

## Local Garden Clubs: Focus on Moraga

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McDonnell Nursery

There's nothing common about the Moraga Commons. It's as special as the Moraga Garden Club members who maintain the flag-pole planting area there as well as the library garden and urns just down the road. This organization, active since 1970, embodies the community spirit that – along with the fine schools and bucolic setting – draws more and more people to Moraga every year.

As with other local garden clubs, the MGC begins its year this month, with the first meeting on Sept 20th and regularly on the third Thursdays at 9:30 a.m., Holy Trinity Cultural Center, 1700 School Street. Meetings are open to the general public. For more information, call membership chair Mardi Potts at 376-2004 or president Anna Lum at 376-5679.

After business matters are discussed and light refreshments enjoyed, the 9/20 program will feature Mr. Robin Stockwell from Succulent Gardens on container gardening with succulents, a timely subject in this water-conscious time.

In fact, the MGC members are involved in furthering ecologically-sound planting methods as well as aiding in the protection of native trees, plants and birds. Their main goal is to stimulate knowledge and love of gardening among amateurs – so don't be at all shy if you're unsure, say, on the difference between annuals and perennials. The friendly ladies of the MGC are there to help new members.

They also help the larger community with ongoing projects like the Moraga Commons, the "Rheem Triangle" at Rheem and Moraga Roads, the lovely John Muir Hospital atrium, and the perennial garden at the Hacienda.

In addition to maintaining the outdoor plants at the library, the Club decorates an indoor tree with natural "critters" at Christmas, decorates holiday wreaths and plants daffodils throughout Moraga for cheerful Spring color. They also do seasonal plantings at the Holy Trinity Cultural Center; the Pear Festival and "Moraga Beautiful Day" benefit from MGC presence as well.

Other activities this year include a holiday luncheon at the Diablo Country Club. No member wants to miss the January pot-luck salad luncheon featuring a floral designer. The MGC's major fund-raiser, a Spring Tea, will be held in 2009. Currently, members are selling the revised edition of Growing in Lamorinda, a guide for newcomers to help

### Lafayette Garden Club

First meeting: 9/13. Regular meetings on 2nd Thursdays at 9:30 a.m., Our Saviours Lutheran Church, Carol Lane, Lafayette.

Membership is \$35 and open to a maximum of 150 people. Note: the LGC usually has to stop taking new members by winter, so don't delay if you want to join.

Contact Liz Schwarck at 930-0985.

President: Carolyn Bybee.

Projects include:

- Garden therapy at a convalescent home
- The Gazebo on Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- Work with youth home residents on their garden
- Booth at the Wine Fair [9/15-16]

### Montelindo Garden Club

First meeting: 9/21. Regular meetings on 3rd Fridays at 9 a.m.

Orinda Community Church, 26 Orinda Way [note: this is a new site]

Membership is \$25 and new members are welcome.

President: Lani Shepp

Projects include:

- The Crossroads Garden at Moraga Way and Brookwood
- Mini garden tours and a major Spring tour

Note: Visit their excellent website,



Members of the Moraga Garden Club in front of the Moraga Library  
 Photo Andy Scheck  
 Left to right: Barbara White, Moraga Commons; Anna Lum, President;  
 Nell Sellers, John Muir Atrium; Rena Munson, Library Exterior

ensure successful gardening in the area. The book can be purchased at the Moraga Garden Center and at McDonnell Nursery in Orinda

Next month's column will feature another local garden club. The following is a brief guide to most of the clubs in the Lamorinda area. Most have websites that provide more detailed information and most have membership of between 125-150 people.

www.montelindogarden.com, for a list of guest speakers scheduled for the nine monthly meetings.

### Orinda Junior Garden Club

First meeting: 9/13. Regular meetings on 2nd Thursdays at 9:30 a.m. Held in members' homes.

Membership is \$125. If interested in joining this 40-member club, contact Laura Sawczuk at 254-9510 to see if you have common interests with the club. Co-Presidents:

Pam Seifert and Diana Treter

Projects include:

- Hanging baskets around the Village
- The Circle at Theatre Square

### Orinda Garden Club

Go to [www.orindagardenclub.org](http://www.orindagardenclub.org) for information.

Membership is by invitation to this garden club with a 70-year history

President: Gina Fields

Projects include:

- The Triangle across from Orinda Motors
- The Rose Gardens at Heather Farms Park

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