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Lafayette Kindergarten and TK registration dates
 Registration for Lafayette students entering TK and Kindergarten for the 2019-20 school year will take place Jan. 14 and 15. Additional information can be found at www.lafsd.org.
 In addition, an informational presentation, "A Roadmap to Kindergarten," will be held at the Burton Valley Elementary multi-purpose room at 561 Merriewood Drive from 6 to 7 p.m. Jan. 20 for all interested parents. This presentation is for parents only.

Kindergarten/TK registration times (Jan. 14 and 15):

Burton Valley Elementary: 9 to 11 a.m. and 1 to 3 p.m.
 561 Merriewood Drive, Lafayette (925) 927-3550

Happy Valley Elementary: 9 to 11 a.m.
 3855 Happy Valley Road, Lafayette (925) 927-3560

Lafayette Elementary: 9 to 11 a.m.
 950 Moraga Road, Lafayette (925) 927-3570

Springhill Elementary: 9 to 11 a.m.
 3301 Springhill Road, Lafayette (925) 927-3580

Sarah's story – a Lamorinda connection
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cruise was proposed to me, I had a date to aim towards.

"My older sister and her husband flew out to join me at what was a very emotional time for me having to say goodbye."

Together they took a British ship, which Sarah says was most fitting as it sailed out under the Golden Gate Bridge. The voyage brought them via the Panama Canal to Southampton, England.

"The time spent on the cruise was a great transition for me. After one month at sea I stepped on British soil again where my sister and husband made me feel most welcome at their home in beautiful Porthcurno, Cornwall."

Coincidentally, on the day that Brian died the other flat in the Victorian property above her sister's Porthcurno home came on the market. It remained unsold until December when, with plans to renovate for herself and to run it as a B&B, Sarah and her sister finally purchased it. "It was almost as though it was waiting for me to return," reflects Sarah.

Sarah says it was strange at first being back in the UK permanently after 27 years away. "It was the little things that I had to get used to again, like the climate. Hearing different phrases ... my American accent was very strong, which people found amusing.

"I continue to stay in touch with friends when I get a free moment to email," Sarah says. "Although I may be thousands of miles away, they'll never be forgotten. Since I am now a dual citizen, I feel I have the best of both worlds."

Author's note: If it was a coincidence that I met Sarah 6,000 miles away in a remote village, imagine Sarah's reaction less than a week later when Madison's property-owner Joan Bruzzone, coincidentally on a tour of England, also wandered into the theater.

And it all started with a tea towel.

Joan Bruzzone runs into Sarah 6,000 miles from home in a second coincidence in one week.

Brian had suffered throughout his life from chronic asthma, which Sarah says became crippling at times, especially during heat waves.

"He had both knee and hip replacements and eventually remained on disability. I was able to take care of him in between working a full-time job. We rented a small cottage in Pleasant Hill where we were quite happy," says Sarah.

Sarah took six weeks off work to recover from her own knee surgery in June 2015.

In July of that year Brian passed away unexpectedly. "He passed away the first day I returned back to work. I never did get the chance to tell him how my first day was. It was, in fact, the hottest day of the year," she says.

Sarah was devastated but remembers the love and support she had from her Lamorinda community and in particular from her work friends.

"It was Dana Lim (manager of McCaulou's in Lafayette) who from that moment on took me under her wing and took care of me," says Sarah. "I continued to work with the tremendous support of all my work colleagues throughout the company, for which I am forever grateful."

With her world completely changed, Sarah says she had no doubts that she would return home to England to be with family. "It was just a question of when. I had the tedious task of selling everything and emotionally being ready to do so. When the idea of going home on the last leg of the world

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Does Moraga RecycleSmart?
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Disposing of old, unused medications into the green drop box.

Local residents can also learn simple ways to make an impact, such as by composting. RecycleSmart sponsors annual community workshops and is offering a home composting workshop focusing on worm composting, or vermicomposting, from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Dec. 1 at the Heather Farm Community Center in Walnut Creek.

"Worm composting is a very compact and easy composting method," explains Louisiana. "It's a great opportunity for people who are interested in composting at home, but don't want the 'work' of a backyard bin. It's a great introduction for families with children, and the perfect composting method for residents who live in condos or smaller spaces, and even classrooms!"

To register online visit www.recyclesmart.org/workshops.