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Acalanes football state champions

Photo Acalanes Boosters

Acalanes football captures its first state championship

By Jon Kingdon

On May 15, the Acalanes football team began preparation for the 2023 season; 208 days later, the Dons were christened state champions for the first time with a 35-23 victory over Birmingham (Lake Balboa) High School in front of a number of parents, students, friends, alumni in the area and even some former players of head coach Floyd Burnsed.

It proved to be a tale of two halves. Birmingham, with three touchdown passes was leading late in the first half by a score of 21-7 when the Dons took over on their own 48-yard line with less than a minute to go. Judiciously using their three timeouts, Acalanes scored on the last play of the half on a one-yard run by RB/LB Jack Giorgianni who was coming off a sprained ankle suffered the week prior.

Coming into the game, Burnsed was very concerned about stopping Birmingham's running game. "Their quarterback, Kingston Tisdell, threw the ball really well, particularly to Peyton Waters who will be playing for Washington next year,"

Burnsed said. "Our key linebackers, Giorgianni and Collin Malmquist, may lack some size, but they are tough, smart kids and were key in stopping their running game."

There was a concern about the size difference between the teams. "Going into the game, I didn't think we could run between the tackles because of the size of their tackles," Burnsed said. "Our plan was to run outside and felt that if we could protect our quarterback, Sully Bailey, we would have a chance."

OL and DL Drew McKenzie did not see that as an issue once the game started. "They were bigger than us, but not as big as they looked on film," McKenzie said. "After we made the late score in the first half, and we knew that we were going to get the ball first to start the second half and we were pretty calm. We changed our pass protection a little due to their rushers and it worked out as we protected Sully well, particularly after he hurt his knee after a scramble and our backs did a good job in picking up their blitzing linebackers."

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TeleCare volunteers make holidays a little less lonely with comforting calls

By David Scholz



Photo provided

Marcia Mulcahy with Santa at the 2022 TeleCare party

The holiday season brings its own special array of sights and sounds. But it also creates emptiness and loneliness, and seniors can be at their most vulnerable as connections with family and loved ones may grow even more distant, if they exist at all anymore.

So, listening and filling that void take on a greater importance for TeleCare volunteers with the Walnut Creek-based Assistance League as that harsh reality, starting at Thanksgiving, reaches its crescendo as the New Year dawns.

Candy Berryhill and Patty Scowley, both of Moraga, are among a team of volunteers who place reassurance phone calls Mondays through Fridays to the elderly, many of whom may be shut-ins or homebound. And, with each "hello" they hear on the other end of the line, a heartfelt connection to the outside world is established yet again, if only for a few moments.

Among the recipients of their daily reassurance calls is Briones resident Marcia Mulcahy, 86, who has enjoyed hearing the sweet sound of their voices for more than five years.

"I am not shut in by any means," she said, being blessed with a wonderful circle of friends. But living alone, receiving the calls were just added peace of mind. "I thought it would be nice to have a phone call from someone first thing in the morning and hear a voice," said Mulcahy. "If they don't get an answer,

then they would call my family."

Berryhill is her Wednesday caller, and she gets as much out of the experience as Mulcahy. "All of us who call have a special place in our hearts for people who could be alone at the holidays," said Berryhill. "They are opening up to us and telling us how they feel."

"Some are struggling," she added. Sometimes those conversations extend to the volunteers being asked questions like how their holiday preparations are going. "I usually I respond it is a lot of work," said Berryhill.

"That gets them to giggle," she continued, implying it brings back memories they have of Christmases past and the time spent ensuring there are gifts for everyone and guests to the house are getting along.

"We have discussed that a lot of times," Berryhill said.

Scowley, who has been involved with TeleCare for 10 years after working her whole life, echoed Berryhill's sentiments. When Scowley retired, a desire to serve the community where she had personal contact with others was her goal. ... continued on Page 3

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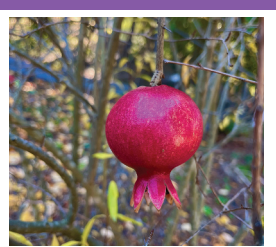
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New Lafayette mayor and vice mayor take the reins

By Lou Fancher



Photos courtesy Suzanne Iarla, City of Lafayette

Outgoing Mayor Carl Anduri is presented with a pen from new Mayor Gina Dawson at the Dec. 11 Lafayette City Council meeting.

Outgoing Lafayette mayor Carl Anduri's opening words at the Dec. 11 council meeting began with heavy levity, noting that it was the first opportunity in four years to hold the council transition meeting announcing the new mayor and vice mayor in person, due to the pandemic interruption and virtual ceremonies during intervening years.

After blending light and heavy tones, a signature trait, Anduri said how it was a pleasure to serve as mayor during the past year, and thanked his wife, Sharon, for her support as well as fellow council members for being such collaborative colleagues.

past year. And I want to acknowledge and thank the hundreds of volunteers who sit on the commissions, committees, and task forces; the volunteers at the chamber (Chamber of Commerce), the Library Foundation, the Lafayette Community Foundation, the Park Theater Trust, Lamorinda Village, L5, the homeowner associations, Lafayette Historical Society, and so many other community organizations that have contributed so much to our city.

Anduri noted the past year's accomplishments, including approval of the updated Housing Element for the General Plan, which was submitted it to the state prior to the January deadline.

sands of hours working on the revised Housing Element update that is now out for public comment," he said. "As part of our celebration of 175-plus years, we installed seven Layette history themed utility box wraps along Mt. Diablo Boulevard. We also adopted our land acknowledgment statement and related protocols. We adopted and implemented the Safe Firearms Storage Ordinance. In April, we opened the First Street Rain Garden. Our creeks committee installed new signs along our creeks; we have 16 miles of creeks in Lafayette and the committee wants to make our residents more aware of them.

Anduri noted the successful second annual community day, as well as the partnership with Sustainable Contra Costa and the launch of the Lamorinda Sustainability Challenge. While Orinda won the challenge and Moraga came in second, Anduri said, "Wait till next year."

"The city's environmental task force set our recreational loaner program for residents to try out electric induction cooktops and electric leaf blowers," Anduri continued.

"On the recommendation of the environmental task force, the city council adopted an ordinance banning the use of gas-powered leaf blowers beginning July 1, 2024."

Anduri noted how a group of residents who are experts in their fields came together to help preserve the iconic Lafayette Reservoir tower. "That effort is still ongoing, but East Bay MUD has decided not to begin work in 2024."

"We approved and updated the Safety Element, with a General Plan. We installed street safety improvements around all schools. We adopted a new traffic calming program; updating the existing 20-year-old program. We approved a local road safety program as part of our commitment to Vision Zero," Anduri said.

"Each of these accomplishments involved some measure of change. We have been reminded by our celebration of our history that Lafayette has always been changing. We know that Lafayette will continue to change. We know it is up to all of us to work together to create the change that makes Lafayette an even better place to live. Thank you to each of you for doing just that during 2023."

Incoming mayor Gina Dawson acknowledged Anduri's leadership and his com-

mitment to serving as a council member while maintaining a busy professional and private life. "You set a high bar for mayorship," she said, referring to his record as "exemplary" and his contributions as notable and long-lasting.

After receiving the gift of an old-school fancy pen, Anduri moved to elect Dawson as mayor and Council Member Wei-Tai Kwok as vice mayor. Approved by council members, public comments honored Anduri and his term leading the council.

The first of the public speakers called attention to Anduri's care of and caring for the community, and his statesmanship. A second speaker and resident thanked him for his accomplishments and followed through and presented him with "a bottle of bubbly" to share with his wife, Sharon.

The vote to pass the mayoral gavel to Dawson was unanimous.

Four days after the Dec. 11 meeting, Council Member Teresa Gerringer announced that she will resign her position effective Jan. 23, 2024 due to family reasons. The city council will discuss next steps to fill her seat at the next regular city council meeting in January.

Trombonanza – Holiday Fun for Everyone

By Sharon K. Sobotta

More than a dozen trombone players from all ages and stages of life gathered in front of the iconic coffee shop – Papillon in La Fiesta Square – to spread holiday cheer through a parking lot concert for a few dozen

Lamorindans on Saturday, Dec. 9. The temperature was brisk but the sun shone brightly as an intergenerational crowd gathered to take in the music.

Eleven-year old Noah Koester and his dad, Anthony

Koester happened upon the concert when they were in the area to get haircuts. Noah, who plays the clarinet in a community band led by a former Lafayette Elementary School teacher, was really excited about the pop-up concert. "I think it's really interesting to have a band full of trombones. I'm having fun listening to them and I think they sound really good," Noah Koester said. "It's important for the community to come together to support events like this."

Victoria Reimers came from Orinda to be at the parking lot holiday concert with her 6-month-old and 2-year-old sons as well as her husband Time. "This is my son's very first time



Photo Sharon K. Sobotta

hearing and experiencing live music. I want my son to feel like he lives in a community," Reimers said about her 2-year-old as he bobbed up and down and smiled widely while taking

in the music. "I want him to look back on the place he grew up and remember it fondly and have an attachment to it. I think these kinds of events help with that."

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Local residents call for DeSaulnier to stop funding weapons for Gaza war

By Sharon K. Sobotta



Photo Sharon K. Sobotta

Lamorinda residents were a part of some 300 people and a coalition of youth that greeted District 10 Congressman Mark DeSaulnier ahead of his 200th town hall meeting at Diablo Valley Community College earlier this month. In the center of the DVC plaza was an unmissable stack of children's shoes – collected and displayed by Jewish women in Contra Costa and Alameda Counties – covered with roses that surrounded a sign emblazoned with the words, "Killing kids is not self-defense," and many others with one central message: ceasefire.

Ann Young is a Jewish Lafayette resident and the mother of a Campolindo High School student as well as a college student. Young helped organize the visual shoe display. She handed out flowers in honor of those who've been killed in Gaza during DeSaulnier's visit. "The shoe memorial is such a powerful and impactful way to remind people about what is happening right now in Gaza," Young said.

For Young, a ceasefire cannot happen soon enough. And she says her critique of the military actions of the Israeli military with funding provided by the U.S. does not make her anti-semitic but rather a person that is standing tall in her Jewish beliefs. "I'm Jewish and I was raised in a Jewish family. We [Jews] were dehumanized, called animals and not seen as

actual people [in our history]. Today Palestinians are being pushed together into the tiniest corner of a walled-in area and then they're being targeted.

"For me, the part of Judaism that has always been rooted deep within me that I took from my childhood Rabbi were the lessons of fighting for social justice when we see anyone suffering. It is not anti-semitic to call for freedom and the life of other people – and not just my own," Young said. "It's as supportive of Judaism as one can get."

Bissan Abusharar is a Palestinian-American mother of four who no longer lets her 13-year-old son wear his kufiya in public, for the sake of his safety. "I remind him that we don't live in a perfect world and we are going to live, work and go to school with people who hold different views and we need to be respectful of their perspectives."

Bissan Abusharar hopes that DeSaulnier will convince more of his democratic colleagues to join his call for a ceasefire. She also hopes DeSaulnier will back up his own ceasefire call by voting against additional military funding for the state of Israel. "We were very happy with the way he interacted with our children. We're happy that he is in support of a ceasefire."

... continued on Page 8

Local TeleCare volunteers

... continued from Page 1

And, TeleCare afforded her that opportunity with direct interactions with the clients it served.

Heightened sensitivity and greater listening, Scowley noted, are the order of the day during the holidays.

"I don't say the calls differ much in terms of subject matter," she said, but there is greater attentiveness to what clients are saying and thinking, including what they might have planned for the holidays.

"We are sensitive to knowing that individuals can find their loneliness is more acute during this time of the year," Scowley added, knowing some don't have family.

The invaluable connections made during the holidays are bolstered by an annual gathering that brings most of all of the clients and the program volunteers together for a joyous face-to-face encounter.

A long attendee of the holiday gathering, Mulcahy unfortunately was not able to attend. A recent accident occurred on a Saturday when a daily call was not expected. Yet, she acknowledged someone, in some form, must have been looking out for her. Still, she's hardly far from the hearts of the volunteers who make sure all the clients receive a holiday gift to brighten the season.

Planning to go back next year, Mulcahy recalled the way the room and tables are deco-

rated for the festive gathering. "It is just a nice touch," she said.

The arrival of COVID prevented Berryhill from initially meeting Mulcahy and others at the Christmas party when she first joined the TeleCare team. It wouldn't be until 2022 that the party, first held in 1994, resumed.

"It was the most special time," said Berryhill. "Sometimes we just held hands. It is the biggest trip."

No longer just voices, "they were a face and personality we could see," she recalled of the experience.

And, what's Christmas without some gifts from Santa and his helper. One such token of love that keeps giving all year round is a coffee mug bearing photos of all the volunteers for the clients to have when they answer the phone and see who's on the other end.

"It was fun for them to see our mug shots," Scowley said.

A further holiday treat for clients takes the form of hand painted potted succulents that included a snowman decoration, courtesy of AL's Assist-Teens group.

This holiday gift complements the other personal gestures of appreciation that the younger members take charge of during the course of the year, including distribution of cards on Valentine's Day and birthday cards for the clients.

"It's a nice personal communication with the clients," Scowley said.

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Lafayette Public Meetings

City Council

Regular Meeting
Monday, Jan. 8, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center-Don Tatzin Community Hall

Planning Commission Meeting

Monday, Jan. 2, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center-Don Tatzin Community Hall

Design Review

Monday, Jan. 8, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center-Arts & Science Discovery Room



MORAGA

See public meetings schedule on these pages and check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements
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Chamber of Commerce:
 www.moragachamber.org
Moraga Citizens' Network:
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Town Council
 Wednesday, Jan. 10, 6:30 p.m.
Planning Commission:
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Park and Recreation Commission:
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State of the Town event well attended by locals

By Vera Kochan



Mayor Renata Sos Photo Vera Kochan

There was plenty of good cheer in the air during Moraga's State of the Town event, and not just because of the holidays. Hosted at the Saint Mary's College Soda Center, it was clear that the Dec. 13 festivities offered old friends a chance to catch up, and others to make new acquaintances. There was one common denominator among the 230 attendees: pride in Moraga.

The mid-day affair, sponsored by Moraga Citizens Network, Moraga Chamber of Commerce and SMC began with some networking that segued into a buffet lunch. After the meal, the college's Interim President Brother Thomas Jones started the presentation with a "Welcome" address by stressing the importance of maintaining a town/gown relationship. County Supervisor Candace Andersen thanked Mayor Renata Sos for her leadership, and surprise guest speaker, SMC Men's Basketball head coach Randy Bennett said, "Moraga is a great place to live," and that it was the only place the family wanted to settle down when he was hired to coach. Bennett also chose the moment to praise SMC's administration and students, many of whom get involved in the community through volunteer work.

Before proceeding with an impassioned presentation that included slides to emphasize some of the finer points, Sos acknowledged and thanked several key attendees in the building along with fellow council members Steve Woehleke, Kerry Hillis, and David Shapiro, as well as Vice Mayor Teresa Onoda. "My hope for today is to

provide you with a look under the proverbial hood to give you a clearer picture of the engine that is our town government. Keeping the town running, financially strong and aesthetically pleasing is what your town government does day in and day out. It is what provides the framework to permit this town to flourish."

In acknowledgement of Moraga's upcoming 50th Anniversary, Sos discussed how the town's initial leaders created a foundation that was geared toward this particular community with a vision for the future. Several points of pride include a consistent rating as one of the safest cities in the state; the only municipality in Contra Costa County with a high-ranking four-year university; and public schools that are ranked among the best in not only the Bay Area, but California and the nation.

"We are a community with an established ethos of volunteerism and community service," stated Sos. "We see evidence of this regularly in the many active community service organizations that thrive in a town of only 17,000 residents. When our residents identify an issue, find a problem, or have an idea of how to improve our town, they organize, roll up their sleeves, and work until the task is successfully completed – all without any expectation of recognition or reward."

Sos also noted Moraga's hills, scenic vistas, open spaces and abundance of hiking trails which make the town so unique as compared to other cities and towns.

"Our staff consistently provides services and programming that are responsive to the needs of this community and at the level of quality that our residents expect and deserve," Sos continued. "Yet, on a per capita basis, we have the smallest town staff in the Lamorinda area." The Moraga Police Department ensures that the town is one of the safest in the state; Public Works engineers continuously obtain grants and outside funding for major projects; Maintenance personnel work

around the clock to keep the town hazard-free and attractive; the Finance Department operates with full transparency; the Town Planners work to maintain the character of the General Plan; and Parks and Recreation keeps Moraga busy with activities geared for any age level. Sos also pointed out the valued role that Town Manager Scott Mitnick plays as team leader.

Listing the many accomplishments that the town has achieved in 2023, Sos discussed the efforts to enhance safety for school children, pedestrians and cyclists; MPD and Moraga-Orinda Fire District's continuing preparation for emergencies; and multi-million dollar grants to improve strategic intersections and acquire Smart Signals.

Additionally, there have been stronger efforts to strengthen relations with local business and SMC; and the town council has rezoned commercial areas to allow for mixed-residential – retail development. A completed Housing Element has earned the state's approval; and continued investment in an improved infrastructure and public facilities has seen streets, storm drains, new park restrooms and the library reap the benefits.

Referring to the town's fiscal report card, Sos reported that Fiscal Year 23/24 and 24/25 budgets have balanced; Capital Improvement: \$20.8 million (over 2 years); the General Fund Reserve levels are sound; future pension obligations are being met; and the town has received the Government Finance Officers' Association Distinguished Budget Presentation and Financial Planning Award.

Sos stated, "Although the town accomplished a great deal this year, we are clear-eyed about the challenges we face in making sure that Moraga will continue to evolve and prosper, while retaining the town's very essence that we all cherish." With that said, Sos added that infrastructural needs must be continually met; financial stability maintained; encourage commercial property owners to work with the town in boosting

the local economy; and continue to recruit the best town employees possible.

Looking to the future, the town hopes to see two vibrant shop-live-work villages; a student/family friendly college town; a better mix of housing for seniors, students, teachers, public safety personnel, and families with young children; open space and hillsides with access to hiking and biking; continued community participation by residents; and a place where everyone can feel safe and welcome.

Sos informed the attendees of what they have to look forward to during Moraga's 50th Anniversary celebration in 2024. The Town was officially incorporated on Nov. 12, 1974, and the Anniversary Ad Hoc Committee has several things planned for the coming year. The Moraga Historical Society will install educational displays in the Moraga Library during September, October and November; a parade will kick off the annual Moraga Pear Festival in September; a Time Capsule will be buried in front of the Town Council Chambers; and a town cookbook will be for sale starting in the summer which will include favorite family recipes in all categories from Moraga residents. Pear recipes are welcome, but not a must. The committee urges residents to submit their recipes by Feb. 28 to cc.recipes/moraga or click on the 50th anniversary box at moraga.ca.us. Any questions email: moragacookbook@gmail.com.

In closing the State of the Town event, Sos remarked, "Fifty years ago this town was founded on the shared ethic of service to others, kindness towards and respect for everyone, and generosity towards our neighbors. It is this shared ethic that not only makes Moraga a great place to live, work, and raise a family today, but promises a bright tomorrow. Thank you for coming today, thank you for sharing in this celebration, and thank you for being an integral part of this community's journey into the future."

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Paint Night at the Hacienda speaks to the inner Impressionist artist in all of us

By Vera Kochan



Photo Vera Kochan

Students replicate a painting with their own personal touches

For those who have always wondered if they had any artistic talent, Paint Night at Moraga's Hacienda de las Flores was the perfect opportunity to explore any hidden Monet, Renoir, or Gauguin urges that heretofore have only touched the tip of the iceberg while repainting the kitchen or bathroom.

The Parks and Recreation Department-sponsored Dec. 13 event was held in the Casita building, and prospective artists were encouraged to bring their own food and beverages. It will be noted that a few bottles of

wine were uncorked, which may have explained the mellow atmosphere in the room.

Independent Artist and Instructor Iilena Handy-Munoz provided all supplies which included table-top easels, 16 x 20-inch canvases, acrylic paints, brushes, and plastic aprons (just in case). Her first bit of advice was, "Relax" – something that became easier the more the wine flowed. Her second mantra was, "There's no such thing as wrong (in art, anyway)."

Handy-Munoz was a late bloomer to the painting world

when she first started in 2016 by attending "Sip and Paint" classes. The instructors were impressed with her skills, and she was asked to become one of them. Her hobby turned into a business venture when she co-partnered to open "Painting with a Twist" in Pleasant Hill. After becoming a mom, she sold her share of the business and now instructs via pop-up classes for kids, birthdays, showers, team-building, and at elementary schools such as Donald L. Rheem and Los Perales. Her 2-year-old toddler son has inherited her talent and love of painting, but ironically, her husband is color blind.

And so, to the sound of holiday tunes filling the air, nine men and women proceeded to create their take-home masterpieces. Using only three sizes of brushes, which Handy-Munoz dubbed Big Papa, Mama Brush, and of course the Baby, students were tasked to duplicate a painting that the instructor had brought to class. The painting was that of a lakeside scene with mountains in the background and trees in the foreground all in front of a sky that could be interpreted as either dusk or dawn. While some students panicked when they felt they'd made a mistake, Handy-Munoz assured them, "There are no mistakes that can't be corrected with paint."

As an observer, this reporter found it interesting that while the novices had a painting to copy for their point of reference, they each gave their works a personal interpretation, and any one of them could walk away with hang-worthy art.

For further information contact: iilena.handy@gmail.com.

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Moraga assigned AAA rating from S&P Global

By Vera Kochan

In order to avoid any confusion, the AAA rating given to the town of Moraga by Standard & Poors Global Ratings (S&P), has nothing to do with the American Automobile Association. Quite simply put, it means that Moraga has achieved an exemplary credit rating.

Town Manager Scott Mitnick broke the good news in a Dec. 5 memo to staff, "This would not be possible if it were not for the incredible governing leadership of Town Council, having a visionary Planning Commission, and the dedication to best practices by each member of the E-Team [Executive-Team] and Town staff." He also made an announcement to the Town Council during its Dec. 6 Special Meeting.

According to an S&P Credit Highlights Summary, with regards to the town's Appropriations and General Obligation, "S&P Global Ratings assigned its 'AAA' issuer credit rating (ICR) to Moraga, Calif., and its 'AA+' long-term rating to the town's anticipated \$4.7 million series 2023 refunding certificates of participation (COPs). At the same time, S&P Global Ratings affirmed its 'AA+' long-term rating on the town's series 2013 COPs. The outlook is stable."

Moraga's credit overview from S&P took many things into consideration and should not come as a surprise to most residents. Upper-income levels are comparable to many municipalities in California, and property values have increased dramatically during the past 20 years. Thanks to the town's governing body, new statutes have helped to secure the state's certification of the Housing Element in a timely manner, while setting sights on adding approximately 123 high-end homes in

the next decade. Land use regulations will allow low-density retail and commercial property owners the ability to add multi-family housing units.

Also included in the report, was the voter approved Measure K special sales tax from 2013 with a sunset date of 2033, which has helped the town balance its budget while making great strides to improve infrastructure and maintenance. S&P also recognized that Moraga made it through COVID's fallout with the help of federal grant support, proving that it could handle challenges when necessary thanks to an available general fund balance and policy-mandated reserve minimum. It is worth mentioning that although S&P recognized that Moraga could potentially face Mother Nature's wrath in the form of earthquakes, wildfires and inland flooding, they give kudos to the Moraga-Orinda Fire District for developing evacuation programs and fuel mitigation strategies to minimize the risks.

S&P's report stated, "The rating further reflects our view of the town's very strong economic profile in the San Francisco Bay Area, with some of the strongest market value per capita in the state despite limited commercial or industrial land uses that can elevate this figure," and the "very strong budgetary flexibility and liquidity but fluctuating budgetary performance even after our adjustments for one-time factors, which we understand primarily reflect surges and troughs in discretionary capital spending rather than major year-to-year operational changes."

Additionally, "strong management and good institutionalized financial policies and prac-

tices, including a robust budget-building process, midyear budget updates to council, policy-required maintenance of five-year long-term financial and capital plans, formal debt and investment policies, a robust policy-mandated reserve minimum of 50% of expenditures, and a strong state institutional framework score for municipalities required to maintain federal single audits," and lastly, a "very strong debt-and-contingent liability profile, with a low debt burden and modest annual pension costs relative to those of state and national peers."

"The AAA credit rating reflects not just the current political stability, State certified Housing Element, strong demographics, and local geography," said Mitnick, "it equally reflects the best financial management and budgetary practices that former Chief Financial Officer Annie To put into place during her tenure with the town."

In his Dec. 12 memo to staff, Mitnick wrote, "The Town of Moraga 2023 Refunding Certificates of Participation (COPs) were funded this morning via a highly competitive bidding process. The winning bid went to Fidelity Capital Markets (based in Boston, Mass.) at an amazing 2.477% interest rate. As a reminder, we were anticipating a refunding in the low 3s ... maybe close to 3.0%. The current 2013 COPs have an average rate of about 4.85%. This level of bidding and the rate achieved was well below what was anticipated ... by at least 50 bps [basis points]."

Mitnick revealed that the town's recent AAA overall credit rating from S&P along with a Nov. 21 in-person rating agency presentation made all the difference.

Moraga's Town Council reorganizes for the new year

By Vera Kochan

Every December in Moraga the town council goes through a reorganization process where a new mayor takes the reins of town leadership along with a new vice mayor.

During the Town Council's Dec. 13 meeting, Mayor Renata Sos was lauded by fellow members who sang her praises and gave her memorable gifts as a tribute to her successful tenure.

Vice Mayor Teresa Onoda got the ball rolling by presenting Sos with a plaque that sported a removable gavel. On a more personal level Onoda gifted Sos with one of her hand-painted pieces of a sunflower. Sos explained that sunflowers are her favorite, because they remind her of her Western-Ukrainian, immigrant mother who always spoke of the sunflowers back home.

Council Member Kerry Hillis presented Sos with a bot-

tle of wine made from the grapes grown in his backyard.

Sos can expect a piece of pottery crafted by Council Member David Shapiro who, much to his chagrin, left it at home.

Council Member Steve Woehleke, whose hobby is wood working, made Sos a wind chime using reclaimed redwood and melodic metal tubing.

Sos replied that she was "deeply touched and honored by everybody's comments. It has been an absolute joy to serve as mayor this year, and the reason is because of the people sitting around me."

Next came the nominations for new mayor and vice mayor. With a unanimous vote, Moraga's new mayor is Onoda, and the new vice mayor is Woehleke.

In his acceptance speech,

Woehleke sang the praises of the town staff. "A lot of times we get credit for things, and they really do the work, and we're there in many cases to affirm their decisions." He added, "We represent all of the citizens of the town in making decisions on their behalf, and we focus on making high-quality decisions."

"I have a sense of gratitude and responsibility as your new elected mayor," stated Onoda. "I am deeply honored and humbled by the trust you have placed in me for our beautiful town. One thing that I have as a goal as a mayor is to sustain our precious habitat. Moraga is known for its natural beauty, and we are the stewards of a unique and diverse eco-system, and it is our duty to protect and preserve it for generations to come."

Volunteers sought for homeless Point in Time Count

The Contra Costa Council on Homelessness is seeking volunteers to help identify people experiencing unsheltered homelessness between 5:30 and 9 a.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 24, 2024 for the homeless Point in Time (PIT) Count. Volunteers will participate in pairs and either drive or capture data on an iPhone-based app during this one-day, countywide project to count unsheltered people in Contra Costa County. Participants will be able to choose the area where they will do the count (with some limitations). There will be an in-person volunteer training the week of Jan. 8, 2024 with details to be announced. Please consider participating and encourage your colleagues, staff, and friends to register as a volunteer. This count is a very important part of how our community gets resources to support people at risk of or experiencing homelessness.

To register and get more information, visit <https://2024-point-in-time-count-cocogis.hub.arcgis.com/>
For questions about volunteer participation, email contracostacoc@cchealth.org or call (925) 608-6716. - Submitted by Jill Ray



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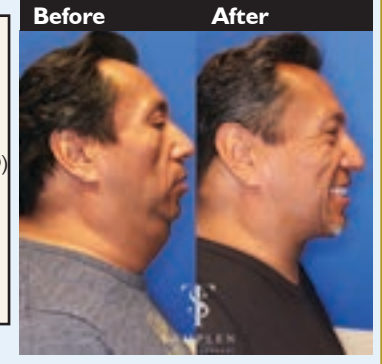
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Wishing you a New Year filled with good fortune and new adventures!



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 www.cityoforinda.org
 Phone (925) 253-4200
Chamber of Commerce:
 www.orindachamber.org
The Orinda Association:
 www.orindaassociation.org

Orinda Public Meetings
City Council
Regular Meeting:
 Tuesday, Jan. 10, 7 p.m.
 By Teleconference Only
Planning Commission
 Tuesday, Jan. 18, 7 p.m.
 By Teleconference Only
Supplemental Sales Tax Oversight Commission
 Wednesday, Jan. 11, 6:30 p.m.
 By Teleconference Only

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COMPASS

Orinda U-turn: city council agrees to ban Zoom comments at meetings

By Sora O'Doherty

After a tie vote on the ratification of a decision by Orinda City Manager David Biggs to end the availability of remote comments during city council meetings on the Zoom platform resulted in the recommendation not being adopted

in November, the council reconsidered the matter at its Dec. 5 meeting. With Council Member Janet Riley and the rest of the council members present, the recommendation was adopted by a vote of 4-1.

One public comment was submitted on the subject for the December meeting by Steve Cohn, who argued that the city council should not limit Zoom comments but should actually do just the opposite, returning more public meetings to the Zoom platform. "It is hard enough to be heard in this City," he wrote, "making it harder to be heard and to hear what others are saying (which is the case once you stop Zooming meetings) does not produce a better Orinda." It was clarified during the December meeting that city council meetings would continue to be available to watch on Zoom and on YouTube. Only public comments during the meeting via the Zoom platform would be suspended. Several other written public comments in favor of keeping Zoom comments open had been submitted prior to the November meeting.

Council member Riley initially indicated that she wouldn't agree to ratify the city manager's recommendation to end Zoom comments. However, upon hearing comments for the rest of the council, which she deemed to be

persuasive, and based on the very low use of Zoom comments during the initial trial period, Riley did vote with the majority to prohibit Zoom comments during city council meetings. Council Member Brandyn Iverson changed her vote, also based on the data that showed that there had been very little public utilization of the ability to comment via Zoom, but Council Member Latika Malkani voted to continue to allow remote comments via Zoom during meetings.

Vice Mayor Darlene Gee was particularly passionate on the subject. She believes that there are groups outside of the community, indeed, outside of the country, who are looking for opportunities to inject hate speech into local communities using Zoom, and that, as more and more communities prohibit the use of Zoom for public comments, those groups will actively seek out the ones who have not yet banned Zoom comments. "I don't understand why we're inviting hate speech into our community that is not from our community," she said. "It is not okay for anybody to just be able to say anything they want. And I find it reprehensible to think that we just want to set ourselves up for this when we have no obligation to do so. To me this is not freedom of speech, this is freedom of keeping hate speech out of

our community," she concluded.

Mayor Inga Miller brought her personal history to bear on the subject, recalling a time when she was a student at Miramonte High School and was exposed to speech by the Hells Angels Motorcycle Club. She also considered the history of broadcast media in the past, citing the examples of the use of radio by Adolph Hitler before World War II and how radio broadcasts generated genocide in Rwanda. "We're not worried about words," she said, "we're worried about what people do with those words and what it empowers." She noted that if a person from Orinda appears at a city council meeting, there are consequences to what they say, as they are known to the local community. But she added, "we're not talking about people in Contra Costa County or California or the United States. We're giving the microphone to Russia, to Hamas, we're giving the microphone to everybody all over the world and I don't see any rational reason that we would do that."

However, it was agreed that if technology develops better systems for dealing with hate speech via remote platforms in the future, remote comments could once again be allowed, if the council so decides.

Give a cheer for visiting Czech student Eliska Tumova

By Sora O'Doherty

Eliska Tumova was a member of the Czech cheer team that won the last World Championship Junior All Girl Advanced Cheer competition in Florida last year, and this year she is competing in California with the Miramonte cheer team.

Tumova has been staying with host Bobbie Landers, who has been both enjoying her company and trying to share some of their favorite things with her. Landers and her daughter Merrily traveled to Disneyland and Los Angeles with Tumova, and Landers' daughter Holly took her to Columbia State Historic

Park in the Sierras. She's been hiking near Lake Tahoe and attended a Sharks Hockey game on Czech Heritage Night. Three Czech players are on the team.

Not that Tumova is a stranger to travel. In addition to the cheer competition in Florida, she has traveled to Turkey, Greece, Spain, Hungary and Croatia. As well as her excellent English, which she has been studying since a young age, she also studies German. While at Miramonte Tumova has been taking classes in psychology, U.S. government, advanced algebra, public speaking, food, and yoga. During football season she was on the sideline cheer team before joining the competitive cheer team like at home, she says. At home in the Czech Republic Tumova studies accounting, marketing, and written and electronic communications at the Business Academy of Economics.

Tumova's mother is a secretary and her father teaches high school. Her older sister is now at Prague University studying international trade after spending quite a lot of time in the U.S. and studying at Texas A&M University. Tumova heard about the opportunity to study in Orinda from her history teacher at home, whose daughter was the visiting student here in 2009-10. Tumova says she might also be interested in attending a U.S. college.

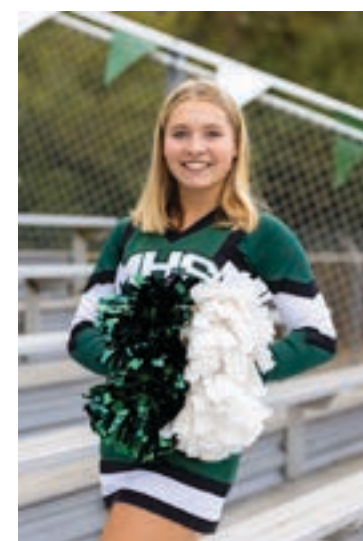


Photo provided

As a visiting student for a semester, Tumova has to do finals, and then she will be returning to the Czech Republic at the beginning of January. When asked about the highlights of her visit, Tumova enthusiastically gushed, "the whole trip!" She's made friends for life in Orinda, she added. She also found time for some shopping at the outlets and in Walnut Creek.

The next Czech visiting student is currently being selected, and will need a host family next August through the end of 2024. Anyone interested in being a host should contact Bobbie Landers at (925) 254-8260. Landers will be very happy to share her wonderful experience hosting Eliska and to sign you up as a potential host.

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North Bart Neighborhood tackles wildfire risk

Submitted by Robert Fellows



CCCYPD Hand Crew 12 at work

Photo Jack Baker

To reduce wildfire risk, the North BART Firewise Community held a Community Chipping Day event on Nov. 29. The community event covered North Thompson Road starting at Glen, Oak Hill Road north of Deer Hill, Orchard Road, their offshoots and several properties on Deer Hill. Chipping and hauling services were provided by Hand Crew 12 of the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District as part of their Wildfire Mitigation Program.

Twenty-two households

followed stacking guidelines to put cuttings along the road by the day before the event to be chipped and hauled or broadcast as marked by the Firewise committee. Two households from the Glen Firewise community joined in the effort for their homes adjoining North Thompson. In some cases, neighbors and visiting family helped residents, sharing the work and sometimes the Thanksgiving turkey. Two good citizens allowed the use of their properties for placing

stacks where residents didn't otherwise have space along the street. The city of Lafayette supported the event by granting a no-fee encroachment permit and three A-frames for roadside signs for the event.

There were several goals: to create defensible space for homes by managing vegetation in accordance with Firewise recommendations, to help residents perform city required maintenance of the unpaved city right of way next to their homes, as well as help bring them into compliance with the county requirement of 10 feet of clearance of hazardous vegetation along fire apparatus access roads.

The benefit is for safer homes, with home insurance companies offering discounts for homes in Firewise Communities, as well as community safety by helping to protect evacuation corridors and fire apparatus access.

The work is ongoing. Another Chipping Day may be held in May 2024.

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OUSD board announces new members



Photo Sora O'Doherty

The Orinda Union School District welcomed new board members, from left: Katie Shogan, Eve Phillips, newly elected vice president Edda Collins Coleman, newly elected board president Cara Hoxie,

and outgoing board president Hillary Weiner. Hoxie and Phillips will serve on the 2x2 committee that meets with two Orinda city council members. – S. O'Doherty

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Santa Day a Huge Hit

Submitted by Cynthia Brian



Photo provided

On Dec. 2, 5 A-Rent-A-Space, in collaboration with Be the Star You Are!@ 501 c3 charity volunteers held their free annual Santa Day for the local community at 5A in Moraga. Children and their families arrived in

droves to write letters to Santa, make Christmas ornaments, decorate stockings, and enjoy hot cocoa, cider, and treats. The highlight was meeting Santa Claus and his elf and taking a souvenir photo with the North

Pole celebrities. Donations benefited Operation Disaster Relief. Be the Star You Are!@ is making a list for next year! www.bethestaryouare.org/events-1/santa-day-at-5a.

Lamorinda students making a difference by serving seniors with heart

Submitted by Tony Chow



Photo provided

Local students, from left: Chris Bei, Anthony Chow, Adeeb Khan, Ace Chow, Kean Vo, Andrew Bei.

In the Lamorinda community, young hearts are making a significant impact on the lives of our senior citizens by offering their talents, skills, and acts of kindness. Local students are demonstrating the power of

compassion and service on a monthly basis for seniors at MonteVerde Belle Terre in Lafayette, where they bring joy with their musical performances, martial arts, baked goods, chess playing, performance poetry,

and show & tell. Their dedication and kindness are truly inspiring and remind us of the importance of giving back to our community, especially during the Holiday Season.

Local residents call for DeSaulnier to stop funding weapons for Gaza war

... continued from Page 3

There was a stark contrast from outside the plaza, where empty pairs of shoes representing the thousands of children who've been killed in the war so far, to the interior where DeSaulnier's 200th Town Hall meeting began with the presentation of a cake. As the Congressman presented slides about what he'd accomplished in Contra Costa County, some members of the diverse crowd grew impatient. It became clear that many had gathered with hopes of talking about the unfolding situation in Israel/Palestine, a topic which DeSaulnier did not lean into during his town hall.

Bissan Abusharar and her husband listened patiently as their children played. Abusharar says patience, along with persistence, are the key ingredients for inspiring the hearts, minds and eventually the votes of political leaders.

"If we look back at history, we know that we have to be persistent. This is not going to stop if we just give up and stop showing up. We need to keep showing up for the children of Gaza and for the people of Gaza. They

don't have a voice right now," Bissan Abusharar says. "We need to keep calling and pressuring our congress members and representatives to do the right thing – call for a ceasefire and stop funding weapons that are killing thousands of people."

Rena Meyers-Dahlkemp lives in the Canyon area near Moraga and is part of an interfaith coalition of women. "We can't keep going like this with this many children and families being killed daily with our tax dollars. That's not self defense."

Meyers-Dahlkemp is clinging tightly to the hope that DeSaulnier will make good on his promise to children and families.

Like the Abusharar family, Meyers-Dahlkemp noted what was missing from DeSaulnier's commitment. "He listened to a 15-year-old who presented him with the scroll of names [of those killed in Gaza] who described how painful it was to go through and highlight the names of the children. The Congressman said it was horrible and shouldn't be happening, but he didn't make the commitment to stop funding the Israeli military which is what our big ask is today and so we'll keep pushing."

Lafayette resident Lynn MacMichael, who is 85, appeared with her bright orange vest to work security. She's been showing up for racial justice and inclusivity both in Lamorinda and in the world at large for her whole life, and she can't wait for this war to end. "The U.S. is the only place that voted against the ceasefire in the Security Council (last week) and we have to live with that. I've been to Israel, Palestine and Gaza several times. The situation has never been fair. We need a viable two-state solution with both people protected. Many of us have even offered to go and stand right on the border to make sure there's no problem," MacMichael said. "I do not justify violence at all ever and I don't justify what Hamas did nor do I justify what the Israeli government has done since then. And when there's an unfair situation going on – with people in Gaza being in open-air prisons – people [will] resist. The U.S. has allowed and funded this with our tax dollars for decades with a \$3.9 billion blank [annual] check. This has to stop."

Letters to the editor

Speed control

This is Mason from Acalanes High School. I was just reaching out to express how I liked the addition of the speed/radar signs posted outside of Aclanes and Springhill Elementary

School! Since their addition, I have noticed a decline in cars traveling at unsafe speeds and I believe that this is a great change to keep kids safe when going to school or leaving school. This change is really good and the more of them we add

to busy streets near popular schools, the better it will be for the students who don't have to worry about vehicles traveling at unsafe speeds on their way to school. Thanks! Mason Lane

Opinions in Letters to the Editor are the express views of the writer and not necessarily those of the Lamorinda Weekly. All published letters will include the writer's name and city/town of residence — we will only accept letters from those who live in, or own a business in, the communities comprising Lamorinda (please give us your phone number for verification purposes only). Letters must be factually accurate. Lamorinda Weekly reserves the right to refuse publishing a letter submission. Visit www.lamorindaweekly.com for submission guidelines. Email: letters@lamorindaweekly.com; Regular mail: Lamorinda Weekly, 1480 Moraga Road STE C #202, Moraga, CA 94556

Lamorinda CERT Upcoming Events

Winter CERT Basic Class Series

January 11th until March 7th

CERT is about the emergency preparedness education and training of community members so they will be better equipped to aid family, neighbors, and responders in case of disaster. CERT is a positive and realistic approach to emergency and disaster situations where citizens will be initially on their own and their actions can make a difference. Register now at: <https://classes.lamorindacert.org>

Lamorinda CERT Monthly Meetings are open to all. To get a Zoom link, go to <https://meetings.lamorindacert.org>

January 8, 7:00 pm – **EARTHQUAKES**

Keith Knudsen, PhD, USGS, will speak about earthquakes, the current technologies and the future probabilities, and the hazards that we face near the Hayward fault.

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Dec. 3 - Dec. 9
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911 Calls (includes hang-ups) 6

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Suspicious Circumstances 4
Suspicious Subject 7
Suspicious Vehicle 3
Service to Citizen 12
Patrol Req./Security Check 12
Public/School Assembly Check 8
Supplemental Report 11
Vacation House Check 14
Welfare Check 20
Ordinance Violation 0
Vehicle violations
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Reckless Driving Taylor Blvd./Withers Ave. Eb Sr 24 At Pleasant Hill Rd. Pleasant Hill Rd./Wb Sr 24
Road Rage Mt. Diablo Blvd./Happy Valley Rd.
Tc - Property Damage Camino Pablo/Eb Sr 24, Ori
Vehicle Theft 4000 Block Happy Valley Rd.
Other criminal activity
Identity Theft 3400 Block Springhill Ct. Panhandling Mt. Diablo Blvd./Happy Valley Rd. Petty Theft Bicycle Police Department
Shoplift 3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (3)
Nuisance to the Community
Disturbing The Peace 200 Block Happy Hollow Ct. 3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. Acalanes Rd./Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Loud Music 10 Block Via Magnalena Upper Happy Valley Rd./S Peardale Dr.
Loud Noise 1400 Block Rancho View Dr.
Loud Party 300 Block Shire Oaks Ct. 900 Block Paulson Ct.
Public Nuisance El Curtola Blvd./Eb Sr 24 3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2) 3900 Block S Peardale Dr. 50 Block Lafayette Cir. 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Vandalism 500 Block Merriewood
Other
Brandishing Weapon Oak Hill Rd./Mt. Diablo Blvd. 300 Block Shire Oaks Ct.
Illegal Entry 900 Block Moraga Rd.
Loitering 3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Threats 4100 Block Canyon Rd. 3500 Block School St.
Unwanted Guest 3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. 3200 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. 1100 Block Upper Happy Valley Rd.

Moraga Police Department Incident Summary Report

Nov. 28 - Dec. 11
Alarms 9
911 Calls (includes hang-ups) 6
Traffic 39
Suspicious Circumstances 3
Suspicious Subject 5
Suspicious Vehicle 8
Service to Citizen 28
Patrol Req./Security Check 16
Public/School Assembly Check 4
Supplemental Report 7
Vacation House Check 0
Welfare Check 4
Ordinance Violation 0
Vehicle violations
Excessive Speed Pinehursts Ifo The School Moraga Rd./Buckingham Dr. St Marys Rd./Bolinger Canyon Rd. (3) Chalda Way./Rheem Blvd. Canyon Rd./Constance Pl. Rheem Blvd./Fernwood Dr. St Marys College Corliss Dr./Crossbrook Ct. Moraga Way/Villa Ln. 400 Block Woodminster Dr.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor Taco Bell
Reckless Driving Corliss Dr./Camino Ricardo St Marys College
Other criminal activity
Fraud Credit Card Dollar Tree
Fraud False Pretenses 1400 Block Camino Peral 100 Block Miramonte Dr.
Grand Theft 30 Block Miramonte Dr.
Identity Theft 1400 Block Camino Pablo
Residential Burglary 1000 Block Sanders Dr. 10 Block Huff Ct. 1200 Block Rimer Dr.
Shoplift Homegoods
Nuisance to the Community
Disturbing The Peace Moraga Rd./Corliss Dr. Hacienda 1800 Block Ascot Dr.
Loud Party 70 Block Miramonte Dr. 2000 Block Ascot Dr.
Public Nuisance 400 Block Center St.
Other
Mentally Ill Commit 300 Block Rheem Blvd.
Suicide Attempt 300 Block Rheem Blvd.

2024 Holiday Tree Collection Schedule

Christmas and New Year's Day are on Mondays this year; therefore everyone's regular service day will be pushed one day later both weeks to accommodate the holiday for drivers. **Monday customers will be serviced Tuesday, etc. Friday customers will be serviced Saturday Dec 30 and Jan 6.** Your tree pickup will be on the same day as your regular garbage service but by a separate truck.

Week of Jan 2-6	Customers in Walnut Creek, Danville, Alamo, Diablo, and Blackhawk (including unincorporated areas).
Week of Jan 8-12	Customers in Lafayette, Orinda, and Moraga (including unincorporated areas).
Week of Jan 15-19	Any customers who missed prior tree collection.
AFTER Jan 20	If possible, cut tree and place in organics cart with lid closed, or call (925) 685-4711 to schedule a pick-up for a fee.



Tree Pickup Reminders

- Remove lights, ornaments, tinsel, and stands (whether plastic, metal, or wood) before placing tree curbside.
- Trees over 6' must be cut in half.
- Flocked trees should be cut to place inside your black landfill cart, or call (925) 685-4711 to schedule a curbside pick-up in advance.

Leave trees at curbside on the same day as your collection day, during your city's assigned week. Collected trees will be composted.



Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report

will be back next time

Christmas cookies help keep the holidays deliciously bright

By Susie Iventosch

This delicious spritz cookie recipe comes from our publisher, Andy Scheck, whose mom made them with her cookie press. Spritz cookies are so much fun because you

can make all sorts of shapes and decorate them with colorful sprinkles. Cookies presses come in a variety of brands, and you can most likely find one at your local cooking

store. They're not terribly expensive, and they come with an assortment of discs to make different shapes. But if you don't own a cookie press, you can always shape your dough

INGREDIENTS

Andy's (Spritz) Cookies

- 3 sticks butter (12 oz.), at room temperature
- 1 3/4 cup granulated sugar
- 4 large egg yolks
- 5 cups flour (my dough was too dry with 5 cups, so I'd cut this back to 4 1/2 cups of flour)
- 3 tbsp. vanilla powder
- 3 tsp. baking powder
- 1 1/2 tbsp. milk
- 3/4 cups chopped hazelnuts *optional

Icing

- 1 cup powdered sugar
- 1 tsp. vanilla powder
- 1 tsp. light agave syrup (the agave gives the icing a nice sheen - can substitute corn syrup)
- 2 tbsp. +/- milk

Mix flour and baking powder and set aside. Place the butter in the bowl of your standing mixer and beat until creamy. Add sugar and vanilla powder and continue to beat until blended. Add egg yolks and beat well. Slowly add the flour alternately with the milk and continue to beat until you get a stiff dough, but not too dry.

Gather the dough into a ball and then place it on a large piece of plastic wrap. Spread the dough out along a line and form into three logs, each about 10 inches long. Wrap the logs completely with the plastic wrap and refrigerate for at least 30 minutes.

When you're ready to bake the cookies, preheat the oven to 325 F and line a baking sheet with parchment paper. Remove the dough from the refrigerator and slice into 1/4-inch thick discs and place them on the prepared baking sheet. Bake for 12-15 minutes, checking them at about 10 minutes. Baking time will vary based upon your oven, but mine took the full 15 minutes. Turn the baking sheet once halfway through the baking. Remove from oven and cool completely before frosting them with icing or melted chocolate.

For the icing, sift the powdered sugar and blend with the remaining ingredients, adding the milk a little bit at a time, until you arrive at your desired icing consistency. You should be able to spread the icing on top of the cookie with a spoon. For the chocolate, you can either completely cover the top with the chocolate or drizzle it from the end of your spoon for a patterned effect.

Maple Pecan Shortbread Cookies

Crispy, crunchy, brown sugar shortbread, made with maple extract and toasted pecans, is one of our favorite cookies ever and perfect for your holiday cookie collection. We dip half the cookies in maple glaze and garnish with more toasted pecans for a beautiful, finished look!

The key to making good shortbread is using good quality butter and keeping the ingredients simple. Also, you want to handle the dough as little as possible — just enough to gather the dough into a ball and shape it. And finally, you need to chill the dough for at least 30 minutes before baking it to a golden-brown.

INGREDIENTS

Cookies

- 1 cup unsalted butter, softened to room temp (8 oz. or 2 sticks)
- 1 cup packed, light brown sugar
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon maple extract
- 1 cup finely chopped toasted pecans
- 1 cup coarsely chopped toasted pecans (for on top of the icing)

Maple Icing

- 2 cups powdered sugar, sifted
- 2 tbsp. milk
- 1 tsp. pure maple syrup

DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 325 F. Line two baking sheets with parchment paper.

Place butter in a mixing bowl or the bowl of your standing mixer. Beat butter for about two minutes until very creamy. Add brown sugar and maple extract and continue to beat until fluffy. Add flour and salt and blend until well-integrated. Finally stir in 1 cup of the finely chopped toasted pecans and mix well. The mixture will be rather thick at this point.

Place dough on a large sheet of plastic wrap and roll into a log, 2-inches in diameter. You can make 2 or 3 logs, if it's easier! Completely wrap the dough in plastic wrap and refrigerator for about 30 minutes to firm up.

Remove dough from the refrigerator and slice the logs into 1/4-inch rounds. Place rounds on prepared baking sheets.

Bake for approximately 20-25 minutes, or until cookies begin to look golden brown. Turn the tray 180 degrees halfway through the baking. Remove from oven and cool completely.

Once cooled, dip each cookie in the maple icing (recipe below) to cover half of the cookies.

Immediately sprinkle coarsely chopped pecans over the icing so they stick to the moist icing. Allow icing to harden before storing cookies.

**Note - if you plan to make the cookies ahead, store them before icing them and ice them when you are ready to serve them. The icing can make the cookies too soft, if you store them with the icing on.*

Chocolate Chip Corn Cookies

These corn cookies are like the best sugar cookie you've ever tasted, but even better with toasted pecans and dark chocolate chips. Chewy in the middle with nice crispy edges, and made with corn flour, they are so good! They can also be made gluten-free, by substituting gluten-free all-purpose flour or a paleo flour for the all-purpose wheat flour in the recipe. Bob's Red Mill Grain-free Paleo Baking Flour is a good one to use. Then just keep the same amount of corn flour and corn meal as the original recipe.

I love Professor Torbert's Orange Corn Flour and Corn Meal for these cookies. It's a unique kind of corn flour, literally made from corn that has deep orange kernels, packed with carotenoid antioxidants. Plus, it tastes really great in these cookies.

When you flatten the dough balls with the bottom of your measuring cup or any other flat utensil in your kitchen, they look like they came straight from the bakery!

INGREDIENTS

- 6 oz. unsalted butter, at room temperature (1 1/2 sticks)
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- 1/2 cup light brown sugar, packed
- 1 large egg
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract
- 1 cup unbleached all-purpose flour
- 1/2 cup corn flour or masa harina (not corn meal) there is a big difference between corn meal and corn flour, just be sure this one is corn flour
- 1/4 cup yellow corn meal (this one is corn meal)
- 3/4 tsp. baking powder
- 1/4 tsp. baking soda
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1 cup dark chocolate chips
- 1/2 cup toasted chopped pecans (If you love pecans, feel free to add an extra 1/4 cup of these! It won't hurt a bit.)
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar (for rolling the dough balls in)

DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 350 F. Line one or two baking sheets with parchment paper. If you only have one baking sheet, just bake the cookies in two batches. Be sure to put new parchment paper for each batch.

Place butter in the bowl of your mixer or a large mixing bowl and beat for a minute or so until creamy. Add both sugars and beat until fluffy. Stir in vanilla.

Beat in all-purpose flour, corn flour and cornmeal. Beat until blended and well-integrated. Stir in chocolate chips and pecans and mix well.

Form dough into balls about 2-inches in diameter. Place the 1/2 cup of extra granulated sugar in a small bowl. Roll dough balls in this sugar, coating all sides. Place the dough balls about 2-inches apart on your prepared baking sheets.

Using the bottom of a flat-bottomed 1 cup measuring cup, dip the bottom of the cup in the remaining sugar and press down on each dough ball to create a disc about 3/4-inch thick or so. Bake for 10-12 minutes, or until the edges are just turning golden-brown. Remove from oven and transfer the cookies on the parchment paper to a cooling rack. Cool completely before removing from the parchment paper. You'll want to eat all of this right away, but we suggest eating one or two, and then storing them in an airtight container or freeze for later!



Andy's Holiday Cookies

Photos Susie Iventosch

into a log and slice it into round cookies. This is what Andy does and then he uses a fork to make a pattern on top of the cookie. At this point, they can be left plain, or topped with dark or milk chocolate.

To give my batch a little Christmas flair, I iced them and added some festive sprinkles. Also, I found that the original recipe had a little too much flour, (a lot depends on the size of the egg yolks) so I would suggest making your dough with just 4 1/2 cups of flour, and then add a little at a

time. You want to be able to gather the dough into a ball so you can roll it into logs.

This recipe calls for vanilla powder, which has a more intense vanilla flavor than extract and it really comes through in the phenomenal flavor of these cookies. It is comprised of real vanilla extract in a dextrose (sugar) base, which gives it the white color. Diablo Foods carries three different brands of vanilla powder: Nielsen-Massey, Morton & Bassett and Cook's, which is the one I currently use.



Susie can be reached at suziventosch@gmail.com. This recipe can be found on our website: www.lamorindaweekly.com If you would like to share your favorite recipe with Susie please contact her by email or call our office at (925) 377-0977. Or visit <https://treksandbites.com>



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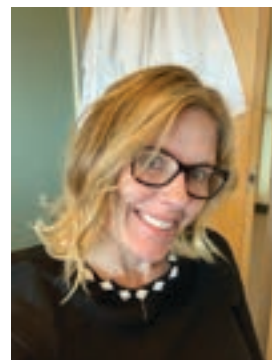
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Campolindo High School teachers and staff get holiday cookies

By Sora O'Doherty



Photo Sora O'Doherty

Each year the Campolindo High School Parents Club holds a holiday cookie event to show their appreciation for and to thank the school's teachers and staff. This year, more than 2,500 treats and homemade cookies were donated by Campolindo families. A dozen parent volunteers gathered on campus on Friday, Dec. 8 and filled 122 cookie trays with the treats. The parents club also added a

treat from Hollie's Home-grown in Lafayette of either a mini raw honey or mini holiday seasoning salt. The assembled trays were then distributed to all of the teachers and staff at the school. This year the cookie event was presided over by co-chairs Susette Johnston and Sabine Antonios-McCrea. They confirmed that the cookie trays are a much-loved Campo tradition!

Parent volunteer Malorie Stuart presents a gift of holiday cookies to Campolindo High School Finance Technician, Susan Stephan.

Not to be missed

Art

Orinda Books Artist Art
Orinda Books Artist of the Month for December is Paul Kratter. His popular plein air paintings embody the light, atmosphere, and emotion that only an accomplished artist can convey. Paul's illustration background instills strong drawing and design skills and a robust belief in graphic shapes and storytelling, and he finishes paintings on location to keep a fresh, spontaneous feel. For a preview, visit www.orindabooks.com

"Stories on Canvas," an exhibit of evocative acrylic paintings, opens the Moraga Art Gallery's 2024 season on Jan. 3. Acrylic painter Kath Balamuth endows everyday objects. Jill Landau uses oil paint to capture everyday moments in time. Also, guest artist Karen Mason offers works that stretch the definition of "paintings." The gallery invites the public to a free reception on Saturday afternoon, Jan. 27 from 3 to 5 p.m. (note new time). All are invited to view the art, meet the gallery's eighteen members and several guest artists, enjoy a selection of light snacks and wine, all accompanied by the tasteful music suited to the gallery's congenial ambiance. 432 Center Street in the Mor-

aga Shopping Center, open from noon to 5 p.m. daily until Christmas, then Wednesday to Sunday, www.moragaart-gallery.com or call (925)376-5407.

The Lamorinda Arts Council presents handmade prints from members of the Diablo Valley Printmakers during December in the Art Gallery at the Orinda Library. All eight members showing work are also members of the California Society of Printmakers. View this diverse show by artists devoted to handmade prints at a reception in their honor while enjoying light refreshments on Saturday, Dec. 16 from 3 to 5 p.m. The exhibit runs through Dec. 30. View their art at https://lamorindaarts.org/current-exhibits/ or call (925) 359-9940 with questions

The Lamorinda Arts Council presents artwork and poetry with a focus on romance by Shiva Jafarzadeh in the Art Gallery at Wilder during December. Jafarzadeh is a longtime Lafayette resident who has authored several children's books. Her drawings and paintings focus on womanhood, romance, motherhood, children and memories of growing up in Iran. Her virtual exhibit runs from Dec. 2 to Jan. 2. View her work online

Not to be missed

Other

Free income tax preparation for the 2023 tax season will again be offered by the AARP Foundation Tax-Aide Program, providing IRS certified tax counselors for local Contra Costa County residents. Service is offered to people of all ages with limited to moderate income with special attention given to those age 50 and older. Beginning in early January, call one of the site-specific appointment phone numbers listed below to make an appointment, or call (925) 726-3199 for general information about the Tax-Aide program. The tax preparation service locations: Concord Library (925) 471-5686; Concord Senior Center (925) 671-3320; Danville Veterans Memorial Bldg. of SRV (925) 272-0902; Martinez Senior Center (925) 370-8770; Pacheco Community Center (925) 709-4525; Pleasant Hill Hillcrest Congregational Church (925) 289-9790; San Ramon Senior Center (925) 973-3250; Walnut Creek - Rossmoor, Hillside Clubhouse, Vista Room Appointments made on-site.

Please submit events to: calendar@lamorindaweekly.com

Music

Berkeley Chamber Performances is excited to present the Black Oak Ensemble on Saturday, Jan. 27 at 7:30 p.m. at the Lafayette Library. Praised for its "insightful, committed and masterful performances" (Classics Today 10/10) and "fierce eloquence" (London Times), the Black Oak Ensemble is one of the most innovative and exciting chamber ensembles on the international stage. This concert will feature works from Black Oak's record "Silenced Voices" (Cedille Records), dedicated to Jewish composers, most of whom lost their lives during the Holocaust. Tickets at: www.tickettailor.com/events/berkeleychamberperformances/992925

Theatre

Warnings Before Breakfast, by Eugene O'Neill, adapted and directed by Eric Fraisher Hayes is showing on Jan. 12, 13, and 14 at the Museum of the San Ramon Valley, 205 Railroad Ave, Danville. Tickets \$25. https://eugeneoneill.org/event/oneills-warnings-and-before-breakfast/

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Mats bid sudden farewell to coach, Jack Schram

By Jon Kingdon

One short week after making it to the semifinal CIF state football championship game, Jack Schram, after 18 years as a Miramonte football coach, the last 13 as the head coach, was informed on Dec. 8 that he would no longer be affiliated with the Miramonte football team.

In the press release put out by Miramonte, they "bid a fond farewell to Coach Jack Schram." Principal Ben Campopiano spoke of how Schram's "dedication and leadership have laid a strong foundation for the future of Miramonte football. Winning two NCS Championships and guiding the program so successfully for over a decade

is truly a remarkable coaching achievement."

Schram was not given any specific explanation as to why he was losing his job. "There was no reasoning and they just said that they wanted to go into a different direction with new leadership and that's all they told me," Schram said. "I really wanted to keep coaching at Miramonte. I've already had some offers and I'm still coaching at Miramonte as the school's golf coach. At this point, I don't know what the future holds."

Athletic Director Sean Hennessey could not give any specifics as to what went into the school's decision. "There was no one thing at all or anything

that I could point to," Hennessey said. "It was just that we felt it was time for a change in leadership. We are always getting feedback from the parents and players for all our programs, not just football, and like I said, it was just one of those things where we felt it was time for a new direction within the program."

According to Hennessey it was a decision reached by the whole administrative staff, Campopiano, himself and both associate principals.

Hennessey also acknowledged the success of the team this season: "This doesn't take anything away from what Jack accomplished and the NCS Division 5 cham-

ionship is important. The players did well, and we don't want to stop any of the team's momentum moving forward."

At this point, there is no one under consideration to fill the head coaching position. "We are looking for someone that has a detailed plan and approach to running a program from top to bottom," Hennessey said. "Someone who has a 12-month plan moving forward that includes the weight room and a whole bunch of different things. We have no predetermined thought on whether we will go with an offensive or a defensive coach. We just want the best possible coach to lead Miramonte High School to the next step."

Senior Nick Blair said that the players were informed the same day as Schram about the change. "We were a little surprised as a team, but they made it clear that they had been looking into it for a while," Blair said. "We love all of our coaches and they have been great for us but still we're looking forward to see what a new coach will bring."

Blair spoke highly of his relationship and respect for Schram's coaching acumen: "We always got along. He's a great coach and he always knew what he was talking about. His football knowledge is great and I'm going to miss his game plans and installations. He al-



Photo Ann Murphy

ways came up with fun new plays for us. No one was happy that he's not going to be here, but a new coach will bring a new perspective and we hope that whoever it is will keep the progress that we made this season."

Acalanes football captures its first state championship

... continued from Page 1

At halftime, the defense also made the appropriate adjustments. "In the first half, we blitzed a lot but in the second half, Coach (David) Ortega simplified things and we went back to basics, and we did not allow their offense to score," McKenzie said.

"Everybody, especially the seniors were really locked in, and it ended up being a really senior led game, especially by (DL) Aiden Yates who came up with two big plays in the second half," WR/CB Trevor Rogers said.

The adjustments worked on both sides of the ball with Acalanes outscor-

ing Birmingham 21-2 in the second half. "We may have been a little jittery and nervous in the first half, not playing to our full potential," WR/CB Paul Kuhner said. "From my perspective in the defensive backfield, I felt like our defensive line was getting to the quarterback so fast, it made my job a lot easier. We were running a cover three zone where we left eight guys in the box to stop the run and just the three of us to stop the pass and it really worked." Kuhner would go on to get the first interception that Tisdell, under pressure, threw this season in the fourth quarter.

Once again, the offense was led by quarterback

Sully Bailey who completed 24 of 37 passes for 296 yards and four touchdowns. "They were playing man coverage and as the game progressed, we spread out to ball more," Rogers said.

There were six different receivers for Acalanes: Rogers-7/146/2 TD Niko White 7/63, Giorgianni 4/46, Kuhner 3/22/1 TD, Henry Souza 2/14/1 TD, Brady Morrow 1/5.

When Birmingham tried covering Rogers with Waters, Rogers went to Burnsed and told him that he could beat him. "I trusted in myself and thought if I was in one-on-one coverage and I got a good pass, I could make the play," Rogers said.

Burnsed was not one to dispute Rogers and put it simply: "Rogers said that he could beat him, and we threw it up to him and he beat the guy and scored."

Once again, the time of possession favored Acalanes' opponent, 29 minutes to 19 minutes. Despite his defense being on the field for so long, it was not a concern for Burnsed: "We have a great strength and conditioning program led by Tim Silvera who does a great job and we felt like we were as fresh in the fourth quarter as we were the first quarter."

With Acalanes up by eight points, they scored once more in the last 30 seconds on a 10-yard pass

to Kuhner. "On that last drive, we ran and forced them to use up their timeouts so on fourth down, only being up by one score, we wanted to score to clinch the win," Burnsed said. "We saw they were playing zero coverage (no safeties) with no one there to take the slant away, so we called for that pattern to Kuhner and with a little fake to the running back, freezing their linebackers, it was wide open."

It was a particularly special play for Kuhner. "Coach Burnsed and my position coach, Coach Blue (Joel Issac), just told me to run away from my man and Sully put it right on me to seal the game," Kuhner

said. "For Coach Blue to tell me that I'm going to catch the pass to seal the game, it showed how much, over my four years at Acalanes, the type of relationship I had formed with my teammates and coaches who were willing to put our biggest game ever on the line, in my hands. That totally meant the world to me."

Always one for understatement, when asked how it felt to hold up the trophy, Burnsed shared the moment: "It's the first time I've been to a state championship. It's pretty nice. For our players, the school, and the community, it's pretty awesome."



Happy Holidays

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Lamorinda

OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 17 Issue 22 Wednesday, December 20, 2023



Lamorinda Home Sales

... read on Page D2

Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

Botanical Brilliance: Yuletide's natural jewels

By Cynthia Brian



Photos Cynthia Brian

The red berries on a holly hedge begin to appear.

"Nature always wears the colors of the spirit." ~ Ralph Waldo Emerson

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas. Everywhere we go, lights are twinkling, Christmas trees are glistening in windows and parks, and gigantic shiny balls are hanging on front yard trees. Holiday cheer permeates the air as we hum carols and children pine for the jolly white-bearded man in the red suit to land his flying reindeer on their rooftop soon.

The most miraculous part of this festive season is how the landscape lights up with lots of colorful berries, bushes, and cones that we can use to decorate naturally. For the first time in



Pyracantha berries are loved by the birds and beautiful in arrangements.

years, my Christmas cactus is blooming in December! In the past, it bloomed at very odd times. The cascading stems and beautiful blooms create cheerful table displays. The vibrant tubular flowers arrive in shades of red, pink, and white. I'm thrilled that my pink Christmas cactus is finally on schedule.

Pine, fir, redwood, spruce, and other conifers retain their needles throughout winter. I use this time of year to do my pruning so that the cut boughs may be added to my mantels, counters, and front porch as wreaths and garlands. A big bonus is that these evergreens add that nostalgic Christmas aroma throughout the

house. I also collect pinecones and magnolia cones to incorporate into my displays. The red seeds of the magnolia cones add a touch of elegance to holiday decorations. All the cones can be left natural for a rustic and sophisticated look, or they can be spray painted to match any style. Pyracantha, cotoneaster, holly, and Chinese pistache berries are then plucked from the bushes and trees to be tucked into the branches as pops of color. Pyracantha berries are orangey-red, cotoneaster berries are a brilliant red, and Chinese pistache berries boast a deep pink to crimson hue with shades of blue. Holly is a classic Christmas plant renowned for its sharp, pointed, glossy green leaves and vibrant red berries. Adorn with shimmering lights and the yuletide symphony begins!

What about mistletoe, you ask? Doesn't everyone want to kiss under the mistletoe? Mistletoe is a parasitic plant with green leaves and white berries that are poisonous to humans and some animals. Globally, there are 1,300 species spread by the sticky seed from the berry either attaching to a bird or other mammal or consumed by them. The Anglo-Saxons witnessed that mistletoe grew where birds left their droppings. In Anglo-Saxon, "mistel" means "dung" and "tan" means "twig", thus the name mistletoe means "dung-on-a-twig." Not as romantic as most of us thought! For several years baskets of mistletoe flourished on my beautiful cottonwood tree until these "witches' brooms" killed my host tree and it had to be removed. From that day forward I kissed the mistletoe goodbye!

Pomegranates and persimmons offer a departure from traditional holiday decorating, infusing a touch of nature beauty and symbolism into arrangements. The deep red color of pomegranates is associated with the merry spirit of Christmas.

... continued on Page OH6



During this time of year, we can't help but think of how grateful we are for all of our clients, friends, and family.

Lamorinda, a place we call home, is so special and unique, that we love introducing it to others and welcoming them as new neighbors to our community.

We'd love to help you in the new year.
Happy Holidays!

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Lamorinda home sales recorded

City	Last reported	Lowest amount	Highest amount
LAFAYETTE	5	\$1,500,000	\$2,700,000
MORAGA	6	\$845,000	\$2,250,000
ORINDA	5	\$1,150,000	\$2,250,000

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

944 Hawthorne Drive, \$1,500,000, 3 Bdrms, 1640 SqFt, 1942 YrBlt, 11-16-23,
Previous Sale: \$1,285,000, 07-20-18
1022 Hoedel Court, \$2,355,000, 3 Bdrms, 2107 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 11-09-23,
Previous Sale: \$910,000, 04-04-11
1180 Monticello Road, \$2,700,000, 4 Bdrms, 2675 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 11-15-23,
Previous Sale: \$2,725,000, 05-03-21
401 Read Drive, \$1,988,000, 5 Bdrms, 3076 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 11-06-23
1997 Reliez Valley Road, \$1,600,000, 3 Bdrms, 2315 SqFt,
1953 YrBlt, 11-15-23, Previous Sale: \$1,400,000, 05-06-21
3963 Woodside Court, \$1,820,000, 4 Bdrms, 2181 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 11-01-23,
Previous Sale: \$1,550,000, 10-25-22

MORAGA

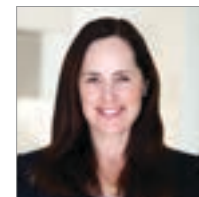
516 Butterfield Place, \$1,440,000, 2 Bdrms, 1703 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 11-08-23,
Previous Sale: \$615,000, 03-01-11
1428 Camino Peral, \$850,000, 2 Bdrms, 1116 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 11-09-23,
Previous Sale: \$450,000, 02-19-10
687 Carroll Drive, \$1,300,000, 3 Bdrms, 1394 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 11-15-23
112 Donald Drive, \$1,546,000, 6 Bdrms, 1921 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 11-09-23,
Previous Sale: \$1,260,000, 03-22-23

... continued on Page OH 7



Wishing You All the Best in 2024!

Thank you for your continued support and referrals. I'm so grateful to my wonderful clients and community.



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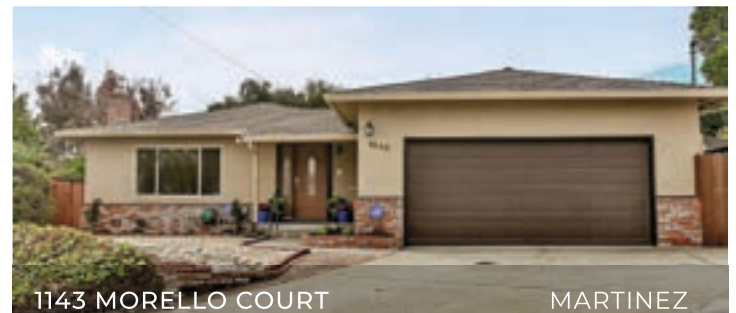


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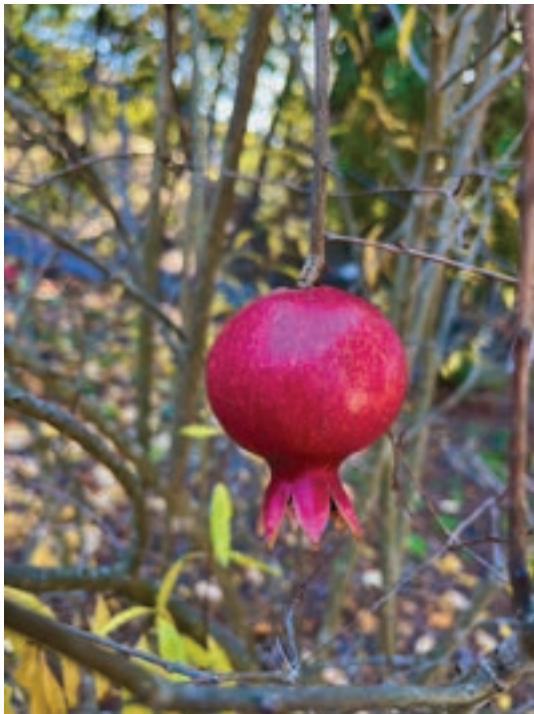


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Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian **Botanical Brilliance: Yuletide's natural jewels**

Photos Cynthia Brian



Pomegranate perfection...a glorious natural ornament.

... continued from Page OH1

In many cultures, pomegranates symbolize prosperity, fertility, and abundance. The distinctive round shape and shiny crown resemble a fancy ornament, and their jewel-like seeds are delicious and nutritious as edible décor. The warm orange tones of persimmons may seem more appropriate for Thanksgiving, yet the sweet, chewy texture of Hachiya varieties is the perfect ingredient in a Christmas pudding while the crunchy, apple-like quality of a Fuyu is fabulous in a festive salad. A bowl of persimmons is elegant as a table centerpiece with its symbolism of good luck and joy.

When it comes to Christmas cherished memories, live trees offer the biggest bang of tradition and aesthetics. While artificial trees are practical and cost-effective, the joyous experience of choosing a living tree creates a connection to nature and environmental sustainability. Purchasing a live tree supports agricultural endeavors as



A living Christmas tree shines brightly decorated with favorite family ornaments,

Christmas tree farms replant and replace trees that are harvested. These farms contribute to increased green space. Live trees are biodegradable and can be recycled into mulch and compost. Be on the lookout for the days that your tree can be placed curbside for recycling. With a live tree, there is the opportunity to select a tree that fits your preferences of type and fragrance including fir, spruce, pine, cedar, or cypress. You can also purchase a container conifer which can be moved to a patio or balcony after the holidays and redecorated the following year. If you have room in your yard, it can be planted and decorated annually in celebration of Christmas.

Walk around your landscape to discover the yuletide jewels in your garden. Nature always wears the colors of the season and the spirit.

May Santa Claus fill your stockings with peace, health, and prosperity. Wishing you a magical Christmas.

Happy Gardening. Happy Growing.



Perfect persimmons shimmer on the tree.



Profuse clusters of pink pistache berries are elegant additions to wreaths.



Cynthia's Christmas cactus is in full bloom for the holidays.

Garden "To-do" advice before the end of December:

1. Fertilize trees, shrubs, and ground cover plants.
2. Apply snail bait around plants susceptible to snail and slug damage.
3. Lower the soil pH for better color and overall appearance on acid-loving plants by applying soil sulfur.
4. Shut off irrigation systems.
5. Monitor watering needs during extended dry periods.
6. Start to rest and relax. Winter is sleepy time..



Cynthia Brian wishes you a very merry, healthy Christmas.

For more gardening advice for all seasons, check out Growing with the Goddess Gardener at <https://www.CynthiaBrian.com/books>. 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, Family Forever, from the series, Stella Bella's Barnyard Adventures is available now at <https://www.CynthiaBrian.com/online-store>. Hire Cynthia for writing projects, garden consults, and inspirational lectures. Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com <https://www.CynthiaBrian.com>

Lamorinda home sales recorded

... continued from Page OH2

MORAGA .. continued

1259 Larch Avenue, \$2,250,000, 4 Bdrms, 2102 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 11-13-23
 193 Miramonte Drive, \$905,000, 2 Bdrms, 1514 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 11-09-23
 258 Paseo Bernal, \$1,030,000, 3 Bdrms, 2044 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 11-07-23,
 Previous Sale: \$210,000, 04-01-88
 532 Woodminster Drive, \$845,000, 2 Bdrms, 1620 SqFt,
 1974 YrBlt, 11-09-23, Previous Sale: \$745,000, 07-23-19

ORINDA

19 El Pulgar, \$1,363,500, 5 Bdrms, 1978 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 11-13-23,
 Previous Sale: \$1,425,000, 11-09-21
 16 El Verano, \$2,250,000, 5 Bdrms, 2882 SqFt, 1938 YrBlt, 11-09-23,
 Previous Sale: \$1,725,000, 09-06-16
 157 Ravenhill Road, \$1,350,000, 3 Bdrms, 2245 SqFt, 1982 YrBlt, 11-15-23,
 Previous Sale: \$728,000, 09-04-12
 429 Ridge Gate Road, \$2,150,000, 3 Bdrms, 2684 SqFt, 1980 YrBlt, 11-14-23,
 Previous Sale: \$2,200,000, 07-20-21
 3 Whitehall Drive, \$1,150,000, 3 Bdrms, 1620 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 11-15-23

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MORAGA

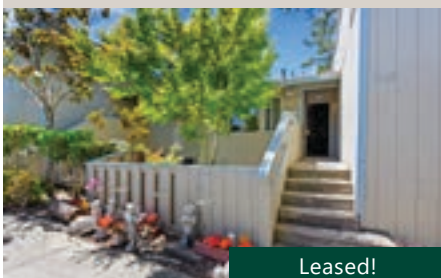


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