



Organize your home

read on Page D4

Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian Bee careful



Bottlebrush attracts bumblebees.

Photo Cynthia Brian

By Cynthia Brian

"The keeping of bees is like the direction of sunbeams." ~ Henry David Thoreau

Barefoot and wearing our bathing suits, my daughter was teaching me Bar Method exercises out on our lawn on a beautiful summer afternoon. Partway through the practice I was stung on my foot by a honeybee dining on the clover. Clover is a wonderful addition to lawns as it adds natural nitrogen to the soil, however, when playing on the grass we must remember to be cautious as both red and white clover provide favorite nectar to our honey friends.

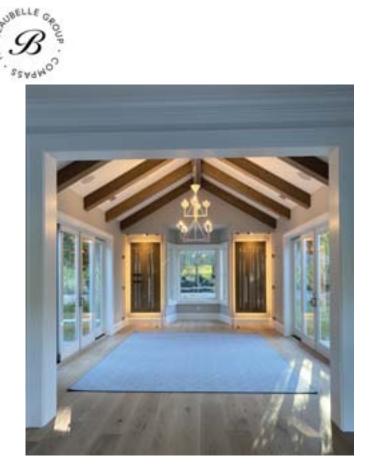
We all want to attract pollinators to our gardens. The more flowers you grow equals the more food for the habitat of the pollinators. Bees, butterflies, beetles, hummingbirds, bats, and birds are responsible for 35% of our food crop and 75% of the world's flowering plants. Every three bites of food eaten can be directly thanks to the pollination from these garden friends. By helping plants reproduce, pollinators sustain our ecosystem and produce our natural resources. Sadly, the pollinator population is in jeopardy on a global level.

In 2006, the honeybee population substantially declined in a phenomenon that became known as Colony Collapse Disorder or CCD. When the worker bees disappeared, they would leave behind a queen and a few nurse bees to care for the queen and the remaining immature bees. There were rarely dead bees around the hives. Hives cannot sustain themselves without worker bees which resulted in the loss of the colony. There were many theories advanced on why the problem arose including new diseases, parasites, mites, pesticide poisoning, habitat changes, poor nutrition, and stress. Although an actual cause has never been determined, most scientists believe that CCD is related to this combination of causes.

Honey bees reflect the health of the environment. Our agriculture depends on the pollination of honey bees. If bees continue to die, consumers can expect increased food prices and more scarcity. As gardeners, we can do our part to provide habitat and food for all pollinators and beneficial insects, including bees.

Here are some ways individual gardeners can make a difference while creating harmony in the landscape:

- Support the pollinator population all season by including plants that bloom spring until the beginning of winter. Bumblebees need early-season nectar and pollen while bees need late-season blooms for winter hibernation. continued on Page D12



9 Oak Arbor, Orinda | \$5,500,000

We're busy at work preparing this gorgeous North Orinda estate for sale... here's a sneak peek of the well-appointed dining room with two glass enclosed wine cellars flanking the bay window that overlooks one of two water features. The vaulted beamed ceiling adorned with a Julie Neill two tier chandelier is bound to catch the eye of passersby.

This is only a glimpse of what this gorgeous 4 bedroom, 4 full and 2 half bathroom, office, game room, property has to offer. There is separate guest house on the one acre site.

We can't wait to share with you the finished product. It will be a showstopper!



Glenn & Kellie Beaubelle

925.254.1212 For more information: TheBeaubelleGroup.com Email: Glenn@TheBeaubelleGroup.com



Lamorinda home sales recorded

City	Last reported	Lowest amount	Highest amount
LAFAYETTE	8	\$1,070,000	\$4,318,000
MORAGA	5	\$760,000	\$1,725,000
ORINDA	13	\$1,375,000	\$4,800,000

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

- 510 Bavarian Court, \$2,051,000, 3 Bdrms, 2424 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 05-18-21 10 Burnt Oak Circle, \$2,301,000, 4 Bdrms, 2301 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 05-17-21, Previous Sale: \$1,400,000, 04-10-15
- 1225 Cambridge Drive, \$4,318,000, 4 Bdrms, 3136 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 05-17-21, Previous Sale: \$2,650,000, 05-14-15
- 5 West Creek Court, \$1,070,000, 3 Bdrms, 1448 SqFt, 1975 YrBlt, 05-17-21, Previous Sale: \$770,000, 08-23-16
- 921 Dewing Avenue, \$1,075,000, 2 Bdrms, 1311 SqFt, 1979 YrBlt, 05-21-21, Previous Sale: \$579,000, 11-13-13
- 1122 El Curtola Boulevard, \$1,600,000, 4 Bdrms, 1619 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt, 05-21-21, Previous Sale: \$765,000, 08-14-12
- 22 Northridge Lane, \$2,450,000, 4 Bdrms, 4549 SqFt, 1999 YrBlt, 05-17-21, Previous Sale: \$2,200,000, 06-03-05
- 3554 Oconner Drive, \$2,500,000, 4 Bdrms, 2417 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 05-17-21, Previous Sale: \$1,187,500, 05-29-13

MORAGA

- 1962 Ascot Drive, \$760,000, 3 Bdrms, 1410 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 05-21-21, Previous Sale: \$158,000, 05-01-89
- 155 Fairfield Place, \$1,725,000, 5 Bdrms, 2795 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 05-21-21
- 1009 Larch Avenue, \$1,339,000, 3 Bdrms, 1418 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 05-18-21, Previous Sale: \$1,035,000, 04-12-17
- 241 Rheem Boulevard, \$1,610,000, 3 Bdrms, 1373 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 05-17-21, Previous Sale: \$800,000, 06-22-11
- 121 Westchester Street, \$1,370,000, 3 Bdrms, 2036 SqFt, 1979 YrBlt, 05-17-21, Previous Sale: \$1,050,000, 09-15-17

ORINDA

- 111 Bear Ridge Trail, \$2,250,000, 5 Bdrms, 3952 SqFt, 1986 YrBlt, 05-20-21, Previous Sale: \$1,676,500, 07-12-16
- 21 Calvin Court, \$1,375,000, 3 Bdrms, 2149 SqFt, 1979 YrBlt, 05-19-21, Previous Sale: \$998,000, 01-26-20
- 154 Camino Sobrante, \$2,300,000, 4 Bdrms, 3311 SqFt, 1938 YrBlt, 05-21-21, Previous Sale: \$785,000, 05-14-09
- 484 Dalewood Drive, \$3,405,000, 5 Bdrms, 4124 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 05-19-21, Previous Sale: \$2,205,000, 05-23-14
- 136 Fiesta Circle, \$1,701,000, 3 Bdrms, 1738 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 05-18-21, Previous Sale: \$297,000, 01-01-88
- 58 Ivy Drive, \$1,458,000, 3 Bdrms, 1245 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 05-21-21, Previous Sale: \$1,040,000, 09-06-18
- 171 Las Vegas Road #1, \$1,800,000, 3 Bdrms, 2115 SqFt, 1939 YrBlt, 05-21-21
- 126 Meadow Lane, \$2,050,000, 3 Bdrms, 3003 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 05-21-21
- 550 Orindawoods Drive, \$2,950,000, 5 Bdrms, 5424 SqFt, 1997 YrBlt, 05-17-21, Previous Sale: \$1,875,000, 04-21-14
- 2 Rita Way, \$1,950,000, 3 Bdrms, 2328 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 05-17-21
- 8 Robert Road, \$2,450,000, 4 Bdrms, 2331 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 05-19-21, Previous Sale: \$1,000,000, 03-27-01
- 618 Tahos Road, \$2,300,000, 4 Bdrms, 3567 SqFt, 1968 YrBlt, 05-19-21, Previous Sale: \$1,804,000, 07-02-14
- 111 Tappan Lane, \$4,800,000, 5 Bdrms, 6353 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 05-17-21, Previous Sale: \$3,800,000, 03-22-18

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Reimagine your garage and give your family the space they need



Epoxy type flooring is a paint-like durable coating that looks amazing!

By Jennifer Raftis, CPO®

This past year is one we will likely never forget. Many of my clients found themselves scrambling for more space in their homes. They were having to share not only the Wifi, but the actual rooms they needed to work in. Once we realized that the pandemic was not going away in a couple of weeks, we knew that we had to figure out how to live, work, and go to school together – at home! This presented a huge challenge for families. I started getting calls last summer from clients that needed help creating more space.

My solution for many of these families was to design a multi-use garage space. The average size 2 car garage is 24 X 24 (576 sq ft.). Compare this to an average size bedroom of 12 X 10 (120 sq ft.). By making some simple changes, we were able to create space for several needs--home office, school-work area, exercise space, teen hang out, and storage too!--for a fraction of the cost and time of adding on a new room. Converting garages to create extra living space is a trend that is here to stay.

What are you currently using your garage for? Let's face it, many of us do not use our garages well. They can easily become a cluttered catch-all for items, much of which we are not using, can't access, or have even forgotten about. Do you know what "stuff" you have buried away in your garage? Most garages are filled to the brim with a variety of items we seldom look at or use including household products, memorabilia, old papers, used toys, furniture, items we are saving for our kids, unfinished craft projects, broken items we plan to repair someday, outdated electronics, cords (to what?) and of course "mystery boxes".

Your garage can be so much more than an overstuffed storage space! It's time to reimagine your garage. If you are like most of my

clients, you probably do not know where to start. I recommend that you start with your ideal vision for the space.

Create a simple sketch of the garage and rough out each zone – be sure to allot enough space for its use. For example, maybe you want one fourth for exercise equipment, one fourth for home office and the rest for a car and storage.

Here are some ideas for how you can use your space:

• Work from Home Office: Post-COVID, more people are working from home than ever before. Create an area for your home office (or kid's study space)

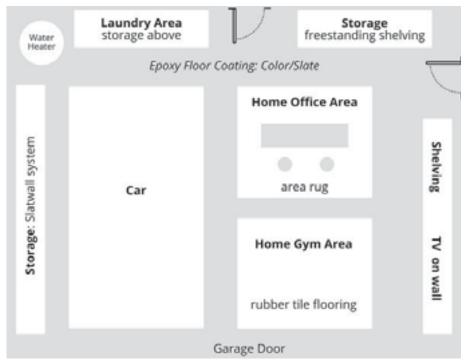
• Exercise Area: Create a space for workouts, yoga, meditation and more. Cover the floor area in rubber tiles which are easy to install and easy on your joints.

 \cdot Craft Space or Workshop: Keep all of your tools (or craft supplies) within easy reach and have space to work in.

• Kid's Hangout: Kid's of all ages (yes, adults too) can use more space to hangout and relax in. I have had many TVs installed in garages this last year.

• Storage: We all need extra storage space. Slatwall systems, overhead storage racks, freestanding and wall shelving, and garage attics are some of my space-saving solutions. Vertical and ceiling storage is often overlooked and underused.

• Cars: Yes, some people actually park their car in the garage. You can mix and match by having a car parked on one side and your home gym on the other side. ... continued on Page D10



Reimagine your garage - create a simple layout of your wants and needs.

SUMMER IS HEATING UP IN LAMORINDA





3 Butler Drive, Lafayette \$2,495,000

551 Miner Road, Orinda \$2,450,000



36 Owl Hill Road, Orinda \$2,050,000, Buyer Side



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View lot in Glorietta Sold for \$949,000 Represented the buyer

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ARE WE IN A REAL ESTATE BUBBLE? THE ANSWER IS... NO

Per NAR Chief Economist, Dr. Lawrence Yun, we are not in a real estate bubble because:

- 1) The home price increases are due to a shortage of inventory. It is a basic supply and demand issue.
- 2) There are no "shady or risky mortgages" as in the past.
- 3) Buyers are putting more down-payment than ever before.
- 4) Interest rates are currently low and fixed vs. the adjustable and zero rates of the past.

WILL PRICES GO DOWN SOON? THE ANSWER IS... MOST LIKELY, NO

There has been a 20% price appreciation since the beginning of the year. In the near future appreciation may decline, but it will not be a persistent decline because people that were not able to get into the market will be ready to jump back in. Keep in mind that real estate is the best hedge against inflation since payments are fixed year after year. Conversely, rent prices increase year after year.

Call me with any real estate questions or if you'd like a market analysis to see how much equity you currently have!



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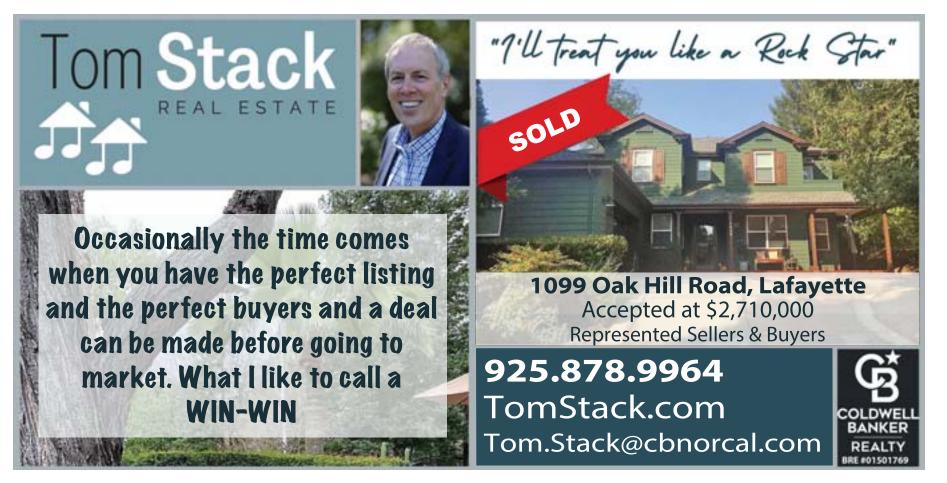
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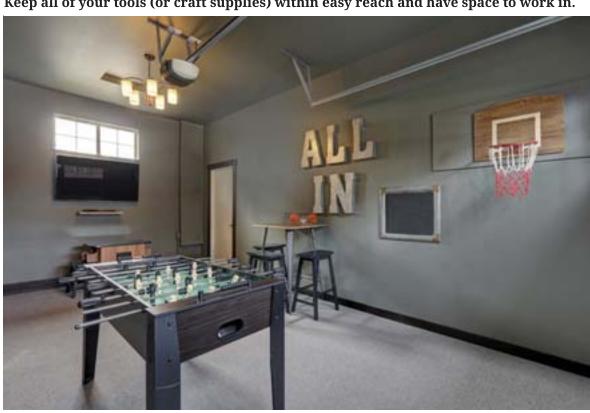


Keep all of your tools (or craft supplies) within easy reach and have space to work in.

... continued from Page D4

Don't forget about flooring and lighting. Say goodbye to the drab gray slab. Covering the surface with a durable yet good looking flooring can transform your garage into a more usable space. Epoxy coating, rubber tile, and even carpet and tiles made for garages are an option. Change up your lighting. Think outside the box and kick those old-school fluorescent lights to the curb and replace them with energy-efficient LED lighting.

Now that you have the vision, the real work begins. Here is where the rubber hits the road, you have to remove everything from the garage to sort and purge so you can start with a clean slate. If you are feeling daunted by the task, consider hiring a professional organizer to help design and streamline the project. You'll save time, money and stress. It's worth the investment for livability!



Kid's of all ages (yes, adults too) can use more space to hang out and relax in.



Jennifer Raftis, CPO® founded Efficiency Matters, LLC to help you with all of your organizing needs for your home and business. She is a Certified Professional Organizer and an active board member with NAPO, National Association of Productivity and Organizing Professionals. She is also an independent representative for The Container Store and has expertise in designing closets, garages, pantries, playrooms and more. In addition, she is a Corporate Organizing and Productivity Consultant and has worked with Fortune 500 companies across the U.S. Another large part of her business is move management especially working with seniors who are downsizing. She and her husband have lived in Moraga for 30 years, raising 3 kids and working countless volunteer hours with many local non-profit organizations and schools. Jennifer@efficiencymattersllc.com 925-698-3756 www.efficiencymattersllc.com

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Rossmoor Greens, Rare Galloway Model On, and Overlooking Golf Course

5581 Terra Granada Drive #3b, Rossmoor, Walnut Creek

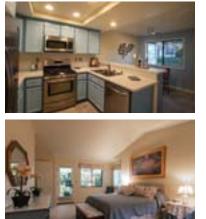


By appointment: Paul and Sheila 925-935-5258 sheila@bethelinstitute.com MLS # 40956887

Upgrades galore in this highly desirable 2 BR 2 BA + formal dining room with large terrace. This end model has the privacy and easy flowing floor plan for entertaining family and friends.

High ceilings and walls of windows capture the natural light that streams beautifully throughout. Premium upgrades. Gas fireplace, handsomely updated bathrooms and eat-in kitchen with 5 burner gas stove and pantry. Large master bedroom/bath with spacious walk-in closet. Garage right at the unit with storage loft.

Don't miss the chance to make this coveted model your new home. Move-in ready. A MUST SEE! Offered at \$885,000







Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian Bee careful

... continued from Page D1

- Add easy-to-grow natives and native hybrids to your garden.

- Replace barren areas with wildflowers and perennials.

Include clover in your lawn.
Avoid using any pesticides or herbicides.

 Provide a source of water by including a fountain or even a shallow birdbath with a landing pad of stones or pebbles.

- Pollinators need a sheltered habitat of rocks, trees, shrubs, and ornamental grasses.

In general, bees tend to enjoy plants that have flat flower clusters, short tubular shapes, and single flowers which allow them to access the nectar and pollen easily. Attract and Feed Pollinators, especially bees and Bumblebees by planting a selection of these specimens:

Anise	Delphinium	Morning glory
Aster	Echinacea	Nasturtium
Bachelor Button	Fennel	Nigella
Bee Balm	Four O'Clock	Oregano
Black-Eyed Susan	Foxglove	Рорру
Blazing Star	Gladiola	Rosemary
Bottlebrush	Hollyhock	Salvia
Calendula	Iris	Sedum
Chamomile	Lupine	Sunflower
Clover	Lavender	Sweet Pea
Cleome	Magnolia	Yarrow
Cosmos	Marigold	Zinnia
Daisy	Milkweed	

Another great addition to any pollinator garden is the bearded iris. Irises spread as they mature, with old rhizomes producing new ones to form rhizome clumps. These clumps need to be divided every 3–5 years to avoid overcrowding and reduce the likelihood of soft rot. You may want to designate an area specifically for an iris plot. Divide and replant the rhizomes to grow your garden. To divide irises do the following:

1. About four weeks after the flowers fade, cut down the foliage by about two-thirds.

2. Carefully dig up the clumps and gently separate individual rhizomes by hand or with garden shears.

3. Discard damaged or discolored rhizomes. Also, toss out any with

soft spots.

 Freshen soil with compost and replant the newly separated rhizomes 15–24 inches apart.
 If you have too many, share with friends and family.

Bees are critical to the well-being of the planet. My daughter and her husband have become home beekeepers and are enjoying the delicious honey that their bees create from the many flowers growing in their garden. The bees are sunbeams of beauty and productivity. It's up to humans to "bee" careful with how we manage our biologicals to promote the health and longevity of all pollinators.

Just don't exercise barefoot on the clover!

Happy Gardening. Happy Growing.



Lavender and bees are companions.



A bee gathers pollen from a Blackeyed Susan



Add a rock to a birdbath or fountain providing a drinking perch for bees. Photos Cynthia Brian



Clover is a favorite of bees.



A field of calendulas brings in the pollinators,



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Ruffled peach bearded iris.



A bee buzzes in a large magnolia flower.



Attracting bees and hummingbirds, remember to stake gladiolas.



A Bumblebee on a geranium flower,



Cynthia Brian dressed for the bees.

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 au-thor, actor, radio personality, speaker, media and writing coach as well as the Founder and Ex-ecutive Director of Be the Star You Are!® 501 c3. Tune into Cynthia's StarStyle® Radio Broad-cast at www.StarStyleRadio.com.

Buy copies of her books, including, Chicken Soup for the Gardener's Soul, Growing with the Goddess Gardener, and Be the Star You Are! www.cynthiabrian.com/online-store. Receive a FREE inspirational music DVD and special savings.

Hire Cynthia for writing projects, garden consults, and inspirational lectures. Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com

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Ranch style home located on

Private residential .43 acre lot in

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