for garden animals including birds and newts, and make crafts from plants. Green Stuff is a small camp where each child gets very personal attention. Ages 5-10.  
 Date: June 17-Aug. 16  
**Phone: (510) 643-2755**  
**Website: www.botanicalgarden.berkeley.com**

## RIDING & RANCHING

### Rancho Del Lago Riding Camp (Briones)

see ad  
pg. D2

Teaches classical riding for beginning and intermediate riders in a safe environment with gentle horses and ponies. Two riding sessions a day, horse care, crafts and a show create a fun exciting week. We have many repeat campers! Six one-week sessions.  
**Phone: (925) 323-0219**  
**Website: www.rancho-del-lago.com**

### Roughing It - Hello Horse Camp (Lafayette)

see ad  
pg. D2

Part of the Roughing It Family of Camps. One-week, half-day introductory English riding camp. This afternoon program offers beginning riding lessons and horsemanship, animal care, crafts and more! Campers learn the fundamentals of English horseback riding in one daily lesson. Designed for busy families that cannot attend our full-day horse programs.  
 Dates: one-week sessions run June 24-Aug. 16  
**Phone: (925) 283-3795**  
**Email: camp@roughingit.com**  
**Website: www.roughingit.com/horse**

### Sienna Ranch (Lafayette)

see ad  
pg. D3

Lamorinda's own ranch camp experience. Camp choices include activities in nature immersion, primitive arts, survival skills, horse riding and care, farm animal interaction, archery, carpentry, and more! Serving campers ages 4-14, Sienna Ranch offers week-long, full-day or half-day camp options. All adult professional staff and an amazing, convenient location.  
 Dates: various dates and times available  
**Phone: (925) 283-6311**  
**Website: www.siennaranch.net**

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- **Classes to Attack Algebra**  
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- **Get a Jump on Geometry:**  
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\*\*\*\* **Warning** – These classes might trick students into believing that math is fun \*\*\*\*

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- June 17 - 21 (Advanced\* 10am - 1pm)
- June 24 - 28 (Advanced\* 10am - 1pm)
- July 29 - Aug 2 (Advanced\* 10am - 1pm)
- Aug 5 - 9 (Advanced\* 10am - 1pm)

\* Advanced sessions available to athletes who have completed a prior one week introductory session or our middle school program

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# SUMMER CAMPS 2013 / #2

## Part 2, Featuring Specialty Half-Day Camps and Classes

### SPORTS

#### Football Camp (Moraga)

see ad pg. D5

The Cougar Youth Football Camp, directed by Head Coach Kevin Macy, for grades 4-8 will run from July 8 through July 19, 1:30 to 5 p.m. at Campolindo High School. All equipment is supplied, T-shirt is included. Registration forms can be found at campofootball.com.

Phone: (925) 932-1579

#### Oakland Strokes (Oakland)

see ad pg. D3

The Oakland Strokes summer program is a half-day summer camp. It is offered five weeks during the summer. The program is open to any child 6th through 12th grade. The program is a "learn to row" program, focused on taking kids from never rowing, to being proficient. We teach the basics and include conditioning in our program. Dates: various dates and times available

E-mail: [oaklandstrokes@gmail.com](mailto:oaklandstrokes@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.oaklandstrokes.org](http://www.oaklandstrokes.org)

#### Sherman Swim School (Lafayette)

see ad pg. D2

A tradition since 1961, Sherman Swim School is a family business which has taught swimming to over 38,000 students and has produced numerous diving champions. The combination of one-on-one instruction with patient, encouraging teachers, and extremely comfortable water (90-92 degrees), creates an ideal learning environment. Voted "Favorite Swim School" by Lamorinda Moms. Sessions are 3-4 weeks long. T-Th's or M-W-F's, based on openings remaining.

Phone: (925) 283-2100  
Website: [www.shermanswim.com](http://www.shermanswim.com)

#### SMC Summer Camps (Moraga)

see ad pg. D1

SMC offers 30+ sports camps on one of the most picturesque campuses on the West Coast. Saint Mary's offers boys and girls overnight, day, team, and specialty camps for ages 4-18. Early Bird and extended care available, depending on camp. Summer 2013 offers all sports, baseball, basketball, lacrosse, soccer, softball, tennis and volleyball.

Dates: various dates and times available  
Phone: (925) 631-4FUN (4386)  
Email: [smccamps@stmarys-ca.edu](mailto:smccamps@stmarys-ca.edu)  
Website: [www.smccaels.com](http://www.smccaels.com), click "camps"

#### Tennis Camp - Moraga Valley Swim and Tennis Club (Orinda)

see ad pg. D5

This three-hour program from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. includes tennis instruction from USPTA certified coaches and a swim/ lunch period with fun and games. Hourly classes are also available. Scott Borowiak USPTA Certified Coach.

Dates: Weekly sessions June 10 - Aug. 12  
Phone: (925) 284-1102  
Email: [borotennis@aol.com](mailto:borotennis@aol.com)  
Website: [www.mvptennis.org](http://www.mvptennis.org)

### VARIETY CAMPS

#### City of Lafayette - Recreation Summer Camps (Lafayette)

Soccer, cheerleading, cooking, dance, fencing, jewelry making, theater, lacrosse, Mad Science, Spanish, engineering, LEGOS, tennis, Critters-N-Clay, music, robotics, hip hop, game design, basketball, chess and more!  
Dates: various dates and times available

Phone: (925) 284-2232  
Website: [www.LafayetteRec.org](http://www.LafayetteRec.org)

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**VARIETY CAMPS**

**Moraga Parks & Recreation Summer Camps (Moraga)**

see ad pg. D5

Parks make life better ... and so do summer camps! A variety of camps are offered through the Moraga Parks & Recreation Department: Camp Hacienda, Summer Park Program, Eurosoccer, Skyhawks Sports, golf, tennis, Moraga Sports Camp, Kindercool, martial arts, ukulele, drama, math, writing, and much more! Registration is currently open.

Dates: various dates and times available

Phone: (925) 888-7045

Website: www.moraga.ca.us

**City of Orinda Recreation Camps (Orinda)**

A variety of half-day camps offered for ages 3-15: Orinda Kids (OK) Camp, Orinda Summer Enrichment Program – Wild West Roundup, carpentry, dance, engineering (LEGO and Erector), gymnastics, hip hop, teen leadership, musical theater (Aladdin, Annie, Aristocats, Cinderella, Fiddler on the Roof, Little Mermaid, Mary Poppins, Music Man, Sound of Music, Snow White, Tangled, Willy Wonka, Wicked), and nature!

Dates: June 10-Aug. 23

Phone: (925) 254-2445

Website: www.cityoforinda.org

**City of Orinda Recreation Classes (Orinda)**

A variety of classes meet throughout the summer including: art, ballet (Orinda Ballet Academy & Company), baseball, basketball, Broadway Musical Dance, carpentry, Chinese, clay, cooking, Discover & Create, karate, Kindergym, Kindercooks, pilates, self-defense (Aiki Jujitsu), soccer, Spanish, tennis, and video game design.

Dates: June 10-Aug. 23

Phone: (925) 254-2445

Website: www.cityoforinda.org

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOLS**

**Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church's "Son Surf Beach Bash" (Moraga)**

see ad pg. D5

Catch this tidal wave of fun! Ages range from children who are 4 years old (by June 17) to those entering 5th grade in the fall.

Cost: \$65.00 per child.

Dates: June 17 – 21 (9 a.m. to noon)

Phone: (925) 376-4800

Website: www.mvpc.today.org.

**SonWest Roundup (Lafayette)**

Git along buckaroos! It's time to sign up for SonWest Roundup, featuring boot-tappin' music, hair-raisin' skits, rip-roarin' crafts, heart-racin' games and mighty tasty snacks! For kids in preschool - 8th grade. Special program for middle-schoolers includes field trips to serve at CC Food Bank, Monument Crisis Center, etc. Lafayette United Methodist Church, 955 Moraga Rd., Lafayette. All children welcome. Cost: \$50/child.

Date: June 24 – 28 (9 a.m. to noon)

Phone: (925) 284-4765

Email: office@thelumc.org

Website: www.thelumc.org



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**DATES:** July 8 thru July 19 (M – F)

**TIMES:** 1:30 – 5:00 P.M.

**FEES:** \$320 (T-shirt included)

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925/280-3950 x-5163, kmacy@acalanec.k12.ca.us

or download registration form at campfootball.com



Carpentry classes with Moraga Parks & Recreation

Photo provided



Roughing It Canoe

Photo provided

**Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church Vacation Bible School**



**June 17-21**  
9 am - 12 noon

Ready for some fun in the sun? Head to SonSurf Beach Bash and catch the wave of Jesus' love! Rock out to the sounds of the VBS live band. Hang loose with our sizzlin' summer skits. Discover epic answers to big questions about Jesus through powerful Bible stories. Action-packed recreation, puppets, crafts, snacks and games are just the beginning of a totally AWESOME week.

**Catch this tidal wave of fun !**

**Camp cost: \$65 per child**

Children must be 4 years old through entering 5th graders.



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# Lamorinda OUR HOMES

## Q1

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 07 Issue 3 Wednesday, April 10, 2013

The Real Estate First Quarter in Review ...read on page E8

## Indoor and Outdoor Entertaining Spaces Showcased at Miramonte Tour

By Cathy Tyson

With six unique kitchens and new this year - gardens - on the tour, the April 18 "Heart of the Home" fundraiser tour highlights a range of designs to enjoy and inspire – all for a good cause. Funds raised will go to the Miramonte Parent Club that supports many academic endeavors for all students. "Our goal is to raise money for core programs that have been the victims of state budget cuts," said co-chair Jennifer Lavis.

Orinda's generally mild weather lends itself to this year's focus on indoor and outdoor entertaining spaces. From contemporary to French country to traditional, these kitchens seamlessly blend form and function to create more than just ground zero for nourishment, but personify homeowners' intentions and vision.

Lindy and Gary Sitzmann are empty nesters who were looking for a low maintenance place to enjoy when they weren't travelling. Lindy had a vision of exactly what she wanted and had contractor McKenzie Gray bring the welcoming French-country inspired space to life. They completely gutted the kitchen, enlarged the deck and converted the three petite bedrooms into two more generous bedrooms. Aiming for a



The Sitzmanns' cozy patio area with fireplace and heat lamps.

Photos provided

comfortable open space, they tore down the wall that separated the kitchen and family room, and raised the ceiling. Enchanting Planting designed the inviting enclosed patio; two heat lamps and a fireplace keep fog and wind at bay. Another deck

was expanded with wind blocking and built-in heaters over the outdoor dining table. While they love the view from their Orinda Woods home and hardly notice freeway noise, sometimes their guests do; so they've installed two water features

on either side to help camouflage the sound.

The Legallets' very generous pocket doors, by Quantum Windows and Doors, are a key element that invites the outdoors in.

...continued on page E4



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## Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

City	Last reported:	LOWEST AMOUNT:	HIGHEST AMOUNT:
LAFAYETTE	10	\$660,000	\$2,480,000
MORAGA	8	\$375,000	\$1,250,000
ORINDA	18	\$675,000	\$1,625,000

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

701 Glenside Circle, \$1,095,500, 3 Bdrms, 1990 SqFt, 1951 YrBl, 3-8-13;

Previous Sale: \$1,085,000, 06-13-08

4145 Hidden Valley Road, \$660,000, 3 Bdrms, 1572 SqFt, 1963 YrBl, 3-8-13;

Previous Sale: \$512,000, 07-02-02

11 Leslyn Lane, \$2,480,000, 4 Bdrms, 4215 SqFt, 1988 YrBl, 3-8-13;

Previous Sale: \$2,175,000, 05-10-05

324 Lowell Lane #E, \$1,425,000, 4 Bdrms, 2570 SqFt, 1968 YrBl, 3-1-13;

Previous Sale: \$64,500, 12-22-71

821 Mariposa Road, \$1,049,000, 3 Bdrms, 2408 SqFt, 1951 YrBl, 3-7-13;

Previous Sale: \$340,000, 12-03-98

3135 Maryola Court, \$1,160,000, 4 Bdrms, 1759 SqFt, 1957 YrBl, 3-8-13;

Previous Sale: \$698,500, 02-12-04

3745 Meadow Lane, \$2,094,000, 4 Bdrms, 3582 SqFt, 1960 YrBl, 2-28-13;

Previous Sale: \$155,000, 12-02-77

1111 Sierra Vista Way, \$1,410,000, 5 Bdrms, 4041 SqFt, 1938 YrBl, 3-1-13

3333 Victoria Avenue, \$1,065,000, 3 Bdrms, 1565 SqFt, 1949 YrBl, 3-6-13;

Previous Sale: \$945,000, 06-23-10

1021 Walnut Drive, \$1,113,000, 3 Bdrms, 1535 SqFt, 1942 YrBl, 2-28-13;

Previous Sale: \$950,000, 08-17-07

### MORAGA

728 Augusta Drive, \$645,000, 2 Bdrms, 2079 SqFt, 1974 YrBl, 2-28-13;

Previous Sale: \$775,000, 06-19-07

343 Calle La Mesa, \$933,000, 4 Bdrms, 2192 SqFt, 1968 YrBl, 3-1-13

275 Deerfield Drive, \$1,250,000, 4 Bdrms, 2945 SqFt, 1966 YrBl, 3-5-13

97 Miramonte Drive, \$375,000, 2 Bdrms, 1134 SqFt, 1965 YrBl, 3-8-13;

Previous Sale: \$28,500, 01-11-77

3980 Paseo Grande, \$910,000, 4 Bdrms, 2341 SqFt, 1969 YrBl, 3-8-13;

Previous Sale: \$959,000, 01-03-05

416 Tharp Drive, \$1,010,000, 4 Bdrms, 3546 SqFt, 1968 YrBl, 3-6-13;

Previous Sale: \$37,500, 07-31-70

108 Warfield Drive, \$790,000, 3 Bdrms, 1756 SqFt, 1966 YrBl, 3-7-13;

Previous Sale: \$136,000, 12-22-78

11 Wimpole Street, \$900,000, 4 Bdrms, 1987 SqFt, 1968 YrBl, 3-8-13;

Previous Sale: \$384,500, 08-23-94

### ORINDA

76 Acacia Drive, \$1,000,000, 4 Bdrms, 2220 SqFt, 2007 YrBl, 3-5-13;

Previous Sale: \$785,000, 03-02-12

51 Berkeley Avenue, \$675,000, 3 Bdrms, 1346 SqFt, 1948 YrBl, 2-28-13;

Previous Sale: \$319,000, 11-25-91

17 Cedar Lane, \$1,625,000, 4 Bdrms, 2809 SqFt, 1964 YrBl, 3-1-13;

Previous Sale: \$1,300,000, 06-06-08

211 Courtney Lane, \$1,252,000, 5 Bdrms, 2538 SqFt, 1976 YrBl, 3-5-13;

Previous Sale: \$689,500, 07-22-99

141 Crestview Drive, \$750,000, 3 Bdrms, 1183 SqFt, 1951 YrBl, 3-5-13;

Previous Sale: \$646,500, 08-24-01

161 Holly Lane, \$1,201,000, 5 Bdrms, 3030 SqFt, 2007 YrBl, 2-28-13;

Previous Sale: \$56,000, 07-15-05

16 La Cintilla, \$1,590,000, 6 Bdrms, 4415 SqFt, 1948 YrBl, 3-1-13;

Previous Sale: \$1,585,000, 09-13-06

2 La Vuelta, \$1,490,000, 5 Bdrms, 2977 SqFt, 1941 YrBl, 3-5-13;

Previous Sale: \$985,000, 03-15-00



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# Indoor and Outdoor Entertaining Spaces

...continued from page E1



*Tom and Suzanne Melohn's kitchen.*

Marie Legallet credits their architect Jim Miller of Oculus Architecture and Design, for making the most of their updated, harmonious traditional rancher. The family purchased the home in 1997 and did the kitchen remodel about 10 years ago; their previous kitchen was white, but because the new kitchen is part of the great room, the family wanted to keep the feel of the overall space more of a living area, unified by natural materials like the wood floor, stone fireplace, and glowing raised wood breakfast bar.

Like many properties in the Orinda area, the back yard presented some challenges; it was not all flat, usable space. Steve Lambert of Garden Lights Landscape designed and installed stone retaining walls, a water feature and colorful plants along with plenty of patio space that effortlessly blends with the interior of

the home.

Tom and Suzanne Melohn tore their house down to the ground about four years ago and started from scratch. The original structure was a 1,400-square-foot ranch house from the 1950s. They worked with Moraga-based Bob McLaughlin of MRC Construction. Melohn describes his work as “amazing.” She had cut pictures out of design magazines as examples of what she was looking for, and McLaughlin made it happen. The family is very pleased with the fresh, traditional feel of the home. She and the tile installer took a field trip to the Walker Zanger showroom where she found a lovely serene blue/gray/green tile that is used throughout the home.

But wait, there's more: in addition to the complete house construction job, the back yard was totally raw when the property was purchased. McLaughlin

built the cabana that was originally meant to be a “man cave,” with a full kitchen and bathroom, and Alex's Garden Service designed and installed the blue stone patio and outdoor barbecue on the terraced hillside. While they are thrilled with the overall finished product, during the remodel process the family moved a total of four times, which was stressful, said Melohn.

Taking the Heart of the Home Kitchen and Garden tour will be the opposite of stressful; those looking for design ideas or garden inspiration can leisurely stroll through six unique Orinda homes. Co-chairs Lavis and Kathleen Metheny have some new ideas this year that include a pre-event cocktail party to thank homeowners who will graciously open their doors to the public and presenting sponsors, and a silent auction of sculptural works from talented Miramonte art students along with artwork from a group of Orinda painters.

...continued on page E6



*The Melohns' backyard cabana with spacious patio on terraced hillside.*



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*"Troy Feddersen was of great assistance to the Russell Family during the difficult passing of their mother and the subsequent need to sell the family home. He was genuinely kind, knowledgeable, honest, patient and sensitive throughout the whole process and we couldn't have asked for a better person to handle our family's real estate needs." ~Jennifer Russell*

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**W W W . R O C K C L I F F . C O M**



# Indoor and Outdoor Entertaining Spaces

...continued from page E4



Natural elements comprise Marie and Christopher Legallet's kitchen.



Another example of an outdoor entertaining space on the Heart of the Home kitchen and garden tour.

## DON'T JUST TAKE OUR WORD FOR IT...

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David and Abbey Cook, Lafayette, CA - 2012



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## Desirable Happy Valley Home

### 3644A Happy Valley Rd, Lafayette

Down a tree-lined lane sits this magnificent house designed by Richard Danskin. It is a single level, 4 BD- 3 1/2 BA approx. 3480 sq.ft. home on a flat .62 acre lot. It has a totally remodeled guest cottage (1BD/1BA) and a large private backyard with pool, lawn area and beautiful landscaping with private patios off of the kitchen and Master bedroom. Most of this home has been remodeled while keeping the unique architectural qualities intact like the high vaulted ceiling which runs from the front entry through to the covered backyard patio area. This house lends itself to indoor/outdoor entertaining.

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The tour is scheduled from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 18. Tickets for the tour are \$35. Tickets for the Garden Cocktail Party from 5 to 7 p.m. April 14 at the exquisite garden of Marci and Patrick Dunne are \$100 (includes two tickets to garden party and one tour ticket); space is limited. Both the tour and cocktail party tickets are available online at [www.miramonteparents.com](http://www.miramonteparents.com). Tour tickets can also be purchased at McDonnell's Nursery, Diablo Foods, Orinda Florist and the Lazy K House at Orchard Nursery.



**Organizers want to thank presenting sponsors who came on board to support Miramonte High School through the kitchen and garden tour.**

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*Mark W., Lafayette seller/Alamo buyer*



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# The Real Estate Quarter in Review

By Conrad Bassett, CRP, GMS

The first quarter of 2013 showed continued fast-paced activity on the residential side of Lamorinda real estate with supply plummeting, pending sales way down, closings way up and the average sales price skyrocketing versus the same period last year.

Per Contra Costa Association of Realtors statistics reported from Jan. 1 through March 31, 55 single-family homes closed in Lafayette, up from 43 one year ago. Sale prices ranged from \$450,000 to \$3.19 million, averaging 40 days on the market compared to 41 days this time last year, and 70 days in 2011. The average sales price was \$1,283,618, up dramatically from the \$971,889 in the first quarter of 2012 and \$973,341 in 2011. One sold property listed at \$4.5 million was not reported to the Multiple Listing Service and that sale price is not reflected in these statistics.

There were 23 single-family closings in Moraga, consistent with the 21 in 1Q2012 and 22 in 1Q2011. Prices ranged from \$790,000 to nearly \$1.9 million. The average sale price was \$1,137,226, again a huge increase from the same quarter in 2012 when it was \$959,857, and from the \$823,931 in 1Q2011. Average marketing time at 34 days was less than half of last year's 72 days, and down from 85 days in 1Q2011.

In Orinda the number of single-family closings was 33 versus 24 in 1Q2012 and 35 in 1Q2011. Sale prices ranged from \$675,000 to nearly \$2.1 million with an average price of \$1,151,882. A year ago it was \$934,541. In 2011 it was \$894,857. It took an average of 28 days on the market to sell a home versus 67 in the identical quarter in 2012.

So far this year, on an average price per square foot basis, Lafayette homes have sold for \$440 per square foot, Moraga for \$424 and Orinda was at \$439. In the first quarter of 2012, Lafayette detached single-family homes sold at \$384 per square foot, Moraga homes sold for \$388 and Orinda was at \$379. In same quarter in 2011, these amounts were \$384, \$374, and \$366 respectively.

In the condominium/town home category, Lafayette had no closings, Moraga had eight ranging from \$375,000 to \$710,000 and Orinda had one at \$850,000.

As of April 5 there were 88 homes under contract per the MLS in the three combined communities with asking prices of \$341,000 to \$3.95 million. A year ago on the same date there were 127 homes under contract with asking prices of \$149,000 to \$3.69 million. In 2011, there were 92 pending properties. It should be pointed out that there are 13 "Potential Short Sales" that are currently pending and were subject to lender approval and that number is way down from 23 one year ago. The time for short sales to be approved has shortened in many cases, but the waiting time often remains several months. Two of the pending sales are REOs (bank owned properties).

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Inspired light filled contemporary w/spacious rms in a wooded setting overlooking canyon & melodic brook w/2 Master stes... one w/separate entrance! Cathedral & vaulted ceilings. This gracious 4BR/3.5BA home lends itself to entertaining & provides a private retreat for comfortable living.

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Inventory, however, has decreased dramatically: 70 properties currently versus 115 properties on the same date in 2012. In 2011, there were 180 homes in early April and 215 in 2010.

There are “only” 31 properties on the market in Lafayette down from 61 on the market in April 2012. Asking prices in Lafayette currently range from \$755,000 to \$7.75 million. Of these, there are no distressed sales—attempted short sales or REOs – compared to 11 a year ago! In Moraga, buyers have their choice of only nine homes or condominiums listed between \$750,000 and \$3.65 million, compared to 19 a year ago and 45 two years ago. There is one short sale currently on the market in Moraga and not one bank-owned property.

In Orinda there are 30 on the market down from 35 a year ago, and 55 in April 2011. The list prices range from \$699,000 to nearly \$5 million. There are no short sales or REOs.

As is the case nearly every quarter, the most active price range is in the more affordable price ranges. At the high end, nine homes sold above \$2 million in the three communities combined. A year ago there were two and the year before only one in the comparable quarter. There are 24 currently available above this amount in Lamorinda.

Interest rates continue to be attractive and many corporations continue to relocate families both into and out of the area. The third piece of the real estate market—the bank owned property segment – is almost non-existent in Lamorinda and is also dropping in nearby communities.

Lastly, it is important to look at what homes are selling for versus their list prices. Often homes come on the market at unrealistic prices, and they do not sell, but in the first quarter of this year many homes have had multiple offers and have sold at or above the list price.

Of the 55 sales that closed in Lafayette in the first quarter of 2013, 29 sold at or above the list price. In Moraga, 13 of the 23 sales were at or above the asking price and in Orinda, 17 of the 33 sold at or above the final listing price.

This will typically happen when a house goes pending in the two weeks on the market. There are 88 currently pending sales in Lamorinda and of these, 50 went pending in 14 days or less. The actual average days on the market would be markedly lower but most agents are setting up marketing plans where they hold the home open to the public and to brokers and follow with an offer date in a week or so after exposing the property to the market—pointing to a high likelihood of a continued trend in homes selling above the asking price.

## Excellent Advice Broad Experience Buying or Selling your home

### 1071 Orchard Road, Lafayette, CA 94549



Wonderful Mt Diablo view from cute original Ranch décor style home. 3 Bedrooms. 1 Bath, 8 Rooms, 1,446 SF, 2 car garage with shop area, 16,351 SF lot. Wood ceilings, wood and brick walls. Ceiling fans, Ranch style light fixtures. 4th home from Lafayette Bart parking, blocks to Lafayette shopping and restaurants, easy access to Hwy 24. Arbor covered patio and covered porch with view. Mature trees, large fireplace, original condition, built 1947, needs updating. Radiant liquid floor heat. Regular Sale. Acalanes School District. Shared driveway-go to end.



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## Goodbye, Housing Slump

By Andi Peterson Brown

Dear Housing Slump of 2008 to 2012,

I must admit that it is with quite a bit of excitement that I write this parting letter to you. While I have genuinely taken to heart your lessons on sound fiscal policy, minimizing leverage, and curbing reckless real estate purchases, I must admit that as the years went by I began to feel very suffocated by you. You were constantly there, looming over me and casting murky shadows on every street and every house, even the good ones. And while I will never forget your back-to-basics lessons, I am happy to see that we are finally going our separate ways.

The 2013 Lamorinda real estate market is back in business and hotter than the bottom of this laptop right now. Q1 results are in, and we sold 122 homes this quarter, up almost 8% from 2012 YTD. Prices are up across the board, too. The median price in Lamorinda right now is \$1,035,000, up 35% from last year's \$765,000. The average price is \$1,140,000, up 24% from \$841,000. Our lack of inventory coupled with five years' worth of pent up buyer demand is creating multiple offer situations and pushing prices up.

And there you have it, Housing Slump. Parting is such sweet sorrow.



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## The Home Designer Color Blind

By Brandon Neff

Nothing seems to freak out my clients more than choosing paint – color, finish, brand – you name it. It seems that for some, picking from myriad color chips and options turns a creative endeavor into a nightmare. My patent response to individuals struggling with the “paint” conundrum is, “Don’t panic – if you don’t like it, you get a do-over.” Paint is one of the least expensive ways to update any room, and is never permanent. With that said, I’m here to offer a bit of solace and help you get it right the first time. Here’s your paint primer (so to speak) – a few tricks-of-my-trade designed to guide you through one of the most gratifying elements of a room.

**Color Me Mine.** For many, color is subjective. Most people looking to make a change to their walls and ceilings gravitate toward either cool or warm hues – color hits us viscerally and in a very personal way. Some choose white (or a variation of beige), as a way to stay neutral and non-committal. However, it’s been my experience that deep down everyone has a passion for one color over another. But where to begin?

I often tell clients to look to their closets for inspiration – colors you wear in the world are colors you like to have around you at home. It’s no coincidence that denim jeans and the color blue are two of America’s favorites. I also like to use fabrics and rugs to help determine a wall color – a little trick is to search out the least dominant color in your pillows, bedding or area rug, and choose that as your wall color – an easy way to create continuity in your space.

**Finish Line.** Beyond color, choosing the right finish is essential to both the look you’re trying to achieve and for lasting results. Here are a few key things to remember: Flat Latex is best for living rooms, bedrooms and ceilings, or for anywhere you want a more matte finish. Flat emulsions offer a beautiful, “powdery” look to walls, and are the most flattering to walls with surface imperfections and cracks. However, flat paint offers only minimal protection against scuffs and scratches. Low Sheen (Eggshell) is great for rooms with higher moisture such as bathrooms and kitchens.



Deep blue walls add a warm and dramatic background in this art-filled living room.

Photos Brandon Neff Design



*A rich wall color highlights both the leather chairs and mercury glass accents.*

I also recommend low sheen paints for kids' rooms, family rooms and anywhere fingerprints and stains are more likely to happen because it's easier to clean. If your walls are heavily textured, or "orange peeled," I would suggest sticking to a flat finish. Semi Gloss (Enamel) is your hardest wearing – great for doors, window trims and mouldings. Enamel paints offer a durable hard shell finish that's easy to wipe clean and accentuates any interior architecture. And, don't think all trims must be bright white either – try a semi-gloss black for doors to add major drama to any room. High Gloss (Lacquer) is a proven winner for painted furniture, high gloss finishes also bring luminescence and depth to walls and ceilings. Since many layers need to be applied, and the walls need to be prepped properly, I recommend hiring a professional for this application.

**Inside Job.** Keep these insider tips in your back pocket when starting your next

paint project: To blur the lines of uneven walls don't be afraid to take the wall color up onto the ceiling – no one said all ceilings must be white. Wrapping the entire room in one color opens up a room and expands the space. Great for darker colors! Take a cue from the sky and add a touch of light blue or gray to your white ceiling paint – I figure if it works in nature it'll work in the home, as well. Looks especially sharp when combined with bright white crown moulding. For a dreamy, flattering light in a dining room choose a metallic paint for the ceiling. New colors in gold, silver and platinum are adding a candlelit look to rooms, and bathe you and your guests in a warm, romantic glow.

*Brandon Neff is a  
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## SPRING IS IN THE AIR

Spring is here – it's time for spring cleaning but for your landscape! The trees and plants in the yard need to be inspected for water damage, remove dead or dying branches which may have been injured by disease/severe insect infestation or storm damage.

We also want to prune for improved plant appearance, tree and plant size to ensure all around health for your landscape.

So don't wait until it's too late, have a complete inspection by a Certified Arborist at Advance Tree Service and Landscaping to make your yard a summer STAYCATION.

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**55 Oak Road**  
Build your dream home on this gorgeous oak studded lot with views of the hills. Terrific neighborhood of impressive homes close to town. Utilities/sewer at street.

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**38 Oak Ridge Lane**  
Large view lot just off of Tahos Rd. Large flat building pad with utilities on site. A great opportunity to do something special on a large private lot.

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**40 Dos Osos**  
Incredible Orinda, San Pablo Dam, Mt. Diablo views + abundance of nature surrounds this supersized parcel bordering EBMUD land. Exceptional beauty. Once in a lifetime opportunity raw land sale.

**Offered at \$545,000**



**50 El Castillo**  
Dramatic contemporary nestled at end of a close-in cul de sac. Soaring ceilings, lovely views. Four bdr. incl. gorgeous master suite, large kitchen with central island & adjacent family room. Bonus detached guest apartment.

**Offered at \$1,195,000**



**79 Rheem Blvd.**  
Charming 2642 sf, 3bd/2.5ba hm w/ large rms, formal LR/DR & family room, remodeled kit., fab mstr bdr. w/deluxe spa ba. Private Rim Trail setting provides beautiful landscaping, grassy yds & 250sf guest cottage w/ 1bd/1ba.

**Offered at \$1,215,000**



**9 Las Piedras**  
Picturesque private estate in a park like setting. Views, level lawn and recreational pool. Classic custom home with vaulted ceilings, walls of windows, and hardwood floors.

**Offered at \$1,595,000**



**35 Haciendas Road**  
Remodeled, turnkey 4bd/3ba, 2470 sq.ft. rancher on a level .24 acre lot with pool, patio & lawn. Gourmet kitchen with center granite island, HW floors, cathedral ceilings & more! Entertainers dream home.

**Offered at \$2,150,000**



**201 Glorietta Blvd.**  
First time on market in 43 years! Stunning 4400 sq ft Spanish hacienda beautifully updated w/handmade tile roof, hdwd flrs, central courtyard. Fabulous granite & stainless kitchen. Gorgeous 1 ac w/sweeping lawns, terrace, pool.

**Offered at \$2,195,000**



**65 La Espiral**  
Updated 4bd/4ba with beautiful custom features & amenities. Very well maintained. Majestic setting, lovely gardens, new pool + views/privacy, fully fenced. Tuscany ambience, European flair.

**Offered at \$2,195,000**



**68 Singingwood Lane**  
Orinda Downs! Exquisite 6bd/5.5ba Architect's Home, cul-de-sac, over 5,000 sf, 1.7 acres, soaring ceilings, views, level lawn/patio, lush landscape. First time on market in 21 years.

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**349 Tharp Drive**  
Remodeled, turnkey 4bd/3ba, 2470 sq.ft. rancher on a level .24 acre lot with pool, patio & lawn. Gourmet kitchen with center granite island, HW floors, cathedral ceilings & more! Entertainers dream home.

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**1690 Reliez Valley Road**  
Fab 1+ acre ridgeline property with spectacular views of Mt. Diablo etc. Paved driveway to building site with utilities and sewer at property. Includes preliminary plans for 4900+ sq ft home.

**Offered at \$650,000**



**1042 Sunnybrook Drive**  
Darling 3 bd/ 2 ba cottage in quiet Happy Valley neighborhood features a welcoming front porch, formal living room, spacious dining room, & darling open kitchen. Mostly level 1/4 acre creekside lot with grassy yard & new rear patio.

**Offered at \$699,000**



**3402 Shangri La**  
Newly constructed in 2013 on .42 ac level lot, this custom one-story 5br/ 3.5ba, 3382 sf traditional features a great room w/state-of-the-art kitchen; LR & DR; luxurious baths; hwd flrs, crown molding; lrg patio, lawn & outdoor kitchen.

**Offered at \$1,799,000**



**3949 South Peardale**  
Gracious Colonial in Happy Valley. All exquisitely remodeled extraordinary appointments, detail. Lafayette Juniors Kitchen Tour 2009. Fabulous Kitchen, Baths. Luxurious Master Suite. Beautiful living areas. Great neighborhood.

**Offered at \$2,650,000**



**2050 Shell Ridge Trail**  
Northgate Vineyard Estate w/ Gated 1.08 Acres. Grand main house, gorgeous grounds, guest/party house w/movie theatre, diner style game room + newer salt-water pool, 5-car garage.

**Offered at \$2,400,000**

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