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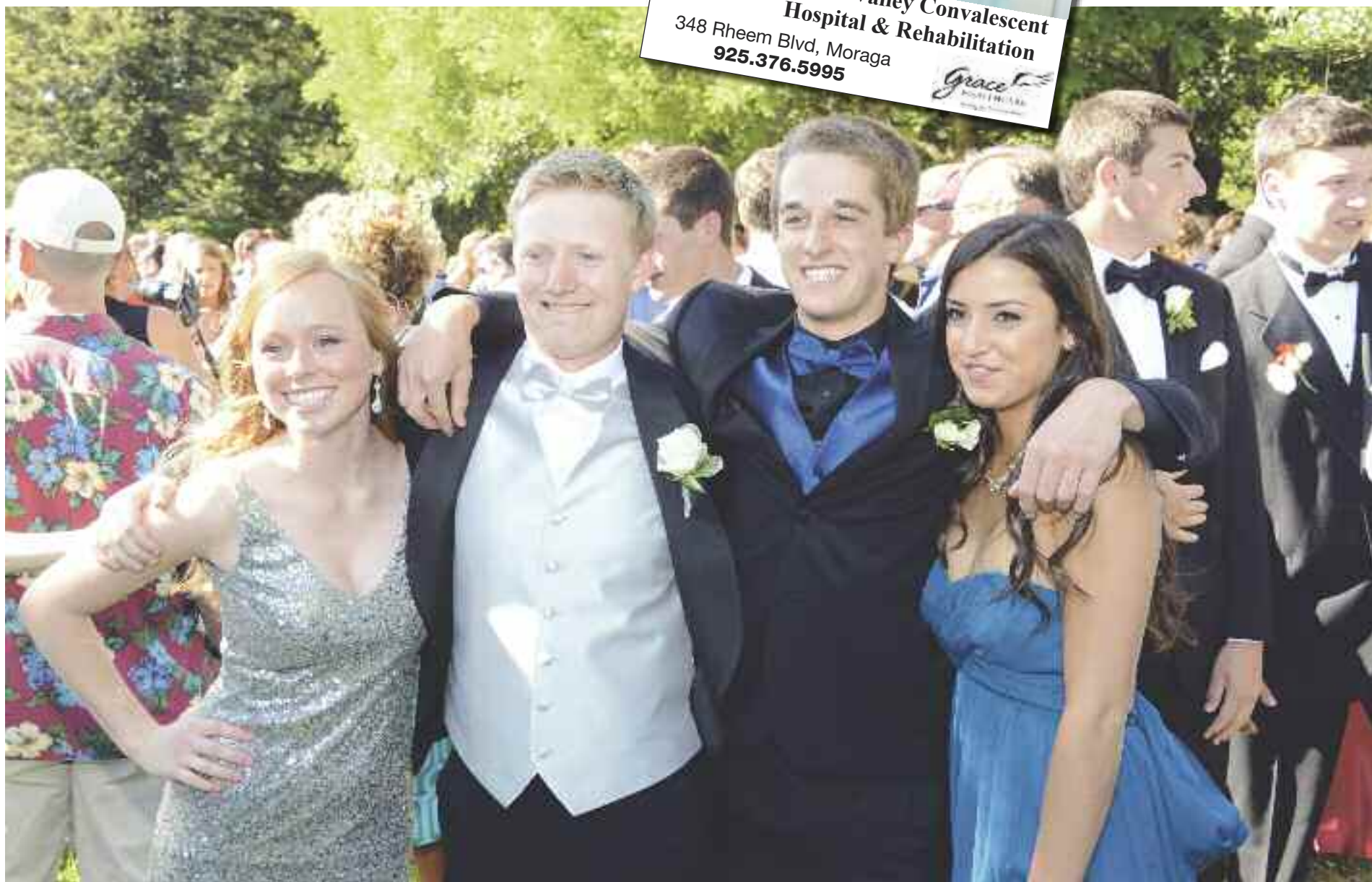
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Campolinodo students smiled at the unique annual town-wide photo extravaganza before their Senior Ball in San Francisco.

Photo Ohlen Alexander

## Campo Seniors Ready for Their Close-Up

By Cathy Tyson

Behind the sparkles and hairspray, prior to their big night out in San Francisco at City Hall a crush of dolled up students got to pose in their shiny new or rented attire with a parade of parents snapping away at the Moraga Commons. This annual

tradition has become a mainstay – a chance to rub elbows and visit briefly with a majority of the Campolinodo graduating class. Although the students are still teenagers, the theme of the evening was sophistication with a variety of long dresses and

tuxedos worthy of a Hollywood red carpet. There wasn't a duplicate dress in sight, thanks to a Facebook page set up by savvy young ladies who posted their design choices.

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### Quote of the Week:

*"If we don't do something, ConFire will be our only option. And that won't be a good situation to be in."*

Read One Step Closer to a Lamorinda Fire District, on this page.

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## One Step Closer to a Lamorinda Fire District?

By Nick Marnell

After the defeat of a proposed fire station consolidation with the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District, the Moraga-Orinda Fire District altered its strategy and sought a partnership with the city of Lafayette. The Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors on May 14 rejected ConFire Chief Daryl Louder's request to pursue a joint venture fire station with the MOFD. The proposed station 46 was to have replaced ConFire's closed station 16 and MOFD's station 43, which had been scheduled for renovation. The partnership was estimated to save each district \$1 million in annual operating costs.

"It's \$1.1 million more than we're spending now," said Supervisor John Gioia, referring to ConFire's share of the projected annual operating cost of the proposed station. "And we have no immediate plans to reopen 16."

The board did agree that the consolidation idea was a sound one. But

having discussed even more layoffs for the district earlier in the day, the supervisors said that the timing of the proposal was unfortunate. Only District 2 supervisor Candace Andersen voted in favor of moving forward with the proposed station 46, which was to be built on Lorinda Lane near the Lafayette-Orinda border.

The next day, the MOFD board voted to terminate the sales contract to purchase the Lorinda Lane property and forfeit a \$15,000 deposit.

"I was in favor of this deal because it made sense financially," said director Steve Anderson, whose swing vote resulted in a 3-2 count in favor of the contract termination. "But it is no longer attractive. I don't see ConFire as ever being a viable partner, and I am not willing to roll the dice on a real estate deal."

"I am obviously disappointed," said MOFD Fire Chief Randall Bradley. "Without control of the prop-

erty, we lose the leverage we need to find a partner." Director John Wyro, a fierce advocate for the Lorinda Lane purchase, also said that he was disappointed in the board's action. "I am evaluating alternatives," he added.

An alternative surfaced the following evening.

At a May 16 special meeting the Lafayette City Council, based upon the recommendation of Council Member Don Tatzin, agreed to investigate and study the possibility of detachment from ConFire and annexation into the MOFD.

"I'm not feeling the love from ConFire," said Mayor Mike Anderson. "Let them know we're looking at moving on."

MOFD directors Wyro and Anderson attended the council meeting; Wyro pushed hard for the council to have Lafayette step up and partner with MOFD. "We ask that you give us a commitment that this is a serious

idea worth pursuing," he said. "Maybe then we can put together a contract (to purchase property for a station)."

"It's going to take some time," cautioned Mike Anderson. "I don't want to raise people's expectations that we can move quickly. And I don't know if it's fair to MOFD. But if MOFD's eyes are open, then that's great."

The council directed its public safety committee to develop a proposal for detachment and annexation, and charged city manager Steven Falk to find out the requirements of the Contra Costa Local Agency Formation Commission.

"If we don't do something, ConFire will be our only option," said Council Member Brandt Andersson. "And that won't be a good situation to be in."

The council is expected to review the information at its June 10 meeting.

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#### Remembering the Fallen on Memorial Day

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Marissa Harnett and Michael Sakoda report. Page C1



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#### Mail Order House

Cathy Dausman takes a look at a 75-year-old Sears kit home. Page D1



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## Lafayette Civic News

### Public Meetings

#### City Council

Tuesday, May 28, 7 p.m.  
Wednesday, May 29, 7 p.m.  
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,  
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

#### Planning Commission

Monday, June 3, 7 p.m.  
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,  
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

#### Design Review

Tuesday, May 28, 7 p.m.  
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,  
Arts & Science Discovery Center,  
3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

#### School Board Meetings

**Acalanes Union High School District**  
Wednesday, June 5, 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

Thursday, June 20, 7 p.m.  
Regular Board Meeting  
District Office  
3477 School St., Lafayette  
[www.lafsd.k12.ca.us](http://www.lafsd.k12.ca.us)

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

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## Design Solution for Medians on East End Found

By Cathy Tyson



Jill Watase and Valerie Watase

Photo Cathy Tyson

After receiving some blowback from concerned business owners on the east end of town, city lead-

ers thought perhaps more input should be gathered on a potential project to add landscaped street me-

dians to Mt. Diablo Boulevard from First Street to Brown Avenue. Balancing the desire to beautify the streetscape, not make it difficult for customers to come in and out of driveways on both sides of the street, and ensure pedestrian safety is clearly a challenge.

Last month city council members, along with Engineering Services Manager Tony Coe, collaborated with business people and residents gathering input, both positive and negative as the large group strolled down the boulevard.

The current situation, lots of asphalt with a two-way center turn lane dividing the road, is functional but not as attractive as the lush trees and shrubbery on the west end of town. The two senior residential buildings currently under construction are a reminder that crosswalk upgrades are a good idea. Currently pedestrians need to make a run for it to cross five lanes of fast moving traffic.

Large tables with maps were spread out at the Lafayette Community Center to clarify specific options and recommendations from neighbors and business people to ensure a workable solution to the median issue.

The roundabout concept at the intersection of Golden Gate Way and Mt. Diablo originally suggested, but later rejected last fall, went over like a lead balloon; this meeting of the minds proved a constructive exercise to bring in stakeholders and come up with a workable solution.

At the end of the meeting, seven plans were presented, discussed and voted on. Jill Watase of Lafayette Physical Therapy, located in the Corporate Terraces development, worked on her own time with like minded-business representatives, forming the East End Coalition to make changes to the city's plan that wouldn't hinder the flow of traffic as much. Their plan received the most votes from members of the public as well as the city council. "I was really surprised how everyone worked together," she said, "and very impressed that the city council would allow this kind of meeting," explaining the unusual method of soliciting friendly feedback.

The new plan will be presented at the next city council meeting May 28. The additional hot topic of paying for landscape maintenance will also be discussed at that time.

## Changing Driver Behavior in Burton Valley is Expensive

By Cathy Tyson

Speeders, texters and those running stop signs in the residential, family-friendly Burton Valley neighborhood got residents riled up enough to do something about it.

Gina Ney is one of the folks spearheading the pedestrian and bicycle safety effort. She knows that mailboxes, fences and landscaping have been mowed down by speeding drivers. "We see cars absentmindedly weaving into the shoulder, coming towards us when we are on foot, as that is where we have to walk as there are no sidewalks."

Both Merriewood Drive and Silverado Drive off of Rohrer have become relative thoroughfares due to homeowners going to work, kids getting picked up and dropped off at Burton Valley Elementary, and a nearby swim club as well as a wed-

ding site, Wildwood Acres located in Hunsaker Canyon.

Concerned neighbors got together to form a neighborhood ac-

tion team (NAT) and met with the city of Lafayette to evaluate a series of proposed solutions. After a number of meetings with the NAT, a

draft plan was formed and recently presented to the Circulation Commission.

... continued on next page



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## Lafayette Police Department Crime Statistics

April 28-May 11

**Alarm responses (70)**  
**Battery** Marlene Dr

**Auto Burglary**  
Upper Happy Valley Rd  
Mt Diablo Bl (3)  
S Thompson Rd (2)  
Del Rey St  
Bickerstaff St (4)  
Evelyn Ct  
Lafayette Cr  
Brook St  
Springhill Rd

**Commercial Burglary**  
Glenside Dr

**Residential Burglary**  
Deer Hill Rd  
Hough Av  
Los Palos Dr  
Sweet Dr

**DUI**

Mt Diablo Bl

**Drunk in Public**  
Lafayette Circle  
Mt Diablo Bl

**Grand Theft**  
Moraga Rd

**Petty Theft**  
Mt Diablo Bl (6)  
Pleasant Hill Rd  
Brook St

**Promiscuous shootings (7)**

**Stolen Vehicle**  
Lafayette Cr

**Vandalism**  
Stow Ln  
Happy Valley Rd (4)  
Silver Dell Rd  
Golden Gate Wy/Mt Diablo Bl

**Traffic Stops (133)**

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**Changing Driver Behavior in Burton Valley is Expensive**

... continued from page A2



Photo Cathy Tyson

It is not easy or cheap to change driver behavior. Enhancements in the proposed Level 2 plan call for high visibility crosswalks using a colored pavement coating, a flashing solar speed limit sign, "stop ahead" warning signs, additional stops at Sandalwood Court and Indian Way, and pedestrian crossing paddles. The estimated cost of all these changes is \$62,000 – with the recommended neighborhood match amount at 25 percent of the cost or \$15,500.

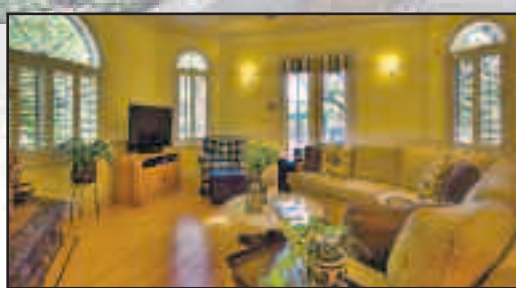
Unfortunately neighborhood residents are not uniformly supportive of the draft plan. Some think nothing needs to be changed; others believe

the plan may be ineffective in addressing original concerns. Throw in a fairly hefty "neighborhood match" for the proposed enhancements that residents would have to come up with and that's the current conundrum. While the commission supported the draft plan, NAT members asked that an Open House slated for May 14 be postponed to give them an opportunity to meet again. According to the city's transportation planner, Leah Greenblat, "They wanted more opportunity to consider the plan, other options and the cost estimate. Tentatively the Open House may be rescheduled to June 4."

**More Lafayette Civic News on Page A9**



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## Moraga Civic News

### Public Meetings

#### Town Council

Wednesday, May 22, 7 p.m.  
Wednesday, June 12, 7 p.m.  
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School,  
1010 Camino Pablo

#### Planning Commission

Monday, June 3, 7 p.m.  
Moraga Library, 1500 Saint Marys Rd.

#### Design Review

Tuesday, May 28, 7 p.m.  
Moraga Library, 1500 Saint Marys Rd.

#### School Board Meeting

**Moraga School District**  
Tuesday, June 11, 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

**Backpack with pot found, 5/14/13** On the baseball diamond behind Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School there was a small black backpack found tucked beneath the bleachers containing a wallet with a small amount of cash, but no ID, along with some marijuana and smoking paraphernalia. Police are holding onto it for safe keeping, but if you're missing your pot simply ask the cops.

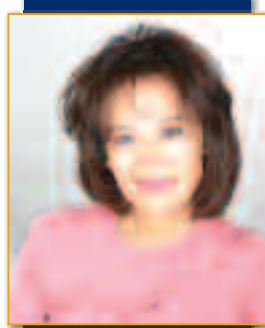
**Not so petty theft, 5/12/13** An unlocked car parked on a Donald Drive driveway was pilfered from overnight. Approximately \$735 worth of merchandise including sunglasses, cologne, a parking permit for the Lafayette reservoir and—jackpot—a spare key to another vehicle were taken. Homeowner woke up to find one car gone, and the other one missing items.

**Car break in, 5/12/13** On the other end of Donald Drive off of Fernwood Drive, a Toyota pickup and Subaru were both parked and left unlocked in front of a home. Approximately \$5 in loose change was missing along with a wallet and garage door opener.

**Watermelon plus driveway, 5/11/13** Sometime during the night an unknown suspect tossed a watermelon onto a Campolindo Drive driveway. Not surprisingly, the watermelon split apart upon impact and left debris on the driveway and a Honda.

**Fruit caper continues, 5/11/13** Another nearby Campolindo Drive resident reported that the windshield of his Lexus was broken after apparently being hit by a cantaloupe. Approximate amount to repair the damage, \$500.

**Suspicious napper, 5/15/13** Cops responded to a home on Corte La Rado at 10:45 a.m. to check out a suspicious vehicle in which someone was sleeping. Turns out the occupant was waiting for the homeowners to return so he could install their carpeting. The fellow had a work order that corroborated his story.



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## Now Serving: Café Hacienda Home/Made

By Cathy Dausman

Lamorindans now have the chance to mix a bit of local history with their meals—at least for the next three months. Moraga Recreation Director Jay Ingram introduced chef Gayle Somers to Town Council members during the May 8 regular council meeting.

Somers opened Café Hacienda Home/Made May 13, serving breakfast and lunch at the town-owned Hacienda de las Flores. Business partner Aly Dean assists part-time. While the initial contract runs only through Aug. 9, Ingram explained it could be renewed in writing every three months. The town will recoup its lease payments as 7 percent of net sales.

Somers and Dean will use the Hacienda's commercial kitchen and seat most customers outside around the plaza fountain. "I'm delighted to do something for and with the community," Somers said, adding, "Café Hacienda was just a conversation only three months ago." In a recent email, Ingram promised a "farm-to-table meal with all locally sourced products," and noted "there is no other venue like this in Moraga."

George Fisher of the Moraga Movers shared Ingram's enthusiasm as he spoke to the council. Fisher said many people have forgotten "how bustling the [Hacienda] place was in the 1970s." The biggest problem then was on-site parking, he said. Now, however, "two generations have passed, and a lot of people don't even know the Hacienda exists," Fisher said. "This is a unique opportunity to get [the bustle] back." The café site is ADA compliant; there is no alcohol service.

Running the Hacienda café represents "an additional opportunity" for Somers, who along with Dean, is also preparing to open Home/Made Kitchen Café & Bakery in Moraga this summer. Café Hacienda hours are 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 8 to 11:30 a.m. Fridays.

## Home/Made Kitchen Café & Bakery



Aly Dean at the new storefront.

Photo provided

Gayle Somers and Aly Dean must like the heat, because they're not getting out of the kitchen any time soon — they are poised to open their own cafe, Home/Made Kitchen Café & Bakery, featuring what they describe as "authentic, inspired California cuisine." The full service catering kitchen and café will occupy the site of the former Mondello Cucina Italiana on Rheem Boulevard. But, due to what Somers terms "ongoing staffing difficulties," they're unsure just when the café will open its doors. With inside seating for 40, and room for an additional 20 customers outside, Home/Made Kitchen will offer breakfast, lunch and packaged take-away meals for dinner daily. According to the owner/chefs' resume, Somers and Dean have together accumulated over 40 years culinary experience. Dean, a California Culinary Academy grad, worked as a baker, pastry chef and bartender, and traveled to 57 countries, gaining international perspective to food service. Somers also describes herself as an international traveler who developed and opened her own specialty gardening stores in Toronto, each with a small cafe and classroom she says were designed to "keep the culinary connection to gardening." C. Dausman

## Conditional Approval for Rheem Theatre Lift

By Sophie Braccini

Moraga's Design Review Board approved the installation of a lift on the outside of the Rheem Theatre to provide wheelchair users, and people with difficulty climbing stairs, access to the upper floor theaters. Additional permits and construction will push the opening of the lift into the summer.

A few months ago the Rheem Theatre had to close its upstairs theaters due to repeated failures of the

interior lift that put the theater out of ADA compliance. After a few months of fundraising the community raised enough money to install a new elevator, and plans were submitted for approval.


Theater operator Leonard Pirkle said it's unfortunate that the new lift has to be on the building's exterior. "We've spent so many hours trying to find the best solution," said Pirkle. "For me it would have been inside, but it was just not

feasible." The lift will be located on the side of the building facing the empty lot, next to the emergency exit stairs, so that the interior access point can be conveniently located between the two upstairs theaters.

The Design Review Board agreed May 13 that all design aspects of the project were compliant with Moraga's municipal code, but added conditions of approval regarding the lift's foundation, seismic


attachment to the building and proper lighting.

After the meeting Pirkle explained how the elevator would be operated by patrons. "The lift is very easy to use, with a single button," he said. "Users will have to get their tickets and request access to the elevator. They will then proceed to the side of the building where the elevator will be located." An awning is being considered to provide shelter from the elements.



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## Recognition for Moraga's Public Works Department

### 2013 Project of the Year Award

By Sophie Braccini

The Moraga Public Works Department recently received the 2013 Project of the Year Award for small cities given by the Northern California Chapter of the American Public Works Association for its Integrated Pest Management policy. The program was adopted by the Moraga Town Council in 2006. It is carried out by the town, despite strict budgetary constraints, through the perseverance of staff.

When the council resolved to stop using any type of chemicals in its parks and at the Hacienda de las Flores, the deciding factor was children. With an IPM in place, said public works superintendent Dan Bernie at the time, "children can roll in the grass, families can picnic in the parks with a total peace of mind."

According to Bernie, "Weeding without chemicals is very demanding in terms of manpower" so several programs were implemented to do the job without breaking the bank. The town hired Futures Explored, a group that seeks to provide life skills and work-related training to adults with developmental disabilities who work under supervision. Students from Saint Mary's College volunteer once a year with weeding. And the Work Alternative Program, a labor program for minor offenders, provides 8,000 hours per year to the town.

Pest control was also a big concern. Things like owl boxes, integrated bat nesting and raptor poles allow the town to use beneficial wildlife to control larger critters such as gophers and rats. "We have introduced emerging,

least toxic alternative methods ... in place of rodenticides that have been responsible for the demise of natural predators and domestic pets," noted Edric Kwan, Moraga's new public works director and town engineer.

The town also uses 100 percent organic fertilizers and supplies such as hand soaps and cleaning products – representing approximately 95 percent of the janitorial supplies – and orange peel products to control termites. The only chemical still in use is RoundUp, which is occasionally applied to median strips.

"The town specifically has stopped using all synthetic, ammonium-based fertilizers for all turf and landscape maintenance," said Kwan. "By using only organically derived fertilizers, the town of Moraga is also decreasing the emission of greenhouse gases."

To implement the plan the council had to approve a 10 percent increase in the pest management budget and train staff in new techniques. The latter effort was so successful that Bernie has difficulty keeping his staff. "PG&E and EBMUD love to get people coming from our department," he said two years after the implementation. "They are well trained and are not afraid to work."

"Dan Bernie went beyond IPM," said Susan Jun Fish, founder of the grassroots organization Parents for a Safer Environment that first convinced Bernie and the council that public space could be maintained efficiently without chemicals. "What he does is such a huge gift to the community and the environment."

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# Orinda Civic News

## Public Meetings

### City Council

Thursday, May 30, 8:30 a.m.  
*Special Meeting*  
Community Room, City Hall  
Thursday, June 4, 7 p.m.  
Auditorium, Orinda Library,  
26 Orinda Way

### Planning Commission

Tuesday, May 28, 7 p.m.  
Auditorium, Orinda Library,  
26 Orinda Way

### Citizens' Infrastructure Oversight Commission

Wednesday, June 12, 6:30 p.m.  
Sarge Littlehale Community Room,  
22 Orinda Way

### School Board Meeting

**Orinda Union School District**  
Monday, June 10, 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 crime statistics will be published as new monthly data becomes available. Look for the May compilation in our June 19 issue.

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## Plan Bay Area Riles Some Orinda Residents

By Laurie Snyder



Orinda residents and others from around the Bay Area continue to fill the Orinda Library Auditorium for the special city council meeting May 13. Photo Ohlen Alexander

A glossy flyer with an Association of Bay Area Governments logo alerted Orindans to a “town hall” at the Lafayette Veterans’ Memorial Building. Robocalls warned of “a plan to bring massive high density apartment complexes to downtown Orinda.” Neighbor to neighbor emails prophesied an Orinda forced to rezone large portions of the downtown area to low income housing, with retail on the ground floor in structures that could be up to 55 feet high.

After months of being on the receiving end of maddening missives, Orindans recently expressed fears to the Orinda City Council regarding the impact “Plan Bay Area” may have, and also demonstrated concern and confusion over the jumble of development-related state laws with which Californians must comply.

The simmering discontent began during the public forum of a more than four-hour-long council meeting May 7. Rusty Snow, of the citizens’ group Orinda Watch, and 13 others criticized Plan Bay Area and its draft Environmental Impact Report. Deanna Engl, Kathleen Jenkins, Bill Legler, Bruce London, Heather Pruett, and 2012 city council candidate Linda Dehunt were among those who commented.

Then, the kettle of concern boiled over at a specially scheduled council session a few days later. A lengthy report by Orinda Watch was directed to the council in advance, along with roughly 60 letters and emails—all are posted on the city’s website.

More than 100 Orindans attended the May 13 meeting — some came to support the plan, others to oppose it— but there were also non-Orindans such as Peter Singleton of Bay Area Citizens (bayareacitizens.com) and others with ties to the Citizens’ Alliance for Property Rights (proprihts.com) and Save El Sobrante (saveelsobrante.com). Many — pro and against — opted for civil discourse; some listened only during presentations by like-minded speakers; several residents expressed discomfort at hoots, disruptive clapping and verbal attacks on city leaders, staff and even a Miramonte High School student who rose to speak.

### How Did We Get Here?

Since 1969, the State of California has mandated “that local governments adequately plan to meet the existing and projected housing needs of all economic

segments of the community.” Per the May 13 Orinda staff report, California “law acknowledges that, in order for the private market to adequately address housing needs and demand, local governments must adopt land use plans and regulatory systems which provide opportunities for, and do not unduly constrain, housing development.” Cities are also required, every five to eight years, to update their general plan housing elements. Each city must show “that there is adequate land zoned for residential development to meet [its] ‘fair share’ of the projected regional housing need,” and must submit its housing element to the California Department of Housing and Community Development to ensure compliance with the law. Although the city believes its housing element

complies with the requirements of the state law, Orinda has never received HCD certification.

### What Does This Have to Do with Plan Bay Area?

In 2008, the passage of California Senate Bill 375 mandated “development of a Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) for all metropolitan regions in California.” Each region must “provide a new 25-year land use strategy ... that is realistic and identifies areas to accommodate all of the region’s population,” and must also “forecast a land use pattern ... integrated with the transportation system, reduced greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from automobiles and light trucks,” which will be measured against the regional target for GHG emissions as established by the California Air Resources

Board.

In the Bay Area, the Association of Bay Area Governments and Metropolitan Transportation Commission “have joint responsibility for preparing the SCS, dubbed Plan Bay Area” because they are the state-designated regional authorities responsible for planning housing and transportation.

### How did Orinda Respond?

The city of Orinda, over the course of the review process, asked ABAG and MTC to change their plans. City letters date June 2011, January 2012 and September 2012 noted that Orinda’s 1987 General Plan projected 1,366 fewer housing units at build-out than ABAG-MTC estimates — and said Orinda’s “land use policies allow a maximum of 580 units in the downtown, not 1,498 as envisioned [by those agencies].” City leaders also advised ABAG-MTC that a “Transit Town Center PDA [Priority Development Area] designation was not appropriate for Orinda” because “the guidelines pertaining to the number of households, housing density, and commercial floor area ratio were too aggressive.”

... continued on page A10

Visit the city’s website to sign up for email alerts about council meetings and newsletters for updates about planning, public safety and other important topics. While online, check out council meeting staff reports and minutes, and listen to the audio recordings of council meetings.

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**Orinda Wins Bragging Rights at Moraga Tri**



The annual City Team challenge continued this year at the 2013 Moraga Treeline Triathlon. According to City Clerk Michele Olsen, Team Orinda posted a 77-second margin of victory over Team Lafayette. Team Orinda athletes were Olsen (swim), Council Member Dean Orr (bike) and Planning Director Emmanuel Ursu (run). Back row, from left: Dana Anderson (Lafayette), Matt Luttrupp (Lafayette), Ursu, Orr, Greg Wolff (Lafayette), Brandt Andersson (Lafayette); front row: Don Tatzin (Lafayette), and Olsen. Photo provided

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 <b>LAFAYETTE \$1,405,000</b> 4/3. Single lvl rancher w/walls of glass & cathedral ceilings. Spectacular views and a pool. Kim McAtee DRE#01902466	 <b>ORINDA \$899,000</b> 3/2. Pride of ownership in exclusive Orinda Country Club. light, bright & meticulously maintained. Dana Reedy DRE# 01880723	 <b>ORINDA \$849,000</b> 3/2. Charming single lvl w/ park like yard and beautiful English gardens. Lrg kit, Huge fam/dining room combo. Maram Bata DRE# 01435229	 <b>ORINDA \$829,000</b> 3/2. Charming home in peaceful setting. NEW kitchen. Separate 12x20 office/studio. Bo Sullivan DRE# 00954395	 <b>LAFAYETTE \$1,395,000</b> 5/3. Beautifully remodeled in the heart of Burton Valley. Open sunny floor plan. Pristine! Susan Schlicher DRE#01005765	
 <b>ORINDA \$820,000</b> 3/2. Charming Orinda Retreat! One level gem with 2351 sq. ft., pool, spa and views! Patti Camras DRE# 01156248	 <b>ORINDA \$3,650,000</b> 4+/4.5. Romantic, Contemporary Villa Built in '90 on 1.3 Ac with Amazing Gardens, Vistas & Privacy. The Hattersley's 925-253-4600	 <b>LAFAYETTE \$549,000</b> 2/2. Stylish condo in upscale Lafayette. Upgrades throughout. Bonus office & 2 car garage. Jeannette Bettencourt DRE#01154506	 <b>ORINDA \$1,150,000</b> 5/3. This one is a delight. Stunning remodeled chef's kitchen. VERY large flat back yard with big lawn. Laura Abrams DRE# 01272382	 <b>MORAGA \$1,299,000</b> 5/3. Sprawling traditional on Campolindo cul-de-sac. This model is rarely available. Cathy Schultheis DRE# 01005765	
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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.

## St. Perpetua Fundraiser Helps Babies in Need

Submitted by Theresa Maloney



From left: Natalie Goodwin, Danielle Trapp, Rachel Easton, Emma Chappell, Jack Byers and Anthony Banis Photo Lynn Hogan

St. Perpetua students Natalie Goodwin, Danielle Trapp, Rachel Easton, Emma Chappell, Jack Byers and Anthony Banis at the April Student Leadership Lenten Pretzel Sale, which raised \$214 for Loved

Twice ([www.lovedtwice.org](http://www.lovedtwice.org)), an organization started at the time of Hurricane Katrina to provide newborn babies clothing and other much needed items.

## OBA and Orinda Auto Detail Charity Car Wash a Monstrous Success

Submitted by Laura Lamison



Photo provided

From hybrids to SUVs, Mini's to monster trucks, Orinda Baseball Association players scrubbed and "squeegeed" May 4 while raising money at their annual charity car wash. Along with

its event sponsor, Orinda Auto Detail, OBA raised over \$1,800 on behalf of Aaron Hern, the 12-year-old Martinez boy (and Little League player) hurt in the Boston Marathon bombing.

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## Mother's Day Walk Raises Much-Needed Funds



Photo Ohlen Alexander

Orinda Intermediate School superheroes, Zoe Zabetian and Reagan Tierney, struck gold on Mother's Day, raising more than \$3,300 through Reagan and Zoe's Walk Against Breast Cancer. Roughly 150 walkers showed up to join the dynamic duo in their two-mile trek along St. Stephen's Trail, including Orinda Mayor Amy

Worth and City Council Member Dean Orr. "Our walk was amazing! It went perfectly, and people even started showing up before 7:30!" said Zabetian and Tierney. Funds raised will support mammogram services at the Carol Ann Read Breast Health Center: [www.altabatessummit.org/breast-health/](http://www.altabatessummit.org/breast-health/). L. Snyder

## Miramonte Student Energizes Shelter with Mural, Earns Girl Scout Gold Award

Submitted by Kjerstin Taylor-Rezendes



Kendal Taylor Photo submitted

Girl Scout Troop 1561 member Kendal Taylor, a senior at Miramonte High School, has earned her Gold Award – the Girl Scouts' top honor. Taylor worked with Shelter Inc.'s Martinez emergency family shelter to design and repaint the interior common areas of the residence including a mural in the entry hall. In the fall, Taylor will be attending Vanderbilt University, where she intends continue her volunteer work for the homeless.

## Selling Your Old Car?



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**Civic News Lafayette**

**City Weighs Options to Tighten Smoking Regulations**

By Cathy Tyson

City leaders are considering more restrictive regulations that could ban smoking in apartment buildings and condominium projects in Lafayette. There's a growing trend in California and individual cities to limit availability of acceptable smoking areas, in a not so subtle nudge toward supporting public health.

The California Air Resources Board classifies secondhand smoke as a "Toxic Air Contaminant;" the World Health Organization and the Surgeon General both agree there is no safe level of exposure to tobacco smoke.

Currently there's a proposed state law in the works, AB-746, that would further restrict smoking statewide; if passed, it wouldn't take effect until 2015.

In State of Tobacco Control, a report card of tobacco prevention measures by the American Lung Association, California earned an "A" for smoke-free regulations that banned smoking from schools to casinos. Many Bay Area cities including Pleasant Hill, Martinez and Alameda got high marks for ordinances that enforce smoke-free outdoor air and smoke-free housing. Concord bans all smoking downtown.

Unfortunately Lafayette earned a surprising "F" grade, due to rules dating back to the 1990s that

were updated in 2009. The current regulations don't allow smoking in retail stores, commercial buildings, elevators, public restrooms, grocery stores and more. The update in 2009 added restrictions for indoor and outdoor smoking on city-owned property – but still allowed smoking on city streets and sidewalks along with inside private residences and some hotel rooms.

The city council received a thorough staff report that offered a range of options to help craft an ordinance that would provide protection to the public in recognition of research that indicates the dangers of secondhand smoke. "Anything that generates smoke is a public health hazard," testified Denise Dennis with the Contra Costa County Public Health Department, to encourage city council members to tighten regulations. "Help us save lives, we are your constituents," said longtime resident Margo Connelly.

Options ranging from restricting smoking at outdoor dining areas to 20 feet away from business' doors and windows to inside and outside of multi-family units were discussed. There was support for some, but not all of the options. Although it was late in the evening, the council directed staff to further investigate five of the 10 suggested options and will review the findings at a later date.

**Letters to the Editor**

Share your thoughts with our community! Opinions in Letters to the Editor are the express views of the writer and not necessarily those of the Lamorinda Weekly. All published letters will include the writer's name and city/town of residence -- we will only accept letters from those who live in, or own a business in, the communities comprising Lamorinda (please give us your phone number for verification purposes only). Letters should be 350 words or less; letters of up to 500 words will be accepted on a space-available basis.  
**email: letters@lamorindaweekly.com**; Regular mail: Lamorinda Weekly, P.O.Box 6133, Moraga, CA 94570

Editor:

In 2006, when America's population was approaching 300 million (now approaching 320 million) and California's population was about 36.5 million (now over 38 million), I was in Bellingham promoting *The Population Fix*. From the audience, a consultant to Pacific Northwest municipalities said he'd never met a mayor of a small town who didn't want to be mayor of a large town, a mayor of a large town who didn't want to be mayor of a small city, or a mayor of a small city who didn't want to be mayor of a larger city.

"Is Moraga Unsustainable" in May 8, Lamorinda Weekly reminded me of him. As power-hungry politicians (a redundancy) create bunches of bumbling bureaucracies telling us where to work, where to live, and how to live, one wonders when the public will recognize the pain of self-inflicted wounds created by perpetual population growth. Experience from China and India suggest when U.S. population reaches 750 million.

California's governor wants a tunnel transporting water under the Sacramento Delta. Definition: "delta--a usually triangular alluvial deposit at the mouth of a river," i.e., he wants to build a river under a river to fill more swimming pools in semi-arid Southern California. He also wants to build a "high-speed" railroad to transport people between the civilized and uncivilized parts of the state. Combine the projects and save money! Pipeline

companies transport multiple commodities through single pipelines. Let's transport water and people through a single tunnel!

Extreme? Not as extreme as adding 25 to 30 million people and 2.5 to 3.0 million people to U.S. and California populations every decade. Unfortunately, as a neuroscientist specializing in the psychology of numbers explained, the largest number the average person--including, apparently, the average Moraga civic leader--can intuitively understand is "7." "For me," one "leader" says, "it's all about funneling federal funding toward established urban areas..." Right, it's not about stabilizing the population and protecting solitude and the environment. It's about absorbing dollars from taxpayers in other states. With such self-serving "solutions," no wonder we're in such serious trouble.

Thanks, Lamorinda Weekly, for defining ABAG, CCTA, MTC, OBA, and PDA. Here's one you can add to your list: OPT-US. Its mission statement is, "To enable Americans to determine America's optimal population." Don't bother looking for it on the Internet. It doesn't exist. But it will... when America's population reaches 750 million and California's population reaches 90 million. In the meantime, don't forget to ABAG your MTC with your PDA.

Edward C. Hartman  
Moraga

**Join our Public Forum**

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



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**Civic News orinda**

**Plan Bay Area Riles Some Orinda Residents**

... continued from page A6

Eventually, Orinda secured figures consistent with the growth projections of the city's 1987 general plan, according to Planning Director Emmanuel Ursu, and has made reasonable progress toward meeting its required housing numbers. Downtown Orinda is considered only a potential PDA because it is not zoned to accommodate the development characteristics of the PDA designation.

**At the May 13 Meeting**

Council members sought to ease residents' fears. Steve Glazer observed that there is no application currently before the city to increase building heights, and reminded residents of the lengthy public review procedures that would kick in should such a proposal be made. Leaders also tried to reassure those worried about a loss of local control under Plan Bay Area, stating that "the deci-

sion whether or not the city chooses to adopt land use policies that are consistent with those of the PDA 'Place Type' assigned to Orinda is left to local decision makers."

At the end of the three-hour meeting, the council directed staff to contact ABAG-MTC to, among other things, request an extension of the draft EIR comment period and present copies of residents' correspondence.

**Orinda Watch Delivers Message to Orinda City Council**

"We're into local control," said Rusty Snow recently. Snow, of Snow Property Company in Orinda, is one of the organizers of Orinda Watch, a citizens group urging residents to learn about Plan Bay Area.

Prior to Orinda's May 13 city council meeting, Orinda Watch distributed a lengthy report disputing that plan's assumptions. Unsure to what extent the city council had reviewed PBA's related draft Environmental Impact Report and mindful of a May 16 deadline for public comment, Orinda Watch mobilized its supporters. "Our concern is - does the city have a responsibility to protect the citizens to really get into this and review it carefully," observed Snow. "What type of people would they need to review it ... are they qualified ... the city staff and council, or would they need to get transportation experts?"

According to Snow, Orinda Watch has hundreds of people on its mailing list with 10 to 20 organizers, including Orinda residents Chris Engl and Alvin Ziegler. Its membership includes Menlo Park attorney Peter Singleton who founded Bay Area Citizens, a group described by Snow as "a separate entity." On its website (orindawatch.org) Orinda Watch asks supporters to donate to Bay Area Citizens, which uses the Lafayette UPS Store as its mailing address but involves, Singleton said, members from "all around the Bay Area."

Singleton has spoken out against Plan Bay Area in Marin, Danville and Pleasanton, where he also endorsed David Miller, a Tea Party candidate for that community's May 7 city council election.

"He's hired experts," said Snow of Singleton. "They have actually prepared reports that are reflected

in our Orinda Watch report that was submitted to the city of Orinda on May 10... We're really trying to make sure our information is accurate."

One section includes an assessment of PBA's conformity analysis by Thomas A. Rubin, an Oakland-based mass transit consultant and a policy author for the libertarian Reason Foundation (reason.org). Although Orinda Watch's full report is too long to address in the short space of this article, key points stand out:

- "The Plan's transit elements will not increase ridership, will not reduce greenhouse gases (GHGs), and will do nothing to help lower income citizens who are dependent on transit for their personal mobility... [PBA] ignores the one form of transportation subsidies that are proven to increase transit usage ... lowering fares and increasing service quality."

- "The Plan's mandate requiring that 80% of all new housing in the Bay Area be built in high density, multistory, multifamily attached units near mass transit in suburban and urban downtowns will not reduce GHGs."

Orinda Watch contends that ABAG and MTC used only results favorable to PBA in analyzing the impacts of state Clean Car standards on PBA and would like approval of the plan delayed until all material concerns about the process and substance of the plan have been fully addressed.

If everybody gets together and votes for high density, Snow said, that's fine; but citizens should be able to make decisions about what's happening in their town.

L. Snyder

**From Front Page**

**Campo Seniors Ready for Their Close-Up**

... continued from page A1



Sarah Torchio with her date Mason Windatt and his grandmother Jeanne Dowell pose at the packed Moraga Commons. Photo Ohlen Alexander

hallmarks of this prosperous bedroom community.

Little do they know that this snapshot in time is the leading edge to a major shift in their lives. Perhaps college is right around the corner - or work, or a combination of the two - with many of their lifelong friends scattering across the country.

Like the town-wide photo-op, the small town tradition will continue with many of the lucky Class of '13 coming home for the holidays - Thanksgiving and Christmas break will see these fresh faces gathering together again on a much smaller scale - mainly because mom and/or dad haven't moved.

They'll reminisce and reflect, and describe their brave new world outside of Mo-town. One small town, one high school, and eight stop lights makes for a tight community - for better or worse.

Hopefully they will look back at this insular 'burb and be thankful for connectedness, safety and a great education.

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# Remembering the Fallen on Memorial Day

By Cathy Tyson



Yolanda Vega with a picture of her son Jonathan Antonio Vega Yelner. Photo Cathy Tyson

How can a family deal with the loss of a child to war? It's every parent's worst nightmare. Lafayette mother Yolanda "Jolie" Vega knows that pain and trauma; her son, Jonathan "Antonio" Vega Yelner, was killed in action in Afghanistan in 2008. He was 24 years old, grew up in Burton Valley, attended St. Perpetua School and graduated from De La Salle High School. "Not a day goes by that I don't miss him," said Vega.

"The local Blue Star Moms, a non-partisan, non-profit organization of parents who have children actively serving in the military, appeared out of nowhere after everyone left," said Vega. Following the initial shock, they offered strength and support. Vega was so moved by their generosity and helpfulness that she went on to found the Golden Gate chapter of Gold Star Moms.

"The point is to keep the memories of our children alive and offer solace to families with the long struggle of losing a child," said Vega, who is a proponent of dealing with "the ele-

phant in the room." Vega explained how family and friends can be at a loss for words following a death; that uncomfortable silence "hurts us to the bottom of our hearts." She and other parents of deceased soldiers would prefer just a hug or some kind of acknowledgment.

While Walnut Creek has a lovely Veteran's Memorial Plaza and Danville has remembrances throughout the town, Vega noted there's nothing like that in Lafayette. She would like to see some kind of permanent memorial at the new library, and said that while the hillside full of crosses is a great visual reminder, someday those will probably come down.

The Gold Star Moms participate in a number of events throughout the year to support each other and honor the supreme sacrifice their children made. There's a three day retreat at the Marines Memorial Club in San Francisco that offers counseling, fellowship and togetherness. "There's an unspoken familiarity with folks who have been through the same

## Local Mom Chronicles the Struggles of Raising a Child with Autism

By Lou Fancher



Laura Shumaker Photo provided

Just like the autism embedded in the mind and life of her 27-year-old son, Matthew, Laura Shumaker carries with her the permanent sting of others' judgment.

Despite a lauded book, "A Regular Guy: Growing Up with Autism," a popular San Francisco Chronicle blog and therapy (for herself, not just her family), the wounds of public opinion cause her to say, "It still hurts."

Meeting to discuss her contribution to a new Chicken Soup for the Soul release, "Raising Kids on the Spectrum," the Lafayette resident is in constant advance/retreat mode.

"I say something, then I take it away, don't I?" she asks, laughing at herself.

And perhaps this is key to sur-

living the constant thrust and parry of raising a child – and maintaining one's own sanity – when that child falls within autism's spectrum. Humor, especially the ability to laugh at oneself, is a saving grace.

"People say, 'It must be so hard.' It's emotionally hard because you're trying to relate to your child in a way that is productive," Shumaker says.

Before her first son was born, Shumaker worked in various sales jobs, but never considered herself a career woman. A deep craving for motherhood had been her great ambition; partly because of her close family history, partly just an innate desire.

"It was just in me," she says. "Maybe it was because as a 9-year-old, when my sister was born, my intense grieving over my brother (who had died four years prior) ended. Or changed."

Regardless, when Shumaker and her husband, Peter, welcomed Matthew into their lives, she says the years were filled with chaos.

"Nobody I knew had children with autism. I was constantly managing a person without a lot of self-control. I felt I was in damage control mode. At the same time, I had two other little boys."

... continued on page B3

painful experiences," said Vega. "I look forward to it, but it's bitter-sweet."

During the holidays she and other Gold Star Moms participate in the Wreaths Across America project, where volunteers lay wreaths at cemeteries throughout the East Bay and across the country.

Their chapter of Gold Star Moms has sponsored "Every Mile a Memory" – a run for the fallen – and has helped out at the bi-annual East Bay Stand Down event that provides health care and services for needy and homeless veterans.

Since Sept. 11, 2001, more than 16,000 service members have died during active duty. A National Military Family Bereavement Study is underway to examine the impact of these deaths on surviving family members. The study is conducted by the Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences, Center for the Study of Traumatic Stress in Bethesda, Md. For more information about the study, visit [www.militarysurvivorstudy.org](http://www.militarysurvivorstudy.org).

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Saint Mary's College Museum of Art

## Points of View: Mary Lou Correia and Paul Kratter



Saturday, June 1 – Sunday, Sept. 22



Mary Lou Correia



Paul Kratter

Two of the East Bay's most vibrant and spontaneous *en plein air* painters, Mary Lou Correia and Paul Kratter, began their careers in the field of commercial art, but left the controlled indoor environment behind mid-career, to work at the whims of nature. They now haul painting equipment on foot and occasionally on horseback, searching for a dramatic vista, or racing against fading light.

Before embracing *en plein air* painting, Correia designed book covers for UC Press then became Director of Publications and chief designer for Saint Mary's College. In her latest paintings, Correia's brush strokes are exuberant and emotional, with vibrant colors designed to depict the landscape's changing moods. Correia skillfully paints small human figures in her favorite locations, as if to remind us to be careful stewards, treading lightly in our environment.

Sports and wildlife were Kratter's early passions, so it was appropriate that he began a career in advertising design for the National Football League and several major league baseball clubs. He moved on to children's book and wildlife illustration, but his love of the outdoors eventually attracted Kratter to *en plein air* painting and a dramatic shift in style. His new works are confidently loose and contemporary, yet their subtlety bespeaks his knowledge of, and admiration for, early 20th century Tonalist painters.

## Reception for the Artists, Sunday, June 2, 2 – 4 pm

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**'Take5' Takes Hold at Campolindo**

By Cathy Dausman



From left, Campolindo High School students Devin Regan, Jake Rider, J.V. Baldwin and Sean Smith.

Amid student council campaign signs plastered on Campolindo High School buildings, there is evidence of a second, campus-wide campaign called Take5. This one, its founders hope, will be something the students take with them long after high school.

Sponsored by the CHS Parents' Club and endorsed by the CHS administration, Take5 has one simple goal: to get students thinking (by taking five seconds) before they act.

"Parents of this school wanted their children to know we know [about the choices they face]," said Parents' Club president Wendy Dunn. She hopes students not only think about how a decision might affect him or her, but also "those around you, your family and [you] for the rest of your life."

To kick off the campaign, Dunn and Take5 co-chair Wendy Feldman peppered school walls with two dozen circular posters after school last month. The posters were an in-kind donation from CHS parent Teddy Yuen. On April 16 the entire student body, in back-to-back assemblies, watched the documentary "Be-



hind the Orange Curtain." Author, speaker and parent Bradley DeHaven, whose son became hooked on prescription painkillers, gave an introductory message. The campaign presented a third assembly to parents that evening.

Principal John Walker called the assemblies "very powerful."

"Behind the Orange Curtain" has a strong message, Walker said in an email, "but the message is one our students needed to hear. This assembly raised awareness of the dangers posed by prescription drug abuse, and it provided students with tools to combat this threat."

"You could hear a pin drop [during the assemblies]," Feldman said. "No one even coughed." Although heavy on well-researched statistics, Dunn and Feldman said the Take5 poster content strives to stay positive. "College: It's not about where you go but why you go," one poster said. But the posters

don't mince words, for example: "Sleep deprived teens are more likely to abuse alcohol, pot & drugs." Feldman's personal favorite is the poster which reads, "No one plans on becoming an addict."

An impromptu interview with several CHS students showed how the campaign has taken hold.

The assembly was "all about choices," said sophomore J.V. Baldwin, who explained how its message is now always in the back of his head. Another sophomore, Jake Rider, called the movie's revelation that drug abusers could be rendered physically disabled "an eye opener."

Freshman Devin Regan expects to share the information with his siblings and carry it with him "for the rest of my life."

Dunn and Feldman say the posters will come down before the end of the school year, but promise to expand the campaign through electronic media (Facebook and Twitter) over the summer. The CHS Parents' Club also hopes to share the program with the other three Acalanes Union High School District schools. To quote the Take5 mission statement: "Five seconds is a long time. Five seconds can change a life."

An unedited version of "Behind the Orange Curtain: The real story of what is happening in Orange County, California," is available online: behindtheorangecurtain.net.

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From left, Wendy Dunn and Wendy Feldman pose near a Take5 poster. Photos Cathy Dausman

# LLC's Sweet Thursday Features Bestselling Author John Lescroart

By Lou Fancher

New York Times bestselling author John Lescroart brings his 24th book, "The Ophelia Cut," his guitar, and the ups and downs of espionage (to paraphrase his "Son of Holmes") to Lafayette Library and Learning Center on May 23.

But it's not so much what is new – the book, the novelty of a song-singing spy novelist, even Atria, in a jump from long-time publisher Dutton – that promises to attract a solid audience. Instead, it is something old: riveting and somewhat damaged characters, crimes of passion as old as Christ on a cross, and courtroom wrangling between sparring lawyers and judges.

It's a formula he's used before and his fans, who number in the millions and span the globe in 75 countries, will fall into the embrace of the plot's complicated literary snarl.

Returning as the featured protagonist, San Francisco District Attorney Dismas Hardy is thrown into a vortex of crimes and cover-ups when his "distractingly beautiful" niece, Brittany McGuire, is date-drugged and raped. Within 24 hours, her attacker, Rick Jessup, an ambitious chief of staff to the city supervisor, is dead. It's a simple who-done-it; except, in the case of Lescroart, it's not.

Never content to skim along the surface of moral and ethical dilemmas in his courtroom dramas, the author piles on a load of trouble.

First, there's Liam Goodman, the rapist's boss, angling for political ascension and targeting teenage drinking as a stepping stone. But he's "in bed" with Jon Lo, whose sex-trafficking ring

could bring Goodman to a career-crashing halt. Making a move to redirect voter attention, a sting operation Goodman orders nets (and threatens the safety of) Tony Solaia, an undercover cop in the witness protection program.

Then, there's Brittany's father, an alcoholic teetering on full-time return to the bottle, who's pinpointed as Jessup's killer and arrested. In a swift swing of justice, Hardy leaps to take his place as his brother-in-law's attorney.

Not enough angles? Lescroart throws on more: a secret from the past that if revealed, would sink the entire ship. Six years before, Hardy, his law partner, Gina Roake, homicide lieutenant Abe Glitsky and McGuire were part of "The Dockside Massacre," a gun war that left five people dead. McGuire's tongue wags wild and his guilt over the incident rises when under alcohol's influence and the friends-can-become-enemies potential adds palpable energy.

Churning under all of the implications, the soap opera of the characters' everyday lives is red hot. Brittany is attracted to Solaia, Glitsky is accused of questionable investigation of the crime and forced to retire, and everybody drinks too much. Although there are heroic figures – Wes Farrell and his girlfriend Sam, a DA and rape counselor respectively, and Hardy's wife Frannie, who holds out forgiveness to her troubled brother – they too grapple with the book's central themes of betrayal, familial loss, and vigilantism.

Perhaps too thick at the beginning, "Ophelia's Cut" gets off to a sluggish start. Still, it's to Le-

sacroart's credit that he holds up the tent, despite the cloud of characters atop it. Midway, the story gains momentum and readers who stick with it will reap the reward of a flashy, I-saw-it-coming-but-it-still-surprises ending. A minor complaint are the number of blindingly beautiful female characters; every one of them arriving with "voluptuous figures" and perfect, "Venetian marble" skin. Couldn't one of them have been smart and unremarkable in appearance? And the 12-step men appearing en masse as a group recovering (or not) from some form of addiction becomes wearisome.

Fortunately, Hardy's particular obsession is to scrutinize the moral no-man's land between the law and real life justice. His sophistication and complex character make up for the more two-dimensional profiles surrounding him.

A most interesting footnote is found in the author's acknowledgement: several people purchased the rights to name a character in the book. Proceeds derived will go to charitable organizations they selected.

Lescroart will be interviewed by moderator and Friends of the LLC President Ruth Thornburg as part of the group's free "Sweet Thursdays" author series beginning at 7:30 p.m. May 23. Along with other Friends programs, sales of gently used books support the program and the library's Sunday hours. Audience Q&A is always a part of the "Sweet Thursday" presentations.



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# Local Mom Chronicles the Struggles of Raising a Child with Autism

... continued from page B1

Her family became the subject of her first attempt at writing: a short essay titled, "The Visit," which became a chapter in her book.

"When I first started writing, I had just dropped Matthew off at his first residential treatment home. I set out telling people what it's like to have a kid with autism. Then it occurred to me how hard it was to be Matthew."

Although she admits to "holding back on private stuff," Shumaker says she wrote an honest story and praise for the book has been nearly universal. She helped people understand the struggles of parenting an autistic child and in the process, she helped her own family.

"I use the book for people who are going to meet Matthew so they understand his weird aggressiveness and hunger for friendship," she says. "For my family, it invited the idea of having more compassion and more tolerance for individuals who have struggles."

Shumaker's essay in the Chicken Soup collected stories lifts the veil on her struggle with perception. Bumping into a woman who witnessed many of Shumaker's past tantrum diffusion efforts – which sometimes involved tackling her son, to prevent him from rocketing into the street – Shumaker had a revelation. The woman she had always assumed was judging her was a

frowner; her staring arose more from concern and curiosity than from condemnation.

"I wrote about it and when an invitation to contribute came, I knew this would be a good piece to submit. It was about me, not Matthew," she says.

Lately, now that Matthew is an adult and living in one of five homes under the auspices of Camphill Communities, she finds it nearly impossible to write about him.

"I find self-advocates go after me on my blog when I write about Matthew. I self-censor, because I'm aware of the autism groups out there," Shumaker says. "Matthew liked the book; he says it made him famous and showed how much I love him. But he's not high functioning and my writing is now more about treatment."

Access to good medical care, housing, and employment for disabled adolescents transitioning to adulthood is the primary focus of her blog. She spends up to four hours writing and devotes hours to researching. Because she's often advising others, having the most current information is essential. And family life remains a constant concern.

"I lost my mother 10 years ago. My father and I are very close. And Matthew isn't my biggest problem now. I have two other children to take care of. I'm writing, developing my skills, having a career as an advocate."



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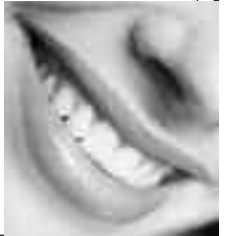
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## Guess Who's Coming to Book Club?

Lafayette group invites Pulitzer Prize winner to make a house call

By Cathy Tyson



Front row, from left: "Chapter Chicks" members Melissa Johnston, Amy Martin, and Kandice Caicedo with author George Dohrmann. Back row: Sarah David, Stephanie O'Toole, Allison Thomason, and Angie Gates. Photo Cathy Tyson

As a selection for the Springhill area book club during March Madness, "Chapter Chicks" member Kandice Caicedo recommended "Play Their Hearts Out: A Coach, His Star Recruit and the Youth Basketball Machine," written by George Dohrmann – a senior writer at Sports Illustrated who won a Pulitzer Prize for a series of stories about rampant academic fraud within the University of Minnesota men's basketball program. Not only did members read the book, but the club invited the author to their meeting. He received a warm reception from the ladies, some neighbors, and husbands on a recent Tuesday evening.

Having a famous author attend was a first for their club, but Caicedo disclosed that she and the author went to high school together in Stockton, at Lincoln High where Dohrmann was the editor of the school newspaper.

Caicedo was quick to point out, however, that she "wouldn't have recommended [the book] if I didn't like it. I laughed, I cried – it had all the elements of good non-fiction." Fellow

members chimed in that they like to read a variety of books and were ready for a change after a number of selections based on black history month.

When asked how the process of writing this book started, Dohrmann explained, "Play Their Hearts Out" was the first story he pitched at Sports Illustrated, without a publisher or an agent on board as is the usual procedure. He was sure he was on to something when ambitious hustler coach/profiteer Joe Keller scored an unprecedented shoe deal from Adidas that the 13- and 14-year-old boys clearly weren't prepared to handle.

The author ultimately followed four extremely talented young men, including Demetrius Walker, for eight years along with Coach Joe as he searched for the next basketball superstar, hoping to get a cut of a lucrative professional contract.

Over time, Dohrmann became a father figure to these boys who didn't have much parental guidance; they all went on to receive college scholar-

ships for their basketball prowess. To this day he still has a close relationship with two of the four. He even named his youngest son after Justin Hawkins, now a senior at University of Nevada, Las Vegas, who obtained a bachelor's degree in just three years and who's now working on a master's in public administration.

The book club ladies and assorted men had a variety of questions for Dohrmann and enjoyed hearing about parts of the books that were cut and juicy behind-the-scenes details, including a prison sentence for the dad of one player and unplanned pregnancies for the girlfriends of another. The final version came in at a whopping 190,000 words, so entire chapters had to be omitted.

"There's no other sport where you can look at a 12-year-old and be kind of right," about future professional prospects, said the author. Reflecting on the system that exploits these kids and the NCAA, he explained there has been no change, and no incentive to change because there's no shortage of talent in the pipeline.

## How to "See" a Foxtail

By Mona Miller, DVM



It is the season of grass awns, or foxtails, growing tall and strong in fields, waiting for the wind to disperse its slender, triangular seed structure. In our area, dogs and cats often also help the plant transport these awns, which get trapped in fur as the pet walks by. There are other areas of the pet's body that can trap a foxtail, though, which serves no useful purpose for either the plant or for the pet: the nose, ears, eyes, throat, in-between toes and burrowing into skin and then into deeper structures.

I have addressed foxtails in general in a previous article; in this, I'd like to address how we can use imaging technology to find foxtails that migrate into deep structures of the body. I recently had a case of a Brittany Spaniel dog whose foxtail burrowed into the skin on his side, then continued down into the subcutaneous and muscle tissues. It took several weeks from the start of the subcutaneous abscess to finally localize and surgically remove the foxtail. The foxtail was only about an inch long, but the amount of tissue infec-

tion and inflammation around it was approximately 6-8 inches. Clearly, imaging technology can be useful to find this "needle in a haystack."

Radiographs use radiation to pass through structures, which is then captured onto either photographic film or a digital recording device. The thicker or denser the structure, the whiter the image is on the film. There are five radiographic densities, in decreasing order of white to black: metal, bone/mineral, tissue/fluid, fat, and air. Since a foxtail is hard chitin material, it will show as a very faint white line in the midst of gray tissue/fluid reaction surrounding it. Radiology is only minimally useful to find a foxtail, but can be useful to determine surrounding abscess or cellulitis tissue, especially in lungs or in the abdomen.

By contrast, ultrasound can differentiate tissue from fluid, and is more useful than radiographs in finding a foxtail surrounded by fluid from an abscess or tissue from cellulitis. Ultrasound waves are oscillating pressure waves with a

frequency greater than what humans can hear. When these waves contact a structure, they can either be absorbed into it, pass through, or be reflected back (echo). As a side note, the sound waves can distinguish movement occurring in the structure in real time; for example, one can visualize heart contractions as they occur during a cardiac ultrasound. On an ultrasound image, fluid is black and tissue is gray. Both air and bone show up as white images. When searching for a foxtail with ultrasound, we would look for both a line of white (the foxtail itself) and a surrounding rim of black (usually the abscess fluid or the migrating tract of the foxtail).

In the case of the Brittany Spaniel mentioned above, the foxtail's location was determined in part by the combination of radiographs and ultrasound, to narrow down the search field.



Dr. Mona Miller lives in Lafayette with her young son, two cats and Luka a new puppy. She has worked at Four Seasons Animal Hospital in Lafayette since moving here in 2001. She attended Cal as an undergrad, and received her DVM from U.C. Davis. She can be reached at Four Seasons, 938-7700, or by email to [MonaSDVM@aol.com](mailto:MonaSDVM@aol.com).

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# “Measure for Measure” at Town Hall Theatre

By Sophie Braccini



Some of the cast of *Measure for Measure*

Photos Stu Selland

A sometimes overlooked play because of its dubious nature as a comedy or a drama, Shakespeare’s “Measure for Measure” is the new production of Lafayette’s local troupe, Town Hall Theater Company. The production’s director, Chris Hayes, who proposed the play to THT’s artistic director Clive Worsley, created a very lively interpretation of the masterpiece, supported by a group of a young talent and situated in the not-too-distant future – a convincing way to shake-off Shakespeare.

“Measure for Measure” is a transitional play for Shakespeare, said Hayes during one of the final THT rehearsals. “It closes his comedy series and announces the dramas that en-

sued. But it is still a comedy.” The underlying themes of the play, however, are serious ones.

The overarching theme of the play and Hayes’ vision is the concept of power. “What is the role of government? Should it address moral/sexual behavior? In the play, most of the moral challenges revolve around sex, with the crux of the dynamic being the decision of Isabella to place more value in her own virginity (equated to the salvation of her soul) than to the life of her brother. Sex might just be reduced to a lever of power,” said the director. “Justice and power come head to head in this play; the character of the Duke has the oddest sense of justice. It works out,

but his methods are insane.”

The dark and complex questions that the characters have to answer are lightened by Shakespeare’s comedic tactics. The moments of dramatic soul searching quickly end with the introduction of deception, disguises, cases of mistaken identity, twists and turns with multiple plots, and amusing sub-plots that lighten the mood.

The happy ending is a bit ambiguous; the play ends with multiple marriages – or does it? “It’s a ‘truth-comedy,’” said Hayes. “There are some dark moments and some light ones. We don’t bring comedy into the dark moments, we bring [comedy]

around it.”

Hayes, who is also an actor – twice in a “Measure for Measure” production – said that he chose a younger cast to bring a freshness and lightness to the play. “I wanted to have people on the front edge of this experience offering something new,” he said. “For example, the character of Lucio is a ‘no good’ character, and Damien Seteri proposed a very likeable version of the character that’s completely relevant and I had never seen before.”

During the run-through a few days before opening night, the cast had the play under control, the beautiful language rolling off their tongues, with high energy emanating from the stage.

Joel Roster highlights the self-examination of his character and his complex nature as a menacing and troubled Angelo; Anya Kazimierski plays a bit rigid, yet strong and passionate Isabella, as the role demands; Hayes thought a woman would be great in the role of the older man, Escalus, and Lauren Spencer adds humanity to the duo she forms with Angelo; Steve Rhyne makes the ambiguous Duke Vincentio a very likeable character, although he causes all the turmoil, yet his good-natured efforts to solve everything wins the day; and Clive Worsley plays Pompey with his usual wit and precision, a role that’s not central to the intrigue, but pivotal to set the mood on stage.

“I asked Clive to play Pompey so I could go into it knowing that he has a really good grasp of the language,” said Hayes, “I wanted to be relaxed knowing that was taken care of.”

Overall, “Measure for Measure” is, as its title suggests, a message of tolerance. The play’s title comes from a biblical passage (Matthew 7:1-2) which suggests we should not be quick to judge others, because nobody is perfect and everyone is subject to God’s judgment – a message definitely relevant today.

“Measure for Measure” runs from May 25 to June 15, with previews on May 23 and 24. It is rated PG for some suggestive moments. For tickets, call (925) 283-1557 or visit [www.TownHallTheatre.com](http://www.TownHallTheatre.com).



Anya Kazimierski (Isabella)

## “Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead” also at THT



Student-actors rehearsing

Photo Sophie Braccini

As an interesting counterpoint to “Measure for Measure,” Campolindo High School drama students are presenting Tom Stoppard’s “Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead” May 29 and 30 at Town Hall Theatre. The play re-interprets Shakespeare’s “Hamlet” from the point of view of two minor characters, Rosencrantz and Guildenstern. This semester the regular program could not take place at Campolindo, so the students took it upon themselves to create the play with no supervision. They call themselves the Ouroboros Players and senior Mina Arasteh was chosen as the director. “I wanted to be in the play, but I was the one with most direction experience since I had been the assistant director of two plays,” she said. The students had to find costumes and build their props. “Town Hall Theatre gave us a lot of costumes,” said Arasteh. The students have rehearsed four days a week after school and on weekends in other’s back yards since February. “We’ve had a lot of fun and I think we are putting together something really good,” said student actor Justin Archangel. Drew Jackson and Kyle Merriman play Rosencrantz and Guildenstern, giving the two characters the absurd humor and desperate awkwardness that made the play such an icon of modern theater. On the sidelines, Arasteh gives the final touch. “We will play only twice and it has been an enormous amount of work,” says the senior, who will study environmental law next year at UC Davis, “but what counts is the process. Everybody is so talented and we’ve done something wonderful together.” Tickets are \$10 for students and \$15 for adults, and will help the students pay for their costs, including the licensing fee. Visit [www.townhalltheatre.com/special-events](http://www.townhalltheatre.com/special-events) for more info and to make reservations. S. Braccini

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## School District Case Settled

By Sophie Braccini

The insurance company for the Moraga School District reached a negotiated settlement in the lawsuit versus Kristen Cunnane arising out of sexual abuse in the 1990s, according to a statement released May 14. Under the terms of the settlement, the district's insurer will pay Cunnane \$2.85 million. These funds will not come from the district's general fund and will not impact operations at district's schools.

"I am grateful that the District, its insurers and I have reached a resolution, and that current students and staff will not be adversely affected in any way," stated Cunnane through her attorney. "I look forward to continuing to raise awareness around preventability and encouraging school districts everywhere to do everything they can to keep their schools safe. I also hope that sharing my experience has helped others who may be in the grips of abuse or struggling with its consequences."

"Throughout this case, our board has expressed the hope that we could find an agreement that would work for everyone involved," said Superintendent Bruce Burns. "The news that our insurance company reached a settlement with Ms. Cunnane's lawyers was very welcome."

Following the discovery of the

more than 20-year-old abuse and the prison sentence of one abuser, it was revealed that Moraga School District personnel at the time had failed its legal obligation to report the suspected abuse. Since the finding last year, the Moraga School District has overhauled the training of its employees, and funded, in partnership with the Lafayette and Orinda school districts, a full-time educator who will teach safety programs to children and parents in the three districts. "We understand that as educators, we are trusted with the safety of our community's children," said Burns. "We are committed to providing our community's children an excellent education in a safe environment. We are going to continue the work of enhancing student safety and doing all that we can to make sure nothing like this happens again in our district."

As part of the settlement, the lawsuit brought by Cunnane against the district and three former administrators will be dismissed. There are still three other pending lawsuits arising from sexual abuse by a former teacher in the 1990s. "We will continue to work toward agreements in these cases that will help the victims continue healing and allow our district to continue its work to educate and protect our children," said Burns.

## Sleepy Hollow Parents' Club Celebrates Retiring Teachers

Submitted by Ginny Ross



Trudy Barron Photos provided

beloved teachers, Liv Milan and Trudy Barron, hosted by the Sleepy Hollow Parents' Club at the school.

Milan began working at Sleepy Hollow School in 1984 as a noon supervisor and later as an assistant in classrooms. Eventually she became coordinator of the school's after-school program. In this role she felt she could do the most good for kids at the school in need of extra attention. Milan will miss the students, their hugs and funny stories, but looks forward to playing tennis more and spending time with her grandchildren.

Barron has taught kindergarten at Sleepy Hollow for nearly 20 years. She has always had a warm, welcoming classroom that helped her students get their education started right. Her love of music has been a tremendous asset in her classroom, where she plays the guitar and sings with her students every day. She too looks forward to retirement, traveling and spending time with family.

Beverages will be provided, and attendees are invited to bring a plate of cookies to share.

If you are unable to attend the event, but wish to send a personal greeting to Milan or Barron, please mail it to Sleepy Hollow School, 20 Washington Lane, Orinda, CA 94563.



Liv Milan

Former students and their families are invited to attend a retirement reception Wednesday, May 29 for two

## Miramonte Art Center Enters New Era

Submitted by Catherine Soso



Art by Bridget Bitzer

Photos provided

Deborah Hovey-LaCour has brought a new approach to teaching art at Miramonte High School. Her previous career as a graphic designer and art director in San Francisco brings an added benefit to her curriculum. She is a painter and a photographer who also loves drawing the guild models, and provides her honors and AP art students the chance to work with them as well.

"I hope the time spent in my classes is not only enlightening as to the importance and power of art in our lives, but is helpful for my teens to discover themselves and what is in their 'heart of hearts' – the place from which they must create," says Hovey-LaCour, who believes art can be cathartic for those who are stressed or distraught over things that occur in this most challenging period of their lives.

The art classes at Miramonte are very different from those in the middle schools. Students learn techniques and theory but also learn to weave meaning into their work. Students do critical analysis and learn about old masters as well as contemporary artists in all sorts of disciplines.

"My students are asked to work from a personal place. I have portfolios on everything from environmental activism to the suffering of kids with eating disorders, from the pain of losing one's mother to the physical workings of the human body in correlation with machines," she says.

Hovey-LaCour would like to see the Miramonte Art Center become the heart of the campus, where students can come through and enjoy the space while viewing artwork by their peers in the upstairs gallery. She has thought of showing art documentaries at lunch for her colleagues and any students interested in art. She takes her students to the deYoung Museum and SF-MOMA each year and sometimes has Open Studio Saturday where they can draw, mat some work, eat pizza and photograph pieces for their AP portfolios.

Student art is exhibited in the community and they participate in local and national competitions. Hovey-LaCour brings in friends who work in the art world – illustrators, painters and designers. She always has four or five former students come in to talk with her advanced students about the art programs at their four-year and art colleges. Sometimes former students join them for critiques and encourage her current students to work hard.

She facilitates mock interviews, portfolio experience and resume building to aid students in choosing a career. "It's staggering how many jobs there are in fine art, design, museum work, film and architecture. They all begin with the fundamentals which are offered by high school art teachers," states Hovey-LaCour. "These fields are very competitive, so why not begin training in high school before the high tuition fees begin?"



Art by Julia Albo



Poster by Liana Shaw

## 2013 SUMMER CAMPS/Classes

See alphabetical listing of 40 camps and classes on page C4-C6

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NEWSPAPER



# The Benefits of Tapping into Business Expertise

By Sophie Braccini



From left: Score counselor Larry Tessler and Randall Martin meet for mentoring sessions. Photo Sophie Braccini

**R**andall (Randi) Martin, co-founder of Skyline Building Care, has seen the benefits of mentoring in business. A mentor himself for at-risk youth and sales people, when the Moraga businessman wanted to pursue the idea of expanding his business through a franchise, he felt the need for support and turned to Score – a non-profit organization staffed with high-profile, mostly retired, business people who volunteer to put their expertise to good use.

It wasn't the first time Martin had used Score. Three years ago, he and his partner took advantage of Score's online portal when the two started their business, which now has 220 small business clients in Contra Costa and Marin counties. "We launched Skyline Building Care in 2010 after one year of intense planning," says Martin. "We met every Sunday morning from 7 a.m. to noon and worked on all the aspects of our business plan. The day we launched our business we knew exactly where we were going."

"The question for us," says Martin, "is how to grow without being hampered with middle management cost that would price us out of business."

Martin looked at the detailed profiles of the East Bay Score counselors and called for an appointment with

Larry Tessler.

The former owner of a small business startup, Tessler has been a counselor for 14 years since his early retirement from the corporate world of retailing. He consults with local businesses all over the United States via the Internet.

"When I first met Randi (Martin), I was very impressed by his degree of preparedness; that's quite rare," says Tessler. "I quickly introduced him to other counselors who have experience in forming franchises and we started devising a plan."

Martin is in no hurry to start the franchise. "In order to franchise you need to have systems in place," says Martin. "Jim Philpott, a Score franchise expert, came in to offer some perspective on what type of franchise could work for us." A third counselor, ex-Siemens' CFO Karl Haug, also provided input.

Martin continues to execute the plan and meets with Tessler every six months for "validation sessions," and exchanges email on a monthly basis.

"He explains to me what he is doing and asks me if there are holes in it," says Tessler. If he sees a problem, Tessler asks more questions and has Martin draw his own conclusions.

"When I meet with a new client I never tell them that their idea is no

good," says Tessler. "I keep asking questions until they have thought out all the issues."

Tessler says that nine out of 10 people who come with an idea do not end up starting a business. "That's good," he says. "We are saving them a lot of money."

"You can't start without a plan," he adds. "When I meet with someone who wants to start a new business I start by asking all the questions they should have already worked on, that way people realize what they have not thought about and go back to the drawing board."

He goes over key elements with prospective entrepreneurs. "First, you have to start with a solid idea or concept. You see a problem in the market, come up with a solution that has benefits to the potential clients, and forms the basis of the marketing message and of your marketing plan," he says. "Second, you need a financial plan of sorts: the start-up expenses, the operating expense, the revenue projection, and you have to be able to figure out your growth margin."

Tessler says he works about 60 hours a month for Score. He follows up with his clients for months, if not years; last month alone he counseled 30 different people at different stages of business creation.

"Score mentorship works because the mentors care about the mentees," says Martin, who's been working with Score now for two years. "If I'm successful, Larry (Tessler) and his colleagues feel proud. Mentors create jobs for other people; they give opportunities to other people. It is a real domino effect." He expects to have an ongoing relationship with Tessler.

"As you grow, you have different challenges," he says.

For more information about Score of the East Bay go to Eastbayscore.com, Facebook page: www.facebook.com/ScoreEastBay.

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

# Miramonte Alum and USNA Plebe Put Through Paces

Submitted by Charles Norfleet



Photo Charles Norfleet, www.asjaisimages.com

**O**n May 14, United States Naval Academy Plebe (freshman) Michael Sappio, a 2011 Miramonte High School grad, participated in Sea Trials - a daunting 14-hour obstacle course that marks the end of their first year at the Naval Academy. The training exercise is

modeled after the Crucible by the Marine Corps and the Navy's Battle Stations recruit program and includes a wide array of activities from shore defense to Spartan relay, paintball, land navigation, hill assault and water tactics, according to the Naval Academy.

## business briefs

**Capital Advantage Exceeds \$400M Under Management**  
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Capital Advantage, Inc., a fee-only registered investment advisor, announced last month that its discretionary assets under management exceeded \$400 million, adding over \$100 million since September 2010. When Capital Advantage, Inc. President and Founder John Hayman began in the investment management industry in 1982, he specialized in two areas that remain at the center of Capital Advantage, Inc.'s strategy: personalized financial planning and independent investment management. Hayman believes the company's core strength is retirement planning, and looks forward to helping some of the millions of baby boomers currently preparing for retirement.

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

Ribbon Cutting for Floret at 5 p.m. Thursday, May 23 at 3581 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Suite C.

Coffee with the Mayor at 8 a.m. Friday, May 24 in the Chamber Conference Room.

Green Committee Meeting at noon Tuesday, May 28 in the Chamber Conference Room.

Mixer at Mason McDuffie Mortgage from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, June 12 at 999 Oak Hill Road, Lafayette.

**Moraga**

Save the date for the Second Annual Moraga Chamber Golf Tournament and Dinner Party on Monday, July 22, with dinner-only option for non-players. More information coming soon.

**Orinda**

The Orinda Chamber of Commerce invites Lafayette and Moraga to a joint Lamorinda mixer from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Thursday, May 23 at Oak Springs Pool, 39 Spring Road, Orinda. Orinda, Moraga and Lafayette chamber members are invited with a guest.

Ribbon Cutting and Grand Opening for Land Home Financial Services, Inc. from 5 to 7 p.m. Friday, May 31 at 2 Theatre Square, Suite 146, Orinda. Celebration includes appetizers, wine, and music. Join Orinda Branch Managers Angela Warren and Parveneh Poirier as they host this event. For information, visit www.lhfinancial.com.

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

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# Joaquin Moraga Garden Takes Shape

Submitted by Joan Danilson



Students and families at Joaquin Moraga garden BYOT party. Photos provided

With the addition of the Earth Stewardship class in the sixth grade wheel rotation, the mission to provide a lasting gardening program at Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School continues to grow, with students and their families planting more than 100 native garden plants May 4 at a BYOT (bring your own

tools) party. The project to create an outdoor classroom space to promote learning and creativity in gardening and general horticulture became a reality with the support of a \$15,000 grant from the Bonita Garden Club of Oakland, a charitable organization that saw promise in the school. Improvements

included a 500-square-foot shaded patio space with a seat wall and tree for shade, grading and mulching of the garden surface, a new native garden section, an upgraded irrigation system, a stockpile of compost, bark mulch and wood mulch for the use of students on future garden projects. The multi-disciplinary Earth

Stewardship class incorporates all gardens, particularly the new one, as project sites for students to design, plant, decorate, and use as models for their studies. This course provides students the opportunity to work collaboratively on site, synthesizing many concepts and ideas they learn in the regular classroom, while having a

hands-on experience. Help from community members including landscape architect Lenore Morgridge, contractor Chuck Conover and his crew at Conover Landscape, and JM teachers Elaine Guttman, Dawn Lezak, and Harvey Kamian, made this garden possible.

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## TEEN SCENE

### Overcoming Fear

By Hannah Li

The night before my SAT, I remember sitting on the kitchen floor looking up at my mom: "What if I get every single question wrong?" I was being sarcastic to an extent, but at that moment I was genuinely overcome by a claustrophobic fear of failing the SAT. Mom's next few words changed my perspective – not only on the SAT, but approaching fear in general:

"We always assume that the worst is more likely to happen. We rarely give ourselves enough credit for the possibility of success." And as much as I hate to admit it, she was right.

As teens, we're living in the sort of "crossroads" of our lives. True childhood is in hazy retrospect, but our futures are uncertain. The ideas of college, grad school, a job, and family are realities just out of reach, yet we are constantly reminded of these incoming benchmarks. Instead of thinking positively about the outcome of our futures, we instead revert to this almost instinctive nature of pessimism. Current juniors at Miramonte High School tried to explain this pattern:

"I don't purposely try to feel anxious..." says Abby. B, "it's just the idea of me failing seems so much more natural than the idea of success. I know that sounds depressing, but it's true."

Alyssa H. expressed a similar notion: "There's just so much pressure to succeed. Yet all I see is the probability of failure. Fear is definitely helpful in getting me to study, but I think generally my life would be less stressful if fear didn't play such a big role."

Both juniors reassured me that they were emotionally stable, yet it's a distinct pattern that it is human nature – for teens, at least – to be overcome by fear. So at last I did some heavy introspection and realized the importance of fear. At times, and in small doses, fear is an excellent motivator; yet, in heavy doses it leads to paralyzing anxiety and stress. We must instead strive to find a balance between fear and confidence. We must find a way to avoid another round of pre-SAT breakdowns. But as far as solutions, I'm in the same boat as every other junior.

*Hannah Li, a reporter on Express Yourself!™ is a high school junior who runs track and tutors. In her free time she enjoys blogging, photography, and cooking.*

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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# The Shrub Rebirth

By Susie Iventosch



Photos provided

**D**evereaux Smith is the owner of Company Jam, which is a beautiful line of jams currently sold at Diablo Foods in Lafayette. Her "jam" career began while she was on a break after working for four years as the director of development and communication at The Bentley School in Lafayette.

"Oh my gosh, it was so much fun," Smith said. "It really spoke to me." Soon thereafter, her son, Asa Kamer, graduated from college, moved back home and started hanging out with his mom. Together they took her homemade jams to sell at the Kensington and Montclair farmers' markets.

They produce citrus jams, such as orange marmalade, in the winter and all sorts of fruit jams during the summer months. They were a big hit with customers.

But I am not here to talk about jam in this column!

One day at the Montclair farmers' market, a man came up to Smith and told her he used this particular type of apple to make shrubs.

What in the world is a shrub? Well, I mean, other than the type that resembles a bush in the front yard?

Smith was intrigued and began researching. She discovered that shrubs are drinking vinegars made with fruit, vinegar and sugar. Though they date back to 15th century England, shrubs were popular during America's colonial period, when fruits were mixed with sugar and vinegar as a method of preservation. The mixture was left to infuse overnight or for several days before straining off the fruit. Sometimes alcohol was added to further extend the shelf life of the fruit.

"I read that people used to drink vinegar for its medicinal effects, but I have no scientific evidence whatsoever about the health benefits," Smith noted. "But people just seem to love shrubs and I love to look at them. The colors are so beautiful!"

As it turns out, this vinegar-based beverage with its simultaneous sweet-tart flavor is making a comeback in many restaurants and bars. The shrub is used as a bar mixer, or simply added to seltzer for a refreshing non-alcoholic drink. It can also be used as a base for salad dressing.

"I like to pair different vinegars with each type of fruit," Smith pointed out. "For example, I like to use bal-

samic vinegar for my strawberry shrub, but there are no hard and fast rules in the world of shrubs!"

For alcoholic drink combinations, Smith likes to use lemon shrub with bourbon or Scotch, apple shrub with rum and blood orange shrub with vodka or gin. I used the apple shrub I made this week with whiskey, since my grown sons seem to be enjoying whiskey these days!

So far, Company Jam shrubs are not sold in the Lamorinda area, but Smith was kind enough to give us the general recipe for making shrubs at home. Hopefully, her shrubs will be

served soon in local bars and restaurants. In the meantime, you can have some fun making them yourself at home! The recipe below makes 1-2 cups, so you will probably want to at least double it or triple it if you want enough to serve for a party.

*Note about the little pink bites from the last column:* A reader wrote in to say she used the melon baller not only to scoop the ice cream for the dessert, but she also removed the stem and scooped out the strawberry with the same melon baller. This may save some time!

## Company Jam Shrub Recipe

(Makes 1-2 cups)

- 16 ounces fresh fruit, grated or sliced on the mandoline
- 16 ounces vinegar
- 8-16 ounces sugar (I used granulated, but may try brown sugar next time, just to see how it goes)

Shred, slice or dice fruit, depending upon the fruit. For example, shred apples, but slice citrus fruits to about 1/8 inch thickness. With berries, I would suggest smashing slightly before adding to vinegar, but with strawberries, remove the stem and quarter before adding to other ingredients.

Mix fruit with sugar and vinegar and place in a container with a tight-fitting lid. Store in a dark, cool spot, like a pantry, for 4-5 days. When the mixture smells of intense fruit and the vinegar has mellowed, it is ready.

Strain fruit. Pour into jars, cover and refrigerate for later use.

Note: I used Granny Smith apples, cider vinegar and granulated sugar. We mixed it with one part shrub to one part whiskey to one part seltzer on the rocks. It was absolutely delicious!

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. **This recipe can be found on our website:** 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.



### Lamorinda Weekly

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

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### Most Frequently Viewed Stories From Our Last Issue:

- Local Boy Throws 'Buzzkill Birthday Basketball Bash' to Fight Malaria
- Is Moraga Unsustainable? How One Bay Area may affect one small town
- 46 is Eighty-Six
- Supervisors Nix Fire Station Consolidation
- It Could Happen The "what if" scenario for Lafayette fire service
- Lafayette Massage Practices Struggle to Overcome Negative Stigma
- The Scoop on Mom
- Divine Designs Revealed at Upcoming Kitchen Tour
- Sperling to Step Down
- Trouble with the Terraces Drama as accusations fly

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## ART

**Four members of the Lafayette Gallery currently** have their art works on display in the conference room at the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce in downtown Lafayette, 100 Lafayette Circle. The artists are: Susan Erickson, acrylics and mixed-media collages; Warren Rice, photographs; Debby Koonce, oil paintings; and Marsha Ramp, oil paintings. For

info, call (925) 284-7404. This is an ongoing, free exhibit, open to the public, with no reservations needed. The artwork is updated on a regular basis.

**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 info, visit [www.moragaart-gallery.com](http://www.moragaart-gallery.com) or call (925) 376-5407.

**Saint Mary's College Museum of Arts will present** Points of View with Mary Lou Correia and Paul Kratter, two of the East Bay's most vibrant and spontaneous en plein air painters on Saturday, June 1 – Sunday, Sept. 22. A reception for the artists will take place from 2 to 4 p.m. on Sunday, June 2. SMC Senior Art Majors Thesis Exhibition, runs until May 25. Marc Chagall: Stories of the Bible, which runs through July 7, features 16 etchings from one of his greatest bodies of work: the Bible series from the 1930s. Additional ongoing exhibits featuring western landscape paintings, European paintings, statuary, and a variety of other media will run through July 15. Admission: \$5 adults, K-12 free. Hours: Wednesday through Sunday, 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For info, call (925) 631-3379 or visit [www.stmarys-ca.edu/saint-marys-college-museum-of-art](http://www.stmarys-ca.edu/saint-marys-college-museum-of-art).

**This year the Hacienda de las Flores in Moraga is featuring** art from the recreation classes of Marianne Brown, published artist and instructor from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday, May 30 at the Hacienda, 2100 Donald Dr., Moraga. The art presented ranges from the novice to the award-winning water colors, acrylics, and oils. All proceeds go to the artists. Sal Captain of Captain Vineyards will be pouring his Moraga Estate grown vintages, including Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Petite Sirah, Petite Verdot, and Pinot Noir. The first glass is \$10; \$6 for each additional glass. Proceeds go to support the Hacienda renovation program. Event admission is free.

**Moraga resident Billie Cummings is the featured artist** of the month of May in the Moraga Library at 1500 St. Mary's Rd. Cummings' color photographs capture nature at its peak and include her favorite subjects: Yosemite and water reflections.

**The Moraga Art Gallery's raffle ticket drawing** to benefit the Rheem Theatre will take place at 2 p.m. Saturday, June 1. Winners of the raffle will receive original works of art donated by the gallery's member artists. A brief ceremony will follow during which a check representing the proceeds of the raffle will be presented to the Rheem. The management of the Rheem will draw the names of the raffle winners. Currently, more than \$850 has been raised from raffle ticket sales.

## MUSIC

**A free morning concert opens with Beethoven's piano sonata** No. 15, followed by a quintet by John Steinmetz for flute, oboe, clarinet, horn and bassoon at 10:30 a.m. Friday, May 24 at the Grace Presbyterian Church, 2100 Tice Valley Blvd., Walnut Creek. The program concludes with Schubert's piano sonata in A Major.

**The Acalanes Performing Arts Department presents** the 2013 Pops Concerts: "CarTunes" at 7 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday, May 28-29 in the Performing Arts Center at the High School, 1200 Pleasant Hill Rd. Lafayette. Both concerts will feature songs about driving, cars, songs you might listen to on a trip, and travel. These concerts are completely student choreographed and costumed, and accompanied by an onstage

band. Our mass pieces this year are "Carwash" and "Taking it to the Streets." All seats are general admission; suggested donation \$5. The house will open at 6:30 p.m.

**Contra Costa Children's Chorus: auditions and placement** interviews will take place at 3:45 p.m. Wednesday, May 29 for fall semester. Open to boys and girls ages 7-15. Our newest class, MetroGnomes, is now accepting children ages 5-6 years old, no interview necessary. The choirs rehearse at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette. Contact [frontdesk@childrenschorus.org](mailto:frontdesk@childrenschorus.org), call (925) 945-7101, or visit [www.childrenschorus.org](http://www.childrenschorus.org).

**Lafayette's Annual Jazz Café will be held at 6 p.m. Friday,** May 31 in the Stanley Middle School Auditorium. There is a fabulous lineup. Chef's Touch will be selling scrumptious food from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., and there will be dessert, coffee and beverages available for purchase all evening. Drawings will be held to give away prizes. This is the only fundraiser for the Stanley Jazz Department. Tickets: \$10 general; \$5 elementary students; free for children under 6.

**Members of the Performing Arts Society Jazz piano** group will introduce and perform favorites from The Great American Songbook at 7:30 p.m. Friday, May 31 at Grace Presbyterian Church, 2100 Tice Valley Blvd., Walnut Creek. Free. For info, visit [www.ccpas.org](http://www.ccpas.org).

**Wagner Ranch Elementary proudly presents its annual** spring musical, "Annie," on May 31 and June 1. Tickets available for purchase online at [www.showtix4u.com](http://www.showtix4u.com) or at the door before performances. For show times and additional info, visit [wagnerranch.orindaschools.org](http://wagnerranch.orindaschools.org).

**Irina Shachneva will conduct the Slavyanka Chorus** in a concert of Russian choral music – music of modern Russian composers (Stravinsky, Rachmaninoff, and others), and music of the ancient sacred and folk traditions from which they drew their inspiration at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, June 1 at Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Drive, Lafayette. For tickets, visit [www.slavyanka.org](http://www.slavyanka.org) or purchase at the door. For group discounts or more info, contact Paul Andrews at [paulandrews@earthlink.net](mailto:paulandrews@earthlink.net), or at (510) 798-7966.

**Rat Pack Tribute in Song - Mark Shaw, Vocalist, and Violinist.** Shaw delivers a high-energy, bewitching performance of richly interpreted standards and popular songs from the '60s through the '60s from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Friday, June 7 in the Sequoia Room, Lafayette Community Center. Light refreshments provided by Byron Park Assisted Living and Senior Helpers Home Care. Cost: \$1 members; \$3 non-members. Please call Lafayette Senior Services to reserve your spot at (925) 284-5050.

**The Summer Music Series returns to the Orinda Library** this season with music for the whole family. At 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, June 19, the Orinda Library welcomes back hometown favorites, The Real Placebos, as they kick off the series with American Roots Music. All performances start at 6:30 p.m. and take place inside the library, 26 Orinda Way, Orinda. The free series is sponsored by the Friends of the Orinda Library. For more info on the music series as well as the Summer Reading Festival, please visit the library website at [cclib.org](http://cclib.org) or call (925) 254-2184.

## THEATER

**Onstage Theatre Company presents "100 Lunches,"** by Jack Sharkey and Leo W. Sears, directed by Helen Means May 24 through June 8. Performances on Fridays and Saturdays at 8:15 p.m.; Sunday, June 2 at 2:15 p.m. and Thursday, June 6 at 7:45 p.m. at the Leshner Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek. Tickets: \$22 general; \$17 seniors; and \$10 youth to 17. Thursday's performance is \$12 for everyone except youth. For tickets call (925) 943-SHOW (7469) or for more info, visit [onstagetheatre.homestead.com](http://onstagetheatre.homestead.com).

**Town Hall Theatre closes out its 2012-2013 Season** with William Shakespeare's "Measure for Measure." Set in a fictionalized Vienna, the local government institutes laws to control a populace that it feels has fallen into moral decay. The production will run May 25 - June 15, with previews on May 23 & 24. It is rated PG for some suggestive moments. Contact Town Hall Theatre Box Office for tickets at (925) 283-1557, or purchase online at [www.TownHallTheatre.com](http://www.TownHallTheatre.com).

**Lois Ann Flood, founder of Diablo Dance Theater,** will perform a free hour-long series of Duncan dances at 7 p.m. Wednesday, May 29 at the Orinda Library. Poet Marjorie Lynne Wagner will narrate the program with a selection of readings by and about Isadora Duncan. Free. The performance is sponsored by the Friends of the Orinda Library. For more info, call Beth Girshman, at the Orinda Library at (925) 254-2184, ext 1 or visit [cclib.org](http://cclib.org).

**Cal Shakes Preview Performance at 8 p.m. Wednesday** through Friday, May 29-31 in the Bruns Amphitheater, Orinda. The evening will present "American Night: The Ballad of Juan Jose" written by Culture Clash co-founder Richard Montoya and directed by Jonathan Moscone. Hailed as a "boisterous, rollicking, surreal ... journey into American history" by the Mail Tribune during its sold-out run at Oregon Shakespeare Festival, "American Night" brings the groundbreaking work of San Francisco's iconic Culture Clash to Cal Shakes for the very first time. Drawing equally from pop culture and Shakespeare to mint a new kind of history play, Montoya has crafted a provocative comedy about one man's dream of becoming an American. For info, visit [www.calshakes.org](http://www.calshakes.org).

**2013 Dance on Film Festival kicks off with Brigadoon:** Lerner and Loewe's legendary Broadway musical starring Gene Kelly and Cyd Charisse. The movie will be shown at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, June 6 at the Lafayette Library Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd. The screening begins with fascinating, behind-the-scenes facts on the making of this classic movie with Lauren Jonas, Diablo Ballet Artistic Director, and Beau Behan, host of Beau's Flicks & Nix, on the Comcast Hometown Network, Ch. 104. Presented by Diablo Ballet and Lafayette Library & Learning Center. Cost: \$5.

... continued on next page

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**LECTURE & LITERATURE**

**Josh Niles will discuss how to hear and trust divine intuition** in his presentation, "Spiritual Training: Learning to Listen" from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. Sunday, June 30 at The First Church of Christ, Scientist, 650 Danville Blvd, Danville. Free. Child care provided. For more info, call (925)-837-1081.

**KIDS, PARENTS & TEENS**

**Enjoy a day of family fun with hands-on activities** for children and families between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Saturday, May 25 at John Muir National Historic Site, 4202 Alhambra Ave., Martinez. Park staff will run rotating activity stations in the park orchards. The site is open five days a week, Wednesday through Sunday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is free. For more info, please visit the park website at [www.nps.gov/jomu](http://www.nps.gov/jomu) or call (925) 228-8860.

**Zombies at the library! Zombies will be coming to the Lafayette Library** from 3:30 to 5 p.m. Thursday, May 30 in the Arts and Science Discovery Room. The day will feature: A zombie photo booth where participants can have their photos taken and "zombified," yearbook pages that can be "zombified," pin the body part on the zombie, zombie haiku, Zombies vs. Unicorns, make your own zombie comic strip, and of course, brain food!

**Make-A-Wish's 4th annual family, dog and stroller-friendly 5K walk** is scheduled from 8 to 11 a.m. Saturday, June 1 at Saint Mary's College, 1928 St. Mary's Rd., Moraga. Walk day includes food, entertainment, and a BYO picnic with a focus on wish-granting and wish children! Registration, breakfast and entertainment from 8 to 9 a.m. before the walk. For more info, contact (415) 982-9474 or visit [www.sf.wish.org](http://www.sf.wish.org).

**A new Modern Woodmen of America Youth Service Club** is starting in Orinda. The club will have its first activity at 6:30 p.m. Sunday, June 2 at the Orinda Community Center, 28 Orinda Way. Children ages of 10-16 are invited to the activity to find out about the benefits of membership. Jenny Hee of Orinda will lead the club, and Winifred Tran, a local Modern Woodmen representative, will sponsor the club's monthly activities. If you'd like more information about becoming a member of this new club, call Tran at (808) 384-9464.

**The Campolindo Senior Class of 2013 would like to invite you to view their Memory Boards** and write personal notes in their Mailroom at the CPAC from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. and 7:30 to 9 p.m. June 4 and 6 and from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. June 5. Memory Boards will also be available to view after graduation on June 7.

**Girl Scout Troop 33039 and the Lafayette Library and Learning Center** will be partnering to bring you an evening of fun and entertainment with author Mac Barnett, the author of the "Brixton Brothers" series as well as several picture books at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 5 at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. Barnett will read from his books, wear a mustache, answer questions, and sign books. Information on "Guys Read" (a Web-based literacy program) and 826LA (a non-profit writing and tutoring center) will also be available. The free event is open to families and their children, K-8 grade. For more info, call (925) 385-2292 or visit the website at [ccclib.org](http://ccclib.org).

**OTHER**

**Mount Diablo Adult Education (MDAE) has a large selection of**

excellent woodworking courses for the spring. Hand Tools course teaches how to select, set up, maintain, and use the most necessary hand tools in a workshop. Twelve classes are offered from 1 to 4 p.m. 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.

**Oakland Museum of California and Heyday present Friday Nights at OMCA:** Gallery of California Natural Sciences Reopening from 5 p.m. to midnight Friday, May 31 at Oakland Museum of California, 1000 Oak Street, Oakland. Join a creature-filled celebration reopening the Gallery of California Natural Sciences. Enjoy surf music, a costume contest, food trucks, and more! Cost: \$6 adults; \$4.50 students and seniors with valid ID; free for members and children age 18 and under. For more info, visit [museumca.org/event/friday-nights-omca-gallery-california-natural-sciences-reopening](http://museumca.org/event/friday-nights-omca-gallery-california-natural-sciences-reopening) or call (510) 318-8400.

**Free cat adoptions will be offered to qualified homes** by Community Concern for Cats during the two-day Maddie's Adoption Days June 1 and 2 at their three sites: Lafayette Pet Food Express, 3610 Mount Diablo Blvd.; Pleasant Hill Pet Food Express, 2158 Contra Costa Blvd.; and Walnut Creek Petco, 1301 S. California Blvd. Adoption hours are from noon to 5 p.m. Saturday, June 1, and from noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, June 2. Maddie's Fund gives stipends ranging from \$500 to \$2,000 to the shelters and rescue groups for each pet adopted during this weekend in order to help achieve and sustain a no-kill nation.

**Dogs & Diapers Workshop from 7 to 9 p.m. Wednesday, June 5.** Your dog has probably been the baby for a long time. From diapers to blinky, squeaky toys to crying in the night, your dog's world is going to be turned upside down. Working together, we make sure that both you and your dog are ready for baby to come home. Cost: \$25. For more info, visit [training.arf.net](http://training.arf.net).

**Motorama World of Wheels Car Show from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.** June 16 on Golden Gate Way in Lafayette is presented by the Rotary Club of Lamorinda Sunrise. Free admission. For more info, visit [www.motorama.us](http://www.motorama.us).

**Register for our next Volunteer Orientation from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.** Saturday, June 29. Located in the majestic Oakland hills, Chabot Space & Science Center is looking for volunteers to welcome visitors and share our exhibits and historical telescopes. Observatory deck volunteers and Exhibit Guides engage our school groups and families in interactive demonstrations. A variety of volunteer shifts are available during the day Tuesday through Sunday as well as Friday and Saturday evenings. Register for our next Volunteer Orientation and help inspire the next generation of scientists, teachers, engineers, innovators and dreamers. For more information on our volunteer program and to RSVP for orientation, visit [chabotspace.org](http://chabotspace.org) or email the Volunteer Department at [volunteers@chabotspace.org](mailto:volunteers@chabotspace.org).

**CLUBS**

**Sons in Retirement Lamorinda Branch 171 meets** the first Wednesday monthly at Holy Trinity Culture Center 1700 School St. Moraga. Social hour 11 a.m., lunch noon. The after lunch speaker on June 5 will be Fire Chief Randy Bradley of Moraga-Orinda Fire District. For details and membership information, call Larry at (925) 631-9528.

**SENIORS**

**Lamorinda Seniors Nature Walk and Bird-Watching.** Flock together with fellow bird lovers as you delight in the beauty that unfolds around each bend from 9 to 11 a.m. on these free Wednesday local trail walks. Trail maps provided; please bring a water bottle. Binoculars may also be useful in helping you learn to identify a variety of birds. Supported by the Lafayette Senior Services, Town of

Moraga, and City of Orinda. Call (925) 254-2445 for the weekly meeting location.

**Do you knit or crochet but wish you could do it in a more social setting with people of similar interests?** Wish that you had someone of equal or greater expertise to brainstorm with when instructions makes no sense? Join us to work on your current project while enjoying an afternoon of camaraderie. All levels are welcome and encouraged. There is no formal instruction

in this drop-in group from 1 to 3 p.m. Thursday, June 6 and 20 at the Lafayette Community Center, Elderberry Room. Cost: \$1 members; \$3 per non-members.

**Looking for a good book to talk about with others?** Join this brand-new, informal group of book lovers and enjoy enrichment, discussion, fellowship and refreshments from 1 to 3 p.m. June 18 at the Lafayette Community Center, Elderberry Room. Cost: 1\$ members; \$3 non-members.

**Please submit:**

**Events:** [calendar@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:calendar@lamorindaweekly.com)  
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**Letters:** [letters@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:letters@lamorindaweekly.com)  
**Opinion:** [letters@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:letters@lamorindaweekly.com)

**"Annie" is Coming to the Ranch!**

Submitted by Margie Petersen Hyman



Cast of "Annie" at Wagner Ranch

Photo Grace Wilson

**L**ights, Camera, Action. Wagner Ranch Elementary School is gearing up for its annual spring musical, "Annie," to be performed Friday and Saturday, May 31 and June 1. The young performers will share their talents with the community, following months of hard work and preparation. Musical director Ron Pickett has been working with the kids every step of

the way to ensure the evening is a memorable one for all. "The Annie experience has been challenging but thrilling and rewarding," Pickett said. "These actors are very talented and once committed, they will put on a production to rival any in Wagner's glorious history of musicals." Tickets (\$10 for general, \$12 reserved) will be available to the general public for



purchase online at [www.showtix4u.com](http://www.showtix4u.com) or at the door (as available) before the performance.

**"Star Trek Into Darkness"**

By Derek Zemrak



From left: Zachary Quinto is Spock and Chris Pine is Kirk in "Star Trek Into Darkness" from Paramount Pictures and Skydance Productions. (C) 2013 Paramount Pictures. All Rights Reserved.

**O**ne of the most famous quotes in the Star Trek legacy is "Where no man has gone before!" This film is a huge undertaking for any director of the Star Trek franchise that has created more than 700 television shows and 12 movies.

At first glance into the galaxy, I would say man has gone everywhere, but surprisingly director J.J. Abrams, who directed the first reboot in 2009, delivers a detailed storyline and a movie that is exhilarating to watch on the big screen. Moviegoers will be on the edge of their seats as they experience a brilliantly shot film, while they cheer on the Enterprise crew to succeed in battle against the evil villain of mass destruction.

Once again Chris Pine ("Bottle Shock," "Rise of the Guardians") returns as Captain Kirk and Zachary Quinto ("Margin Call," "Heroes," "American Horror Story") portrays Spock. As with the cult popular television series, it is the ensemble cast that makes it all work, with Zoe Saldana ("Avatar") as Uhura, Karl Urban ("The Lord of the Rings") as Bones, Simon Pegg ("Ice Age") as Scotty, and John Cho ("Harold & Kumar") as Sulu. It should be noted that not one of these cast

members is a scene hog like William Shatner was in the television and early film series.

The amazing crew must come together to stop a force of terror within their organization. Starfleet agent John Harrison, portrayed by the talented British actor Benedict Cumberbatch ("The Hobbit," "Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy," "War Horse"), leads a terrorist attack on the Starfleet Library in London. He quickly follows up the London hit with an attack on the key Starfleet officers. Kirk and the Enterprise are assigned the responsibility of hunting down Harrison on the planet Kronos populated by the rival Klingons.

"Star Trek Into Darkness" is a thriller and Abrams delivers something new in a franchise that dates back to 1965. Kudos to Abrams, for that is no small feat. The film is rated PG13 for violence and intense images. You will feel like you are in warp speed during the 2 hour, 12 minute running time.

*Derek Zemrak is a Film Critic, Film Producer and Founder of the California Independent Film Festival. You can follow Derek on Twitter @zemrak for the latest Hollywood news. Derek is the host of Real to Reel on TRadioV.com live at 6 p.m. every Tuesday.*

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# LAMORINDA SPORTS

## 2013 SUMMER CAMPS/Classes

See alphabetical listing of 40 camps and classes on page C4-C6

### NCS Lacrosse Action Continues Tonight

By Marissa Harnett



Joey Forman #17

Photos Ohlen Alexander

Last Wednesday marked the start of the Division II boys' lacrosse NCS championship tournament. As the top two finishers in the DFAL, both Acalanes and Miramonte earned berths in the playoffs. With an undefeated league record, the Dons enjoyed a first-round bye and the No. 2 seed.

In tonight's semi-final home match, Acalanes will take on No. 3 Piedmont. Miramonte head coach David Winford had hoped the Mats would have a third chance to play the Dons in that semi-final, but Piedmont eliminated them (15-5) in Friday night's second round.

Despite their loss, Winford was happy to be in the playoffs. With only 13 teams qualifying, he said, "I feel really good about being the sixth seed. Our players have dedicated a lot of their time to this season and have earned the privilege of playing for the NCS championship."

Miramonte earned a decisive win in the first round against No. 11 Sonoma Academy. Sophomore goalie Justin O'Camb allowed only three goals. Although it took three full minutes to get on the board, the goals came fast and furious in the last three minutes of the first quarter, ending it 5-0. The Mats' momentum continued and they earned a 17-3 win. Top scorers included senior co-captains Joey Forman and Nick Sheehan and junior Jack Murphy, logging an impressive four goals each.

In Lafayette on Friday, Acalanes faced off against Cardinal Newman High School in the second-round of the playoffs. Taking advantage of their bye, Acalanes came out strong grabbing their first goal two minutes into the match. Cardinal Newman answered right back. The quarter ended 4-2.

At the start of the second quarter, the Dons took off and widened the

gap by seven, securing a comfortable lead by halftime, 11-4. Their momen-

tum continued for the remainder of the game, and they defeated the Santa Rosa team, 18-7.

The Dons were led by attackers senior Wesley Greason, junior Robbie Stern, and Scott Lindsay with five, four, and three goals respectively.

Their fast and aggressive defense played a major role in the win as well.

Acalanes head coach Brent Ringwood has been impressed with the progress of his defensive players throughout the season. "What was a young, inexperienced group of players last year has turned into a savvy, aggressive, veteran group," he said, crediting defensive coordinator Elliot Carney.

The rest of the tournament presents big challenges for Acalanes. While the Dons narrowly defeated Piedmont once this season, Ringwood knows it will be tough to do it

twice, calling it a "daunting task."

If Acalanes can dismiss the Highlanders to advance to the finals, they will square off against one of two teams that each beat them by just one goal earlier this season, Marin Catholic or Marin Academy.

Regardless of the outcome of the NCS tournament, Ringwood is very pleased with the Dons' undefeated record and DFAL title. "There were stumbling points early in the season that we overcame and the chemistry has been really good this year," he explained. "We were very young last year and it showed, but a young team last year meant that we were returning a lot of talented players this year, so we knew we had a chance at success." Ringwood added.

Catch the semi-final match against Piedmont, tonight at 7 p.m. at Acalanes.



Wesley Greason #1 and Nathan Brickman #42

### Girls' Lax Dominant in NCS Playoffs

Dons host Mats tonight

By Michael Sakoda



Photo Ohlen Alexander

The North Coast Section girls' lacrosse playoffs got underway this week featuring all three Lamorinda high schools—Acalanes, Campolindo and Miramonte—playing in the division II bracket. All teams will play in the second round.

Acalanes finished the season with a 15-4 record, including a perfect 12-0 record in DFAL play. "It was not only a successful season within our league, but also against other teams considered the top competition in Northern California," said coach Kelly Quinn. "Our biggest win was against Marin Catholic, the defending NCS Champion. That was certainly the measuring stick for our squad."

The Lady Dons battled their way through tough inter-league play, and ran the table in the DFAL, clinching the top seed in the NCS Playoffs. "It was a classic team effort," said Quinn. "Chloe Landry, one of our captains, had an outstanding year...Niki Quinn, our other captain, had a great year...but if I had to single someone out, it would be our freshman goal keeper, whose had just a huge impact on our season and mentality."

Quinn says he's looking forward to the playoffs. "We'll have (a) chance to play...Campolindo if they continue to win in their part of the bracket. It would be really special for us to get an NCS Championship after (defeating) our own league rivals," he said. Acalanes enjoyed a first round bye, and will host Miramonte tonight, May 22.

The Mats earned No. 4 seed in the NCS playoffs after going 11-7 overall and 8-4 in DFAL play behind a high octane offense that averaged 9.8 goals per game during the regular season. The Mats drew No. 5 Piedmont in the opening round of the NCS playoffs, pulling out a 13-12 victory in a thriller on May 17. The Mats will travel to Acalanes for a second round contest on Wednesday.

Campolindo also qualified for the post season after going 11-8 overall with an 8-4 record in DFAL play. "Things came together after spring break," said head coach Jim Magee. "We have won 8 of 9 since...focused very hard on our stick skills and playing at a high level of intensity."

The Cougars slow start was due in large part to the absence of some key players. "We were missing five members of our team—including four starters—because Campo's basketball and soccer teams played so far into the post season," said Magee.

Campo earned the No. 3 spot and hosted Cardinal Newman on May 17. The Cougars dropped the hammer early, scoring four unanswered goals within the first four minutes of the game. Cardinal Newman fought back, scoring on consecutive penalty shots, and cutting Campo's lead to three, 7-4, but the Cougars responded and led 11-5 at halftime. The second half saw more of the same with Campo outscoring Cardinal Newman 6-4, winning the game 17-9.

Several players scored multiple goals for the Cougars—a hat trick apiece for seniors Claire Faulkner and Marie Martin, four goals for sophomore Bridget Coleman, and two goals for senior Caroline Dooley. Sophomore Mary Hildeburn notched 5 assists to go with four goals.

"We came out fired up. We came out sharing the ball very well and got up 5 to 1," said Magee after the game. "We made some mistakes on defense that I wish we hadn't made, but they're correctable things...we persevered though."

Of Hildeburn's outstanding performance, Magee commented, "(Mary) is our team leader in assists because she's a very unselfish player. She's always looking for her teammates on the field, and (with) five assists tonight, she's over 50 assists for the season which should end up being a record for our school."

Campolindo traveled to take on No. 2 University High School in San Francisco on Tuesday.



Bridget Coleman

Photo Andy Schreck

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## Swimming and Diving Post-Season Report

By Sarada Symonds



Photos Ohlen Alexander

Campolindo's Soda Aquatic Center played host to both the DFAL diving and swimming meets on May 11. The participants were all hoping to earn a spot at the NCS Championships on May 18.

The Campolindo-Los Lomas-Acalanes-Miramonte (CLAM) diving program sent six divers to the North Coast Section meet. Morgan Matranga, Alyssa Parsons, Simone Raeth, Miranda Gold, Spencer Cox, and Justin Hart all qualified.



Campolindo sophomore Matranga came in first in girls' varsity with a score of 420.05. Acalanes sophomore Gold and Campolindo senior Parsons took second with 386.7 and third with 351.60, respectively.

Matranga has participated in competitive diving for five years. "Everyone worked really, really hard today, and I'm really excited for NCS," she said.

Head coach Marie Estorge started coaching at Acalanes just two weeks before the DFAL meet, but she thought the divers on the team did really well. "Everyone worked really, really hard today. It was great to earn points for the team, and I'm really excited for NCS," Estorge said.

Estorge had coached the Acalanes dive team for the past four years, but had taken a leave of absence. When the 2013-season coach quit, Estorge volunteered to step in.

Both Campolindo and Miramonte also had a new head coach this year, Aric Gilbrecht. "There have been a lot of changes, especially for the athletes. They had to adapt and you saw the results today. They've been doing especially well," he said.

The NCS competition took place May 16 at

the Concord Community Pool. In the girls' event, Matranga placed fifth out of 32. Gold took seventh place. Parsons and Raeth placed 10th and 25th, respectively.

In the boys' event, Hart (Las Lomas) placed 12th and Cox, in his first year diving for Campolindo and in his first NCS competition, placed 17th.

The DFAL swim meet saw record breaking times in seven individual and three relay events. Campolindo girls' earned 476 points to beat their cross-town rivals Acalanes (418) and Miramonte (388.5).

The Campolindo boys' team also took first with 495 points, while Miramonte, with 383 points, placed third and Acalanes, with 288.5, placed fourth.

Campolindo senior Steven Stumph set new records for the 100 breaststroke (54.42 seconds) and 100 butterfly (49.14 seconds). Stumph and Campolindo athletes Sven Campbell, J.D. Ratchford and Grant Sivesind also blasted by last year's 400 freestyle relay record with a time of 3:03.08.

Acalanes' Brittany Usinger set a meet record in the 100 butterfly with a time of 54.75. Other top finishes included Miramonte's Annie Larsen in the 500 freestyle and Miramonte's Cameron Hoyh in the boys' 500 freestyle.

At the NCS competition on May 18 at the Concord Community Pool, Campolindo boys' earned first place, while Miramonte took third and Acalanes eleventh. Campo's girls finished fourth to lead Lamorinda, while Miramonte took sixth and Acalanes eighth.

The highlight of the meet, however, came when Stumph broke a national high school record with his performance in the 100-yard breaststroke with a time of 53.39. Perhaps more amazing, was that all top-three finishers came in under Olympian Brendan Hansen's record. Miramonte's Charlie Wiser finished second (53.57).

Stumph also won the 100 butterfly, 200 medley and the 400 freestyle relay team. Campbell won the boys 50-freestyle and second place in the 100 backstroke.

For complete results visit [cifncs.org/sports/swimming\\_&\\_diving](http://cifncs.org/sports/swimming_&_diving).



From left: Alyssa Parsons, Miranda Gold, Morgan Matranga, Simone Raeth Photo Marie Estorge



From left: Spencer Cox, Coach Marie Estorge, Justin Hart Photo Shelly Hart

## DFAL Track and Field Tough Competition

By Tommy Bush



Photos Ohlen Alexander

The 2013 Diablo Foothill Athletic League (DFAL) track and field season has been one of intense competition. From the bang of the starting gun to the final turn of the season, Acalanes, Miramonte and Campolindo have been neck-and-neck throughout.

"The league meet is always a focus for us," said Campolindo's head coach Chris Woolridge. "Our kids take a lot of pride in setting the standard in the DFAL in terms of team culture and commitment. They have a lot of respect for their DFAL opponents and enjoy the opportunity to compete against them."

Acalanes boys' team entered the DFAL league meet with only one loss, and earned a share of the DFAL regular season title with Campolindo. However, at the DFAL meet, the Cougars narrowly edged the Dons by five points to earn the first place finish. Miramonte finished in fifth place.

"We were pleased to see the boys' squad win the meet, having key athletes like Ryan Hoffman, Aidan Goltra and Brian Pfaff all healthy and competing," said Woolridge. "Har-

rison Hughes has been the bedrock for the sprinters."

Despite the second place finish, the strong senior leadership as well as a talented core of athletes led to the Dons' impressive season.

In the DFAL championship meet, the Dons gathered points from numerous athletes, but they especially relied on junior Matt Thomas. Thomas won both the discus and the shot put, earning him the honor of meet MVP.

Miramonte wrapped up their DFAL season with notable finishes on both the boys' and the girls' side. Seniors Tyler Hanson and Rebekah Ent were critical to the growth of the team.

"The biggest strength of the team is our leadership," said head coach Bradley Alban. "Our captains have done a tremendous job of setting positive examples and teaching younger athletes the fundamentals of the sport. With a large team, we rely on our captains to lead on a daily basis."

At the DFAL championship meet, Miramonte girls' team earned the top finish, with the Dons close behind in second place. Both teams earned the title of Co-Champions for the DFAL regular season. Campolindo finished fourth in the championship meet.

The Dons were led by their runners.

"On the girls' side our strength is in our

### Senior Stand Out

Submitted by Susie Romak



Photo Sandra Guay

Senior Anna Boer was a standout at the DFAL Championship meet. She scored over 25 percent of her team's points for the Matadors. She earned three top finishes, including: the triple jump with 34'6", which was a personal record of over a foot; the 100 meter dash with a 12.83; and a second place finish in the long jump with at 16'0.50".

sprinters," said head coach John Crain.

Though DFAL finish was tough, the girls' team at Campolindo also had a solid season.

"For the girls, it was a tough fourth place finish, just one point behind Dublin," said Woolridge. "Had the girls finished in third place, they would have forged a tie for the league title."

After a tough DFAL meet, the 2013 track and field season continues with the Tri-Valley meet, the NCS Meet of Champions, and the extremely exclusive State Championships. Acalanes, Campolindo and Miramonte all qualified athletes for the Tri-Valley meet, which took place on May 18.



### Lamorinda Top-Three Finishes for NCS:

- Girls' 1600m:** First, Brighie Leach, Campolindo, 5.00.11
- Girls' 3200m:** Second, Brighie Leach, Campolindo, 11.00.27
- Girls' Pole Vault:** Third, Lillian Quint, Campolindo, 10-07.00
- Boys' 800m:** First, Adler Faulkner, Acalanes, 1:55.53
- Boys' 1600m:** Third, Michael Wang, Acalanes, 4:20.77
- Boys' 3200m:** Second, Aidan Goltra, Campolindo, 9:31.28
- Third, Tyler Hanson, Miramonte, 9:31:70
- Boys' Shot Put:** Third, Matt Thomas, Acalanes, 51-06.00
- Boys' Discus Throw:** Second, Matt Thomas, Acalanes, 164-04



# Back-to-Back Champs

Submitted by Torch Tan



Kitty Wendt, Bryce Hummer, Neil Weikert, Alex Lilichenko, Tanner Wendt, Logan Boersma, Luke Bohuslav, Peter Martin, Liam Kelly, Andrew Tan, Kyle Rechnitz, Michael O'Melveny, Michael McCollom, David Elluman, Alex Hwang, Ryan Young  
Photo provided

The Miramonte boys' tennis team captured its second combined Diablo Foothill Athletic League and North Coast Section Division I team championships in as many years on May 11. The boys completed their NCS championship run with a total record of 27-0, defeating Redwood High School and Monte Vista High School on the final day of the championships.

The final match against Monte Vista was a repeat of last year's NCS final, with both teams returning most of last year's starters. After dropping the first match, the Matadors won the next three matches to pull ahead 3-1. In the next

match, senior Andrew Tan and junior Logan Boersma won in a thrilling third set, 7-5. Miramonte went on to win all the remaining matches, winning 6-1 overall. Among those who started on Sunday also include junior Michael O' Melveny, sophomores Bryce Hummer, Sasha Lilichenko, Peter Martin, Kyle Rechnitz, Neil Weikert and freshman Alex Hwang.

Led by East Bay Boy's Coach of the Year Michael McCollom the Mats competed at CIF NorCals from May 17-18. The team lost 3-4 to Serra in the Regional Semifinals.

# Oakland Strokes Dominate at Regionals

Submitted by Melissa Coupin



Oakland Strokes team members celebrating with newly acquired hardware  
Photo L. Cvitanovic

The Oakland Strokes team returned from the USRowing Regional Championships near Sacramento laden with hardware. Competing against 33 rowing programs from three states, the Oakland Strokes team earned 22 podium appearances, rendered 155 medals and 11 trophies, including 10 gold medals. It was one of the Oakland Strokes most successful rowing events in their 39-year history.

For the first time this Spring Regatta sea-

son, the Women's Varsity 8+ defeated Marin by less than a second for one of the most thrilling finishes of the weekend.

The most dominating finish came from the Women's JV8+ who cruised to gold 14 seconds faster than Marin.

Oakland Strokes will send athletes to the US Rowing Youth National Championships June 7-9 in Oak Ridge, TN. Student athletes from Lamorinda comprise the majority of the Oakland Strokes team.

# CYO Track Success

Submitted by April Murphy



From Left: Paige Mays, Peyton Mays, Reese Hansen and Shannon Murphy won the Diocese Sectional Meet sprint medley relay.  
Photo Eileen Hansen

Paige Mays, Peyton Mays, Reese Hansen, and Shannon Murphy were not exactly sure what they had signed up for when they joined the CYO track and field program for the first time this year. However, the four third-grade girls met individual and team success that resulted in top finishes at sectionals in the 200, 400, 800, 4x100, sprint medley, and long jump.

The girls went on to the Diocese Championship of Champions placing third in the 4x100 and second in the sprint medley. Runner Shannon Murphy also placed third in the 400.

# On Your Mark!

CYO Track Meet Results

Submitted by Jeanne Balczewski



St. Perpetua's third grade girls' relay team set a meet record. From left: Maddie Krozek, Sydney Griscavage, Natalie Means and Mia Sides.  
Photo Tim Krozek

The Lamorinda CYO track teams of St. Perpetua, St. Monica and Santa Maria participated in the CYO Diocesan meet May 11 at Granada High School in Livermore. There were many outstanding performances. Two

Diocesan records were set: Niyi Olabode of St. Monica jumped over 15 feet in the fourth grade boys' long jump and St. Perpetua's third grade girls' team ran 01:02.03 in the 4x100m relay.

# Lafayette Little League Box Scores

Submitted by Todd Bequette

## Majors Division

May 8

### Yankees 8 Tigers 2

Stefan Raeth pitched three strong innings and combined with relievers Jason Vorhauer, Ryan Reilly and Nicolas Bamont for a two-hitter for the Yankees. Bamont starred at the plate, booming a double and two singles, while Raeth, Vorhauer, Nickolas Gennacopolous, Ben Stoddard, Riley Bruel and Thomas Judson all contributed with timely run-scoring hits. In the field, the speedy Gennacopolous cut short a Tiger rally in the fourth with a circus catch against the fence in centerfield with two outs and runners on the move.

May 4

### Cardinals 14 Nationals 8

The Redbirds continued their winning ways, outlasting the Nats in a slugfest at Buckeye Field. Colin Kirbach Kirbach rapped out three hits for

the Cards and teammate Scott Brydon drove in four runs. Brayden Clarkson delivered the big blow in the game, an RBI double that drove in two. Nikki Wixsom was solid on the mound for the winners.

## AAA Division

April 30

### Athletics 14 Brewers 6

Evan Malmquist and Alexander Wackowski began the hit parade with back-to-back doubles to open the game and the A's never looked back. Zach Kuo smashed a towering home run for the winners and Kevin Soulos led the way with five runs batted in. The Athletics also flashed the leather in the field. Second baseman Noah Sonet turned a sparkling double play and Austin Poole made a lunging tag play at third after receiving a rocket throw from right fielder Zach Anderson.

# Moraga Baseball Association Box Scores

Submitted by Jin Meng

## Mustang Division

May 14

### Yankees 13, Giants 3

Yankees Highlights: Alex Clare (4-for-5, 2 3B, 3 runs, 2 RBI), Xavier Esquer (3-for-5, 2 runs, 3 RBI), Ben Oxendine (4-for-5, 2 runs, 3 RBI), and James Murray (2-for-4, Run, 2 RBI), Beaty (2+ innings, 3K, 1 run allowed).

Giants Highlights: Xander Goldman (1-for-2, 3B, 2 RBI), Brody Crouch (1-for-1, 2 runs, BB), Nicholas Meng (1-for-2, run) and Charlie Revelos (1-for-1, BB).

## Pinto Division

May 13

### Yankees 5, A's 12

Yankees Highlights: Evan Olson (3-3, 1 run, 2 RBI's), Vito Crudele (3-3), Chase Kivelson (2-3, 1 RBI) and Hudson Pergamit (1-3, 2 runs, 1 RBI). A's Highlights: Cooper Lenahan (3-4, 1 double,

2 runs, 2 RBI), Jack Alcalay (2-3, 1 triple, 2 runs, 3 RBI), Conner Naughten (3-3, 1 double, 1 run, 1 RBI) and Jack Harper (2-4, 2 runs).

### Yankees 13, A's 10

Yankees Highlights: Scott Linden (3-4, 2 runs, 2 RBI), Jason Runckel (3-4, 1 run, 3 RBI), and Matthew VonderBrink (2-3, 2 runs).

A's Highlights: Max O'Balle's (4-4, 3 doubles, 2 runs, 4 RBI), Cooper Lenahan (2-4, 1 double, 3 runs 2 RBI), Jack Harper (3-4, 1 run) and Zack Decker (2-4, 1 run, 1 RBI)

May 11

### Giants 19, A's 5

Giants Highlights: Luke Olsen (4-4, 4 runs), Matthew VonderBrink (3-3, 3 runs) and Ben Tallon (2-3, runs).

A's Highlights: Max O'Balle's (2-4, two doubles, 2 runs, 1 RBI), Colin Spencer (2-4, triple, 1 run, 1 RBI) and Walker Johnson (2-3, double).

# LMSC Wins State Cup

Submitted by Corinna Sassano



Photo provided

Over 600 boys' and girls' teams of all levels took part in the 2012-13 U14-U19 NorCal State Cup. The competition kicked off in early September with preliminary round games to seed teams into groups of four. Months later, May 5, the champions and final-

ists were crowned in 42 divisions. Lamorinda GU 19 won the state cup title for GU 18/19 after they defeated the Santa Clara Central Valley Chilipeppers 5-1. Lamorinda is ranked No. 1 in NorCal and No. 20 nationally by getsoccer.com.

# Water Polo Club Earns Second Place

Submitted by Heather Winther



Photo provided

Thirty-six sixth grade water polo teams from all over the state traveled to southern California for the 20th Annual San Diego

Cup in May. Lamorinda's CC United took second place. Garrett Dunn and Logan Estes (goalie) received all-tournament team honors.

# Gaels Head to NCAA Tournament

Saint Mary's golf team finished the NCAA Regional tournament in third place and qualified for the NCAA Championships. The top-five team and the top individual not on a qualifying team from each of six regional tournaments earn a berth to the NCAA finals. The Gaels recorded the third-lowest 54-hole team

total (287) in school history in the final round to earn the third-place finish. Senior Mac McClung, finished fourth individually, the second-best regional finish for a SMC player. The Gaels will travel to Milton, GA for the May 28-June 2 tournament at the Capital Club's Crabapple Course. C. Graveson

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## Summer School for Lamorinda Teachers

By Cathy Dausman

Some say the three favorite words in a teacher's vocabulary are June, July and August, but certain teachers disregard the lure of "down time" in favor of heading right back into the classroom during the summer. While some may be in it for an extra paycheck, or to offset education-related expenses like laptop computers or advanced education tuition, there is also pride in performance of a task done well.

Take, for example, Bob Athayde, who is Lafayette's Stanley Middle School music director nine months of the year. In addition to his week-long summer jazz camp, the Lafayette Summer Music Jazz Workshop at Stanley, Athayde brings a Jazz piano improv class, "From Blues to Boogie," to Lafayette's new School of Musical Arts, said SOMA director Xiomara Di Maio, who teaches Pre-Twinkle piano and voice classes for ages 4-8 during the summer. The Blues to Boogie class is designed for students ages 8-12 and piano skills are required.

Orinda Parks and Recreation Department re-branded what used to be known as "summer school" as Enrichment Camp when it acquired the program from the Orinda Union School District. The camp hires about a dozen local school district teachers for summer work.

Lamorinda Weekly asked Jennifer Russell, parks, trails and recreation director for Lafayette, if the city



Bob Athayde

Photo Andy Scheck

hires school district teachers for summer work. "To my knowledge, no," she said. Russell said most of the staff hired for the City of Lafayette's summer recreation programs are either provided through the programs themselves (Mad Science and Make Me a Basketball Pro, for example) or provided by recreation leaders hired by the city as temporary summer employees (such as Camp Awesome and Lafayette Tiny Tots).

Several Moraga School District teachers sign on for summer school, using their own classrooms to teach, Moraga's Recreation Assistant Kim Burrowes said. One fifth grade Camino Pablo Elementary School teacher will teach algebra and geometry classes to teens; and kinder-

garten teachers Cathy Kathan, Bess Inzeo (Donald Rheem), Mary Ellen Viboch, Terry Miller (Los Perales) and Joanne McClellan and Sherry Doolittle (Camino Pablo) teach at least one week of an intro to kindergarten class.

"We love doing this!" Miller said. "Since we started, not one child who has been through our week-long program has had separation anxiety or tears the following August when school started." It also makes for "a great partnership between the town and the school district," Miller added.

(Note: Teacher-run camps are not necessarily endorsed, sponsored or approved by the Moraga School District).

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Alphabetical listing of all 40 camps and classes

- ACADEMIC**
- Amazing Math Classes** (Moraga) (925) 888-7036, www.moraga.ca.us
  - Camp Brainy Bunch** (Orinda) (510) 548-4800, www.CampBrainyBunch.com
  - Orinda Academy** (Orinda) (925) 254-7553, www.orindaacademy.org
  - Saklan School** (Moraga) (925) 376-7900, www.saklan.org/community/camp-saklan
  - Summer Bridge Math** (Moraga) www.lorietutors.com
- CREATIVE ARTS**
- Academy of Language and Music Arts/ ALMA** (Orinda) (925) 254-5056, www.alma-leap.com

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- Berkeley Rep School of Theatre's Summer Theatre Intensive** (510) 647-2972, www.berkeleyrep.org/summerintensive
- Bones and Bridges Creative Writing Camp** (Lafayette) (510) 525-7853, www.ruthgendler.com
- Cal Shakes** (Lafayette) (510) 809-3293, summershakespearecamp.org
- Contra Costa Children's Chorus Musical Theatre** (Walnut Creek) www.childrenschorus.org
- Lafayette Summer Music Jazz Workshop** (Lafayette) www.lafayettejazz.wordpress.com
- School of Musical Arts** (Lafayette) Phone: (925) 878-5159, www.somapiano.com
- Sewnow! Fashion Design** (Lafayette) Phone: (925) 283-7396, www.sewnow.com

... continued on page C6

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- Aug 5 - 9 (Advanced\* 10am - 1pm)

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12-16, 19-23, 26-30

# 2013 SUMMER CAMPS/Classes

Alphabetical listing of all 40 camps and classes

## CREATIVE ARTS

... continued from page C4

### Shakespeare For Kids

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

### The Art Room

(Lafayette)  
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### Town Hall Education Summer Camps and Classes

(Lafayette)  
(925) 283-6673, [www.TownHallTheatre.com](http://www.TownHallTheatre.com)

## NATURE

### Orinda Afternoons

(Orinda)  
925-254-1974, [www.OrindaAfternoons.com](http://www.OrindaAfternoons.com)

### Lindsay Wildlife Museum Wild Times Science Camp

(Walnut Creek)  
(925) 935-1978, [www.wildlife-museum.org](http://www.wildlife-museum.org)

### Green Stuff at UC Botanical Garden

(Berkeley)  
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## RIDING & RANCHING

### Rancho Del Lago Riding Camp

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### Redwood Ranch

(Oakland)  
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### Roughing It Day Camp

(Lafayette)  
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### Sienna Ranch

(Lafayette)  
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## OUTDOOR/ADVENTURE

### Adventure Day Camp

(Walnut Creek)  
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### Camp Pura Vida

(Boonville) Overnight  
(925) 937-6500, [www.adventuredaycamp.com](http://www.adventuredaycamp.com)

## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

### Camp Edmo/ Camp Edtech

(Moraga)  
(415) 282-6673, [www.campedmo.org/](http://www.campedmo.org/)  
[www.campedtech.org](http://www.campedtech.org)

### Galileo Camps

(Lafayette)  
1-800-854-3684, [www.galileo-learning.com](http://www.galileo-learning.com)

### iD Tech Camps & iD Teen Academies

(Moraga)  
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## SPORTS

### Bentley Phoenix Summer Soccer Clinic

(Bentley School Soccer Field, Lafayette)  
[bentleyathletics@bentleyschool.net](mailto:bentleyathletics@bentleyschool.net)

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### Cal Athletic Camps

(Berkeley)  
[www.calbears.com/camps/cal-camps.html](http://www.calbears.com/camps/cal-camps.html)

### Cougar Football Camp

(Moraga)  
(925) 932-1579

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### Lorne Smith Lacrosse

(Orinda + Lake Tahoe)  
[www.lornesmithlacrosse.com](http://www.lornesmithlacrosse.com)

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### Oakland Strokes

(Oakland)  
[www.oaklandstrokes.org](http://www.oaklandstrokes.org)

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### Sherman Swim School

(Lafayette)  
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### SMC Summer Camps

(Moraga)  
(925) 631-4FUN (4386),  
[www.smcgaels.com](http://www.smcgaels.com), click "camps"

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### Tennis Camp -Moraga Valley Swim and Tennis Club

(Orinda)  
(925)284-1102, [www.mvptennis.org](http://www.mvptennis.org)

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## VARIETY CAMPS

### Camp Kefli

(Lafayette)  
(925) 284-919, [www.temple-isaiah.org/kefli](http://www.temple-isaiah.org/kefli)

### Lafayette Parks & Recreation

(Lafayette)  
(925) 284-2232, [www.LafayetteRec.org](http://www.LafayetteRec.org)

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(Orinda)  
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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.

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# Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 07 Issue 6 Wednesday, May 22, 2013



*The Home Designer with Brandon Neff...read on page D12*

## Mail Order House

By Cathy Dausman



*The Kit House today*

*Photo Andy Scheck*

Does a 75-year-old mail order house stand out in a neighborhood residents call “eclectic”? Not if it’s the Lafayette home built by James Ford and his wife, Mary, in 1940.

The Fords, who moved to Lafayette from Oakland in 1937, saved for three years to build their 3 bedroom, 1.5 bath home. Lot, contractor and house – a kit house they ordered from the

Sears catalogue – cost them a mere \$7,500.

Not just plans, but the entire house of wood was delivered to their lot. Sears sold about 70,000 similar kit homes in 48 states between 1908 and 1940, according to Sears’ archives ([www.searsarchives.com/homes](http://www.searsarchives.com/homes)). As many as 30,000 pieces and the 75-page instruction book were shipped via rail to each site.

The wood for the Ford’s home – the Aladdin Marblehead B plan, a modified Cape Cod-style house – was cut in Oregon of clear heart redwood; each piece was labeled with paint to facilitate its assembly. It shipped south on the Great Northern, Western Pacific and Sacramento Northern railroad lines.

...continued on page D4

# Finola Fellner and Lynn Molloy

present:

## Charming Spanish Home Fabulous Country Club Location 73 La Campana ~ Orinda



This beautiful Spanish home with approximately 2376 square feet boasts lovely indoor and outdoor spaces. The home features open living spaces, hardwood floors throughout, lovely trim and finish work, beautiful French doors and vaulted ceilings.

The enchanted gardens are the unique part of this home. The formal gardens offer a quiet place to enjoy the beautiful roses, herb garden or a spot to nurture your greenhouse plants. In addition, the gardens include a spacious patio, rolling lawns, mature trees and plants creating a quiet place to relax or the perfect spot to entertain.

**Offered at \$1,369,000**



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## Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

City	Last reported:	LOWEST AMOUNT:	HIGHEST AMOUNT:
LAFAYETTE	20	\$640,000	\$1,980,000
MORAGA	13	\$521,000	\$1,352,000
ORINDA	15	\$790,000	\$1,850,000

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

- 18 Benthill Court, \$1,250,000, 4 Bdrms, 3013 SqFt, 1979 YrBlt, 4-18-13;  
Previous Sale: \$800,000, 03-10-03
- 3252 Camino Colorados, \$1,240,000, 4 Bdrms, 2441 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 4-24-13;  
Previous Sale: \$430,000, 02-19-99
- 1841 Del Rio Drive, \$721,000, 3 Bdrms, 2091 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 4-10-13
- 3680 Hastings Court, \$1,530,000, 3 Bdrms, 2344 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 4-17-13;  
Previous Sale: \$1,050,000, 07-11-07
- 2123 Hidden Pond Road, \$860,000, 6 Bdrms, 2975 SqFt, 1996 YrBlt, 4-19-13;  
Previous Sale: \$835,000, 12-10-09
- 4133 Hidden Valley Road, \$809,000, 3 Bdrms, 1995 SqFt, 1941 YrBlt, 4-24-13;  
Previous Sale: \$274,000, 03-21-97
- 1 Hilldale Road, \$1,327,500, 3 Bdrms, 2732 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 4-16-13
- 3784 Mosswood Drive, \$749,000, 3 Bdrms, 1634 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 4-15-13
- 1071 Orchard Road, \$635,000, 3 Bdrms, 1446 SqFt, 1947 YrBlt, 4-19-13
- 851 Paradise Court, \$1,066,000, 3 Bdrms, 1646 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 4-10-13;  
Previous Sale: \$985,000, 04-01-10
- 1700 Reliez Valley Road, \$975,000, 2 Bdrms, 1677 SqFt, 1943 YrBlt, 4-10-13
- 645 Sky Ranch Court, \$900,000, 3 Bdrms, 2351 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 4-19-13
- 1155 Upper Happy Valley Road, \$1,250,000, 4 Bdrms, 2524 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 4-25-13;  
Previous Sale: \$432,000, 09-21-88
- 1170 Upper Happy Valley Road, \$1,980,000, 6 Bdrms, 3282 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 4-17-13
- 3589 Walnut Street #E, \$640,000, 2 Bdrms, 1506 SqFt, 1979 YrBlt, 4-17-13;  
Previous Sale: \$255,000, 12-24-97
- 17 White Oak Drive, \$787,500, 3 Bdrms, 2104 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 4-17-13

### MORAGA

- 2 Benedita Place, \$521,000, 2 Bdrms, 1211 SqFt, 1984 YrBlt, 4-10-13;  
Previous Sale: \$242,500, 10-01-92
- 805 Camino Ricardo, \$1,130,000, 4 Bdrms, 2483 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 4-16-13
- 4 Corte Santa Clara, \$1,175,000, 4 Bdrms, 2490 SqFt, 1989 YrBlt, 4-18-13;  
Previous Sale: \$185,000, 08-09-89
- 1100 Country Club Drive, \$1,130,000, 3 Bdrms, 2051 SqFt, 1975 YrBlt, 4-24-13
- 470 Fernwood Drive, \$1,110,000, 4 Bdrms, 2483 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 4-24-13

... continued on page D8

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# LAMORINDA MARKET UPDATE

Today's Lamorinda real estate market is resembling the crazy overbid days that we witnessed during 2005-2007. The reason for this robust market is buyers' pent-up demand, extremely low interest rates, rise in the stock market and the banks willingness to lend.

At **KPG** we've seen first-hand how our advice has paid off for our sellers. 70% of our listings are receiving multiple bids including 6, 8, 10 and even 16 offers. Winning bids range from 6% - 12% over the list price. Three times this year we have recommended that our sellers increase their list price as the market has improved.

As for buyers, at **KPG** we craft a compelling **Offer Package** that will put our clients in the position to be the winning bidder. It's not just about price but it's about who you are and how you connect with the seller. With our experience representing sellers in this market, we know what sellers are looking for and we advise our buyers accordingly. In addition, we have good relationships with other real estate agents in our community which is a great benefit to our clients.



If you are interested in seeing how the market has changed we have a complete list of **SOLD** Lamorinda properties on [www.kurtpipergroup.com](http://www.kurtpipergroup.com). Locate and click on the icon to the left and link to a file with our community's sales data.

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# Mail Order House

...continued from page D1



Photo courtesy Ford family

The load was misplaced once in Humboldt, but was finally delivered to Reliez Station in Lafayette, before being trucked to the building site to await assembly.

The Fords upgraded the original home plans, paying an additional \$125 for a half bath and laundry, and a bit more for a garage. They installed a Sears wood burning stove in the kitchen. The house had a fireplace; its exterior was painted white. In 1940, Mount Diablo was visible from the back of the home; its view has since been obscured by local vegetation, but the kit home has sat virtually unchanged for the past 50 years.

Ford's widow was still living in the house in 1986 when her son, Andy, and his wife, Mariana, returned to Lafayette. They moved into the house of Andy's youth to help his aging mother, and together, little by little, they began to remodel.

"My father-in-law loved roaring fires," Mariana said. One of his fires set the roof ablaze. They replaced the original shingled roof with an aluminum roof and converted the fireplace to gas.

The first interior improvement in 1987 was building an 800-square-foot downstairs bedroom and bath for the elder Ford, who has since died. A front porch with a ramp was added in 1992. In 1996, the younger Fords added 1,000 extra feet of living space by building an upstairs master bath and office. They also added a second water heater. And in 2000, the back of the garage was enlarged to create a workshop.

Along the way, the Fords brought in 200 yards of earth, moss, rocks and gravel, and re-landscaped and terraced the original back yard, which Mariana said was "just ugly."

The house blossomed from its humble 1,500 square feet into a 5 bedroom, 3.5 bath showpiece with over 3,100 square feet of living space, the exterior now painted

Original bill of lading for kit house.

Courtesy Ford family

green. In 2011 Mariana was ready to downsize, so the Fords put their house on the market.

"I wanted a ranch house," she said, noting up until that time, she and her husband had never picked out their own house. "We've had fun, we really liked it, but we're not sorry we moved," she added.

The house remains in good hands, however – the Ford's friends and former neighbors, Chris and Becky Kenney, snapped it up.

"I love that it's got history," Kenney said. "It is the most organized house." She likes the original tongue and groove oak flooring, and has had workmen admire its true 2 x 4 solid framework construction.

The Kenneys love their home and have no plans to move. As for the hard work the Fords invested in upgrades, "I'd do it again," Mariana said simply.

To learn more about kit houses, visit [www.kithouse.org](http://www.kithouse.org)

... see more photos on page D6



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# Mail Order House

...continued from page D1



Becky Kenney (left) admires a photo timeline of the Kit House she now lives in, prepared by former homeowner Mariana Ford. Photo Cathy Dausman



Photos courtesy Ford family



The Kit House in 2000

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**970 2nd Street, Lafayette**

hardwood floors throughout. The intimate backyard is recently landscaped and would be a great place to entertain or dine outdoors. A bonus studio above the garage is a wonderful addition and features a

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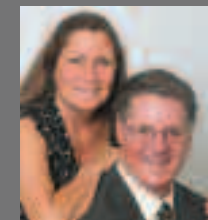


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**David Johnson, Faculty member at Diablo Valley College**

“Thank you both again for doing such a wonderful job for us in selling our home. We would never hesitate to refer you to any of our friends in need of excellent real estate agents. You two are the best! You both exude total confidence, trust and knowledge...you did not cause us a moment of hesitation!”

**Judy & Frank DeCarbonel, 45+ year residents of Lafayette**



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Lisa Quiros**

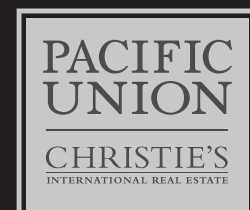
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## The Home Designer

# Kitchen Aid - Remodeling 101

By Brandon Neff

**K**itchen remodel – two words, when used together, strike fear in the hearts of men and women alike. Granite vs. marble, wood vs. tile, eco-friendly vs. everything else – deciding where to begin can be overwhelming. There are more products and options than ever before. Add in all those enviable shelter magazine spreads of luxury kitchens from across the globe, and it'll leave you ready to call it a day and go live in a yurt. Don't despair. Getting the look you want just takes a bit of planning and knowing where to spend the money. When to go for the splurge, and where to conserve is the key to a successful project.

Let's be clear, a kitchen makeover doesn't have to break your budget. Sure, it can be stressful, but creating a beautiful and functional space can, and should, be an exercise in creativity and fun. Yes, fun! When I begin a new project, I always take a beat to remind my clients that to be in a position to remake a space in your home exactly to your specifications is truly a luxury and to savor the experience. Enjoy the process, choose wisely, hire great help and always invest in the best you can afford. And, remember, with the housing market in the Bay Area heating up, nothing sells a home more than a beautiful kitchen, hands down. Most kitchen remodels, when planned well, will return over 90 cents of every dollar spent.

With that said, achieving the kitchen of your dreams takes work. Solid planning and sourcing is important from the start, so you can make informed decisions. To that end, whether you're a traditionalist, or a modernist, I'm here to guide you through some of the simplest and easiest ways to get the look you want – high or low.

For starters, it is essential to establish a budget, and stick to it. Know what you're comfortable spending, and understand that without proper planning you will go over budget. Begin by taking inventory of what you plan to replace, what can be recycled and what, if anything, can be repurposed. For most, the need for more space, more storage and a more efficient layout are the genesis for a remodel. Take a look around your room. Do you like the overall placement of the appli-



*Glamorous details like the custom mosaic backsplash bring the space to life.*

*Photo Brandon Neff Design*

ances? What condition are your cabinets? Can you recycle the existing cabinet boxes and just replace the door faces and hardware? What does the flooring look like? What about lighting? Make a list of what works and what needs to go. Hint: keeping the plumbing and gas/electrical in its current location will save you thousands.

Next, consider the style of your home. Respecting the architecture of the house will go a long way toward guiding your decisions. Look for clues such as moldings, period details and building materials. Not

that you can't mix styles within the home, but I've rarely seen it done well. Now, decide which items are a priority. Is that Sub-Zero fridge at the top of your list, or would you rather have new Caesar Stone counters? Are you a weekend gourmand who needs a chef's range and marble baking slab, or will a more modest cooktop and butcher block serve your needs? Knowing your bottom line is paramount to getting a great result.

...continued on page D14



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*All information herein deemed reliable but not guaranteed.*



# The Home Designer

...continued from page D10



*A dark and cluttered kitchen in desperate need of a new layout, appliances and updated finishes.*

To illustrate my point, let's look at an actual project (see photos). I was commissioned to design a kitchen for a client who loved contemporary design, but who lived with a kitchen more in the style of early-California ugly - Saltillo flooring, tile counters from hell and a sad layout all conspired against the home's potential.

My client wanted to be inspired, and asked me to create a beautiful room for his frequent guests to relax surrounded by a clean lined, modern space. I was given a budget of \$50,000 (well below the national budget average) to create an entirely new environment incorporating a rather long list of "must haves." I knew from the start I would have to employ my strategy of mixing high ticket items with less expensive options to achieve a cohesive look. I believe I did just that.

To balance out my client's luxury requests like the built-in, Italian espresso

*Photos courtesy Brandon Neff Design*

machine, vaulted ceiling and Wolf range, I went to work configuring a new layout utilizing all new cabinetry from IKEA (a fantastic choice), inexpensive ceramic floor tiles cut in a more interesting, large-scale paver and a floor model refrigerator that saved me nearly 50 percent! Hint: try to use more ubiquitous materials in interesting ways – it saves you a bunch.

By choosing less expensive, but well-designed cabinets with a mix of glass and wood fronts I was able to give my client solid slab quartz counters, a custom mosaic tile backsplash imported from Spain and even a chandelier to light the island in style.

Since space was at a premium, I utilized every inch. I incorporated trash and recycling into deep drawers in the island (no one wants to look at a trash container), I kept the microwave close to the fridge (most micro use is for reheating foods anyway) and I made a bold move to close up a window with



*Utilizing inexpensive, larger scale ceramic floor tiles extended the budget while adding high impact.*

an uninteresting view to achieve added counter and pantry space. Remember, it's just a box until you create a room that works for you.

Additional features include a chimney hood over the range for an added focal point, an unexpected stainless steel toe kick to trim out the island base along with an industrial style

faucet for the sink. What I hope I accomplished was an altogether reinterpretation of my client's kitchen into something functional and artful. Looking at it as a whole, you'd never guess where I economized to achieve the look, and I know my client and his guests will enjoy this heart of the home for years to come.

*Brandon Neff is a Bay Area based Interior Designer. He can be reached at [BrandonNeffDesign.com](http://BrandonNeffDesign.com) or at [brandonneffdesign@yahoo.com](mailto:brandonneffdesign@yahoo.com).*



## Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

...continued from Page D2

### MORAGA ... continued

- 31 Fieldbrook Place, \$950,000, 4 Bdrms, 2104 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 4-23-13  
 14 Inverleith Terrace, \$1,352,000, 5 Bdrms, 2692 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 4-24-13  
 1908 Joseph Drive, \$1,225,000, 4 Bdrms, 2755 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 4-11-13;  
 Previous Sale: \$460,000, 02-16-95  
 1024 Larch Avenue, \$855,000, 3 Bdrms, 1714 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 4-10-13;  
 Previous Sale: \$935,000, 03-09-06  
 50 Miramonte Drive, \$530,000, 2 Bdrms, 1436 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 4-19-13;  
 Previous Sale: \$535,000, 05-10-05  
 263 Paseo Bernal, \$625,000, 3 Bdrms, 2018 SqFt, 1980 YrBlt, 4-15-13;  
 Previous Sale: \$615,000, 04-29-04  
 413 Woodminster Drive, \$582,000, 3 Bdrms, 1572 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 4-25-13;  
 Previous Sale: \$429,000, 06-02-03  
 496 Woodminster Drive, \$580,000, 3 Bdrms, 1800 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 4-10-13

### ORINDA

- 42 Bates Boulevard, \$1,000,000, 3 Bdrms, 1804 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 4-16-13;  
 Previous Sale: \$937,000, 07-01-04  
 1 Crestview Court, \$1,850,000, 4 Bdrms, 3171 SqFt, 1953 YrBlt, 4-22-13;  
 Previous Sale: \$475,000, 09-03-09  
 11 Dos Posos, \$790,000, 2 Bdrms, 1612 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 4-19-13  
 6 Ellen Court, \$830,000, 3 Bdrms, 1578 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 4-17-13;  
 Previous Sale: \$335,000, 10-16-97  
 29 El Toyonal, \$835,000, 4 Bdrms, 2172 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 4-23-13  
 41 Las Cascadas Road, \$812,500, 3 Bdrms, 2018 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 4-12-13;  
 Previous Sale: \$900,000, 08-31-04  
 125 Meadow Lane, \$1,237,000, 4 Bdrms, 2169 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 4-12-13;  
 Previous Sale: \$418,000, 08-06-96  
 78 Oak Road, \$1,700,000, 5 Bdrms, 3580 SqFt, 2011 YrBlt, 4-24-13;  
 Previous Sale: \$299,000, 02-10-11  
 79 Rheem Boulevard, \$1,325,000, 3 Bdrms, 2652 SqFt, 1946 YrBlt, 4-10-13;  
 Previous Sale: \$245,000, 12-07-87  
 14 Risa Court, \$1,310,000, 4 Bdrms, 1758 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 4-19-13;  
 Previous Sale: \$925,000, 09-04-12  
 11 Rita Way, \$1,287,000, 5 Bdrms, 3314 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 4-18-13  
 25 St. Hill Road, \$1,300,000, 5 Bdrms, 2772 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 4-19-13;  
 Previous Sale: \$510,000, 10-30-98  
 3416 St. Marys Road, \$850,000, 4 Bdrms, 1812 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 4-16-13  
 3432 St. Marys Road, \$850,000, 3 Bdrms, 1756 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 4-10-13;  
 Previous Sale: \$655,000, 09-04-12  
 3078 Sweetbrier Circle, \$868,500, 3 Bdrms, 1511 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 4-11-13;  
 Previous Sale: \$590,000, 09-18-12  
 3178 Teigland Road, \$1,200,000, 4 Bdrms, 3284 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 4-12-13;  
 Previous Sale: \$750,000, 07-13-01  
 5 Sunrise Hill Court, \$1,549,000, 5 Bdrms, 3589 SqFt, 1987 YrBlt, 4-24-13;  
 Previous Sale: \$1,190,000, 04-23-04  
 2 Vista Del Mar, \$1,050,000, 5 Bdrms, 2330 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 4-12-13  
 18 Warford Terrace, \$1,205,000, 4 Bdrms, 2040 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 4-17-13;  
 Previous Sale: \$850,000, 08-14-02

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## ORINDA



New Listing

**6 Las Vegas Court** Likely tear down home in desirable Orinda neighborhood on .40 acre lot. Bring contractor/ investor.

**\$599,000**

## ORINDA



**31 Oak Drive** Charming 1600 square foot home on beautiful setting offering a good value for 4 bedrooms and 2 baths. Vaulted wood beamed ceiling, living-dining room French doors open to brick patio. Tons of tranquility and privacy.

**\$725,000**

## ORINDA



New Listing

**643 Miner Road** Serious fixer on .92 acre creek side lot. Beautiful setting with incredible privacy. Must call agent to show.

**\$850,000**

## ORINDA



New Listing

**154 La Espiral** Situated above Orinda Country Club area, this mid-century traditional offers a wonderful floor plan in private setting. Dwell comfortably in this 2 story, 4+bd/3 ba, remodeled kitchen, 2 decks overlooking trees & flat grassy backyard.

**\$1,199,000**

## ORINDA



**9 Las Piedras** Picturesque 6 bedroom 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.

**\$1,595,000**

## ORINDA



New Listing

**199 Crestview Drive** Stunning 3400 sf home built in 2006 with beautiful architectural detail. Granite kitchen opens to expansive family room with vaulted ceiling, custom fireplace. Outdoor kitchen, huge level lawn. View knoll surrounded by oaks.

**\$1,599,000**

## ORINDA



**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 ambiance, European flair.

**\$2,195,000**

## ORINDA

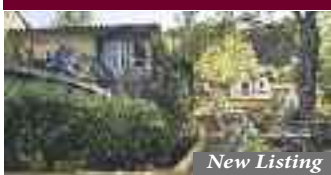


New Listing

**17 Tappan Lane** Vistas across Orinda come alive from all rooms of this spacious 4,155 sf home w/ 6 bd/4 ba & 2 half baths. Inside has high ceilings and is light and bright. Perfect for fun in the sun with yards, decks, pool, & vineyard on 1.15 acres.

**\$2,495,000**

## ORINDA



New Listing

**33 Dias Dorados** Orinda Country Club prime location historical Spanish Hacienda on 1.67 acre spectacular grounds. Beautifully updated, Grand living areas, wine cellar, library, fabulous master, stylish guest house, 4 car garage.

**\$3,950,000**

## MORAGA



Pending

**279 Claudia Court** Beautifully maintained and attractively updated offering 5 bedrooms plus bonus game room and 3 full baths. Wonderful setting with sweeping panoramic views of Mt. Diablo. Rose gardens plus pool and spa.

**\$1,299,000**

## LAFAYETTE



New Listing

**970 2nd Street** Downtown Charmer! Delightful 3bd/2ba ranch circa 1946, with vaulted ceilings, hardwood floors, exposed brick fireplace, great natural light and level private backyard. Bonus studio above the garage and separate parcel.

**\$865,000**

## LAFAYETTE



New Listing

**10 Candlelight Lane** Beautiful 5bd/4ba 3695sf custom trad. on 1.34 ac view lot built in 2004, featuring gourmet eat-in kitchen w/granite open to fam rm w/fplc; mstr BR w/lux bath & 1 BR on street level, large lvl fenced bkyd & patio, 3 car gar. & top schools.

**\$1,650,000**

## CLAYTON



New Listing

**6024 High Street** Beautiful detached downtown patio home built in 2007, 4 beds/ 2.5 baths, 2124 sq. ft. on 5100 sq. ft. lot. Hardwood floors, high ceilings. Great location. Walk out front door to Saturday Farmers Market or coffee.

**\$645,000**

## RICHMOND



New Listing

**6170 Plymouth Avenue** Diamond in the Rough! 3bd/1.5ba w/2850sf Richmond View home that needs lots of TLC but real possibilities. Bring your contractor & investor. Price incl. separate .40 ac lot for possible dvlpmnt. Possible ct confirm. As is sale! No reports.

**\$529,000**

## WALNUT CREEK



New Listing

**1962 Fair Ridge Court** Special location in Summit Ridge neighborhood. 3bd/2.5ba w/2549 sf townhome boasts large sized rooms with vaulted ceilings, abundance of light, all very well maintained & updated. Private courtyard & patio on great cul-de-sac.

**\$699,950**

## WALNUT CREEK



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

**\$2,250,000**



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