

Lamorinda

OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 13 Issue 9 Wednesday, June 26, 2019



Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian ... read on Page D16

Feng Shui

Deliberate design from the ground up



Photo provided

At home, the water element can be activated by placing a fountain in the 'Career' area of a front yard like at this Lafayette home. You can also add koi ponds, small waterfalls, lush vegetation and fragrant flowers.

By Michele Duffy

The Five Elements of Tibetan Bon and Chinese Taoist Feng Shui are involved in all dimensions and the role of the Five Elements is often an important detail that is missed with even the most well-intended interior design-

ers, general contractors and architects.

What "looks gorgeous" may not, from a Feng Shui perspective, be a safe and nourishing space in terms of sleeping and living. Feng Shui aims to attract the Qi you want most and retain that energetic in the dwelling, thus making room for the person and life for which you aspire. Kitchens and

bedrooms should be auspiciously placed in the interior or back of the home, with all bedroom or office beds or desks placed in the "Commanding Position." Bathrooms should never be placed in the central channel of the property, to avoid placement in the "Health & Wellness" area of the Bagua (see diagram on Page D7).

Design collaboration "from the ground up," to quote one of my favorite teachers, Dr. Edgar Sung, involves a property starting with excellent natural light, an even land plot located above the road, and gardens. The key mantra in the Feng Shui 'Land-Form' design principle is "water in front and mountain behind" for any structure. The outside of the property represents yang and inside the dwelling represents yin.

Designing interior spaces within well-situated buildings allows for a healthy Qi flow, and creates within our structures of respite and renewal, grounded strength, resilience and ease. Reading the property and assessing and auditing any property includes understanding the environment from an energetic perspective.

Feng Shui is second only to any daily spiritual practice that creates joy from within, and might include sitting meditation, yoga, journaling, or hiking in nature. It's important to note that when done in combination with intention and the right motivation, the results can be astounding and like these other practices, Feng Shui as a practice is ongoing, and is never 'one and done'.

The intensity and complexity of the Five Elements is not a quick study and for any Feng Shui expert the desire to learn extensively about the Five Elements in various contexts is tantamount to applying them skillfully.

... continued on Page D6

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Lamorinda home sales recorded

City	Last reported	Lowest amount	Highest amount
LAFAYETTE	17	\$627,000	\$3,488,000
MORAGA	15	\$546,000	\$1,935,000
ORINDA	13	\$150,000	\$3,200,000

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 you by California REsource. Neither Cal REsource nor this publication are liable for errors or omissions.

LAFAYETTE

- 975 1st Street, \$1,375,000, 3 Bdrms, 1510 SqFt, 1938 YrBlt, 05-17-19,
Previous Sale: \$850,000, 05-22-14
- 1238 Barott Road, \$1,427,000, 3 Bdrms, 1931 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 05-13-19,
Previous Sale: \$227,500, 05-01-88
- 980 Condit Road, \$1,125,000, 4 Bdrms, 1976 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 05-08-19
- 5 Gilmore Court, \$1,384,000, 4 Bdrms, 2487 SqFt, 1953 YrBlt, 05-09-19
- 1142 Glen Road, \$3,488,000, 5 Bdrms, 4520 SqFt, 2014 YrBlt, 05-09-19,
Previous Sale: \$3,495,000, 04-10-15
- 3353 Hillside Terrace, \$1,395,000, 2 Bdrms, 2186 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt, 05-15-19
- 3286 Isola Way, \$2,020,000, 4 Bdrms, 3080 SqFt, 1979 YrBlt, 05-07-19,
Previous Sale: \$1,975,000, 07-24-17
- 3274 Marlene Drive, \$627,000, 3 Bdrms, 1160 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 05-10-19
- 793 Moraga Road, \$986,000, 2 Bdrms, 1057 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 05-10-19,
Previous Sale: \$700,000, 02-23-18
- 11 Northridge Lane, \$2,080,000, 4 Bdrms, 4398 SqFt, 1990 YrBlt, 05-16-19,
Previous Sale: \$1,325,000, 11-22-02
- 903 Oak Street, \$1,225,000, 3 Bdrms, 1512 SqFt, 1941 YrBlt, 05-07-19,
Previous Sale: \$210,000, 06-01-89
- 1123 Rahara Drive, \$2,800,000, 4 Bdrms, 3567 SqFt, 2007 YrBlt, 05-06-19,
Previous Sale: \$1,900,000, 09-02-09
- 506 Silverado Drive, \$1,585,000, 4 Bdrms, 2927 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 05-10-19,
Previous Sale: \$1,435,000, 05-07-18
- 600 Sky Hy Circle, \$1,715,000, 4 Bdrms, 2598 SqFt, 1976 YrBlt, 05-17-19,
Previous Sale: \$1,600,000, 06-15-16
- 3399 St Marys Road, \$1,225,000, 3 Bdrms, 1882 SqFt, 1979 YrBlt, 05-17-19,
Previous Sale: \$725,500, 03-18-13
- 1087 Upper Happy Valley Road, \$1,770,000, 4 Bdrms, 2049 SqFt, 1947
YrBlt, 05-09-19, Previous Sale: \$835,000, 03-04-04
- 1211 Vacation Drive, \$1,385,000, 4 Bdrms, 2069 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 05-10-19

MORAGA

- 2129 Ascot Drive #14, \$546,000, 2 Bdrms, 1314 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 05-15-19,
Previous Sale: \$117,000, 06-01-88
- 904 Augusta Drive, \$1,225,000, 3 Bdrms, 2710 SqFt, 1988 YrBlt, 05-17-19,
Previous Sale: \$799,000, 11-05-13
- 10 Brandt Drive, \$1,750,000, 5 Bdrms, 3692 SqFt, 1985 YrBlt, 05-10-19,
Previous Sale: \$1,608,000, 10-03-17
- 435 Chalda Way, \$675,000, 2 Bdrms, 1170 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 05-09-19,
Previous Sale: \$475,000, 02-05-05
- 16 Hammond Place, \$1,100,000, 3 Bdrms, 1597 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 05-13-19,
Previous Sale: \$640,000, 01-29-02
- 533 Moraga Road #230, \$700,000, 2706 SqFt, 2008 YrBlt, 05-10-19,
Previous Sale: \$756,000, 02-13-14
- 1521 Moraga Way, \$770,000, 2 Bdrms, 1635 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 05-13-19
- 110 Quintas Lane, \$1,800,000, 4 Bdrms, 2472 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 05-17-19,
Previous Sale: \$1,600,000, 04-28-14
- 11 Redwing Place, \$1,555,000, 4 Bdrms, 2202 SqFt, 1968 YrBlt, 05-15-19
- 450 Rheem Boulevard, \$650,000, 2 Bdrms, 1170 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 05-10-19,
Previous Sale: \$475,000, 07-02-15
- 1345 Rimer Drive, \$1,475,000, 4 Bdrms, 2191 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 05-15-19,
Previous Sale: \$1,105,000, 05-03-14
- 82 Sanders Ranch Road, \$1,900,000, 5 Bdrms, 3555 SqFt, 1988 YrBlt, 05-14-19

... continued on Page D15

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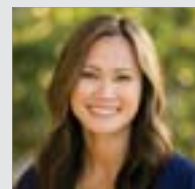
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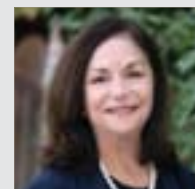
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Just listed in the Trail Neighborhood



Location! Location! Location! Charming 1,620 sf 3 bedroom home with 2 car garage in the heart of the Trail neighborhood. Kitchen overlooks the backyard, formal dining room opens to a great family room. Hardwood floors throughout with lots of light and framed with a picket fence. Close to Lafayette Library, Lafayette Elementary School, Stanley Middle School, the Trail and BART.

3473 Moraga Blvd, Lafayette

3 Bed | 1.5 Bath | 2-Car Garage | 1,620 Sq Ft | \$1,095,000
Lafayette Trail Neighborhood | 3473MoragaBlvd.com



This private and spacious 4 bedroom, 4 bath home, with in-law unit sits on nearly 6 acres in Briones on the Orinda border. This stunning gated estate offers the best of both worlds with spectacular views, horse stables, and minutes to Lafayette and Orinda. The ultimate in suburban country living.

1290 Bear Creek Rd, Briones

4 Bed | 4 Bath | 3,449 Sq Ft | 5.97 Acres | \$1,595,000
1290BearCreek.com

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Summer Market

So many sellers that we meet seem genuinely surprised that Summer is not the best time to sell your home that we felt it was worth writing about. Many sellers have shared that they always believed Summer was prime selling season. We push clients to prep and sell before summer break for a multitude of reasons. Motivated and educated buyers know that school enrollment is early spring in Lamorinda and if a buyer wants to enroll in the designated neighborhood school, they need to be the early bird. In the Spring grasses are greener, flowers are blooming and are not exposed to the intense sun in the Summer months. Also, buyers often receive their end of year bonus in December and the anxious buyers find a home before Summer rolls around.

Families who live in Oakland or San Francisco who are looking to buy in Lamorinda monetarily commit to private school if they have not found a home by mid-June. Not to mention when school gets out many families leave for vacation and are resigned that they will wait until the Fall or another year to move.

What does this mean if you need to sell your home in the summer? Pricing is everything. With the motivated buyers either locked down in a new home or resigned to waiting another year it is paramount that potential buyers get off the fence because they feel there is value and an opportunity that they can't pass up. There are buyers who continue to look through the end of the year, but they are the ones that want to make sure the value is there.

Homes that look perfect and are tailored to the tastes of the young buyer continue to demand a premium year-round.



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MARTIN
HOMES

COMPASS

Feng Shui

Deliberate design from the ground up



Photo provided

The Fire Element is activated with red, like these gorgeous red flowers, placed in the Fame area of this Orinda home.

... continued from Page D1

Each of the Five Elements has a yin and yang aspect. So for example, yin Fire is a candle and yang Fire is an active volcano or another example, yin Wood is bamboo and flowers, and yang Wood are trees.

Applying the Five Elements and with careful skill is centrally important to positively enhance the interior and exterior design.

The Five Elements are either "Creative" or "Productive," such as water feeding wood, wood creating fire, fire producing earth, earth creating metal and metal creating water. The interesting interplay between these elements is that they can be dependent on one another – for example, one has great difficulty in a successful career (water) if the reputation (fire) is not strong, and without a strong reputation it may mean career challenges.

To enhance the water element, and thus "Career, Life Path/Journey" add Feng Shui fountains and moving water to the home and yard, use "water" colors of black and blue, integrate wavy shapes into your design, especially in the middle area of your home.

... continued on next Page

To enhance the fire element, and thus the “Fame and Reputation” area, add candles, red textiles, planters, safe fire pits and grills to your home and yard directly opposite from the career area in the middle far wall or middle backyard. Fire colors are red and red-purple, and shapes should be triangular, pointy, or prickly.

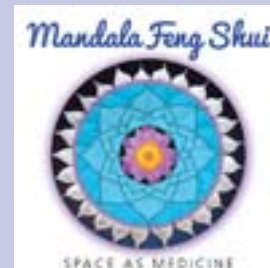
The Five Elements and the Bagua work and play in a truly sacred geometry.

WEALTH & PROSPERITY XUN Wood Southeast Purple	FAME & REPUTATION LI Fire South Red Summer	RELATIONSHIPS KUN Earth Southwest Pink
FAMILY ZHEN Wood East Green Spring	HEALTH TAI JI Earth Center Orange, Yellow Brown	JOY & COMPLETION DUI Metal West White Autumn
KNOWLEDGE & SELF-CULTIVATION GEN Earth Northeast Blue	CAREER & OPPORTUNITIES KAN Water North Black & Dark Blue Winter	HELPFUL PEOPLE & TRAVEL QIAN Metal Northeast Grey

We will discuss more about the interplay between The Five Elements in relationship to the Bagua areas in future issues.

Meanwhile, if you have any questions, email me at spaceharmony@g.mail.com and you may also consult www.mandalafengshui.com for more details.

Michele Duffy, BTB M.F.S. is an Orinda resident who, since 1999, enjoys creating “Space as Medicine” Feng Shui one space at a time, as well as hiking in nature, cooking, and spending time with her family; Canyon Ranch Feng Shui Master, International Feng Shui Guild (IFSG) Red Ribbon Professional. To schedule a professional 2019 Feng Shui Consultation, contact Michele at (520) 647-4887 or send an email to spaceharmony@gmail.com.



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192 Cypress Point Way, Moraga
BUYER REP.



3126 Terra Granada NO2, Rossmoor
BUYER REP.



144 Walford Drive, Moraga
SELLER REP.



208 Corliss Drive, Moraga
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JUST SOLD!



144 Cypress Point Way, Moraga
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1921 Joseph Drive, Moraga
SELLER REP. \$1,985,000



20 Glen Creek, Walnut Creek
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1198 Larch Avenue, Moraga
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Orinda



1 Sycamore Road **\$3,250,000**

5 Bed 4.5 Bath 3,977± Sq Ft 1.24± Acres

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Lafayette



959 Sunnyhill Road **\$3,195,000**

5+ Bed 4.5 Bath 5,100± Sq Ft 1.21± Acres

959sunnyhill.com

Lafayette



3651 Boyer Circle **\$2,495,000**

5 Bed 4F/3H Bath 4,600± Sq Ft 0.96± Acres

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Orinda



4 Oak Flat Road **\$1,795,000**

4 Bed 3.5 Bath 3,007± Sq Ft 0.66± Acres

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Orinda



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114 Goodfellow Dr,
Orinda

\$1,675,000

5 BEDS

4 BATHS

2,735 SQFT

Property details

Storybook home surrounded by oaks with an open living concept.



JUST LISTED
In Orinda



54 Hazel Tree Ridge,
Orinda

\$1,495,000

4 BEDS

3 BATHS

2,385 SQFT

Property details

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Matt Sells LAMORINDA!



478 Kingsford Drive, Moraga

5 Bedrooms, 2.5 Bathrooms, 2,609 sf, .46 acre flat lot
Offered at \$1,598,000 • **SOLD for \$1,645,000**



4060 Fiora Place., Lafayette

3 Bedrooms, 2 Bathrooms, 1,916 sf, 10,800 sf lot
Offered at \$1,350,000 • **SOLD for \$1,470,000**



39 Miramonte Drive, Moraga

3 Bedrooms, 2 Bathrooms, 1,147 sf, 1,456 sf lot
Offered at \$745,000 • **SOLD for \$772,000**

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Rattlesnake Advisory:

Rattlesnake Safety in the Regional Parks

Submitted by East Bay Regional Park District

As the weather heats up, rattlesnakes become more active in many of our parks, their natural habitat. They like to explore when the weather gets warm which can lead to more encounters with humans and dogs. The East Bay Regional Park District is advising that the public take snake safety precautions when visiting Regional Parks.

Safety Tips for Visiting Regional Parks

- Always hike with a friend so you can help each other in case of emergency.
- Look at the ground ahead of you as you are walking
- Look carefully around and under logs and rocks before sitting down.
- Avoid placing your hands or feet where you can't see clearly.
- Check the area around picnic tables, campsites, and barbecues before using them. If you encounter a rattlesnake in these areas, notify park staff.
- Keep pets on the designated trails and away from snakes if they see one.
- Bring plenty of water for yourself and your pets as many parks do not have a direct water supply.

What to Do If You See a Rattlesnake

Leave it alone - do not try to capture or harm it. All park wildlife is protected by law. If you see a snake on a trail, wait for it to cross and do not approach. Then move carefully and slowly away.

What to Do If Bitten by a Snake

If bitten by a rattlesnake, stay calm and send someone to call 911. Remain calm by lying down with the affected limb lower than the heart. Do not waste precious time on tourniquets, "sucking," or snake bite kits. If you are by yourself, walk calmly to the nearest source of help to dial 911. Do not run.

If bitten by any other kind of snake, wash the wound with soap and water or an antiseptic and seek medical attention.

If you are not sure what kind of snake bit you, check the bite for two puncture marks (in rare cases one puncture mark) associated with intense, burning pain. This is typical of a rattle snake bite. Other snakebites may leave multiple teeth marks without associated burning pain.

Snakes are an important resource in the natural environment. They are prime controlling agents of rodent, insect, and other reptile populations. They must be enjoyed from afar and left where they are found. It is illegal to collect, kill, or remove any plants or animals from the East Bay Regional Park District. Please help us to protect wildlife and their environment for present and future generations. Additional information is available at www.ebparks.org/parks/safety/#Snakes or download a PDF version of our Common Snakes.

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BRE# 01301389

Volunteers remove flammable French Broom from Nature Area

Submitted by Katharine Barrett

On a rainy Sunday a few weeks ago, 20 children and parents helped Toris Jaeger remove invasive French Broom plants from around the Wagner Ranch Nature Area in Orinda. Children hunted for the pretty plants along the winding trails, and worked together to pull up and cut down these dangerous invaders. Over a snack break, Jaeger told them how the troublesome broom springs up year after year from old seed deposited years earlier. The trick is to pull it up before the new developing seeds are released.

Most people do not know that this pretty shrub is so highly flammable that it's a fireman's nightmare. The seeds are poisonous to wildlife and the shrub crowds out garden plants. If you find it in your yard, please remove it – you will be doing your neighbors and wildlife a favor by getting rid of a fire hazard.



Toris Jaeger

Photos Reg Barrett



Lamorinda home sales recorded

... continued from Page D2

MORAGA ... continued

- 22 Sarah Lane, \$1,295,000, 4 Bdrms, 2130 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 05-10-19
 4 Shannon Court, \$1,935,000, 4 Bdrms, 5155 SqFt, 1989 YrBlt, 05-09-19,
 Previous Sale: \$1,602,000, 04-30-02
 52 Sullivan Drive, \$1,575,000, 4 Bdrms, 2593 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 05-09-19,
 Previous Sale: \$787,000, 08-13-01

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- 142 Amber Valley Drive, \$2,150,000, 4 Bdrms, 3083 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 05-16-19,
 Previous Sale: \$1,495,000, 09-25-03
 6 Camino Del Cielo, \$1,200,000, 4 Bdrms, 2005 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 05-13-19
 88 Camino Encinas, \$1,800,000, 4 Bdrms, 2836 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 05-08-19
 41 Donald Drive, \$1,300,000, 3 Bdrms, 3469 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 05-13-19
 13 Estates Drive, \$1,175,000, 3 Bdrms, 1509 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 05-07-19
 128 Glorietta Boulevard, \$1,600,000, 3 Bdrms, 2076 SqFt, 1946 YrBlt, 05-16-19,
 Previous Sale: \$950,000, 01-18-18
 86 Hillcrest Drive, \$2,050,000, 5 Bdrms, 2625 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 05-08-19,
 Previous Sale: \$1,770,000, 07-18-17
 42 Los Altos Road, \$1,500,000, 3 Bdrms, 3664 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 05-08-19,
 Previous Sale: \$1,800,100, 07-26-18
 45 Meadow View Road, \$1,200,000, 6 Bdrms, 1980 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 05-14-19
 22 Oak Ridge Lane, \$2,345,000, 5 Bdrms, 4062 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 05-10-19,
 Previous Sale: \$1,400,000, 01-18-17
 104 Sleepy Hollow Lane, \$3,200,000, 5 Bdrms, 3942 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 05-10-19,
 Previous Sale: \$600,000, 08-04-99
 6 Southwaite Court, \$1,316,000, 3 Bdrms, 1654 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 05-17-19,
 Previous Sale: \$674,000, 06-19-09
 16 Vista Del Mar, \$2,995,000, 4 Bdrms, 3896 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 05-15-19,
 Previous Sale: \$2,740,000, 07-24-17



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Offered at \$2,195,000. 25MoragaVia.com

COMPASS

Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

Fruit frenzy



Delicious Queen Anne cherries are crunchy and sweet.

Photos Cynthia Brian

By Cynthia Brian

*“Trees are giving fruit
Earth is giving grain
Sun is giving warmth
Moon and stars are giving light.” –
Chitrabhanu*

The doves and I are in a battle to consume the mulberries. The deer have already munched on the lower branches, and now the sound of happy cooing surrounds me as the birds feast on the black berries. Not many people have delighted in mulberries. I can't describe the flavors, but I grew up singing “All around the mulberry bush” as my siblings and I chased one another, pulling handfuls of this delicious fruit from the tree. My gigantic trees are shoots from that

original mulberry bush that were offspring of grandparents' and great grandparents' mulberry trees. Unfortunately, the birds leave me only the red, unripe fruit, which will not get sweeter if picked before maturity.

Yet, all is not lost. Both my Queen Anne and Bing cherry trees are brimming with luscious ripe cherries. While the birds gorge on the mulberries, they are leaving my precious cherries alone. In years past, I was lucky to harvest a handful of cherries before the birds arrived, but this year, probably because of the copious amounts of rain, my orchard is overflowing with fruit. As we farmers like to say, we have a bumper crop this season.

May was the month that ushered in the season of fruit picking for farm families

when I was growing up in Napa County. It began with cherries, proceeding to plums, prunes, apricots, peaches, pears, figs, grapes, apples, and walnuts with blackberries, citrus, kiwi, and all varieties of vegetables ripening through November that would be sold directly from the farm or at local fruit stands and co-ops. I was probably about 4 when my first job outside of our farm occurred, helping neighbors harvest their cherries. That neighbor's farm was a bit less than a mile away and the first day of cherry picking was highly anticipated. My parents, siblings, and I drove over at dawn in our World War II Willy jeep, hauling our tallest ladders accompanied by our biggest buckets. The ladders would be set up in the orchard with a pail dangling from a hook. Up we'd climb to begin our haul, with a paycheck determined by the crates of cherries picked, not the hours it took.

... continued on next Page



Branches of red mulberries are devoured by the birds and deer.

... continued from Page D16

My siblings and I craved cherries and, I shamefully admit, that for the first thirty minutes we ate more cherries than we put in the buckets. At dusk, we'd clamor back into the Willy to return home to make dinner. Around 9 p.m., the stomachaches began and our one tiny bathroom became the communal vomitorium. Although my parents commiserated with our suffering, secretly they were happy that we learned a valuable lesson on the first day of harvest. Don't eat the profits!

For years I couldn't eat cherries remembering that awful night. As farmers, during the fruit season, we would set up roadside stands selling freshly picked fruits and vegetables at a fraction of the cost posted at the local supermarkets. When we had an overabundance of produce, especially grapes, we'd make "U-Pick" signs offering people the opportunity to go into the orchards and fields to pick their own at even lower prices. We'd have a chuckle about the "city slickers" who'd arrive from San Francisco or the Peninsula with men in suits and women in high-heeled shoes with a desire to go picking. They, too, would eat as much of the fruit as possible in the vineyards and arrive back at our paying station covered in dirt with only a small amount of grapes and a visage green with nausea. When they asked where the restroom was, we'd point to the decrepit old outhouse or the tree behind a barn. There is a price to pay for eating the profits!

Until I was 18, I was a farm laborer, working on our own farm as well as many others picking, cutting, drying, sorting and selling fruit. All of us kids drove tractors, cut wood, branded cattle, pulled fences, planted vegetables, tilled the earth, and helped in any way requested. Since I had my own business raising chickens, I also sold fresh eggs. This fortunate upbringing was the foundation for my work ethic and love of nature that I have nurtured until this day.

As the fruit frenzy continues in the mulberry tree, I have blissfully plucked a basket of luscious ripe cherries that my family will eat fresh. Perhaps if the birds remain focused on the mulberries, or almost ripe plums, I'll be able to pick another bushel to become the ingredients for a Fourth of July pie.

Welcome to the summer bounty of local and fresh.

History repeats itself. I am eating the profits!



Bing cherries make great pies, jams, and brandied cherry desserts.



Pink geranium and purple Nelly Moses clematis are excellent bed partners.

Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for July

TRIM dead leaves, stems, or flowers from indoor plants. Cut back to the stalk. By trimming, re-growth is stimulated.

WEAR gloves when working with okra, jalapenos and chilies to avoid itchy painful rashes. If you do get a reaction, make a paste of oatmeal mixed with water. Spread on the rash and let it dry. It won't be pretty but you'll get relief. This works well with poison oak as well.

CUT hydrangeas for a beautiful, long-lasting dried arrangement. My preferences are the deep pink or magenta blooms that dry to a bluish purple.

STOCK up on 2019 seed packets from Renee's Garden at a 50 percent discount now. <http://ow.ly/eYZE50uBDE5>

MAKE your own compost with food scraps (no meat products). Keep a covered plastic container in your refrigerator where you can toss egg shells, coffee grinds including paper filters, corks, tea bags, vegetable scraps, cut flowers, etc. Once a week, empty your container into a bin or pile in your garden and mix with leaves, shredded newspaper, and lawn clippings. Keep damp and turn with a pitchfork or shovel as often as possible. Within three months, you'll have rich compost to return to your garden beds.

APPLY sunscreen every two or three hours. Of the numerous ingredients in all sunscreens, the one that protects the most is zinc oxide.

SOOTH sunburns and heal wounds with the antibacterial property plant, aloe vera. Its gel-like substance contains vitamins, minerals, amino acids, and antioxidants that will suppress inflammation and relieve pain. Make sure to have a pot of aloe vera on your patio for emergencies.

WARM a chilly afternoon barbecue with a tabletop gas heater to eat al fresco.

SHOW your patriotism with homemade USA steppingstones.

HARVEST plums, cherries, mulberries, apricots, and whatever other fruit is ripening in your yard. If you don't grow your own, take a trip to a farm area back road to purchase fresh produce that is packed with nutrients. Wear practical clothing and shoes.

LOOK up into the night sky and count the stars!

CAUTION : Fire season has arrived. Always be careful and heed red flag warnings. In my last article, "Sip into Summer," I suggested you bring in the summer solstice with a traditionally controlled and safe bonfire. I did not intend to imply building a fire with open flames, but in a fire pit with a spark arrester. Gas fire pits are the norm. Building a bonfire is allowed on some beaches where starting a wildfire is not an issue. (www.lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue1308/Digging-Deep-with-Goddess-Gardener-Cynthia-Brian-Sip-into-summer.html) For more information on planting for firescaping for survival, visit <https://blog.voiceamerica.com/2019/05/21/firescaping-for-survival/>

CELEBRATE a safe Fourth of July by enjoying an evening picnic while watching the local firework productions.

CELEBRATE a safe Fourth of July by enjoying an evening picnic while watching the local firework productions.

Happy Gardening. Happy Growing! Happy Independence Day!



Eggplant blossoms forecast a bountiful crop.



A purple trumpet vine attracts hummingbirds.



Show your love for America the Beautiful with USA stepping-stones.



Three tiny eggs in a sparrows nest in Cynthia Brian's door wreath.



Set a pretty table outdoors for al fresco dining and add a gas heater for warmth.



Cynthia welcomes you to summer gardening.

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.

Buy a copy of her new books, Growing with the Goddess Gardener and Be the Star You Are! Millennials to Boomers at www.cynthiabrian.com/online-store. Hire Cynthia for projects, consults, and lectures. Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com www.GoddessGardener.com

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54 Hazel Tree Ridge
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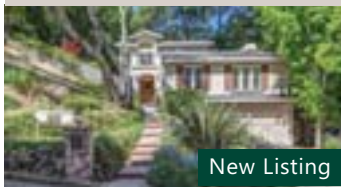
11 Hacienda Circle
Gorgeous home with classic character and stylish open floor plan. Ideal for entertaining.
\$1,595,000

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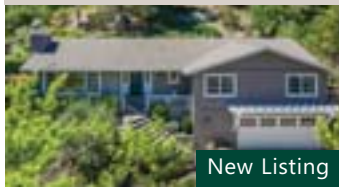
147 Camino Don Miguel
A fully renovated & enhanced home, this special property shines with living appeal both inside and out.
\$1,599,000

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114 Goodfellow Drive
Updated 5 bed/ 4 bath storybook home in the heart of Orinda on an oak tree studded .48 acre lot.
\$1,675,000

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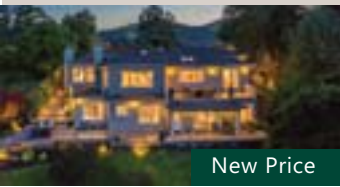
37 Sleepy Hollow Lane
Exceptional family home, quality craftsmanship & upscale finishes. Lovely amenities & a chef's kitchen.
\$1,695,000

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8 Santa Lucia Road
Lovely 5 bed/ 5 bath restored Spanish style home with quality features & craftsmanship.
\$1,795,000

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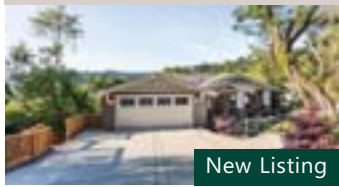
11 Crestview Court
Bold modern Mediterranean inspired villa. Ideal for privacy and luxury. Open floor plan, views.
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383 Miner Road
East Coast meets West Coast! Orinda Country Club Cape Cod home on 1.32 acres, updated.
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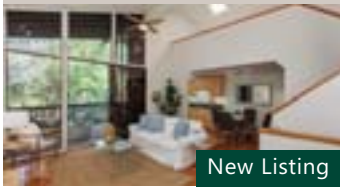
48 Oak Drive
Elegant 4 bed/ 3.5 bath two level renovated home with remarkable views from terrace decks.
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LAFAYETTE



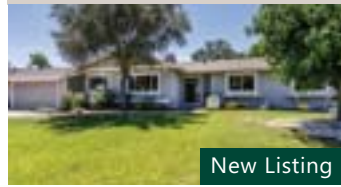
3660 Happy Valley Road
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MORAGA



259 Lakefield Place
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