

Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 12 Issue 21 Wednesday, December 12, 2018



Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian

...read on Page D12

Simple reminders to make the holidays bright

By Amanda Eck



Photo provided

Can you believe we are in the home stretch of 2018? Where did the year go? It's like they say, the days are long but the years are short. I am sure most of you are gearing up for the holidays: shopping, baking, wrapping gifts, and getting your home ready for guests. Today I thought I'd share a few tips to keep you from getting frazzled during these last few weeks of 2018.

Keep it simple: Keep the holiday décor to a minimum. No need to haul out the 252 boxes of decorations this year. Keep the set up and take down to a minimum and have more time to just "be". Use fresh poinsettias or greenery to decorate your home. Fill decorative bowls with ornaments and add sprigs of greenery. Tie bows around lamps or vases. And candles, candles, and more candles. There is nothing more magical than candlelight during the holiday season.

Buy, don't bake: Anyone else have 342 invites to holiday parties? From school parties, work events, book club cookie exchanges, mom's groups, you name it there is a party happening almost every day of the week. How about this year you step away from the oven and head to your local grocery store for some yummy baked goods. Place them in fun decorative tins or wrap them in clear cellophane and tie with a festive bow. Give yourself permission to take it easy this season. No one needs to know you didn't battle all afternoon with the hand mixer.

Write it down: Instead of gifts this year to every aunt, uncle, second cousin and neighbor, what about writing a heartfelt note? We live in such a digital age that handwritten notes of gratitude and encouragement are few and far between. Why not take an afternoon to sit down and write a letter to someone telling him or her how much they mean to you? Believe me, that letter will mean much more than a hastily purchased gift.

Brian Tracy wrote, "The greatest gift you can give to others is the gift of unconditional love and acceptance."

Wrap as you go: Who needs to spend Christmas Eve catching up on wrapping chores? I'll admit gift-wrapping is one of my least favorite jobs. I tend to leave it to the last minute and then I am overwhelmed with stacks of gifts asking myself "why did I buy this?" and "who did I buy this for?" Some simple things to make the task easier: use Post-it notes on gifts so you can keep track of who gets what. Wrap gifts as soon as you purchase them. Or better yet, forgo the wrapping and instead use a decorative bag tied with ribbon!

Just say no: Don't overbook yourself! This time of year it is easy to find yourself invited to multiple events and have something to attend every weekend in the month of December.

... continued on Page D4



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RECENTLY SOLD REPRESENTED SELLER



19 Dos Posos, Orinda



113 Estates Dr, Orinda



1980/82 Oak Grove Rd, WC



69 Barbara Rd, Orinda



2121 Risdon Rd, Concord



39 Barbara Rd, Orinda

RECENTLY SOLD REPRESENTED BUYER



113 Estates Dr, Orinda



19 Dos Posos, Orinda



88 Davis Rd, Orinda



24 Camino Sobrante, Orinda



1 Poco Paseo, Orinda



1980/82 Oak Grove Rd, WC



1013 Windsor Dr, Lafayette



15 Parkway Ct, Orinda



112 Saint Germain, Pleasant Hill

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Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

| City | Last reported: | LOWEST AMOUNT: | HIGHEST AMOUNT: |
|-----------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| LAFAYETTE | 20 | \$645,000 | \$4,825,000 |
| MORAGA | 6 | \$1,260,000 | \$1,545,000 |
| ORINDA | 10 | \$950,000 | \$3,268,000 |

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

- 20 Beaumont Court, \$1,450,000, 4 Bdrms, 2366 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 11-02-18,
- 3567 Boyer Circle, \$1,705,000, 4 Bdrms, 2210 SqFt, 1938 YrBlt, 11-02-18,
Previous Sale: \$1,610,000, 06-22-15
- 3983 Canyon Road, \$4,825,000, 5 Bdrms, 5135 SqFt, 2008 YrBlt, 11-01-18,
Previous Sale: \$1,450,000, 03-20-06
- 5 Greenvalley Drive, \$2,700,000, 4 Bdrms, 4048 SqFt, 1922 YrBlt, 10-30-18,
Previous Sale: \$1,950,000, 04-27-13
- 3788 Happy Valley Road, \$2,850,000, 3 Bdrms, 1879 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 10-24-18,
- 4016 Los Arabis Drive, \$2,650,000, 4 Bdrms, 3485 SqFt, 1998 YrBlt, 10-24-18,
Previous Sale: \$2,275,000, 07-06-06
- 3186 Lucas Circle, \$1,000,000, 3 Bdrms, 1421 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 10-30-18,
Previous Sale: \$102,000, 02-01-79
- 519 McBride Drive, \$1,655,500, 4 Bdrms, 2223 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 10-29-18
Previous Sale: \$510,000, 02-04-14
- 3838 Palo Alto Drive, \$2,350,000, 4 Bdrms, 3440 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 10-31-18
- 181191 Pleasant Hill Circle, \$1,787,000, 4 Bdrms, 2511 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt,
10-25-18, Previous Sale: \$1,600,000, 04-07-17
- 3797 Quail Ridge Road, \$1,295,000, 4 Bdrms, 2189 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 10-26-18
- 3266 Quandt Road, \$900,000, 3 Bdrms, 1578 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 11-02-18,
- 809 Rosedale Avenue, \$1,320,000, 3 Bdrms, 1499 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 10-31-18,
Previous Sale: \$1,150,000, 05-13-16
- 3330 St Marys Road, \$1,420,000, 3 Bdrms, 1866 SqFt, 1940 YrBlt, 10-23-18,
Previous Sale: \$937,000, 05-14-10
- 1011 Sunnybrook Drive, \$1,670,000, 4 Bdrms, 2556 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 10-26-18
- 1126 Upper Happy Valley Road, \$2,650,000, 4 Bdrms, 4495 SqFt, 1947
YrBlt, 10-29-18
- 3357 Victoria Avenue, \$1,653,500, 3 Bdrms, 2016 SqFt, 1941 YrBlt, 11-02-18,
- 3113 Withers Avenue, \$1,495,000, 4 Bdrms, 2498 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 10-26-18,
Previous Sale: \$1,108,000, 03-18-15
- 1004 Woodbury Road #101, \$1,525,000, 2 Bdrms, 1495 SqFt, 2015 YrBlt,
10-30-18, Previous Sale: \$1,337,000, 05-04-16

... continued on Page D10



DRE#01882902

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LAMORINDA

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Warm Wishes

to one and all from
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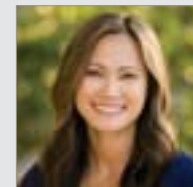
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TINA FRECHMAN



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VALERIE DURANTINI



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Where Is The Market Headed?

With the recent volatility in the stock market combined with rising interest rates and the lengthy bull market run since 2009, more of our clients are asking us, "Where is the market headed?" While none of us have eyes into the future and all markets are subject to short-term fluctuations, there are a few local market considerations that are important to keep in mind that bode well for the long-term value of Lamorinda real estate.

The Bay Area Council Economic Institute and McKinsey & Company recently released the 10th edition of their Bay Area Economic Profile. A few key conclusions included, "Even though these economic success trajectories have been almost unprecedented, the Bay Area economy is still currently on the upswing" and "In 2017, 45 percent of US venture capital investments were made in the Bay Area." Almost half of US venture investments are in the Bay Area!

Recently, CNBC released the Upstart 100, its annual list of the 100 most promising start-ups around the world. There are 33 Bay Area companies on the list. Of these 33 companies, 22 are in San Francisco or the East Bay. This list is another example that the Silicon Valley is moving north to San Francisco and the East Bay making Lamorinda a viable commute option for today's "new-tech" workforce. Fifteen years ago, you would have only seen one or two San Francisco based start-up companies on the list as most Bay Area companies would have been located on the Peninsula, which has historically been the heart of the Silicon Valley. Today 90% of "new-tech" is San Francisco based and moving east.

While it is always very difficult to predict short-term market changes, there is not a more desirable location than the Bay Area, and specifically Lamorinda. History has proven that over the long run our real estate market will appreciate.



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Our unconditional commitment to our community, education and sense of place will continue to propel our market for years and generations to come. We look forward to hearing from you with your real estate questions.



MARTIN
HOMES

COMPASS

Simple reminders to make the holidays bright ... continued from Page D1



Photos provided

It's okay to say no to your Aunt Gertie's sister's best friends cookie exchange. Keep your holiday commitments to a minimum.

Be present, instead of presents: What if we committed this season to less "things" and more "time" for others and for ourselves? What if we turned off our phones and TVs and had dinner with our family by candlelight? Or hired a sitter and surprised our spouse with a spontaneous Tuesday night date? Called up that friend you haven't spoken to in months just to say you're thinking about them. And what about you? How present are you with yourself? Are you taking time to just be with yourself? Are you OK to just sit in silence with no email alerts or Facebook notifications? Why not take a walk alone or head to bed 30 minutes early to enjoy a good book? The gifts, the parties, the goodies, and the family will all still be waiting for you, but you will be

able to present a better you by taking the time to be.

I hope these tips help keep you from getting frazzled this holiday season. And I wish you and yours a wonderful Holiday and a very Happy New Year! See you in 2019!



As the Owner and Principal Designer of Lamorinda-based Amanda Carol Interiors, Amanda Eck believes your home's interior should be both approachable and well-appointed. She often asserts, "Beauty is a necessity."

With a distinct sense of style that mixes contemporary and classic design she fashions spaces that are both elegant and inviting. Her design aesthetic is inspired by anything visual but especially fashion, architecture and art.

Visit <http://amandacarolinteriors.com> for more design ideas.





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Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year

During this magical time of year, we'd like to stop and express our gratitude towards our clients, friends, and community. Thank you for letting us help you find your place in the world.

On another note, we cannot wait to show you what is COMING SOON for 2019!



PADDY KEHOE TEAM

The Paddy Kehoe Team



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We wish you and your family all
the best this Holiday Season!




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//NEW LISTING

Charming Ranch Style Home in Walkers Paradise

Darling Ranch Home in Burton Valley



375 St Marys Road, Lafayette

This fabulous single story ranch home is fully fenced for privacy yet has great access to all the amenities of the highly sought after Burton Valley neighborhood in Lafayette. The open floor plan with high ceilings and tons of natural light provides a great room to enjoy with family and friends. Wonderful yard coupled with the walkability and biking offered by this location means no car pools are needed!

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|-----------------|--------------|-----------------------|
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Lamorinda Market Activity

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Terri Bates Walker
Broker | J.D.

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Lamorinda Home Sales recorded ... continued from Page D2

MORAGA

- 2135 Ascot Drive #17, \$645,000, 3 Bdrms, 1640 SqFt, 1969 YrBlt, 10-22-18
762 Augusta Drive, \$1,130,000, 2 Bdrms, 1649 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 10-26-18
182 Fernwood Drive, \$1,260,000, 4 Bdrms, 2955 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 10-30-18,
31 Fieldbrook Place, \$1,545,000, 4 Bdrms, 2152 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 10-31-18,
Previous Sale: \$950,000, 04-15-13
219 Paseo Del Rio, \$1,375,000, 4 Bdrms, 2340 SqFt, 1969 YrBlt, 10-26-18
14 Ravenhill Lane, \$1,450,000, 4 Bdrms, 2270 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 10-26-18

ORINDA

- 30 Charles Hill Circle, \$3,268,000, 5 Bdrms, 4507 SqFt, 2017 YrBlt, 10-25-18,
Previous Sale: \$1,460,000, 08-26-16
98 Coral Drive, \$1,140,000, 4 Bdrms, 1649 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 10-26-18,
35 Crestview Drive, \$1,950,000, 4 Bdrms, 4176 SqFt, 1999 YrBlt, 10-26-18,
20 El Castillo, \$2,399,000, 4 Bdrms, 3653 SqFt, 1998 YrBlt, 10-31-18,
Previous Sale: \$2,272,500, 05-17-17
144 Glorietta Boulevard, \$950,000, 3 Bdrms, 1560 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 10-23-18
32 Las Vegas Road, \$1,525,000, 4 Bdrms, 1966 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 10-24-18,
Previous Sale: \$800,000, 04-25-03
300 Miller Court, \$2,500,000, 4 Bdrms, 3304 SqFt, 2013 YrBlt, 10-31-18,
Previous Sale: \$1,970,500, 10-03-13
432 Miner Road, \$1,150,000, 3 Bdrms, 2193 SqFt, 1939 YrBlt, 10-29-18,
Previous Sale: \$160,000, 08-01-77
32 Orchard Road, \$1,862,000, 4 Bdrms, 2820 SqFt, 1946 YrBlt, 10-30-18,
Previous Sale: \$1,998,000, 02-24-16
91 Redwood Terrace, \$1,500,000, 4 Bdrms, 3502 SqFt, 1982 YrBlt, 10-26-18,
Previous Sale: \$1,130,000, 06-06-14



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Happy Holidays!

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Happy Holidays

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CalRE #01501769



2018 Sales



613 Murray Lane,
Lafayette
\$2,295,000
Represented Seller



420 Westcliffe Circle,
Walnut Creek
\$632,000
Represented Seller



132 Northcreek Cir-
cle, Walnut Creek
\$640,000
Represented Seller



518 Bavarian Ct.
Lafayette
\$1,440,000
Represented Buyers



5370 Meadow Wood
Place, Concord
\$670,000
Represented Sellers



1899 Stratton Circle,
Walnut Creek
\$860,000
Represented Buyer



805 Arlington Way,
Martinez
\$640,000
Represented Buyer



1965 Ascot #10,
Moraga
\$500,000
Represented Sellers



1691 Saint Germain
Place, Concord
\$870,000
Represented Seller



1555 Beechwood Drive,
Martinez
\$650,000
Represented Buyer



1240 Apple Drive,
Concord
\$529,000
Represented Buyers



2607 Grande Camino,
Walnut Creek
\$1,190,000
Represented Sellers



1170 Maywood Lane,
Martinez
\$393,500
Represented Buyers

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"Striking a Chord in Our Community"

Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian

Joy to the world!

By Cynthia Brian

"Only those who go where few have gone can see what few have seen." ~ Buddha



Christmas delight at Cynthia's fire chief nephew's home. Merry Christmas!

Did you know that poinsettias grow into trees? Or that mother's tongue, also known as snake plant, is an excellent fence barrier? Without a thought from whence a plant derives, most of us buy our indoor plants at nurseries, grocery stores, and big-box centers. Our holiday décor includes colorful tropical specimens that thrive inside.

On a quest to discover the flora and fauna that bring joy to our world, I traveled to Cuba with a program in support of the Cuban people. Throughout my journey, the diverse and unique landscape constantly changed as our small group of six plus an informative Cuban guide hiked through nature reserves, parks, rainforests, and into the magnificent Escambray Mountains. In 1492 Christopher Columbus landed in Cuba, describing it as "the most beautiful land that human eyes had ever seen." Supporting 7,500 species of flowering plants, with more

than 53 percent being endemic, Cuba is a garden lovers paradise.

The rivers, grottos, caves and waterfalls were dotted with gigantic tree ferns, indigenous species of orchids, tillandsias (air plants), bromeliads and palms as well as banana, mango, papaya, orange and grapefruit trees. Philodendrons twined up 50-foot trees and Ixora commonly called jungle flame or jungle geranium, firespike and ginger flanked the narrow footpaths. Fields of sugar cane, coffee plants and tobacco straddled the lowlands and hillsides. We traversed log bridges over rushing rivers in Topas de Collantes and were mesmerized by the delicate mimosas. Their leaves instantly closed with the touch of a finger. We tiptoed on rocks crossing trickling streams and swam in the poceta de cristal or crystal pond under a waterfall near the top of the mountain. A sign on the tree read *salto los desparramaderos*: translated means

"jump the scatters." Chuckling, we jumped numerous "scatters." Tall thick spires of bamboo led to the mouth of the river where rocky stalactites hung from the ceiling of caves and the rocky formations of stalagmites rose from the cavern floor.

We were fortunate enough to witness the unique Cuban national bird, the trogan tocororo, sitting on a limb in the forest. Its striking feathers are red, white and blue, reflecting those of the national flag. It is said that this endemic bird found only in Cuba will die of sadness in captivity, symbolizing the desire of the people to always be free. It was called *guatini* by the Taino Indians and is also known as the onomatopoeic *tooloro* because of its song. At lunch one day under a thatched canopy, we met the largest endemic land mammal in Cuba, the friendly and curious social rodent, the Cuban Hutia. Prized as a rare delicacy, it lives in trees and is almost extinct because of over-harvesting. We stopped at a lunch hut in the Zapata Swamp another afternoon but didn't see any Cuban crocodiles, an endangered species found exclusively in Cuba. ... continued on next Page



*Firespike, *odononema strictum*, attracts hummingbirds and beneficial insects.*

The produce on this island is always organic, fresh and delicious. When I commented about the importance of growing and eating organic, our guide informed us that farming organically was not a choice but a necessity because the cost of fertilizers, pesticides and insecticides are prohibitively expensive. Growing organic is cheaper than using chemicals in farming. Fruits and vegetables are only eaten in season. Pineapple, guava and bananas are the sweetest I've ever tasted anywhere. In Havana, carts of tomatoes, peppers, lettuces, beets, bananas and cucumbers are pushed through the streets, offering a daily rolling farmer's market to the populace.

Nature is what attracted me to Cuba and it didn't disappoint. After hiking, biking, snorkeling, kayaking, bird watching, horseback riding and examining the flora and fauna of the island, it was the people that stole my heart. They have so little economically speaking, yet they are joyful, full of life, and welcoming to Americans. In the casa particulares where we stayed, tiny Christmas trees or frayed holiday trinkets brightened the small rooms where families gathered, a far cry from the Disneyesque Christmas spectacle I'm accustomed to in my family. Speaking Spanish to several Cubans, I learned of dreams to travel and hopes for a freer future.

Not many Americans have had the opportunity to visit this impoverished, yet beautiful Caribbean nation. If you are one of those individuals who want to see what few have seen, consider supporting the Cuban people. You'll be rewarded with a visit of joy, diversity, and plenty of grateful hugs!



A happy coleus is bright and pink.



The fruit of the Cuban Royal Palm is a favorite of birds.



The glorybower vine in bloom in Cienfuegos, Cuba.

Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for bringing a slice of Cuba to your landscape

Cuban plants that make great houseplants in California:

Ixora, commonly called jungle flame, flame of the woods, or jungle geranium with clusters of star shaped flowers.

Poinsettia, a *Euphorbia pulcherrima*, is the most well-known holiday flower. Although red is the most popular color, the bracts are available in pink, white, salmon, and bi-colors. Poinsettias love warmth and humidity and in Cuba grow to be trees.

Tillandsias, the largest genus in the bromeliad family, are air plants that will cling to anything. Natural light, soaking and misting will keep them happy.

Bromeliads, add a touch of the tropics to every home. With flowers of pink, red and maroon, they require minimal care. Fill the cup at the base with water and let them thrive.

Philodendrons are easy care houseplants. Vining philodendrons need a pole to climb; non-climbing will grow upright without any support. They like bright, indirect sunlight, and enjoy an occasional vacation outdoors in the shade.

Snake plant, also known as mother's tongue, is one of the air freshener plants. It requires almost no care at all and will keep you breathing freely.

Mimosa pudica, a perennial herb in the pea family, is the touch-me-not-plant. When touched it closes its leaves, titillating audiences.

Cuban plants to grow in your garden:

Gloryblowers (*Clerodendrum*) make excellent choices for trellises, poles, and other structures in full sun as climbers. Since they are tropical, they need to be protected from frost.

Coleus, painted nettle plant, grows outdoors when it is warm, but being a tender specimen, are best grown as a container or houseplant.

Royal Palm will grow to 60 feet in frost-free areas and is moderately drought resistant, bringing the sway of the island inland.

Bamboo is a fast growing giant grass that makes an excellent privacy screen. Beware, certain species of bamboo can take over, breaking concrete and sidewalks.

Firespike, *odononema strictum*, is an evergreen shrub that tolerates drought producing brilliant panicles of tubular waxy flowers summer through winter.

Ginger, both ornamental and edible, is easy to grow and incredibly pretty. To grow edible ginger, just break off a piece of a healthy, plump ginger root that you buy at the store and plant in the location you want. Leaves die back in winter. Harvest whenever you need to add spice to life!

Look around your house and garden to identify what botanicals you are growing with a Cuban origin. Wishing you a beautiful holiday season of joy, peace, gratitude, and love.

Happy Gardening. Happy Growing.
Feliz Navidad y Feliz Jánuca!

Cynthia Brian



Arabian coffee beans growing in Cuba. Photos Cynthia Brian



A philodendron climbs a tree in the Cuban forest.



Fresh vegetables on a rolling cart in Havana.



Ixora, scarlet jungle flame grows throughout the rain forests.



Cynthia Brian shaded by a poinsettia tree in full bloom

Cynthia Brian, The Goddess Gardener, raised in the vineyards of Napa County, is a New York Times best-selling author, actor, radio personality, speaker, media and writing coach as well as the Founder and Executive Director of Be the Star You Are!® 501 c3. Tune into Cynthia's Radio show and order her books at www.StarStyleRadio.com.

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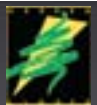
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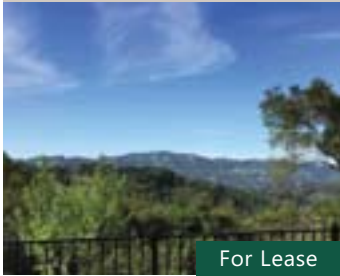
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