



Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian ... read on Page D12

Feng Shui

Activating the relationship areas in your home



By Michele Duffy

St. Valentine was many things and known as the Roman saint who was martyred on Feb. 14, after ministering to persecuted Christians. The traditional “Feast of St. Valentine” initially, was an opportunity to celebrate his ministering life and preserve his support of religious freedom. The life of a humble clergyman, it’s certain he never expected that over time those devoted to seeking love, acceptance, and support would celebrate his example with a tradition of sharing love notes, celebrating love, gifting flowers, which again, did come much later.

St. Valentine’s ministry demonstrated a profound understanding of deep love, re-

spect, courtly love which have much in common with Feng Shui’s “law of attraction” and the specific activation of the “Relationship/Marriage/ Partnership” area of the main tool used in Feng Shui, the Bagua Map. The Relationship/Partnership/Marriage Bagua Area is located in the home, master bedroom or yard is far right from front entrance door.

This is the time of year we intentionally express our love for one another and share couple time to allow personal connection, intimacy, and expressions of mutual love to be experienced.

How do we approach such an intimate and personal area of our lives and environments? To activate this area, hang or place photos of all those we have and want to continue to have a close connection to in the Relationship area of the home.

In the master bedroom, place photos of a happy couple including with your own partner and remove pictures of kiddos. Pairs and the number two dominate this BAGUA area.

... continued on Page D10



Lights placed thoughtfully in the far-right Relationship area of the home generate passion and inspiring illumination of our relationships.

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Lamorinda home sales recorded

City	Last reported	Lowest amount	Highest amount
LAFAYETTE	9	\$940,000	\$2,800,000
MORAGA	5	\$500,000	\$2,260,000
ORINDA	7	\$800,000	\$5,000,000

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

- 1161 Estates Drive, \$2,880,000, 3 Bdrms, 4224 SqFt, 1998 YrBlt, 01-10-20,
Previous Sale: \$2,450,000, 05-31-13
- 1986 Marion Court, \$1,725,000, 4 Bdrms, 3217 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 12-30-19,
Previous Sale: \$1,500,000, 12-08-14
- 857 Mountain View Drive #A, \$1,955,000, 3 Bdrms, 4222 SqFt, 1995
YrBlt, 01-07-20, Previous Sale: \$1,510,000, 05-21-19
- 1490 Pleasant Hill Road, \$970,000, 3 Bdrms, 1906 SqFt, 1944 YrBlt, 12-31-19
- 2 Roxanne Lane, \$1,800,000, 4 Bdrms, 3615 SqFt, 1980 YrBlt, 01-03-20,
Previous Sale: \$1,650,000, 02-24-15
- 1067 Serrano Court, \$1,425,000, 3 Bdrms, 1968 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 12-31-19
- 1611 Shangri La Court, \$2,250,000, 5 Bdrms, 3442 SqFt, 1975 YrBlt, 01-03-20,
Previous Sale: \$2,315,000, 06-17-19
- 99 Silverwood Drive, \$1,595,000, 2 Bdrms, 2036 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 01-09-20,
Previous Sale: \$1,565,000, 09-14-07
- 25 Via La Cumbre, \$940,000, 3 Bdrms, 2045 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 01-03-20

MORAGA

- 1997 Ascot Drive #C, \$500,000, 2 Bdrms, 1124 SqFt, 1975 YrBlt, 12-30-19,
Previous Sale: \$405,000, 10-18-07
- 279 Calle La Mesa, \$1,384,000, 4 Bdrms, 2341 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 01-03-20
- 261 Claudia Court, \$1,665,000, 3 Bdrms, 2706 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 01-09-20
- 1060 Sanders Drive, \$1,450,000, 3 Bdrms, 2407 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 01-09-20
- 201 Sonora Road, \$2,260,000, 4 Bdrms, 4057 SqFt, 2018 YrBlt, 01-03-20

ORINDA

- 11 Crestview Court, \$1,825,000, 4 Bdrms, 3164 SqFt, 2005 YrBlt, 12-31-19,
Previous Sale: \$225,000, 09-13-00
- 1 Dalewood Terrace, \$5,000,000, 5 Bdrms, 6126 SqFt, 2017 YrBlt, 01-03-20,
Previous Sale: \$1,185,000, 02-01-16
- 21 Ichabod Lane, \$1,435,000, 4 Bdrms, 2034 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 01-06-20,
Previous Sale: \$925,000, 03-14-19
- 9 Keith Drive, \$2,150,000, 4 Bdrms, 3318 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 01-08-20,
Previous Sale: \$649,000, 03-06-02
- 18 Monte Veda Drive, \$800,000, 3 Bdrms, 1687 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 01-07-20
- 54 Spring Road, \$1,024,000, 3 Bdrms, 1782 SqFt, 1979 YrBlt, 01-02-20
- 578 Tahos Road, \$1,860,000, 4 Bdrms, 2574 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 01-10-20,
Previous Sale: \$1,550,000, 08-22-16

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Feng Shui

Activating the relationship areas in your home



Birds are heavenly symbols of unconditional love, and filling your environment with images, photos, or art that amplifies loving fidelity, commitment, and magic is key for relationships to stay on track like this ideal photo taken by an Orinda resident.

... continued from Page D1

Birds are Feng Shui symbolic of heavenly attraction, and in the Relationship area amplify the fidelity, commitment and devotion we intimately wish to manifest.

Relationship area bird symbols are doves, swans and ducks, and ideally materially consist of clay, crystal, stone, marble or shells. Placing fresh and blooming peonies encourage blooming in all of our consequential relationships, while a pair of elephants activate nobility, longevity and impressive bonds. Use a pair of soy candles or red ceramic hearts to ignite the bonds of passion and romance, softly and deftly illuminating lovemaking, and especially the 'Volcano' candles at Anthropologie in well-designed silver mercury glass with handy lids.

Choose satins and rich silks for master bedroom luxury, soft bed linens that shroud our love in tenderness, and intimate art and lighting to enhance our connection to the spirit of intimate relationships.

Colors that symbolize, activate and place the Earth element perfectly in the Relationship area are pink, pinky tan, neutrals of white/pink. Colors symbolize, activate and place the Fire element to create more Earth in the Relationship area are bright red, bright red-orange, and a tad of purple that is more red.

There is no doubt we want a tad of passionate red in the master bedroom, but in accents only, like silk pillows or satin drapes, and definitely, dare I say, never, any red paint on bedroom walls.

Other ways to activate healthy, harmonious and happy Relationship Qi in our most intimate environments is to surround ourselves

with positive references to ground our guided-from-within and mindfully, positive wishes for our relationships.

Forgo the commerciality that St. Valentine never stood for and remember the Saint in St. Valentine, since when we are loving and generous with our love, we model all the very sweet aspects toward ourselves and our loved ones, just as he did so long ago. We have only this moment to be loved and life is short.

May every day this year be inspired by love, led in love, and shared thoughtfully.

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

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.



Village Associates is Pleased to Welcome Claudia Gohler as their Newest Associate.



Claudia is an Orinda native and attended elementary school, middle school and high school in Orinda. She went to college at UC Davis and is currently raising her son in Orinda. She has first-hand experience being both a child and a parent in the area. This unique perspective is helpful for buyers new to the area that are looking for guidance on neighborhoods and insight on what it's like to live in this area. Claudia has been in advertising and marketing for over 20 years and speaks Spanish and German fluently.

Claudia's experience and vast network of friends and neighbors ensure your property will get the greatest and best exposure possible. She truly cares about her clients and views buying and selling a home as a major milestone and not just a transaction. Whether you are downsizing or upsizing, Claudia looks forward to guiding you through to your next chapter.

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Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian

Stars of the garden



Photos Cynthia Brian

A David Austin stunner named Olivia.

By Cynthia Brian

“Won’t you come into my garden? I would like my roses to see you.” – Richard Sheridan

It’s only mid-February, yet it feels like spring. As I write this article, the thermometer in the shade reads 71 degrees. The sun is shining, the skies are clear, and it’s a beautiful day in the neighborhood. Historically the average daily temperature in our area for February is 46.4 degrees. I’m accustomed to dreary Februaries, yet this year is full of cheer. Although we still need more rain, I am delighting in this weather as I finish pruning my roses and grapevines.

Roses are the ultimate garden stars, complementing classic and contemporary landscapes. Many varieties are repeat bloomers, extravagantly fragrant, and easy to maintain. The thorns are a nuisance, yet, sometimes we

have to endure a bit of pain to savor the pleasure. As I’m pruning, I’m wearing two pairs of thick gloves. The thorns still pierce the leather and I find myself extracting tiny pieces of barbs with tweezers from my fingers after an afternoon amidst these stellar actors.

If you haven’t started or finished your annual heavy pruning, you’ll have about two more weeks to accomplish the task to have blooms by mid-April. Roses anchor a landscape offering unrivaled diversity of colors, shapes and sizes. From 10-inch miniature roses to 25-foot rambling and climbing roses, there is a variety for every preference. The scents that emanate from these stunners can be musky, fruity, sweet, and indescribably powerful. In our region, once established, roses will bloom a full 10 to 11 months as long as they are regularly deadheaded. Although roses prefer a sunny location, shade and even poor soil are tolerated.

It’s best to plant roses from January through May and make sure the root has plenty of space to grow. Rehydrate bare root roses in a bucket of water before planting. If planting from a quart or gallon container, remove the plant carefully. Sprinkle roots with Mycorrhizal Fungi to stimulate root growth. Place the stems of bare root roses about two inches below the top of the hole, and for a potted rose, position the plant level with the ground. Backfill with the original soil and lightly tap it with your foot. Water deeply. My secret to rose success is to scratch a scoop of alfalfa pellets in the soil around each bush in March. Every morning, I stir my used coffee grounds into a carafe of water to nurture a different rose daily. They love their jolt of java. Feed your roses according to the instructions that you receive when purchasing. Never over-fertilize. Add mulch or compost to retain moisture. Contrary to popular belief, roses are not fussy. Feed, mulch, water, deadhead and enjoy.

A shining star of the winter garden is the daffodil. Every year daffodils signal that spring is around the corner as they salute the skies with their bright trumpets. Daffodils belong to the genus *Narcissus*. The over 50 species come in all sizes with colors ranging from the ubiquitous butter yellow to pure white, peach, and combinations of yellow and orange. They are perennials, popping up to surprise us just when we need a boost of encouragement. Many vari-

eties will naturalize when planted in a sunny place with slightly acidic soil and plenty of mulch. The deer and wildlife won’t eat them, so they are great bulbs to plant everywhere the deer and rabbits roam. Bulbs planted in fall are now blooming. There is no need to remove the bulb after the flowers fade. Cut back the stems when the foliage is yellow and potato chip crispy. If you insist on digging out bulbs, wipe the dirt off, store in onion bags or pantyhose, and hang in a cool location. Bulbs require air circulation to survive or they will rot. Many of the smaller daffodils, also called narcissi are very fragrant. They make marvelous cut bouquets brightening any room.

The heart-shaped cyclamen is a tuberous perennial that is honored with garden star status. Shades of pink, red, salmon, and white flowers with silver-marbled leaves adorn winter borders and indoor rooms. Cyclamen require almost zero care and very little water. They go dormant when temperatures rise toward summer and return in glory when winter arrives. When grown outdoors, like the daffodil, when you are least expecting to see a riot of color, the cyclamen unfurls its pretty petals. Hardy cyclamen sold in nurseries are to be planted outdoors. Tropical cyclamen for décor as a houseplant won’t tolerate temperatures above 68 degrees or below 40 degrees.

Our shining garden stars may only twinkle during certain times of the year, yet they are always here. Planting and appreciating them helps us grow into kinder humans. Saunter into the garden to say hello.



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Cynthia Brian's Mid-Month Gardening Guide for February

TAKE 15% off all orders of David Austin Roses before March 6, 2020 with CODE UKA at www.DavidAustinRoses.com or call 1-800-328-8893.

CARE for your trees. With the recent heavy winds, limbs and trees have toppled. Make sure to prune dead branches, mulch to suppress weeds and pest infestations, deep soak when the weather is hot, and protect shallow roots from lawnmowers. Call an arborist for help when in doubt.

INSPECT lawns for dandelions. When you see the yellow flower, snip it off to avoid the flower going to seed. Dig out the roots if possible but be aware that dandelions have long taproots. Do not put in the compost pile.

CHECK irrigation systems for broken or damaged pipes. Weeds and lawns often cover sprinkler heads. This is a good time to prepare and repair for spring.

WATER lawns and gardens as needed. This is the first February in decades that I've had to turn on sprinklers. Rain is not forecast until March. Global warming?

CUT a branch from flowering pear or peach trees to use as an indoor decoration. Pear trees are in full-bloom, peaches are in bud.

PLANT summer bulbs including gladiolus, cannas, dahlia, and caladium towards the end of the month as the soil dries.

-WALK barefoot on a blanket of soft moss to connect with Nature.

Happy Gardening. Happy Growing!



Bonica roses create a star-studded hedge.



Roses are the star performers of the garden.



Perennial cyclamen shine in a February landscape.



Soft pink roses flanked by cornflags and gladiolus.



Cut a branch of ornamental pear blossoms to use indoors.

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Cynthia Brian outdoors on a cooler February day.

Cynthia Brian, The Goddess Gardener, is available for hire to help you prepare for your spring garden. Raised in the vineyards of Napa County, Cynthia 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 StarStyle®

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ORINDA



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ORINDA



8 Moraga Court

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ORINDA



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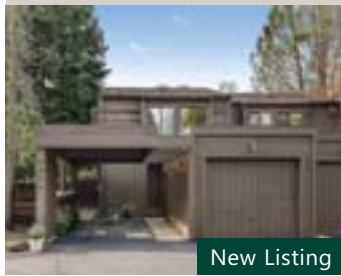
ORINDA



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LAFAYETTE



New Listing

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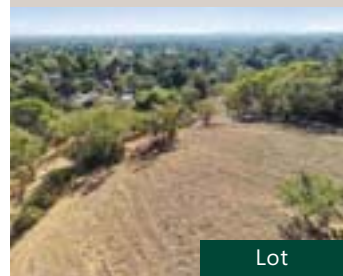
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Spacious, updated 4 bed/ 2.5 bath 2549 sqft townhome situated on a private cul de sac in Summit Ridge neighborhood. **\$1,115,000**

PLEASANT HILL

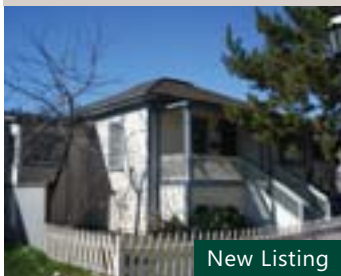


Lot

20 Whitfield Court

Great parcel at top of knoll with views of Mt. Diablo. Ideal for privacy. Investment opportunity! **\$1,375,000**

MARTINEZ



New Listing

502 Alhambra Ave

Charming 3 bed/ 2 bath single family home, with large fenced yard & covered deck. Great downtown Martinez location. **\$450,000**

BERKELEY



Lease

7164 Buckingham Boulevard

Fabulous, furnished, light-filled 3 bed/ 3 bath home. Easy access to Hwy 24, UC Berkeley, and the Caledcot Tunnel. **\$7,500/ mo**

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