

LAMORINDA WEEKLY

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Wednesday, August 22, 2007



Winegrower's Jim and Leslie Ward, Lafayette

Photo by Andy Scheck

When Dave Parker planted 1,500 grapevines on the hill behind his Moraga home four years ago hoping to fulfill a dream to make his own wine from a future harvest, he had no plans to turn his experiment into a commercial venture. However, the combination of Dave's passion for wine and entrepreneurial spirit along with the help of his wife and business partner, Shari Simon, soon led to the creation of Parkmon Vineyards—the only commercial vineyard in Lamorinda. "I originally pursued winemaking as a business, because I thought it would be something that wouldn't take over our lives," notes Dave with a laugh. Yet in 2006, Dave found himself working 100-hour weeks during the "crush" season after harvesting eight tons of grapes from his own vines and other area vineyards and producing about 400 cases of wine. And, as the grapes have grown so has the business. Dave and Shari anticipate a 20% increase in production this year.

Once he had planted his vines, Dave began to notice other vineyards throughout Lamorinda, and other homeowners with empty hillsides started to stop by Dave's property to take a closer look and ask for help to get their own vineyards started. This shared enthusiasm and interest in winegrowing led to the formation of the Lamorinda Winegrowers Association—a group committed to supporting Lamorinda as a winegrowing region. "We started the association in July of 2005 with a meeting of 15 families that owned vineyards in the area, and we now have over 50 members that are winegrowers," states Dave.

"I think the vision for Lamorinda as a winegrowing region is great," adds Jim Ward, a member of the Lamorinda Winegrowers Association.

... continued on page 7

Grapes are Growing on the Hills of Lamorinda

By Andrea A. Firth

Lafayette Art & Wine Festival

By Lee Borrowman

The 12th Annual Lafayette Art & Wine Festival is scheduled for Saturday, September 15 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Sunday, September 16, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., in downtown Lafayette. Celebrating over a decade of excellence, the event has grown from a tiny street fair into a premier outdoor event. Art, wine, food, wine, music, wine, shopping and beer, this annual event has something for everyone and is one of the most eagerly anticipated events of the season.

Over 100,000 people are expected to attend this year's event, which features continuous music on three stages, and the Chef's Stage with cooking demonstrations by some of the area's top chefs, including Andy Tseng (Uncle Yu's Szechuan), Gordon Drysdale (Pizza Antica), Chuck Courtney (Lafayette Park Hotel & Spa), and Michael Zeiter (Postino). Also visit the Premium Wine Pavilion, KidZone, and 200 unique arts and crafts booths. A wide variety of tasty tidbits will be available to satisfy any appetite.

Free parking is available at the Lafayette BART station; Black Tie Transportation and our own Lamorinda Spirit will run a free event shuttle to and from the BART parking lot.

The Lafayette Art & Wine Festival benefits local non-profit organizations, including the Lafayette Art and Science Foundation. For more info go to www.lafayettechamber.org.

Road closures during the Lafayette Art & Wine Festival: Beginning at 6:00pm on Friday, September 15, through Sunday, September 17, at approximately 9:00pm, Mt. Diablo Boulevard will be closed in both directions from Lafayette Circle (The Round Up Saloon) to Dewing Avenue. The east portion of Lafayette Circle (by Round Up Saloon) will also be closed from Mt. Diablo Blvd. to Hough Ave. (Residents and Businesses will be allowed access up to Chow's Restaurant.)

Parking restrictions in the affected area will begin at 4:00pm on Friday, September 15. All meters will be "bagged" with no parking notices as of that time so that all vehicles can be removed before the street officially closes at 6:00pm. Cars parked in the area after that time will be subject to towing. Please note that parking lots with access/egress only on Mt. Diablo Blvd. will also be affected as cars parked there after 6:00pm will not be able to leave.

Advertising



Lafayette Art and Wine Festival, 2006

Photo by Michelle Billing

Music schedule:

Saturday, September 15, 2007:

ART STAGE-50 Lafayette Circle	WINE STAGE-3583 Mt. Diablo Blvd.
11:00-12:30 Ellie Athayde	11:00-12:30 Red House
1:00 - 2:30 Nitelites	1:00 - 2:30 Red House
3:00 - 4:30 Bob Athayde	3:00 - 4:30 Workingman's Ed
5:00 - 6:30 Annie Sampson	
5:00 - 6:30 Evolution	

Sunday, September 16, 2007:

ART STAGE-50 Lafayette Circle	WINE STAGE-3583 Mt. Diablo Blvd.
11:00-12:30 Big Sirs	11:00-12:30 Sound Advice
1:00-3:00 Pure Honey	1:00-3:00 Aja Vu
3:30-5:30 Delta Wires	
3:30-5:30 The Sun Kings	

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Lamorinda's Business Community Mingles at Tri-Chamber Mixer

By Sophie Braccini

On the evening of August 8th, over two hundred members and guests from Lamorinda's three Chambers of Commerce squeezed themselves onto the patio of the Lafayette Chamber to reconnect with old acquaintances, make new connections, and enjoy a fabulous spread prepared by Chef Jeff Assadi from Lafayette's La Finestra restaurant.

Although the venue was a bit small, and the volume of the participants a bit loud with enjoyment and enthusiasm, the long-awaited Tri-Chamber Mixer was a tremendous success. Such an event had not been held in several years but Barbara Gilmore, Membership Services Director of the Lafayette Chamber

of Commerce said, "We will definitely plan another one soon."

Speaking on behalf of the staff of the Lafayette Chamber, Executive Director Jay Lifson commented later, "We thoroughly enjoyed meeting with our Chamber members and those of our neighboring Chambers - Orinda and Moraga. What happened at this Tri-Chamber mixer was truly a Lamorinda experience. It was proof positive that community networking can be beneficial for all."

The Presidents of the Orinda and Moraga Chambers, Keith Miller and Jenny Boyd, both echoed these sentiments and offered thanks to their colleagues in Lafayette for sponsoring the event.



Chamber members mingling among the foliage donated by Mt. Diablo Nursery & Garden

Photo by Andy Scheck

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Lamorinda Community, Calendar, Agendas, Notes, News

Lafayette

Calendar	
City Council 7pm Community Center, Manzanita Room 500 St Mary's Road Monday, Sept 10	
Planning Comm. 7pm Community Center, Manzanita Room 500 St Mary's Road Thursday, Aug 30	
Design Review 7pm Community Center, Manzanita Room 500 St Mary's Road Tuesday, Sept 11	
Park, Trails, Rec. 7pm Community Center 500 St Mary's Road Wednesday, Sept 12	
Circulation 7pm Community Center, Manzanita Room 500 St Mary's Road Tuesday, Sept 4	
Emergency Prep. 9:15am City Offices 3675 Mt, Diablo Blvd. Suite 265 Wednesday, Sept 12	
Senior Services 3:30pm Community Center, Alder Room 500 St Mary's Road Thursday, Aug 23	
check online: Town of Lafayette: http://www.ci.lafayette.ca.us for: • all meeting notes • calendar updates Chamber of Commerce: http://www.lafayettechamber.org for: • local businesses • upcoming events	



Attempted Phone Fraud, 8/14/07 There was a suspicious telephone call to an elderly Stowe Lane resident, in which an unknown person told victim to write a check for \$500.00. The caller told the victim the check would be picked up and in exchange the victim would receive \$5 million dollars from Western Union. There are no witnesses or suspects at the moment.

Water Balloon vs. Car, 8/09/07 A 23 year old woman was driving southbound on St. Mary's Road near Eastwood Drive at 9:15 p.m., when a water balloon was thrown at her car by a vehicle going in the opposite direction. Unfortunately her left headlight and turn signal were broken.

Auto Burglary, 8/08/07 An unknown suspect forced entry into a locked vehicle parked on Kelley Court. Personal property valued at \$1,350 dollars was taken. Items include an expensive Canon camera, an Apple video iPod, and CD's. The passenger side window was smashed. No suspects or witnesses at this time.

Get Out Of Juvenile Hall Semi-Free

By Cathy Tyson



Youth Services Officer, Mark Greenwood Photo by Cathy Tyson

"Juvenile detective," no longer. As of April of this year, the Lafayette Police Department has a Youth Services Officer, Mark Greenwood, who heads up the juvenile diversion program. As Youth Services Officer, Greenwood's emphasis is on, "making good choices, and realizing the choices you make now affect your future."

Under the direction of Chief Mike Hubbard, the department wants to have a positive influence on kids and the schools they attend. The younger kids at Stanley seem more receptive so far, according to Greenwood, perhaps because they're younger and not as susceptible to the 'cool factor.' During the school year Officer Greenwood can be found at dances, football games, visiting at lunch at both

Acalanes and Stanley. "Its good community relations," he says, "My main focus is to support the schools."

In a nutshell, first time juvenile offenders who make a bad decision get one "freebie." The goal is for these kids to learn from their mistakes. This program is not an option for kids who commit violent crimes. But for the majority of good kids with otherwise clean records who get caught shoplifting, for vandalism or perhaps even a possession ticket, this is a wonderful opportunity. To qualify, kids need to have a good attitude, be remorseful, and have a desire to keep their record clean, along with parents who are willing to be supportive in enforcing the arrangement. Through this program, if a juvenile completes the requirements, his

crime won't show up on his criminal record. Both Moraga and Orinda have teen diversion programs as well.

Then there are four steps that must be completed. First, the young participant must write an essay; generally about 'what I did wrong, how could I have made a smarter choice, what have I learned from the experience.'

Second, community service hours, for example washing the police cars. There was a young man doing just that when we visited the department. Lafayette Parks and Recreation always needs help picking up litter. Sometimes Officer Greenwood leaves it up to the parents, and gives them the paperwork to keep track of hours worked.

Third, the juvenile takes an "offender" class for eight hours at the Concord police department. Classes specific to the minor's infraction are offered, for example drugs and alcohol or vandalism.

Fourth, a curfew can be assigned, trusting that the parents will enforce it - strictly on the honor system. In addition phone probation might be enforced. Officer Greenwood would call the youth, asking about their weekend plans, and what choices they plan to make.

Finally, if any kind of damage was involved, restitution has to be paid.

In addition to his duties as Youth Services Officer, Officer Greenwood can be found on bicycle patrol, working on domestic violence situations, following up on traffic accidents and more. He adds, the police know where kids can be found partying, and encourages students to think twice and make good choices.



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Concert for Lafayette Seniors

By Mei Sun Li (edited to fit)

Knee to knee on a plane flight over the central plains of America, strangers Mark Shaw, Lafayette Re/Max Realtor, and Sue Cross, Board Member of Emeritus College (a creative study program geared for older adults), found themselves enjoying a mile high chat to break the monotony of their journey home. Soon Mark's passion for fiddle playing and fiddle music became the core of their conversation which eventually resulted in the hard working realtor delivering an Emeritus College musical interlude and lecture to an enchanted audience at the Lafayette Senior Center.

On Friday August 24th, Mark Shaw will, for his third engagement, perform in a special concert at the Lafayette Senior Center



Mark Shaw

(500 St. Mary's Rd) from 1:30 to 3:00 in the afternoon. He will share the stage with vocalist and guitarist Ray Carpenter. Their program includes a wide range of tunes from oldies (folk music) to recent pop. There is no charge but donations at the door are appreciated. Call (925)284-5050 to let staff know you are coming so we have enough lemonade on hand.

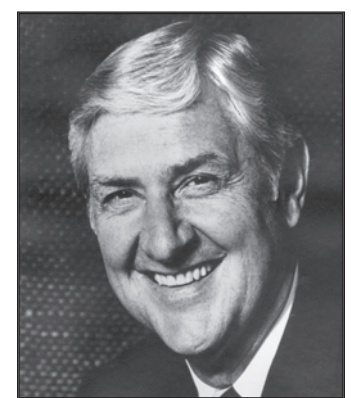
Lafayette Library Wins Grant

The Lafayette Library has been selected to receive a We the People Bookshelf grant award of 15 classic books on the theme of "The Pursuit of Happiness," made possible through the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and the American Library Association (ALA). The bookshelf program encourages people of all ages to read classic books and explore themes in American history, culture and ideas.

"In an increasingly digital age, the local library

continues to be a friendly place for children and families to gather and share the ideals that united us," said NEH Chairman Bruce Cole. "This year's We the People Bookshelf gives readers young and old an opportunity to reflect on the diverse stories of the great American melting pot, as past themes have provided to an opportunity to reflect on the great American virtues of freedom and courage."

See page 6 (Not to be missed) for current events.



James Gordon Holmes, second Mayor of Lafayette

With our Aug. 8 story about Dr. James Gordon Holmes, "Celebrating a Life Well-Lived," we inadvertently printed the wrong photo. We have corrected the photo in our archived story which is available for download at www.lamorindaweekly.com, and apologize to Dr. Holmes' family.

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Lamorinda Community, Calendar, Agendas, Notes, News

Moraga

Calendar	
City Council	7:30pm
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School 1010 Camino Pablo	
Monday, Sept 12	
Planning Comm.	7:30pm
Hacienda, La Sala Room 2100 Donald Drive	
Tuesday, Sept 4	
Design Review	7:30pm
Hacienda, La Sala Room 2100 Donald Drive	
Monday, Aug 27	
Park & Rec	7:30pm
Hacienda, Mosaic Room 2100 Donald Drive	
Tuesday, Sept 18	
Liaison	8:00am
Fire Station 1280 Moraga Way	
Friday, Sept 14	
Chamber of Commerce	5pm
Luau Old Moraga Ranch on School Street	
Saturday, Aug 25	
check online:	
Town of Moraga: http://www.ci.moraga.ca.us	
for:	
• all meeting notes	
• calendar updates	



Designated driver trouble, 7/28/07
A vehicle was stopped at Moraga Way and Hardie Drive for driving in a bicycle lane. The five underage passengers all admitted drinking alcohol. The parents of each of these kids were called to come pick up their child. The underage front seat passenger said of the two bottles of alcohol found in her handbag, that one was a gift and one was stolen from her parents liquor cabinet. Driver was cited for driving in a bike lane, driver under 21 in possession of alcohol, and driving in violation of license restriction.

Riding a bike while drunk, 7/21/07
Two juveniles were riding on one bike near the intersection of Moraga Road and the Rheem Shopping Center. Neither youth was wearing a helmet, and the passenger was riding on the rear pegs of the bike. The juvenile driving the bike was found to be intoxicated. Bike driver was arrested, but released to his parents after signing a promise to appear.

Campo Vandalized, 7/20/07
Officers reported to the stadium area of Campolindo High School, unknown suspects used spray paint to extensively deface several areas, including storage building, scoring booth, the track, and the football field. No evidence of empty spray cans was found.

Traffic Calming Requires Teamwork

By Steve Angelides
Mayor Mike Metcalf has drafted a new traffic calming plan that would give "community action teams" a leading role in determining what types of traffic calming measures could be undertaken in various areas of Moraga.

The traffic calming concept originated in Europe in the 1960's and is gaining widespread acceptance. It can include a variety of traffic calming measures to control the speed and volume of local traffic, including education, enforcement, crosswalks, signs and signals, speed bumps, and the narrowing and redesign of roads.

Under Metcalf's plan the traffic calming process would be initiated by five residents filing a request with the Town Police Department. The next step would be an area meeting including residents, property owners, and Town Staff, at which those attending would decide whether they wanted to form a community action team to pursue traffic calming measures in the area.

The team would have the primary responsibility for studying the problem and proposing solutions. The Town could loan the team radar devices and other equipment to use in its study.

Depending on the level and expense of measures the team decided to seek, approvals could be required by vote of the area residents and property owners, the Town Staff, the Traffic Safety Advisory Committee, and the Town Council. Funding could be provided by the residents and property owners themselves, the Town, and grants, depending on the scope and impact of the measures approved.

Metcalf's new plan would replace a little-used plan adopted in 2000. The new plan is 46 pages long and borrows from the plans of the cities of Lafayette and Napa.

The Traffic Safety Advisory Committee reviewed the

plan twice and made a few changes. At its meeting last month the Committee changed the term "neighborhood action team" to "community action team" to emphasize that the plan will apply to both residential and commercial areas.

Committee members were pleased with the extensive work done by the Mayor. Fernwood Drive resident J.D. O'Connor, one of two residents on the Committee, was particularly pleased that the Town could loan equipment to community action teams. "I have to say that I was staggered that there's been this change—that a neighborhood could be given the tools that would mean something to the police," O'Connor said.

Metcalf will revise the plan to incorporate the recent changes and present it to the Committee for further review. The Committee's next scheduled meeting is September 5.

New Parks & Rec Director - Ready to Jump into Work

By Steve Angelides



Jay Ingram Photo provided

Jay Ingram has been hired as Moraga's new Parks and Recreation Director. In-

gram comes to Moraga from the City of San Rafael, where he was recreation supervisor for almost five years.

Ingram has been working in city government for 20 years. His first job was as a part time recreation worker, and he knew from that time that he wanted a career in city government.

"I am really excited about this opportunity because everything I've been doing for the past 19 years has been leading up to this," Ingram said. "Because this is

a small community I look forward to working with people on a face-to-face basis," he said. "I am also ready to jump into the tasks the Master Plan has set forth for us," Ingram added.

In addition to recreation, he has also been involved in emergency operations, planning, and union negotiations. He has also served for 8 years on the Alameda Recreation and Park Commission, including 4 years as chair.

... continued on page 10

New Development in Moraga

Let Your Voice Be Heard

By Cathy Tyson

Citizens of Moraga concerned about development of the 187-acre Moraga Center Specific Plan have options to let their opinions be heard. In a small community such as Moraga, the proposed development of 720 new dwelling units, 90,000 square feet of retail space, 50,000 square feet of new office space and a possible 30,000 square foot gymnasium would be a big change for this quiet community. Alternative plans with 566 housing units and 339 housing units are also

being considered.

The final scoping meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 4, 7:30 p.m. at the Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School Auditorium. One of the goals of the required Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report is "to advise and solicit comments and suggestions regarding the preparation of the EIR...including interested or affected members of the public."

... continued on page 10

You can contact reporter Steve Angelides at steve@lamorindaweekly.com

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Lamorinda Community, Calendar, Agendas, Notes, News

Orinda

Calendar	
City Council	7pm
Auditorium, Orinda Library 26 Orinda Way Tuesday, Sept 4	
Planning Comm.	7pm
Sarge Littlehale Conf. Room City Hall, 22 Orinda Way Tuesday, Aug 28	
Public Safety Comm.	7pm
Community Room at City Hall 22 Orinda Way Thursday, Sept 13	
Hist. Landmark Comm.	3pm
Gallery Room, Upper Level 26 Orinda Way Monday, Sept 25 (Meeting Aug 28 cancelled)	
Liaison	8:30am
Community Room at City Hall 22 Orinda Way Monday, Sept 10	
check online: Town of Orinda: http://www.ci.orinda.ca.us/ for: • all meeting notes • calendar updates	

Chamber of Commerce:
<http://www.orinda-chamber.org/>
• local businesses
• upcoming events



D.U.I. in a ditch, 8/14/07 An anonymous person called to report a vehicle on the wrong side of Miner Road in a ditch. The driver was alone, in a Ford Explorer. The police officer noticed a moderate odor of alcohol. The suspect was determined to be intoxicated. The vehicle was towed.

Pellet Gun Delivery, 8/13/07 An older white male resident came to the Orinda police department to turn two pellet guns for destruction.

Identity Theft, 8/10/07 A Chaparral Place resident reported unknown persons used her personal information to access her online bank account. Fraudulent charges of \$849. were deducted from her account. She closed the account and her bank reversed all charges.

Elder Abuse, 8/10/07 Witnesses at Safeway, and a police officer who happened to be at the scene for a different matter, saw a suspect lean into a white 82 year old female's car and allegedly assault her. The suspect fled the scene, but her license plate number was obtained. Video surveillance from Safeway documented the altercation. The victim suffered scratches trying to defend herself. The suspect was advised of her rights and taken to the Martinez detention facility.

Read online at:
<http://www.lamorindaweekly.com/html/read.html>
(a pdf reader is required to view the pages.)

Location, Location, Location – Orinda's Theater Square a Mixed Bag

By Sophie Braccini



Shan Kenner - Spanish, Flamenco Guitar Photo by Andy Scheck

On the evening of August 16, Shan Kenner played Spanish and Flamenco guitar music outside one of the vacant business spaces in the interior of Theater Square. There was not much of an audience on this evening; a few diners enjoying the evening air at Shelby's, the occasional passers-by.

The summer-through-fall concerts at Theater Square are part of the revitalization strategy developed by owner GLL Partners, who hope to increase foot traffic in the back of the Square and bring those businesses to the attention of consumers. Business owners say the lack of foot traffic has been problematic since the Square opened in October of 1991.

Pati MacDonald of Curves, a women's fitness center, and Sherry Sadighpour of Hedyeh, a gift boutique featuring little treasures brought by Sadighpour from all over the world, would like to see better external signage, and an attractive directory visible from the street to inform and entice visitors to the interior shops. McDonald, who also owns a Curves in San Diego, compares the

Orinda location with the Curves in Lafayette and Moraga and is pessimistic about opportunities for the growth of her business.

In contrast, many of the Square's business are highly successful. Sweet Dreams store manager Connie King, who has enjoyed seeing Orinda's kids pass through the store for ten years, says "We get a lot of foot traffic from the theater here, and having Starbucks next door has been good for our business, as well."

Nearby "b.b. gear" has sold women's apparel in the Square for more than 10 years. Storeowner Hayfa Sulyman attributes her success to consistency in her business practice and a keen knowledge of her customers' needs. "When you open a store you can't expect to make any money for the first two years," comments Sulyman, "and you need to do your market research before you start. Orindans have very discriminating taste, they can pay for good service but they won't come back if you offer nothing special," she adds.

For Catherine Macfee, Interior Designer, the Center

has been a very good location as well. She has doubled her floor space and has now opened a retail gifts and decoration store across from her first location. But according to Store Manager Kaylee Adams, 90% of Macfee's customers come from referrals; only 10% of their new customers come through foot traffic.

Nino's Bay Restaurant, which just celebrated its grand opening, has high hopes for success and expects their creative cooking to attract customers. Entourage, the beauty salon, is thriving in the back of the Center. Shelby's and the Lava Pit are also doing well. However, clearly noticeable are the empty spaces, some of which have been unoccupied for two years.

GLL Partner's Chris Quiett has been engaged in active negotiation with the town of Orinda to get some specific signage for the Square approved. He has been very happy with the open-mindedness of city officials and believes a final agreement will be reached in the next few months. Quiett also faces a zoning challenge: only traditional retailers are admitted in the Square and businesses such as real estate and financial services are not. He believes that a more diverse mix would be beneficial to the revitalization of the back of the Square. But Quiett expects that, "Once the word gets out about the concerts and the new merchants, people will come to the Square and will appreciate its fun atmosphere."

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Clinton Fundraiser a Huge Success

By Lee Borrowman



Hillary Clinton with Robert Shwartz, Joni Binder and children Jonah and Maia Shwartz Photo provided

"Many people brought their pre-teen and teenage daughters," said Binder. "It was great to see. Senator Clinton is a wonderful role model and a source of inspiration for these girls." Also in attendance were Casa Orinda's Charlotte Guppy, Orinda School Board member Riki Sorenson, event co-hosts Steve Tidrick and Laurie Littlepage,

and Tim and Leslie O'Brien. Leslie O'Brien grew up with the Clintons in Little Rock. This was the first time Binder hosted an event of this kind in her home, and she describes it as a truly local effort. Attracting guests was a matter of calling friends who called friends. Although she readily admits to being a bit nervous during the event, Binder says, "It was an amazing night!" In fact, the entire week was an adventure for the Shwartz/Binder family, which includes children Jonah and Maia. "The Secret Service was at our home all week long; they had earpieces and talked into their wrists. We had gardeners and landscapers, and a wonderful caterer, Orinda mom Susie LaCour of LaCour Gourmet; one of our bartenders was a local kid home from college who also works as a swim coach at Meadow." Just before the event began, everyone had to clear out for the bomb-sniffing dogs. Would she do it again? "Absolutely; for the right person," said Binder.

and Tim and Leslie O'Brien. Leslie O'Brien grew up with the Clintons in Little Rock.

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Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton mingled with one hundred and ten guests from Orinda and around the East Bay at the home of Joni Binder and Robert Shwartz on the evening of August 12. The event raised over \$200,000 for the Hillary for President Exploratory Campaign.

"Several of our guests had been on the fence before," said Binder, but they were completely won over. She (Clinton) is very warm and intelligent; I'm not sure how well that comes through in the media." According to Binder, Clinton spoke eloquently and answered questions about the situation in Iraq, education and healthcare reform, recognizing Orinda's Xenophon Therapeutic Riding Center as a wonderful example of an organization that is central to the type of optimum care we should be striving for as a nation (for more information on Xenophon go to <http://xenophontrc.org/blog/>).

Guests included Congresswoman Ellen Tauscher, who was escorted by former Safeway CEO David Bowlby, and her 16 year old daughter, Katherine.

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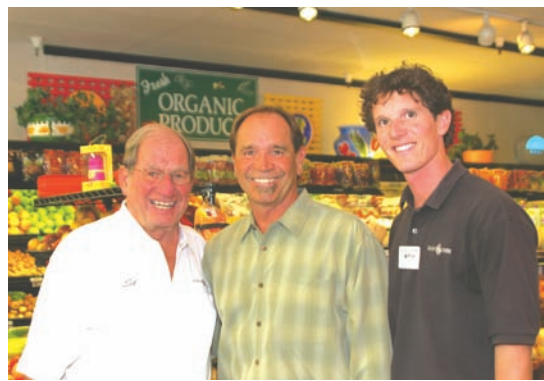
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Life in LAMORINDA

The Apple Doesn't Fall Far from the Tree in Lamorinda's Intergenerational Family Businesses

By Virginia Fox

Customers and clients referring their children and grandkids in a stream of loyal patronage --Siblings, grandkids and parents working together -- Work ethics and customer service passed down through the generations.



The Strokes Family, Diablo Foods



The Kosich and Callahan Family, Kosich and Callahan Insurance services

Looking behind the scenes at three of Lamorinda's intergenerational family businesses, Diablo Foods and Kosich and Callahan Insurance services in Lafayette, and McDonnell's Nursery in Orinda, we see how three businesses are beating the odds for decades of success and family harmony.

The engaging photo of five year old Charlie Stokes on the office shelf of Diablo Foods founder Ed Stokes suggests she'll have many opportunities to be what she wants when she grows up. But if she follows the footsteps of her Grandfather and Grandmother, Mother and Father, Aunt and Uncle and Cousins, Charlie will one day find her place working in Diablo Foods, Lafayette's premium independent fine foods market. And she'll start working behind the scenes as soon as she is old enough to help.

Growing up in the business gives everyone a chance to see if they think they want to make it a lifelong job and in many cases it's a natural fit from those early years.

"We're all ridiculously close," laughs Stokes daughter, Connie Collier, who joined the staff ten years ago and is a partner with her brother, Dan, who is V.P and General Manager and in line to replace his Dad if he ever steps down. Fondly recalling the years of working behind the scenes in many positions, Collier's family now dubs her the "Buyer of Foo Foo La La," responsible for housewares, health and beauty items and local specialty products

you can't get anywhere else along with hundreds of donations in response to community requests.

When the Kids Join in the Fun

With the picture of his Dad, Walter, looking down in the conference room at Kosich and Callahan Insurance Services in Lafayette, there's no doubt who was Ken's mentor. Growing up with both parents in the insurance business since 1946, Ken Kosich thought of being a lawyer but changed his mind when he realized the required number of years in school. He joined the firm after graduating from Chico and has been running the office since 1986.

Ken always thought his son, Greg, would join the firm. "He'd heard a lot about the business at the kitchen table growing up," Ken says. When Greg came to him after graduating from the University of Santa Clara and asked to join the firm, Ken wasn't surprised.

Greg says having a good relationship with his Dad helps in and out of the office. Greg enjoys being able to ask his Dad how to handle situations and knows he'll get an honest answer. "I'm trying to pass along what I've learned from my own Dad now," says Ken, "to have an open mind, try out new ideas, and encourage Greg to express his opinions."

Following in the footsteps of his Dad, Dick Callahan joined Metropolitan Life Insurance as an agent and in 1999 met Ken Kosich. A handshake agreement formed Kosich and Callahan, two companies under one umbrella offering a

broad range of insurance services.

Familiar to many as the stadium voice of the Warriors and St. Mary's basketball, Callahan says "When I met Ken I knew I'd scored a home run."

Not everyone jumps into the family business without thinking about other options and in some cases, getting work experience first in other places.

Callahan's daughter, Colleen, worked as a teacher for five years before deciding to join her Dad. Her decision came as a total surprise to her family. "If I'd accepted all the bets from people who said it wouldn't work I'd be very rich by now," she says. Seventeen years later, Colleen has earned her own reputation as a seasoned professional designing employee benefit packages, long term health care, and in her spare time producing and hosting a TV show that showcases local non-profit agencies.

Connie Collier says she'll never forget when her son, Daniel, surprised her on his return from living abroad to announce he wanted to join Diablo Foods. "He had a great offer from a San Francisco financial firm which we thought he'd pursue on his return," she says. For Daniel, the decision was the best he ever made. "I realized when I was away how much Diablo Foods was a part of my life," he says. "I love the pace and the variety of things to do. It's a decision I've never regretted."

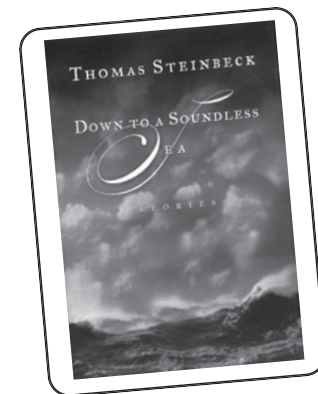
... continued on page 11

What if Everybody in Lamorinda Read the Same Book?

By Sophie Braccini

Susan Weaver, Linda Waldroup and Caroline Gick, Lamorinda's brilliant trio of librarians, are preparing to have our communities join Salt Lake City, Seattle, Buffalo, Anchorage, Omaha, Indianapolis, Arlington, Albuquerque, Redwood City, Brentwood, Danville, Alamo, Los Angeles and hundreds of other cities that are engaged in very successful city-reads programs. All over the United State, programs in which large numbers of people read the same book and share with their friends and neighbors have proven to be an effective way to bring people together and attract to literature those who do not usually go to the library.

The trio's first task was to pick a book. It had to be gender neutral; they wanted it related to California history, not too long and be moderately priced. "And we had to pick something that not everybody had read yet," commented the librarians. They chose Down to a Soundless Sea, by Thomas Steinbeck (son of John Steinbeck). The book is a collection of stories, though it is more accurately depicted as a collection of seven tales, that take place mostly in the Monterey County at the turn of the century through the 1930s. The tales are born of lore and legends that Steinbeck heard while growing up in a family circle of raconteurs. Rich in imagery and uncommon characters, the tales are memorable stories written in a forceful voice that Thomas Steinbeck can call his



own. The librarians loved the book and think it will be very well received by adults of all ages and high school students as well.

Then they tackled the funding challenge. Success for such an operation depends on how available the book is to the entire community. Books are available for borrowing at the library, but what makes this program unique is that books will be made available in public places so people can just pick one up, read it and then return it so that a friend or neighbour can read it next. The three librarians decided to buy 600 books, 200 per city. As usual, our community organizations rose to the occasion and the budget of \$30,000 has been secured. The contributing organizations are: the Friends of the three libraries (Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda), the Lafayette Bookstore and the Orinda Bookstore, the Moraga Women's Society, the Lafayette Arts and Science Foundation, Moraga Kiwanis, the Lafayette Community Foundation, the Association of American University Women

and Minuteman Press.

The Lamorinda Reads kick-off is set for September 4th. Events are scheduled throughout the month of October. The discussions held at the 3 libraries will include a children's event: "Otterly Awesome Creatures of Monterey Bay," by Gael Gallagher at the Moraga library on October 20th at 3:00 PM. The Grand Finale will be a reception/author program on October 25th at 7:30 PM in the Orinda Auditorium with author Thomas Steinbeck himself. Books that are returned will be given to local high schools.

Calendar of events:

September 4th
Kick-off, books available in libraries and point of distribution
September 9th
Whale Bus in Lafayette and Orinda
October 11th
Susan Shillinglaw 7:00 PM Moraga library
October 13th
Ruth Halpern 7:00 PM Lafayette library
October 20th
Gael Gallagher 3:00 PM Moraga library
October 25th
Thomas Steinbeck
7:30 PM Orinda Auditorium

Places to pick-up the books:

Lafayette:
Starbucks and Peet's Coffee & Tea
Orinda:
Starbucks, Caffe Teatro, Royal Ground Coffee and Peet's Coffee & Tea
Moraga:
Sisi Café, Starbucks, Curves for Women and Moraga Hardware & Lumber




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Not to be missed

Connie Doolan Quartet -Friday, August 24, 7:30pm
The San Francisco Bay Area group is comprised of four veteran musicians who artfully blur the boundaries of folk and jazz, resulting in an intelligent and sensitive connection of the two genres. Ticket's for Friday night's event are \$15 and are available at the door. Reservations are suggested. 925-283-1959 or email charlotte@lafayetteconcerts.com. Doors open at 7:00pm. For a complete schedule of 2007 concerts and details, visit www.lafayetteconcerts.com. Lafayette Community Center, 500 St. Mary's Rd.

Hawaiian Luau Buffet- Saturday, August 25, from 5 to 10 PM
Guests will enjoy two hours of live Hawaiian and Tahitian entertainment. Enter a raffle to win a trip for two to Hawaii. The Luau, by the Chamber of Commerce, Moraga, will be held on the field of the Old Moraga Ranch, across from Safeway on School Street. Information and tickets online at www.moragalau.com or at the UPS store in the Moraga Center. Advanced tickets are \$45 for adults and \$10 for children 6-12 years old, and respectively \$50 and \$15 at the door. Children 5 and under are free.

West Coast Songwriters Association Showcase Sat, August 25, 8:00 pm
Lafayette mom and award-winning musical artist Laura Zucker will take the stage in the Singer/Songwriter Play-Off Finals Concert competition. Freight and Salvage, Berkeley. For more info go to www.freightandsalvage.com or www.laurazucker.com.

Voices of Musica Sacra, a chorus directed by John Kendal Bailey. Announces auditions for all voice parts on Sunday, August 26, 2007, 1:00 to 6:00 pm in Walnut Creek. Call 925-930-0516 for more info and to schedule an audition. www.voicesofmusicasacra.org.

Total Lunar Eclipse viewed at Chabot August 27-28 (10 p.m. - 4:30 a.m.) There's no better way to enjoy this stunning astronomical phenomenon in which the moon will actually appear red - a result of light emanating from sunrises and sunsets around the Earth! Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$7 for youth, students and seniors on or before Aug. 15 - \$13/\$9 if purchased later (or at the door). To purchase advance tickets, call (510) 336-7373 or click on www.chabotspaced.org 10000 Skyline Blvd. • Oakland.

The Lafayette Library will be hosting a variety of programs and art exhibits from September 2007 through April 2008. The first program will feature **Delphine Hirasuna, author of The Art of Gaman: Arts & Crafts from Japanese Internment Camps 1942 - 1946** on Thursday, September 27 at 7:30 p.m. This book presents more than 150 examples of art created by internees who used scrap and found materials to make flower-like brooches, persimmon wood tables, carved teapots, and dolls fashioned from kimono fabrics.

Gene Yang Art Exhibit October - November 2007
The Oakland Museum of California, a Lafayette Library & Learning Center Consortium partner, is providing an exhibition of Gene Yang's art from his award-winning book and his early drawings. We the People Bookshelf Programs are Sponsored by the Friends of the Lafayette Library. For more information about programs that are a part of the We the People Bookshelf, call the library at 925-283-3872 or visit www.cclib.org

California Shakespeare Theater Presents "The Triumph of Love" - through September 2
A sharply drawn and elegantly composed comedy, The Triumph of Love explores the entire nature of love, in all its romantic glory and painful cruelty. Tue-Wed-Thurs 7:30pm (except for preview nights which are at 8:00pm the first Wednesday and Thursday of each show.) Fri-Sat 8:00 pm, Sunday 4:00 pm, Bruns Amphitheater, Orinda. For more information or to purchase tickets, call the Cal Shakes Box Office at 510.548.9666 or visit www.calshakes.org

Orinda Starlight Village Players Presents "See How They Run" by Philip King. Fridays and Saturdays, August 24, 25, and September 7, 8, 14, 15, 16, 20, 21, and 22 at 8:30 pm Sunday, Sept. 16th at 4PM; and Thursday, Sept. 20th at 8PM. 26 Orinda Way, at the Orinda Community Center Outside Amphitheater. Adult \$15, senior/student \$7.50, group rates available. No Reservations needed. (925)253-1191

"Talking With" by Jane Martin. Presented by Role Players Ensemble Theatre in Association with the Town of Danville. A "black box" production by Role Players Ensemble Theatre directed by Chris Chapman & Sue Trigg. 10 compelling monologues by 10 amazing women asserting their significance in the universe, presented in an intimate setting. 8 pm Friday & Saturday September 7th, 8th, 14th & 15th at Town Meeting Hall, 201 Front St., Danville. Tickets \$10 at the door. www.danvilletheatre.com or call 925 820-1278 for further information

Martinez Opera Contra Costa Presents "Opera Rhapsody"
Featuring fine operatic works from your favorite composers. Enjoy a vintage afternoon of fine wine, food and opera. Vintage dress optional. Tickets: Bistro seating \$65. Lawn seating: \$25. September 8, 2:00 pm, Susana Park, Martinez Call 925-372-6617 or email mtzopera@aol.com

Life's Pleasures: A Visual Feast.. Lafayette Gallery, through October 6, 2007 A Visual Feast offers the dazzle of jewelry, the rich color and detail of acrylic and oil paintings, the complex, interwoven images of collage, the earthy resonance of ceramics. Join the 23 members of the Lafayette Gallery as step into a new season of art with works in a variety of media. Lafayette Gallery, 50 Lafayette Circle,

is open Tuesday to Saturday from 11am to 5pm. (925) 284-2788. www.lafayettegallery.net

A Fireside Chat with Lonely Planet Author Alex Leviton
On Tuesday, August 28 at 7 p.m., the Orinda Library presents a Fireside Chat with Alex Leviton, who co-wrote "Tuscany & Umbria," for the Lonely Planet series of travel guides. The program will take place inside the library, beside the fireplace, which allows for a casual, intimate atmosphere. It is free of charge and will last about an hour. 26 Orinda Way in Orinda, (925) 254-2184 or visit the library website at cclib.org.

"Imagine Peace" Candlelight Vigil Tues, Aug 28th, 7:00pm
Veteran's Plaza, Broadway and Civic, Walnut Creek. Please bring a candle, your family, your friends and your neighbors. Sing along with Michael Sullivan

Contra Costa Master Gardeners Annual Garden Walk, September 8, 2007. Each of the 6 gardens owned or founded and tended by Contra Costa Master Gardeners will be open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The gardens are located in Lafayette, Orinda, Walnut Creek and Martinez. Admission to all six gardens is \$15 in advance, \$20 after 8/31. To purchase tickets before 8/31, send your check made out to CCMG Association to: CCMG Garden Walk, 5700 Verna Way, Clayton, CA 94517. For more information or to purchase tickets after 8/31 email MGgardenwalk2007@yahoo.com or call Barbara Abbott (925) 672-2315, Darlyn Gerber (925) 689-2667 or Patty Click (925) 682-6719.

Saturday, September 8th, 10:00-2:00: 3rd Annual Orinda Classic Car Show. Benefitting the Seniors Around Town Transportation Program; in Orinda Village at Orinda Motors, 63 Orinda Way. The Orinda Classic Car Show will feature approximately 75 American and European cars ranging from the 1920's, to the classics of the 50's and 60's, as well as modern exotics. Along with the great cars, there will be food, music and a raffle. The event will close with a car parade.

Moraga Movers and Lafayette Senior Recreation Center. Joint event on Monday Sept. 10th, 11am -3pm Members and guests will mix and mingle in at the Hacienda de Las Flores in Moraga. The gathering will be catered by Texas Back Forty BBQ. Music, a raffle and "Two Hits & Miss, Plus One" will keep everyone entertained. For information and reservations please call Dottie Baker, 254-327, no later than Aug. 27.

The Kiwanis Club of Moraga Valley Fellowship Breakfast, September 13th, 7:30am, St. Mary's College, at the Soda Center. The Kiwanis Cal-Nev-Ha Foundation fully endorses and finances the training of certain qualifying Physicians at Loma Linda Hospital, one of a few level 1 pediatric trauma centers the our District. Come meet Dr. Thorpe & Young, the first two "Kiwanis Doctors". They have agreed to commit their time and career to the field of pediatric emergency medicine. \$15 per person. Includes Full Buffet Breakfast. Please RSVP to: johnhaffner@comcast.net. Questions please call Cherie Grant: 925-376-1374. Please send checks in advance to: Kiwanis Club of Moraga Valley P.O. Box 503, Moraga, CA 94556

Veterans Memorial Golf Tournament Monday, September 17th, 2007
Tilden Park Golf Course in Berkeley. Shotgun Start: 8:30 a.m. \$150 per person includes dinner at the Lafayette Veterans Memorial Building. Tournament proceeds go to support hospitalized brain injured veterans recovering at the Palo Alto VA Polytrauma Center and to support their families. Nongolfers are also invited to attend the dinner at \$25 per person. Contact Wil Wilcox@925-672-6159 or wilcoxw@sbcglobal.net for entry form.

Book Signings at Orinda Books Thursday, September 6, 4:00 PM
Joshua Spanogle will discuss and sign copies of his new thriller, *Flawless*. Thursday, Saturday, September 15, 1:00 PM. Amy Lyford will discuss and sign copies of *Surrealist Masculinities, Gender Anxiety and the Aesthetics of Post World War I Reconstruction in France*. 276 Village Square, Orinda, CA orindabooks@thegrid.net 925/254-7606

Please submit events to:
calendar@lamorindaweekly.com

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(Edited to conform to our word limit)
(Dear Editor)
Monday afternoon, August 13, 2007, a family member (cat, Max) was snatched from our front yard, and killed by a dog

on the loose. (Our neighbors witnessed the attack.) While the Moraga Police and Animal Control were summoned, we were told we had no rights as to the identity of the dog's owner. In fact, Animal Control released the dog without question. The dog wore a tag identifying her as Daisy, a tall dark colored or black Greyhound type mix who lives in the vicinity of Rheem Blvd and La Salle Dr. Today I can't walk Lucy (a chihuahua) to the mailbox for fear the dog is once again on the loose. Animal behaviorists will educate that once a dog has killed, it will kill again. (I am afraid that this dog may be a danger to children). The county will not aide in insuring that she does not kill any-

one else's pet. (We hope) that no family suffers this pain and loss. Our smaller family owns Lori's in the Rheem Center in Moraga. If anyone has information about Daisy, please contact us there or call 376-4433.
Lori Stubblefield, Moraga

Dear Lamorinda Weekly,
I love your paper and all the interesting content about our community. I wanted to thank Sophie Braccini for her article on St.Mary's sleepaway summer camps. My two 9 year old daughters attended it this summer and had a great time. Thanks for capturing a few of the special moments of the week.
Kevin Porep, Lafayette

The Moraga Art Gallery's current Show includes "Life on Earth" August 14-October 27

Includes local Bay Area and Lamorinda artists showing watercolors, oil painting, collage, ceramics, photography, mixed media, jewelry and glass design. The Gallery is also featuring the work of Dorrie Bosley Langley, a Martinez artist whose murals and wall art may be seen in locations around the East Bay.

Moraga Art Gallery 570 Center St, Rheem Valley Shopping Center/next to Longs

Drugs. Open Tuesday through Sunday, 12-5 pm. 925-376-5407



Bocce Babies, by Dorrie Bosley Langley



Trees, by Dorrie Bosley Langley

Town Hall Theatre Company of Lafayette 2007-2008 Season

Bleacher Bums - August 18 - October 14, 2007: Bleacher Bums - Written by Joe Mantagna, Dennis Franz and others. This classic baseball production pays affectionate homage to perennial losers and the fans who stand by them.

this sweet holiday classic is the story of the misadventures of a certain Kris Kringle who gets a job playing Santa at Macy's and how he inspires the Christmas spirit in those all around him.

The Weir - September 1 - October 28, 2007: The Weir - the story of three locals in an Irish Pub and the one outsider, a young Dublin woman who just bought a house in the area. This entertaining play follows the three ghost stories that tie them together.

Moonlight and Magnolias - February 9 - March 15, 2008: Moonlight and Magnolias - this story brings audiences into the inside of the office of legendary producer David O. Selznick during the final moments when he is transforming the best selling book, "Gone with the Wind", into one of the most beloved movies of all time.

Miracle on 34th Street - November 17 - December 29, 2007: Miracle on 34th Street -

Triumph of Love - May 24 - June 28, 2008:

Campus Happenings

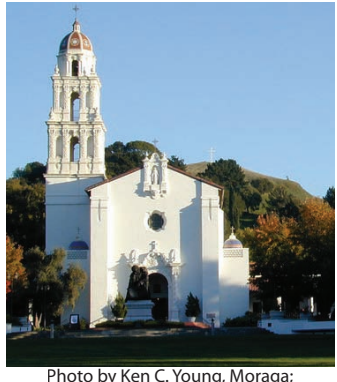


Photo by Ken C. Young, Moraga; www.kcyoungfineartimages.com

Paris Review, Zoetrope: All-Story, Ploughshares, The Gettysburg Review, Glimmer Train, Prospect, and elsewhere. Her debut collection, "A Thousand Years of Good Prayers," won the Frank O'Connor International Short Story Award, PEN/Hemingway Award, and California Book Award for first fiction. "Granta" magazine named her one of the best young American novelists in 2007. Wednesday, Sept. 5 at 7:30 p.m. Soda Activity Center. Free



Katie Pelinsky in Town Hall Theatre Company's production of The Weir. Photo by Stu Steland

Triumph of Love - A classic French farce uses song and music in this tale of a princess who goes to great lengths to secure an education and her throne.

Town Hall Theatre Company of Lafayette, 3535 School Street at Moraga Road; Tickets: 283-1557 Info: www.thtc.org

Gallery hours: Wednesdays through Sundays, 11 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Admission: \$2 adults; youth 12 and under free; members free; SMC community free. The exhibition space is ADA accessible. Free parking is available adjacent to and across the road from the building.

For more information about upcoming events at Saint Mary's College, visit the college website at www.stmarys-ca.edu/news_events/



Go Gaels!

Upcoming Sports Events at Saint Mary's College
Women's Soccer vs. Pacific Friday, Aug. 24 at 5 p.m.
Saint Mary's Stadium

For information about upcoming season schedules, visit the official Saint Mary's athletics website at www.SMCGaels.com.

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Life in LAMORINDA

A Day at Briones Regional Park

By Sophie Braccini



Severin Borenstein with dog Wilbur taking a walk Photos by Sophie Braccini

The pleasure of going to Briones Regional Park starts on Happy Valley road in Lafayette. On the narrow winding road, where the speed limit is 30 mph, the sight of beautiful homes and large planted gardens is the perfect introduction to the nature one is about to experience. The ride is only about 12 minutes from downtown Lafayette and you'll need \$5 for parking in the Bear Creek staging area, one of five that the park offers.

Briones is a 6,000 acre regional park with magnificent vistas of rolling hills, cool shady

canyons and miles of hiking trails. The wild life at Briones is incredibly diverse with assorted birds, mammals, reptiles, and invertebrates making up the local population. Mountain lions have been spotted at Briones and encounters with rattlesnakes are not infrequent.

For Tutu Sharon of Lafayette and her family, Briones is their absolute favorite park. They come often with the children for barbecues and picnics in the shade of the ancient oak trees. For this day, they've chosen a picnic spot by the nearby creek. They like to go down to the creek and then hike up the hill to be in the middle of a deep forest. Sharon's daughter, Kimberley's only regret is that the park is not open for overnight individual camping. She comes during the week as well with her dog and loves the incredible scenic views the park offers.

For Marc Tausig, Rebecca Szatmari and Al Kress, Briones is a different story. The 2 men are archers and Briones contains one of the few archery ranges in the East Bay. Approximately 45 acres

of archery range are set out like a golf course. There, you move from target to target until you have completed the course. The targets are made of foam to look like wild

life in their natural surroundings. The local Archery Club has about 65 members of all ages. Barbara, Marc and Al spend a big part of their Sunday at the park enjoying

archery, hiking and the natural surroundings. While Rebecca doesn't shoot arrows, she loves the freedom of being outdoors.

... continued on page 12



Tutu Sharon, grand daughter Cassie, daughter Kimberley, grand son Aaron (sitten), grand son Tyler and foreign student Deiane from Spin (standing), having a great afternoon under the trees.

Grapes are Growing on the Hills of Lamorinda ... continued from page 1

Jim became interested in winegrowing through a friend who owns a winery, but he was also challenged with the maintenance of a 3-acre hillside where grass and weeds presented a fire hazard in the dry summer months. To solve the problem and fuel his interest in wine, Jim and his wife Leslie planted 1,500 pinot noir vines in 1999 and had their first wine produced in 2002. Jim chose pinot noir grapes, because he feels that Lafayette's climate with its cool evenings and hot, but not sweltering, days provides a good environment for this variety. Jim finds himself out working in his vineyard many evenings. "I work in the construction industry, and it can be stressful. I find the 15 to 20 hours a week that I spend pruning and training my vines calming, pacifying."

One of the goals of the Lamorinda Winegrower's Association is to obtain a specific Lamorinda appellation. The appellation would officially designate Lamorinda as a winegrowing region and provide a significant marketing advantage for the sale of grapes and wines from the area. "I think the growing conditions in the area actually are quite good for growing top-notch wine grapes. The quality of the fruit that I've found so far has been

exceptional," notes Dave Parker.

The group is also committed to sustainability. "Although we have to use practices to make winegrowing economically feasible, we try to treat the vines and grapes as naturally as we can and avoid introducing unnatural elements into the environment," states Dave. And of course, the group's meetings always start and end with a wine tasting to provide members with an opportunity to further their wine education and to socialize.

As he looks out the window at the vines growing down the hillside that stretches below his home in Moraga, Joao Magalhaes has a fabulous view and an interesting vision. Upon completing the construction of his Spanish-styled home about five years ago, Joao planted 430 vines with the intention of growing enough grapes to make wine to enjoy with his friends and family. Although he finds that he often has "to share" his grapes with the birds in the area, Joao's vineyard yielded 40 bottles of pinot noir in 2006.

But Joao's plans for winegrowing have blossomed. An early member of the Winegrower's Association, Joao is working on the concept of developing a wine tasting room and small-scale wine production facility in Moraga, pos-



Wine barrels at Dave Parker's Winery



sibly located near the Moraga Shopping Center. He envisions a pedestrian-friendly complex with a small inn or bed and breakfast and other hospitality businesses to compliment the production facility and benefit the entire community. According to Joao, the proposal has received positive feedback from several members of the community, and as Lamorinda develops as a boutique winegrowing region, Joao sees the proposal as a perfect fit. "We are adding value to a treasure."



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Seniors Tap Home Equity to Offset Costs

By Jennifer Wake



When Lafayette resident Marilyn Finn, 68, attended a recent conference about hearing loss, she expected to see professionals in booths, like audiologists and hearing aid specialists . . . but mortgage brokers?

A mortgage broker from Milpitas sat inside a large booth under a sign emblazoned with "Reverse Mortgages." He had partnered with a hearing aid vendor, touting the loans as a way for seniors to pay for the uninsured cost of hearing aids. With most hearing aids costing an average of \$6,000 for two of the devices, the broker told Finn that tapping home equity in this way to pay for the aids was a "win/win."

Although Finn wasn't convinced, the National Reverse Mortgage Lenders Association anticipates a 57 percent increase in reverse mortgages this year, with borrowers expected to take out 120,000 of the most popular kind of reverse mortgage in 2007. And even with this sharp increase, lenders say they have penetrated only 1 percent of the senior homeowner market.

Reverse Mortgage Counselor Cherisse Baptiste at ECHO Housing in Hayward (which provides impartial third-party information to seniors regarding reverse mortgages in both Contra Costa and Alameda Counties) says it is becoming more and more common for senior clients to use reverse mortgages to pay for ever increasing medical costs.

"Many seniors just can't afford these costs and don't have a whole lot of options," said Baptiste, who regularly speaks about reverse mortgages to seniors. "It really is a

case by case situation that has to be analyzed very carefully."

Echo Housing is one of several U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)-approved counseling centers that offer information for senior homeowners to learn as much as possible about these loans without any commitment or pressure. Counselors spend at least one hour face to face or by telephone - free of charge - to educate seniors about the complexities involved in a reverse mortgage.

"One of the things I do with each client I meet is discuss in detail the pros and cons of a reverse mortgage: The costs, interest rates, as well as other options or alternatives to a reverse mortgage," Baptiste explained. "If a client comes in to me and says they are considering a reverse mortgage solely for a new roof and nothing more, I would probably refer the client to the city or county loan rehabilitation program, so that the client could consider a low interest loan for home repair. Sometimes these organizations even give grants for these purposes."

The appeal of a reverse mortgage includes the lack of a monthly payment, the fact that the homeowner retains title, and that they can continue to reside in the home - even in most cases after depleting the home's equity. But reverse mortgages can be a costly option.

Fees for a \$362,790 federally-insured reverse mortgage in the Bay Area could total nearly \$17,000 - and there is a limit on the dollar amount you can tap into based upon your age. Seniors who plan to move from their residence within the next five years are gen-

erally advised against taking out a reverse mortgage.

"Typical fees for the Home Equity Conversion Mortgage include a Mortgage Insurance Premium, which is equal to two percent of your home's value (or two percent of your county's 203-b limit), charged upfront at closing, and 0.5 percent is added to the interest rate charged on your rising loan balance," Baptiste said. "The origination fee, which pays a lender for preparing your paperwork and processing your loan, is two percent of your home's value or two percent of your county's 203-b limit, whichever is less, and third-party closing costs can range from \$2,000 to \$3,000 dollars."

Additionally, there are instances where the manner in which loan payments are set up can disqualify you from eligibility for Medicaid or Supplemental Security Income (SSI). "The reverse mortgage can be combined with Medi-Cal benefits, in most cases, so long as certain guidelines are followed. The reason being is that a reverse mortgage is considered a loan that must be repaid in the future. The reverse mortgage is not income. However, there are cautions to keep in mind," Baptiste added.

An article offered on the AARP website, "Home Made Money, A Consumer's Guide to Reverse Mortgages," (http://www.aarp.org/learn/tech/personal_finance/a2003-05-12-homemademoney.html) warns seniors that "loan proceeds remaining in a checking or savings account at the end of a calendar month are counted as liquid assets by SSI and similar programs" and can jeopardize your eligibility.

Baptiste says seniors should ask lenders four key questions: How would the reverse mortgage loan affect my heirs or children? What is the total cost of the loan? How much interest is charged and at what rate? Which reverse mortgage products are offered by the company?

The bottom line, says Baptiste, is that seniors need to look at all available options before making any decisions. "As a counselor I can't make any choices for them," she said. "I show them what is available, and give neutral information."

For questions, you can contact Cherisse Baptiste at ECHO Housing: 1-800-961-6769.

Lamorinda Home Sales continued



LAFAYETTE	Last reported: 15
LOWEST AMOUNT: \$635,000	
HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$3,300,000	
MORAGA	Last reported: 11
LOWEST AMOUNT: \$563,500	
HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$1,615,000	
ORINDA	Last reported: 12
LOWEST AMOUNT: \$837,000	
HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$2,408,000	

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**
- 998 Almanor Lane, \$700,000, 2 Bdrms, 1178 SqFt, 1946 YrBlt, 7-26-07
 - 3347 Beechwood Drive, \$1,065,000, 3 Bdrms, 1422 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 7-31-07
 - 3742 Meadow Lane, \$2,300,000, 6 Bdrms, 3606 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 7-27-07
 - 3470 Moraga Boulevard, \$920,000, 4 Bdrms, 1909 SqFt, 1941 YrBlt, 7-24-07
 - 3977 North Peardale Drive, \$1,375,000, 2 Bdrms, 1581 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 7-30-07
 - 3524 Oliver Court, \$1,059,000, 3 Bdrms, 1543 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 7-20-07
 - 1133 Palomares Court, \$980,000, 3 Bdrms, 1807 SqFt, 1946 YrBlt, 7-31-07
 - 3235 Rohrer Drive, \$855,000, 4 Bdrms, 1467 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 7-20-07
 - 27 Samantha Drive, \$3,300,000, 4 Bdrms, 4838 SqFt, 2006 YrBlt, 7-27-07
 - 3943 South Peardale Drive, \$1,211,500, 3 Bdrms, 1579 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt, 7-20-07
 - 3402 Stage Coach Drive, \$1,962,500, 5 Bdrms, 3948 SqFt, 1989 YrBlt, 7-26-07
 - 3181 Stanwood Lane, \$1,000,000, 5 Bdrms, 4461 SqFt, 1941 YrBlt, 7-24-07
 - 3742 Sundale Road, \$635,000, 5 Bdrms, 1714 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 7-24-07
 - 21 Topper Court, \$1,373,000, 3 Bdrms, 1806 SqFt, 1945 YrBlt, 7-20-07
 - 978 Victoria Court, \$1,380,000, 3 Bdrms, 2366 SqFt, 1938 YrBlt, 7-20-07
- MORAGA**
- 617 Augusta Drive, \$860,000, 2 Bdrms, 2187 SqFt, 1976 YrBlt, 7-31-07
 - 1432 Camino Peral, \$605,000, 3 Bdrms, 1440 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 7-27-07
 - 1439 Camino Peral, \$563,500, 2 Bdrms, 1159 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 7-25-07
 - 359 Donald Drive, \$1,195,000, 4 Bdrms, 2211 SqFt, 1969 YrBlt, 7-27-07
 - 121 Draeger Drive, \$1,149,500, 4 Bdrms, 2343 SqFt, 1983 YrBlt, 7-20-07
 - 7 Josefa Place, \$730,000, 2 Bdrms, 1845 SqFt, 1984 YrBlt, 7-27-07
 - 27 Kinston Court, \$1,175,000, 4 Bdrms, 2169 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 7-31-07
 - 3890 Paseo Grande, \$1,050,000, 4 Bdrms, 2341 SqFt, 1969 YrBlt, 7-20-07
 - 41 South Merrill Circle, \$1,615,000, 4 Bdrms, 2025 SqFt, 1991 YrBlt, 7-20-07
 - 25 Tamarisk, \$869,000, 3 Bdrms, 2172 SqFt, 1985 YrBlt, 7-26-07
 - 8 Trinity Terrace, \$1,260,000, 5 Bdrms, 1699 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 7-26-07
- ORINDA**
- 136 Hall Drive, \$837,000, 3 Bdrms, 1740 SqFt, 1981 YrBlt, 7-25-07
 - 226 La Espiral, \$1,300,000, 3 Bdrms, 2256 SqFt, 1939 YrBlt, 7-20-07
 - 251 La Espiral, \$1,407,500, 4 Bdrms, 1406 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 7-23-07
 - 5 Lavenida Drive, \$1,235,000, 3 Bdrms, 2195 SqFt, 1953 YrBlt, 7-24-07
 - 737 Miner Road, \$2,408,000, 5 Bdrms, 4088 SqFt, 1997 YrBlt, 7-24-07
 - 75 Monte Vista Road, \$1,139,500, 4 Bdrms, 1071 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt, 7-25-07
 - 222 Moraga Way, \$1,880,000, 7-30-07
 - 26 Normandy Lane, \$1,500,000, 4 Bdrms, 2239 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 7-25-07
 - 11 Rae Drive, \$1,065,000, 4 Bdrms, 1812 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 7-25-07
 - 30 Ramona Drive, \$860,000, 3 Bdrms, 1253 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 7-20-07
 - 22 Tarry Lane, \$1,250,000, 3 Bdrms, 2341 SqFt, 1953 YrBlt, 7-24-07
 - 10 Warford Terrace, \$1,185,000, 4 Bdrms, 2300 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 7-20-07

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Orinda Teens Work Hard To Help Kenyan Students

By Cathy Tyson



Alex and Katy with their 8th grade girls' AIDS class at Jora Primary
Photos provided

This summer six Orinda teenagers had the adventure of a lifetime. The current and former students of Miramonte are members of the ABE Club – A Better Education, whose goal is to improve the lives of students in the Mt. Kasigau area of

Van Rheenan, along with chaperones Liz Reed, Kathy Macbride and Steve Isaacs spent a good portion of their summer vacation working at five villages near Kasigau, located in the southeast corner of Kenya, about 65 miles from Mombasa.



JJ and Emily enjoy the 6th and 7th graders while teaching them about writing a letter to a possible sponsor Kenya, by teaching, improving the community and by finding sponsors to pay school fees. Alex and Megan Isaacs, Katy and J.J. Reed, Emily Myers, and Shelby

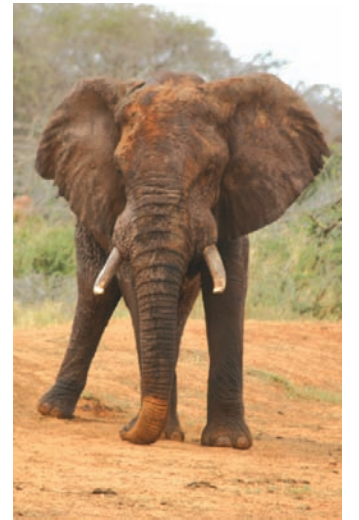
taught classes on AIDS awareness, English letter writing, and ecology. Mindful of the being culturally sensitive, the students made lesson plans that wouldn't impinge on local teachers' curriculum.

The ecology class was a big hit. Almost all of the Kenyan students had never seen a movie or television before, so after they carefully hooked the projector up to their car battery, the crowded classroom was transfixed. J.J. Reed, a junior, turned out to be the electrician of the group. "Deep Blue" and "Deep Sea" were projected on white butcher paper taped to the wall. Although only an hour and a half from the Indian Ocean, none of the village children had ever actually seen an ocean. The Orinda students related the ocean habitat to the Kenyan forest habitat, and set up lessons to be interactive. "I think they made a big impression," says chaperone Kathy Macbride.

In speaking about his personal experience, J.J. Reed said, "It's so different there. The kids are so happy, energetic. They have a great quality of life – even without running water or electricity. They don't have pressure, there's no race to be the best. Here it's all about your stuff."

Newest member Emily Myers said the best part of the experience was, "just being with the high school kids and having conversations. They were interested in what our school was like. One day I brought a brand new pencil, they freaked. It's something I'll never forget." Alex Isaacs recalls of her experience, "It's amazing to me how different it is there. They don't know anything about life outside of their village. They are much more sheltered, although they think they have freedom. It's so rare to move out of your village. We live in two different worlds."

Because of restrictive school fees, the ABE club has worked very hard to raise money to sponsor the Kenyan students. The \$380 yearly fee is simply out of reach of the parents in this rural community. In addition, many of the students have lost one or both parents to AIDS. The club will be selling handmade baskets that the villagers made to help support the program at the Orinda and Walnut Creek Farmers' Markets. To view additional photos and for more information please see their website, www.abecub.org.



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New SMC Students Tackle Weighty Subjects at Orientation

By Jennifer Wake

Unlike many other college orientation programs, where the discussion might revolve around the location of the dining halls or hours of operation at the campus gymnasium, when students arrive at Saint Mary's College this weekend, they will have their first Collegiate Seminar discussion on Plato's Analogy of the Cave.

"Starting the course as a part of the orientation events sets the tone for the academic journey that the freshman are commencing," said Charles Hamaker, director of the Collegiate Seminar program. The Seminar course is at the core of a Saint Mary's undergraduate education and is required of all its students.

In addition, all incoming students were asked to read two documents as part of a Summer Reading Program before the start of classes. They were a paper by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, "Climate Change 2007: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability," and a statement by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops entitled, "Global Climate Change: A Plea for Dia-

logue, Prudence, and the Common Good."

"The Summer Reading Program ties in with Seminar in that a response to any serious issue like global warming requires the capacity to interpret the facts, assess their significance, and form measured judgments, as well as recognizing the longstanding ideas and questions about the human condition that provide the context for such issues," Hamaker said.

Dean of the School of Liberal Arts Steve Woolpert explained that these original readings were chosen "in order to inform our new students about the scientific, economic, and moral dimensions of global warming."

Students are engaged in questions about the works in an online blog, such as: Can you describe the expected impacts of human-induced climate change over the next 50 years? Are technological approaches more or less important than changes in people's values and patterns of behavior? What responsibilities, if any, do countries that produce the most greenhouse gases have to mitigate the effects of climate change experi-



De La Salle statue at Saint Mary's College
Photo by Andy Scheck

enced by countries that produce the least greenhouse gases?

Climate change will be an integrative theme in the 2007-08 academic year including English Composition writing assignments, and on-campus presentations on climate change by experts and public officials. Saint Mary's also plans to join in "Focus the Nation," an educational initiative that will culminate in national symposia on climate change. The events will be held simultaneously at over a thousand colleges, universities, high schools and other institutions across the country in January.

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Improving Family Relationships

By Margie Ryerson, MFT

In my work with couples and families, I often see situations where people have been "beating their heads against the wall." This is because we all develop patterns of thought and behavior that cause us to repeat ourselves, despite the realization that it is getting us nowhere. Couples nag and criticize each other about the same old issues. Parents repeat themselves with their children, hoping maybe one day their children WILL finally put away their toys or do their homework or clean up their rooms. Teens often just turn off to their parents rather than participating in arguments that never get resolved.

Sometimes there are deep-seated issues that can only be addressed with ongoing therapy, but often it is possible to handle these impasses within the family. When you are locked into these sorts of battles, it's time to step back and work on forming an agreement. It's a problem-solving approach that involves compromise, but in a way where

no one has to lose.

To take a common example, Denise and Scott are highly frustrated with their son, Chris, age 12. Chris has begun to neglect his homework, his room, and his younger brothers. Instead, he spends most of his time in his room either listening to music or on the computer. Both parents have tried asking, encouraging, complaining, and finally ordering Chris to comply with their requests. Nothing seems to make a difference. Chris becomes increasingly defiant and resentful.

Denise and Scott decide to re-group and try a different strategy, a more solution-based approach. They ask Chris when would be a good time for them to talk with him. When they meet, both parents talk to Chris about what they appreciate about him and what they miss in their relationship with him. They ask Chris to tell them what he thinks they could do or say differently, promising no recriminations. They don't repeat their complaints. The objective is to promote under-



Margie Ryerson, MFT, is a marriage and family therapist with offices in Orinda and Walnut Creek.

standing and good will, not to continue criticizing.

Depending on the level of distrust and resentment a child has developed, this process may need to be repeated several times before he is ready to cooperate. Then it is time to hammer out some agreements. When there is a "buy-in," there can be more progress. And when the agreement hits an inevitable snag, all parties can meet again to determine how they can get back on track. Working together toward an agreement can help diffuse emotionally-charged situations and promote closer relationships.

New Parks & Rec Director - Ready to Jump into Work

... continued from page 3

Town Manager Phillip Vince, who hired Ingram, said he was "absolutely thrilled" that Ingram was coming to work for Moraga, and that Ingram had "very extensive experience for the position and great letters and references." In addition, because of Ingram's service on the Alameda Recreation and Park Commission, Vince said Ingram "can see both sides of the issues, which is a huge plus."

Ingram will start work for on September 4. Vince

said Ingram is coming at a "very important time" because Moraga is taking over responsibility for its own recreation programs after several years of a partnership with Lafayette. Vince also plans to assign Ingram responsibility for the Town's open space, which comprises 51% of the Town's area.

Although Ingram has not yet officially started work, he is already busy reviewing the most recent draft of the Parks and Recre-

ation Master Plan, which was printed in July. The Master Plan is scheduled to be presented to the Parks and Recreation Commission in September and to the Town Council for approval in October.

Ingram has an undergraduate degree from Cal Poly in San Louis Obispo in Recreation Administration, and a Masters in Public Administration from the University of San Francisco. He lives in Alameda with his wife and daughters.

New Development in Moraga - Let Your Voice Be Heard

... continued from page 3

"We invite you to continue to be engaged in the process," said Planning Director Lori Salamack at the first scoping meeting.

The large parcel of land in question is basically the area north of School Street, currently occupied by the Moraga Ranch buildings and adjacent orchard area south of Camino Ricardo.

The citizens in attendance at the August 6th meeting were plenty concerned about the development. Some of the comments included concerns about traffic on Camino Ricardo, additional students in Moraga schools,

concern about additional retail space (approximately 90,000 square feet has been proposed - that's the equivalent of 2 additional Safeway's) and about the number of housing units. In addition, Moraga-Orinda Fire District Chief Pete Nowicki stated his concern regarding the loss of training area for firefighters, and an Orinda City Council member was concerned about potential impact on Orinda roads.

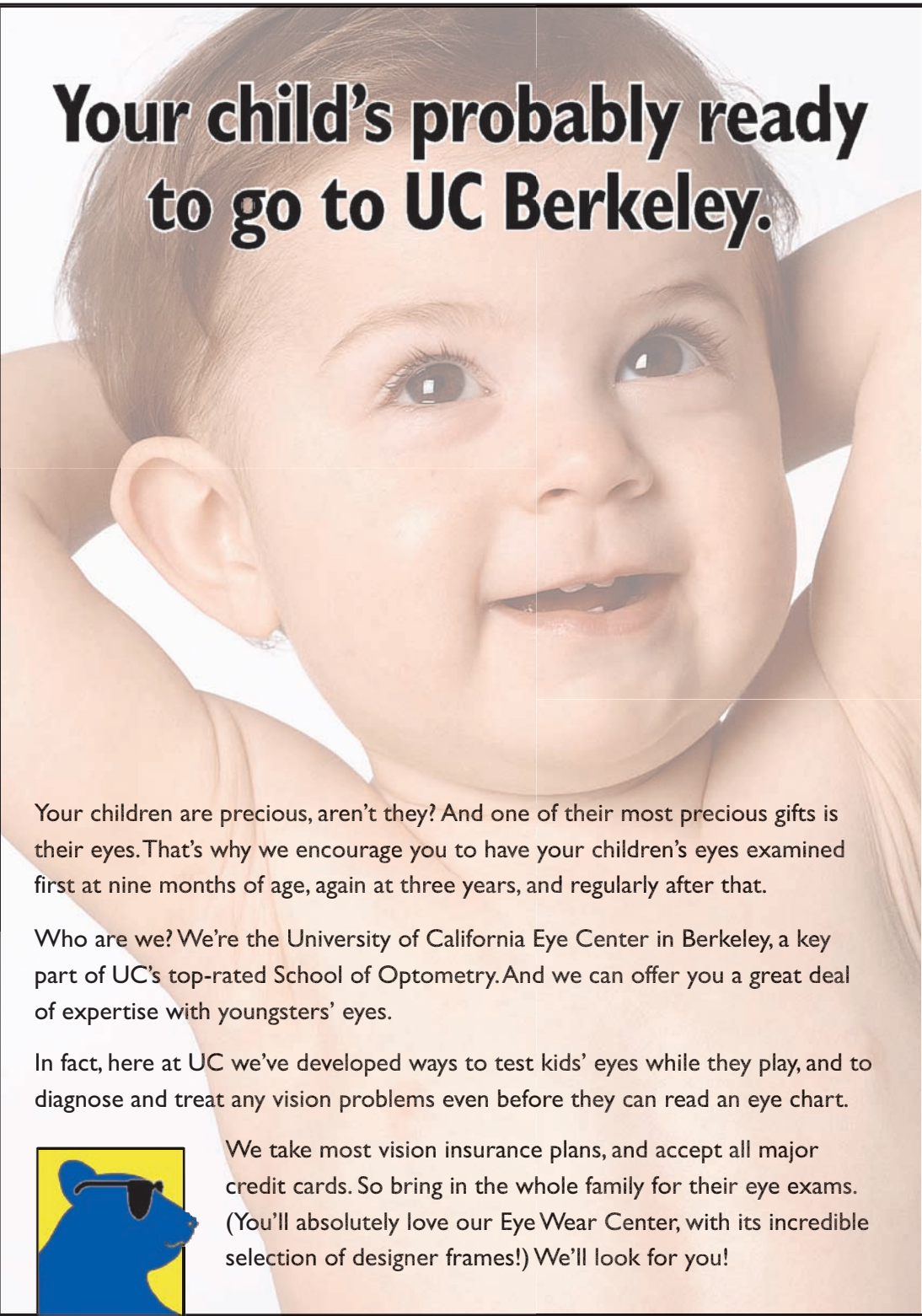
Written comments will be accepted through September 4. Lamorinda residents can comment by attending the upcoming

September 4th meeting, via e-mail to planning@moraga.ca.us or by regular mail:

Town of Moraga
Planning Department
329 Rheem Boulevard,
Suite 2; Moraga, CA 94556
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business briefs

New Businesses and Ribbon Cuttings:

Gigi, 1005 Brown Ave., Lafayette 962-0882

Chef and owner Jeff Amber wanted to start a new adventure in an educated and sophisticated community. For his first restaurant, he acquired and renovated the cottage that was once home to Kaffee Barbara. Prior to starting Gigi, Amber worked at Moose's in San Francisco and Chow. Amber uses fresh, local ingredients to create his unique Northern California cuisine, in dishes such as stuffed globe squash with oregano prawns and sweet roasted corn cream.

Nino's Bay Restaurant, 2 Theater Square, Orinda 253-1327

The restaurant that just opened in Orinda Theater Square has created a new Mediterranean-inspired menu with salads from Greece and Italy and an assembly of familiar dishes such as veal scaloppini or crab cakes with peppered aioli.

Nino's offers a sports bar featuring a variety of appetizers and assorted beer, wines and liquors, both domestic and imported.

Kopitiam, 3647 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Lafayette 299-1653

In Singapore and neighboring countries the term Kopitiam means "coffee shop," and the Lafayette version offers breakfast, lunch and dinner to-go accompanied by a traditional hot beverage. This Malaysian/Singaporean restaurant offers several unusual dishes, including interesting vegetarian options such as the "silken cloud" made with soft tofu, greens, a zesty sweet and sour sauce and crushed peanuts. Many traditional Singaporean dishes with chicken are also available. The lunch menu is very reasonably priced and dinner dishes are "to-go" only. Kopitiam is conveniently located next to Trader Joe's.

Diverse Business News:

Meridian Consulting, Inc., 44 Heather Lane, Orinda 258-0304 www.meridianconsulting.com

Angela Gonzalez has been named the 2008 President-Elect of the Northern California Chapter of the Professional Coaches and Mentors Association (www.pcmaonline.com). She is currently the President and a co-founder of Meridian Consulting, Inc., and is an Executive Business Coach who brings more than 20 years experience to her clients in leadership development, coaching and training. She specializes in helping clients build constructive business relationships at all levels of the organization.

Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage, 5 Moraga Way, Orinda 360-1177 coldwellbanker.com

Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage, the largest provider of residential real estate services in Northern California, announced it is launching a unique new certification program for Spanish-speaking agents designed to increase customer service levels for the region's fast-growing Latino community. In Orinda, two Spanish-speaking agents will be trained to become "Casa specialists."

Lafayette Tree & Landscaping, Inc., PO Box 1116, Lafayette 284-7816, www.lafree.com

Thomas Raeth, president of Lafayette Tree and Landscaping, was awarded the California Landscape Contractors Association (CLCA) Award at the San Francisco Flower and Garden Show for its "Martini Modern" display garden, designed by Michelle Swanson of Cultivate Art Design in Santa Cruz. The company also received two first place awards in June's CLCA Bay Area chapter Beautification Awards, one for Medium Residential Installation (Laufenberg Residence) and the second for Landscape Renovation Installation (Hogland Residence).

News From the Three Chambers of Commerce:

Lafayette Chamber of Commerce -

www.lafayettechamber.org:



Last Rock the Plaza performance by "Stage Frite" on August 24th. Don't forget your picnic! Show begins at 6:00pm.

The Jazz in the Plaza Series, free every Friday night in September, 6:30-8:30, kicks off on September 7 with the Fred Randolph Combo.

Save the date: Lafayette Art and Wine Festival on September 15th and 16th.

Chamber of Commerce of Moraga -

www.moragabiz.com:

August 25th from 5 to 10 p.m., the Chamber of Commerce of Moraga invites the community to an authentic Hawaiian "Luau" with live entertainment and Hawaiian buffet. Advance tickets are \$45 for adults and \$10 for children 6-12 (children under 6 are free). For more information, go to www.moragalauu.com or call (925) 262-4277.

Orinda Chamber of Commerce -

www.orindachamber.org:

If you have a business brief to share, please contact Sophie Braccini at sophie@lamorindaweekly.com or contact Lamorinda Weekly at 925-377-0977.

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The Apple Doesn't Fall Far from the Tree in Lamorinda's Intergenerational Family Businesses

...continued from page 5

For Sarah McDonnell of Orinda's McDonnell Nursery, a family business started by her Grandfather in 1933 in Oakland, after working for years behind the scenes in their Moraga Way location she knew she loved the business. "I wanted to get more experience," she says, "and I wanted to make 100% sure if I joined my Dad, who's been running the business since 1980, that it was right for me."

After getting a Business degree from Cal Poly in Agricultural studies and an MBA from St. Mary's, Sarah moved to San Francisco and worked for a graphic design firm. "I didn't want to see the nursery leave the family," she says. "I never felt any pressure from my Dad to join him. The decision had to come totally from me and it did. When I told him I was ready, he said, 'When do you want to start?'"

The Challenges

As harmonious as it all sounds, these business families cited several areas as needing careful attention. New ideas recommended by family members joining long running intergenerational businesses don't often meet with enthusiastic reception. Smooth transitions are worked out while exercising caution when bringing in new family members, and include consideration of the impact on the rest of the employees and on loyal customers and clients.

When Dan Stokes wife, Siobhan, decided that the Floral Department needed improvement, she offered to come in and give it some attention. Within a short time the department was honored by Floral Management magazine. "I was a little nervous having my wife coming in and telling us what to do," he says. "But she worked with us for eight years and made us all look good."

Kosich and Callahan agree a smooth transition depends on going slowly, staging interviews between new team members and clients and allowing time to help new relationships form.

Joining Dad had a few struggles at first "like any family working together," Colleen Callahan says. "You have to be sensitive to different management styles and generational experiences, along with men and women's perspectives. "We had our ups and downs in the beginning as we adjusted to roles of Agent and Boss from Daughter and Dad."

Younger generation family member all admitted the need to prove themselves to non-family employees comes with added pressure. Requirements of working hard for the same or more hours in many positions, learning every area and knowing it takes time to earn respect were echoed by everyone.

Different generations often look at ideas from very different perspectives. At Diablo Foods, Dan Stokes is eager to put in a Sushi Bar and introduce new food products to satisfy changing customer food tastes. His Dad, Ed, says, "I'm not in favor of it and they know it." With Ed it's clear, his opinions may be strong, but not irreversible, and he proudly points out his Daughter, Son and Grandson run the popular food store and he stays away from meetings about controversial ideas like the new Sushi Bar (scheduled to

With Sarah McDonnell's previous marketing experience, she's created the first website for McDonnell's Nursery, branded the nursery with a graphic logo now embroidered on employees' shirts, and she's instituted customer rewards programs and educational workshops. Embracing new ideas, when the old ones "work just fine," is a challenge for her Dad. "She wants to put in a POS system but I'm resisting," he says. "I don't want anything that might take



Sarah & Dan McDonnell, McDonnell Nursery

away from customer service and make our customers a number."

Looking Ahead

All three businesses have succession plans in place and agree that passing along the legacies that launched their successful family businesses is integral. Work ethics and personal customer service rank at the top of everyone's list as to what sets them apart from their competition as well as being able to easily adapt services and products to meet changing needs.

Sarah McDonnell says many of their customers are first time gardeners and need education on what plants suit their settings. She urges her nursery staff to take whatever time is necessary to ensure customers know how to maintain green and growing gardens.

Greg Kosich, who will take over his Dad's insurance services someday, he says he won't change anything but may introduce technology, update procedures and institute time saving policies. "I grew up with technology," he says. "I wouldn't change much but if I can find a way to save five minutes with a more efficient system, I'll do it."

Will succession come easily or quickly?

Starting with a few days off and a few more golf games, transitions most likely will come slowly with no pressure from younger generations. Ed Stokes and his family hope it won't be anytime soon. "He's our spark

plug, the engine that runs our machine," says his son Dan. As for Ed, he says he loves their customers so much he hates to be away from the store.

When Dick Callahan thinks about stepping down, he says he's worked for forty years and he's not ready: "I still feel like a kid in a candy store."

There may be no set time yet for retirement, but with all the harmony, congeniality and respect, one thing's for sure. The apple didn't fall far from the tree. The products may change, but the service and attention we enjoy today will stay just the way we like it.

Colleen Callahan's Tips for Success in Intergenerational Family Businesses

1. Agree there are times to wear different "hats" and clarify your needs before a discussion. (e.g. "I need a Dad's advice" or "I need you to be a sales agent." This helps to separate the roles for getting targeted answers.)

2. Schedule time outside of work to get together when work related topics are not allowed. Family trips, outings or gatherings for example.

3. Transition the business management/ownership when the senior person is ready and desirous of giving up the leadership role. The junior person taking over may be ready and eager earlier, but should not "grab" the reins before the older generation is prepared to let go.

4. Have a clear and concise timeline of when a succession/transition will happen, how you will handle the change and what the roles will be.

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Gerard Rose Makes Move with Dodge

Former Butler-Conti Dodge sales professional moves with franchise

WALNUT CREEK, CA—Gerard Rose served Butler-Conti Dodge's loyal customers for over 14 years. The news of the dealership closing came as a shock to him because Butler-Conti had been an integral part of Lafayette and the surrounding community for years. Fortunately, the Dodge franchise found a new home with another longstanding member of the community: Michael Stead's Walnut Creek Chrysler Jeep.



Gerard Rose can offer his clients even greater prices and benefits now that he is at Walnut Creek Chrysler Jeep Dodge.

"If it were not for Stead's tremendous reputation in Contra Costa, I might have looked elsewhere," confessed Gerard. "As it turns out, I now have the opportunity to continue serving my former clients, work with some great new clients, and offer them all some services I wasn't able to in the past."

Now officially Michael Stead's Walnut Creek Chrysler Jeep Dodge, the dealership is an award-winning business with a state-of-the-art Service Center and a much larger inventory of vehicles than Gerard was able to offer at his prior location.

"I love the Dodge product, and they have some fantastic new models," shared Gerard, "but I'm really impressed with the Chrysler and Jeep lines."

"Walnut Creek Chrysler Jeep Dodge is allowing Gerard pricing incentives throughout August"

Walnut Creek Chrysler Jeep Dodge's General Manager, Judy Dobbert, wasted no time in making sure Gerard felt secure in making the move. "We made him a Fleet Manager, which gives him significant control over how he prices vehicles for his clients."

To welcome Gerard's clients from his days at Butler-Conti, and to introduce him to his new customers, Walnut Creek Chrysler Jeep Dodge is allowing Gerard pricing incentives throughout the month of August. Please feel free to contact him with any questions at his new location.

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Oh, Those Glorious Tomatoes!

From the Kitchens of the Lamorinda Weekly

We love the tomatoes from the Farmers' Market, and they are at their best in late August. Sometimes the freshest ingredients need only the simplest of preparations.

This festive salad can be arranged on a large platter or on individual plates to accompany your favorite summer supper, or served over grilled ciabatta bread for a lovely lunch. Be sure to look for a nice variety of tomatoes, and use a good light olive oil – the lemon-infused oil works nicely and adds an additional flavor element. The chunky dressing needs to stand just long enough for the flavors to blend. Go easy on the salt (the blue cheese adds saltiness as well) and the vinegar – the real flavor lies in the tomatoes.



Our heirloom tomatoes came from Hamada Farms, who can be found at both the Orinda and Moraga Farmers' Markets, but there are many fine tomato vendors at the Markets
Photos by Lee Borrowman

Heirloom Tomato Salad

- 2 cups cut assorted small tomatoes (currant tomatoes can stay whole, halve or quarter cherry tomatoes, and dice small heirlooms such as Green Zebras, capturing as much of the juice as possible)
- 1 tablespoon chopped green onion
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- splash of balsamic vinegar
- salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste
- 6-8 large basil leaves, cut into chiffonade*

*to cut chiffonade: stack basil leaves, roll them up tightly and slice thinly across the vein with a sharp knife

- 6 medium-large heirloom tomatoes of assorted colors, cored and sliced
- A few paper-thin slices of red onion
- 1/2 cup coarsely crumbled blue cheese

Gently toss the cut tomatoes and green onions in olive oil and balsamic vinegar; season to taste with salt and pepper. Let stand for 15-20 minutes, adding the basil at the end.

Overlap tomato slices in concentric circles, alternating colors. Scatter red onion slices, then spoon on chopped tomato and green onion mixture (be sure to use all of the liquid); top with crumbled blue cheese.



Many of the ingredients are available at the Farmers' Market – even the olive oil



Serves 6-8



Your chef this week is Lee Borrowman, Lamorinda Weekly Editor

If you have a favorite recipe to share, please send it to lee@lamorindaweekly.com! (We reserve the pleasure of testing all recipes in the Kitchens of the Lamorinda Weekly prior to publication)

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A Day at Briones Regional Park

She looks for wild life and often spots rattlesnakes, bluebelly lizards, and other interesting wildlife.

For many local residents, Briones is a favorite place to have fun with their dogs. Severin and Margaret Borenstein often take their Portuguese Water Dog Wilbur, for long walks at Briones. As soon as they turn onto Bear Creek Road, the dog knows where he's going and starts to get excited. "The nature is magnificent here," says Borenstein, a professor at UC Berkeley. "You choose from miles of trails, in the shade or in the sun, whatever strikes your mood." The Borenstein's have an annual pass for parking and have been coming to Briones for 15 years. One small complaint from Severin: since the park is open to ranchers who rent space for cattle grazing, so dogs sometimes encounter cow manure, for which they seem to have an enduring and annoying attraction!

The endless trails of Briones are a perfect place for hikers, bicyclists and horses. It has a long history of human activities. In the first half of the nineteenth century the 13,000 plus acre of park land belonged to ranchers Felipe and Maria Briones. It was purchased around 1870 by Elias Blum. Like many large pieces

of land surrounding the public creeks and reservoirs, it was purchased by the People's Water Company starting in 1906. In 1957 the East Bay Municipal Utility District, successor to the water company, and Contra Costa County started calling this large open space "Briones." Since 1966, 6,117 acres of parkland have been transferred to East Bay Regional Parks District. Briones Regional Park officially opened on October 22 1967.

The park offers many first-come, first-served picnic spots with barbecues. It also has two larger,

...continued from page 7

group picnic areas that can be reserved at the Bear Creek Staging Area at Oak Grove, which can accommodate 50 people, and the picnic grounds at Newt Hollow, which accommodate 150. Briones offers three group camping areas—Wee-Ta-Chi, Maud Whalen, and Homestead Valley. They may be reserved by calling 1-888-EBPARKS or 1-888-327-2757, press option 2, then 1, or by writing to EBRPD Reservations, 2950 Peralta Oaks Court, P.O. Box 5381, Oakland, CA 94605-0381. Reservations must be made at least 7 days in advance.

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	Quiznos	3651 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	962-0200
	Ranch House	1012 School St, Mor	376-5127
	Terzetto Cuisine	1419 Moraga Way, Mor	376-3832
	The Cheese Steak Shop	3455 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	283-1234
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Caribbean	Calypso Bar & Grill	2 Theatre Sq, Suite 153, Ori	258-9686
Chinese	Asia Palace Restaurant	1460 B Moraga Rd, Mor	376-0809
	Chef Chao Restaurant	343 Rheim Blvd, Mor	376-1740
	China Moon Restaurant	380 Park St, Mor	376-1828
	The Great Wall Restaurant	3500 Golden Gate Way, Laf	284-3500
	Hsiangs Mandarin Cuisine	1 Orinda Way # 1, Ori	253-9852
	Lily's House	3555 Mt. Diablo Blvd #A, Laf	284-7569
	Mandarin Flower	581 Moraga Rd, Mor	376-7839
	Panda Express	3608 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	962-0288
	Szechwan Chinese Restaurant	79 Orinda Way, Ori	254-2020
	Uncle Yu's Szechuan	999 Oak Hill Rd, Laf	283-1688
	Yan's Restaurant	3444 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	284-2228
Coffee Shop	Millie's Kitchen	1018 Oak Hill Rd #A, Laf	283-2397
	Squirrel's Coffee Shop	998 Moraga Rd, Laf	284-7830
	Village Inn Cafe	290 Village Square, Ori	254-6080
Continental	Petar's Restaurant	32 Lafayette Cir, Laf	284-7117
	Vino Restaurant	3531 Plaza Way, Laf	284-1330
	Duck Club Restaurant	3287 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	283-7108
Hawaiian Grill	Lava Pit	2 Theatre Square, St. 142, Ori	253-1338
Indian	India Palace	3740 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	284-5700
	Swad Indian Cuisine	3602 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	962-9575
Italian	Giardino	3406 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	283-3869
	La Finestra Ristorante	100 Lafayette Cir, St. 101, Laf	284-5282
	La Piazza	15 Moraga Way, Ori	253-9191
	Mangia Ristorante Pizzeria	975 Moraga Rd, Laf	284-3081
	Michael's	1375 Moraga Way, Mor	376-4300
	Mondello's	337 Rheim Blvd, Mor	376-2533
	Nino's Bay	#2 Theater Square, Ste. 153, Ori	253-1327
	Pizza Antica	3600 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	299-0500
	Postino	3565 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	299-8700
	Ristorante Amoroma	360 Park St, Mor	377-7662
Japanese	Asia Palace Sushi Bar	1460 B Moraga Rd, Mor	376-0809
	Blue Ginko	3518-A Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	962-9020
	Kane Sushi	3474 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	284-9709
	Niwa Restaurant	1 Camino Sobrante # 6, Ori	254-1606
	Serika Restaurant	2 Theatre Sq # 118, Ori	254-7088
	Tamami's Japanese Restaurant	356 Park St, Mor	376-2872
	Yu Sushii	19 Moraga Way, Ori	253-8399
Jazz Dinner Club	Joe's of Lafayette	3707 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Laf	299-8807
	The Orinda House	65 Moraga Way, Ori	258-4445
Mediterranean	Alekos	2 Theatre Sq # 105, Ori	254-5290
	Oasis Cafe	3594 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	299-8822
	Per Tutti Ristorante	3576 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	284-5225
Mexican	360 Gourmet Burrito	3655 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	299-1270
	El Charro Mexican Dining	3339 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	283-2345
	El Jaro Mexican Cafe	3563 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	283-6639
	La Cocina Mexicana	23 Orinda Way, Ori	258-9987
	Mucho wraps	1375-B Moraga Way, Mor	377-1203
	Baja Fresh Mexican Grill	3596 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	283-8740
	Celia's Restaurant	3666 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	283-8288
	El Balazo	3518 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	284-8700
	Maya	74 Moraga Way, Ori	258-9049
	Taqueria El Balazo	3518 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	284-8700
	Numero Uno Taqueria	3616 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	299-1333
Pizza	Aladino's Pizza	3614 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	283-6363
	Mountain Mike's Pizza	504 Center St, Mor	377-6453
	Pennini's	1375 Moraga Rd, Mor	376-1515
	Round Table Pizza	"361 Rheim Blvd.", Mor	376-1411
	Round Table Pizza	3637 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	283-0404
	Village Pizza	19 Orinda Way # Ab, Ori	254-1200
	Zamboni's Pizza	1 Camino Sobrante # 4, Ori	254-2800
Sandwiches/Deli	Bianca's Deli	1480 Moraga Rd # A, Mor	376-4400
	Europa Hofbrau Deli & Pub	64 Moraga Way, Ori	254-7202
	Gourmet Bistro Cafe	484 Center St, Mor	376-1551
	Kasper's Hot Dogs	103 Moraga Way, Ori	253-0766
	Noah's Bagels	3518 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	299-0716
	Orinda Deli	19 F Orinda Way, Ori	254-1990
Singaporean/Malaysian	Kopitiam	3647 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	299-1653
South American	The Patio Tapas and restaurant	960 Moraga Road, Laf	299-6885
Steak	Casa Orinda	20 Bryant Way, Ori	254-2981
Tea	Patisserie Lafayette	71 Lafayette Cir, Laf	283-2226
Thai	Amarin Thai Cuisine	3555 Mt. Diablo Blvd # B, Laf	283-8883
	Baan Thai	99 Orinda Way, Ori	253-0989
	Royal Siam	512 Center St, Mor	377-0420
	Siam Orchid	23 Orinda Way # F, Ori	253-1975

The Lamorinda Weekly (LW) Restaurant Guide is not paid advertising; our intent is to provide a useful reference guide. We hope that we have included all Lamorinda restaurants on this page, except those that told us they did not wish to be listed. LW is not liable for errors or omissions. In the event that we have inadvertently printed misinformation or excluded a restaurant please let us know (info@lamorindaweekly.com) so that we may correct our list for the next issue.

In the Back Yard

Mount Diablo Nursery & Garden

Half a Century of Tradition Revived with New Energy

By Sophie Braccini



Mt. Diablo Nursery & Garden, 3295 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Lafayette

Prologue: Harry Ide was born in Alamo, California in 1910. Early in 1942, President Franklin Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9066 authorizing the relocation of Americans of Japanese origin to internment camps. Ide and his wife were among them. Prior to his departure, Ide was stripped of his American citizenship and forced to sell his belongings. After the war, in 1945, the Ide's returned to Contra Costa County. It was here that he started his new venture in early August of 1950, Harry's Nursery. When Ide retired in 1982, he leased the business to Jiro Mishimoto and his brother, who successfully ran it for 30 years. The footprint of the nursery stayed the same during these years, a long narrow strip of land that runs parallel to the Lafayette Park Hotel. The bamboo on the East side of the nursery is the same and the building in the back served as the Ide's home during the early days of the business.

In the early 70's, a young man by the name of Garth Jacober worked part time at Harry's Nursery to help pay for school. Jacober had been raised locally and always enjoyed plants and nature. He loved Harry and his nursery and only in his wildest dreams could he picture himself owning such a place.

That's exactly what happened last March when Jacober and his wife, Marcia, bought the lease on Harry's Nursery from the Ide family.

Between 1972 and today,

Jacober accumulated 30 years of experience in plants, landscaping and gardening. He took care of a very large property in Lafayette that was home to some 300 different types of camellias. He still owns many of the rarest plants. He worked with Magic Gardens in Berkeley and specialized in plant care, propagation, and winter pruning, held diverse positions with East Bay Parks and worked in Tilden's Botanical Garden. He's had a long standing subcontracting agreement with Lazar Landscape in Berkeley. He has a passion for everything that grows in the ground and how to get it to prosper.

Marcia Jacober is the vegetable and rose expert of the family. A teacher and therapist by training, she worked at the Alcohol Youth Treatment Center in Concord. Marcia took a break from her profession to start the nursery with her husband, and is returning to her family practice on a limited basis.

When the Jacobers took over Harry's, they both wanted to infuse their own energy and personality into the business. The two have been renovating the Nursery with this in mind. Garth is constantly bringing in new plants and he selects the best quality from local California growers. Marcia is pleased to report that customers are discovering in their vibrant nursery plants they had never seen anywhere else before. In addition to their new plants, the couple is renovating the back building and patio where they plan to offer classes, hold garden meetings and organize art shows. Their interest in art is also highlighted by the beautiful California mural that Mary Frank, a talented young local artist, is painting on the West wall of the property.

"Watering once or twice daily, attending to customers, receiving and arranging plants, managing a business, this is very hard work!" says Garth with a big smile, "and this is my passion."



Garth and Marcia Jacober

Photo by Sophie Braccini

Master Gardeners Annual Garden Walk

By Cathy Tyson

Looking for instruction and inspiration for your home garden? You don't have to go much further than the St. Perpetua School's Garden of Learning, lovingly designed and tended by Master Gardener Monette Meo.

This is just one of the six unique gardens that will be open for viewing on September 8 from 10 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Contra Costa Master Gardeners Annual Garden Walk. Master Gardeners will be on hand at each and every garden to answer questions. According to Eileen Linn, special topics such as composting, propagation, bees, invasive plants and healthy gardening will be addressed. Tickets and propagated plants will be available at St. Perpetua the day of the Walk. Tickets are also available in advance of the Walk, see contact information below.

Some lovely grape vines and soothing wind chimes greet visitors to the St. Perpetua Garden of Learning. Made completely of recycled materials, this organic whimsical garden features tons of fragrant flowers, strawberries, zucchini, seven kinds of tomatoes, a pink lemonade lemon tree, blueberries and much more, along with a solar powered fountain/pond, Peter Rabbit's reading room, a butterfly habitat, California native section, a greenhouse, cold frame and vegetable teepees. Throughout the space student's artwork can be found, mosaics, a kid-sized colorful picnic table, and hand painted river rocks.

Master Gardener and teacher at St. Perpetua, Monette Meo is a force of nature. Back in 2004, she received permission to transform a patch of dirt into something wonderful. This particular area had lots of sun and great drainage, but little else. With help from husband Greg and son Michael,

they started with the raised beds and went from there. "Part of me is here in the garden," says son Michael.

It's a labor of love for Mrs. Meo. She sets aside Thursdays as baking day during the school year and sells homemade zucchini bread as well as other baked goods and lattes on Fridays at school to raise money to maintain the garden. In addition, she puts up jams from the blackberries, makes pesto, tomatillo salsa, even 76 quarts of homemade minestrone soup all with ingredients from the garden to support the project. These will be available for purchase.

"The kids are really getting it," she says, referring to the connection of the garden and where their food comes from. Lessons that she gives her students include good bugs/bad bugs, how to propagate from seeds and cuttings, how the solar-powered pond works, and the how and why of "dead heading." The kids also help bring in mulch and work

on composting.

In addition to the fabulous St. Perpetua garden, the Walk features a "colorful combinations" garden in Lafayette and a "terraced treasure" garden in Orinda plus two Martinez gardens along with one more in Walnut Creek.

Admission to all six gardens is \$15 in advance, and goes up to \$20 after August 31. The themed gardens are all different, there's one on a hillside, one salvia-focused, one with alternatives to lawn, and more.

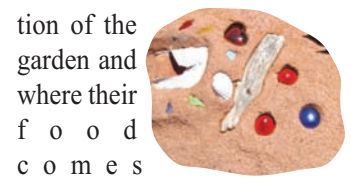
All are close enough to drive to in the allotted time.

For more information contact MGgardenwalk2007@yahoo.com or call Barbara Abbott (925) 672-2315.



The gate to the "Garden of Learning"

Photos by Andy Scheck



Master Gardener Monette Meo with her son, Michael Meo



Master Gardener Monette Meo with her son, Michael Meo

Food Scrap Recycling in Lamorinda!

Food recycling begins in Lamorinda on September 1!

Residents are encouraged to use this new program to recycle food scraps with yard waste on a weekly basis.

- Table Scraps
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Place food scraps in your yard waste cart beginning September 1st!



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Menace Morphs into One of the Area's Top Teams

Submitted by Pat Mason

In only its third year, the 2007 Lamorinda Menace 12U traveling tournament softball team became one of the East Bay's dominant teams.

The Menace enjoyed a fantastic summer, playing teams from all over Northern California in four Bay Area tournaments and one in Tahoe. Unlike softball teams that play year-round made up of players with no geographical boundaries, summer teams like the Lamorinda Menace consist of local "rec league" players primarily from Joaquin Moraga and Stanley middle schools, with all the girls proudly hailing from LMYA's spring softball league.

In 2007, the Menace not only dominated opponents within their division of teams drawn from small leagues such as LMYA, but they competed well in the "open division," where they often beat teams selected from literally hundreds of girls. In their 14 games against division teams, the Menace outscored those opponents 120-61, on the way to one outright tourney championship and another consolation title. In two "open division" tourneys, the Menace advanced far

into the semi-finals both times. Opposing batters were kept off-balance by the Menace's pitching "dynamic duo" of fireballer Natalie Goepel and crafty Rebecca Crisp. For all three years, Goepel has been the Menace workhorse; this year Crisp contributed with some huge innings in critical games.

On offense, the Menace amassed 177 runs in 25 total games, led by the region's best power-hitting combo of Siena Del Ponte and Kat Mathis. Del Ponte hit for a .548 average, including 16 extra base hits; Mathis was an even tougher out, batting at a .606 clip, while belting 4 home runs. Grace Lovell (.481 average) and Emily Streeter (.429) provided similar supporting power. Other Menace provided great balance in the lineup - creative bats who specialized in finding ways to get on base ahead of those power hitters, and also move runners along: Audrey Vogel (.425 ave), speedy Brenna Williams (.381 ave), Sam Flower (.464 oba), Crisp (.439 oba), Tela Zemsch (.395 oba), Jackie Welland (.372 oba) and Goepel (12 runs scored).



Menace pitcher Becca Crisp begins her windup, while teammates Tela Zemsch (2d base) and Brenna Williams (right field) get ready on defense. Photo provided

Defensively, the Menace made huge strides this year, one of the main reasons for their meteoric rise. Mathis was phenomenal behind the plate, not only as a top-notch receiver, but as the summer progressed erstwhile base-stealers simply stopped challenging her arm. Lovell (1b), Crisp (2b), Del Ponte (ss), and Flower (3b) did their part to limit opponents to the Menace mantra of "just three outs, and only one base at a time."

Williams, Vogel, Streeter, Welland and Zemsch helped out in the infield, and also saved several games with great play in the outfield. The Menace also got important help from Sarah Reynolds,

Rachel Kelley, Sarah Chesbrough and Kalena Alva, each contributing to the Menace's winning season.

Spurred on by their rapid improvement, the Menace players were successful in lobbying their coaches and parents to continue playing - as a result, the Menace will play three more "fall ball" tourneys through October. The Menace extend their deep gratitude to the Saint Mary's College coaches and players who have been so instrumental in the success of the Menace: Jessica Haneseth, Staci Hamaguchi, Lauren Mello, Sadie Dolcini and Lauren Gardner.

Sorensens Take Gold at Junior Olympics

By Jennifer Wake

Two Stanley Middle School students, Tyler and Nicolette Sorensen took gold medals at the July 24 USATF National Junior Olympic Track & Field Championships at Mt. San Antonio College in Walnut, Calif.

Tyler, who won the midjet (11-12) boys' title last year, took top honors in the youth boys' 3000-meter walk at 15:01.51. His younger sister, Nicolette, captured gold

in the midjet (11-12) girls' 1500 walk with a time of 7:43.20.

Nicolette was the first to start race walking three years ago at age 8, after a friend at Diablo Track and Field Club (DVTFC) introduced her to the sport. After Nicolette won the Junior Olympics for race walking in 2005, Tyler got interested.

A fairly unknown sport, race walking revolves around keeping the right form. One foot must be on the ground at all times, and when a foot lands, the leg must be straight.

"To help do this, you land on your heel and roll to your toe and push off. And since your leg must be straight when you land, you rotate your hips out of the way," said Nicolette. "So on the whole race walking looks kind of funny. There are always judges at race walking events that can disqualify you if your form isn't correct."

In addition to race walking, Nicolette runs track events for DVTFC, setting the mile and 800-meter records for 6th grade girls at Stanley this year.

CHAMPIONSHIP AWARDS



Tyler and Nicolette Sorensen Photo provided

Tyler also runs track for DVTFC. His longest race was a 19 kilometer trail race and he runs the 10k Lafayette Reservoir Run every year. He is also part of Stanley's track and field team, holding the 6th grade boy's mile record.

The USATF National Junior Olympic Track & Field Championships is the largest and most visible youth athlete developmental program in the world. Entry for this championship is based on athlete performances at preliminary, Association, and Regional levels of the 2007 USATF Junior Olympic Program.

In the future, Nicolette says she would like to "keep winning JO's and eventually make the Junior National Race Walking Team, which is a team of track athletes age 14 to 18 that represent the United States at world competitions."

Tyler wants to break the USATF youth boys' national record next year and qualify for the Junior National Team when he's older.

Two Oakland Strokes Rowers Compete in Beijing, China

Submitted by Renne Cherry



Two local Oakland Strokes rowers, Alaizah Koorji and T.J. Laher, both Miramonte High School graduates, made the cut to represent the United

States at the 2007 FISA World Rowing Junior Championships Aug. 8-11 in Beijing, China. Koorji beat out six other coxswains to earn her place on

the women's eight boat, and Laher rowed in the fifth seat for the men's eight.

According to Laher, who also tried out for the team in 2006, "It was a long and grueling summer of double workouts and living away from home, for the honor to compete in three days of racing in China."

The selection process began on June 11 and ended June 23. For the men's team, 24 rowers and five coxswains from throughout the country competed for the 12 available spots. The women's competition invited a total of 53 athletes, seven of which were coxswains. Rowers also had the opportunity to work out for three weeks at the Olympic Training Center in Lake Placid, NY.

The junior national men inaugurated Beijing's newly constructed Olympic course and Laher's entire family made the trek to see his races. The men

competed in all three races, while the women's team raced twice in Beijing. They got a first place in their opening heat on Thursday, which gave them a pass to the finals, with results as follows:

Women's 8

Gold/ Romania	6:27:47
Silver/ Germany	6:29:07
Bronze/ USA	6:30:17

Men's 8

Gold/Germany	5:41:86
Silver/Netherl	5:44:34
Bronze/ China	5:48:24
4th/Italy	5:50:20
5th/USA	5:51:56
6th/Romania	5:58:70

Laher was thrilled to be representing his country in an international event. With only eight days left of his summer vacation after Beijing, he returned to Orinda before beginning his freshman year at Cal and rowing for the Bears.

New Records Won at Championship Conference

Submitted by Kerry Hughes

Over 1,000 people attended the 2007 45th Annual Championship Conference Meet at Acalanes the weekend of Aug. 12-13, with teams including Dewing Park, Indian Valley, Larkey Sharks, Rudgear Estates, Rudgear Meadows, Springbrook, Sun Valley and Walnut Heights. Many records were broken this past weekend including 9-10

boys IM record of 21 years broken by Nicolas Inserra with a time of 1:12:55; and Springbrook

9-10 boys free relay 17-year-old record broken by a time of 1:57:55 (previous time from 1989 was 2:02.10). Pictured are the 9-10 boys record holders from Springbrook Pool in Lafayette.



Winners are (in order) Dylan Foster, Murphy McQuet, Nicolas Inserra and Brady Aiello, all of Lafayette.

Lafayette Diver Wins NORCAL Scholarship at Invitational

Submitted by Steve Sherman

Lafayette resident and one of the Sherman Divers from Sherman Swim School, Laura Winn, won one of four \$1,000 scholarships from NORCAL Diving at the 47th Annual Sherman Invitational. The scholarships were created for those planning to continue to dive in college. Winn, who plans on attending UCLA in the fall, took first place in the 16-18 girls (JO) category with a score of 334.70 and first in the 19 & Over Women with a score of 238.95.

Other top divers at the Invitational included Rachel Purcell (Orinda), who placed second in the 11 & under girls (Novice) category with a score of 81.50, Mikeala Moore

(Moraga) who placed fourth with 79.00, and Sophie Brown (Moraga), in fifth with 76.50. Donna Brackett (Lafayette) placed third in the 13 and under girls (Novice) with 120.05, and Eliza Galligan (Moraga) placed fourth in the 14 & 15 under girls category with 217.25, and Heather Finertie (Orinda) took fourth with 150.75 in the girls 14-18 (Novice) category.

Six teams participated in the event, including Sherman Divers (Lafayette), Capital Divers (Sacramento), All Valley Divers (San Ramon), Santa Clara Divers (Santa Clara), DeVinci Divers (Nevada City), and Santa Rosa Diving Team (Santa Rosa).

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SPORTS

LAMORINDAS LOCAL SPORTS NEWS

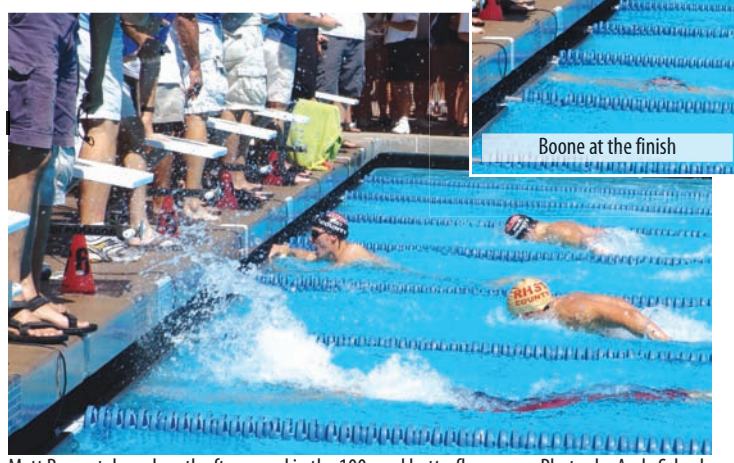
Family-Ties at 47th Annual Swim Championships

By Kevin D. Shallat

Lamorinda swimmers showcased their talents against the rest of the county at the 47th Annual Contra Costa County Swim Meet last weekend at Acalanes High School, while immediate and extended families came out in droves to cheer them on.

Nine-year-old Yurii Hanley Jr. and his 6-year-old sister, Paige, of Orinda Country Club, were represented by three generations of Hanley's: Their mother Cathy and father Yurii Sr. were swimmers and coaches, and his grandfather, Leo, was a water polo coach as well.

Paige Hanley was a part of the winning medley relay team for OCC on Saturday, along with Sophie Cortese, Annie Stryker, and Ryan Hag-



Matt Boone takes a breath after record in the 100-yard butterfly Photos by Andy Scheck

glund. When asked what motivated them, members of this winning team said, "It was music and candy." It was fitting that Paige swam with Stryker and Hagglund, as Paige's mother Cathy once competed with their mothers.

Orinda Country Club had another big winner this past weekend in 9-year-old Stephen Schmidt, who had a first place

finish in the breaststroke and the medley relay Saturday and was high point winner for 7-8 Mens with 40. Schmidt says one of the reasons for his success is that he doesn't merely show up to practice, he strives to practice perfectly. "Practice does not make perfect, perfect practice makes perfect," Schmidt said.

It would not feel like a county meet unless a couple of records were broken by Springbrook swimmer Matt Boone. Boone broke two records Sunday in seemingly effortless fashion. In his first record-breaking performance, the crowd went completely silent before the race, only to erupt in applause right after the race had finished.

Boone finished with a time of 51.79 in the Mens 15-18 100-yard backstroke, bettering his time of 55.01 in the city swim meet a month ago. Boone performed even better in the 100-yard butterfly, recording a time of 50.60, as he smashed a 25 year old county record of 51.45 held by David Cademartori, and was high point winner for his category

with 40. Jane Wood broke the 50-yard butterfly record (girls 10U) with a time of 34.87.

Springbrook's team ended second in Division I with a score of 1,071 and Orinda Country Club took third with 1,025. Campolindo Cabana Club ended fourth in Division II with a score of 349.50, while LMYA finished second for Division III with 144.

Two swimmers not only shared the excitement of winning with their families, but with each other as well. Sleepy Hollow's 16-year-old Christina Vidal shared a time of 1:01.75 in the Finals of the 15-18 girls 100-yard backstroke with VDD Swim Club's Rachel McCracken, exciting the packed crowd with a rare tie.

There were also many ties for high point winner, including ties in the 11-12 Mens with Brett Usinger (SPBRK) and Charlie Wiser (OCC) with 40, Springbrook's Nicholas In-serra's tie in the 9-10 Mens with 40, and Sleepy Hollow's Merideth White's tie for number one in the 13-14 Women with 36.

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2007 County High Points - Top 3 by Age Group

6-8 Under Women - Individual Scores			9-10 Women - Individual Scores			13-14 Women - Individual Scores		
Place	Name	Points	Place	Name	Points	Place	Name	Points
1	Holly Beach	6 BRCC 40	1	Mairia Smith	10 CCCC 40	1	Merideth White	14 SH 36
2	Ashleen O'Brien	6 CCC 37	1	Sara Nicolosi	10 HOX 40	1	Christina Ray	13 RHCC 36
3	Matalie Ospeck	6 DCC 34	3	Christina Chesault	10 SPBRK 37	3	Jessica Bunting	14 ECS 35
6-8 Under Men - Individual Scores			9-10 Men - Individual Scores			13-14 Men - Individual Scores		
Place	Name	Points	Place	Name	Points	Place	Name	Points
1	Ryan Iannaccone	6 DSC 40	1	JJ Koski	10 CCCC 40	1	Michael Womertberg	14 PHAQ 40
2	Ryan Johnson	6 HOX 36	1	Nicholas In-serra	10 SPBRK 40	2	Mason Kinnard	14 YGWD 37
3	Garrett Dunn	6 OCC 34	3	Michael Wardle	10 WVST 33	2	Nicholas Zolintakis	14 OCC 37
7-8 Women - Individual Scores			11-12 Women - Individual Scores			15-18 Women - Individual Scores		
Place	Name	Points	Place	Name	Points	Place	Name	Points
1	Charlotte Meier	7 DAPA 40	1	Madeline Benavidez	12 CCCC 37	1	Georgi Cappelletti	17 HOX 37
2	Haley Schreiber	8 DCC 37	2	Chelsea Airoldi	12 CST 36	2	Kelli Schneider	16 WOOD 36
3	Olivia Price	8 OCC 33	3	Jaqueline Doyle	12 CCCC 35	2	Kate Mounday	18 WOOD 36
7-8 Men - Individual Scores			11-12 Men - Individual Scores			15-18 Men - Individual Scores		
Place	Name	Points	Place	Name	Points	Place	Name	Points
1	Stephen Schmidt	8 OCC 40	1	Brett Usinger	12 SPBRK 40	1	Matt Boone	17 SPBRK 40
2	Erik Krommenhoek	8 DCC 37	1	Charlie Wiser	12 OCC 40	2	Aaron Wayne	16 ECS 37
3	Peter Moore	8 MCC 36	3	Robbie Fluegge	12 PARK 36	2	Steven Woods	18 WOOD 37

2007 County Meet Records

Event	Name	Age	Team	Time	Meet Record
#17 Men 15-18 100 Free	Georgi Cappelletti	17	HOX	53.41	53.41
#18 Men 15-18 100 Free	Steven Woods	18	WOOD	46.08	46.08
#58 Men 15-18 100 Back	Matt Boone	17	SPBRK	54.99	54.99
#635 Girls 10&U 50 Fly	Jane Wood	9	SPBRK	34.87	34.87
#68 Men 15-18 100 Fly	Mason Kinnard	14	YGWD	52.07	52.07
#68 Boys 13-14 50 Fly	Matt Boone	17	SPBRK	24.32	24.32
#70 Men 15-18 100 Fly	Matt Boone	17	SPBRK	50.60	50.60

Relay	Seed	Prelims	Finals
1 Crow Canyon Country Club - 'A'	2:01.16	2:07.15	2:07.52 (1) 40
2 Crow Canyon Country Club - 'A'	1:57.35	1:58.86	1:58.63 (1) 40
3 Campolindo Cabana Club - 'A'	1:38.83	1:40.40	1:39.36 (1) 40
4 Orinda Country Club - 'A'	1:00.67	59.03	58.05 (1) 40
5 Crow Canyon Country Club - 'A'	1:55.88	1:55.81	1:53.86 (1) 40

Lafayette Padres Play Cooperstown

Although a record of 3-5 last week may not seem exciting, the Lafayette Padres had the times of their lives at one of baseball's most hallowed territories.

The Padres participated in a tournament in Cooperstown, New York, home of the National Baseball Hall of Fame, playing teams from New York, Thousand Oaks, Irvine, Willamette, Shed Park (New Jersey), the Virgin Islands, and Massachusetts. In pool play, the Padres went 3-3 and went 3-1 after dropping the first two games by scores of 7-1 and 3-0. With the rust out of the gears, Lafayette picked up their game in game three of pool play as they defeated Shed Park 6-4. Jack Davis went 2-2 with two RBIs while Cole Lucey picked up the win in the game.

After dropping the next game to the eventual tournament champions, Thousand Oaks, the Padres picked it up and won their final two games against Willamette and Shed Park again.

In their second game against Shed Park, Danny Glascock went 2-2 with two home runs and three RBIs. Lucey picked up the win allowing no runs.

In the playoff round, Lafayette fell quickly to Mass Pride (Massachusetts) and St. Thomas (Virgin Islands). The Padres lost 14-6 against Mass Pride but came back from a 9-1 deficit to pull the score to 9-6. JJ Ewing, who had two home runs in the tournament, led the late charge.

Clark Evans led the team in batting average for the tournament

with a .438 stretch. Ewing led the team with two home runs and seven RBIs. Lucey led the team with a perfect 2-0 record and was third on the team with a 3.00 ERA.

The tournament was only one aspect of their trip. Before the tournament really started they visited the Hall of Fame and spent five hours there. According to Coach Jon Ewing, the trip to the Hall of Fame was the most special. They went to the Hall on Aug. 6, the day after Giants slugger Barry Bonds tied the all-time home run record in San Diego, just missing an exhibit about Bonds hitting home run no. 756, which occurred two days later.

"The kids played pretty well," Coach Ewing said. "We just had the time of our lives."

Karate News: Locals Garner Honors, Medals

Submitted separately by Dave McKinnis and the Karate & Fitness Place national qualifier that was held in Grants Pass, Oregon by winning three gold medals.



Haze Mach Chris Wellbrook Brandon Tokuyama

Three athletes from the Karate & Fitness Place USA of Moraga returned home with five medals from the 2007 Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) National Karate Championships, held in Winston / Salem North Carolina.

Upcoming freshman at Campolindo High School and first timer Brandon Tokuyama, 14, earned a Gold Medal and National Karate Champion for his age group in Kata (Forms). Brandon also returned home with the Bronze Medal in Kumite (sparring). Haze Mach, 11, who commutes from Palo Alto to be a part of the Karate Team, earned a silver medal in the Kata Division, while upcoming Joaquin Intermediate eighth grader Chris Wellbrook, 13, scored a bronze medal in Kobudo (weapons) and a Bronze Medal in Kumite (sparring).

Chris has qualified himself to represent the USA/AAU Junior World Karate Team. The Junior Worlds are to be held in October. Chris was also named the most outstanding competitor at the na-



front row left to right: Keanu Karsevar, Kelly Suzuki, Kyle McKinnis, Kassie McKinnis, and behind instructor Richard Boeckholt Photos provided

Stead Open Tennis Tournament a Smashing Success

By Lee Borrowman

The \$25,000 Stead Open Tennis Tournament wrapped up a week of what Tournament Director Mark Orwig of Moraga Country Club called "A very high level of tennis," on Aug. 12. Last year's winners returned to claim victory once again. In the Men's Open Singles, Amir Hadad handily defeated Huntley Montgomery 6-1, 6-2, and in the Women's, Sasha Podkolzina persevered to beat Surina Debeer 2-6, 6-3, 6-2 in Sunday's final matches.

Orwig was impressed with this year's event. "We had beautiful weather all week. It wasn't too hot, so the players had more energy and there were better matches this year. With ongoing matches on 12 courts, there was always a good match to watch." And the tournament had more entrants, both men and women, than it has attracted for several years; all of which made for a great week of tennis viewing.

"The crowd was very engaged this year," Orwig continued, the community support for



Lafayette's Darrin Cohen in a Sunday match Photo by Tod Firner

the event was strong and speaks to the huge tennis contingent in the Bay Area." Thursday evening's featured matches were accompanied by a barbecue and raffle at the Moraga Country Club. A tennis weekend and a plethora of prizes donated by equipment suppliers were raffled off; the \$3,000 in proceeds will be

divided between the tennis programs at Campolindo and Miramonte High Schools.

Event organizers would like to thank their sponsors, including the Stead Family of Fine Automobiles, which has sponsored the Tournament for 21 years, and Alain Pinel Realtors, now in its seventh year of support.

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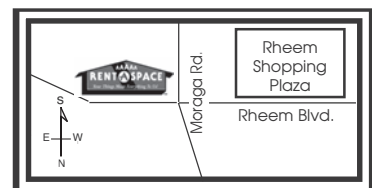
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Please plan to join us for a great time. All the businesses along Mt. Diablo and Lafayette Circle are open for business. Experience all our wonderful shops, boutiques and restaurants along with the festival. Our stages are filled with top entertainment. This year we are featuring four "tribute" bands that should take you back to your "Summer of Love." Workingman's Ed (Grateful Dead), Evolution (Journey), Aja Vu (Steely Dan) and the Sun Kings (Beatles) will share the stage with favorites like Annie Sampson, Pure Honey, the Delta Wires, Bob Athayde & Friends and the Big Surs featuring Ken Cooper to name a few. 200 Arts and Crafts booths in addition to the

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