

Lamorinda

OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 16 Issue 21 Wednesday, December 7, 2022



Creating a magical holiday season

read on Page D4

Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

Nature's ornaments



Christmas ornaments decorate Japanese maples. Photo Cynthia Brian

By Cynthia Brian

"There is material enough in a single flower for the ornaments of a score of cathedrals." ~ John Ruskin

Like so many Americans, the day after Thanksgiving I pulled out my stored Christmas décor. I'm not one to shop on Black Friday, preferring not to fight the crowds for sale items that I don't need. Instead, I chose to bask in the deliciousness of autumn by spending time meandering around my garden with my adopted animals in tow, deciding where to display my holiday treasures. It was a beautiful clear, warm day with a gentle breeze that tickled the leaves to fall like feathers. Songbirds caroled as hawks circled above in the air currents. As I inhaled the fragrance of pine needles, I exhaled joy and gratitude for such natural splendor.

What I realized was that Mother Nature had already decorated my landscape for the holidays with colorful leaves carpeting the

flower beds and blooming white chrysanthemums imitating snow. The merry berry bushes of nandina, cotoneaster, and pyracantha were chock full of fiery red fruit favored by wildlife. Hachiya persimmons resembled bright orange ornaments hanging from the near-bare branches. I mistook a lone red pomegranate hanging from the golden-leaved tree for a crimson Christmas bulb. Sprays of yellow Meyer lemons glowed like sunshine, while azalea bushes sported leaves in rainbow hues. I climbed the hillside steps to marvel at the multitude of cherry-pink pistache berries flanked by the redwood tree that the squirrels had not devoured this year. In the foreground, my weather-vane of a prancing deer reminded me of Dancer flying through the night sky.

I hung gold and red giant ornaments on my Japanese Maples. They glistened in the afternoon glare, yet these trinkets made by humans could not compare to what Mother Nature had already designed.

Many people seek a Christmas tree or Hanukkah bush to brighten their homes in December. Every tree is a perfect tree, even those Charlie Brown ones, especially if a child chooses. If possible, buy a living tree that can be placed on your patio after the holidays are over this year and be reused for the next festivity.

When considering trees, it's essential to also think about safety. According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, last year over 15,000 people ended up in the emergency room due to decorating falls, burns, cuts, strains, and electrical shocks.



Colorful maple leaves on the ground.

... continued on Page D10

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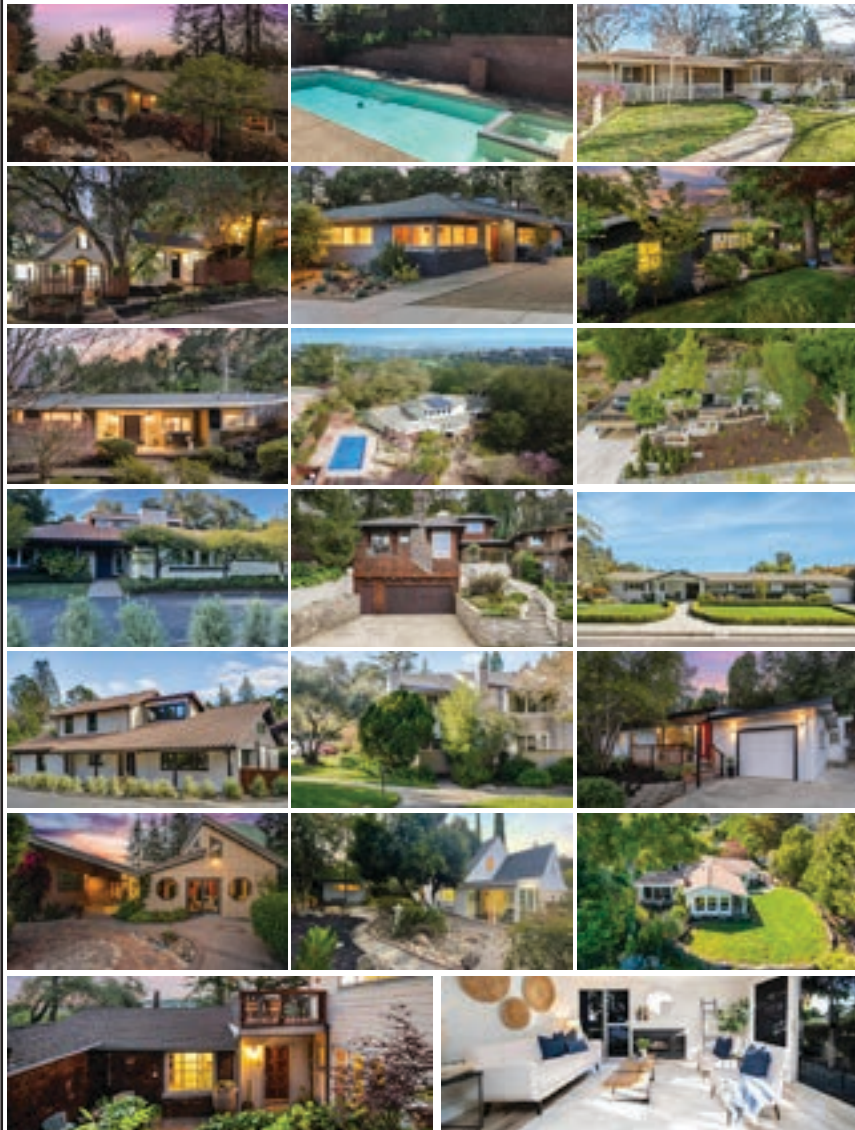


Happy Holidays

THANK YOU TO MY 2022 CLIENTS



SOLD IN 2022



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Lamorinda home sales recorded

City	Last reported	Lowest amount	Highest amount
LAFAYETTE	12	\$825,000	\$5,195,000
MORAGA	6	\$560,000	\$2,950,000
ORINDA	13	\$1,640,000	\$3,300,000

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

- 806 Hidden Pond Court, \$1,350,000, 3 Bdrms, 2784 SqFt, 1993 YrBlt, 10-19-22
- 1254 Juanita Drive, \$1,349,000, 5 Bdrms, 2425 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt, 10-28-22, Previous Sale: \$805,000, 11-08-04
- 810 Mariposa Road, \$2,120,000, 3 Bdrms, 2546 SqFt, 1941 YrBlt, 10-24-22, Previous Sale: \$885,000, 10-18-01
- 3272 Marlene Drive, \$825,000, 3 Bdrms, 1160 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 10-21-22, Previous Sale: \$490,000, 08-06-13
- 612 Michael Lane, \$1,350,000, 4 Bdrms, 1534 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 10-18-22
- 1171 Monticello Road, \$5,195,000, 4 Bdrms, 3570 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 10-21-22, Previous Sale: \$5,195,000, 05-20-22
- 3838 Palo Alto Drive, \$3,725,000, 4 Bdrms, 3440 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 10-26-22, Previous Sale: \$2,630,000, 02-25-20
- 26 Reliez Valley Court, \$1,939,000, 4 Bdrms, 3216 SqFt, 1979 YrBlt, 10-20-22, Previous Sale: \$275,000, 12-01-79
- 9 Ruth Court, \$1,250,000, 3 Bdrms, 1596 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 10-19-22, Previous Sale: \$174,000, 01-01-87
- 13 Shreve Lane, \$1,000,000, 4 Bdrms, 1962 SqFt, 2013 YrBlt, 10-21-22
- 10 Smoketree Court, \$1,280,000, 4 Bdrms, 1604 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 10-17-22, Previous Sale: \$595,000, 06-17-03
- 3377 West Terrace, \$1,400,000, 3 Bdrms, 1710 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 10-17-22

MORAGA

- 1982 Ascot Drive #C, \$560,000, 3 Bdrms, 1473 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 10-19-22, Previous Sale: \$570,000, 06-12-18
- 2135 Ascot Drive #23, \$755,000, 2 Bdrms, 1529 SqFt, 1969 YrBlt, 10-21-22, Previous Sale: \$575,000, 10-04-16
- 899 Augusta Drive, \$1,475,000, 2 Bdrms, 1656 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 10-21-22, Previous Sale: \$690,000, 01-20-10
- 100 Corliss Drive, \$2,130,000, 3 Bdrms, 2417 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 10-27-22, Previous Sale: \$1,265,000, 03-03-09
- 178 Corliss Drive, \$2,685,000, 5 Bdrms, 2838 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 10-21-22
- 54 Merrill Circle, \$2,950,000, 5 Bdrms, 5051 SqFt, 1996 YrBlt, 10-20-22

ORINDA

- 58 East Altarinda Drive, \$1,960,000, 4 Bdrms, 2290 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 10-25-22, Previous Sale: \$1,205,000, 04-02-14
- 19 Candlestick Road, \$1,835,000, 4 Bdrms, 3063 SqFt, 1980 YrBlt, 10-20-22, Previous Sale: \$254,500, 08-01-80
- 10 Hazel Tree Ridge, \$1,660,000, 4 Bdrms, 2394 SqFt, 2014 YrBlt, 10-19-22
- 7 Hilldale Court, \$2,340,000, 5 Bdrms, 3602 SqFt, 1942 YrBlt, 10-20-22
- 239 Ivy Drive, \$1,645,000, 4 Bdrms, 2113 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 10-24-22
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- 32 Loma Vista Drive, \$2,415,000, 5 Bdrms, 3502 SqFt, 1938 YrBlt, 10-24-22, Previous Sale: \$455,000, 10-20-99
- 131 Meadow View Road, \$1,625,000, 3 Bdrms, 1590 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 10-27-22
- 160 Moraga Way, \$1,090,000, 3 Bdrms, 1693 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 10-25-22
- 109 Sleepy Hollow Lane, \$2,300,000, 4 Bdrms, 2075 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 10-24-22, Previous Sale: \$1,615,000, 10-07-16
- 684 Tahos Road, \$1,900,000, 3 Bdrms, 1862 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 10-17-22, Previous Sale: \$1,077,000, 08-27-13
- 60 Tarry Lane, \$2,250,000, 5 Bdrms, 3022 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 10-24-22, Previous Sale: \$1,275,000, 12-09-05

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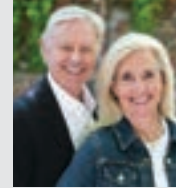
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KAAREN BRICKMAN



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LAUREN DEAL
HURLBUT TEAM

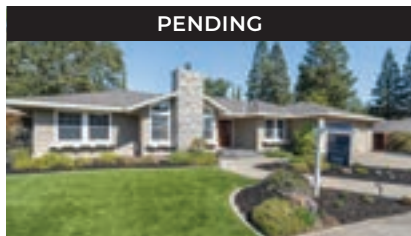


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DRE#02060294



ACTIVE

4 EL VERANO, ORINDA
OFFERED AT \$2,395,000
RUTH EDDY | 925.788.5449



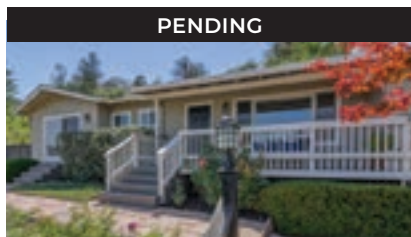
PENDING

1806 CHAPARRO CT., WALNUT CREEK
OFFERED AT \$1,899,000
BRYAN HURLBUT | 925.383.5500



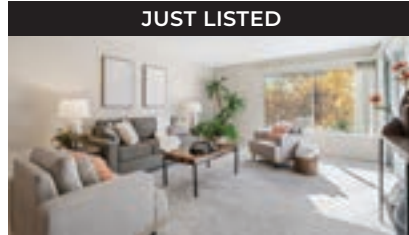
PENDING

83 GREENFIELD DRIVE, MORAGA
OFFERED AT \$1,699,000
MATT MCLEOD | 925.464.6500



PENDING

1321 JUANITA DRIVE, LAFAYETTE
OFFERED AT \$1,295,000
CAROLYN WAY | 925.890.4115



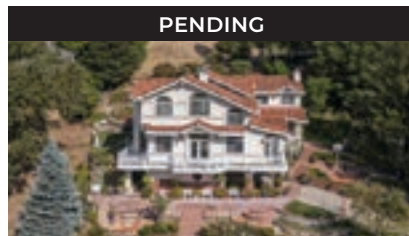
JUST LISTED

1935 CACTUS COURT, #4, ROSSMOOR
OFFERED AT \$665,000
L. LEGLER & C. HATA | 925.286.1244



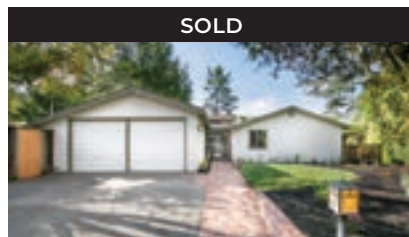
PENDING

25 OCHOS RIOS PLACE, DANVILLE
OFFERED AT \$1,895,000
DON & PAMELA COLOMBANA 925.878.8047



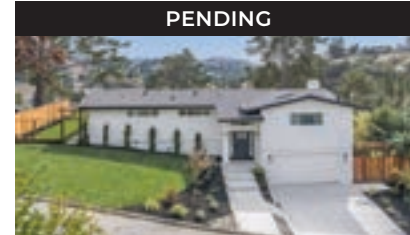
PENDING

816 LAS TRAMPAS ROAD, LAFAYETTE
OFFERED AT \$1,650,000
KAAREN BRICKMAN | 925.351.5049



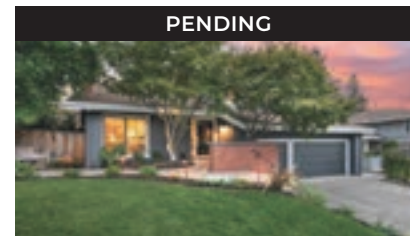
SOLD

911 ANITA COURT, LAFAYETTE
SOLD FOR \$1,500,000
S.HUTCHENS/A.HAMALIAN | 925.212.7617



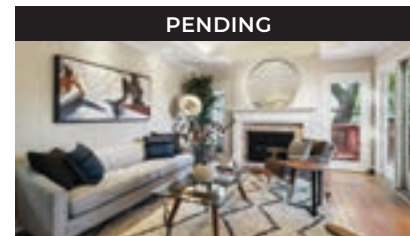
PENDING

48 LA SALLE DRIVE, MORAGA
OFFERED AT \$1,995,000
KAAREN BRICKMAN | 925.351.5049



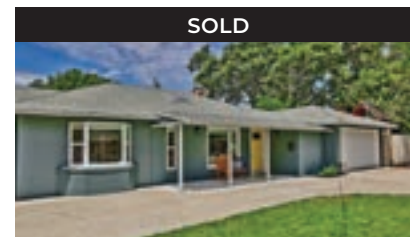
PENDING

1127 CALDER LANE, WALNUT CREEK
OFFERED AT \$1,799,000
S.HUTCHENS/A.HAMALIAN | 925.212.7617



PENDING

996 HAWTHORN DRIVE, LAFAYETTE
OFFERED AT \$1,400,000
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SOLD

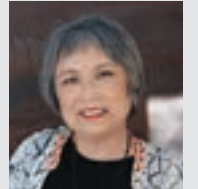
1860 LUCILLE LANE, PLEASANT HILL
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BRYAN HURLBUT



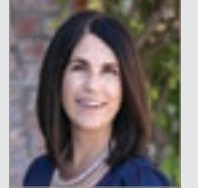
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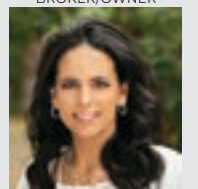
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LISA TICHENOR



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LORI LEGLER



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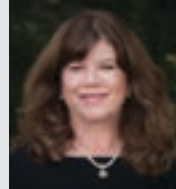
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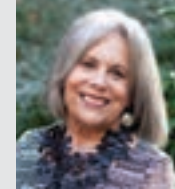
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SHELLEY RUHMAN



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SHERRY HUTCHENS



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TINA FRECHMAN



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DRE# 01970768



Make this a magical and meaningful holiday season



Photos provided

Shopping local craft boutiques are a great way to support local artisans and find unique gift items.

By Jennifer Raftis, CPO

When did the magic of the holidays become surviving the holidays? I enjoy the holiday season because it inspires people to focus on family, friends and our communities. Driving through the neighborhoods and seeing the lights on the houses helps remind me that we live in a special place where the entire community is celebrating all together. The lights, music and festive decor are where the magic begins for me.

For years, my Lamorinda neighborhood would hand out little paper bags with tea lights to be lit on the evening of Dec. 24. Each house would receive bags and candles and we would line them up on the curb in front of our houses. After dark, on Christmas eve, we would drive down the streets and tell the kids the candles were to help light the way for the reindeer. Even though my kids are now grown, I still feel the magic on Dec. 24.

Magical Traditions

A long time ago, I decided to make traditions a priority. My family made dough ornaments, cookies and meals together. For example, on Thanksgiving, everyone was responsible for part of the meal. Having the entire family working together (in a small kitchen) was memory making at its best (good and bad). Nothing is better than surrounding yourself with people you love. Our family also loved driving around the neighborhoods in the evening, admiring the holiday lights with holiday music blaring and steaming cups of hot chocolate in our mugs.

Another fun tradition was planning a caroling party with our neighborhood. We had jingle bells, holiday hats and custom song sheets along with flash lights and very warm coats (it was always freezing). We would start the party with fun appetizers and hot drinks at one of our houses, then carol around the neighborhood for hours and come back for desserts.

There are many memories associated with the holidays, some going back to our own childhoods. One of my dear clients told me of his first memory of shopping during the holidays at Macy's and how scared he was to ride the elevator (memories are memories ... good or scary). He also reminded me of how special it would make him feel when his family went to Orchard's nursery in Lafayette to see all of the holiday displays.

How do we focus on the magic and also make our gift giving more meaningful?

The most popular gift I gave my kids last year cost about \$4.50 and trust me, it wasn't about the object. Last year my friend told me about these cute toothbrushes that had rainbow bristles. She sent me the link and I discovered the shop owner was a part of the LGBTQIA+ community and the business itself was 100% women owned. It was so meaningful to my kids that I supported this small business. That was when I realized how meaningful it is to purchase with intention. I definitely had an "I'm proud of me" moment.

Where you shop matters

We live in an instant gratification world and packages showing up on our doorstep is convenient but where the heck is the magic in that? Even though it's annoying that the holiday season starts in October (commercialism), that is when all the warm feelings can begin.

Does anyone remember going into a darling, festively decorated store where the holiday music is playing and you could take your time to walk down the aisles? There is magic in finding that "perfect gift" and you smile at the thought of seeing the look on their face when they open it – also, the adrenaline from knowing you just "nailed it." It's hard to replicate that experience when you sit at your computer pushing "purchase and send" and your package arrives at your door the next day (often with materials that you cannot recycle).

If we carefully plan our time, we can often shop when it's not so busy and really enjoy the experience.

... continued on Page D8



Tom Stack

REAL ESTATE



Another rewarding year of making a difference in the lives of the people in this great community



Happy Holidays

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BANK OF THE WEST STAGE
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MC TOM STACK
SATURDAY | 09.17

- 0 - 12:00 Michaela Gomez, Brent Reale & Co
- 10 - 2:00 The Kyle Althayde Dance Party
- 0 - 4:30 The Big Jangle
- 0 - 7:00 The Sparanics

SUNDAY | 09.18

- 00 - 12:30 Warren Vibes
- 00 - 3:00 ZEBBY
- 20 - 6:00 The San Kings

"I'll treat you like a Rock Star"





Giving back to the community, one house at a time.

So Much to be Thankful For

Thanks to the support of my wonderful clients, I have donated to the following organizations in 2022 through The Local Giving Project:



More info at: www.holcenberg.com/giving-back

www.holcenberg.com

Michelle Holcenberg

CB Top 100 East/North Bay Region

michelle@holcenberg.com

925-324-0405

BRE #01373412



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Ann has become the largest sales producer in the Golden Gate Sotheby's Lafayette office. In 2021 Ann represented the seller of a Happy Valley property in Lafayette, which produced one of the highest prices of any Lafayette sale ever reported on the Multiple Listing Service. In 2022 she has already surpassed \$75 million in sales.

With Ann, you get the very best.

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85 Tarry Lane, Orinda
38 Parklane Dr., Orinda
1919 Ascot Dr., Moraga
50 Meadow View Rd, Orinda
461 Ridgeview Dr., Pleasant Hill
30 Parklane Dr., Orinda
27 Woodland Rd., Orinda
21 Monte Veda Dr., Orinda

92 Coral Dr., Orinda
65 Meadow View Rd., Orinda
44 Ivy Dr., Orinda
30 E. Altarinda Dr., Orinda
9 Bel Air Dr., Orinda
50 Woodbury Highlands, Lafayette
20 El Gavilan Road, Orinda
589 Tahos Road, Orinda
52 Via Floreado, Orinda

If you are thinking of buying or selling in the Lamorinda area in 2023, give me a call. I specialize in bringing buyers and sellers together to create happy moments!

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Shannon@ShannonConner.com
ShannonConner.com

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Make this a magical and meaningful holiday season



A magical holiday tradition of lighting the streets on Dec. 24.



Enjoy a magical holiday season!

... continued from Page D4

Supporting your local brick and mortar stores is meaningful especially when it's located in your hometown. Shop local and support your community. They need you to survive.

Gift Ideas

- 1) Support your local businesses. Your hometown's business is there for you; help to keep them in business. Typically, the customer service is top notch, returns are easy and you don't have to break down and recycle a huge cardboard box.
 - 2) Buy consumables - baked goods, food baskets, wine, tea, coffee, chocolates (local holiday craft markets).
 - 3) Support companies that are women or minority owned.
 - 4) Search for "companies that use recyclable packaging."
 - 5) Frequent companies that give a portion of the proceeds to a charity (many Etsy shops donate to charity).
 - 6) Patronize local craft boutiques. You can support local artisans and find unique gift items. Look for local event listings on social media.
 - 7) Purchase tickets of any kind for any event - theater, community events, opera, jazz, musicals, plays, concerts, comedy clubs; Sports - baseball, basketball, football, hockey, college games; Museums - Leshner, MOMA, Exploratorium, Asian Museum; Activities - skiing, mini golf, go-karts, paintball, Color Me Mine, laser tag, rock climbing, city tours, Segway tours; Classes - art, cooking, music, dance, photography, tennis/pickleball. (Check out classbento.com for more classes.)
- Lastly, give the gift of your time – doing anything together. Hands down, the most valuable gift we can give is our time. The gift of time means "I want to be with you, our relationship is important and I

want to create memories together." Keep that in mind when trying to think of the perfect gift for your parents.

Have a magical holiday season!

Professional Organizer, 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



Lamorinda home sales recorded

... continued from Page D2

ORINDA

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- 60 Tarry Lane, \$2,250,000, 5 Bdrms, 3022 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 10-24-22,
Previous Sale: \$1,275,000, 12-09-05
- 216 The Knolls, \$1,640,000, 3 Bdrms, 2408 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 10-24-22,
Previous Sale: \$1,450,000, 10-15-20



WISHING YOU AND YOUR FAMILY HAPPINESS IN THE NEW YEAR

Thank you to all of the wonderful clients
I worked with in 2022!



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COLDWELL BANKER REALTY

Goddess Gardener December Garden Tips

CONSIDER purchasing a living Christmas tree instead of a cut one. Garden centers have a selection of cypress, pine, fir, and even rosemary clipped to resemble a Christmas tree. Place your tree in a charming copper container or wrap it with festive fabric. Live trees will survive year after year and prices are reasonable.

FERTILIZE shrubs and trees after all the leaves have fallen to provide food to last for the season.

RAKE the overabundance of leaves in your gardens to add to the compost pile.

RESEED lawns with Pearl's Premium Ultra Low Maintenance Lawn Seed if you are keeping a lawn. The roots grow down to six feet with 75% less water, and no chemicals are needed which keeps children, animals, pollinators, and biodiversity safer. Pearl's Premium lawn seed sequesters 10 times the carbon compared to shallow root grass. Best of all, scatter it over your existing grass to outcompete everything. www.PearlsPremium.com

GATHER pinecones, berries, twigs, and grasses to add to your arrangements.

ATTRACT birds to your backyard throughout the cold months by keeping feeders filled and baths ready.

PICK persimmons, pomegranates, quince, and lemons to use in displays and holiday cooking.

PRUNE dormant fruit trees including peach, apricot, prune, plum, apple, and pear. Save the wood for barbecues next summer.

LIGHT up your decorations with battery-powered twinkle lights, or other outdoor lights set to timers. Trees trimmed with lights inspire delight.

HARVEST cauliflower, broccoli, and Brussels sprouts.

ALLOW rosehips and berries to remain on the bushes as holiday bird feasts and picturesque ornaments.

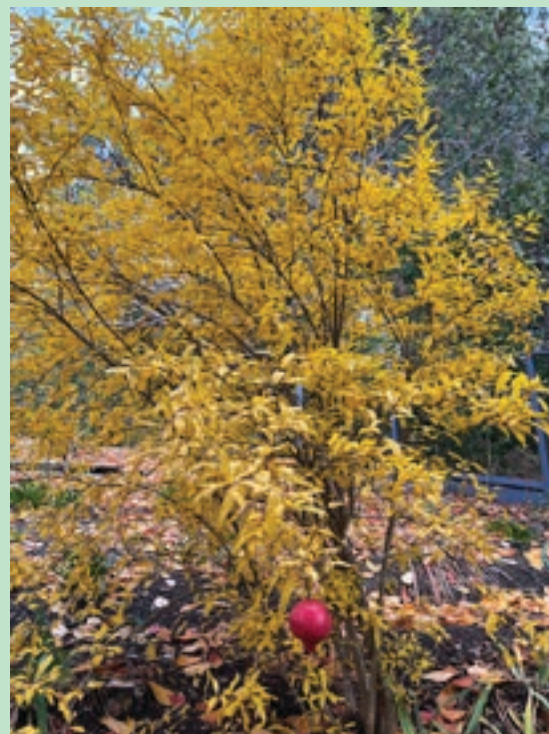
Nature provides enough material to decorate the holidays with ornaments as glorious as cathedrals. Embrace them as part of your festivities. Happy Gardening. Happy Growing. Happy Holidays!



The third flush of florets of cauliflowers.



Golden orbs of Meyer lemons.



Single pomegranate dangles from yellow-leaved branches.



Red nandina berries are beautiful but poisonous.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

Saturday, Dec. 10 is Santa Day at 5A in collaboration with Be the Star You Are!® charity. Come get your photo taken with Santa and his elf plus a book signing of the children's book, "No Barnyard Bullies," the perfect holiday gift delivering kindness. Thanks to Mark Hoogs of State Farm Insurance (www.TeamHoogs.com) for sponsoring BTSYA. Info: www.bethestaryouare.org/copy-of-events



Cynthia Brian by the Meyer lemon tree.

Raised in the vineyards of Napa County, Cynthia Brian 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. Her newest children's picture book, No Barnyard Bullies, from the series, Stella Bella's Barnyard Adventures is available now at www.cynthiabrian.com/online-store For an invitation to hang out with Cynthia for fun virtual events, activities, conversations, and exclusive experiences, buy StarStyle® NFTs at <https://StarStyleCommunity.com> Hire Cynthia for writing projects, garden consults, and inspirational lectures. Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com <https://www.GoddessGardener.com>

... continued from Page D1

Here are a few suggestions to decorate safely:

Light your yuletide with the freshest tree whether you buy a tree from a lot or cut one yourself. Look for ultra-green needles that are not falling off the tree. Shake the tree and if the needles stay put, you have a winner.

If your tree is not a living tree, soak your tree for 24 hours before installing it and keep the basin always filled with water.

Keep all trees, branches, and flammable decorations away from fireplaces, radiators, and high-traffic areas.

Hang stockings on chimneys only when there is no fire burning.

Buy new lights that have been tested by the Underwriters Laboratory (UL). Make sure that lights for your garden are labeled as outdoor capable. All lights need good wiring, devoid of any broken or cracked sockets, frayed wires, or loose connections. Only use extension cords that are designed for the outdoors and beware of the number of light sets that may be attached.

Never add electric lights to metallic ornamentations as you could be exposing yourself to electrocution.

When climbing ladders, use the buddy system.

Unplug lights and all electrical devices whenever you leave the premises and especially when you go to bed.

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40 Via Floreado
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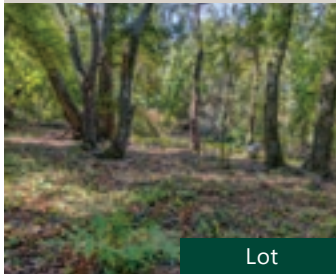
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2 Orchard Court
Home sweet home! 3 bd/ 2 ba home needs lots of TLC now & is awaiting the next generation!

\$1,025,000

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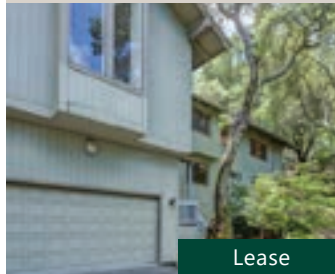


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19 Woodcrest Road
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92 Warfield Drive
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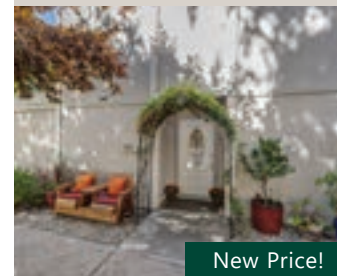
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