

Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 14 Issue 14 Wednesday, September 2, 2020



Lamorinda Home Sales

... read on Page D2

Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian **Sirius is serious**



Photo Cynthia Brian

Spring blooming tulips planted in fall are interplanted with delphiniums and pansies.

By Cynthia Brian

*“When the ancients first observed Sirius emerging as it were from the sun ... they believed its power of heat to have been so excessive that ... the Sea boiled, the Wine turned sour, Dogs grew mad, and all other creatures became languid.”
~ John Brady, 1813, a Compendious Analysis of the Calendar.*

Forever the optimist, when I penned my last column, “The Dog Days of Summer,” I intentionally left out the part of the Old Farmer’s Almanac, 1817 that indicates, “Make both hay and haste while the sun shines, for when old Sirius takes command of the weather, he is such an unsteady, crazy dog, there is no dependence upon him.”

In the last few weeks we have witnessed

the ravages of Sirius with thousands of lightning strikes causing more than 600 wildfires, millions of acres burned, gusty erratic winds, radically unhealthy air quality, and ash blanketing the state. More land has burned in the last few weeks than burned in all of 2019. Death and destruction are the horrific aftermath.

Our Napa county farm was amongst the blazing landscapes. Everyone living in the valley where our vineyards and ranch reside was evacuated, yet, with firefighters engaged elsewhere battling numerous other infernos, my brother stayed behind on his tractor to cut roads, create safety zones, and clear debris. The hills and pastures burned. He saved the vineyards, barns, and our family home.

Between the brutal pandemic, perverse politics, sizzling heat and suffocating smoke, we all have a reason to despair. To thwart a fire on my hillside, I have cut my dried perennials and annuals to ground level. The only beauty is offered by my faithful blushing naked ladies and lavender society garlic plants and the passionflower vine that is twining up my peach tree. The ground is parched.

As I was repairing a broken water pipe so that I could irrigate this arid field, my optimism suddenly resurged. Swallowtails flitted through the smoke-filled air searching for a colorful landing place. A hummingbird settled on my string of patio lights before nuzzling my pink jacobinia growing in a cement urn. A five-lined skink, also known as a blue-tailed lizard, perched on a nearby boulder completely uninterested in my cutting and gluing efforts. I completed my project, picked a ripe tangerine from the tree, headed for the hammock, and savored the juice as it dripped down my chin. ... continued on Page D12

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Lamorinda home sales recorded

City	Last reported	Lowest amount	Highest amount
LAFAYETTE	10	\$1,115,000	\$3,100,000
MORAGA	12	\$705,000	\$2,010,000
ORINDA	14	\$635,000	\$3,850,000

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

- 1202 Bacon Way, \$1,130,000, 4 Bdrms, 1573 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 07-24-20,
Previous Sale: \$559,000, 10-24-02
- 37 Bacon Court, \$1,960,000, 4 Bdrms, 3100 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 07-23-20
- 11 El Cajon, \$3,100,000, 5 Bdrms, 3934 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 07-22-20,
Previous Sale: \$1,725,000, 04-12-16
- 933 Janet Lane, \$1,700,000, 3 Bdrms, 1789 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 07-17-20,
Previous Sale: \$1,000,000, 09-26-17
- 2584 Pebble Beach Loop, \$1,115,000, 4 Bdrms, 1939 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 07-22-20,
Previous Sale: \$758,000, 09-22-15
- 1195 Pleasant Hill Circle, \$1,460,000, 4 Bdrms, 2089 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 07-21-20,
Previous Sale: \$1,385,000, 05-29-18
- 407 Ponderosa Court, \$2,310,000, 5 Bdrms, 3537 SqFt, 1985 YrBlt, 07-14-20,
Previous Sale: \$1,775,000, 08-08-13
- 1098 Upper Happy Valley Road, \$1,510,000, 2 Bdrms, 1883 SqFt, 1954
YrBlt, 07-20-20, Previous Sale: \$844,500, 05-04-08
- 1135 Upper Happy Valley Road, \$1,900,000, 4 Bdrms, 2382 SqFt, 1975
YrBlt, 07-13-20, Previous Sale: \$1,465,000, 11-16-15
- 1069 Via Alta, \$2,130,000, 3 Bdrms, 2597 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 07-23-20,
Previous Sale: \$685,000, 09-11-00

MORAGA

- 863 Camino Ricardo, \$1,705,000, 4 Bdrms, 2083 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 07-24-20,
Previous Sale: \$1,250,000, 11-06-14
- 511 Chalda Way, \$705,000, 3 Bdrms, 1322 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 07-17-20,
Previous Sale: \$124,000, 12-01-87
- 210 Fronteras Drive, \$1,937,000, 3 Bdrms, 3036 SqFt, 2018 YrBlt, 07-20-20
- 226 Fronteras Drive, \$2,010,000, 4 Bdrms, 4057 SqFt, 2018 YrBlt, 07-22-20
- 136 Greenbriar, \$1,020,000, 3 Bdrms, 1819 SqFt, 1987 YrBlt, 07-13-20,
Previous Sale: \$685,000, 07-11-13
- 3 Hetfield Place, \$1,200,000, 3 Bdrms, 1603 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 07-20-20
- 28 Indian Wells Street, \$1,480,000, 3 Bdrms, 2925 SqFt, 1989 YrBlt, 07-24-20,
Previous Sale: \$1,350,000, 11-29-06
- 1820 Joseph Drive, \$1,500,000, 4 Bdrms, 2452 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 07-16-20,
Previous Sale: \$1,409,000, 12-06-17
- 11 Ketelsen Court, \$1,385,000, 3 Bdrms, 2410 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 07-16-20,
Previous Sale: \$810,000, 07-10-03
- 1082 Larch Avenue, \$1,385,000, 3 Bdrms, 2170 SqFt, 1985 YrBlt, 07-13-20,
Previous Sale: \$1,225,000, 03-29-19
- 44 Merrill Circle, \$1,600,000, 5 Bdrms, 4382 SqFt, 1990 YrBlt, 07-13-20,
Previous Sale: \$908,000, 07-01-92
- 5 Sierra Court, \$1,298,000, 3 Bdrms, 2235 SqFt, 1985 YrBlt, 07-17-20

... continued on Page D6

COMING SOON

3217 Acalanes Ave, Lafayette



Price Available Upon Request

This recently remodeled 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath single story home with 2,805 square feet is exactly what you've been waiting for. Hardwood floors throughout. Open floor plan with massive island, formal dining room and vaulted ceilings. Large, flat lot. Close to town and freeway access.

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Paddy Kehoe

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 paddy@paddykehoeteam.com
 DRE 01894345



Leslie Lomond

650.799.2110
 leslie.lomond@compass.com
 DRE 01968517



Mary Staten

925.890.6875
 mary.staten@compass.com
 DRE 01947354



Dave Schurhoff

925.997.9569
 dave.schurhoff@compass.com
 DRE 01834201



Christine Frazier

925.550.2130
 christinefrazier@compass.com
 DRE 01949722



Brittany Hogan

925.233.9061
 brittany@paddykehoeteam.com
 DRE 01990287

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Feng Shui

The four pillars for abundant online study, proficiency & success



Photos provided

By Michele Duffy

The most important aspect of Feng Shui for your student to study online for their fall 2020 classes involves placement and selecting a positive location in the home. As in closely related real estate Feng Shui, “location, location, location” applies to deciding where your student’s workspace should be located.

A busy thoroughfare, like a dining room, is not the ideal placement for a student desk setup. Avoid dining room desk study areas if possible. A reserved area that includes the required technology, and above all is a quiet space conducive for healthy engagement and par-

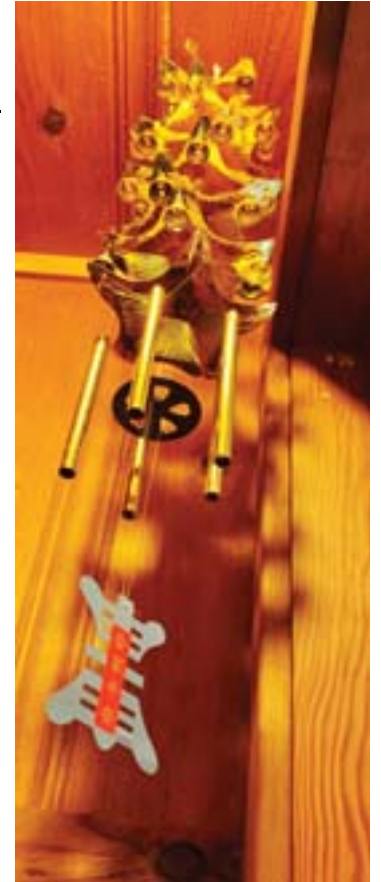
ticipation in online classes, like a roomy guest room or a large bedroom space, a nook, loft or basement for a study setup, is ideal. Think airy, light and bright “studio vibe” and involve your student in as much of the design, colors, wall art, or furniture picks. Enjoy the journey, try more patience, and work toward creating a sense of joy in bringing your shared vision to life.

Try your best to look at your home with fresh eyes regardless of how you set up online learning last spring. Were there any lighting issues that required correction? How was the sound? Was the area quiet enough? Apply the Bagua map over the entire home and next, place the Bagua over the room you choose for the study setup. Go slowly, methodically, and develop a personal space for your student that will inspire and encourage focus on study success.

Some basic Feng Shui concepts you may already be familiar with should be implemented first, like the “Commanding Position” for desk/bed placement and the importance of creating organized storage for study materials and books. Feng Shui colors of blues or greens can enhance online learning, as well as other initial activators like inspiring wall art, abundant lighting, and even fragrance with diffusers. Connecting to nature can help your student thrive. Start by sitting in the Commanding Position arranged desk. What will your student see out a window? Is a connection to the nature outdoors (sky, trees, mountains) possible to help balance out stress?

Overlay the Bagua map (Page D10) over the actual study room layout, and imagine the space with a “refreshed” energy or new look. Sit at the “Commanding Position” desk (ideally diagonal and opposite the door) as your student would. Is there a solid wall behind you? Reevaluate the space and ask questions about what worked and what didn’t during spring 2020 distance learning. Avoid glass desks; a solid desk represents being supported with studying and learning.

Of all of the Five Elements, the Wood Element is maybe the most fun to incorporate anywhere in a home, but especially in a study room. Flowering, fragrant, leafy plants are an immediate way to activate heady Wood Element Qi to encourage your student’s upward growth, focus and study diligence.



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17 Lavina Court, Orinda

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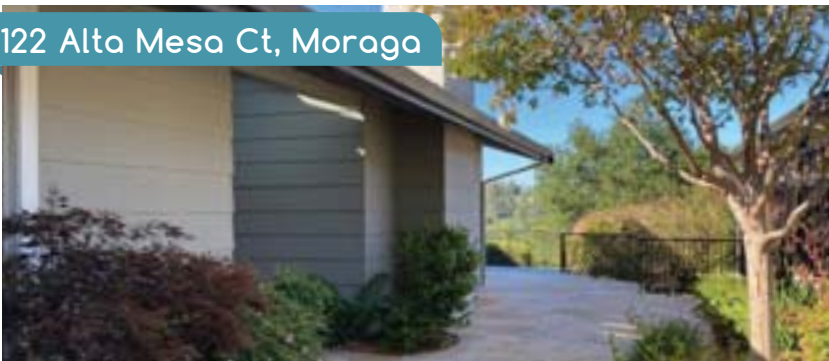
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... continued from Page D2

ORINDA

- 73 Brookwood Road #36, \$635,000, 2 Bdrms, 882 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 07-20-20, Previous Sale: \$533,000, 02-10-17
- 8 Camino Lenada, \$3,000,000, 9 Bdrms, 6778 SqFt, 1928 YrBlt, 07-16-20
- 181 Camino Pablo #183, \$1,775,000, 6 Bdrms, 3325 SqFt, 1939 YrBlt, 07-15-20, Previous Sale: \$1,460,000, 06-10-14
- 15 Candlestick Road, \$1,475,000, 3 Bdrms, 2288 SqFt, 1979 YrBlt, 07-14-20
- 15 Dias Dorados, \$2,985,000, 3 Bdrms, 1817 SqFt, 1937 YrBlt, 07-24-20, Previous Sale: \$950,000, 04-13-18
- 50 Don Gabriel Way, \$1,590,000, 4 Bdrms, 2044 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 07-16-20, Previous Sale: \$995,000, 10-27-15
- 77 El Toyonal, \$1,265,000, 4 Bdrms, 2154 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 07-15-20, Previous Sale: \$1,100,000, 11-20-17
- 62 Heather Lane, \$1,800,000, 5 Bdrms, 3357 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 07-20-20
- 69 La Espiral, \$2,151,000, 4 Bdrms, 3746 SqFt, 1937 YrBlt, 07-16-20, Previous Sale: \$1,200,000, 01-06-16
- 711 Miner Road, \$2,755,000, 4 Bdrms, 3279 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 07-14-20, Previous Sale: \$1,320,000, 07-11-02
- 8 Moraga Court, \$1,783,500, 6 Bdrms, 3302 SqFt, 1947 YrBlt, 07-15-20, Previous Sale: \$282,500, 08-01-85
- 100 Sandhill Road, \$3,850,000, 4 Bdrms, 4876 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 07-21-20
- 12 Snow Court, \$1,220,000, 3 Bdrms, 1421 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 07-14-20
- 564 Tahos Road, \$2,675,000, 3 Bdrms, 3426 SqFt, 2018 YrBlt, 07-24-20, Previous Sale: \$194,000, 05-07-18



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LAMORINDA EXPERTS - GLOBAL CONNECTIONS

			
<p style="text-align: center;">Orinda</p> <p style="text-align: center;">20 Hacienda Circle \$3,995,000</p> <p>Stunning state of the art Orinda estate designed by Orinda architect Richard Bartlett includes 8000+ sq. ft. comfortably situated on a flat 1.3-acre site adjacent to the Orinda Country Club's 13th hole. www.20haciendacircle.com Melanie Snow 925-360-0344; Laura Abrams 510-697-3225 <small>Lic#00878893, #01272382</small></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Orinda</p> <p style="text-align: center;">3 Valley View Ln. \$3,195,000</p> <p>A Nature Embraced Oases Vlatka Bathgate 925-597-1573 Vlatka@BestLamorindahomes.com www.3ValleyViewLn.com Lic #01390784</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Orinda</p> <p style="text-align: center;">53 Tappan Lane \$2,995,000</p> <p>Modern exterior, renovated pool, wine cellar, breathtaking views Melanie Snow 925-360-0344 53tappanlane.com Lic #00878893</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Orinda</p>
			
<p style="text-align: center;">Lafayette</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1 Dead Horse Canyon Rd \$2,495,000</p> <p>Will amaze all who visit! Unique, custom-built nestled on hilltop + barn as ADU! Suzanne Geoffrion/Dick Holt 925.699.4832/925.297.9150 1deadhorsecanyon.com Lic#01878803/00827803</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Orinda</p> <p style="text-align: center;">10 Rheem Blvd. \$1,899,999</p> <p>Quintessential Masterpiece Vlatka Bathgate 925-597-1573 Vlatka@BestLamorindahomes.com www.10Rheem.com Lic #01390784</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Orinda</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1 Madera Lane \$1,615,000</p> <p>Views! Sunsets! and More Views! Private end of the cul-de-sac location with decks and lawn. Hide from the world! Laura Abrams 510-697-3225 www.1maderalane.com Lic#01272382</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Lafayette</p> <p style="text-align: center;">91 Silverwood Dr. \$1,600,000</p> <p>Just sold off market four months after previous sale! Lovely mid century delight in stunning setting! Laura Abrams 510-697-3225 <small>Lic#01272382</small></p>
			
<p style="text-align: center;">Walnut Creek</p> <p style="text-align: center;">807 Paseo Roble Ct \$1,500,000</p> <p>Newer Executive Deluxe Vlatka Bathgate 925-597-1573 Vlatka@BestLamorindahomes.com www.OrindaRealty.com Lic #01390784</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Lafayette</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1238 Laurel Lane \$1,495,000</p> <p>Fabulous home on private lane with views from every window! Michele McKay 925-482-4116 michelemckay.com Lic #01902466</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Walnut Creek</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1500 Golden Rain Rd #4 \$995,000</p> <p>LEVEL-IN 1BR 1BA gem in Rossmoor! Move right in! Mary Beth MacLennan/Tony Conte 925.5324.6246/925.708.1396 1500GoldenRainRd4.com Lic#01480008/00959101</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Danville</p> <p style="text-align: center;">103 Blossom Ct \$975,000</p> <p>Move-in ready & beautifully updated 4 brd-rooms, 3 full baths in cul-de-sac. Peyman Moshref 925-878-9151 <small>Lic#01441254</small></p>
			
<p style="text-align: center;">Oakland</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1175 66th Street \$949,000</p> <p>Modern Oakland Condo w/Private Elevator Christine Mason 925-900-5288 Christine@christineMason.me <small>Lic #02050542</small></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Orinda</p> <p style="text-align: center;">25 Longridge Rd \$949,000</p> <p>Modern Retreat Vlatka Bathgate 925-597-1573 Vlatka@BestLamorindahomes.com www.OrindaRealty.com Lic #01390784</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Moraga</p> <p style="text-align: center;">11 Francisca Dr. \$925,000</p> <p>Best value and beautiful in Moraga! 3BR/2.5BA, 2,095 sq. ft for under a million! Soraya Golesorkhi 925-808-8390 sg@soraya4homes.com Lic #01771736</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">El Sobrante</p> <p style="text-align: center;">5458 Cabrillo Sur \$748,000</p> <p>Immaculate 4 bdrm, 2.5 baths, chef's kitchen Shellie Kirby 925-872-4257 www.5458cabrillosur.com Lic #01215227</p>



Don't overlook this gem
ON OVERHILL ROAD



213 Overhill Road, Orinda

Perched atop a private driveway set off the street rests this wonderful remodeled home in fabulous central Orinda/Glorietta location oozing with charm! 80% of this 1952 home was beautifully rebuilt from foundation to roof with focus on allowing natural light to flood the interior with 10' Ceilings, sky lights, transom windows & Anderson Windows and Doors. The oversized Kitchen is the heart of the home with large Kitchen Island, custom cabinets, custom tile marble backsplash, designer lighting, Stainless Steel appliances including new Wolf range and more. This well-appointed and updated house, moments to downtown Orinda, BART, FWY, Meadow Swim & Tennis Club, Lafayette RIM Trail and top-rated schools K-12 is a home to love and a fabulous place to call home!

\$1,995,000

4 <i>Bed</i>	3 <i>Bath</i>	.55 <i>Acre</i>	±2,451 <i>Sq. ft</i>
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Feng Shui

The four pillars for abundant online study, proficiency & success



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Plants are powerful cleansers of indoor air pollution. Incorporating the natural world and it's healing energy can also include gentle fountains, Koi and water features, sculptures, gardens, musical metal bells or bamboo wind chimes.

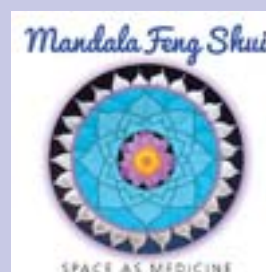
The area of the Feng Shui Bagua that governs Wisdom, Self-Cultivation, Knowledge and Studying/Online Learning, is left of the door wall. Activate Earth with memory filled shells and rocks placed on a student's desk, place a digital photo of a favorite mountain like Mount Tamalpais, or hang a metal 7 Tiered Pagoda from the ceiling of the Wisdom, Self-Knowledge/Learning area of the study room. This reinforces for your student, a desire to take a deeper dive, to be curi-

ous, creative and consistent, all hopefully designed for self-development, maturity and gained wisdom.

Remember, during this fall 2020 that it's helpful to know that you're not alone. Stay positive, go with the flow, and allow your inspired home to reimagine itself as a place for world-class online learning for your budding Einstein ("Everything is Energy").

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 2020 Feng Shui Consultation, contact Michele at (520) 647-4887 or send an email to spaceharmony@gmail.com.



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chriswim.com

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Two Safe Harbors In The Storm Of 2020

Orinda



Casa Serena

\$8,500,000

5 Bed 5.5 Bath 5,800± SF 1.75± Level Acres

So much to admire. So little to desire. Discover an exceptional level of luxury and indulge your senses in the architecturally stunning Casa Serena vineyard estate. Behind the grand and gated circular driveway is a private sanctuary showcasing a masterfully crafted single-level interior and award-winning landscape design that brilliantly harmonizes an unsurpassed sophistication with ultimate comfort.

casaserenaorinda.com

Orinda



300 Village View Court

\$2,150,000

2+ Bed 2.5 Bath 2,500± SF 0.16± Acres w/Views

Warm and welcoming from the moment you step onto the property, this magnificent single level home exudes elegance redefined. With impeccable design, timeless finishes and worry-free living, you will rediscover what 'home' should be. The coveted end of cul-de-sac location offers unparalleled privacy and optimized outdoor living spaces for year round entertaining and enjoyment.

300villageview.com

JUST LISTED

3800 CAMPOLINDO DRIVE, MORAGA • OFFERED AT \$1,895,000



5 BEDS, 3.5 BATHS, 3,870± SF, .33± ACRE LOT

3800CampolindoDrive.com

Located in Moraga's coveted Campolindo neighborhood, this stunning Mediterranean home was custom designed and built in 2000. Features include extraordinary architectural elements, open floor plan, and 14 foot ceilings. Fully appointed gourmet kitchen/family room combination has high end appliances and a large island. This 5 bedroom 3 1/2 bath home includes a spacious master suite with two walk-in closets and master bath with heated floors. Numerous amenities include built in sound system, formal living and dining rooms, an office, custom hardwood floors, and professionally designed landscape. The ideal location is in close proximity to community pools, top rated schools, hiking trails, and shopping.

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BROKER/OWNER

925.818.5500

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DRE# 01290985



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REALTOR®

925.788.5449

ruth@dudum.com

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Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

Sirius is Serious



Photos Cynthia Brian

Powerful pink jacobinia grows well in containers and is a hummingbird magnet.

... continued from Page D1

Swinging, I contemplated my future gardening desires.

This is the season to start making a list of what you want to grow for the forthcoming months. Bulbs to order or buy for autumn digging include daffodils, tulips, freesia, ranunculus, hyacinth, Dutch iris, anemone, and crocus. Freesias are one of nature's greatest gifts with splendid scents, a cornucopia of colors, and the ability to naturalize. Daffodils are probably the most popular and least expensive of all the bulbs. They also will naturalize. Deer, rabbits, and other critters won't eat them, allowing their happy flowers to bloom for long stretches. When winter is nearing its finale, crocus will make you smile as they push through the soil to reveal their rich colors of blue, violet, yellow and white. Treat yourself to a garden filled with tulips.

You'll want to buy your bulbs soon as they need to be refrigerated for at least six weeks before planting. For more impact, group colors, shapes, and sizes together in a swath. They are wonderful interplanted with delphiniums, pansies, and other annuals or perennials for a very merry greeting.

After a traumatic summer filled with climatic extremes, sowing seeds for a bountiful harvest of late fall to early winter salad greens and vegetables is a welcome endeavor. What seeds do you want?



Plant seeds of two varieties of Swiss Chard.

Try any of these:

- Lettuce
- Spinach
- Arugula
- Swiss Chard
- Kale
- Beets
- Fennel
- Turnips
- Broccoli
- Carrot
- Kohlrabi
- Shallots
- Garlic
- Radish

With the seriousness of the sizzling Sirius and the dangerous air quality outside, stay indoors and peruse catalogues and garden-

ing books to get ideas for fall planting. On Thursday, Sept. 17, I'll be doing a Zoom presentation, "Tips, Tricks, and Tonics in the Garden" for the Moraga Garden Club celebrating its 50th anniversary. For information on this Zoom meeting, call Membership Chair Jane Magnani at (925) 451-7031 for times to join in the conversation and presentation. We'll keep it light and fun.



Turnips, fennel and beets.

Summer is coming to an end and this is a great time to check for sale and clearance items that you may want for our outdoor landscaping for next year. I have found great deals at <https://bit.ly/3aG6qOI> including covers for patio furniture. As much as I love the heat, the chance of wildfires is omnipresent. Make sure to read my article on how to be prepared in the event of any emergency (see Page D14).

The Roman poet, Virgil described Sirius as "bringer of drought and plague to frail mortals, rises and saddens the sky with sinister light." The veracity of his narrative has been realized in 2020. Now more than ever, we can use large doses of humor, hope and healing. Let's employ kindness and empathy for one another as we prepare for planting autumn bulbs and seeds. A bright and beautiful spring display is only two seasons away. Embrace optimism.

Happy gardening. Happy growing.



Cynthia Brian swings in the hammock.

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® Radio Broadcast at www.StarStyleRadio.com. Buy copies of her best-selling books and receive extra freebies, *Chicken Soup for the Gardener's Soul*, *Growing with the Goddess Gardener*, and *Be the Star You Are! Millennials to Boomers* at www.cynthiabrian.com/online-store. Cynthia is available for virtual writing projects, garden consults, and inspirational lectures. Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com www.GoddessGardener.com

STUNNING OCEAN VIEWS



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Are you ready to evacuate?



Fires raging over the hills.

Photo Cynthia Brian

By Cynthia Brian

In the last few weeks, we've experienced unprecedented weather conditions with temperatures in the triple digits, ferocious winds, low humidity, thunderstorms, and lightning strikes resulting in more perilous and damaging wildfires. Dry conditions will only worsen in the forthcoming months. Air quality is precariously unhealthy with dangerous concentrations of tiny PM 2.5 particles that penetrate deep into the lungs.

Natural disasters know no boundaries. One never knows if a fire, earthquake, flood, mudslide, or other calamity is on the horizon. It's imperative to be prepared for all emergencies.

Be Prepared!

Here are ways that you can be ready for the unexpected. Add your requirements to these tips and be ready to drive away at a moment's notice. Besides Go Bag essentials listed below,

these are items that require your attention.

1. Sign up for emergency alerts via our County Community Warning System at <https://cwsalerts.com> where you can register your phones, emails, and text numbers to be notified. Add this phone number to your favorites for notifications from CCWS: (925) 655-0195 . Even if you are already registered with Nixle (<https://www.nixle.com>), our local CCWS is the alert system that will be used for location-specific information. Also, visit <https://www.lamorindacert.org> for more information. To check on air quality, visit <https://www.airnow.gov>
2. Practice an evacuation plan with your family. Know the safest exits from your home and educate everyone in the family on the best route.
3. Install an analog landline phone if you don't already have one. These are the old-fashioned phones where the jack plugs into the wall. Electricity is not necessary for them

to work. Although billing is more expensive than cell phones, when the power is out, these landlines work.

4. Designate someone out of state to report to. Everyone in the family must have their contact information in case of separation.
5. Make a rescue plan for your pets and animals and have a bag ready for them next to your Go Bag.
6. Know how to manually open automatic garage doors and gates.
7. Make copies of your passport, driver's license, credit cards, insurance information, and have small bills available. Put these in your Go Bag.
8. Backup your computers, scan your important documents, and keep files in the cloud or off-site.
9. Family mementos, jewelry, heirlooms, and any irreplaceable article that you can't live without must be stored with your Go Bag.
10. Know your neighbors and their contact numbers to keep in touch to make sure everyone is safe.
11. Make a list of a network of friends that you can call in an emergency.
12. Know where you will go in evacuations.
13. Have a sign already made with your name and phone number and the words "All Evacuated" sitting on top of your Go Bag along with a roll of blue painter's tape. Only if time permits, tape your sign to your door when you leave so that firefighters know the house is clear.
14. Listen to and obey the first responders. These trained men and women have your safety and that of your home as their priorities. Follow their orders.
15. When told to evacuate, go quickly and carefully. Take one vehicle only so as not to clog the escape routes. Do not attempt to evacuate on foot.
16. Stay calm.

Whatever the calamity, it will behoove you to have an emergency supply kit (AKA "Go Bag") in every vehicle and a larger one in your home in a closet or area near the door you will use to escape.

... continued on next Page



The ravaged hills are ash the morning after the blaze.

Photo Cynthia Brian

... continued from Page D14

These supplies need to last you for one or more days. You want duplicate Go Bags in your vehicles because when disaster strikes you may be in your vehicle and unable to return home. In an emergency at your dwelling, you may only have time to grab your keys, phone, wallet, pets, Go Bag, and what you can carry. There will not be time to “load your car” or to be searching or running

from room to room to find what you need. Keep everything that is essential together in one place. Remember, you may be evacuated for hours, days, or weeks. Sometimes, as has been the case with our California wildfires and earthquakes, a matter of minutes means the difference between life and death.

Most of all, remember that saving your life and that of your family is the most important. Everything else can be replaced.

Go Bag Necessities

Fill a backpack or small case with the following and keep one of these in all of your vehicles and one in your home. Pack a small bag for each family member, or, if easier, pack a larger bag to include everyone. Remember you may only take one vehicle upon an evacuation.

Include:

First Aid kit

Duplicate chargers for phones, tablets, and computers

Work gloves

Warm gloves

Towelettes

Small towel

Bottled water (1 gallon per person per day)

Blanket

Walking shoes

Socks

Warm jacket

Peanut butter

Honey

Protein bars

Personal hygiene kit with a toothbrush, soap, medications

Matches

Candle

Flashlight and headlamp with extra batteries

Eating utensils and plates

Breathing masks Niosh-N95

Clothing change

Extra set of keys to home, office, etc.

Cash

Toilet Paper

Because of the pandemic, N95 grade masks are in short supply and reserved for medical professionals. Although better than nothing, unfortunately, surgical masks, cloth masks, and bandanas do not protect against smoke inhalation. The Air Resources Board advises everyone to stay indoors with windows and doors closed. Run recirculating fans or air conditioners and keep aware of changing conditions.

Hopefully, you will never have to use these emergency kits, but it's best to be prepared. It is natural to assume that a catastrophe will happen to someone else, but the reality is no one is immune. Across the country, natural disasters are becoming more prevalent and frequent.

It is becoming a common cliché to utter “stay safe.” Instead, be proactive and be prepared. The life you save will be your own.

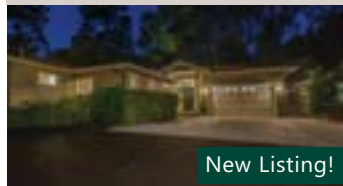
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ORINDA



213 Overhill Road
Remodeled updated 4 bed/ 3 bath home perched atop private driveway off the street in central Orinda. **\$1,995,000**

ORINDA



21 Los Arboles
Large 3736 sqft 4 bed/ 3.5 bath home on private cul-de-sac w/ easy access to commute, top schools, & recreation. **\$1,689,000**

ORINDA



15 Linda Vista
Beautifully maintained 4 bed/ 2 bath home w/ spectacular sunset views across the Orinda Country Club & beyond. **\$1,399,000**

ORINDA



46 Tarry Lane
Great opportunity to built your dream home in desirable Sleepy Hollow neighborhood. All plans approved. **\$1,349,000**

ORINDA



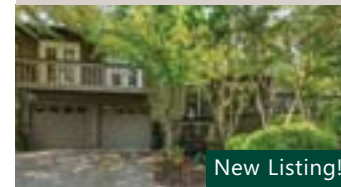
48 La Vuelta
Stunning 4 bed/ 3 bath mid-century contemporary in Orinda Country Club neighborhood. First time on market! **\$1,279,000**

ORINDA



20 Oak Court
One of Orinda's last near-acre VIEW properties that is ready to build on & is in a mature neighborhood. Great views! **\$875,000**

MORAGA



101 Merion Terrace
Remodeled split level 3 bed/ 2 bath 1849 sqft Moraga Country Club w/ vaulted ceilings & wood floors throughout. **\$1,200,000**

LAFAYETTE



44 Prado Way
Private gated 3 bed/ 3.5 bath on 19.9 acres with 2 additional rooms in highly coveted neighborhood. **\$4,275,000**

LAFAYETTE



3554 Springhill Road
Upgraded spacious 5 bed/ 4.5 bath contemporary of 5983 sqft at end of Springhill. Includes private office. **\$3,988,000**

LAFAYETTE



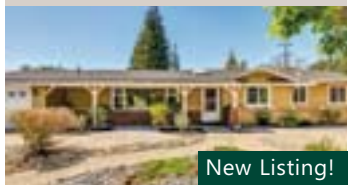
3971 Canyon Road
Private gated 6 Bed/ 4 Bath/ 2 Half bath estate including two-story guest house located in desirable Happy Valley. **\$3,175,000**

LAFAYETTE



3696 Happy Valley Road
Private gated 6 bed/ 6.5 bath 5500 sqft custom home including chef's kitchen, guest house, & pool on flat .85 acres. **\$2,795,000**

LAFAYETTE



1162 Crescenta Court
Remodeled 4 bed/ 3 bath + office Ranch style home on cul-de-sac near Downtown Lafayette, BART, schools & more! **\$1,595,000**

WALNUT CREEK



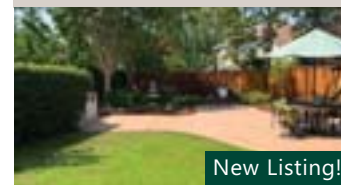
90 Pleasant Valley Drive
Updated & cared for 2 bed/ 1 bath. on .38 acres w/ room for boat & RV. Close to Canal Trail, BART & easy freeway access. **\$840,000**

ALAMO



10 Serenity Lane
Majestic gated 12 bed/ 13 bath/ 3 half bath chateau w/ vineyard, 20 showcase car barn, & trophy club room. **\$19,500,000**

SAN RAMON



248 Victory Circle
Spacious 4 bed/ 3 bath home w/ soaring ceilings & fabulous backyard in gated Fleur du Mont community. **\$1,210,000**

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