



## LAMORINDA'S GARDEN TOURS 2008

read all about it  
Page 18-19

## New Cell Phone Laws Shift Focus Back to Driving

By Jennifer Wake

**W**ith millions of cell phone users in the United States, more than ever people are talking on cell phones while driving. With experts citing an increased number of traffic accidents due to the added distraction, new wireless telephone laws aim to make driving safer.

Orinda Police Chief Bill French says that although the statistics are really hard to define, it is easy to see how distracted driving is problematic. "It's hard to track whether someone was distracted after an accident," he said. "But I think everyone has a sense that people are paying more attention to talking on the phone than obeying traffic laws."

Starting immediately on July 1, the wireless telephone laws will go into affect, making the use of any hand-held device while driving a motor vehicle a citable offense. And there will be no grace period for the new law.

According to the California Highway Patrol, drivers over the age of 18 caught using a hand-held device will be ticketed and fined \$20 for the first offence, and \$50 for each subsequent offence. Drivers under 18 years old will be cited for using any hand-held or hands-free device, even if the device is a speaker phone installed by the car's manufacturer. Any use – including texting – is prohibited.

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## LAMORINDA WEEKLY this week

### Town Hall Theater

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### Summer Road Closures

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### Earth Day

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114 La Quinta Golf Course Views! Two New Listings - Both Open Sunday 1 to 4pm			105 La Quinta Fabulous Updates!	

## SMC Uses Pitching Committee To Beat S.F. State

By Kevin D. Shallat

**T**he Saint Mary's baseball team sandwiched a game with San Francisco State in between league games on Tuesday, April 1. The fans may have been a little confused on April Fools Day, as Saint Mary's used seven pitchers (none for more than two innings).

Head coach Jed Soto wanted to give his pitchers some work in preparation for the big Pepperdine series, which loomed for the Gaels the following weekend. The Gators of San Francisco State were able to chip away five runs on the day, but the Gaels held on to win this game, 7-5.

The game may have been a tune-up for the Gaels, but the all-time series record be-

tween the two teams was also on the line. The last time the Gaels played the Gators was in 1989 when the Gaels won 2-1. The all-time series record, prior to this game was 16-16.

Alex Schmarzo (1-0) was the starting pitcher for the Gaels, or more succinctly, was the first of seven pitchers to take part in the tag-team, pitch by committee method.

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# Lamorinda Community

# Calendar, Notes, News

# Lafayette

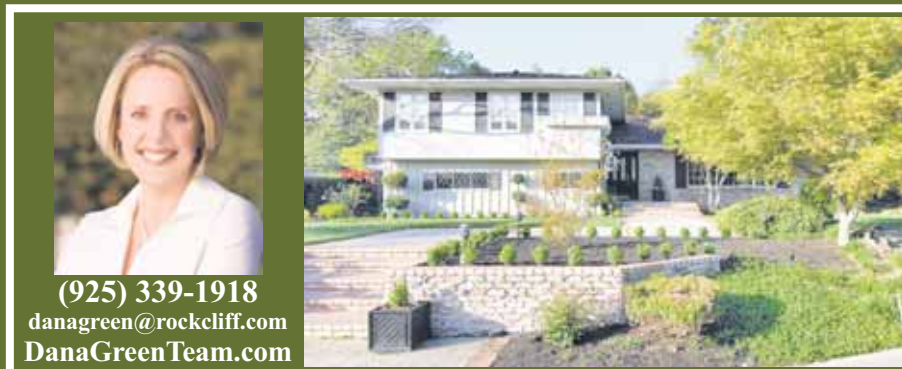
Calendar	
City Council	7pm
Community Center, Manzanita Room 500 St Mary's Road	
Monday, April 28	
Planning Comm.	7pm
Community Center, Manzanita Room 500 St Mary's Road	
Thursday, April 17	
Design Review	7pm
Community Center, Manzanita Room 500 St Mary's Road	
Tuesday, April 22	
Park, Trails, Rec.	7pm
Community Center 500 St Mary's Road	
Wednesday, May 14	
Circulation	7pm
Community Center, Manzanita Room 500 St Mary's Road	
Monday, April 21	
Emergency Prep.	9:15am
City Offices 3675 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Suite 265	
Wednesday, May 14	
Senior Services	3:30pm
Community Center, Alder Room 500 St Mary's Road	
Thursday, April 24	
check online:	
Town of Lafayette:	
http://www.ci.lafayette.ca.us	
• all meeting notes	
• calendar updates	
Chamber of Commerce:	
http://www.lafayettechamber.org	
• local businesses	
• upcoming events	



This Police Blotter was provided Chief Hubbard, via the City of Lafayette's electronic Friday Message. Drugs, Officer McDevitt stopped a Concord man because his license plate light was not working. When asked for identification, the man said he did not have any ID. While Officer McDevitt searched the man for identification, he found the man's wallet. It contained identification and two baggies of drugs; one baggie of cocaine and one baggie of methamphetamine. The man was on probation and was subsequently arrested and booked at the county jail.

Car chase and drugs, Officer McDevitt attempted to stop a truck because it had an unsafe load. The driver of the truck, a Concord man, fled from Officer McDevitt and led officers on a 20-mile chase. During the chase, the driver was seen throwing what appeared to be drugs out of the truck. CHP assisted us by deploying a "Spike Strip" and once the truck's tires were flat, it stopped. The driver was arrested and during a search of the truck, crack cocaine, heroine and hypodermic needles were found in the truck. The driver was booked for transportation and sales of narcotics.

Stupid drug use, Officer Parker was assisting CHP on the freeway, at a car fire. While on the freeway, a CHP officer saw a person, parked on Pleasant Hill Rd., snorting cocaine. The CHP officer pointed this out to Officer Parker. Officer Parker drove to the truck and contacted the 50-year-old Lafayette man who was sitting in the truck. Officer Parker detained the man and searched the truck. Officer Parker found a small metal card that had lines of cocaine on it. The driver admitted that he was just getting ready to snort the cocaine. The man was arrested and booked at the county jail.



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## Acalanes Teens Finish First

By Cathy Tyson



Acalanes Jazz Combo, winner of first place at the Monterey Jazz Festival Photo provided

Once again the Acalanes High School Jazz Combo reaped the rewards of their many hours of practice with a first place finish last Saturday at the Monterey Jazz Festival's NeXT Generation Youth Jazz Combo Competition. This is a stellar jazz event because of the level of competition from fifty-four groups from four continents.

What's more, Ellie Athayde was honored as the judges' first choice for favorite combo musician of the festival. Gurbir Dhillon was also honored as one of the three additional judges' choices.

"I can't talk now because [sniff] I'm still crying after having listened to the award winning set. Does anybody have a package of tissues I can borrow," said Mo Levich, Director of the Rossmoor Big Band.

As a reward for winning top honors the Combo will play on the main stage at the Monterey Jazz Festival on September 21. This is in addition to the \$750. cash prize they will share. "To win the Monterey Jazz Festival takes hard work, they took years to get here," said Mike Grant, proud father of Parker Grant.

The fourth annual Festival was four days long and had over 80 events in five locations, categories included vocal ensemble,

combo, college, high school and middle school big band and conglomerate big band. As expected all of the divisions were highly competitive, judges based their scores on intonation, style and presentation, creativity and solos.

Kudos to Acalanes' winning Combo members Parker Grant, Ben Ebert, Maxime Stinnett, Gurbir Dhillon, and Ellie Athayde. The Combo has performed together, in various permutations, for five years. The Combo is coached by legendary local jazz musician Mary Fettig. Bob Athayde is their long time mentor, who started with these kids when they were at Stanley. Expect great things from these talented students next year, all of whom are juniors with the exception of Maxime Stinnett who will be going to UC Berkeley in the fall.

In addition, these young musicians have benefitted from Lafayette's Generations in Jazz Foundation as well as from members of the Rossmoor Big Band.

Lamorinda residents are invited to catch the Combo, Generations in Jazz, and other student musicians at the 40th anniversary of Diablo Foods this Friday, April 18th from 3:30 until 6:00. "Our Foundation is appearing to say thank you to Ed Stokes for all he's done for music in the community," said Levich.

## Show and Tell at the Library

By Cathy Tyson

"We started this five years ago and we're really excited about the project," Barbara Flammang, principal architect from Flammang and Killefer said about the over 30,000 square foot, three story Lafayette Library and Learning Center. "Your city is the most architecturally aware on the planet. It's easier for us when the client knows exactly what they want and make their expectations very clear," said Wade Killefer, her partner.

Flammang went on to describe the design elements, "rustic to fit in with traditional Bay Area style, organic, and with respect to the setting. The lower section is clad in stone, heavier at the bottom with a canopy at the top. The 20 foot elevation gain from Golden Gate Boulevard to Mt. Diablo was challenging. But with challenge comes opportunity."

She continued describing the furniture, carpeting, tile, wall colors, parking, book drop off and much more. One of the unique interior spaces will be the Seaborg garden. It has glass on two sides and a beautiful layering of landscape elements; gingko trees and Japanese maples. The floor will have slabs of granite with a subtle fractured effect. "It's meant to be a calming, richly textured space," she noted.

A special effort was made to use sustainable, green building materials. A photovoltaic solar panel system, vertical fin walls to reduce interior solar heat gain, recycled teak from Thailand, and all double glazed low-e windows are just a few examples of the many green choices made. Even during construction, approximately 50% to 75% of the waste and debris was reused or recycled and diverted from landfill.

The interior will have a very unique wood truss system, a contemporary interpretation of the old



Wade Killefer and Barbara Flammang, Library and Learning Center Architects, with carpet, paint and tile samples that will go in the Children's area Photo Cathy Tyson

Bay Area post and beam design, light, airy and uplifting. The dynamic system is a proprietary design by a Canadian firm. This will be its first use in the U. S., just one of many cutting edge innovations in the building. Drivers along Mt. Diablo Blvd should see these go up

in the next few days. "We selected plants as close to natives as we could that didn't require a lot of water," said Anne Grodin, former Mayor and Lafayette Community Foundation Director.

... continued on page 12

## Symposium for Seniors

By Cathy Tyson

Who doesn't like a free lunch, no strings attached, coupled with plenty of valuable complimentary information on senior needs and challenges? That's just what the Senior Liaison Committee, which is composed of a subcommittee of the Lafayette Community Foundation and the Lafayette Senior Services Commission, are providing at the upcoming Symposium for Seniors

on April 22nd at Our Saviors Lutheran Church, 1035 Carol Lane in Lafayette.

This jointly sponsored event is about much more than a free lunch. Community leaders from these two organizations want to provide information to seniors, their adult children, and those baby boomers who will be seniors soon about all of the resources available locally which will enable older adults to age

in place. With a large chunk of Lafayette's population maturing, there is increasing need for this kind of informational assistance.

Organizers Ruth McCahan and Marechal Duncan and the whole Liaison Committee have worked hard to put together a team of experts to discuss the following important topics:

... continued on page 10

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# Lamorinda Community Calendar, Notes, News

# Moraga

Calendar	
<b>City Council</b> 7:30pm	Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School 1010 Camino Pablo Wednesday, April 23 Wednesday, April 30
<b>Planning Comm.</b> 7:30pm	Hacienda, La Sala Room 2100 Donald Drive Monday, April 21
<b>Design Review</b> 7:30pm	Hacienda, La Sala Room 2100 Donald Drive Monday, April 28
<b>Park &amp; Rec</b> 7:30pm	Hacienda, Mosaic Room 2100 Donald Drive Tuesday, May 20
<b>Liaison</b> 8:00am	Fire Station 1280 Moraga Way Friday, May 9
Town of Moraga online: http://www.ci.moraga.ca.us for: • all meeting notes • calendar updates	

## WANTED - COMMUNITY MEMBERS



to serve on the **Audit and Finance Committee (AFC)**. The AFC is a Committee established by the Town Council to assist the Council in fulfilling its fiduciary responsibilities. There are currently two vacancies on the Committee. Community members serve for two years and attend quarterly meetings held throughout the year. Members should have a basic understanding of finance, preferably public sector finance.

If you are interested in serving on the AFC, please direct your letter of interest to **Joan Streit, Finance Director**, Town of Moraga, P.O. Box 188, Moraga, CA 94556. You may also email your letter of interest to [jstreit@moraga.ca.us](mailto:jstreit@moraga.ca.us). The deadline to apply is 5:00 PM, April 18th. Should you have questions regarding the Committee, please feel free to contact Joan Streit at 925-888-7032

## Growing Pains on the Recreation Scene in Moraga

By Sophie Braccini



Concert at Moraga Commons last Summer Photo Andy Scheck

During the March 22nd meeting between the Town Council and the Parks and Recreation Commission, Parks and Rec. Foundation Board Member Howard Harpham expressed concerns about the future ability of the Foundation to manage the Moraga Summer Concerts in the Park series.

"Some of our members have stepped down," he said, "our lack of attendance is such that at our last meeting we couldn't reach the necessary quorum to make the decision to pay certain fees for the bands for the upcoming season." He added that the key person behind the concession stand could no longer do the work. On top of that, according to Harpham, the lack of a proper sound ordinance was just an added stress factor for the Foundation.

The Foundation has organized the summer concerts in Moraga for years. But this great tradition might be threatened by excessive success. The event has grown over the years and attracts people from neighboring cities. The food supply had to be increased in volume and diversity. At the beginning, families brought picnics to the park where the concerts are held; now the concession stand provides a growing variety of

food, and requires increased planning and manpower.

The bandshell was updated to improve the sound quality and the numbers of concerts. At the same time, the owner of a property neighboring the park brought a lawsuit against the Town and the Foundation: the sound level was too high and the Town didn't have a proper sound ordinance to fight back. In the light of potential legal risks, the Foundation declined to take the legal responsibility for the 2008 concert season. The Town of Moraga agreed to take over the summer concert series to protect the Foundation. The discussion of a sound ordinance has been postponed to October because of other priority items.

Councilmember Mike Metcalf questioned the placement of the responsibility of the organization of the concerts solely on the Foundation.

Vice Mayor Dave Trotter suggested that after the sound ordinance was passed, the Council should again meet jointly with the Commission and the Foundation to address optimal configuration to ensure that the concert series remains one of the jewels of the Town.

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**Identity theft, 3/29/08** A Moraga resident called police to report his social security number was stolen and used by an individual from Turlock for an auto loan. The good news is the scofflaw was up to date on his car payments from the loan's inception, April of 2007. The bad news is the Moraga man's social security number was compromised.

**Provisional license problem, 4/02/08** Moraga officers met with a 16-year old driver and her parents at the Police Department to place the young lady in the Juvenile Diversion Program. She had been stopped at 4:00 in the morning for driving too close to another car. For the first year, newly licensed drivers aren't supposed to drive between midnight and 5:00 a.m.

**Car Burglary, 4/03/08** An Ascot Drive resident parked and locked his Chevy Tahoe in his carport. When he went to the vehicle the next morning, he found the passenger side window had been smashed and his wallet was missing. Unfortunately no suspects or witnesses.

**D.U.I., 4/04/08** The driver of a BMW was pulled over for speeding on Moraga Road, going 58 m.p.h., in a 35 m.p.h. zone. The ever vigilant officer noted objective signs of alcohol intoxication, the subject was given a blood alcohol test and taken into custody without incident.

**Found Property**  
Moraga Police Department has Several Sets of Car keys including Jeep keys and a Black Purse, Bicycles with helmets and without as well as a recently issued Passport that was turned into found property. If these items belong to you please call the Heather Pomeroy at the Moraga Police Department at 925-376-2515 x 7104. If items are not claimed on or before May 15, 2008 the item will be sent to public auction and or destroyed.

## Stop Signs Replace Bump

By Sophie Braccini



Fresh new stop signs at Camino Pablo and Hodges Photo Sophie Braccini

"I was stunned when I came back from Spring Break and the raised crosswalk at Hodges was gone," says Camino Pablo PTA President Christina Da Rodda. "What was more concerning was that the stop signs that had been promised were not there either, leaving the intersection virtually unprotected," she continued. This latest development in the saga of traffic calming devices in Moraga was the expected outcome of a decision made by the Council on January 16th of this year. Now it was up to the Council to keep its word and add the stop signs it had promised.

meeting put a stop to the raging discussion among proponents and opponents to the three raised crosswalks on Camino Pablo. The 'speed cushions' were installed last year to slow down traffic and protect children walking to and from schools Camino Pablo Elementary (CP) and Joaquin Moraga Intermediate (JM). In its decision, the Council had required staff to leave one table in place (at Oxford), to remove one (at Hodges) with advice from a traffic engineer regarding possible stop signs, and to have the third one in front of JM re-evaluated.

Jill Mercurio, the Town Engineer, said the table at

Hodges was removed during the spring break according to plan. Her report indicated that the amount of traffic at that crossing didn't justify a stop sign, although one could be installed for traffic calming reasons. This justification was the rationale used by the Council, which unanimously voted to have the stop signs installed. "We need to keep faith with the people of Moraga," said Vice-Mayor Dave Trotter.

But the decision wasn't enough to completely satisfy Da Rodda. For months, she's been trying to get the speed limit on all of Camino Pablo permanently reduced to 25 mph. "We need to have consistency in our speed limits," she insisted, continuing, "We are the only school in the area that does not have that rule in place."

Mayor Deschambault asked the Mercurio if she had studied the question. Mercurio had, and explained to a perplexed audience that a town is not free to do whatever it pleases as far as speed limits are concerned.

... continued on page 17

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# Lamorinda Community Calendar, Notes, News

# Orinda

Calendar	
City Council	7pm
Auditorium, Orinda Library 26 Orinda Way Tuesday, May 6	
Planning Comm.	7:00pm
Auditorium, Orinda Library 26 Orinda Way Tuesday, April 22	
Planning Process Review	8:30am
Community Room, City Hall 22 Orinda Way Friday, April 25	
Parks & Recreation Comm.	7pm
Auditorium, Orinda Library 26 Orinda Way City Council joint Meeting Wednesday, May 6	
Mayor's Com. Liaison	9am
Community Room at City Hall 22 Orinda Way Monday, May 5	
check online: Town of Orinda: <a href="http://www.ci.orinda.ca.us/">http://www.ci.orinda.ca.us/</a> • all meeting notes • calendar updates	
Chamber of Commerce: <a href="http://www.orindachamber.org/">http://www.orindachamber.org/</a> • local businesses • upcoming events	



**Big Burglary, 4/02/08** An Oakridge Lane resident left his home around 7:20 in the morning, his wife left a short while later. When he returned home that afternoon, the front door was unlocked and ajar. Upon walking into the master bedroom, he noticed several jewelry boxes dumped on the floor. The master bath window was pried open. The homeowner had left a ladder in the side yard, directly under the bathroom window. Approximately \$25,000 in jewelry was taken, along with a laptop, cameras and several prescription medications.

**Car Chase, 4/04/08** A 2006 Mercedes was speeding westbound on Highway 24, going approximately 110 m.p.h. at 2:00 in the morning. An officer gave chase, but the Mercedes driver ditched him. The car is registered to a Fairfield resident. Fairfield police were contacted. The registered owner of the vehicle said he gave the car away to a friend about a year ago.

**Motorcycle chase, 4/04/08** An Orinda officer attempted to stop two off-road motorcyclists close to Gateway Boulevard and Upton, near the upcoming Wilder development. The cyclists fled into a field and drove through a barbed wire fence that surrounds the project. Wilder security gave chase on foot, officers used police car lights and a siren, but the sneaky motorcyclists got away, because cops had to unlock a gate to follow.

**Car Burglary, 4/03/08** A Moraga Via resident parked and locked her car in her home's driveway in the evening. When she came out the next morning, the driver's side window was smashed and her iPod was missing. Approximate value \$300 for the iPod and about \$125 for window repair.

## Orinda Roadrunners Hit the Trail

By Andrea A. Firth



Orinda Roadrunners on the Bay Area Ridge Trail

Photo provided

Dial the Orinda Roadrunner Hotline anytime 24/7 and you will hear the deep, anchor-like voice of Jerry Wendt listing the meeting spots for the group—that is the coffee shops throughout Lamorinda where this crew of runners gets “fired up” to hit the trail on weekday and weekend mornings. “We sometimes describe ourselves as coffee drinkers with a running problem,” says Wendt, one of the co-founders of the 34 year-old running club.

In addition to scheduled runs six days a week—Monday is the day of rest in their case—this crew of dedicated runners takes on a running goal each year. For exam-

ple, about ten years ago the group ran every street in Orinda over the course of several outings. “In the early days, we did mostly street running,” explains John Fazel, another longtime Roadrunner. “But over time we have transitioned to become the Lamorinda trail junkies.” So it fits that this year’s running goal is to traverse the 300 miles of the Bay Area Ridge Trail. In six- to nine-mile segments, members will do all, most, or some of the trail legs by running or hiking. And after completing each segment, they meet for—coffee, of course.

Both Wendt and Fazel are no strangers to the roads and trails of

the Bay Area and beyond. Wendt has run 35 marathons including the original Olympic marathon course in Greece, which he navigated with group of Roadrunner pals (all with their shoes on). Fazel has taken his running to the ultra-level having completed a 100-mile endurance race between Squaw Valley and Auburn climbing 18,000 vertical feet in the process. And he has done it more than once and in less than 30 hours. “My longest stop during the race was for eight minutes to eat,” he notes. “That’s really fast food.” Currently Fazel has plans to run his last leg of the American Discovery Trail, a 6,800-mile cross-country adven-



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ture run that extends between San Francisco and Lewes, Delaware.

Wendt and Fazel’s extensive running resumes are not meant to scare the average runner away from joining the Roadrunner outings. Weekday runs start at 5:45 am and are about three to five miles in length. “A few of the members meet at 5:30 am for coffee before starting,” states Wendt. “They get two cups out of the deal.” Weekend runs start at 7:30 am and rotate between trails in

Orinda, Moraga, and Lafayette. “On the weekends, we typically run four to six miles and sometimes up to nine. Some of us run, some hike, and we all drink coffee,” he adds.

“We really encourage everyone to come out to join us,” invites Fazel. “It’s like an extended family. And the older we get, the faster we were,” he adds with a smile. Orinda Roadrunner Hotline: (925) 937-2046, www.orindarunners.org.



## New Developments in Orinda

By Wendy Scheck and Cathy Tyson



Artist's rendering of an Orinda Grove street scene

Provided by Pulte Homes

More than 80 attendees, many of them real estate professionals, joined the Orinda Chamber of Commerce Luncheon held recently to hear details about two residential projects that are finally coming to fruition, Orinda Grove by Pulte Homes and the Wilder development.

Orinda Grove, on Altarinda Road, is heading down the final path of the Design Review process and, providing things go smoothly once the project is presented to the City Council, demolition will begin in the late summer or early fall and home construction will begin in early 2009.

A total of 73 units up to three stories high and 2,600 square feet in size will be built. Of those, 68 units will be 1-3 story single family detached homes and eight of the units will be duplexes that will be considered affordable housing. A murmur of surprise passed through the crowd when a price range of the mid \$300K’s was mentioned for the duplexes.

A city owned tot-lot and ball field as well as a new School District building are being designed and constructed by the developer as part of the project. The complex will be pedestrian oriented and residents will have just a ten minute walk to downtown or BART.

“We’ve been working on this project for a little over four years, obviously it’s been challenging at times. There has been a lot of input from neighbors, the City and the community. That input was important to the success of the plan we have today,” said Kim Diamond, Senior Manager with Pulte Homes.

Mike Olson, the tenacious Wilder Project Manger since 1997, was pleased to finally announce that home sites are now available for sale and construction of homes can begin this fall.

The 1,600 acres of land will have just 200 acres developed with 245 homes and buildings; the remaining 1,400 acres are set aside as open space. Some of the highlights of the project for the community include: four public ball fields with 300 parking places; a public Art and Garden complex with four structures totaling 6,000 square feet and 50 parking places that can be utilized for meetings, shows and events. Finally meandering paths throughout the proj-

ect will connect to miles of Regional Park and EBMUD trails with spectacular views from Tilden to the San Leandro Reservoir.

A private swim club just for Wilder residents will feature an Olympic size swimming pool with automatic timers for swim meets.

Audience members were concerned about potential parking, shopping and school busing problems that may ensue when over 200 additional families live in Orinda. Olson deferred these questions to the City Council and other developers.

## The Farmers' Market Returns!



The Orinda Farmers' Market will open for the season on Saturday, May 3rd. Regular hours will be 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. The Market

will be in the same location as last year, on Orinda Way in the Village (near Rite Aid and the Community Park).

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# Life in LAMORINDA

## Town Hall Theater—A Secret No Longer

By Andrea A. Firth



Teachers and Board members at Lafayette Town Hall Theater  
 Front Row (L to R): Jenn Taylor, Janice Peacock, Jessica Magers-Rankin, and Ginny Wehrmeister  
 Back Row: Henry Perkins and Dennis Erokan

What is the oldest, continuously active theater in Contra Costa County? If you are stumped, take a look in your own backyard. The answer is Town Hall Theater (THT) in Lafayette.

"Isn't that amazing," states Dennis Erokan, President of the Board of Directors at THT for the past five years. While he confirms this fact with his ubiquitous smile, Erokan also notes that there are still many people throughout Lamorinda that do not know that THT exists. Board member Amy Goodheart echoes his sentiment. "Often I have heard comments such as 'Town Hall Theater—where's that?' or 'I've driven by that building a million times. I didn't know that was a theater,' states Goodheart with a slight note of exasperation in her voice.

The almost 100-year old, large, brown building—a dedicated city landmark—on one of the main thoroughfares (Moraga Road) into downtown Lafayette seems like it would be hard to miss. However, theater statistics reveal that only five percent of community residents go to see their own community theater, so the lack of awareness may have some foundation.

The THT building, which took turns serving as the town hall, a library, an elementary school, a dormitory for ROTC trainees, and a dance hall among other things, has a long and rich history, and for over the last 60 years it has been the home to a dynamic and vibrant theater community. The 187-seat theater hosts five productions each season along with a number of children's performances throughout the year.

Erokan, who started his career in rock and roll and feels completely at home on the stage, has spent much of his tenure on the THT Board establishing the THT brand. He's passionate about theater, and he feels it is important for residents to understand the positive role that THT plays in the community. And, he is a true believer in the educational program that has grown exponentially under the oversight of Janice Peacock, Director of Education at THT. "If we do this right, we'll be sending a lot of kids to perform on stage and in the movies," he notes again with a broad grin.

And it appears that he may be right. THT's kids' theater programs, which currently serve over 800 area children each year, are thriving. "Our kids' program is extremely successful and it just keeps growing," notes Goodheart. Director Peacock has revamped the classes and recruited an energetic team of young actors who provide theater instruction to children from four through 14 years of age along with an advanced acting class for older teens.

Yet the road to a critically acclaimed and financially viable community theater is not easy. "There is a constant need for money," states Goodheart. "The theater has always struggled financially, which is kind of the definition of a community theater."

Goodheart came to THT through her children who participate in the kids' theater programs. Once on the Board, Goodheart quickly recognized that THT would need to boost their fundraising efforts. "We really hadn't tapped the community at all. Other than some small events, we hadn't done anything major."

"The idea is to put together a fundraising machine that will allow us to continue to do the kind of theater that we want to do," Goodheart explains. However, she accepts that it will take time to raise awareness and establish a strong fundraising network. For example, Peacock, who spearheads the grant application effort, will tell you that it has not been easy to obtain grants when the theater carries the zip code 94549—despite the need.

... continued on page 9

### Playing Favorites

On April 26, Town Hall Theatre will hold its first Annual Fundraising Gala—Playing Favorites—at the Veterans Memorial Building in Lafayette. "Come to the party, support the theater and let us do what we do best—entertain you," says THT Gala chairperson, Amy Goodheart. "There will be singers, actors, scrumptious food, and fabulous auction packages. We hope the community will see this as a great opportunity to have a fun evening, bid on some items, and support the oldest continuously operating theater company in Contra Costa County."

The evening starts at 7:00 pm and wraps up around 10:30 pm; tickets are \$85 per person. To purchase Gala tickets, buy raffle tickets for an overnight stay at the Lafayette Park Hotel, or make a donation, go to www.thtc.org; or call the Box Office at 925-283-1557.

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# Life in LAMORINDA

## Summer Road Closures: Residents Still Have a Lot of Questions

By Sophie Braccini

"How will I get to my house on Madrone during the closure?" "Will I get my mail?" "Will there be a flagger at Bollinger?" "Will emergency vehicles be able to pass through the work?"

These were just a few of the pertinent questions asked by anxious Lamorinda residents during the public meeting held by the East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) on April 10th regarding the public work that will significantly disrupt traffic on both Mor-

aga Road and Moraga Way over the summer.

EBMUD is engaged in a countywide renovation of its infrastructure, plants, pumping stations and pipes. The work that will have the biggest impact on our communities, starting this spring, is the replacement of the piping that runs from the Lafayette Reservoir to Moraga along Moraga Road. The work will involve the complete closure of Moraga Road from south of Old Jonas Hill Road to north of Sky-Hy Drive from June 16th to

August 22nd during week days, 9AM to 5:30PM. At roughly the same time, the city of Orinda will repave Moraga Way, working mainly at night but still restricting traffic to one lane in localized areas.

The seventy people who attended the meeting could be divided in two categories: those who live in one of the 63 residences that will need direct access to the closed portion of Moraga Road, and other locals worried about the impact of traffic on adjacent roads.

Bill Hossfeld, a Moraga resident, is the EBMUD Moraga Road Project Manager. He responded to most of the questions, along with representatives of Mountain Cascade Inc., the General Engineering contractor who will do the work.

"Will I be able to get out of my house at 11 o'clock in the morning?" asked a Moraga Road resident. "Yes," answered Hossfeld, "residents in the closed area will get placards to put on their cars to get access." However, entry will be granted only in one direction at a given time, either uphill or downhill, depending on where the work is located. "Since getting in and out will be disruptive to the crews; the more you do it when they are in front of your house, the longer it will take them," he added.

Residents of the area had concerns about their mail delivery,

as well as trash collection and other services. Nora Harlow, the public interface liaison for EBMUD who is working with local agencies, indicated that discussions are ongoing.

Most in attendance were residents living in the areas that are going to be greatly impacted by the diverted traffic. The two alternative routes to Moraga Road are Rheem South-East / Saint Mary's and further up, Reliez Station toward Olympic Blvd, or Rheem West / Acalanes Road toward Lafayette and Glorietta toward Moraga Way.

"Getting on St Mary's Rd from Bollinger Canyon is already challenging. With increased traffic it will be more difficult, but you are not planning to post a flagger there. Why?" asked a concerned resident.

Hossfeld explained that nine flaggers will be working along St Mary's Road and Reliez Station Rd, at critical junctions, to regulate and speed traffic. "That's the plan right now," he added, "we will be listening and adapt to the real conditions. Do not hesitate to contact us if problems are worse than what we anticipate."

Harlow, who is also a Lamorinda resident, has the dubious distinction of being the go-to person for problem reports; she can be reached at 510-287-0140 or nharlow@ebmud.com.



Road sign on Moraga Road in Lafayette

Photo Sophie Braccini

General concerns from the public involved the quality and disruption of the water supply, how quickly the roads would be repaved and emergency access. EBMUD responded that the quality of water would not decrease, that there would be no disruption of the water supply except for a two-hour shutdown in one area, and that the roads would be promptly repaved, ongoing, within ten days.

"The population needs to know that emergency response time will be impacted" during the closures, said Moraga Police Chief Mark Ruppenthal.

"Emergency vehicles will have access at all time," stated Mike Nelson from Mountain Cascade, "only part of the roads are closed, all you have to do is to ask the foreman to move the vehicles that are working on the road out of

the way." Harlow confirmed, "We are working with the Fire Districts and dispatching."

For those who will need to use alternate routes, it might be a good idea to check them out in advance. On May 19, the contractor plans to begin trenching and installing pipe, starting near Sky-Hy Drive and working south, stopping shy of Campolindo. This section of pipeline work will require alternating one-way traffic, weekdays from 9am to 2:30pm. Repaving on Moraga Way should start around the same time.

All stakeholders recommend that you check web sites that will be constantly updated, recommending better routes and exactly locating the disruptions. Go to <http://www.ebmud.com/> and click on Moraga Road Pipeline Project Update.

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"These pants are too tight." "That shirt doesn't fit anymore." "I may have to buy all new clothes." These comments from my wife, Lisa, led me to seek out Sheena at Living Lean. A mutual friend had gone on the Living Lean program, and the results were great. Lisa was a bit reticent at first about her ability to succeed in the program. In turn, we all knew that we would have to support her 100% as a family. Since joining the program, the entire family now eats brown rice (not easy, since Lisa is Chinese), Living Lean Bread, and we've virtually eliminated red meat and high fat foods. At meals, our kids often ask if we're "eating on plan." Lisa has made working out a way of life. Lisa went from 28% body fat to 15% body fat in 6 months and from a size 10 to a size 6. Lisa is discovering "new" clothes every day in her own closet. At our recent school auction, she was able to wear the same little sexy black dress she wore at our wedding rehearsal dinner 10 years ago, and it fits perfectly.

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## Lamorinda Artists Bring Lots of Talent to Spring Art Show

By Sally Hogarty



Sculpture by Tamara Selvig

Eagerly awaited by art aficionados and bargain hunters, Civic Arts Education and Clay Arts Guild's annual Spring Art Show will have something extra this year – lots of beautiful creations by Lamorinda artists. From decorative gourds to beautiful pottery to dramatic photographs and stunning fused glass jewelry, shoppers can find one-of-a-kind gifts perfect for that June graduate or blushing bride.

Photo provided

Avid gardeners and talented artists, Orinda's Kate Chenok and Kay Van Hoesen will be among the Lamorinda residents in the April 17-20 show.

gourd plant and put it in her backyard garden – a space certified as a National Wildlife Federation Habitat. Before she knew it, she had 10 large gourds growing and was taking classes in how to turn them into art objects. Now, her decorative gourds delight art lovers with their colorful decorations and unique materials. "Gourds are really the pottery of the plant world," says Van Hoesen, who has incorporated pinecones into her pieces and stenciled others to resemble jack-o-lanterns for Halloween. "I particularly like working with pine needles," Van Hoesen adds. "Some of my gourds are

Moraga's Barbara Davis will display her colorful fused glass jewelry and wall hangings at the art sale. Formerly a mixed media painter, Davis discovered fused glass a few years ago. "I've always been attracted to color and texture," says Davis, "but with the fused glass, I not only get color and texture, I also get light. It's just breath-taking how the light can add to the piece."

A long-time Clay Arts Guild member, Tamara Selvig is looking forward to participating in the annual art show. The Lafayette artist will be displaying both her pottery and sculpture. "My favorite activity is to craft the human figure," says Selvig. "I do my best to project the beautiful curves, muscles, and face of the models while trying to capture their energy and spirit."

Lafayette's Barbara Shull and Patricia "Pitter" Scanlan will also be displaying their artwork at the April 17-20 show. For an opportunity to meet the artists, attend the opening reception on April 17 from 5 – 9 p.m.



Peyote stitched leaf pendant, by Barbara Shull  
Photo provided

functional and serve as bread baskets, bird houses and such. Others are purely decorative such as my gourd Santas."

Lafayette photographer Liane Abrams has not only captured the poignancy of the white crosses in her home town that represent those who have died in Iraq, she has also shown the sorrow left behind in hurricane ravaged New Orleans in her stirring black and white prints. The freelance photographer, however, does not dwell on negative images. She also brings the beauty of sunlight beaches to life and is preparing several new pieces for the April show.

### Civic Arts Education and Clay Arts Guild

- Arts and Crafts Extravaganza
- April 17 - 5 – 9 p.m. (opening reception)
- April 18 – 10 a.m. – 7 p.m.
- April 19 – 10 a.m. – 7 p.m.
- April 20 – 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

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"I love the creative process in which a form emerges from a piece of clay," says Chenok. "It's immediate gratification which is so different from my life as a corporate executive. The enterprising artist has also converted a 1/2-acre hillside at her Orinda home into a native plant garden decorated with her earth-toned bowls and planters. The garden will be featured in the "Bring Back the Natives" garden tour this May.

Kay Van Hoesen not only creates beautiful art pieces, she also grows them in her backyard. Twelve years ago, the former teacher for the Orinda Union School District brought home a

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# Life in LAMORINDA

## Mentors a Necessity for Budding Professional Artists

By Jennifer Wake



Andrew Denman, Out of the Cradle



Andrew Denman

During the time of da Vinci, Michelangelo, Rembrandt and Raphael, artists were often discovered and supported through a patron system, in which wealthy individuals would offer artists room and board as well as guidance to develop their career, or artists could work with other more established artists as apprentices.

Times have changed.

Unfortunately, says Orinda resident and award-winning artist Andrew Denman, the handshake and support of old has been replaced by fellowships, art colleges and institutions. "There is a big difference between meeting someone who wants to help you out versus getting a Guggenheim Fellowship," he said.

So how do budding artists of today succeed?

The first step is to develop your skill; the second is to find a mentor.

Four years ago, Lafayette native Matt Jacuzzi started taking private lessons from Denman, who has taught art privately to children, teens and adults in Lamorinda for the past 17 years.

Denman said he saw Jacuzzi's promise right away. "It's rare you encounter someone who has the talent to make art their life - to make it a career," he said. "But when I do find them, I work closely with them, like with Matt."

Jacuzzi was interested in becoming a professional wildlife artist, like Denman, but he lacked certain connections. "Nobody knows where to find a live wolf," explained Denman, who frequently visits wildlife refuges and has traveled the globe to photograph some of his subjects in the wild. "If I go to photograph a live mountain lion or other wild animal, I make it a point to give Matt a call and invite him to come along."

The relationship between Denman and Jacuzzi has open doors for the younger painter. "Almost everything I know about pursuing art professionally, I have learned from Andrew," Jacuzzi said.

Not only did Denman help Jacuzzi master and understand some very basic techniques to painting realistically, but he also taught him about the print world, how to price his work, how to communicate with a gallery, and gave him advertising ideas.

At a recent artist conference in Colorado, Denman was asked to give a marketing seminar to other artists.

"I said: what do I know about marketing? But because my work has been in national magazines and I'd had three one-man shows by that time, they told me, 'We don't know what you're doing, but you're doing something right,'" he said. "It's hard to find someone to discuss on a practical level how to pursue a

career in the arts. When people talk about career placement in the arts, most people focus on the commercial element. The conversation I've had with many of my students is that a person can make a living as an artist."

Denman and Jacuzzi hope to produce an instructional DVD to teach other artists about Denman's painting process, including how to obtain reference material, how to have a show and, finally, how to sell their work.

For Jacuzzi, having a mentor in Denman has been extremely important. "Finding out what has worked for Andrew and what has not has been very helpful."

In 2006, Jacuzzi was invited to show his work at the Lafayette Reservoir Art Show, regularly shows his work with Arts Benicia and Connectedworlds, and has his work available at Pacific Wildlife Galleries in Lafayette, which frequently showcases some of the world's leading representational



Matt Jacuzzi, Sierra Gold



Andrew Denman, The Larus Touch

wildlife artists such as Robert Bateman, Carl Brenders, John Seerey-Lester, Mort Solberg, and, of course, Andrew Denman.

"I am very honored to have the opportunity to have my work on the walls with some of the best artists of our time," Jacuzzi said.

Last week, Denman opened his fourth solo exhibition at the Gallery, which consists of more than 20 new acrylic paintings featuring wildlife subjects ranging from local birds and mammals to exotic species from around the world, all approached with the artist's unique combination of hyper-realism, stylization, and abstraction.

Denman, an award winning member of the Society of Animal Artists, has participated in international ensemble exhibitions at the National Museum of Wildlife Art (NMWA) in Jackson, Wyo., the Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum (LYWAM) in Wisconsin, the Hiram Blauvelt Art Museum in New Jersey, and the Wildlife Experience Museum in Colorado. His work can be found at the Natural World Museum in San Francisco, and has been seen at the Oakland Museum, Bedford Gallery in Walnut Creek, and Hearst Gallery in Moraga.

The Gallery will host an artist's reception this Saturday, April 19 from 5 to 8 p.m. at 3420 Mt. Diablo Blvd. in Lafayette. The show runs through May 3.

For more information about Denman, or to view some of his work, you can visit his Web site at [www.andrewdenman.com](http://www.andrewdenman.com). You can view Matt Jacuzzi's work online at [www.matthewjacuzzi.com](http://www.matthewjacuzzi.com).



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# Life in LAMORINDA

## A Family Journey in Humanitarian Aid

By Sophie Braccini



Naya Olmer distributes toiletries to Burmese orphans Photo Ksenija Olmer

The Olmers have an unusual tendency to want to make a difference when they travel abroad. The Orinda family has its origins in Eastern Europe, and maybe the difficult times those countries have endured during the 20th century have inspired the parents to show the world to their children through a different lens than that offered by resorts and tourist traps.

"My parents try to pick places that have an education and exploration aspect to them," says Lana Olmer, the middle daughter of the family. "My mom likes to say, 'We are not tourists, we are travelers.'"

After Africa and South America, the family decided to chose an Asian country and set their hearts on Burma. Olmer asked their travel agent, a Burmese resident, if he knew of a place they could visit, either a school or an orphanage, where they might offer some help.

"My English Kindergarten teacher is retired and has opened an orphanage," he said, "she could certainly use some help." Their objective set, the Olmers started fund-raising for the orphanage. The children got involved as well. "During my junior and senior years of highschool, I got a lot more involved with the process," says Lana. "The summer before junior year we went to Africa (South Africa, Namibia, Botswana, and Zimbabwe) which was the first time I had ever witnessed truly devastating poverty. It really opened my eyes and made me want to get more involved. I joined a service organization, In-

teract, at my high school after returning. We (my family) used Interact as a sort of launching pad for a lot of the fundraising we did for the orphanages in Burma: car washes, dinners, brunches, etc."

Once in Burma, they saw how extensive the needs were and decided to spend a day with the head teacher to use the \$1000 they had brought. With that amount they managed to buy the supplies for building a water tank, 20 blankets, cooking oil, cooking pots, and 3.5 tons of rice, enough to fill the little stomachs for four months. "It's amazing what can be done with a thousand dollars, this was the most meaningful shopping trip we had ever made," says Olmer. They were able to offer to a 2nd orphanage as well.

"This was such an amazing experience to give to others what we take for granted" says Naya, who was 14 years old at the time, "after seeing such wide spread poverty I think more philanthropically when I travel."

For Lana, too, the event was very meaningful. "When I first arrived at the orphanage, I mostly felt uncomfortable. It is so hard to look square in the face of such disabling and intense poverty. Most people try to avoid the parts of life that make them uncomfortable, and there was no way I could ignore the conditions the orphans lived in, or how obscenely extravagant my life suddenly seemed in comparison. I was absolutely shocked at the living conditions. It was a rude awakening. The kitchen was literally a pot on a fire. The bathrooms were.... I have no words really."

"Knowing that I had an impact on the lives of others is such an amazing feeling, especially at the age of 17," says Lana. "It's empowering and humbling at the same time. A lot of people don't realize just how capable they are of making a positive change."

Since this first trip, other friends of the Olmers have gone to both orphanages. The Bashin-Sullivans went last Christmas with their two children. Before the trip, they organized a fund raising dinner for twenty people; and had talked to clients and collected \$2200 in donations. The money funded food, clothing and medicine for the orphanages.

"I was amazed how my children engaged with the Burmese kids, preparing food together, giggling and laughing," says the mother, "they were very phased to see how little these children had, all their possessions could fit in a small box." When they came back home, she remembers a comment from her 10-year-old daughter as she was making her bed with her mother, "I bet the kids in Burma would love to have a box spring bed like that." She had seen them sleeping on wooden platform with or without thin mattresses on top. "My daughter had seen their condition with her own eyes and realized the differences; something was registering there," concludes Bashin.

Olmer is aware of the possible perverse effects of charity: populations otherwise resourceful might become dependent. So, the "Ducks Project" was formed. Ducks feed on vermin that infest rice fields and provide very nutritious eggs. A flock could provide the orphanages with sustainable access to protein and a potential source of income.

The Olmers have entered an intensive phase of fund-raising to purchase the birds. The Orinda bookstore helped along the way. Those interested in contributing can come to the next fundraiser on Saturday May 10th, 2-4 pm, in a magnificent private garden in Moraga. There will be a lecture on orchid varieties and care, wine tasting and desserts. For more information contact the Olmers at 254-5439 or email [Xenija@aol.com](mailto:Xenija@aol.com).

Download "Your" story from [www.lamorindaweekly.com](http://www.lamorindaweekly.com)

## Kurt Piper presents ... Three New Lafayette Listings



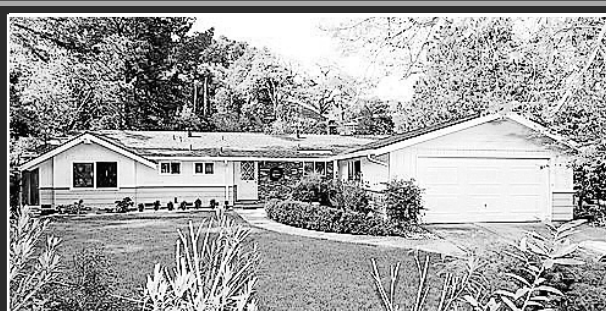
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357 Shire Oaks Court, Lafayette

- 3 bedrooms, 2 baths
  - Private .38 acre lot
  - Light and bright interior
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  - Recessed lighting
  - Remodeled pool
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## Town Hall Theater—A Secret No Longer

... continued from page 5

Still, Goodheart is excited about launching THT's first annual fundraising gala—Playing Favorites—to be held on April 26th at the Veterans Memorial Building in Lafayette. "It's going to be great party with great entertainment," she states enthusiastically. "The Gala is as much about raising awareness for Town Hall as it is about raising money," she adds.

Town Hall Theater recently completed renovations to the dressing rooms, office and lobby including a beautiful new bar. THT decided to tackle the renovations now because as Board member Janice Peacock explains, "The place did not reflect how we felt about it. Everyone who works at THT loves it. The place looked worn out." So, the ever resourceful

Peacock rolled up her bargain-shopper sleeves and got to work obtaining grants and donations and finding recycled furniture and Internet deals. Although the renovations continue to be a work-in-progress, the new carpet, paint, and furniture in the theater lobby give the area fresh, clean look.

Next up on stage at THT will be Baby, Be Mine a musical revue that Artistic Director Kevin Morales wrote in about eight hours. "I usually write quickly once I know what I'm going to write," says Morales confidently without a hint of self-importance. Morales, a Danville native, boasts a theater resume that defies his 31 young years. He made the move to THT when the theater was without

a Director and without a play. Overnight (literally) he wrote the musical Let's Go to the Movies, which went on to be one of THT's most successful productions.

Morales may be poised for a repeat performance with THT's final production of the season. The play tells the story of a young actress who invites a producer back to her home to pitch him the next great idea for a musical review. Intertwined with romance, parallel stories, and host of jazz standards from the thirties, Baby, Be Mine will include some of Morales' and THT audience-goers' favorite actors such as Sean Griffin and Meghann May. "We love it when Kevin writes a piece for us, and audiences do, too," says Erokam. "And this is a show not to miss."



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# Lamorinda's Religious Services

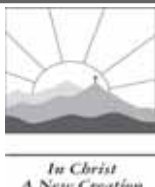


## Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church, Orinda, 254-3422

8:15 a.m. Traditions Worship Service  
 9:15 a.m. Coffee Fellowship  
 9:40 a.m. Education for all ages  
 10:45 a.m. Celebrations Worship Service  
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# Letters to the Editor



Share your thoughts with our community! Opinions in Letters to the Editor are the express views of the writers and not necessarily those of the Lamorinda Weekly. All published letters will include the writer's name and town (please give us your phone number for verification purposes only), and should be 350 words or less. Letters may be edited for length or legal considerations.

email: letters@lamorindaweekly.com; Regular mail: Lamorinda Weekly, P.O.Box 6133, Moraga, CA 94570

Dear Editor,  
 Linda Landau disagrees (Letter to the Editor, Lamorinda Weekly, April 2) with my opposition to Measure E, a ballot proposition which, if passed on June 3, will increase the property tax for the Orinda library by 44 percent. America is a free country, and I welcome Ms. Landau's comments.

In her letter, Ms. Landau states that the property tax "... is \$12 a year -- one dollar a month." The core issue concerning Measure E is whether a government-mandated price increase, like the proposed tax, is the best way to raise funds for the library.

If potatoes at my local grocery store go up in price by 44 percent, I can go to another store or not buy potatoes altogether. However, if the government mandates a price increase (such as by taxation), the price hike can be enforced by having the government confiscate the property of anyone who fails to pay the tax. Before voting to approve the library tax, Orinda residents should find out if the tax can be avoided by hiring a private company to run the library or by holding a voluntary fund-raiser.

Richard S. Colman  
 Orinda

To the Editor,  
 The proponents of the proposed Orinda Library Tax neglect to mention that Measure E has no ending date. This tax goes on in perpetuity. Because Measure E has no ending date, the voters' oversight authority is removed. Voters have no influence if this tax is misspent.

It is difficult enough to insure tax money is spent as the voters intend. Without an ending date, there is every opportunity for money to be spent forever as the politicians or administrators desire and not as voters intend. This tax should be renewed every 5 years so the voters have oversight. I will vote NO in June for this Orinda Bond Measure, which goes on forever because there is no ending date or voter oversight for this tax.

Bruce Nicolai  
 Orinda

## New Cell Phone Laws Shift Focus Back to Driving

... continued from page 1

"Texting has gotten really big lately, but it's a really stupid thing to do when you're driving," French said.

Exceptions to the law include those operating a commercial motor truck or truck tractor (including pickups), implements of husbandry, farm vehicle or tow truck, and using a two-way radio operate by a push-to-talk feature. You can also use a hand-held device to call for help in case of an emergency, but this is only for a legitimate emergency, noted French.

"It's not for when you are running late to pick someone up, or when you're trying to meet up with someone at the mall," he said. "Ideally, I hope people will pull over to a safe place to make calls."

Although drivers under 18 cannot use a hands-free device of any kind while driving, this is considered a secondary violation – while using a hand-held device is a

primary violation – and you will be cited only if you are pulled over for another violation.

"It will be up to the officer's discretion to enforce the law, but I will support them completely," French said.

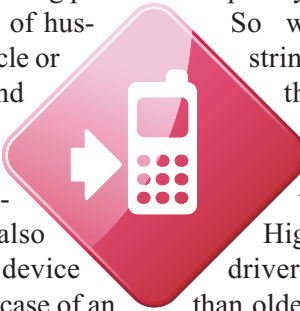
So why much more stringent laws for those under 18 years old?

According to the California Highway Patrol, teen drivers are more likely than older drivers to be involved in crashes because they "lack experience, tend to take greater risks, and are more vulnerable to driving distractions." This new law will help to eliminate one of the larger distractions.

In Lafayette City Manager Steve Falk's Friday Summary posted on April 4, Lafayette Police Chief Michael Hubbard explained it this way: "Have you ever been driving down the road and saw a car driving real slow or weaving back and forth and thought to yourself, 'There's a drunk driver,' only to find that the driver is talking on a cell phone. This is one of the very reasons for a new law restricting wireless telephone usage that will take effect in a few months."

"This is a good law," French added. "It will help us switch back to making driving a priority versus talking on the phone."

For more information about the wireless telephone laws, you can visit the California Department of Motor Vehicles Web site at <http://www.dmv.ca.gov/cellularphonelaws/>.



To the Editor:  
 The Orinda library is an incredible asset to our community and it needs our help. Orinda residents have access to an amazing collection of books, magazines, newspapers, the Internet and other media. Our library is a state of the art facility and a focal point of our community. It is a central gathering place where people meet and students study. The library is open until 8:00PM most nights and is open on Saturdays and Sundays. Nobody likes taxes but the proposed \$39 per year replaces the current \$27 per year tax. This increase of just \$1 per month is so insignificant that it becomes an easy decision. All Orinda citizens should support Measure E to help ensure appropriate use and operation of our beautiful library.

Glenn Alper MD, Orinda Union School District Board of Trustees  
 Orinda

Dear Editor,  
 It would be hard to match the benefits achieved through the library with any other benefits received through our tax dollars. The library is a public service that truly touches every facet of our community. As one individual with three children, I have utilized the library personally (or through my kids and husband) for children's programs, summer reading programs, travel plans, book club books, best sellers, research for elementary, middle, and high school projects, videos, books on tape, language learning, access to the internet, and a quiet place to study or write. To limit the hours of operation of the Orinda library would deny all of the above to some and much of the above to many.

Measure E would keep the library open 60 hours a week, making it accessible to working adults, children, and seniors alike. It may be true that for \$39, one might purchase two new books, but for that same cost per household, one could check out a limitless number of books and videos and do research and meditate in a sunny window seat. Now that is a deal! The library is the quintessence of life long learning that bars none. Support Measure E on the ballot in June to assure these services continue for all of our community.

Susan Forman  
 Orinda

## Symposium for Seniors

... continued from page 2

- Housing options for seniors, including affordable housing
- Aging in place and the choices elders can make in order to stay in their homes.
- Reverse mortgages and home equity conversions
- Transportation panel with representatives from Rides for Seniors, the Lamorinda Spirit Van, and the County Connection
- Volunteerism, the many benefits of giving as well as receiving.

"I'm excited about our being able to hold a forum in which Lafayette community members can learn, discuss, and participate in setting some priorities and direction in how Lafayette can better provide for its older adults," said McCahan.

In addition to all of this information and lunch, Mayor Mike Anderson will speak and entertainment will be provided by the Vagabond Players. Organizers have asked attendees to please RSVP so they have enough lunches and seating for all; in addition, rides are available via the Lamorinda Spirit Van. The number to call for both an RSVP and a ride, if needed, is Lafayette Senior

Services at 284-5050. The event runs from 9:30 until 3:00.

Duncan, a Board Member of the Lafayette Community Foundation wants to clarify that the invitation is open to everyone from church groups to service organizations and especially to individual seniors and their families. Organizers note that this is not a sales event, no one will be there to sell anything.

Sandra Smith, Lafayette Senior Services Commissioner notes, "It's going to be an interesting and wonderful day! But you must call to make a reservation as soon as possible because space is limited."

## Rotary Hosts Exchange Program

By Cathy Tyson



From left to right: Andri Ivondanjaniaina, Josee Rasamoelina, Gary Irwin (Moraga Rotary), Beatrice Randrianarison, Paul Fillingier (Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary), and Colin Barnard, (Moraga Rotary), pictured during a tour of Google. Two other visitors not pictured, Hari Mathur and Olivier Lebon

Recently a number of local Rotary Clubs hosted a group of five business people from Madagascar for a Group Study Exchange. The program is designed to develop leadership skills to prepare participants to address the needs of their com-

munities. A total of five adults were involved in this particular exchange, which started with Berkeley Rotary, then moved here for a joint effort by Lamorinda Sunrise, Moraga and San Ramon Rotary, then the visitors moved on to Brentwood Rotary and beyond. They will be in the U.S. for the better part of April.

Paul and Glenda Fillingier hosted Beatrice Randrianarison and Jose Rasamoelina, and along with other Rotarians acted as drivers, schedulers and tour guides for the intrepid travelers. "They were just delightful," notes Glenda Fillingier.

"This is just one of many of Rotary International's projects to build better understanding among the people of the world," said Paul Fillingier. He continues, "Group Study Exchange Teams come to learn more about other cultures and share business and professional information."

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# Life in LAMORINDA

## Earth Day In Lafayette: A Family Affair

By Sophie Braccini



Visitors at the 2007 Earth Day in Lafayette Photo courtesy of Sustainable Lafayette

The third annual Earth Day celebration in Lafayette will entice families to join in for fun and education. On Sunday, April 20th, the City of Lafayette and Sustainable Lafayette will host an Earth Day Festival at Stanley Middle School from 12-4pm. Located close to the bike trail, the celebration will offer activities for the K-12 crowd as well as information for adults.

Committee members Bart Carr and Steve Richard from Sustainable Lafayette, retired Acalanes environmental teacher Janet Thomas and Garden Coordinator at Burton Valley Kim Curiel await visitors with interactive and educational opportunities.

Earth Day in Lafayette is an offspring of the Lafayette Environmental Strategy that the town has been implementing for three years. Students from Acalanes were involved from the start, with then teacher Thomas, and did part of the research that gave birth to this initiative. "The City of Lafayette is offering as much

support as possible," says Ann Meredith, Lafayette Community Development Director, "but nothing can happen without our volunteers; Sustainable Lafayette and Janet Thomas have done a terrific job helping the city."

"Our target audience this year is families," explains Steve Richards, one of the founders of Sustainable Lafayette, along with Bart Carr. "We want the event to be fun and educational and we hope many people will come on their bikes."

One of the fun activities for children during the day will be the scavenger hunt organized by Thomas and Curiel. "We have designed a set of questions for the participants that are both fun and educational," explains Thomas. "The answers will have to be found at the participants' booths." Thomas believes that it is never too early to learn about celebrating and preserving our Earth. Most of the participants are contributing to the Hunt. "We've chosen twenty-five participants for their educational

potential," explains Richard. Among them are the Contra Costa Solid Waste Authority, Save Mt Diablo, Deerhill Ranch, Lafayette Library, AAA (commuting options), Parents for a Safer Environment and the Solar Oven Society.

The fair will be located in front of the middle-school, by the rocks in a nice shaded area. Environmental Clubs from Acalanes and Campolindo will be present. On the stage, the Acalanes Jazz Combo will provide entertainment. The school group recently won the AAA division at the Folsom Jazz Festival and won top honors at the Monterey Jazz Festival's NeXT Generation youth jazz combo competition on April 5th.

The Lafayette Green Awards will be on display at the City's table during the day. The Green Awards are a creation of the City Environmental Task force, which was endorsed by the City Council in October of 2007. The whole community came together for the nominations, residents, churches, students, teachers, proposed names of individuals, groups or businesses that have contributed to a greener Lafayette in 2007. There were twenty two nominations, and the ten winners in five categories will be recognized during Earth Day. The official certificates were given to the winners during the April 14th City Council meeting. "We are the first community to do this on this side of the tunnel," explains a proud Richard, "Lafayette is always ready to pioneer new, interesting ways of living."

### LAMORINDA EARTH DAY EVENTS

Come join the Friends of Orinda Creeks on April 19th for their annual Earth Day celebration at the downtown portion of San Pablo Creek behind 31 Orinda Way from 10:00am to 12:00. We will be removing trash, invasive weeds and planting native vegetation in its place as well as demonstrating acorn uses and identifying poison oak, invasive weeds and native plants. Bring boots and gloves; we'll supply refreshments and shovels. For further information, please contact Lesley Drummond at [lesleyd@zentner.com](mailto:lesleyd@zentner.com).

Saturday April 19th 9:00 am - 1:00 pm -Earth Day at Mount Diablo State Park led by Carl Nielson, State Park Officer; 925-837-6129; [cnielson@parks.ca.gov](mailto:cnielson@parks.ca.gov) Meet at Mitchell Canyon Staging area, south end of Mitchell Canyon Rd., Clayton. Volunteer to improve Mount Diablo State Park! Participate in a variety of fun and rewarding projects include native plant restoration, removal of alien plants, trail maintenance, split rail fence construction, and trash removal. Here is your chance to give back to the Mountain! Wear boots, hat and gloves. Pre-registration is required! No fees apply.

Explore our Lafayette Trails! Sat. April 19, the Lafayette Hiking Club will be leading six different hikes around Lamorinda ranging from easy to challenging and from one to six miles long; Lafayette Community Park trail to Briones or the Rim Trail. Leaders are members of the Trails Subcommittee of the Lafayette Parks, Trails and Recreation Commission. Questions? Email [LafayetteHiking@comcast.net](mailto:LafayetteHiking@comcast.net) or call the Lafayette Community Center at (925) 284-2232

Earth Day at Chabot! On Saturday, April 19, from 2-6pm, we'll have. Solar car building, worm compost exploration, water demos, and a redwood ecosystem discovery table are all part of the fun for kids. Activities are FREE with General Admission. Chabot Space Center, 10000 Skyline Blvd. just off Highway 13 in the Oakland hills. For more information, visit [www.chabotspace.org](http://www.chabotspace.org).

Recycle Your E-Waste. Items FREE to recycle include: TVs, Monitors, Laptops, Flat Screens, Cell Phones, and Ink Jet Cartridges. Other electronic items may have a small fee.

**Lafayette:** Sat & Sun, April 19th & 20th, from 10am-4pm The Lafayette United Methodist Church, 53 Lafayette Circle (in the back parking lot behind Chow restaurant.) This is a fundraiser to help the youth travel to Service Projects this summer in California and Arizona. Please call C&T Recycling, 925-640-8085 with any questions.

**Moraga:** Sat, April 19th from 9am-4pm Willow Spring Church, 189 School St. (close to Moraga Way.) This is a fundraiser for the Moraga Junior Women's Club

**Orinda:** Sat April 19th from 9am-3pm Orinda BART Station, 11 Camino Pablo. [ASLewasteddropoff.com](http://ASLewasteddropoff.com)

Lafayette Earth Day Festival - "A Family Affair" Lafayette will hold its third annual Earth Day Festival on Sunday, Apr. 20 from 12-4pm at Stanley Middle School. [www.sustainablelafayette.net/events/earthday/2008/](http://www.sustainablelafayette.net/events/earthday/2008/)

Celebrate the 7th Annual Wildlife Festival on Sunday, April 20th, 1-4pm at OUSD's Wagner Ranch Nature Area adjacent to Wagner Ranch Elementary, 350 Camino Pablo Road in Orinda. Enjoy learning the benefits of bats, in and outs of composting, connecting with our Creeks, reuse as art and more. Refreshments Provided

Earth Day is being celebrated at Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Drive, Lafayette on April 22 from 4 to 7 p.m. There will be a meditative walk on the Labyrinth; a series of non-denominational activities for all ages from Kindergarten through adults centered around the earth and our relationship to it. At 5 p.m. Dancer's Circle will present Alice Parker's choral work, Peace Invocation. Everyone is welcome. Free. For information call 925-283-8722.

"Pedal for the Planet" bike-to-school day on April 23 sponsored by Saint Mary's College students

## Growing Pains on the Recreation


### Scene in Moraga

... continued from page 3

Mayor Lynda Deschambault suggested the establishment of the business model for how the two Foundations (Parks and Rec. and Hacienda), staff, the Council and the Parks and Recreation Commission should work together, and not only on the concerts. All agreed that the old model had been outgrown and that new methods of communication and partnership had to be determined.

No worries for the 2008 concert series: Jay Ingram, Parks and Recreation Director, confirmed that all the contracts with the bands were either already filed or on their way. Harpham felt confident that the Foundation would find ways to organize and manage the concession stand. "We need new members," he added.

If you are interested in serving with one of the oldest community service organizations in town, go to <http://www.moragaparks.org/>



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# LAMORINDA Business



## Bikram Yoga Heats it Up

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Bikram Yoga studio in Orinda is re-opening with new owner Amy Lyall. Bikram Yoga is a Hatha Yoga practice that increases balance, strength and mental concentration. Each class is heated to 105 F with 50% humidity to increase muscle flexibility.

## Robert Jenson Salon

999 Oak Hill Road, Lafayette, 284-2860

Robert Jenson Salon Treats our Soldiers

The Stylists at Robert Jenson Salon invited a group of twenty active duty airmen and their spouses from Travis Air force Base for a Day of Beauty at the Robert Jenson Salon in Lafayette on March 28. These airmen include previously deployed soldiers and their spouses as well as a contingent of active duty airmen whose job it is to provide support for troops presently deployed in Iraq and airmen who will soon be going to Iraq.

“Our goal is strictly apolitical. We want each and every soldier who puts himself or herself in harms way, to know that we are very grateful for their service.”

## Open House For Commercial Condominium Project

533 Moraga Road, Moraga, CM Realty - Matt Hastings 627-4326, David Schmayr 627-4325

On April 9th CM Realty held an open house for potential buyers and brokers. The event was very successful according to Dave Schmayr, “We welcomed a mixed of brokers, professionals and members of the community,” he said. “They got an opportunity to see all the possible options for the professional suites.”

Each suite will be customized according to clients’ requirements. Not only the finishes but also the inside layout will be customized, since, for example, a medical office may have different requirements than a law practice. Two suites have already been sold and other potential buyers are entering negotiation.



Professional condominiums nearing completion on Moraga Road Photo Sophie Braccini

## News from the three Chambers of Commerce:

**Lafayette Chamber of Commerce, 100 Lafayette Circle, Lafayette**

[www.lafayettechamber.org](http://www.lafayettechamber.org):

- Friday, April 18th - Coffee with the Mayor - 8:00am - Chamber Office
- Wednesday, April 23rd - New Member Reception - 4:30 pm - El Charro Restaurant, 3339 Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- Thursday, April 24th: Business Issues/Government Affairs Committee Open Meeting, 8:00 am - Lafayette Chamber Conference Room.
- Tuesday, May 20th - 6th Annual "Taste of Lafayette." The Lafayette Chamber of Commerce and the Lafayette Community Foundation are once again teaming up for the "Taste of Lafayette" tour that lets participants sample the signature cuisine of Lafayette's finest eateries. 15-20 local restaurants and catering companies will participate. Proceeds from the event benefit the Lafayette Community Foundation and the Services and Programs of the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce. Tickets for the event will be available through the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce at [www.lafayettechamber.org](http://www.lafayettechamber.org) or call 284-7404. Register now! This event sells out.

## Moraga Chamber of Commerce

[www.moragachamber.org](http://www.moragachamber.org):

- Saturday, May 10th Moraga. Community Faire from 11-4 p.m with nearly 50 Moraga businesses, retail, home-based, and office-based businesses. The Faire will feature a stage with entertainment all along the day. Children’s activities will be offered throughout the day. A wine booth will permit sampling of local wines and Moraga restaurants will sell food. Local artists will present their latest creations. The Sustainable Living part of the Faire will feature vendors and services in the area of construction, energy and finance. The event is part of the Moraga Beautiful Week that the Town has sponsored for 25 years. At this time, the Chamber still needs additional volunteers to help set up the Faire. Please call Ellen at 376-7306 or email her at [elbeans@comcast.net](mailto:elbeans@comcast.net) with how you can help.
- Friday, May 16th 2:00PM, Terzetto’s, Road Closures Meeting. Come to brain storm ideas of what businesses can do to promote staying in Moraga during the summer and discovering how to Shop Moraga First. The reality is that traffic in and out of Moraga is going to be hampered throughout the summer. The business community has an opportunity to use this time to encourage Moraga residents to shop in Moraga. Please email Edy at [Edy321@comcast.net](mailto:Edy321@comcast.net) and let her know you will attend.

## Orinda Chamber of Commerce, 24 Orinda Way, Orinda

[www.orindachamber.org](http://www.orindachamber.org):

- Wednesday, April 23rd: Noon - 1:30 p.m. April Chamber & Rotary Club Luncheon Orinda Community Center, 28 Orinda Way. The cost is \$15.00 per person. Call 925-254-3909 for your reservation
- Saturday, May 3rd - Orinda Farmers' Market Opens, from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Located on Orinda Way in Orinda Village in front of Rite Aid and Community Park.
- Friday, May 16th - May Cal Shakes Festival Night from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Theater Square. The Orinda Chamber of Commerce and the City of Orinda celebrate the opening of the 2008 California Shakespeare Theater Season. The "Cal Shakes" plays represent everything fun and good about the East Bay arts scene. Come join the celebration, and pick up your new schedule for the 2008 performance schedules. Look for lots of fun, food and music.

If you have a business brief to share, please contact

Sophie Braccini at [sophie@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:sophie@lamorindaweekly.com)  
or contact

Lamorinda Weekly at 925-377-0977.



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## Theatre Square Presents: Parking Space Wars

By Sophie Braccini



Pati MacDonald, owner of Curves in Orinda Photo Sophie Braccini

Pati MacDonald is a fighter. The owner of Curves in Orinda’s Theatre Square has been battling for her business and her customers for more than two years now. So when Douglas Parking LLC started renting parking spaces below Theatre Square to BART commuters and she saw the first and second floor of the parking garage filled with cars not belonging to customers, she started a petition to amend the rules.

Theatre Square, despite its central location and esthetic appeal, is a challenging place to do business. Only recently, Nino’s Bay Restaurant, which was open for less than a year, had to close its doors. For Douglas Parking too, revenues do not seem to be enough

since they advertise rental of parking spaces to commuters. The idea of a covered parking space, for \$70 a month, only a ramp away from Bart is appealing.

“I have nothing against these people,” says MacDonald, “but they are not customers here, they are not good for business at the Square, they shouldn’t be allowed to use the premium first and second floor parking spaces.” Patty got alarmed when her clients complained about the issue. They do not like to be forced to the depths of the third level when they come to exercise. In fact, they all signed her petition.

Even if they didn’t respond to MacDonald directly, the management of Douglas Parking said

they took her letter seriously and decided to check the situation in the garage. All of the first floor is marked “Visitor Only,” but according to the guard on duty this is to prevent Square employees from taking the prime parking spaces. All other users can stay there for as long as they want. There are only 18 spots on the first floor that have a time restriction posted, either 1 or 3 hours. David Douglas said he went to the garage himself and asked the guard that the 18 spots be controlled by chalk marking. “When I went again to check the situation a second time,” says Douglas, “there were several open spots available in the time restricted area for Curves or other Theatre Square customers.” He does not see the need for further restriction.

“We want parking to be as convenient as possible for people who shop here, exercise here and eat here,” responds MacDonald. She acknowledges that there has been some improvement in the parking since the notices were posted but still complains that her clients too often have to park “in the bowels” of the parking structure. “It’s good that BART riders can get covered parking here,” she concludes, “but let’s reserve the premium parking for those who are spending their money here.”

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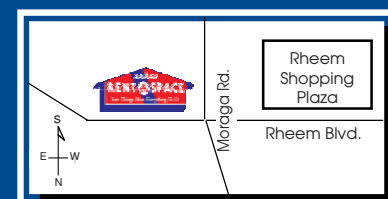
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# Lamorinda Schools

## EFO Celebration of the Arts 2008

By Andrea A. Firth



Grade schools students from OUSD perform at the EFO Arts Celebration

Photo A. Firth

Over 500 students, parents, faculty, and friends enjoyed an evening of art and entertainment at the Celebration of the Arts hosted by Education Foundation of Orinda (EFO) at Orinda Intermediate School (OIS) last week. Art in a variety of media was displayed in

the gym for viewing as the OIS Jazz Band played. Songbirds from all four of the District's elementary schools collaborated on a trio of tunes followed by the OIS String Orchestra who played music ranging from Vilvadi to the Beatles and topped off with a Russian Polka. The evening also included drama and public speaking demonstrations and performances by members of the Miramonte Choir.

Now in its 29th year, EFO has a long legacy of supporting arts within Orinda's school system. "The purpose of the event was to showcase the fabulous musical and artistic talents of our Orinda students. There are over 540 students involved in the various arts programs sponsored by EFO—a testament to our broad and successful commitment to education in Orinda," stated EFO President Janet Riley.

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## Body Image Issues in Young Children

By Margie Ryerson, MFT

I've just started seeing a child who, at age eight, is already struggling with feelings that she is fat. Actually, she is tall for her age and thin. "Molly" can recognize that on a rational level her feelings make no sense and are not in accordance with reality, but she still frequently thinks of herself as fat.

Part of my efforts with Molly involve working with her family to see how these feelings have evolved and what her parents can do to help her. This particular family seems to be doing everything correctly, but their daughter still developed this issue. Molly most likely adopted her fat feelings in response to her own issues of anxiety and insecurity. Body image disturbances can arise from a variety of factors, including family, societal, individual temperament, and psychological make-up. Therefore, if your child exhibits symptoms of a body image problem, it is important not to blame yourself as there are many possible explanations.

This type of problem surfaces most commonly in affluent, high-achieving communities where often people push themselves to do the best and to be the best they can. Some children, who may be temperamentally prone to perfectionism or feel that they

don't fit in, focus in on their perceived deficiencies. Finding fault with one's body is a way of externalizing inner dissatisfactions and insecurities. It is easier to "feel fat" in our society than to experience uncomfortable and negative internal feelings and try to deal with them.

Years ago I worked with another local eight-year old who also felt fat despite being a normal weight. "Ryan" had poor social skills and was usually ignored by his peers. He put all of his energies into his schoolwork and felt compelled to stand out in this way. Ryan told me that he needed to work hard so he could get into Stanford. Unfortunately, Ryan's parents had given him this message, and he was only a third-grader! With so many conflicting and uneasy feelings floating around inside of him, Ryan expressed them in the form of feeling fat. In this way, he had a focal point for his anxieties.

Body image issues can lead to serious symptomatic behavior if they are not addressed early enough. Children and teens can develop eating disorders and other compulsive behavior such as over-exercising, cutting, and drug and alcohol abuse.

Children who are overweight usually have poor body

images too, but their perception is based on reality and is not distorted like Molly's and Ryan's. In a future column, we will look at ideas for helping children who have an actual weight problem.

What can parents do to help? If your child expresses unwarranted negative attitudes toward her body, try to explore these feelings with her in a deeper way. Find out all you can about what is going on for her in all areas of her life and try to get at the root of her dissatisfactions or anxieties. If you make no headway, contact a professional who can help before the problem grows in intensity.

In the next Family Focus columns we will discuss ways to help children develop a healthy body image. My book, *Appetite for Life: Inspiring Stories of Recovery from Anorexia, Bulimia, and Compulsive Overeating*, also addresses this issue and is available on www.amazon.com if you are interested in learning more.

*Margie Ryerson, MFT, is a marriage and family therapist with offices in Orinda and Walnut Creek. Contact her at 925-376-9323 or www.margieryserson.com*

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**Wagner Ranch Elementary**  
and  
**Glorietta Elementary,**  
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## ACSA Awards go to many in Lamorinda Schools

By Andrea A. Firth

The Association of California School Administrators (ACSA) in Region 6, which includes schools in Contra Costa and Alameda counties, recently recognized the exceptional work and volunteer efforts of several employees and parents involved with the Lamorinda schools.

The Friends of Education Award was given to eight parents from Orinda who were the driving force behind the move toward more healthy food choices on the lunch menus at the schools in the Orinda Union School District (OUSD). Known by some as the Orinda Lunch Program Pioneers, these individuals, who represent each of the five schools in the OUSD, direct and work along side hundreds of parent volunteers to provide tasty, healthy lunch options to Orinda students each day.

Three school administrators from the Acalanes Union High School District (AUHSD) received awards for their exceptional work: Cheryl Hazell-Small, Director of Special Services; Jim Negri, Superintendent; and John Stockton, Associate Superintendent. Ms. Hazell-Small was recognized for the positive change she has affected in special education services and for her role as a teacher and mentor to staff in this area. Along with the strong leadership he has shown with the District's strategic planning program and Healthy Choices initiatives, Jim Negri was also recognized for the many partnerships that he has created with students, staff, parents, and members of the community. And John Stockton; described by his boss, Jim Negri, as his "go to person" on any

ACSA Awards, Region 6, 2007-2008 Lamorinda Recipients	
<b>Classified Employee</b>	
Robin Bradley	Del Rey Elementary
<b>Teachers</b>	
Molly Henrikson	Campolindo High School
Jan Howard	Wagner Ranch Elementary
<b>Administrators</b>	
Jerry Bucci	Director, Business Services AUHSD
Cheryl Hazell-Small	Director, Special Services AUHSD
Jim Negri	Superintendent AUHSD
John Stockton	Associate Superintendent AUHS
<b>Friends of Education</b>	
<i>Orinda Lunch Program Pioneers</i>	
Robin Bradley	Del Ray Elementary
Sandy Breber	Orinda Intermediate School
Liz Haughey	Wagner Ranch Elementary
Linda Judkins	Orinda Intermediate School
Michele Lehman	Sleepy Hollow Elementary
Beth Marks	Del Rey Elementary
Lori Strand	Glorietta Elementary
Jennifer Vigo	Wagner Ranch Elementary

issue, was lauded for his leadership in the areas of strategic planning, professional development, and teacher negotiations. In addition, Jerry Bucci, Director of Business Services at OUSD, also received an Administrator's Award. He was singled out for the highly effective job he does in communicating the fiscal picture of the District to the Governing Board, staff, and stakeholders.

ACSA Teacher Awards were given to Molly Henrikson of Campolindo High School and Jan Howard from Wagner Ranch Elementary School. Currently teaching Advanced Placement European History and Advanced Placement Psychology, Ms. Henrikson was recognized for her professional and hard working approach to teaching, which is complemented by her ability to serve as a friend and mentor to

many students. Ms. Howard, a 4th and 5th grade teacher for the past 15 years, was described as a teacher who stimulates a child's desire to do his or her best work. "Jan builds relationships with children in such a way that they believe they are capable of succeeding at anything," explains Wagner Ranch Principal Janis Americh.

In addition, Robin Bradley, an employee at Del Rey School in Orinda, was awarded the ACSA Classified Employee Award for the region. As a member of the front office staff at Del Rey, Robin Bradley is the face to the world both inside and outside of the school—a role she fills with a professional manner and a lot of heart. "I can honestly say that she makes a positive impact on everything she touches," notes Del Rey Principal Kirsten Theurer, "and she touches a lot."

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# Lamorinda Schools

## Lafayette's Teacher of the Year

By Cathy Tyson



Erin Caldwell, Lafayette's Teacher of the Year Photo Cathy Tyson

Erin Caldwell, an energetic Special Education teacher at Springhill Elementary School is the Lafayette School District's Teacher of the Year nominee. She was nominated by school administrators, but had to prepare all of the required paperwork to be included in the county-wide competition. This included answering several essay questions and getting letters of recommendation from members of the community. One of those letters summarized especially well just what Caldwell does for her students. Jocelyn Schneider Dunbar writes, "Under the wise and humble tutelage of Erin Caldwell, our son learned to love to read, do math, adore history, spell phonetically, study in groups and make friends again. It is in 'Downtown' (her classroom) under the kind and loving guidance of Erin Caldwell where he learned that having spe-

cial needs wasn't 'special' at all. He learned to be independent, respect others, cooperate on the playground and grew to understand what it means to be truly loved and adored by a teacher. She is a woman who inspires our special children to do extraordinary things." Caldwell graduated from UC Berkeley and went right to San Francisco State to get her Teaching Credential. "I was a psychology major, so I got this interview (and ultimately a job) working at a day treatment center, with therapists, psychologists and social workers. I thought this is right up my alley and I get to teach at the same time! I was completely unqualified, but they ended up paying for me to go back and get my Special Ed Credential." It's been a whirlwind for her ever since: "I finished my cre-

dential, got married in August and began teaching that fall." Two years later she had her first son, two years after that second son was born, both births were in the fall and she came back at Christmas break. A few years later, a daughter joined the family.

After spending the first five years of her career at a private school, the next seven at a public school in the Mt. Diablo school district, a position became available at Springhill. Coincidentally her youngest was starting kindergarten there that year. "It was the first time all my kids were in the same school and I was with them. That was nine years ago."

"I love my class. Each child brings something different and unique to the group. We laugh a lot. I truly believe that learning should be fun, even if it isn't easy for you to learn. I like to make up games to help the children learn the curriculum. When they master a concept, it is such a source of joy for me," Caldwell says reflecting on the best part of her job. She teaches kids who are chronologically in the 4th and 5th grades, but not cognitively in the 4th and 5th grades.

Caldwell would like to thank her Principal, Bruce Wodhams, "He's been so supportive, letting me do whatever I feel is necessary and in the best interest of my class. We are our own world in 'Downtown,' and he understands and supports us. There is a level of mutual respect and trust between the administration and me."

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## Going, Going, Gone

By Cathy Tyson



Gary Radnich will entertain at the Campolindo Auction

Campolindo parents will soon be attempting to outbid each other for the highly coveted, close to classrooms, assigned parking spot, just one of a number of unique auction items that sports teams and the school has donated to raise money at the upcoming Sports Booster Auction.

On Saturday, April 12 a sell-out crowd of Campolindo parents will gather at the Lafayette Community Center, where special guest Gary Radnich, KRON-TV Sports Director and KNBR radio host will entertain, and Mike Zampa, columnist for the Contra Costa Times will be the master of ceremonies. Items up for auction

include a Pixar Animation Studios tour, a tour of the under-construction Bay Bridge, four passes to the A T & T Pro-Am at Pebble Beach, themed baskets from all of the sports teams, fine wine, jewelry, and lots of baseball tickets.

Last year the event raised approximately \$25,000. Payments made for auction items are tax deductible, so parent purchasers are able to support the school's sports programs while getting something in return.

"The majority of the money raised goes to pay for the Athletic Trainer, who works

with all the teams. In addition, some of the money goes toward multi-year, multi-use items, for example the new scoreboard in the gym which can be used for basketball and volleyball," said President of the Sports Boosters, Craig Isaacs. He continues, "Bring your checkbook!"

The parking spot, located in the senior-only parking area, "is pretty cool, especially for a junior," said Cole Martin, whose generous parents bought the spot last year. Sleeping just a little bit later, and not having to walk so far, priceless.

## Wheel Day Rolls Back to LOPC

By Bobbie Dodson



A boy enjoys a truck at last year's Wheel Day

Photo provided by LOPC

What kid wouldn't love to sit on a real motorcycle or climb inside a fire truck, ambulance or garbage truck? Bring your children to the twelfth annual Wheel Day, Saturday April 26, from 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon, at the Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church (LOPC) where they'll have the opportunity to get up close, to view, honk or clamber on many kinds of wheeled vehicles. The event, free and open to the entire community, is sponsored by Seedlings Pre-

school, which meets at LOPC. This year there's an added element that can make it a meaningful time for youngsters. The Mission in Society (MIS) team at LOPC joins in the event with Kids Helping Kids, to raise awareness of how much the children of our community have compared to children living in poverty who might reside in a community near us, or in far away country like Zimbabwe. Families can enjoy a pancake breakfast hosted by the

Monument Crisis Center team and learn more about the realities and needs in Concord. Following the breakfast, kids and parents will assemble care kits with items such as toothbrushes, soap, and nutrition bars for the Mother of Peace Orphanage in Zimbabwe that a group of the LOPC MIS team visited recently. Members of the LOPC Youth Group will help younger children with the activities, including art projects to accompany the care kits. For this part of the day,

the suggested donation will be \$10 per person or \$25 per family. Every dollar received will go directly to the Monument Crisis Center and Mother of Peace Orphanage.

The Mission in Society team has another goal, that of including families from beyond the existing LOPC church community. "It's an opportunity for us to come together to help those who are needy. Actions speak louder than words. Packing the care kits is a real hands-on experience for our children," says John Weems, associate pastor at LOPC. "They'll see pictures of the Zimbabwe orphans, learn about their living conditions, and then have a way of showing they care. I think this is an important addition to the fun that Wheel Day has provided our children for many years."

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# Lamorinda Schools

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## LASF Rube Goldberg Culminates in Energetic Evening

By Barbara Millman Cole, LASF Media Liaison

The Lafayette Arts & Science Foundation sponsored Rube Goldberg competition is based on the college level, National Rube Goldberg Contest and scaled back for Stanley Middle School science enthusiasts by Lead Science teacher Mike Meneghetti.

Sixteen teams participated in this year's Build a Burger theme. They spent months working on their ideas and perfecting their machines before the final competition that was held on March 27th.

Brothers Scott and Andrew Bertics took first place.

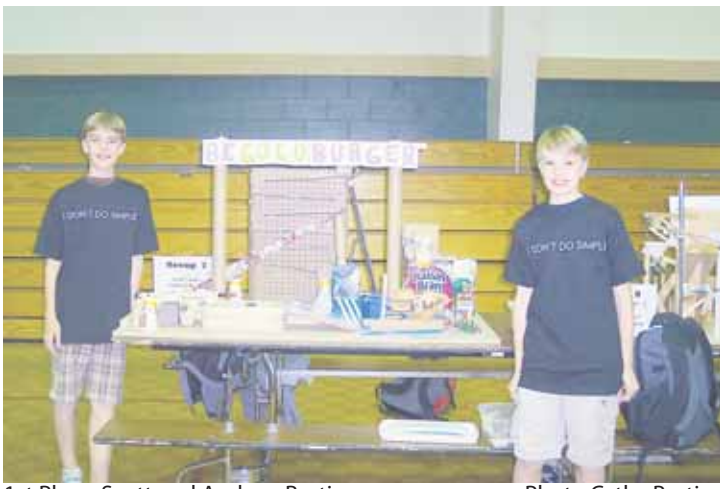
"We wanted to make an anagram for Rube Goldberg, so we named it Be Goldburger," said eighth grader Scott Bertics. Incorporating simultaneous ingenious energy transfers (steps), they used a catapult, funnel, ramps, rubber band gun, two pound weight and balance to get the burger on the bun and turn it gold with glitter.

Cody Gibb, Tommy Holmes and Luke Johnston took second for Fast Food Feeding Frenzy. They incorporated an electrical circuit that burned through steel wool causing the burger, securely taped to the spatula so it wouldn't exit the space, to flip onto the bun.

Jack Peterson and Spenser Tejada placed third. They programmed a robot to wait 21 seconds before moving its robotic arm to slow down the steps and win more points.

Tyler Sorensen, Nicolette Sorensen and Joshua Lee took Honorable Mention using a zip line and series of teeter totters to get their burger on the bun.

Daniel Escobar, Patrick Espe, Andrew Langley and Marcus van Duren spent hours packing as many ingenious energy transfers as they could into the specified space. They managed 23 steps, but spent so much time explaining how their machine worked that time ran out. Un-



1st Place, Scott and Andrew Bertics Photo Cathy Bertics



2nd Place, (L-R) Tommy Holmes, Cody Gibb and Luke Johnston Photo Charlotte Gibb



3rd Place, Jack Peterson (left) and Spenser Tejada Photo Cathy Bertics

daunted, they proudly ran the contraption twice, even though they knew they wouldn't win. At one point, everyone waited in anticipation as their one minute timer ticked. Applause rang out and the boys basked in triumph when the machine continued and completed the task.

"No more Factory Farms,"

read a sign attached to Just for You machine created by Julia Curiel, Grace Linderholm and Antonia Yu. Their theme was a protest against fast food with construction paper flames rimming the machine and photos of crowded cow barns and chicken coops.

Savannah Lane and Melissa Emerson were the only contestants to use a chemical reaction, dropping Mentos into soda to inflate a balloon.

LASF volunteer science coordinator Mary Ilyin said, "The best part was how excited the kids were to set up quickly so they could inspect each other's machines. It was great to watch them be amazed by their fellow contestants' ingenuity."

## Youth Ink Winners Announced

The Orinda Junior Women's Club (OJWC) is pleased to announce the winners of Youth Ink, an annual creative writing contest open to all sixth-, seventh- and eighth-grade students who live or attend school in Orinda. The 2008 Youth Ink winners are:

### First Place of \$250:

**Lauren Dahlberg-Seeth, OIS, Grade 8, for "The Walls Are Mine"**

### Second Place of \$125:

**Tamar McCollom, OIS, Grade 8, for "The Importance in Insignificance"**

### Third Place of \$75:

**Hanne Andersen, Julia Morgan School for Girls, Grade 8, for "My Favorite Place"**

**Honorable Mentions (and \$25 gift certificate from The Storyteller) go to Miriam Griswold, Allison Light, Margot Mai, Marina Mai, Lillian Malmberg, Evan McAvenia, Kelly Noah, Sarah Sachs, Ashley See and Michelle Wu.**

Youth Ink received almost 60 submissions that were each read and critiqued by an esteemed panel of local professional writers comprised of Melissa Manlove, Scott Ostler, Yvonne Prinz and Ginger Wadsworth.

"This year's Youth Ink entries had distinctive voices and celebrated youth, protested the encroachment of suburbia on nature, articulated fear and loss of a loved one, and celebrated the safety and realness of family life in contrast to the

social pressures at school," said Maureen Brown, president of the Orinda Junior Women's Club. "We are pleased Youth Ink was the catalyst for these talented young writers to share their thoughts."

Youth Ink winners will be honored at an awards ceremony and reading at the Orinda Library Auditorium on Wednesday, April 16, at 6:30 p.m. The public is welcome to attend!

Generous co-sponsors of Youth Ink, including The City

of Orinda, Friends of the Orinda Library, The Storyteller, Denning & Company, Dragonfly Studio, and Ig & Martha Vega and Clark Thompson of Village Associates, made the contest possible. The Orinda Junior Women's Club welcomes additional sponsorships to ensure continued success.

If you are interested in becoming an OJWC member, please email Diane Eames at [diane\\_eames@hotmail.com](mailto:diane_eames@hotmail.com)

## What Did You Do Over Spring Break?

This is what we did...



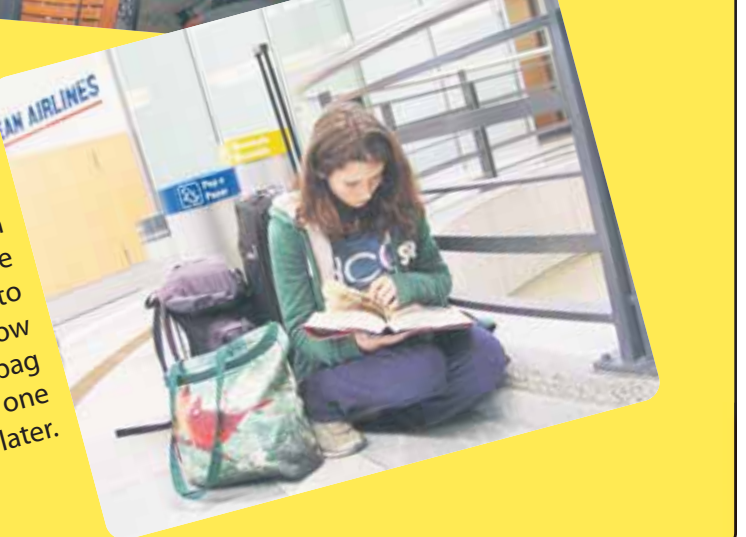
A tired Ben Tyson, coming in for a landing at Cabo San Lucas. Photo by reporter/mom Cathy Tyson.



Sophie reading her favorite newspaper in the snow in Yosemite



"Breast Cancer Boot Camp Cruise to Cabo San Lucas." (More than 100 women gathered for the cruise.)



Amanda waits in Stuttgart for the rescheduled flight to London Heathrow Terminal 5. Her bag arrives at home one week later.

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## DIGGING DEEP -Gardening with Kids

By Cynthia Brian

The Ultimate Mom Gardener (©2008 Starstyle® LLC)

“Nothing is more completely the child of art than a garden.” Sir Walter Scott

Have you ever wanted a sure-fire, stress-free way to enjoy quality time with your children while encouraging them to eat their vegetables? Try gardening!

When I was a little girl growing up on our farm in Napa Valley, my parents wisely gave each of their five children a plot of land of our very own. We were allowed to grow anything we wanted in that space. We could leave it full of weeds, grow flowers, vegetables, cactus or palm trees. What mattered was that we were being given the responsibility to care for a portion of the ranch. We dug in with a passion, following the examples of our parents. Decades later, we are reaping the benefits.

Children are so overscheduled in today's high pressure world that a recent guest on my radio show, Richard Louv, author of Last Child in the Woods says that kids are suffering from “nature deficit disorder”. I agree that we are so plugged in we have forgotten how invigorating it is to hunt for bugs and discover the natural world. By letting kids play in the dirt and grow plants that are safe and fun, we encourage the next generation of stewards of our earth.

Gardening develops excellent eating habits when kids get to eat what they grow. Kids are often surprised to learn that strawberries don't grow in plastic baskets, and that cucumbers are not wrapped in plastic wrap. My son, Justin, experimented with growing a “pizza” garden. He planted all the vegetables that a child could put on a pizza—onions, tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, corn, even spinach. His sister, Heather, planted a wagon filled with herbs like oregano, basil, chives, sweet marjoram, parsley, and thyme as ingredients for the sauce. I was a hero for providing the crust, cheese, and meats. The kids loved this “home grown meal”. Gardening and eating are a family affair. Try it with your own children and don't be surprised when they ask for seconds!

What lessons do children



learn in the garden?

Gardening teaches patience. There is no fast food in the garden, everything takes time to grow and develop. We plant seeds in May that we harvest in August. Mother Nature will not be rushed.

Gardening initiates tolerance. We must endure the “barbs” of life to enjoy the beauty of the day. The delicious blackberries we add to our cereal and the perfumed roses that grace our nightstands have sharp thorns that can hurt us if we are not cautious when handling them. Yet, who amongst us would choose a life without these treats?

Gardening inspires faith. One of my students shared her story of tending a “pretend” garden in pre-school. Every day she watered a crack in the concrete believing she would grow flowers. After weeks of waiting, one day, sprouting from a break in the cement a dandelion emerged in full bloom. Her concrete garden became her symbol of possibility instead of unrealizable dreams.

Gardening instills hope.

There is no failure in the garden...only fertilizer. Create a compost pile to improve the soil and the planet.. A child's life is like a garden. Bumps and bruises predict strength and resiliency in the seasons to come.

Gardening with your children develops strong bonds with one another and with our world. Caring and maintaining living plants teaches stewardship and management skills while developing solid work ethics. Children learn that plants, like people, need food, water, love, and protection from predators on a daily basis to survive. Whether you choose a plot or a pot, select seeds together to discover the age-old truth that “we reap what we sow.” When you plant radishes you don't harvest carrots! Speaking of radishes and carrots, these plants along with zinnias, marigolds, and beans are some of the easiest seeds for children to plant. A couple of rows will have your children begging to care for the vegetable and flower

garden because they grow so rapidly.

Life can be learned in the garden. Children will experience the cycle of living from the new birth of spring to the death tolls of winter. And best of all, you can experience it with them and together reap the bounty from the luscious fruits of the vine. The garden is ripe with miracles and memories!

### PLANTING A “PIZZA GARDEN” OR “PIZZA POT”:

Great for ages 5-18!

“He who wants to eat a good supper should eat a weed of every kind.” Italian proverb

April is Children and Nature Awareness month so get the family into the fun by planning for a pizza party that you grow yourselves!

Choose a sunny 3' x 3' plot of land, or if you don't have a garden, try planting in a large clay pot. Plant a bush tomato, sweet green pepper, onions, oregano, chives, basil, and parsley. Water as needed which may mean daily in midsummer. To test soil for dryness, poke a pencil into the soil. If it feels dry to a depth of two inches, it is time to water. Fertilize every two to three weeks or add time-release plant food. Food is especially important when plants such as tomatoes and peppers begin to flower. Experiment and enjoy! Remember there are no failures in the garden.

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### Cynthia's Digging Deep Garden Guide for April

The warm sunshine and mild weather delight gardeners this month. We contemplate our summer needs by designing the type of garden for summer display and fresh vegetables. Easter lilies that are given as gifts now will be planted outside towards the end of this month. Don't be discouraged by the unexpected showers...remember they bring May flowers!

- **INTRUDERS** such as snails and slugs are on the attack with this milder weather. Use beer, copper barriers or pick them off by hand on night raids. Hose off the aphids and put paper-cups around transplants to discourage cutworms.
- **LAWNS** that are tired and old need to be re-seeded. This is also a great time to plant ground covers. Be cautious which type you plant—some can take over an entire garden in a short time.
- **FERTILIZE** fall-planted bushes, citrus, roses, lawns and ground covers. Feed your rhododendrons now and again after blooming in May. Annual beds require monthly fertilizing.
- **CUTTINGS** can be taken from geraniums, carnations, fuchsias and many succulents. Seeds of your favorite flowers can be planted safely now, too.
- **VEGETABLES** of eggplant, tomatoes, parsley, beets, corn, chard, string beans can be sown in the rich beds you made last month. Your children can add a creative scarecrow to keep the birds at bay!
- **SUMMER** annuals are well stocked in the nurseries. The soil is ready and the weather is perfect for planting.
- **COMPOSTING** is still important. Keep adding to your pile, turning, and watering for rapid processing. Kitchen scraps are good for composting.
- **PLANT** frost tender plants such as bougainvillea, hibiscus and citrus as the weather warms.

## Stop Signs Replace Bump

... continued from page 3

Camino Pablo is classified as an “urban arterial,” which cannot have speed limits below 35 mph. Others streets such as Donald Dr. have the same status in the Town, probably the result of administrative decisions that were made even before its incorporation. The first step requires the reclassification of that street as an “urban collector,” which would allow the Town to seek a permanent 25mph limit. Mercurio will engage in that process, which will take a few months.

The last part of the project is the raised crosswalk in front of JM. Councilmember Mike Metcalf was of the opinion to have the Traffic Safety Advisory Committee (TSAC) re-evaluate the whole traffic impact on adjacent routes such as Larch and Rimer. “This is a whole system,” said Metcalf, “and it should be studied as such.”

New TSAC Chair, Barbara Simpson, didn't agree, “We will study issues as they come up,” she said, “let's implement the stop signs for safety reasons and if there

are impacts on neighboring streets we will address it in good time.”

This opinion prevailed and the Council instructed staff to have the traffic engineer present its report studying alternatives for traffic calming around JM, including possible stop signs at Dickenson and Camino Pablo, “where,” according to Councilmember Bird, who is the only one on the Council with a child enrolled at CP, “many children cross the road as well.” The issue should come back to the Council on May 28th.



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# LAMORINDA'S GARDEN TOURS 2008

## Invitation: Open Gardens

By Suzan Ormandy

Whether looking for ideas on how to solve that problem slope on your property or simply curious to see some especially lovely gardens in our area, three upcoming garden tours won't disappoint. Of quite different natures, so to speak, the six-garden Moraga Junior Women's Club Through the Garden Gate on Saturday, May 3, the sixty-garden (yes, sixty) Bringing Back the Natives on Sunday, May 4, and the Lafayette Garden Club's six-garden Gardens for Gardeners, Thursday, May 8th, offer both serious and casual gardeners an array of beautiful and practical ideas.

In its fifth year, the self-guided Garden Gate focuses on gardens with unique and creative features such as outdoor kitchens, unusual play areas and even a small vineyard. It also seeks to offer guests a wide range of settings, from spectacular estates to a sprawling Sanders Ranch hillside house to simpler ranches.

The Hollerbach hilltop Orinda garden, designed by the renowned Bob Clark, is an example of the sublime end. Guests approach the new brick Tudor house via a circular coach drive with central fountain. Secluded under a canopy of live oaks, we're drawn to the main rear garden along a curving path bordered by eye-level terraced beds of mostly white and often fragrant flowers and shrubs: dainty campanula spill out from under daphne, sarcococca and choisya. After passing the fairytale-like octagonal pool house, we're rewarded with a drop-dead view of the Orinda and Oakland hills. Fairly formal in design, a semi-circle of lawn and play area create a warm, kid-friendly feeling while the jasmine-draped pergolas around the pool continue to add more grace and elegance.

You can experience this and five other gardens by purchasing \$30 tickets at McDonnell Nursery (Orinda), Orchard (Lafayette) and Across the Way (Moraga). A catered, pre-ordered box lunch provided by Whole Foods is available for pick up at Moraga Commons that day.

With more than 600 attendees last year, the Moraga Juniors should easily meet their donation goal of \$30,000. This year, two family-oriented charities, The Lamorinda Senior Transportation Program and the Contra Costa County-based We Care Services for Children, will receive all proceeds -- yet another reason not to miss going Through the Garden Gate on May 3. [www.throughthegardengate.org]

The Gardens for Gardeners Tour is the first public tour to be offered by the Lafayette Garden Club. The featured gardens are not those of Club members but of green-thumbed homeowners who simply love spending time in the garden, and their accomplishments are extraordinary.

The majestic oaks lining the front of Sandra Oneal's home are only camouflage for the display of over one hundred roses awaiting you in her sun-filled garden. Follow the gravel paths she placed herself to the raised flower beds that hold hundreds of tulips every spring and will be filled with summer vegetables shortly. Every plant and wheelbarrow of compost was lovingly dug by Oneal over the past five years. Her delight in gardening and strict "do it yourself" approach are an inspiration to all gardeners (and an alternative to the gym).

You may also visit a suburban farm and discover a diverse habitat of wildlife that mingles with native plants in a creek side garden. Whimsical sculptures peek around corners including grazing sheep in the front red fescue lawn. Plant propagation goes on year round in the greenhouse -- the homeowners spe-

cialize in California native specimens.

Gardens for Gardeners can be toured on Thursday, May 8, from 10:00a.m.-3:30p.m. Garden Club members will be on site demonstrating plant care, propagation techniques and designing garden art. Members' favorite plants will be available for purchase. Proceeds will benefit local school garden programs.

Tickets are \$25 and are available at Mt Diablo Nursery, Queen Bee Gifts, or by return mail: Diane Sasser, 16 Warwick CT Lafayette, CA 94549. Please make your check payable to the Lafayette Garden Club. Day of tour tickets will be available at St. Perpetua Children's Garden.

Truly a labor of love for its organizer, Bringing Back The Natives might be the most extensive garden tour in the world. Kathy Kramer, an award-winning environmental activist, has dedicated a large part of the last four years to organizing these annual, free native-gardens tours. Her passion for a safe and natural habitat for creatures large and small is our great fortune. It results this year in not only a 60-garden self-guided tour but also:

- An astounding website whose wealth of information and spectacular photos will bring any nature lover to tears. (Warning: if you visit www.bringingbackthenatives.net, you will have no choice on how to spend Sun., May 4)
- Several exclusive, personal \$30 "select" tours through April and May
- A native plant sale 'extravaganza' at several nurseries, many not normally open to the public, on the tour weekend
- 50 educational talks throughout the day
- Carpooling and a gardener match service
- Healthy and reasonable lunches provided [while supplies last] at fresco in Alameda by Nursery Marketplace and the Alameda Butterfly Habitat

California native plants -- because they are adapted to local soils and climate -- thrive without additives and offer incomparable habitat to wildlife. Despite stereotypes of dry Mediterranean gardens, they are often very beautiful and interesting.

Many of the gardens on this impressive tour are rich in natives if not unique in other respects:

- The 50-year-old Fleming garden in Berkeley has over 200 native species with a spectacular Bay view as well. The gardener will be available all day to field questions.
- Gail Giffen's sculpture-rich enclave in Lafayette featured in many gardening magazines, exhibits "how architecture and nature can work in harmony" and includes a talk on "Sudden Oak Death" at noon
- Five words about the Butt's garden in Pt. Richmond: prairie slopes, fruits, butterflies and bees
- Al Kyte's 8500-square foot Lafayette garden combines his passion for natives and fly fishing: there's a straight but discreet line among the shrubs for him to practice casting!

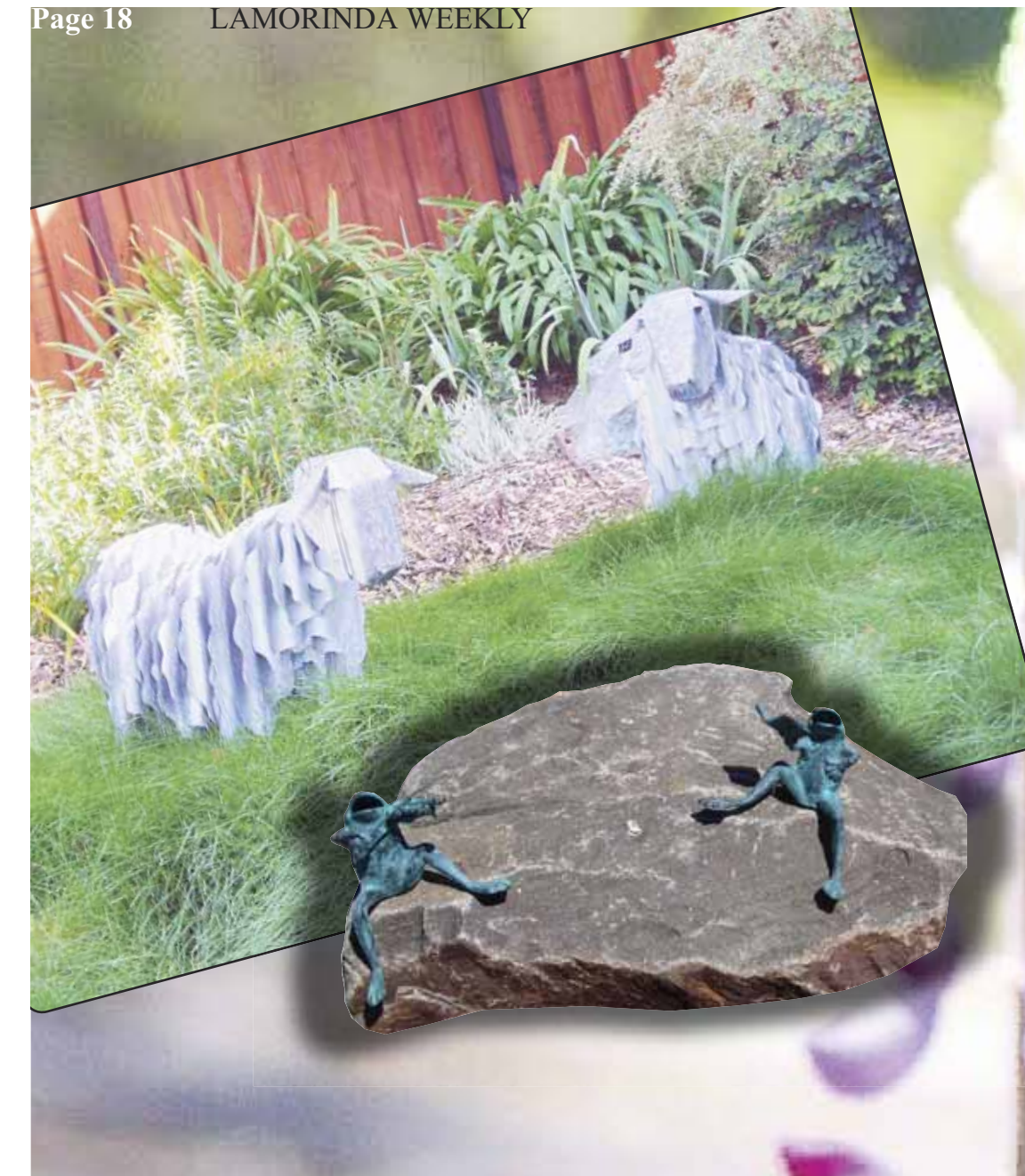
Please note that volunteers are still needed should you want this opportunity to further inform yourself as well as others.

The online registration deadline for the tour itself is April 27. This is a deadline that you don't want to miss. [see www.bringingbackthenatives.net for an amazing tour in itself and for specifics]

Lee Borrowman contributed to this article.

### Not to be missed

- The Importance of Honeybees in your Garden April 26 10:30am. Instructor: Judy Casale, Dominique Honeybees 3295 Mt. Diablo Blvd Mt.Diablo Nursery & Garden Lafayette, 925-283-3830.
- Lafayette Garden Club meeting May 8th, 9:30am. Our Savior Lutheran Church, 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette. Visitors welcome.
- Moraga Garden Club Meeting, April 17, 2008, 9:30 a.m., Holy Trinity Cultural Center, 1700 School St., Moraga. Moraga Garden Club "Bouquets to the Arts!" This is a special Floral Design Demonstration done by our own talented members. For information call Mardi Potts, 376-2004.
- Gourmet Bike Tour of Two Spectacular Gardens (Walnut Creek and Lafayette) Sunday, April 27, 2008; 9:30 - 3:30 Fee\$50 www.bringingbackthenatives.net (510) 236-9558
- 3rd Annual Spring Plant Sale, the Bret C. Harte Young Directors Fund will hold its annual plant sale on Saturday, May 3, 9 am to 3 pm at 73 Coral Drive in Orinda. There are plants for everyone: beautiful landscape plants, vegetable and tomato plants ready for your garden, exotic and easy to care for succulents, flowering plants for pots and borders and many more. All proceeds go to fund Berkeley Repertory Theatre's artistic internship. For more info please go to www.BretCHarte-Fund.org.
- A Science Café-Mt. Diablo Wildflowers. Come and enjoy an armchair tour of lovely Mount Diablo photos with expert Yulan Tong. Thursday, May 15 at 6:30 p.m., Shelby's Restaurant. This event is free and you can order dinner, salad, dessert, coffee or wine to eat during the talk. So come early 2 Theatre Square Orinda, All are invited and welcome! Presented by Women Chemists Committee and American Chemical Society RSVP: Please call the ACS office at 925-287-8055 for reservations by May 13, 2008.
- Fourth Annual Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour-Sunday, May 4 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. This free, self-guided tour showcases 60 pesticide-free, water-conserving East Bay (Alameda and Contra Costa County) gardens that provide habitat for wildlife and contain 30% or more native plants. The registration deadline for the Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour is April 26, 2008 and can be done online at www.BringingBackTheNatives.net. Early registration is suggested to ensure a place.
- Through the Garden Gate, the Moraga Juniors self-guided Garden Tour on Sat., May 3rd 10am-3pm, focuses on gardens with unique and creative features such as outdoor kitchens, unusual play areas and even a small vineyard. It also seeks to offer guests a wide range of settings, from spectacular estates to a sprawling Sanders Ranch hillside house to simpler ranches. Purchase \$30 tickets at McDonnell Nursery (Orinda), Orchard (Lafayette) and Across the Way (Moraga). http://www.throughthegardengate.org/
- Lafayette Garden Club Presents "Gardens for Gardeners" on Thursday, May 8th. Gardens open 10:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Visit 6 unique, local gardens. Knowledgeable garden club members will be on site demonstrating plant care, propagation techniques and designing garden art. Members' favorite plants will be available for purchase. Tickets \$25 are available at Mt Diablo Nursery, 3295 Mt. Diablo Blvd and Queen Bee Gifts, 261 Lafayette Cir. Or by return mail: Diane Sasser, 16 Warwick CT Lafayette, CA 94549 Make check payable to Lafayette Garden Club Day of tour tickets available at St. Perpetua Children's Garden



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# Dining • Dining • Dining • Dining • Dining • Dining •

## Got Great Chard from the Farmers' Market? Break out the Barbecue!

By Susie Iventosch

Though this recipe is a bit time consuming to prepare, the chicken is very moist with the red chard stuffing, and can be grilled on the barbecue. This makes for a quick after dinner clean up! The cabernet reduction sauce is a nice accompaniment over both chicken and rice. I love to use wild rice

pilaf with this dish, adding sautéed onion, dried cranberries a splash of orange juice and toasted pecans to the pilaf, but any rice will work and if you don't have time to make a fancy rice dish, simply used cooked rice. The sauce will make it special enough!

The recipe is available on our web site.  
Go to:  
<http://www.lamorindaweekly.com>



Combine all ingredients in a large saucepan, bring to a boil and continue to boil over medium-high heat until reduced by half. Reduce heat to low and simmer for about one hour to enhance flavor. Cool and strain out all solids. When ready to serve, pour sauce back into pot, bring to boil and reduce by half again. At this point the sauce is ready to serve, but if you like a silky texture, add butter to warm sauce and stir over medium-low heat until well-integrated. Serve over chicken and rice immediately.

Susie can be reached at [suziven@hughes.net](mailto:suziven@hughes.net)

### Chard-stuffed chicken with cabernet-balsamic reduction sauce

(Serves 6)

- 6 boneless, skinless chicken breasts
- ¼ cup olive oil
- 1 bunch red Swiss chard, leaves removed from stems
- 1 bunch red or green kale, leaves removed from stems
- 1 large yellow or red onion, chopped
- 2 cloves garlic
- 1 tablespoon Dijon mustard
- ½ cup crumbled blue cheese
- Kitchen string

Lay chicken breasts out flat on a cutting board. With a sharp knife, make a horizontal slit, leaving one side intact, forming a little pocket and a flap. Set aside.

In a large skillet, heat 1-2 tablespoons olive oil and cook garlic with onions until they are translucent and cooked through. Add Dijon mustard and stir well. Remove onions from pan and place in a medium large mixing bowl. In same pan, heat 1-2 tablespoons oil, and cook chard and kale leaves in several batches, cooking 1-2 minutes per side, or until just al dente. Remove to bowl with onions. Sprinkle blue cheese

over mixture and stir well. Season to taste with salt and pepper.

Using a soup spoon, or small serving spoon, stuff each chicken breast with chard mixture and close the open flap over the stuffing. Then seal together by tying the kitchen string around the breast in two or three places.

Preheat barbecue to medium-high heat, and grill chicken bundles for approximately five minutes per side, or until done, but not overcooked. Serve with wild rice and cabernet reduction sauce.

### Cabernet-balsamic reduction sauce

- 2 cups cabernet of your choice
- 2 tablespoons balsamic vinegar
- 2 cups chicken broth
- 2 carrots, peeled and coarsely chopped
- 2 celery stalks, coarsely chopped
- 1 yellow onion, cut into eighths, roasted and almost burned over an open flame, or in the broiler
- 6 or so whole black peppercorns
- 1 bay leaf
- 2 twigs of fresh thyme, or 1 teaspoon dried
- 2 twigs of fresh rosemary, or 1 teaspoon dried
- 2 tablespoons unsalted butter, optional

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<b>BBQ</b>		
Bo's Barbecue	960 Moraga Rd, Laf	284-1567
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Express Cafe	3732 Mt. Diablo Blvd # 170, Laf	283-7170
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Geppetto's cafe	87 Orinda Way, Ori	253-9894
Rising Loafer	3643 Mt. Diablo Blvd Ste B, Laf	284-8816
<b>California Cuisine</b>		
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China Moon Restaurant	380 Park St, Mor	376-1828
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Yan's Restaurant	3444 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	284-2228
<b>Coffee Shop</b>		
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Round Table Pizza	3637 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	283-0404
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Zamboni's Pizza	1 Camino Sobrante # 4, Ori	254-2800
<b>Sandwiches/Deli</b>		
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# SPORTS

## LAMORINDA'S LOCAL SPORTS NEWS

### Acalanes Track and Field Sweeps the Competition, Stays Undefeated

By David Anderson



Photo Gavin Schlissel

The Acalanes boys and girls track and field teams continued the domination of their opponents Wednesday, April 9 with both squads claiming victories over Campolindo and Concord.

The Don's boys, with a 4-0 record in DFAL, squeezed past the Cougars with a 76-60 win, while they were able to breeze past the overmatched Concord Minutemen by the wide margin of 109-26.

The Don's girls, with a 4-0 record as well, looked just as strong as their counterparts with a similarly tight win over Campolindo 72-62 and a relatively relaxed win over Concord 71-53. Campolindo, however, was able to split Wednesday's contest, losing to Acalanes but earning victories over Concord 107-25 for the boys and 95-41 for the girls.

The moment of the afternoon came during the girl's varsity 800 meter race when



Photo Gavin Schlissel

sophomore Emily Shearer overtook the lead runner from Campolindo in the final 50 meters of the race to earn the victory. Shearer, who was leading after the first lap, was overtaken halfway through the second, but ran a smart race and saved enough energy to sprint past the lead runner in the final meters. She would finish with victories

in the 1600 and the 800 meter races for the second meet in a row with times of 5:14.8 and 2:24.6 respectively.

The boy's varsity finished their 800 meter race in similar fashion when Brett Cantrell and Toshi Kellogg were able to close in on and pass Campo's lead runner to earn first and second place.

Freshman Katie Barton of Acalanes continued her wizardry on the hurdles for another week placing first in both the 110 meter hurdles with a time of 16.9 seconds and the 300 meter hurdles with a time of 50.9 seconds. Barton also finished second in the long jump with a leap of 15'4" behind Campolindo's Stacey Jung, who placed first with a jump of 15'8".

On the boy's side, Joey Anderson, who was coming back from a foot injury, impressed the viewers in Lafayette with wins in the 100 meter hurdles with a time of 15 seconds flat and the 300 meter hurdles with a time of 41 seconds flat.

Acalanes will attempt to retain their undefeated record on April 16 at 3:30 p.m. when they take on Las Lomas and Northgate in Lafayette.



Photo Gavin Schlissel

### Matadors Men's Lacrosse Dominate Dons in 13-7 Win

By Valerie Hotz



John Hofinga #15 and Will Sheehan #34 against Jeff Totten #3

Photo Laura Walsh

Coming off a 10-7 victory over Bishop O'Dowd, the Miramonte Men's Lacrosse team defeated Acalanes 13-7 to take first place in DFAL, earning a seventh place ranking in Northern California. Their season record stands at seven wins and three losses. Acalanes dropped from eleventh to fifteenth place in Northern California after Friday's loss.

Logan Quinn kept Acalanes in the game by scoring three goals and taking a tough hit from Jeff Hughes, resulting in a forced turnover for Miramonte in the second quarter.

Sam Nep, Paul Wells, Joe Wignall and Christian Skuce also put points up on the board, while Dons goalkeeper Will Long had nine saves.

Miramonte's Tommy Sander set the pace for the Mats early and consistently throughout the game by winning 10 out of 13 face-offs in the first half alone. Arlo Malmberg was the leading scorer with four goals, followed by John

Hofinga with three. Harry Forman, Tim Albo and Will Sheehan all scored twice. Defensive leaders for the Mats include Joe Walsh with four forced turnovers and Frankie Cuneo with three. Goalie Adrian Cheung had a good game with seven saves.

"We worked hard all week and we came out to win. It all came down to execution. We controlled the ball, put the shots in and

won," Mats co-captain Arlo Malmberg said. "We did what we came out to do."

In his sixth year coaching the Matadors Danny Roden agreed the team played exactly the way they wanted.

"Tommy Sander won numerous face-offs and John and Arlo in attack nicely played the ball. Our defense was solid throughout as always," he said.



Tommy Sanders facing-off against Logan Quinn #51

Photo Laura Walsh



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# SPORTS

## LAMORINDA'S LOCAL SPORTS NEWS



### Saint Mary's Drops League Game to Cal after Slow Start

By Kevin D. Shallat



Claire Purcell (4) Photo Tod Fierner

After returning home from a successful road trip to the Spring Fling Tournament in Florida where the Saint Mary's women's lacrosse team won two games in a row (beating Central Connecticut State 18-8 and Lafayette 13-11), the Gaels had their hands full in a tough match-up to begin league play at home on April 2.

The Gaels hosted a strong California Bears squad in the first Mountain Pacific Sports Federation match-up of the year. Although they mounted a spirited comeback in the second half, the Gaels couldn't get their offense in gear and dropped their game

against the Bears, 15-2. The Bears jumped out to a 6-0 lead at the start. Madeleine Dale scored off a pass from Alyse Kennedy to put the Bears on the board shortly after the opening whistle. This opened up the floodgates, as Cal was able to get to the net with ease in the first half.

The Gaels finally managed to get on the scoreboard after a few strong hustle plays from their star player, Abbie Coleman, who was able to ignite the Gael offense from her strong play on defense.

Shortly after intercepting a pass down by the Gael's own

goal, Coleman sprinted down field on a fast break, only to miss a shot on goal. Her efforts were rewarded, however, as the Gaels got the ball right back. Coleman recovered the ball and waited for the perfect opportunity to ensure a Gael goal. She hoisted a pass to teammate Alana Burrough from behind the Cal net, and Burrough was able to score from three feet to cut the Gael deficit to five.

Chloe Dee and Maggie Schwab did what they could to try and get their teammates some open looks around the Cal goal, but Saint Mary's couldn't convert any more goals in the first half.

The low scoring output can be credited to the stingy Cal defense. The Cal defense was very physical and aggressive, which made it hard for anybody to score against them. Cal led 9-1 at half-time, but something clicked for the Gaels on defense during the last few minutes of the first half, and they did a good job of holding off the Bears.

Although the Gaels continued their strong defense in the second half, holding the Bears scoreless for over 15 minutes of play, Cal still found a way to record six goals in the second period. Saint Mary's was only able to record one more goal from a shot by Dana Elfvin on a nice pass from Schwab.

But it was too little too late for the Gaels, as their defense took too long to get going, and they were unable to take advantage of their free-position shots on goal.

Cal scored one more time with 10 seconds left to put the punctuation mark on a 15-2 win for the Bears.

### SMC Uses Pitching Committee To Beat S.F. State

... continued from page 1



Photo Tod Fierner

Regardless of how one describes the process, the product was undeniable. Schmarzo allowed only one hit, no walks, and struck out four batters.

Just as Schmarzo's pitching effort helped the Gaels defensively, the Gaels received a similar shot to the arm offensively from their leadoff hitter, Cory Miller. He set the tone early for the Gaels by getting a key leadoff hit in the bottom of the first inning. Miller went three for five at the plate, with two runs and an RBI to finish the day. The Gaels continue to reward themselves with patient, unselfish play from their players. In the same inning Ryan Mulligan walked, and Cory Miller bunted to set up a big inning for the Gaels. Both players are more than capable hitters, but were rewarded by playing small ball. Miller, Mulligan, and Wells would all score, which gave the Gaels a quick 3-0 lead after the first inning of play.

Kenny Fuglerud hit his third home run of the season to put the Gaels up 4-0 in the bottom of the second. Shortly thereafter Anthony Aliotti was



Photo Tod Fierner

able to plate Miller to give the Gaels a comfortable 5-0 lead. The Gaels would climb right back to make it a 5-2 game.

After Joel Staples scored the Gaels sixth run of the day, Randy Wells put the game out of reach in the bottom of the fourth, as he smashed a solo shot to right field to make it a 7-2 game.

"I was in a good count. I was sitting fastball. I know he didn't have much off-speed, so I was just sitting on it," said Wells.

After the Gaels cut it to 7-3 in the eighth, Matt McCormick came in to close the game in the ninth. He allowed two runs, but was able to finish up the game for the Gaels, 7-5.

### Cougars Out-Slug Gaels

By Steven Johns

On Tuesday April 8, the Campolindo Cougars out-slugged the Dublin Gaels in a thrilling 10-9 victory.

In their first game against each other, the Cougars and the Gaels used their offenses to overcome poor defenses and poor pitching.

Campolindo took the early lead in the bottom of the first inning by taking advantage of two Dublin errors. Corbin Chase led off the inning with a walk. After an out, Anthony Fadelli singled between first and second to put runners on first and third. Clean up hitter Chris Hilk came up to the plate and hit a ground ball towards the shortstop. The shortstop could not handle it and Chase was able to score. After a strikeout Chris Killeen hit a ball that the third baseman booted, plating Fadelli.

After a third inning run by Campolindo the Cougars looked to be on their way to a win.

In the fourth, however, defensive mishaps and wild pitching allowed Dublin to take a big lead. The first batter of the inning, Steven Zanders, hit a dribbler back to pitcher David Wirth. Wirth threw to first, but Killeen dropped the ball and Zanders was safe.

Wirth then proceeded to walk the next three batters. After a ground out, Wirth hit Chuck Krause and walked Spencer Humphrey. Freshman Joey Mello came to the plate and hit a single to score another run. Zanders singled, plating another run. After a throwing error by catcher Vance Vergara, Nick Russ came in to pitch and got the final out of the inning. By the end of the fourth the Gaels scored 7

runs and made the game 8-3. Despite this horrible inning, the Cougars were not done yet. In the fifth inning the Cougars offense picked up the fourth inning mishaps.

The first two batters of the inning were erased on a questionable interference call that resulted in a double play. With two outs Fadelli singled, Hilk reached first on an error, and Scott Hogland walked. Killeen then hit a 2 RBI single that was followed by yet another walk. Tommy Stephens got Campolindo's third hit of the game and drove in two in the process. This hitting barrage put the Cougars back on top 9-8.

In the top of the seventh, Dublin was able to take advantage of Mazzie's lead off double to tie the game at 9.

The resilient Cougars, however, were able to come back. A lead-off walk by Hogland gave Campolindo the chance to win the game. Pinch runner Jaime Fox moved to second base on a wild pitch, and got to third on Killeen's sacrifice bunt.

With one out and a runner on third, pinch hitter Will Coleman came to the plate. With a 2-2 count Coleman smashed the ball over the left-fielder's head to win the game.

The Cougars were able to overcome six errors and six walks to win the game. "We made a bunch of errors but we got it together and rallied and eventually came out on top" stated Fox.

This great comeback gave the Cougars their fourth win in a row and improved their overall record to 7-5.



Chloe Dee (6) Photo Tod Fierner

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# SPORTS

## LAMORINDA'S LOCAL SPORTS NEWS

### Orinda Pinto League's A's Capture Another Win

Submitted By Stephanie Yee



A's first baseman Mason Zimmerman stretches for the ball as Wildcat Ben Kronenberg slides into first to avoid a double-play

The A's extended their winning streak to four games with an 18-8 win over the Wildcats in Orinda Pinto League play last Saturday. Once again, solid defense and offense throughout its lineup proved to be the winning combination as 11 players contributed to the scoring.

First baseman Chase Calister was one double short of a cycle. Lead-off hitter Ben Mollahan came through with rally-starting hits in the first, second and fourth innings. His two-out single in the fourth ignited a seven-run rally that stretched the lead to 18-4.

Wildcat leftfielder Reily Moran made a spectacular running catch to rob Will Cassriel of an extra-base hit in the third inning. John Novogradac and Peter Stehr lead the Wildcat's offense with two runs each. The Wildcat record falls to 3-2, as their only losses came in the

hands of the A's. Will Cassriel, Stephen Tse, Henry Connor and Asim Khan each scored two runs for the A's. Mason Zimmerman contributed with two hits and two RBI's, while Paul Bakshi, Derrick Garcia and Tommy Brovelli each contributed with a run.

### Cougar Comeback Falls Short Against Dons

By Alex Crook



Photo Andy Scheck

Last week, the Campolindo vs. Acalanes rivalry was renewed by way of a girls' lacrosse game at Campolindo High School. The result was not that pleasing for Campo; a 10-5 Acalanes win. The Cougars do deserve some credit though. They fought until the final horn.

The first half went back and forth between both the Cougars and Dons scoring three goals each. With just under five minutes remaining in the opening half, Acalanes picked up the pace with three more goals and a little defense to take a 6-3 lead into halftime. The first half turned out to be a wake up call for the Dons because of their second half opening with

four straight goals, including two exactly 1:20 apart. Campo had an unusual strategy throughout the game of having their goalie hold the ball for about a minute, a Dons defender charging the goalie, then the goalie gets rid of the ball. Sometimes it worked, sometimes it didn't. Late in the second, Campo

found a weakness in the Dons and took advantage. In a seven minute span, the Cougars managed to net four straight goals, cutting the lead to 9-5 with 5:24 left before Acalanes finally put Campo away for good with goal number 10.

Campo fell to 0-1 after the season-opening loss to the Dons. Acalanes put themselves at .500 with a 2-2 record. The win puts the Dons back on the right track after a 16-4 loss to Amador Valley.

Acalanes continued their five game road trip with game two against the Dublin Gaels. The Dons return home on April 29 when they host Campolindo in a rematch of this game. Campo continues its five-game home stand to open the season as the Cougars took on archrival Miramonte on April 15.

### Dell' Aquila Seals 200 Wins: Matadors Beat NCS Champs

By Kevin D. Shallat

With two completely overhauled squads since last season, the rivalry remained as competitive as ever when the Miramonte Matadors made the trip to Lafayette to take on the defending NCS champion Acalanes Dons on Tuesday, April 8. Miramonte is no stranger to the top spot, as they claimed the NCS title in 1999, 2002, 2004, and again in 2005. The skipper at the helm each time was current Miramonte head coach Vince Dell' Aquila. Dell' Aquila had racked up 199 wins prior to Tuesday's game, and was looking for win number 200 in this match-up.

through six innings of play. Lloyd gave up only three runs in six innings, and seemed to get better as the game wore on. "Matt's been great for us, all year long," said teammate John Vaccaro. Miramonte was the first team to get on the board, as Joey Epperson picked up an early RBI by scoring Mike Reuvekamp on a sacrifice fly. Acalanes quickly responded and scored two runs in the bottom of the first to apply the pressure. The Dons took advantage of some good two out hitting by getting back-to-back base hits from Daniel Camporeale and John Welland, which gave Acalanes a 2-1 edge.

It wasn't easy, or stress-free for the long time Miramonte coach, but the Matadors somehow managed to hang on to defeat the Dons 4-3 in a tightly contested match-up. The win gave coach Dell' Aquila 200 victories, and put the Matadors one game outside of first place in the DFAL with 10 games to play. It has been 13 years since Dell' Aquila took over the head coaching duties for the Matadors, yet already he and his teams have racked up 200 wins. What better way to reach a milestone than to do it while knocking off the defending NCS champions. After the game the veteran coach appeared happy, yet eager to win more. "It feels good, hopefully we can do it again," Dell' Aquila said. Matt Lloyd started on the mound for the Matadors and nearly finished the game, as he was stellar

The lead would seesaw back again. With two outs, Epperson was able to score Tommy Miers. After Miramonte tied the game at 2-2, they looked to their cleanup hitter for something big. John Vaccaro didn't hit the ball far, but the slow grounder was enough to give the Mats a 3-2 lead after two and a half innings. After the Mats were able to get another run in the fifth, the Dons responded with an RBI base hit by David Kann, who scored Eric Kwan from third. This cut the lead to 4-3 after five innings. Jake Carson came in to the game in the fifth inning to pitch in relief, and played well for the Dons, but the one run he did give up was enough to give the Matadors the win. Vaccaro closed out the game for Miramonte, sealing a 4-3 victory for the Mats.



Photo Andy Scheck

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### Moraga Baseball Association

Submitted by Vince Caro

MBA Box Scores for April 5, 6, 8, 9, 12, 2008

Moraga Baseball Association  
Pony Division April 5, 2008

*Danville Diablos 5,  
Moraga Cougars 4*

Cougar Highlights: Chris Martin 1-for-3, 3B; Brett Stephens 1-for-3, 2RS; Vince Graziano 1-for-3, 2B, 2RBI; Josh Cushing 1-for-3, RBI; Dan Fadelli 6 IP, 3 hits, 3 K's

Moraga Baseball Association  
Pony Division April 6, 2008

*Danville Diablos 4,  
Moraga Cougars 2*

Cougar Highlights: Dan Fadelli 1-for-4, 3B, RBI; Jaime Vega 2-for-3, 2B, 1RS; Vince Graziano 1-for-3; Alex Mirante 1-for-3, RBI; Brett Stephens 1-for-3, 1RS; Josh Cushing 6 IP, 5 hits, 6 K's

Moraga Baseball Association  
Pinto Division April 8, 2008

*Giants 7, Marlins 6*

Giants Highlights: Quinn Finnane 3-for-3, 1RS; Parket Windatt 2-for-3, 2RBI, 2B, 1RS; Paul Gannet 2-for-3, 2RS.

Marlin Highlights: Vince Mossotti 3-for-3, 3B, RBI, 1RS; Cole McNeil 2B, 2RBI, Shun Ishida 2-for-2, 2RBI, 1RS

Moraga Baseball Association  
Mustang Division April 9, 2008

*Yankees 9, White Sox 1*

Yankees Highlights: Patrick Ratchford 2IP, 6 K's, 1 Hit; Simon Vesely 2B; Nicky Erickson 1B, 2RBI; Matt Zumacian 2IP, 6 K's  
White Sox Highlights: Jack Gordon 2IP, 4 K's, 4 Hits; Jack Lawrence 1B; Sam O'Donnell 3 IP, 4 K's; David Cushing 2B, 1B

*Indians 7, Mariners 6*

Indians Highlights: Alex Gannett 2 IP, 4 strikeouts, 3-for-3, 3RS; Cole Stevens 2-for-3, 2RBI's, 1RS; Brian Lyle 2 IP, 6 Ks, 1-for-3, 1RS

Mariners Highlights: Callan Beaver 1-for-1, 1RS, 2 SB; Michael Hooper 2 IP, 5 K's, 1 RS; Casey Kiriaze 2 SB, 1RS

*Red Sox 6, A's 3*

Red Sox Highlights: Jason Rodriguez HR, Jacob Westphal 2B, Sam Larson 2B, John Adranly 3B, 5K's

A's Highlights: Aidan Warrington RBI, Alex Capurro 2B, Rick Lomas 2B, 4k's, Griffin Whiting 2RBI.

Moraga Baseball Association  
Pinto Division April 9, 2008

*Cardinals 16, Cubs 5*

Cardinals Highlights: Jonathan Gong 4-for-4, 1 RBI, 1RS; Erik Wenning 3-for-4, 3RBI, 2RS; Declan Rector 3-for-4, 1 RBI, 3RS; Jacob Plutt turned an assisted double play

Cubs Highlights: Nick Morgan 2-for-3, 2RBI, 2-2B, 1RS; Ryan Mc-

Nally 3-for-3, 2RBI, 2-2B, 1RS; Will Bishop 2-for-3, 1RBI, 2B. Nick Morgan turned an assisted double play

Moraga Baseball Association

Pony Division April 12, 2008

*Moraga Cougars 12,  
Walnut Creek Bluedawgs 2*

Cougar Highlights: Dan Fadelli CG, W, 1 hit, 8 K's, 3-for-4, HR; Chris Martin 1-for-1, 2BB; Alex Mirante 1-for-2, BB

Moraga Cougars 10,  
Walnut Creek Bluedawgs 5

Cougar Highlights: Josh Cushing 4 IP, W, 2 hits, 3 K's, 3-for-4, 3-3B; Dan Fadelli 3-for-3; Jaime Vega 2-for-3, 2B, BB; Vince Graziano 2-for-3, 2B

Moraga Baseball Association

Bronco Division April 12, 2008

*Moraga Irish 14,  
Orinda Rebels 2*

Irish Highlights: Danielle Thomas 3-for-3, 2-1b, 1-2b, 3R; Matt Hucklins 3-for-3, 3-1b, 3R; Sam Phillips 2-for-2, 1-1b, 1-2b, 2R; Tanner Hinds 2-for-3, 2-1b, 1R, 1RBI

Orinda Highlights: Lundstrom 1-for-2, 1-1b, 1SB, 1R; Goldstien 2-for-2, 1-1b, 1BB, 2SB

*Moraga Padres 12,  
Martinez Crush 1*

Padre Highlights: Jack O'Donnell 3-for-3, 3B, 1RS, 1 SB; Spencer Nichols 3-for-3, 2 2B, 2RBI, 1RS, 1 SB; Hunter Rosenbaum 3-for-4, 3B, 2RS; Scott Singh 2-for-4, 3B, 2B, 2RBI, 1RS; Joe Giacchetti 2-for-4, 3B, 2RBI, 1RS

Moraga Baseball Association

Mustang Division April 12, 2008

*Yankees 14, Mariners 6*

Yankees Highlights: Patrick Ratchford 4-for-4, 3-1B, 2B, 2RBI's; Scott Zumacian 3-for-4, 2-1B, 2B, 4RBI's; Matt Zumacian 3-for-4, 2-1B, 2B 2RBI's; Nicky Erickson 2-for-3, 1B, 2B; Simon Vesely 2B

Mariners Highlights: Steven Leserman 1-for-3, 1B, 1 IP 2 K's; Michael Hooper 1-for-3, 1B, 2 IP 4 K's; Kevin Shaffer 1-for-3, 1B; Matthias Baker, Matthew Kronenberg, and Casey Kiriaze all went 1 for 3 with 1B's

Moraga Baseball Association

Bronco Division April 13, 2008

*Moraga A's 13,  
Moraga Giants 4*

A's Highlights: Sean Smith 4 IP, 3K; Scott Smoot 2-for-4, 2B, 2 RS, 3RBI; Jacob Molloy 2-for-3, 1 RS, 3RBI; Andrew Willmore 1-for-3, 2 RS, 1 IP 1K

Giants Highlights: Tommy Cella 1-for-3; Jason Hofmann 2-for-2, 2B, 1RS; Troy Westernoff 2-for-4, 2B, 1RS; Will Leonard 1-for-3

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