

**4<sup>th</sup> Anniversary PARTY AT THE RHEEM**

**CELEBRATION DINNER**  
5:30 PM  
Stair lift dedication

**6:00 PM**  
Reception dinner  
provided by

**MOVIE**  
7:30 PM  
"The Majestic"

**JIM CARREY**  
**THE MAJESTIC**

**Rheem Theatre • Wednesday, June 25th at 1:00 pm, 4:00 pm & 7:30 pm**  
**FREE admission to all screenings of "The Majestic". \$35 for celebration dinner.**  
**Visit lamorindatheatres.com or the Rheem Theatre box office to purchase tickets.**

## Lamorinda Businesses are Pet Friendly

By Sophie Braccini



Ronda Mahoney (left) and her dog, Sparky, are assisted by sales associate Shannon McDaniel at Specialtees Boutique in Lafayette.  
Photo Sophie Braccini

Lamorindans who own and shop with their dogs, and other pets, are welcome by many in the Lamorinda business community. There are regulations, of course – food and live animals don't mix, with the exception of service animals. When in doubt, ask before bringing your pet inside. Following simple rules of respect and courtesy will allow everyone to enjoy a summer shopping experience that includes those faithful furry companions.

"Nowadays we have to allow dogs in stores," said Specialtees Boutique buyer Ann Rubin. "To some people the family dog is more than just a pet; it is just like a kid and owners would find it unacceptable to leave it outside."

Rubin's colleague, Shannon McDaniel, is a fervent advocate for dogs in the Lafayette apparel and accessories store. "Many of our best clients come here with their dogs. Over all our years of operation, we've never had a problem," McDaniel once noticed a customer leave her mastiff in the car. "I told her she could bring it in," she said. The huge animal was on a leash and well behaved. When the customer was ready to try on some clothes, she and her dog were offered the largest dressing room.

McDaniel says that lots of little dogs come to the store, like Ronda Mahoney's Sparky whose name is added to that of his mistress when the store sends out special invitations. "He is always very good when we come here," says Mahoney, "he just follows me everywhere."

Some businesses, like Clocks Etc., dole out dog treats. Others are so welcoming that sometimes dogs don't

want to leave. "I took a lady from the airport back to Orinda with her Yorkshire," recalls Taxi Bleu owner Joseph Teman, "but when we reached our destination, the dog didn't want to get out of the car!"

Nitro Dog in Lafayette is certainly dog friendly, but the bowl of water in front of the store, that once refreshed thirsty dogs, now stands empty. "We have been advised that communal water can spread some types of diseases," says the store manager. "People can come inside and we'll give their pet fresh water."

Some businesses allow dogs with certain restrictions. "We allow dogs only in our lobby area," says Massage Envy co-owner Laura Lott. "This is the rule confirmed by the Board of Barbering and Cosmetology. Service dogs are allowed in the treatment area as long as they do not present a hazard to the person providing the service."

But don't bring your dog to the grocery store or farmers' market. "Dogs are not allowed in food stores," says Open Sesame owner Sue Jun. "It is the Health Department regulation and if I see someone coming in with a dog, even a small one that they carry, I have to ask them to leave it outside."

Jocelyn Habal, assistant director of environmental health for Contra Costa County, confirms that pets are not allowed in food facilities. In fact currently they are not even allowed on outdoor restaurant patios, although the practice is fairly widespread. That may soon change – Assembly Bill 1965, which would give restaurant owners the ability to legally allow dogs in outdoor dining areas, received almost unanimous support from the

Assembly in May and awaits approval by the Senate.

Tom Chea, owner of Papillon Quality Gourmet, relates the story of a little dog that he didn't spot when the owner entered carrying it. Unfortunately someone inadvertently stepped on its tail and the dog reacted violently. "I am extra cautious now and ask people (with pets) to go on the terrace to have their drinks." Other local establishments have a similar policy. The Cooperage allows pets on the patio, and gives them water, if they are leashed. At Terzetto Cuisine in Moraga, Roos Pal agrees that dogs have to be outside, unless they are service dogs.

"Service dogs can go anywhere a human can go," says Moraga resident Rich Laufenberg, who is a breeder custodian for Guide Dogs for the Blind in San Raphael. Service animals are defined by the US Department of Justice as any animal individually trained to provide assistance to an individual with a disability. The only reason a business owner could refuse a service animal would be if it presented a threat to other patrons or disrupted the normal functioning of the business, such as a dog barking in a theater.

"The keys to insuring a pleasant experience for everyone are responsible pet owners who keep their animal under control, and for us to stay attentive to the needs of all of our patrons, making sure they are comfortable in the store whether they like pets or not," concludes McDaniel.

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

## business briefs

**Indigo and Poppy**  
1009 Oak Hill Rd., Lafayette  
(925) 962-9201  
www.indigoandpoppy.com



Image provided

Indigo and Poppy, a new designer showroom, recently opened on Oak Hill Road in Lafayette. It is managed by a group of design professionals and offers home furnishings, accents and gifts.

**Lily Dong Photography**  
3506-D Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette  
(415) 706-0266  
www.lilydongphotography.com

Lily Dong's motto is "Love, Beauty, Glamour." She says the purpose of photography can be to magnify beauty in people and make their love shine. Holding a degree in fine arts, Dong was a couture wedding gown designer for 12 years. The span of her work is large, from professional photographs to natural-looking family pictures and spectacular wedding photos. Visit her website at www.lilydongphotography.com to browse her portfolio. Her new studio is located in the Plaza Center.

**Business Anniversary**  
**Lundgren Construction Turns 25**



Erik Leuteneker (left) and Erik Lundgren are now co-owners of the 25-year-old Lundgren Construction.  
Photo provided

Twenty five years ago, Erik Lundgren started a general construction company specializing in renovation of bathrooms and kitchens, as well as remodeling full homes. The Acalanes High School graduate grew his business steadily. "I've known Erik for many years and appreciate the quality of his workmanship – he remodeled my parents' home," says Erik Leuteneker, who recently decided to partner with Lundgren. Leuteneker currently lives in Moraga and is a Miramonte High School alum. "My background is in building large subdivisions, but now I want to work close to home and contribute to the development of the local business." The company specializes in high-end projects and recently completed sumptuous bathrooms renovations in Orinda and Lafayette. "The market has been picking up very quickly on the tail of the recovery," says Lundgren, "and since the supply for new homes is low in Lamorinda, many people choose to remodel." He says that over the past 25 years he has seen a big evolution in his clients' demands both in terms of material and technology. "Green building is a big thing now, people are requesting the latest equipment, and they are very knowledgeable and sophisticated," explains Lundgren. "Technology is changing rapidly, from water heating, energy efficiency, to grey water recycling. It is an exciting time and a challenge to keep up with it." A challenge the business partners plan to meet for at least another 25 years.

## News from the three Chambers of Commerce

### Chambers Partner for Lamorinda's 4th of July

Orinda invites Lafayette and Moraga businesses to join its 4th of July parade and celebration in the Orinda Community Center Park. It's easy to enter a float, says Chamber President Sylvia Jorgensen. Visit <https://orindaassociation.wufoo.com/forms/m9o7koi0i7v972> to sign up. The form must be completed by June 23. For more information about the event visit [www.orindaassociation.org](http://www.orindaassociation.org).

The Moraga Chamber has placed donation jars in retailers throughout Moraga, Orinda and Lafayette to help raise the money necessary to fund the July 4th fireworks in Moraga, says executive director Kathe Nelson. "These fireworks are solely funded by donations and we are asking everyone to give a little and keep them going."

### Chamber Mega-Mixer on July 9

Picnic at the Grove with Cal Shakes, 100 Shakespeare Way in Orinda from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Appetizers provided by local restaurants, raffle prizes, networking with members of the chambers of commerce of Lafayette, Moraga, Orinda and surrounding areas. Transportation will be available from Wilder. Discounted pre-sale tickets for Cal Shakes production of "The Comedy of Errors" will be available for purchase.

### Lafayette

Ribbon cutting at 5 p.m. on Thursday, June 19 for Lily Dong Photography, 3506-D Mt. Diablo Blvd. in the Plaza Center behind Noah's Bagels and Peet's Coffee.

### Moraga

The 3rd annual Moraga Chamber Golf Tournament will be played on Monday, July 14. This event is the chamber's largest fundraising event of the year. Proceeds support the chamber's many community and business-based programs. The cost is \$175 per player and includes golf, BBQ lunch, prizes, dinner, refreshments, and raffle. For more information or to sign up, visit [www.moragachamber.org](http://www.moragachamber.org).

### Orinda

Chamber ribbon cutting and reception for the Orinda Arts Council at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 19 at the Orinda Library Gallery, 26 Orinda Way. The Orinda Arts Council, which has been a champion of the arts in Orinda since 1950, is joining the Orinda Chamber of Commerce

## Celebrating an Anniversary?

If your business is celebrating a significant anniversary (5, 10, 20 years or more ...) send us a photo of your business, the owner(s) or the staff with specific information about your business and what you're celebrating, and we'll include it in an upcoming issue.

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