

**Congratulations**

**Lamorinda Graduates of All Ages!**

Graduating Kindergartner  
Ryan Lenahan

Graduates of the Nurtury Preschool at Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church celebrate

## School Transitions—Exciting and Scary at the Same Time

By Andrea A. Firth

**I**t is graduation time, and students across Lamorinda are preparing for ceremonies and celebrations to mark their passage from one phase of learning to the next. Whether it is the bump from preschool to elementary school or the big move from high school to living and studying away at college, school transitions are challenging steps at every age.

**Preschool to Elementary:** “Children in preschool do feel the stress of moving on to kindergarten,” states Dot Feist, who has been the Director of Joyful Beginnings Preschool in Lafayette for the past twenty years. Although the curriculum for preschool children has evolved to be more focused on reading and cognitive skills, strong self-esteem and socialization are the essential elements for success in kindergarten, according to Feist. “Kindergarten requires children to be more self-directed,” she explains. “If the child is not socially and emotionally ready for kindergarten it will hinder his ability to learn.”

**5th Grade to Middle School:** The transition to middle school in sixth grade represents the onset of the individuation process where children start to separate

from their parents, according to Heidi Felt, counselor at Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School (JM). “It’s a conflicting time,” says Felt. “These students are caught between childhood and adulthood. They struggle between wanting to be independent and still needing their parents.”

For sixth graders, Felt recommends that parents stay involved with checking homework and managing school progress. “We live under this false impression that if we give a middle school student an organizational planner and couple of binders that they will be organized,” she says. “The task of organization is often greater than their ability. And let’s face it, most adolescents are resistant to adult advice.”

Felt suggests that parents slow down and explain things on a very basic level. It may be helpful for the parent to model behavior for the child. For example, if the child refuses to ask a teacher for help, the parent should have the child watch and listen as the parent contacts the teacher to request assistance.

“The goal of middle school is learning how to learn,” says Felt. “That includes learning how to be or-

ganized, use time well, plan for long-term assignments and tests, employ resources, and ask for help.

**8th Grade to High School:** Irene Coleman, a marriage and family therapist with a practice in Lafayette, encourages parents and students to view the transition from eighth grade to high school as an opportunity to re-evaluate what is and isn’t working in their lives. “It’s a time to shape where you are going and to set goals,” advises Coleman. “Students at this age have less resiliency as social groups shift and academic pressure increases.”

One of Coleman’s key recommendations to new high school students to help them to achieve success in ninth grade is to get enough sleep. “A study from the University of Minnesota has shown that high school students require 9 ¼ hours of sleep daily for their brains to function optimally,” states Coleman. She recommends allowing children to catch up on sleep at the weekends. “It’s better than having them function at a deficit all the time,” she explains.

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this week

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## As Gas Prices Change, So Do Some Lamorinda Residents' Daily Lives

By Jennifer Wake

**F**or some Lamorinda residents, the recent spike in gas prices has not made much of a difference in their lives. They still cue up in the drive-thru lane at local fast food restaurants, car motors burning fuel as they wait to place their orders. For others, the spike is not only putting a dent in their pocket books, but is making them rethink how they accomplish daily tasks or even how they make a living.

One Lafayette mom has changed how she drives around town. Determined to cut down on fuel consumption, Joanne Tan maps out errands and child drop-offs so that she is making less stops.

“I combine chores and plan my driving route in the most efficient manner so that one trip will take care of multiple chores: dropping off my son for a piano lesson off of Mt. Diablo Blvd, then going to Trader Joes, then on the way back, dropping by Bank of the West, then picking up my boy,” Tan says. “Planning ahead saves me gas and time.”

Conrad Basset, who is the owner/managing partner of Outsource Relocation Partners in Moraga, is on the road a lot for business and has made a similar shift in how he schedules time on the road.

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# Lamorinda Community

## Calendar, Notes, News

# Lafayette

Calendar	
City Council	7pm
Community Center, Manzanita Room 500 St Mary's Road	
Monday, June 23	
Planning Comm.	7pm
Community Center, Manzanita Room 500 St Mary's Road	
Thursday, June 19	
Design Review	7pm
Community Center, Manzanita Room 500 St Mary's Road	
Tuesday, June 24	
Park, Trails, Rec.	7pm
Community Center 500 St Mary's Road	
Friday, July 11	
Circulation	7pm
Community Center, Manzanita Room 500 St Mary's Road	
Monday, June 16	
Senior Services	3:30pm
Community Center, Alder Room 500 St Mary's Road	
Thursday, June 19	<b>new date moved from 6-26</b>
check online: Town of Lafayette: <a href="http://www.ci.lafayette.ca.us">http://www.ci.lafayette.ca.us</a> • all meeting notes • calendar updates Chamber of Commerce: <a href="http://www.lafayettechamber.org">http://www.lafayettechamber.org</a> • local businesses • upcoming events	

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### Big Turnout for Budget Workshop

By Cathy Tyson



A full house of concerned citizens participated in a budget workshop, letting Lafayette's City Council members know where they believe budget dollars should be spent. There will be a public hearing on the Proposed Budget at the June 9th Regular City Council Meeting.

Quite a few seniors in attendance persuasively made their case for increased funding for expanding senior programs including adding a second Spirit Van.

Clearly the public input made an impression on the Council, although there was an undercurrent of concern regarding maintenance costs of a second van going forward. "We're going

to have to move to provide more services. I see Spirit Van II as essential," said Carl Anduri.

City Manager Steve Falk summarized the situation, "The Council liked the recommendations made by the Senior Services Commission but indicated that it would prefer to wait until the Senior Needs Assessment is completed before it fully implements those recommendations. I thought it was a good meeting, and I was impressed by the members and organization of the Senior Services Commission. They have a mission – to advocate on behalf of the City's aging population and they do it well."

The City Manager's budget for the next fiscal year that begins on July 1, 2008 and runs through June 30, 2008 is only a recommendation; the City Council has ultimate authority in these matters, according to Falk. Seniors will be happy to

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note that a Staff Report prepared by Tracy Robinson, Administrative Services Director on June 2, 2008 states that the Council "instructed staff to change the Senior Services budget to reflect 49 hours of temporary personnel. The issue of adding regular, benefited staff to this program was deferred until after the Senior Needs Assessment is completed. This change resulted in an increase of \$7,045."

### How Big is Too Big?

By Cathy Tyson

Way back in 1981, Lafayette's Planning Commission approved a six parcel subdivision on Cosso Court, off of Happy Valley Road. At that time there were conditions of approval, to paraphrase, 90% of the net lot not be covered with buildings, at least 70% of the lot shall have a permeable surface, and homes and garages shall not have a combined ground footprint of greater than 3,000 square feet.

A lot has changed in Happy Valley in 27 years; wealthy homeowners may be interested in something just a bit larger than 3,000 square feet. At last week's Planning Commission meeting Talon Design Group, representing the owners of a Cosso Court lot, asked for a change of conditions for their proposed two-story 8,919 square foot gross floor area home. Other homes along the court have asked for and received "footprint exceptions" to allow for more square footage.

Although the 1.129 acre site

seems large, it's considered a highly constrained lot, "due to setbacks, tree driplines, a sanitary sewer easement and the creek setback requirement," according to a Staff Report.

Additionally, a very large mature oak tree is right in the middle of the center buildable area of the lot. Commissioners had a lengthy discussion about moving it, or cutting it down and imposing substantial mitigation measures, planting more trees on the property and possibly contributing to city in-lieu fees.

The City Engineer is concerned with drainage impacts, the amount of hardscape – particularly the driveway, even taking into account the pervious nature of interlocking pavers suggested for the project. He also recommends reducing the building footprint size.

The bottom line after the applicant's lawyer spoke, staff reports, commissioner discussion, and public input, is that the matter will be continued until July 3, 2008 in order for the applicants to meet with the City Engineer to discuss the requested issues.

In related news, an adhoc committee is working on a house size ordinance and will be meeting this week to finish up this proposal. The original concept was to limit the size of new construction to the average size of a number of homes adjacent to the property. According to a reliable source, once the committee's work is done the proposal will have to go through an extensive public review and input process before ultimately going to the Council for consideration.

### Deadline Extended for Art and Wine Festival Submissions

By Cathy Tyson

Those artists wanting a bit more exposure of their work should think about entering the Chamber of Commerce art-work contest for the Art and Wine Festival. Acceptance of artwork to be used on promotional materials – posters around town and possibly a You Tube video has been extended until June 30, 2008. In past years over 50,000 people attended the two-day Festival in September.

Parameters for submissions are fairly generous; basically any-

thing goes from drawing to photography to sculpture. Art should in some way reflect the look, taste, sound and feel of the Festival. There are no restrictions on size; pieces from youthful amateurs to senior professionals will be gratefully accepted for consideration.

Artwork may be dropped off until 5:00 p.m. June 30 at the Chamber offices. For more information call the Chamber at (925) 284-7404.

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### City seeks volunteer for vacancy on the Design Review Commission

The Lafayette City Council is soliciting applicants to fill one vacancy on the Design Review Commission.

The five-member body is responsible for matters relating to aesthetics and the physical appearance of the city. The commission advises the staff, planning commission, and city council and acts on applications for design review including residential and commercial development projects. Members of the design review commission are selected on the basis of education, training and experience in the fields of architecture, landscape architecture, design, city planning or a related field.

Individuals interested in this volunteer position may obtain an application from

The City's website at [www.ci.lafayette.ca.us](http://www.ci.lafayette.ca.us) or City of Lafayette Offices  
3675 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Suite 210 or  
Call the City's Clerks Office at (925) 284-1968 and an application will be mailed



Completed applications must be received by 5:00 pm on Friday, June 27, 2008.



Auto burglary, 6/01/08 Someone broke into a car while it was parked in the driveway of a Fiora Place residence during the night. An audible alarm sounded and was heard by a neighbor. The only thing taken was an iPod.

Bad driving, 5/30/08 A suspect was driving aggressively and passed two separate vehicles on Highway 24 near Fish Ranch Road. In doing so, he forced both of the unsuspecting drivers onto the hard shoulder of the freeway. Unamused, the drivers that were passed followed the reckless driver to Acalanes and Mt. Diablo Blvd. where they placed him under citizen's arrest. An officer arrived on the scene shortly afterward.

Weapon at school, 5/30/08 A 13-year-old white male was cited for having a knife at Stanley Intermediate School. He will be participating in the Juvenile Diversion Program.

Rock vs. Window, 5/29/08 The window lost. An unidentified suspect threw a rock through the sleeping victim's Leland Drive window at just after 4:00 in the morning. The middle aged woman didn't see anyone in the area or know who would do such a thing. The homeowner recently had the window replace for an unrelated reason. Estimated damage, \$500.

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# Lamorinda Community

## Calendar, Notes, News

# Moraga

Calendar	
City Council	7:30pm
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School 1010 Camino Pablo	
Wednesday, June 25	
Planning Comm.	7:30pm
Hacienda, La Sala Room 2100 Donald Drive	
Monday, June 16	
Design Review	7:30pm
Hacienda, La Sala Room 2100 Donald Drive	
Monday, June 23	
Park & Rec	7:30pm
Hacienda, Mosaic Room 2100 Donald Drive	
Tuesday, June 17	
Liaison	8:00am
Fire Station 1280 Moraga Way	
Friday, June 13	
Town of Moraga online: http://www.ci.moraga.ca.us	
for: • all meeting notes • calendar updates	



**Marijuana and More, 6/4/08** A car was stopped along Moraga Road for a moving violation. Officer discovered that the driver was on parole, the car was out of registration, there was no vehicle insurance, and the driver possessed marijuana.

**D.U.I., 6/01/08** At just after midnight a vehicle heading south bound on Moraga Road crossed the double yellow line and veered into the north-bound lane. Objective signs of alcohol intoxication were noted and the subject was taken into custody.

**Car burglary, 5/30/08** A Miramonte Drive resident called police to report his car had been burgled. The reporting person said that he parked and locked his van in his carport in the evening. The next morning a neighbor notified him that the front passenger side window had been smashed and the door was ajar. The victim had approximately 200 Indian Bollywood type music CD's in his car, he's a salesman. Dusting for fingerprints came back negative.

**Bike riding while drunk, 5/25/08** Something you don't see every day, a 23-year old male riding a girl's "Disney Princess" bicycle at 2:00 in the morning. The cyclist was nearly struck by a Moraga police officer along Moraga Road as he veered out of a condominium complex. The subject showed extreme signs of alcohol intoxication. He was cited and released at the scene into the custody of a responsible adult.

**DISPOSITION OF EVIDENCE**  
Moraga Police Department no longer needs property related to case 05-956 for evidentiary purposes. All evidence is going to be disposed of. If you are involved in the case and have ownership of items involved please contact the Moraga Police Department Property Officer Heather Pomeroy at (925)888-7054.  
All Evidence will be destroyed after August 31, 2008.

## Tashiro Named Interim Manager

**By Sophie Braccini**  
The Town of Moraga has appointed Jay Tashiro as interim Town Manager. Tashiro will start on June 3rd 2008, when Phil Vince steps down. The two men are making the transition as smooth as possible by spending a few days together before Vince leaves to assume his new position as Manager of the City of Martinez.

Tashiro, a long-time resident of Moraga, has worked in the public sector for thirty years. He held different positions in southern California before coming to the City of Orinda in 1988 as Planning Director. He was then appointed to the same position in Moraga in 1991, where he stayed for eight and half years. He was hired by the city of Corte Madera to be the City Manager at the end of 1999 and led the town until his retirement in 2006.

"The Marin County town is very similar to Moraga," says Tashiro, "a highly educated community, where volunteers are a key factor to the success of public affairs." Council members in Corte Madera have praised Tashiro's work, commenting on his grace

under pressure during difficult projects, his thoroughness in preparing material for the Council, and his likable personality.

Corte Madera's Mayor, Michael Lappert, was Mayor then as well and comments, "In small towns like ours the City Manager is the person who runs the town. Jay was very good at taking away some of the pressure from the City Council, so we didn't get in trouble over small issues." He remembers that Tashiro was a natural at leading department heads and that he affected change for the town, improving customer service in key areas. When Tashiro retired from Corte Madera, Lappert told him he was too young and healthy to do so and that he would be back. He was right.

Tashiro heard from another Moraga resident that Vince was leaving. "I know what a Manager means for a town," he said, "and it takes time to appoint somebody. I was not looking for anything, but thought I could help."

... continued on page 6

## Town Council Hard at Work

**By Sophie Braccini**  
Once again, they worked late into the night. On May 28th, just one week after the previous Moraga Town Council meeting, the five Council members reconvened for a packed agenda meeting that kept them busy until 1:00am. They tackled seven different subjects and had to postpone one for an additional meeting on Monday night. Obviously on best behavior, the members interacted with the level of courtesy that could be expected from five dedicated individuals.

The **Unruly Party Ordinance** was first on the agenda for a second "first reading." Residents once again voiced their frustration and resentment. A Thune Ave resident in particular expressed concerns that the new ordinance would not impose a maximum house occupancy. Most of the parties agreed that the ordinance's main target were property owners who do not act responsibly, letting their properties become "mini-dorms" in residential neighborhoods.

The College, in the person of Jim Farley, presented the series of measures it is taking to address the problem: suspension and warning to students on the punitive side, support for the new ordinance and an interesting proposal to create neighborhood groups that would meet periodically to discuss issues. Farley believes these groups will be a vehicle for dialogue with neighborhoods; he is working on a format and will contact residents before the fall.

Farley's request that the College itself be put off limit of the Ordinance didn't receive any support

from the Town. "We haven't had any issue with the campus' noise level in the past years," said Moraga Chief of Police Ruppenthal, "they do not need to be off limit and have done a good job warning their neighbors when they have celebrations." The second reading should be scheduled for June 11th and the ordinance will be in effect one month after its approval by Council.

The report regarding the **"Bruzzone Initiative,"** one of two competing open space initiatives that are expected to be on the November ballot, was also on the agenda. A first reading had already occurred, but the public and the property owner raised many questions. The purpose of the agenda item was to receive and file the response given by Town staff.

"According to the initiative's proponents, the Attachment A analysis (the response from Staff) is partial and biased," said MaryJo Rossi, spoke person for the Bruzzone family, "They are asking the Town Council to throw it out and decline from placing it into the public record."

The Council decided not to grant this request after the Town's lawyer affirmed that the document was simply a response to questions and not prejudiced. "There's an elephant in the room," said Council member Metcalf, "and that's the MOSO 2008 initiative. We want to apply the same hypothesis when we ask staff to evaluate the impact of that second initiative."

... continued on page 6

## Hacienda Foundation Seeks Input

**By Sophie Braccini**



Hacienda Grounds

Photo Dianna Evans

A year ago, the Town of Moraga decided to form a Foundation to help revive the Hacienda de las Flores. The beautiful mansion that was once the home of the Rheem family was bought by the town in 1973 and became one of its public facilities.

Weddings, community classes, meetings and events are held at the Hacienda. Some of the Town offices are still housed there, but more should move to the facility at 329 Rheem before the end of the year. The building is aging; it needs updates.

... continued on page 6

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# Lamorinda Community Calendar, Notes, News

# Orinda

Calendar	
City Council	7pm
Auditorium, Orinda Library 26 Orinda Way	
Tuesday, June 17	
Planning Comm.	7:00pm
Auditorium, Orinda Library 26 Orinda Way	
Tuesday, June 24	
Planning Process Review	8:30am
Community Room at City Hall 22 Orinda Way	
Monday, June 16	
Traffic Safty Advisory Committee	
OIS Library 80 Ivy Drive	
Monday, June 16	
Mayor's Com. Liaison	9am
Community Room at City Hall 22 Orinda Way	
Monday, July 7	
check online:	
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• local businesses	
• upcoming events	



**Riding a bike while drunk, 6/03/08** A 24-year-old white male riding a bicycle failed to stop at a red light at the intersection of Santa Maria and Orinda Way. An officer made an enforcement stop and smelled alcohol, noticed his watery eyes and slurred speech. The tipsy cyclist flunked the field sobriety test. He was taken to the Martinez detention facility for processing.

**Burglary, 6/02/08** A computer monitor and two books of blank checks were taken when an Underhill Road home was broken into. The front door of the home was forced open.

**Graffiti, 6/02/08** Graffiti was sprayed on three walls at Miramonte. School security cameras photographed the subject, but the images were not clear enough to identify the suspect. Officers canvassed the neighborhood; neighbors didn't see or hear anything.

**Golf Cart stolen, 5/30/08** The Orinda Country Club is one cart short these days. Someone forced entry into the Camino Sobrante club by cutting a chain and took a golf cart off the premises.

**Download stories from**  
<http://www.lamorindaweekly.com>  
 (a pdf reader is required to view the pages.)

## New Amateur Radio Station Installed in Orinda's City Hall

By Andrea A. Firth



Gene Gottfried and Marty Heyman at the Amateur Radio station in City Hall  
Photo Andrea A. Firth

They were there after 9/11, after Katrina, and most recently after the devastating earthquake in China. Amateur radio operators—or hams—have served as auxiliary and primary communicators in disasters settings for the past 100 years. And if disaster strikes in Orinda, they will be there too. A new Amateur Radio station has been installed at City hall and was formally presented to the City of Orinda on June 3rd.

Envisioned before ground broke on the new City Hall, the station was financed through a grant from the Orinda Rotary

Club and installed through the combined efforts of the City of Orinda and Amateur Radio Operators of the Orinda Rotary Club and the Moraga-Orinda Fire District.

"Basically whenever disaster strikes, the hams come on the air," says Gene Gottfried, who serves as the Volunteer Emergency Coordinator for Orinda. Gottfried's interest in ham radios started a little over ten years ago when he innocently asked a member of the Fire Department how he would communicate with rescue operations from his home up on El Toyonal in the

event of a major fire or earthquake. The answer was a ham radio, so Gottfried put an antenna on his roof out of his wife's line of sight and proceeded to get trained and certified with an FCC license.

"We become an organic network. We fill in and stitch together what is needed," adds Marty Heyman, Orinda Rotary member, ham radio operator, and ostensibly Gene's right hand in Orinda's emergency coordination effort. When asked how often Marty communicates with his ham radio set up, he answers quickly, "Constantly." Heyman runs a weekly citywide emergency drill each Wednesday evening where hams throughout Orinda and Moraga call in to an assigned radio frequency. Typically these amateur radio operators are part of community emergency response teams and neighborhood watch groups.

The new radio station in City Hall will provide reliable two-way radio communications in the event of an emergency when normal communication channels become overloaded or inoperable. There are an estimated 60 to 70 ham radio operators in Orinda and several hundred through out Contra Costa County. Each week ham radio operator through out the county, who have special training in emergency communications, conduct practice drills to ensure that they will be ready in the event of disaster.

## Mayor's Award for Excellence in Architecture, Landscape, and Environmental Sustainability—Call for Entries

By Andrea A. Firth

The City of Orinda has called for entries for the second annual Mayor's Award for Excellence in local architecture, landscape, and environmental sustainability. "Last year, we received a very positive response to the Mayor's Award in the Architecture category," notes Mayor Victoria Smith, "and we realized that the community really embraced the opportunity to reward great design projects that enhance Orinda."

The Mayor's Award for

Excellence will be given to residential projects in four categories: major architecture projects (1,500 square feet or greater); minor architecture projects (interior or exterior renovation); major landscape projects; and development projects that employ environmental sustainability elements. "For the architectural awards, the relationship of a project to its site and surroundings are the primary factors that will be judged," explains Mayor Smith.

... continued on page 10

## Library Parcel Tax Passes

By Andrea A. Firth

Measure E—the Orinda Library Parcel Tax—was approved in last week's election with 73% of voters in support of increasing the annual tax to \$39 per residential parcel (a \$12 increase). "We are really pleased that the citizen's of Orinda came out and

supported the library," stated Nancy Kaible, a member of the Friends of Orinda Library. Like Measure H, the initial library parcel tax that passed eight years prior, Measure E was approved with more than the requisite 2/3 majority. "You can never take getting a 2/3 majority vote for granted," said Kaible. "We are really very happy." The library tax was approved without a sunset clause, and Kaible estimates that it would be at least ten years before the library will have to revisit the parcel tax issue again.



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## Bike, Trail, Walkway Survey Online

By Andrea A. Firth

The City of Orinda wants to know how much you walk, bike, and use the trails throughout Orinda and whether it is for exercise, fun or to get to where you are going. Your responses will aid in the development of the Bicycle, Trail, and Walkway (BTW) Master Plan. In addition to gaining a better understanding of residents' use and satisfaction with the trails, the City is seeking specific recommendations for what Orindans would like to see improved.

Available through a link at the City website ([www.ci.orinda.ca.us/](http://www.ci.orinda.ca.us/)), the survey consists of 17 questions and takes about five minutes to complete. The City is hopeful that many residents will take advantage of the opportunity to take the survey. "Community input is crucial," states Monica A. Pacheco, Assistant to the City Manager. "The survey results will help shape the direction of the

BTW Master Plan. The more responses we receive, the more comprehensive the plan will be incorporating the community's needs right from the start of the project."

"The survey is the first phase of the BTW Master Plan development process," notes Pacheco. The City will also hold a town hall meeting this summer to obtain additional input from the community. In addition, a technical advisory group consisting of members of the Parks and Recreation Commission, the Traffic Safety Advisory Committee, and interested bike and walking group members has been formed to aid in the development process as well.

The Bike, Trail, Walkway Survey be accessible at the City website through mid-July; paper surveys are available at City Hall and the Parks & Recreation Office.

## Gift to the City of Orinda



Gift from the Orinda Historical Society, Historic Landmark Committee, Parks and Recreation Foundation and the Littlehale family to the City of Orinda. From left, Lucy Hupp Williams, Steve Glazer, Mayor Victoria Smith, Amy Worth, Tom McCormick. Photo Cathy Tyson

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# Life in LAMORINDA

## Happy Father's Day, Lamorinda Dads!

Father's Day is celebrated in dozens of countries around the world, although not always on the same day nor in the same way. In some places, Father's Day falls on the birthday of the reigning male monarch, in others it's an occasion for heavy drinking. In most,

it's a day to celebrate dad and give him that special gift that lets him know how much he is loved and appreciated. But what to give on this third Sunday in June? We asked a few local dads about the worst gift they ever received and what they would really like!



Bluejay Feldman (Orinda), with daughter Ava. Favorite gift: iPod/breakfast in bed. Least favorite: "None, they're all good." For Father's Day this year, Feldman wants "To sleep in and get coffee in bed, do family stuff, maybe a concert in the park. I just want to spend the day with my family!"

By Jean Follmer



Mark Mahaney (Lafayette), with sons Aidan and Carter. Favorite gift: handmade cards and posters. Least favorite: a tie. For Father's Day this year, Mahaney really wants "to be able to do a nice outdoor hike in Briones and have lunch at Chow with my wife and my four boys."

By Jean Follmer



Ivory Broadway (Moraga Safeway): Worst gift? "Just a card, I was a little disappointed." What Broadway really wants? "Giant's season tickets!"

By Cathy Tyson



Jon Hand (Cathy Tyson's computer guy): The worst gift I ever got for Father's Day was a Santa Claus tie, it didn't make much sense in June. What would Hand really like? "A nice massage!"

By Cathy Tyson

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# • LAMORINDA Community •

## Tashiro Named Interim Manager

... continued from page 3



Phil Vince (right) welcomes Jay Tashiro Photo Sophie Braccini

"The best part about Jay is that he knows and loves our community," says Mayor Lynda Deschambault. "Even while serving as the City Manager of Corte Madera he chose to maintain his permanent residence in lovely Moraga and commuted to work each day. His experience in a small semi rural community will be a great resource. Corte Madera addressed the same contrast facing Moraga, blending rural sprawling hillsides to its high end homes and growing businesses." She believes that his experience as a former Planning Commissioner and his familiarity with the General Plan

will be valuable in the coming months.

Tashiro has been following the town's affairs through the newspapers and is doing some catching up with Vince. "I haven't met with the Council yet, but I know that one of my roles will be to help recruit the right person for the job and manage the day to day operations," Tashiro adds.

Tashiro is aware that, like many Bay Area cities, one of the challenges of Moraga is its financial situation. "In Corte Madera, 50% of the income was coming from sales taxes; we had a regional shopping center in town. Here sales tax represent only 20% of the income, it's a different type of challenge."

As a former Planning Director, who initiated the study of the General Plan that is in use today, Tashiro takes a great interest in the two competing initiatives that will be on the ballot in November and that could greatly impact land use in town.

That's one of the reasons why he believes that the next Town Manager should have a strong background in planning. "It will all depend on what the Council's needs are, they will establish the criteria for recruitment," explains Tashiro. "They will probably want someone with strong economic development and financial acumen as well." In the meantime, the town rests in his steady and capable hands.

# Moraga

## Hacienda Foundation Seeks Input

... continued from page 3

"The jewel of Moraga" needs to find new sources of income and better serve the community that supports it. The under-utilize facility is going to lose revenue when the remaining town offices are moved, and even doubling the number of weddings will not balance the budget. As of today, the Hacienda costs the Town about \$345,000 a year.

The task of the Foundation is vast. As part of its planning process, the Foundation has decided to poll the community. "Form will follow function," declares Judy Dinkle, who serves as the Chair of the Foundation, "only when we know what the community wants, will we start our fund raising effort." The Foundation members developed a questionnaire that they've been distributing to all of the organizations in town.

Some Moraga residents are not even aware of the existence of the Hacienda. The beautiful facility encompasses three historical buildings surrounded by a very large park that's open to the public. The Cindy Waxman Nature Trail is maintained on the premises, benches and restrooms are available.

Jay Ingram the Parks and Recreation Director is increasing the offering of classes. "We must boost the enrichment activities at the Hacienda. People are not accustomed to coming here for Parks and Recreation related programs/activities," says Ingram, "It is going to take time and education in order for people to realize they no longer have to go to Lafayette or Orinda to participate in recreational activities. It is going to take a culture change."

There are some roadblocks on the way to developing the Hacienda. One is the limited amount of parking spaces available. "One solution would be to move the corporate yard that harbors public vehicles," says Dinkle, "moving the yard would allow access through Moraga Road and would create additional parking spaces."

Another challenge of the building itself is its energy inefficiency. "The roof, foundation, elec-

trical and piping systems are okay," explains Dinkle, "but the buildings are not energy efficient and this means very high operating costs." The inside configuration of the rooms are not optimal either. This was a family estate and the accommodations are not adequate for hosting very large crowds. As a result, the facility is used only for outside weddings.

Margaret DePriester, a former Mayor of Moraga and now a member of the Foundation, believes in the promise of the Hacienda: "We have to keep it as one of Moraga's historic treasures. This place is one of the few reminders of our past. I hope it could become a real community center."

The more responses the Foundation receives, the more political clout it will wield. To participate, you can request the questionnaire by sending an email to: [feedback@haciendafoundation.org](mailto:feedback@haciendafoundation.org).

You can also send your responses to the following questions via email:

When were you last at the Hacienda and why did you go? What do you like best and least about the Hacienda? Do you think the Hacienda should be fixed up for the future and if yes what would you like to see it used for? Possibilities: a park, a community center for recreation and education, a Teen center, a Senior center, a rental facility for parties, weddings, meetings, a place for quiet reflection; any other ideas?

What needs to be done to make sure the Hacienda is ready to serve the citizens of Moraga? The Foundation would like to know where residents think the Town resources should be spent: Roads? The Hacienda? Sports fields? Gymnasium? Other? Finally, you should indicate your age group, family size and optionally your name and contact information if you'd like to support the restoration project.

On June 25th, Jay Ingram will present the Foundation's update to the Town Council. The Hacienda de last Flores is located off Moraga Rd, at 2100 Donald Drive.

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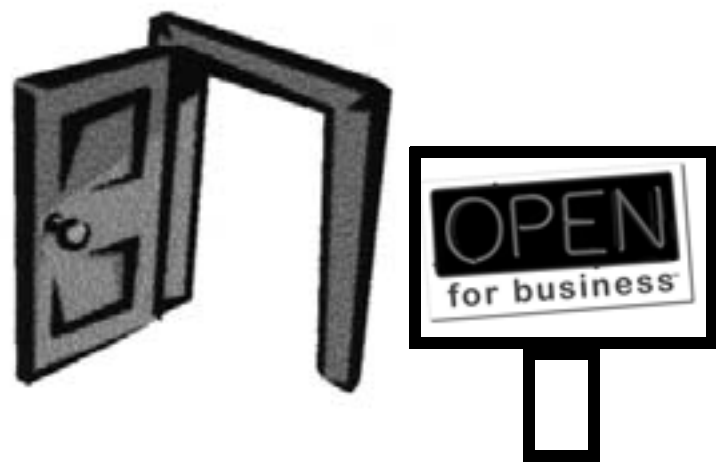
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## Town Council Hard at Work

... continued from page 3

Leveling the playing field will be a key objective for the Council, whose responsibility is to fairly inform the public about the potential impact of the two competing measures. "You are not limited to a 9212 report," added the Town's attorney. "You could order a side-by-side analysis of the texts." The idea sounded appealing to the Council but the Town Manager warned that time and money would not be available for such a report.

As the **raised crosswalks** were again brought in front of the Council, the audience felt confident it would be for the last time. Unfortunately, the crosswalks are turning into quicksand. The raised crosswalk under examination that night was the one situated at Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School.

An engineer from Fehr & Peers recommended leaving the apparatus as is, "this is the only

solution to force drivers to slow down," he said, "if there is no discomfort and compliance alone is required, some people will not respect the speed limit."

Mike Mentink, Fire Marshall with the Moraga-Orinda Fire District, reiterated his agency's opposition to any obstacle that impairs emergency vehicles response time.

Dave Trotter and Mike Metcalf were ready to do away with the raised crosswalk at JM, while Mayor Deschambault and Ken Chew didn't see any possible alternative to that device that wouldn't compromise the safety of children. Council member Bird insisted that a new hypothesis be studied: a stop sign at Rimer. "I am not ready to remove that raised crosswalk until we have a safe solution for the students at JM," she said.

The motion adopted required that the device be left in

place until the study of that stop sign be made. After the meeting, Stan Roth, from the "Citizens Moraga Safety" group, expressed his frustration: "After spending thousands of dollars of taxpayer money on staff time and two traffic engineering reports, and after receiving two separate letters from the Moraga-Orinda Fire Department outlining their educated objections to delayed emergency response times, the Town Council elected to reject both the traffic engineers suggestions and the concerns of our fire professionals."

The earliest date on which the issue could be back on the agenda is August 24th.

Late in the night, the Council approved the **Development Impact Fees Ordinance** that was presented at the previous meeting (see our article in the May 28th issue, available on-line at [www.lamorindaweekly.com](http://www.lamorindaweekly.com)).

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# Life in LAMORINDA

## Barriers and Supervision Are the Key to Avoiding Accidental Drowning

By Jennifer Wake



Pool fences are just one of four protective barriers recommended by the CPSC Photo Jennifer Wake

Swimming pools and wading pools offer a great way to cool off from summer heat. But without the right precautions, these cooling tools can become hazards for young children.

Last year, approximately 283 children under the age of five drowned in backyard pools and spas in the United States, according to the US Consumer Products Safety Commission (CPSC) – an increase from the prior year, with an even higher number of accidents in warm weather states such as California.

The problem often comes from a lack of barriers to the water and a lack of proper supervision.

“Many parents have the best intentions of close supervision,” said Donna Sjöberg, Learn-to-Swim Program Director at Moraga Valley Swim & Tennis Club. “Then they get caught up in a conversation, watering the garden,

reading a magazine or they are too far away from the pool and their child to really help right away should something happen.”

According to Safe Kids USA – a network of organizations whose mission is to prevent accidental childhood injury – drowning is a leading killer of children under age 5 and usually occurs “quickly and silently.”

“Most children who drown in swimming pools were last seen in the home, had been missing from sight for less than five minutes and were in the care of one or both parents at the time of the drowning,” the organization states on its Web site. The majority of children who survive are discovered within two minutes following submersion.

If a child is ever missing, the CPSC says to always check the swimming pool first. It also recommends adding protective barriers to every swimming pool: Pool

fences and barriers with self-closing, self-locking latches, and door alarms on doors leading from the house directly to the pool area. They also suggest having rescue equipment by the pool, having a phone poolside when possible with emergency numbers posted, and being up-to-date on CPR training.

The Moraga Orinda Fire Department offers CPR training at Station 41 on Moraga Road the second Saturday of each month at a cost of \$50 per session. Other classes are offered locally through the American Red Cross, and swim lessons or classes like Learn-To-Swim are offered at swim clubs such as Orinda Park Pool and Moraga Valley Pool & Tennis Club.

If your child is too young for swim lessons, however, Sjöberg warns against using floatation devices without close supervision. She consistently sees parents put their children in water safety vests or arm “floaties,” assuming their children are ‘water safe’ in them, but she warns these floatation devices give parents a false sense of security.

“Parents should know that those arm floaties are very dangerous,” she said. “The best thing that they could do is play with children in the water, teach them to blow bubbles and how to float on their front and back unsupported.”

In addition to these beginning swimming techniques, Sjöberg teaches her young swimmers what she calls “the Kangaroo.”

“The Kangaroo is a safety technique I use with the young ones who cannot keep their heads above

water and touch the bottom at the same time and have not yet mastered the back float,” she said. “It is for shallow, but still not shallow enough water. They utilize the BOB technique (holding onto the wall and/or going underwater and blowing bubbles slowly, coming to surface to get a quick breath and then back under slowly blowing bubbles again) but with a bounce towards the pool steps or the closest edge. I do this because should they slip off a water floating device or slip into the pool, they know how to bounce to safety.”

For the past 13 years, Sjöberg has helped children learn water safety, following the American Red Cross Learn-To-Swim Program Guidelines. The most important suggestion she can make to parents with children around any water – be it swimming pool, wading pool, bathtub, or bucket – is simple: Supervise them.

“Once children are 3 1/2 years old,” Sjöberg said, “find a good swim program for your child and have them take lessons or begin teaching them yourself.”

For more information about how to keep your children water safe this summer, visit <http://usa.safekids.org>. For information about local CPR classes and Learn-To-Swim classes, visit [www.bayarea-redcross.org](http://www.bayarea-redcross.org).

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## Cycling Across the US-71 year-old Bob Frick of Lafayette

Andrea A. Firth

Bob Frick's hikes have always been destination driven and covered a lot of ground. He has hiked Machu Picchu, Mt. Kilimanjaro, Mt. Whitney, the Tahoe Rim Trail, Half Dome a number of times, and the Grand Canyon Rim to Rim. After having both hips replaced six years ago, Bob switched to biking and applied the same determined spirit to two pedals and two wheels.

Last summer, at the age of 70, Bob and his wife, Barbara, joined friends for a seven-day 540-mile bike ride across Minnesota to raise money and awareness for poverty housing and homelessness. Motivated by this adventure, Bob decided to ride his bike across the United States this summer and to raise \$71,000 for the East Bay affiliate of Habitat for Humanity in the process.

“I thought I would set my fundraising goal at \$50,000 or \$100,000,” states Bob. “Because I turned 71 years old, I set the goal at \$71,000. I guess that might seem like a somewhat random approach given the fact that I teach in an executive MBA Program, but it works,” explains Bob with a confident laugh.

Bob will start his cycling journey in San Diego where he will dip his tire in the Pacific Ocean and head east across the southern coastal route through Arizona and Texas all the way to his destination of St. Augustine, FL.

... continued on page 9



Barbara and Bob Frick of Lafayette Photo Andrea A. Firth



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# Not to be missed

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**Lafayette Town Hall Theatre Company** presents the debut of Kevin Morales' original *Baby, Be Mine*, the story of a young actress who invites one of the Producers back to her place to pitch him the next great idea for a 30's style Musical Revue. *Baby, Be Mine* promises to be fresh, witty and original. Through June 28th. Contact the Town Hall Theatre Company Box Office for dates and times and ticket prices: Not for children under 12. 925-283-1557 or [www.thtc.org](http://www.thtc.org)

**Jazz in June** Sunday, June 22 at 10:30 Worship in the Fellowship Hall. Featuring the Tice Valley Jazz Band led by Bob Sutherland. Enjoy the music of Dixieland jazz, sing some old favorites and join in a hot dog picnic lunch following the service. Hot dogs, chips, dessert and beverages will be provided. Lafayette United Methodist Church, 955 Moraga Rd

**The Danville Lyric Opera Company** founded last year with the goal of promoting a traditional forum for classical opera and to educate young audiences about the sublime art of Opera will present *Carmen*, by Georges Bizet on Sunday, June 29th at 3:00 PM at the Town Hall Theater ([www.townhalltheater.com](http://www.townhalltheater.com)), 3535 School Street in Lafayette (925) 283-1557. [danville-opera@earthlink.net](mailto:danville-opera@earthlink.net)

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Jim Sheehan and Tom Peterson

Saturdays at 8:30 pm Sun., June 22<sup>nd</sup> at 4 pm, Thu., June 26<sup>th</sup> at 8 pm

## ART

**Exhibition at the Lafayette Gallery** California Dreaming--through August 9th. The gallery artists are inspired by the California landscape, the summer warmth, and the particular light that is unique to California. The artists of the Lafayette Gallery are all California artists. The paintings, prints, watercolors, photographs, and ceramic works, all reflect the vibrant life of the artists who created them. Gallery Hours are Tuesday to Saturday, 11 am to 5 pm. 925-284-2788, [www.lafayette-gallery.net](http://www.lafayette-gallery.net)

**"Fiesta Time" at the Moraga Art Gallery** features the work of two artists who live in Moraga. Moraga Art Gallery, 570 Center St, Rheem Valley Shopping Center/next to Longs Drugs. See story on this page.

## Lectures

**Tues, June 17, 7 pm—Lecture by Lawrence Wittner**, professor of history—Moraga Library. "The Untold Story of How Disarmament Activists saved the World From Itself" Hosted by Peace Action West, Dr. Wittner will speak on struggles and triumphs of US anti-nuclear movement and current work towards a nuclear weapons free world. An award winning author of numerous books including *Rebels Against War*, *Cold War America* and his latest, *Peace Action: Past, Present and Future*. Dr. Wittner has spoken at the UN and lectured at dozens of university campuses.

**Wed, June 18, 2 pm—Docent presentation—Moraga Library.** SF Museum of Fine Arts docent lecture explores the work of Dale Chihuly—world-renowned glass artist—particularly his use of natural light creating a unique translucency, vibrant colors and glowing intensity. Funded by the Friends of the Moraga Library.

**Wed, June 18, 7 p.m.—Energy Efficiency: Myths & Facts for Residential Customers—Orinda Library.** Bill Holloway from PG&E's Customer Energy Efficiency Department will share tips and techniques, which will not only maximize your home performance, but save resources and reduce your utility bills without losing comfort. A free CFL (compact fluorescent lamp) for everyone who attends. Gallery Room, Orinda Library- free Registration is required so call the Orinda Library at 925-254-2184 or register on-line at [ccclib.org](http://ccclib.org).

**Tues., June 24, 7 pm - Fireside Chat - Orinda Library.** Attorney and author J. Gary Gwilliam will discuss his autobiography, "Getting a Winning Verdict In My Personal Life: A Trial Lawyer Finds His Soul." Free event. The Orinda Library is located at 26 Orinda Way. For more information call 925-254-2184 or visit [ccclib.org](http://ccclib.org).

**June 28, 2 pm—Computer technology and animation—Moraga Library.** Animation presented by Steve Kitzing, for all ages, an informative presentation on techniques, tools and art of 3D.

## Other

**East Bay Mountain Bike Ride Day - Sat. June 14th at - Lake Chabot Regional Park.** Casual, social group ride. No one is every left behind and includes most levels for both men and women. Rides last 2-3 hours. See details and meeting location at [www.btceb.org](http://www.btceb.org).

**Sunday Family Hike Sun June 15.** Hike the redwood-laced trails near Chabot to hidden, historic sites. Experience the ecosystem walking through the beautiful, shady paths of the Redwood Regional Park, led by a naturalist from the East Bay Regional Park District. \$5 plus General Admission to Chabot Space & Science Center. To register call 510.336.7373. 9-11am (8 years & up) 1:30pm - 2:30pm (5 years & up) Children must be accompanied by an adult.

**Diablo Trail Endurance Ride 25/50** on June 21. AERC Sanctioned and AHA Region 3 Championship Ride. Starting from the Gateway Property on North Gate Road in Walnut Creek and ascending to the summit of Mt. Diablo. The course is challenging, some steep climbs, descents and creek crossings, and well marked. More information posted on this website at [www.save-mountdiablo.org](http://www.save-mountdiablo.org)

All Lafayette residents are invited to participate in the Lafayette Library Special Services Survey, which will run from through June 30, 2008. Information gathered through this survey will assist library planners to identify appropriate services for customers with disabilities and special needs in the new Lafayette Library and Learning Center,

opening in Fall 2009. The survey may be completed online at [ccclib.org/locations/lafayette.html](http://ccclib.org/locations/lafayette.html) and will also be available at the Lafayette Library, 952 Moraga Road, or the Senior Services Office, 500 St. Mary's Road, Lafayette.

**Friends of the Orinda Library** July 4th book sale - will be part of Orinda's 4th of July celebration. Booksale will be 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. and will be in the sorting room and garage breezeway. This booksale will offer a fine place for everyone to find something for summertime reading. Orinda Library, 26 Orinda Way, Orinda. (925)254-1358

**The Solid Waste Authority** will be conducting a home composting workshop on June 14th from 9-10:30. McDonnell Nursery, 196 Moraga Way in Orinda. It is IMPORTANT that you RSVP directly with them to reserve a seat. That number is 925-906-1806. You can also visit their website at [www.wastediversion.org](http://www.wastediversion.org).

**Rossmoor folk-dancing**, 1:45 to 3:15 pm every Wed afternoon...lots of teaching, lots of review...1:45 to 3:30 pm every Fri afternoon - slightly more spirited dancing, fewer reviews; presently \$5 per YEAR To register please email [judy@judygordon.com](mailto:judy@judygordon.com), [http://www.rossmoor.com/our\\_location/](http://www.rossmoor.com/our_location/)

**The finalists' art proposals** for the Lafayette Library and Learning Center's Public Art Commissions will be on display at the Lafayette Library 952 Moraga Road on Thursday June 19th from: 6:00 - 7:30 pm and during regular Library hours though June 21st. The public is invited to view the proposals and offer comments during the display period. For more information, please contact Cherie Newell or Carin Adams at 510-238-6836 or [ps@museumca.org](mailto:ps@museumca.org).

## For Teens

**Lamorinda 4-H Club** presents an unique hands-on vineyard development and management project; meets once a week 6:30-8:00 p.m. Ongoing project ends at harvest. Research and information from UC Davis. For more information call Susan Captain at 925-631-0714 or 925-899-0703 or

email at [susan.captain@captainvineyards.com](mailto:susan.captain@captainvineyards.com)

**Babysitting for Beginners Camp** with instructor Suzy McCreary. Learn child development, discipline strategies, safety techniques and plenty of ideas to keep the children entertained. Orinda: Mon-Thurs, June 23 to June 26, 10:00-12:00 Orinda Parks and Recreation Department (925) 254-2445 Lafayette: Wed & Thur June 25 and 26, 1:00-4:00 Lafayette Recreation Department: [www.lafayetterec.org](http://www.lafayetterec.org) or call: 925-284-2232

**June 18th, 3:30pm-Teen Book Club-Lafayette Library.** The critics have voted and the next book will be *Among the Hidden* by Margaret Haddix. Come by the library to pick up your copy, then come back June 18 to discuss the first book in this creepy anti-utopian series. Your last chance before the summer to talk books and eat pizza!

## For Kids

**June 17 and 24, 4 pm—Crafty Storytime—Moraga Library** Stories and crafts for children aged 3-7.  
**June 18 and 25, 10 am—Storytime Lapsit—Moraga Library** For babies and caregivers.  
**June 18 and 25, 10:45 am—Toddler-time—Moraga Library** Stories rhymes and fun for ages 2-3-1/2 with adult participation.

**June 19th 26th, 11:15 am-Storytime—Lafayette Library-** For children who are able to sit and listen to longer stories and participate in simple songs, fingerplays and rhymes.

**June 24th and 25th, 10:00am Storytime, Orinda Library** Stories, songs and bounces for one to three year-olds and their caregivers.

**June 19, 4 pm—Performance—Moraga Library** For kids: discover the amazing world of insects and millipedes with scientists from the Center for Ecosystem Survival.

**June 26, 11:15am "I Love Bugs Day"** at the Lafayette Library. Meet our friends from the Oakland Zoo and the Insect Mobile in celebration of summer reading.

## Moraga Art Gallery Presents Fiesta Time

By Andrea A. Firth



Connie Robertson stands by her whimsical clocks in the Moraga Art Gallery

Photo Andrea A. Firth

It's fiesta time at the Moraga Art Gallery. And with the vibrant colors employed by the two Lamorinda artists featured—Connie Robertson and Angelica Samame—in this summer exhibit, the Gallery looks like it is ready for a fun party.

Artist Connie Robertson moved to Moraga from Perth, Australia about eight years ago to join her daughter Heather Metcalf, who is also an artist. "My mother started creating pottery in her mid-seventies. Before that she was too busy raising children and working full-time to do any art," explains Metcalf who is a great supporter of her mother's late-life career in art. However, as time went on and a bit of osteoarthritis set in, Robertson found making pottery a challenge. "I was working with clay, but it was getting too heavy for me," explains Robertson.

At that point Metcalf suggested that her mother join her in taking a glass fusing class. "I think she attended two classes," says Metcalf. "From there she bought a kiln, a grinder, and glass saw, and she was off," she adds. That was five years ago when Robertson was 82 years old. Since then she has created hundreds of brightly colored glass pieces experimenting in jewelry and most recently in designing and making clocks.

Robertson has created brightly colored fused glass in the shape of fish, cats and other forms, which serve as the clockfaces for the battery-operated wall and desk clocks. "What she is doing is very

unique. These clocks are incredible things," states Robertson's proud daughter. The clocks are colorful, whimsical, and playful which appears to contrast with Robertson's beige-colored clothing and demure nature. But her daughter explains, "Actually, these clocks are very characteristic of my mother. She has great sense of humor."

Artist Angelica Samame began to live her passion for art later in life as well. Although she always wanted to be an artist, raising four children sidelined Samame's artistic endeavors. But as she describes, "the seed was there", and she began to focus seriously on her art about eight years ago when child number four left the nest. Working mainly with acrylic paints, Samame's paintings show beautifully dressed women in vibrant colors enjoying life."

Samame, who is originally from Peru, lived in Moraga for 27 years before recently moving to Walnut Creek. "I think my art has some routes in Peruvian culture. I paint mostly from my imagination." Samame branched out into a new medium this past year—papier mache. "I used to make dolls by hand when I was young. So I really enjoy creating with papier mache." In addition to her acrylic paintings, the exhibit includes a few of Samame's papier mache creations including a life-size doll and clown.

Fiesta Time will be on display at the Moraga Art Gallery, 570 Center Street (Rheem Shopping Center) through August 17th.

Please submit events to: [calendar@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:calendar@lamorindaweekly.com)

## Saint Mary's College

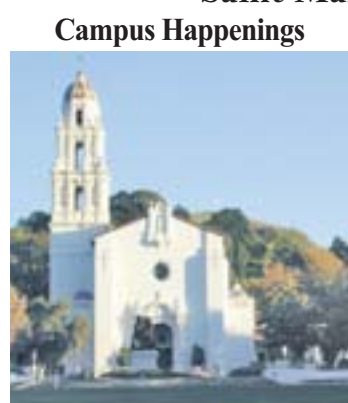


Photo by Ken C. Young, Moraga; [www.kcyoungfineartimages.com](http://www.kcyoungfineartimages.com)

### Lecture:

**"Graduate Kinesiology Colloquium: Improving Human Sport Performance"**

The Saint Mary's College Graduate Program in Kinesiology's annual Summer Colloquium features experts on "Improving Human Sport Performance": Dr. Andy Miah of University of the West Scotland discusses "Bioethics" on Wednesday, June 11; Mark Gilleran, commissioner of the West Coast Conference, Mark Fainru-Wada of ESPN and Derek Marks, Saint Mary's College professor, discuss "Performance Enhancement and the College Athlete" on Thursday, June 12. Wednesday, June 11 and Thursday, June 12.

Galileo Hall 201  
For info, contact: Kinesiology Program (925) 631-4377gram (925) 631-4377

**Art Exhibitions/Discussions: "You See: The Early Years of the UC Davis Art Faculty"**

Paintings, sculpture, drawings and prints by artists whose images and ideas changed the world of art. The largest public show of work by early University of California at Davis art faculty members Robert Arneson, Roy De Forest, Manuel Neri, Wayne Theibaud, and William T. Wiley - five of the most significant artists and teachers ever to live and work in Northern California.  
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**"William Keith: The 1880s Paintings"**  
Works from the 1880s, which marked a decade of great changes in William Keith's life.  
On view in the William Keith Room Hearst Art Gallery

Exhibition hours: Wednesdays through Sundays, 11 am until 4:30 pm  
Admission: \$3 adult; children 12 and under free; free parking  
Web site: <http://gallery.stmarys-ca.edu>. Telephone: 925-631-4379

For more information about upcoming events at Saint Mary's College, visit the college website at <http://www.stmarys-ca.edu/news-and-events/events.html>.

## Summer ART Workshops Hearst Art Gallery Saint Mary's College

### Figure Drawing for Teens - Teresa Onoda

August 19 & 20 or August 26 & 27, 1 - 4 PM  
Workshop: \$65, Model & Art Supplies: \$35  
Age: 13 - 18



### Byzantine Icon Workshop - Katherine Osenga

August 16 & 23, 9 AM - 3 PM  
Workshop: \$200, Art Supplies: \$100  
Adults & Teens



### Outdoor Landscape Painting - Warren Dreher

August 16 & 17, 9 AM - 4 PM  
Workshop: \$130, BYO supplies  
Adults & Teens



### Adult Figure Drawing - Jim Whiteaker

August 23, 9 AM - 4 PM  
Workshop fee: \$65, Model & Art Supplies fee: \$45

## The UC Davis Faculty Exhibition closes June 22

Don't miss seeing major work by

**Robert Arneson  
Roy De Forest  
Manuel Neri  
Wayne Thiebaud  
William T. Wiley**

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

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# Life in LAMORINDA

## As Gas Prices Change, So Do Some Lamorinda Residents' Daily Lives

... continued from page 1

"A lot of my business is the marketing of homes owned by relocation companies, so I need to make property inspections of the vacant homes at least a couple of times a week to make sure that they are secure, that maintenance is being taken care of, etc.," he says. "Instead of visiting one property one day and another the next, I now make a lap of all of the properties to avoid driving out to Oakley and back to Moraga and then over to Dublin, for example."

Bassett has also noticed a marked increase in carpooling in his industry.

"Real estate agents used to go out on their own or with another agent to look at the homes on Tuesdays," Bassett says. "Now when a car drives up to a broker open house we often see five people get out to tour the listing; we are also seeing fewer agents from other areas coming over to Lamorinda on tour. They are staying closer to their offices."

One Orinda mom, who asked not to be named, uses her husband's car on the weekends, since gas is paid for by his company. But she is not over-doing it.

"Now I call first before going to Target to see if they have what I need, and I will walk to the grocery store," she says. "Gas prices have totally affected us. There were times when a friend and I would be going somewhere, and I'd quickly say 'I'll drive!' Now, we really talk about it."

Lafayette resident Marti Kohen has her kids ride their razors, skateboards, or bikes to the local pool for swim practice and for work as lifeguards. "There are definitely more carpools and more organized

errand running," she says. Another Moraga mother, who owns an SUV, asked for a bike rack for her birthday and now drives her kids one way. They bike themselves home.

Since November 2007, Americans have been driving less, according to the Federal Highway Administration



(FHWA)

good news for reducing greenhouse gas emissions; bad news for the Highway Trust Fund, which relies on revenues from the federal gasoline excise tax, it says.

Other bad news may come in the form of a reduction in volunteer drivers who help organizations like Meals on Wheels or Seniors Around Town (SAT) – a program exclusively for Orinda seniors who are no longer able to drive and who may not qualify for the County Connection LINK system.

Fortunately, Orinda Association president Kate Wiley says the generosity of her volunteer SAT drivers hasn't changed. The organization, however, has changed the type of award given to their Volunteer Driver of the Year. "In the past the volunteer might have received flowers," she says, "but now thanks to donations from our community, as a gift to that person we give them gas cards."

Others are seeing more of their neighbors working from home. Bassett says he has seen some "marginally producing"

agents leave the business altogether "due to lack of revenue and the cost of doing business (i.e. cost of gas)."

Joanne Tan, however, sees a silver lining to the high gas prices. Tan believes this is a wake-up call to expand the use of public transportation (which she reminds us will benefit our planet's health), and hopes we can gradually reducing the use of low occupancy vehicles.

Until then, look for more hybrids on Lamorinda roads. At least two more joined the ranks this past year: Bassett's Honda Civic Hybrid and the Tan's Prius.

### Gas Saving Tips

Last year, when a gallon of gas cost a measly \$2.75, Joanne Tan, who is the leader for the Holy Planet Task Force and who won a Lafayette Green Award, was already promoting gas-saving tips. These tips were originally intended for reducing CO2 emission and saving the planet from global warming, but now help Tan and her family reduce fuel consumption as well.

- Instead of using AC, roll down all vehicle windows by two inches to allow fresh air to circulate. (Rolling windows all the way down creates drag that makes the vehicle burn more fuel.)
- Combine chores.
- Purchase a hybrid car.
- Other small steps: check tire pressure regularly, avoid driving with heavy loads in the vehicle, avoid idling more than a minute, and drive at a moderate speed without frequent change of speed or breaking, when possible.

(source: "Live Green To Do List", Joanne Tan, Holy Planet Task Force)

## Cycling Across the US-71 year-old Bob Frick of Lafayette

... continued from page 7

Aiming to cover an average of 55 to 65 miles a day with the occasional day off for rest and good behavior, Bob plans to complete the 3,300 mile trek in about two months. By his side, as she has been for most of his adventures, will be Barbara who will drive their Prius for most of the trip and join Bob on her bike for some of the route.

"I am the keeper of the golden ice pick," states Barbara. Although Bob has gotten the green light for the bike trip from his both his orthopedic surgeon and general physician, both advised that Barbara should be given the authority to determine if Bob should stop biking at any time during the trip. "He'll be riding in temperatures over 100F with humidity, and we don't really have that in Northern California," explains Barbara.

Although he heat and humidity are a concern, Bob remains undaunted. The fact that he has not heard of anyone else in their seventies who has attempted the cross-country ride, let alone completed it,

does not seem to phase him either—just the opposite, it seems to please him. Bob expects to head out on August 1st and be done by October 1st. Donations can be

made by going to first-giving.com/cycleofhope; with questions contact Bob at kesrobfrick@comcast.net.

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# Lamorinda's Religious Services



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



**Summer Worship Schedule**

8:15 a.m. Traditions Worship Service  
9:15 a.m. Coffee Fellowship  
9:45 a.m. Celebrations Worship Service  
Childcare available for ages 5 and younger

**Our Savior's Lutheran (ELCA)**

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**SUMMER SCHEDULE**

Worship 9:30-10:30 am Sunday  
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Vacation Bible School  
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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:

The residents of Thune Ave have nothing over us here on Ascot Drive in re the behavior of SMC students. In the past year we have had noisy parties, loud music, witnessed someones contentious girlfriend taken away in the police car after a shameful fight, a naked howling student in the parking lot at 2 am (his friends gathered him home before the police got here), screeching girls and the continuing problems of having the friends of our SMC neighbors parking in our assigned parking spots.

If anyone thinks that this type of behavior is going to diminish with the building of a night cafe or bookstore, they are utterly mistaken.

The problem is not "Boraga." The problem is the lack of civility and a culture that promotes alcohol at every turn and tolerates boorish behavior.

I agree that the landlords should feel the sting of the fines that their tenants cause, but who is going to make the students accountable? Actually that was their parents' job, and their parents failed. It seems no one taught these kids how to live with consideration for others. We don't need more "diversions" for the students. What is needed is a course on Manners and Growing Up. Now that they are in College, is that too much to ask?

Carolyn Aguirre, Moraga

Branch of the American Association of University Women event held on May 20 at the Orinda Country Club. Ms. Braccini gave an excellent listing of the accomplishments of our branch as well as a very flattering description of my activities serving the organization, my family and my church thus earning me the Distinguished Woman of 2008 award. This is an honor I shall treasure forever and the newspaper clipping has been added to my scrapbook.  
Maryann Zivic, Lafayette

YES on Measure E passes  
Thank you, Orinda voters, for overwhelmingly supporting Orinda's library! Thanks to you, this community jewel will be able to maintain its hours, keep current with its quality collection and continue to provide valuable programs well into the future. Thank you also to Friends of the Library volunteers for not only helping with this campaign, but for volunteering many hours on behalf of the library.

Thanks to the Orinda City Council for working with the Friends of the Library in placing this much-needed tax renewal on the ballot.

More thanks to the many supporters who wrote letters, donated money, and put out lawn signs in support of the measure. The campaign still has a loan to pay off, and anyone who would like to contribute can send their donation to Support Orinda's Library: Yes on Measure E at P. O. Box 278, Orinda 94563.

Thank you again!  
Susie Epstein  
Chair - Support Orinda's Library:  
Yes on Measure E, Orinda

Dear Editor,

I am very disappointed with the Acalanes School District Board due to a recent decision they made to exclude international foreign exchange students from graduation ceremonies at schools in the district.

I am a member and past president of the Rotary Club of Lafayette. All three of my children are graduates of Acalanes. The Rotary Club of Lafayette has hosted 6 exchange students over the past 10 years and all attended Acalanes. One of the highlights of the exchange student's time in the United States has been being included in the graduation exercises along with all the friends they have made during their senior year. Even though they were not receiving a diploma because they did not meet the requirements for graduation, they historically were allowed to participate in the ceremonies and received a "Certificate of Completion." The certificate commemorated their year here and is cherished me-

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mento of their time in the United States and at Acalanes. Many of them arranged for proud loved ones from their respective countries to visit California for the ceremony where they saw their smiling son or daughter receive a certificate acknowledging their completion of studies.

The school board decision was challenged during meetings of the School District and in letters directed to superintendent Negri. The board, however, has refused to reconsider. This decision is unwarranted since allowing exchange students to participate in graduation ceremonies has no impact on our schools or district. The precedent of many years of allowing their participation was negated at the last minute. While it is maybe too late for this year's students, those who have been involved with the exchange program hope that the decision will be revisited and reversed such that future exchange students can participate. We are, after all, exporting American good will.  
Bob Shusta, Lafayette

### Happy Birthday, Colonel Hampton!

Submitted by Earle Holt



left to right: Bill Wasson, Wes Tilton, Norb Nalecki, Dale Cook, John Hampton, Don Hester and Earle Holt cutting the cake

Marine Corp Lt. Colonel John L. Hampton of Lafayette celebrated his 101st birthday recently, surrounded by friends. Hampton, a former journalist who also worked in the public information sector, served in the Pacific in World War II and was a key player

in the establishment of the Marine Corp Toys for Tots program in 1947. The Lt. Colonel is a member of the San Francisco Joe Rosenthal Chapter of the US Marine Corp Combat Correspondents Association. Happy Birthday, Colonel Hampton!

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### Mayor's Award for Excellence ...

... continued from page 4

"While there are many projects that are gorgeous in and of themselves, in order to maintain the wonderful natural environment of Orinda, we will really be looking to see how the projects fit the topography, maintain privacy for both the homeowner and the neighbors, and contribute to the neighborhood, all while meeting high quality architectural design standards," she adds. Having received entries only in the architectural categories last year, the City hopes residents will consider submitting entries to the landscape and environmental sustainability categories as well. "In landscape we will be looking for the use of native vegetation with a mix of ornamental plantings that enhance the site's natural and man-made features. This is especially important in a drought year," says Smith. "In the environmental sustainability category, we hope to look at projects that use both high and low tech green building techniques," she adds.

Submission requirements and entry applications are available at the city website (www.cityoforinda.com) and at City Hall. The deadline for entries is August 15, 2008. Winner will be announced at the City Council meeting on December 2nd, 2008.



# Life in LAMORINDA

## Per Tutti Ristorante—Lunch with Your Best Friend

By Andrea A. Firth



Pepsi is enjoying her delicious lunch

Photo Andrea A. Firth

I don't go out to lunch much. My days as a freelance writer are spent in large part on the phone and in front of a computer screen. Lunch is a bagel with cream cheese on a good day, with peanut butter on an ok day, and nothing on some days when my son eats the last bagel for breakfast. So when the editor said she needed a writer with a dog to try out the doggie menu at Per Tutti in Lafayette, I jumped at the opportunity.

I invited my friend Tracy and her flat coat retriever, Bryce, to join my dog, Pepsi, and me for a Friday lunch. (And yes, my kids did name the dog.) Upon arriving, I was thrilled to find a parking spot on Mt. Diablo Boulevard directly in front of the restaurant. I filled the parking meter with all the change that I had to cover a leisurely hour-long lunch. I think a dime got me about seven minutes. When Tracy

arrived, I learned that she had parked for free in the lot a few steps away. It was becoming obvious that I don't go out to lunch in Lafayette very often.

The morning June gloom had lifted by midday, so Tracy and I chose a table in the sun. We decided to order and eat our lunches first then to treat the hounds to Per Tutti's doggie menu. Both Bryce and Pepsi have dark black coats (although Pepsi's coat has a hint of a brown, like the soda of course), so once the dogs realized that they were not going to get any of our food or even much of our attention, both retreated to lie on the cool brick sidewalk in the shade. The waiter had brought each dog a bowl of water, so they were comfortable.

I had a great caprese sandwich—fresh mozzarella with vine-ripened tomatoes, basil, and avocado on a Kaiser roll with pesto



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sauce, and Tracy enjoyed a spinach salad with bacon, mushrooms, and red onions. The menu includes a number of other appetizing lunch items that I could de-

scribe, but my assignment was to check out the doggie menu, right?  
... continued on page 18

## Sudden Oak Death Starting to Invade East Bay Area

Submitted by Expert Tree Service, Orinda



Tree located at Sleepy Hollow Lane, Orinda

Photo Expert Tree Service

Sudden Oak Death (SOD) is spreading through the east bay area resulting in the dieback of several tree species including tanoak trees and other oaks, including coast live oaks and California black oaks.

Homeowners need to be aware of this disease caused by Phytophthora ramorum, a plant pathogen that was first discovered in Europe in 1995, and spread to the United States (Santa Cruz County) in 2001. Today, the disease has reached 14 California counties, from Monterey to Humboldt and

continues to spread. Two counties that are highly infected include Santa Cruz and Marin (specifically, Mt. Tamalpais) according to the Department of Natural Resources.

Sudden Oak Death has killed more than one million trees to date, and at least another million are currently infected. Researchers at University of California-Berkeley estimate that 20 percent of the live oaks in the area will perish from SOD if left untreated.

... continued on page 19

## PET INSURANCE

By Mona Miller, DVM

Veterinary pet insurance options have become much more numerous in the past several years. Veterinary care for pets is usually an out-of-pocket expense. Depending on where one lives in the country, this can be considerable - whether it is for monthly medication for health (flea and tick control, heartworm preventive) or chronic disease (skin allergies, thyroid disease, diabetes, arthritis) or for unexpected trauma. Here in the Bay Area, it is not unusual for a dog's fractured leg to cost several thousand dollars for surgical repair, or to spend \$50-100 per month on skin allergy medication. Pet insurance can help a pet owner recoup some of these costs. Most of the plans are third-party reimbursement, which means that the pet owner pays his/her veterinarian directly, the vet helps fill out the forms for proper diagnosis/treatment descriptions, the pet owner submits the form to his/her insurance company and receives reimbursement directly. Most plans offer a set reimbursement rate, so one should look carefully to see if there is a demographic variability - whether it is taken into consideration the different cost of veterinary care associated with living in California versus Kansas.

There are a couple of plans that offer a percentage reimbursement (and these are the ones I usually recommend to my clients) - so that the higher cost of living is factored in automatically. A veterinarian founded the first pet insurance company in 1982. Since then, several other companies have offered insurance packages. Most offer a benefit schedule for reimbursement, giving an amount available per incident. Most insurance plans offer many levels of care coverage, ranging from wellness packages (generally would cover a spay/neuter in the first year or so, anesthetic dental procedures during mid-years, and annual lab tests for senior wellness)

to urgent care only. Some plans offer multiple pet discounts. Exclusions can include breed specific hereditary conditions (for example, some purebred cats may not be covered for specific heart disease, or some purebred dogs may not be covered for spinal degeneration). Some pets might be excluded from their own "pre-existing" condition(s) prior to enrollment in an insurance plan. This becomes less of a factor when enrolling a young puppy or kitten. Even "exotic" pets are covered by most of the well-known plans - providing owners of birds, rabbits, rodents, and reptiles some financial help with veterinary care. Additionally, some plans will



Dr. Mona S. Miller lives in Lafayette with her 3 year old son and her yellow Labrador Retriever. She has worked at Four Seasons Animal Hospital in Lafayette since moving here in 2001. She attended Cal as an undergrad, and received her DVM from U.C. Davis. She can be reached at Four Seasons, 938-7700, or by email to MonaSDVM@aol.com.

cover "holistic" veterinary medicine (which might include acupuncture, chiropractic or supplements) when prescribed by a licensed veterinarian. If pet insurance is some-

thing that interests you, check with your veterinarian for his/her opinion or recommendation for a specific company.

## Frequently Questions and Answers for Homeowners About Sudden Oak Death



**Q How Can I Tell If My Oak Tree Has Sudden Oak Death?**

**A** On oaks and tanoaks, trunk cankers are formed on stems. Black or reddish ooze sometimes bleeds from the cankers, staining the oak's bark. Cankered trees usually survive a few years, but once crown dieback begins, leaves usually turn green to yellow to brown within weeks. Since the bleeding ooze is hard to see once it is dried or washed off from rain, it is difficult for many homeowners to detect SOD.

**Q How Can Sudden Oak Death Be Treated?**

**A** The phosphate compound, Agri-Fos®, is the only preventive treatment approved by the State for use against Phytophthora ramorum infections on oaks and tanoaks. It is not a cure, but a preventative measure with healthy trees. There is no treatment for trees showing advanced signs of SOD. This treatment protects trees from getting infected and suppresses SOD in very early infections. It takes between three to six weeks for the material to fully assimilate and start warding off the pathogen.

**Q Will my oak tree die if it has Sudden Oak Death?**

**A** Tanoaks seem to have a higher probability of dying of SOD over live oaks. Generally, most tanoaks die within one to two years after becoming infected while live oaks last for another three to four years.

**Q When landscaping, what types of oaks should I consider?**

**A** Some native oaks (white oak group) are most resistant to SOD. Small live oaks are less susceptible to SOD versus larger trees if provided the proper preventative protection when planted. Compliments of Expert Tree Service in Orinda, CA

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Realtor  
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## A Dream for Moraga

By Sophie Braccini

"An exclusive and dramatically situated hideaway;" "One of the most beautiful and tranquil spaces in the buzzing East Bay;" "A microclimate of luxury." Could these quotes refer to Moraga one day? This is the dream of one man, Joao Magalhaes, a twenty-year resident of Moraga with a lot of business acumen and a "2020 vision."

On June 2nd the Economic Development Advisory Committee presented to the Town Council a report on the economic state of the town, after two years and 1400 hours of work. The picture is a city that does not offer its wealthy residents the shopping experience they want, a business community where large chain retailers derive 75% of their revenue from outside of Moraga and where many stores are vacant. Residents crave high-end

products they can't find in town because the Moraga market is too small and because surrounding communities offer a more attractive shopping experience.

As Moraga sees a high risk of structural deficit and stagnant sales tax revenue, everyone is scrambling for ideas to revive the economic life in town. Members of the Chamber of Commerce launched "Shop Moraga First," and the Town is engaged in Specific Plan discussions for the downtown area. At the end of their presentation to the Council, members of EDAC invited everyone to hear the plan of Joao Magalhaes.

Magalhaes, the former President of Bechtel Brazil, calls his plan "2020 vision." "You need a long term plan, and benchmarks," says Magalhaes. His benchmark is the Poetry Inn in Yountville, its Cliff

Lede Vineyards and the art gallery located there as well.

Magalhaes is part of the Lamorinda Winegrower Association, a group consisting of more than seventy local winegrowers. He has researched the history of Moraga and discovered that more than one hundred twenty years ago the Christian Brothers, who founded St Mary's College, were encouraged to produce local alter wine. He read about Brother Timothy Diener, a pioneer in California wine making, who was the winemaker at Christian Brothers for more than fifty years.

"You could incorporate a spa, a bakery, a five-star restaurant and boutiques," he says, "what counts is a choice of optimal quality that will attract discriminating customers and create a unique image for Moraga."

... continued on page 13

## Tried & True Tips to Improve the Value of Your Home... Eliminate the Clutter!

By Dana Green



If you are thinking about selling your home or, if you simply would like to enjoy the home you have, the very first thing to attack is clutter! Ask yourself a few common questions: Are your closets crammed with items you haven't worn in years? Have you simply shut the doors to your children's rooms and given up? Do you have random items stacked in corners of every room? What do the surfaces of your dressers, counters and refrigerator look like? Before you begin to honestly answer these

questions, take a deep breath and call in help.

Gather your family (or a professional organizer) and re-enter your house with a new set of eyes. Carry a clip-board for note taking and have some fun identifying the piles in each room. Together create a plan of attack that involves one room at a time. The garage is always a great place to start as it is often the dumping ground for families. It may seem like a daunting task but a few days of cleaning could rid your garage of many use-

less items. Sort through what you don't need and hold a garage sale. This is a great task for kids and can provide a wonderful learning experience. Or, if time is short, donate items to charity and make sure to get a receipt for your tax returns! Place everything you are keeping into labeled plastic bins. Viola, a clean and clear garage!

After cleaning out the garage, continue the journey inside. Remember to tackle one room at a time so you don't get overwhelmed. Do what you can to throw away or donate what you don't need. Straighten and organize what you do need and be patient with the process. The journey alone will be rewarding for everyone involved!

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Dana Green, a Lafayette native, is a Lamorinda Real Estate Specialist. Dana can be reached at (925) 339-1918 or [danagreen@rockcliff.com](mailto:danagreen@rockcliff.com)



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## Lamorinda Home Sales continued

<b>LAFAYETTE</b>	Last reported:	16
LOWEST AMOUNT:		\$770,000
HIGHEST AMOUNT:		\$2,350,000
<b>MORAGA</b>	Last reported:	4
LOWEST AMOUNT:		\$908,000
HIGHEST AMOUNT:		\$1,423,500
<b>ORINDA</b>	Last reported:	5
LOWEST AMOUNT:		\$735,500
HIGHEST AMOUNT:		\$3,850,000

Home sales are compiled by Cal REsource, an Oakland real estate information company. Sale prices are computed from the county transfer tax information shown on the deeds that record at close of escrow and are published five to eight weeks after such recording. This information is obtained from public county records and is provided to us by California REsource. Neither Cal REsource nor this publication are liable for errors or omissions.

- LAFAYETTE**
- 44 Cricket Hill Road, \$1,650,000, 2 Bdrms, 2398 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 5-14-08
  - 3232 Deer Hill Road, \$2,350,000, 3240 SqFt, 1931 YrBlt, 5-12-08
  - 3882 Los Arabis Drive, \$1,350,000, 3 Bdrms, 2507 SqFt, 1981 YrBlt, 5-16-08
  - 3388 Las Huertas Road, \$1,750,000, 5 Bdrms, 3428 SqFt, 1941 YrBlt, 5-9-08
  - 474 Peacock Boulevard, \$770,000, 3 Bdrms, 1154 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 5-13-08
  - 3826 Quail Ridge Road, \$1,100,000, 5 Bdrms, 2343 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 5-6-08
  - 409 Read Drive, \$1,197,000, 5 Bdrms, 2830 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 5-9-08
  - 11 Sessions Road, \$2,300,000, 4149 SqFt, 1999 YrBlt, 5-7-08
  - 349 Shire Oaks Court, \$855,000, 3 Bdrms, 1601 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 5-14-08
  - 3472 Silver Springs Road, \$1,520,000, 3 Bdrms, 1865 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 5-9-08
  - 3518 Silver Springs Road, \$1,760,000, 3 Bdrms, 2292 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 5-9-08
  - 3380 St. Marys Road, \$1,079,000, 5 Bdrms, 2314 SqFt, 1939 YrBlt, 5-15-08
  - 3176 Stanley Boulevard, \$840,000, 3 Bdrms, 1808 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 5-14-08
  - 1160 Vallecito Court, \$2,295,000, 6 Bdrms, 2382 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 5-5-08
  - 3 Valley High, \$1,570,000, 5 Bdrms, 2620 SqFt, 1977 YrBlt, 5-8-08
  - 1070 Via Baja, \$1,125,000, 2 Bdrms, 1915 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 5-14-08
- MORAGA**
- 10 Camelford Court, \$908,000, 4 Bdrms, 1888 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 5-19-08
  - 63 Corte Del Sol, \$1,030,000, 4 Bdrms, 1946 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 5-9-08
  - 2 Moraga Valley Lane, \$1,423,500, 3 Bdrms, 2793 SqFt, 1999 YrBlt, 5-6-08
  - 7 Warfield Drive, \$1,025,000, 3 Bdrms, 2473 SqFt, 1990 YrBlt, 5-9-08
- ORINDA**
- 52 Acacia Drive, \$1,150,000, 3 Bdrms, 1927 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt, 5-16-08
  - 20 Bel Air Drive, \$975,000, 3 Bdrms, 1591 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 5-16-08
  - 11 Honey Hill Road, \$3,850,000, 4 Bdrms, 3886 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 5-14-08
  - 31 La Cuesta Road, \$900,000, 4 Bdrms, 1903 SqFt, 1936 YrBlt, 5-13-08
  - 208 the Knoll, \$735,500, 2 Bdrms, 2116 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 5-8-08

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# business briefs

## Teacake Bake Shop Brings Premium Cookies to Lafayette

La Fiesta Square, 35 Lafayette Circle, 283-9900, [www.teacakebakeshop.com](http://www.teacakebakeshop.com)

The day of Teacake Bake Shop's open house, on Sunday May 31st, people lined up on the sidewalk by the tiny facility to get a chance to try those premium cupcakes at \$3 a piece or mini-brownies for \$1 each. The room was filled with mini-cupcakes, chocolate chunk cookies and cookie sandwiches. The experience was worth the wait because the high quality ingredients used by the baker produce a superior sweet culinary experience. This unique taste has made successful this company that's now opening its 3rd store in Lafayette (after Emeryville and Corte Madera). A visit to the web site gives an idea of the sophisticated offering, but the best way to gage its worth is to stop at the store located where "Patisserie" was (now regrouped with the tea-house on the other side of La Fiesta Square), between Red Wagon and the natural food store Open Sesame. The new store hours are: Mon-Sat 10-6pm and Sun 11-5pm.



## New Pesticide-free Cherries at the Moraga Farmers' Market,

Moraga Center  
Moraga's Richard Hauser set up store for the first time at the Moraga Farmers' market on June 8th.

The emphasis was on the late spring cherry harvest, approaching 100 pounds. He will also have more limited amounts of mixed lettuce, snow peas, fava beans, Lisbon lemons & Valencia oranges. Plums are coming soon. Although he can't call it organic, it's pesticide free with no chemical fertilizer.



## The Orinda Branch of Union Bank of California (Grand opening was June 4th), 140 Brookwood Road, Suite 101, Orinda.

Union Bank of California recently had the grand opening of its Moraga branch. A Japanese owned bank implanted in the Bay Area for many years, they want to partner with local small and medium businesses, and be part of Lamorinda's growth.

## Mechanics Bank Expands in Lamorinda with a Branch in Lafayette, 3640 Mt. Diablo Blvd

After Moraga and Orinda, Mechanics Bank will open a new branch in Lafayette in late July. "We're connecting the dots," said Raully Butler, senior vice president and retail banking manager for Mechanics Bank. "We want that synergy of neighboring cities that already know us but don't have us." The new branch will open where Wells Fargo & Co. closed earlier this year. Serendipity played a role in Mechanics Bank actually getting the lease, however, as it owns the mortgage on the building. The landlord, John Brondello, approached his mortgage lender, Mechanics Bank, about coming to town. Mechanics Bank enters the Lafayette market after several changes which have altered the banking landscape.

## Yankee Pier in Lafayette Cuts Wine Prices in July, Lafayette Mercantile, 3593 Mt Diablo Boulevard, 283-4100

This July, for the sixth year in a row, the Lark Creek Restaurant Group will hold their half-off wine promotion when every bottle at every Bay Area restaurant (more than 1000 labels) is half-price for brunch, lunch and dinner. Wines found at Yankee Pier include: 2006 Gary Farrell Sauvignon Blanc \$23 / \$46, 2005 Rombauer Chardonnay \$32 / \$64

## The Massage Cottage Adds Garden Treatments ,

71 Lafayette Circle. 284-2881, web site under construction.

Located in a somewhat hidden place off La Fiesta Square in Lafayette, the Cottage's owners have decided to turn the quiet location to their advantage and are now offering spa treatments in the "secret garden." Chair massage, foot massage, combined with stretching, guided meditation, and other special treats, will be offered, weather permitting. Marian specializes in Maya Abdominal therapy, Jane's area of expertise is Trager Body Work. Jana features Rehabilitative Therapy and Kamala's focus is Therapeutic Massage.



## Quenchers Adds Frozen Yoghurt, 21 Orinda Way # G - Orinda 254-7836

Building on a new trend in New-York City and LA, Quenchers is offering frozen yogurts in the popular European tart flavors that incorporate all the live cultures that are good for you. The store offers different flavors every day and optional toppings such as granola or fruits. Price starts at \$2.50 for the petite size. Quenchers is already well known for its smoothies, including the "Living Lean" option that was developed in partnership with Sheena Lakhotia. Hours are 10 to 5pm during the week and 10 to 4pm on Saturday.

## News from the three Chambers of Commerce

**Lafayette Chamber of Commerce**, 100 Lafayette Circle, Lafayette, [www.lafayettechamber.org](http://www.lafayettechamber.org):

- Friday June 13th: Coffee With The Mayor - 8:00 am - Lafayette Chamber Conference Room. This is your chance to visit with Mayor Mike Anderson and get a front row seat to discuss the current events and issues in Lafayette.
- Monday June 16th - 9th Annual Best Martini in the East Bay Contest from 6-8 pm, at the Lafayette Park Hotel & Spa. Sponsored by the Lafayette Park Hotel and Level Vodka by Absolut. All proceeds will benefit "Project Second Chance," the Contra Costa County Library adult literacy program.
- Wednesday, June 18 - Noon - GREEN Committee - Chamber offices
- Thursday, June 19 - 8:30am - Entrepreneur's Club - Chamber offices

**Moraga Chamber of Commerce**, [www.moragachamber.org](http://www.moragachamber.org):

- Tuesday, June 17th from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM Moraga Country Club invites the members of the Moraga Chamber of Commerce and their spouses to a mixer. Appetizers and wine provided by the Club, RSVP before June 14th to [edy321@comcast.net](mailto:edy321@comcast.net).

**Orinda Chamber of Commerce**, 24 Orinda Way, Orinda, [www.orindachamber.org](http://www.orindachamber.org):

- Tuesday, June 17th: Chamber Luncheon Noon - 1:30 p.m. Orinda Country Club 315 Camino Sobrante, Orinda. Speaker will be Dr. Joel Parrott, Executive Director of the Oakland Zoo. Cost: \$30.00 per person. Call 925-254-3909 for your reservation

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## A Dream for Moraga

... continued from page 12

The key partner in the project is the landowner. Different sites are viable for this grand vision in Moraga and Magalhaes is actively seeking property owners' support. "The idea would be to create a Special Purpose Company that would involve the main stakeholders, including the property owners, and preserve their interest," explains a passionate Magalhaes. He envisions that the group would create the 2020 vision, its business plan and visuals, and then actively seek the right professionals to launch the bakery, hotel, spa, and wine-making that will constitute this new center.

Magalhaes has handled projects of even larger scope in his past, but does not want to be the main actor in this one. "I am retired now," says Magalhaes, "I know investors and other interested parties. All I want is that my children and grandchildren continue to have pride in the place they live in."

The members of the Town Council and the Town staff are very interested in the idea. "There's no question that Joao's project appealed to all of the Council members," said Vice-Mayor Dave Trotter. "It can and should be incorporated into the Moraga Center Specific Plan. With support of the property owner, the project could be a very attractive component at the heart of Moraga's new and revitalized downtown."

Council member Mike Metcalf was just as positive, "I have discussed the winery concept a number of times. It's always seemed to me a perfect fit for Moraga, given (1) our agricultural heritage, (2) our growing number of earnest wine



Parkmon vineyard in Moraga

Photo Andy Scheck

growers, and (3) an (apparent) appreciation by Moragans for good wine." He too highlights the role of the property owner, "Clearly no winery project could ever fly without the enthusiastic support of the Bruzzone family, which owns the ideal location for such a project."

Mayor Lynda Deschambault agrees, "The concept of a boutique winery and B&B is one that many have supported, including myself...now we need a real business plan, renderings, and buy-in from the landowners."

"Developing Moraga as a destination is a way to complement declining retail sales tax revenue with Transient Occupancy Tax," says Council member Ken Chew, "we need to look in that direction."

"A lot of Joao's ideas are very attractive, and our family has had such dreams for many years," says property owner Dave Bruzzone. "We want to have the ability to implement the developments this commu-

nity needs, but zoning and political structures have impeded progress in the past. We have been trying to work with the Town, on the Specific Plan, to set up the framework that will allow exciting ideas and projects to take root and blossom. The Specific Plan shouldn't be about one specific idea but the opportunity for us as property owners, to entertain all the great ideas and then go with the best ones. A good Specific Plan makes accommodations for exciting opportunities and doesn't exact burdens and conditions that are barriers to entry. We need people like Joao, and all the others like him, who see what we saw years ago in Moraga, a special and unique place, a place worth your life's investment."

The next meeting for the Specific Plan is scheduled for June 16th, in the La Sala Building of the Hacienda de las Flores; a presentation by the Dahlin Group is scheduled for July 9th during the Town Council meeting in the JM auditorium.

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## Classified Employees: An Often Overlooked Resource of the School Districts

By Sophie Braccini



Jim Joaquin (right) is praised by Human Resources Director Frank Acocido Photo Sophie Braccini

Jim Joaquin was hired by the Acalanes Union High School District (AUHSD) as a substitute custodian in 1971. Over the years, he worked his way up the ladder to a manager's position, made friends along the road and now retires with many memories and a few regrets about leaving the job and the people he loves. Joaquin is a fine example of those employees that are essential to the survival of our schools but who do not always receive the acknowledgement they deserve.

"I will miss Jim," said AUHSD Director of Human Resources Frank Acocido. "He was wonderful to work with, had a personable and positive attitude that made him a consensus builder who could reach out to all the levels of the hierarchy." Even though he became the supervisor of all the custodians in the Acalanes School district,

Jim would never hesitate to roll up his sleeves when help was needed. As the District's requests evolved, he responded by accepting different positions, such as gardener in the early days and food services lead manager later.

Chris Learned, AUHSD Assistant Superintendent, couldn't agree more. "I will miss Jim, he is a great person and was recognized by his peers as Classified Employee of the year in 1993." Learned knows the importance of well-trained maintenance personnel. As the district is defining its needs in term of capital improvement, questions are being raised about the adequacy of maintenance power available in the District.

"It is true that proper maintenance is one of the factors that affect the condition of the school facilities," acknowledges Learned, "It is

critical to perform routine maintenance of all buildings systems in a timely manner. Lack of doing so would cause building systems to wear out much quicker than the normal expected life-cycle."

Some in the District are concerned that with the job suppressions that have taken place to respond to the budget crisis, the lack of maintenance of school facilities could become costly in the long term. "Classified staff receiving layoff notices...will create a slowing down of routine maintenance," responded Learned, "but not to the point where I would feel that the taxpayers' investment is not being protected."

AUHSF Superintendent Jim Negri further addressed the issue by promising that if he can re-hire personnel when the budget is finally approved, the classified employees will be first on his list. "We haven't re-hired anybody after the May revised budget," says Negri, "we will wait for the final budget to be voted on over the summer."

The crisis over custodial services is spread all over the area's school districts. Joaquin plans on taking it easy for a while, but he knows he will have no problem finding a part time position if he wants one. "I have received calls from different schools for a part time job," he says, "they've had to lay off many employees and are scrambling to get sufficient service."

## Lamorinda Schools

### Bill Walters to Lead at LP

By Andrea A. Firth



Bill Walters, Principal at Los Perales Elementary School in Moraga

Photo Andrea A. Firth

After working for over twenty years in the Moraga School District and serving for several years before and after in schools in other parts of California and abroad, it would seem reasonable that an experienced school administrator like Bill Walters would have moved on to a more relaxed set up—like retirement. Walters tried it, retirement that is, but it did not last long. "It was ok," says Walters. "I spent time with friends, but I really missed being part of a group, part of the school system." So when his former boss, Rick Schafer, the Superintendent of the Moraga School District, approached him about working as the Interim Principal at Los Perales Elementary School (LP) last year, Walters did not hesitate.

"It's a new adventure working in a kindergarten through 5th grade school. It's exciting, and I really enjoy it," says Walters, who has spent a good part of his career as a schoolteacher and administrator in the middle school setting. After serving as the interim Principal at Los Perales for the past school year, Walters was recently appointed Principal. "Bill has earned the respect and support of the staff and parents [at LP]...and he is excited to be involved in the early years of educating students," states Superintendent Schafer. "I have come to enjoy his weekly accounts of how the young students are so excited about school and learning. I truly think Bill is enjoying school more than the kindergarten," adds Schafer.

When Walters took over at Los Perales, he had some big shoes to fill with the departure of Bruce Burns who went on to the top spot at Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School. "Bill came to LP at a very challenging time," explains Chris O'Connell, the Secretary at Los Perales. "Construction on the new library was about to start. There was a lot of anxiety among the LP community, but Bill provided a calming, steady presence, while building trust and respect among students, parents and staff," she adds.

In addition to getting accustomed to the elementary school setting, Walters has found that he has also had to get used to letting some things go. "The volunteer culture here is very strong. The parents, students, and teachers form a great team," states Walters. "I have had to make the nice adjustment of not having to control everything."

As for becoming part of a school group once again, Walters comment is succinct and direct, "The staff here is fantastic." And it appears that the staff at LP feels the same way about Walters. "We are thrilled to have him become a permanent part of the LP family," says O'Connell. "Bill has brought his own personality and leadership style to LP while continuing Bruce's legacy of students who love to learn, staff who are encouraged and supported, and parents who feel included and valued—a long with a great sense of humor, which is essential in any workplace."

## School Transitions—Exciting and Scary at the Same Time

... continued from page 1

In addition to taking advantage of the many orientation programs and resources available at college campuses and websites, Banion recommends that parents and students clearly establish expectations for things such as grades, phone calls home, and spending money well before departing for school. "It is a good idea to revisit these expectations after the first semester to see what is working and what needs refinement," she says.

**Easing the Transition:** "The most important intervention that a parent can provide to help ease a child's transition [to a new school setting] is reassurance," states Felt of JM. "Letting your child know that you believe that he or she will succeed both academically and socially in the next phase of school is important." Counselors and advi-

sors at every school level recommend providing students with as much exposure to a new school as possible.

**If Problems Arise:** Easing the transition to the next phase of school does not guarantee that problems with academic performance and social integration will not occur. "Be proactive with your child's teachers. Establish a healthy relationship with the teacher from the beginning," says Felt. This will make working with the teacher easier if the student needs help with academic or social problems. "If something feels different, then it is," advises Banion from SMC. "Parents know their children." She recommends that parents maintain an open dialogue with their child and to ask directly if they feel something is wrong.

**12th Grade to College:** In the

time between high school graduation and the first week of college, most students experience a mixed bag of emotions. "Anxiety may be the predominant emotion," states Kayla Banion, the Interim Director of New Student and Family Programs at Saint Mary's College in Moraga. "College freshman are excited but nervous about fitting in and meeting expectations," she adds.

One of the most challenging aspects of the transition to college for most students is re-evaluating how to find community. Having left the safety of their high school friends, college students must start over in a new setting. "The first year of college is such a transition period. There are so many things that can happen academically, socially, and spiritually," says Banion.

## Middle Schoolers Reach Out to the Community

Andrea A. Firth



JM 7th graders (L to R) Sarah Firth, Hailey Finnane, and Katie Whalen making cookie dough as part of the Bridges Community Service Program Photo Andrea A. Firth

Students from the three middle schools in Lamorinda—Joaquin Moraga Intermediate (JM), Orinda Intermediate (OIS), and Stanley Middle School—logged almost 9,000 hours of community service over the past school year. That is statistic that belies the stereotypical picture of kids in their "tween" years who are often described as sullen, awkward, self-centered, and just tough to be around.

"We had a record 532 students participate in [the Others First] community service program at OIS this year—about 60% of the student population participated," reports Kathy Jones, the parent coordinator of the program. "OIS launched Others First in 2001 with the mission to remind students that a complete education includes a sense of community," she adds. "I think the program does an excellent job in that regard."

With the help of parent volunteers, middle school students at all three schools are given the opportunity to volunteer in a variety of service activities both at school and out in the community.

"Many kids like to help at events at their former elementary school such as the science fair or back-to-school night. They always love to go back to help," says Laura Waal, one of the parent coordinators for Opportunity Knocks—the community service program at Stanley Middle School. Started 15 years ago by Vice Principal Toni McShane, Opportunity Knocks' activities include monthly visits to the Contra Costa Food Bank and Lafayette Convalescent Hospital, and support for other non-profit organizations such as Little League, the Lafayette Community Center, and the Lafayette Juniors. "Connecting kids with members of the community and helping them to

develop the skills of teamwork, citizenship, kindness, and responsibility are all goals of the program," adds Waal.

Although JM has required a minimum of five hours of community service per school year for all students for several years, the PTA launched a formal community service program—called Bridges—this year. "Starting half way through the school year, we still had 172 kids participate," notes parent coordinator MaryEllen Gustafson with satisfaction. JM offered the students several lunchtime activities such as stamping postcards for the military and making cookie dough for a local shelter in addition community activities. "We are hopeful that kids will continue to get more involved with serving the community and that Bridges will give more kids the chance to go out into the community to serve others," states Gustafson.

These services programs appear to be a win-win for the students and community alike. "[The community service programs] provide a great opportunity to bring many different students together, helping to create a more caring and supportive school community," states Jones of OIS. "The students come together and work cooperatively and in the process get to know each other better too. It connects kids not only within the school environment and the greater Lamorinda community but to the community beyond as well."

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# Lamorinda Schools

Lafayette Elementary • Los Perales • Miramonte • Orinda Academy • Orinda Intermediate • Saklan Valley School • Sleepy Hollow • Springhill • Stanley Middle • St. Perpetua School • Wagner Ranch

## New Head for Saklan Valley School

By Jean Follmer



Saklan Valley School's incoming Head David Hague with outgoing Head Jonathan Martin  
Photo Jean Follmer

After nine years as Saklan Valley School's Head, Jonathan Martin is turning over the reigns to Assistant Head, David Hague. Martin has reason to be proud

of the many accomplishments Saklan achieved during his tenure. The school population "well over tripled" and five years ago Saklan was able to purchase the campus it

had rented for many years. Construction efforts at Saklan included the addition of two middle school classrooms and the substantial renovation of its impressive science laboratory. Martin also helped introduce the laptop program with the goal being a laptop for every student. A Strategic Plan was developed for the period 2007-2012 and Saklan has enjoyed "6 years of strong surplus." Martin said Saklan benefits from "strong community and parental involvement" and is known for its "lean administrative profile." Martin believes strongly in "global" education. Saklan offers both French and Mandarin to its students as well as "International Day." The middle school offers courses in both "historical and contemporary Chinese culture."

Martin "had the honor of being at the Klingenstein Center at Columbia University" last January. According to the Klingenstein Center, the Klingenstein Heads of

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Schools Program "gathers twenty Heads from around the world for intensive study and reflection among professional peers." The experience "was eye opening for me about new fields into which to venture." Martin looks forward to the coming year. He will be running his own website and blog, interviewing for 2009 positions and traveling with his family to both Europe and Central America.

Assistant Head David Hague said, "I want to build on what Jonathan has built." Hague came

to Saklan last year after five years at The Pegasus School in Huntington Beach. As an East Coast native, Hague boasts degrees from New England College, Castleton State College, Harvard University and Vanderbilt University. He said, "When we came to interview (at Saklan), we were really struck by the sense of community here." One of the things Hague is impressed with is the "Trips and Travel" program at Saklan. All travel expenses are contemplated in advance so are part of the tuition. This saves the

parents from having to pay extra money for outings like the 6th grade trip to Yosemite and the 8th grade leadership trip to Camp Caritas.

In his free time, Hague is an accomplished lacrosse referee. He is currently a referee for Major League Lacrosse as well as a trainer for other lacrosse referees. Hague has been extremely impressed with his first year at Saklan and looks forward to his new role as Head in the coming academic year.

## OUSD—State of the District Looks Pretty Good

By Andrea A. Firth

About thirty interested parents, teachers, and administrators recently attended a special presentation by Superintendent Joe Jaconette on the state of the Orinda Union School District (OUSD). "We wanted to bring the interested parties together to reflect upon the successes and accomplishments of the District and to leave with a sense that things are going well," stated Pat Rudebusch, President of the OUSD School Board.

Not surprisingly, Dr. Jaconette started the presentation off with a review of the District budget for the next school year, which remains balanced without staff layoffs despite a \$700K revenue shortfall due to the proposed Sate school budget cuts. "The bulk of our expenditures, about 89%, go to staff salaries and benefits," explained Jaconette. "This creates a major challenge to reducing expenses without impacting people," he added.

Jaconette stated that the District will be challenged to maintain financial stability and preserve ex-

isting programs in the future without increased revenues. "There is a parcel tax in Orinda which is already fully committed to ongoing expenditures," he said. "Due to increasing costs and to consider growth, we have to consider increasing revenue through an additional parcel tax," he added. To that end, a Parcel Tax Feasibility Planning Committee has been formed by the OUSD School Board to initiate discussions on the parcel tax process, which requires a year or more.

Declining enrollment was another factor impacting revenue in the District. A demographic study of enrollment, commissioned by the OUSD School Board, projected a small degree of declining enrollment in the short term with stable enrollment across the District for the foreseeable future. When asked by a parent in the audience about the impact of the two new residential developments in Orinda on school enrollment numbers, Jerry Bucci, the Director of Business Services, explained that the study forecasts

extend to 2018. "[According to the study] the two developments would yield about 100 students over a long period of time. We still have plenty of space to accommodate these students," stated Bucci.

The presentation's tone lightened as Jaconette moved to a review of the District's academic progress. By several indicators, OUSD students were shown to be performing well above proficiency levels. "Our students are achieving," stated Jaconette with a smile. He went on to describe the many programs to support and reinforce students' reading and writing skills—a District-wide focus that had been established for the 2007-2008 school year. These programs included student writing workshops and professional development programs along with the addition of literary coaches and the enhancement of classroom libraries.

As far as technology, Jaconette reported that the District is up and running with a ubiquitous wireless network at all sites, an enhanced

phone network with improved emergency contact capabilities, and almost no network down time. In addition, a District-wide technology plan is under construction to develop strategies for technological growth and improvement.

Jaconette concluded the meeting noting his satisfaction with the District's progress over the past school year. "I hope you recognize that this year has been impacted significantly by the budget crisis, and despite that, we have had a lot of activity, forward movement, and planning," he stated. "We have met our main goals to keep programs intact and make some movement forward."

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## TROOP 200's FIRST EAGLE SCOUT

Submitted by J. J. Johnson

Lafayette Scout and Venturer Gordon Spahr will receive the rank of Eagle Scout at a National Court of Honor on Saturday, June 14, 2008.

Gordon will graduate from Acalanes High School in June, and has been appointed to the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs as the principal nominee of Congresswoman Ellen Tauscher. He's an honor student and varsity member of New Crew, and received numerous athletic and scholastic recognitions, played four different sports, and also played four years in the orchestra.

Among his many accomplishments, Spahr is founder and President of Venturing Crew 200, and serves Troop 200 as an Instructor. He holds the Vigil Honor in the Order of the Arrow, Scouting's Honor Society, and was a leadership instructor in several BSA courses, most recently at the National Advanced Youth Leadership Experience ([www.nayle.org](http://www.nayle.org)) at Philmont Scout Ranch, NM.

For his community service leadership project, Gordon helped the City of Lafayette comply with National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) requirements. He obtained permissions and led others in placing nearly 500 warning placards at storm drains on nineteen separate private properties around the city. He also conducted public education efforts by addressing the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce, Lafayette City Council, and Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary, and manned an informational booth during a recent Earth Day Festival at Stanley Middle School.

The Mission Outreach Board of Our Savior's Lutheran Church charters Troop 200, Venturing Crew



Gordon Spahr Troop 200

200, and Cub Scout Pack 200. It is somehow fitting that Gordon, a confirmed OSLC member and a graduate of Pack 200, become the first Eagle Scout in the 2-1/2 year history of Troop 200. OSLC is very proud of him and his accomplishments and wishes him the best in all his future endeavors.

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### SCHOOL CALENDAR

<b>School Governing Board Meetings</b>	<b>Moraga School District</b> Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School Auditorium 1010 Camino Pablo, Moraga Tuesday, June 24 at 7:30 pm
<b>Acalanes Union</b> High School District Board Room AUHSD Office 1212 Pleasant Hill Rd, Lafayette Wednesday, June 18 at 7:30 pm	<b>Orinda Union School District</b> OUSD Office 8 Altarinda Road, Orinda Monday, June 16 at 4:00 pm
<b>Lafayette School District</b> LAFSD Office 3477 School Street, Lafayette Tuesday, June 24 at 7:00 pm	

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# Lamorinda Schools



Joaquin Moraga Intermediate Choir and School Band entertaining the crowd at Spring Fling 2008 Photo provided

## High Schools Consider Cutting Back On Food Service

By Sophie Braccini



Students line up at Campolindo High School to buy lunch Photo SophieBraccini

The Acalanes Union High School District's food service program expects to lose about \$270,000.00 this school year. As a frame of reference, this is about the cost of three teachers. "We cannot continue to sponsor this program at this level through our General Fund," says AUHSD Superintendent Jim Negri.

AUHSD Board member Richard Whitmore is chairing the meetings at which possible solutions are discussed. "We have had small deficits off and on in the past but none of this magnitude," says Whitmore. "We have to meet a mandate to provide food but the program could be pared back to a "sack lunch" option if it cannot become financially self supporting."

The group decided to poll the community and a survey to find ways to improve attendance and profitability of the program is now online. "We need better options for

our students and a food program that breaks even," he said. In order to collect feedback and suggestions on the issue, Whitmore is asking every parent, student and employee to fill out a short survey, available online at: <http://www.acalanes.k12.ca.us/food-services/>. There are questions for parents, students and staff, ranging from frequency of using the service, to level of satisfaction about what is offered now, to elements that would increase the probability of using the service, types of foods that could be added, and ideas to balance the food budget.

School food service programs across the nation are experiencing similar fiscal issues. Rising food costs, low student participation, labor costs and new strict California guidelines for nutrition have contributed to the current situation. The question should come back to the Board at the end of June.

## Toris Jaeger: A Natural Asset

Submitted by Jane Wiser



Toris Jaeger, Naturalist at the Wagner Ranch Nature Area Photo provided

Thirty years ago, Warren and Maile Arnold made a wise decision. As the Directors of the Wagner Ranch Nature Area (WRNA), they hired a naturalist—Toris Jaeger—for Orinda's first outdoor education program. Jaeger has been in the Orinda Union School District (OUSD) ever since sharing her love of nature with the students and adults in the community.

Before coming to Wagner Ranch, Jaeger recalls that she was a schoolteacher who spent "more time looking out the windows than the students did." With the support of the Educational Foundation of Orinda (EFO) and other community members, she developed a natural science and living history curriculum and set forth teaching in her outdoor classroom. Now, after 30 years in the District, Jaeger occasionally finds herself teaching the children of her earlier students. "Being a part of Wagner Ranch Nature Area for 30 years has been a journey, a gift, and a trial by fire and ice," states Jaeger. "The Nature Area offers and holds a history of the natural world for all to learn from and enjoy," she adds.

Jaeger hopes that the future of the Wagner Ranch Nature Area as an environmentally protected area will be secure with the help of the Friends

of the WRNA working together with other community groups. "[I hope that] the WRNA will continue to provide a place for each child, parent, teacher and the community to experience nature at its finest." The EFO has fully funded the environmental education program from kindergarten through 8th grade in the OUSD for several years and will be providing over \$66,000 for environmental education in the 2008-2009 school year.

## Orinda Idol Finalists

Submitted by Petra Michel

The Orinda Arts Council auditioned over 170 students in five categories for the 2008 Orinda Idol Contest. New to the event this year is the group performance category and the inclusion of residents from Lafayette and Moraga in the both the high school and group categories. The winners were announced on June 2nd and are listed below. The finalists will perform at local events through out the summer such as the July 4th Parade and area farmers markets. The Orinda Idol winners will be chosen by judges' review and audience vote on September 7th at the Orinda Theater.

### Kindergarten-Grade 2

- Anastasia Belinsky
- Amanda Bovoso
- Ryan Ford
- Kate Marvin
- Jackie Patton

### Grades 3-5

- Sarah McCaffrey
- Sean McFeely
- Maritza Grillo
- Tosca Maltzman
- Joe Metheny
- Julia Meckes
- Jocelyn Purcell
- Sam Shain
- Stephanie Sloves
- Michael Sorenson

### Middle School

- Matthew Barber
- Tatyana Belinsky
- Lindsay Ford
- Julia Haas
- Patrick Hart
- Isabelle Johannessen
- Katie Marino
- Amrita Newton
- Kacey Sorenson
- Sofie Woodlee

### High School

- Sarah Ames
- T.J. Barber
- Jacqueline Garell
- Jules La Cour
- Neris Newton
- Steven Patton
- Mark Simon

### Groups\*

- Duet 1: Lauren Bond & Beth Huelsenbeck
- Duet 2: Elizabeth Fabian & Emily Fabian
- Duet 3: Nathan Baum & Aaron Baum
- Duet 4: Madison Wheeler & Tosca Maltzman
- Duet 5: Sam Shain & Amrita Newton
- Duet 6: Katie Rossi & Natalie Clendening
- Trio 1: Kacey Sorenson & Alexis Zwahlen & Maddy Browning
- Octet 1: Courtney Attard, Jane Fessenden, Sarah Mills, Madeline Myall, Amrita Newton, Lauren Petite, Maya Sherne, Andie Tuemmler
- Trio 2: Neris Newton & Jacqueline Garell & Max Coleman
- Duet 7: Suvi Gluskin & Maxwell Tzannes

\*Listed in order by age of youngest group member

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# Lamorinda Schools

## Clipper Fun At Campo

By Cathy Tyson



Connor Perkins with beard, on left in both photos, and Mike Boyer Photos courtesy of Emily Barlier

Sometimes a picture really is worth a thousand words. See above for before and after photos from the recent Spring Pops Concert at Campolindo. The performance has two acts, a formal section to start the evening off, followed by an intermission and a second act of pop music and dancing. Three fun-loving juniors decided to give themselves a haircut during the intermission.

Connor Perkins and Mike Boyer made quite an impression on the audience and their pals. Jackson Bengtsson, who was unfortunately was not pictured, also

sported a unique look. Only the top of his head was shaved, leaving a unique friar tuck-type end result.

"Connor and I wanted something bold to reflect our choreography," said Boyer. Indeed the pair taught the large crowd of teenage boys some slick dance moves. He continues, "My Mom was surprisingly ok with it. Andrew Choi (their barber) is a master with a razor." Choi did not charge for his services.

Perkins can still be seen on campus with his mohawk; both Boyer and Bengtsson shaved off their remaining hair.

## Lamorinda Schools at the Odyssey of the Mind World Final

By Sophie Braccini



The "Eccentric" team members (left to right): 4th graders Luke Waldschmidt, Andy Tobin, Joe Yuke, Jack Lehman, Harrison Drake, Daniel Ginsburg (not pictured is Arden Rasmussen, who works "behind the scenes") Photo Janet Franklin

A team of 4th graders from Sleepy Hollow in Orinda and two teams from Joaquin Moraga Intermediate made it to the World Final of the "Odyssey of the Mind" competition in Maryland last week. In this incredible Olympic games of the mind, where 846 teams from 30 different countries competed, the 8th graders from Moraga won 4th place, the 6th grade team took 11th and the Orinda team tied for 22nd place out of 44 (not bad for first-timers).

Odyssey of the Mind is a worldwide creative problem-solving program that challenges teams of students from K-college. They compete in five categories of pre-defined problems and are divided into four age groups.

The Sleepy Hollow team, sponsored by the Orinda School district, chose "The Eccentric" subject: a problem that addressed an earth system (biosphere, atmosphere...) that would be solved by a group of three eccentric characters in an eight-minute play.

During the competition teams are given additional spontaneous problems that are to be solved without the coach. "One of the things I enjoyed most," says mother and coach Janet Franklin, is

how during our brainstorming process kids built on each other's ideas, coming out with group solutions that were much better than anything they would have found alone."

The fictitious problem they chose addressed the oceans (the hydrosphere) that were changing color due to paint runoffs. The three 'eccentrics' were a flamboyant Mayor who only spoke to a hand puppet, a mad scientist that was afraid of germs and his simple-minded assistant who wore a huge hat where he stored stuff, including his food. "Since we had started only in December, we had to work very hard to be ready for the first level competition in March," says Franklin, "we met from once a week to almost everyday on the last leg." She explains that the participants practiced solving spontaneous problems at each of their encounters as well and they did very well in this category.

The process and dynamic was the same for the Moraga teams. The 8th grade team is a group of three girls and three boys that have been competing together since 4th grade. They are used to the pressure of competition and finished first at the Regional level

solving a Dinosaur Extinction problem.

That won them the privilege of being selected with only two other American teams to participate in the Eurofest competition, from the European branch of Odyssey of the mind; off they went to Hungary.

Linda Wong, mother of competitor Gwendolyn Tom, recounts: "Our team met many other teams from Poland, Germany, Slovakia, Moldova, Russia, Estonia, India, Belarus, Romania and Cameroon. One of the highlights of the festival was the competition in the Mixed Team problem, where three teams from different countries combined to solve and present a new Odyssey problem. Our team was paired with a team from New Delhi, India, and a team from Minsk, Belarus. You can imagine the communication challenges between these kids. Add in an age difference of eight years with one of the teams (5-6 year olds from Belarus) and you have a situation that requires patience and perseverance. Much to their surprise and glee this trio of multinational kids pulled off a first place victory."

The Moraga teams are not sponsored by the school district.

When the district declined for liability reasons, parents approached the Moraga Rotary Club that not only became their community sponsor in name, but also paid for team registration fees, T-shirts, and building and shipping costs for teams advancing to the World Finals.

"There are many sports program in this community, but not many activities that promote creativity and foster team work at the same time," says Rotarian Rich Render. "I believe that one element of the success of the JM teams is the fact that they come together and stay together year after year since the 4th grade," he adds, "they are very cohesive, they own their capabilities, and they are very competitive."

The Orinda School District will advertise the program again in the fall. Lafayette didn't have a team at the World Finals this year, but Lafayette schools have been successfully represented in prior years. The Moraga teams will hold a public information meeting in the library in September and they encourage all interested students to attend.



Moraga team in Hungary with siblings Photo Pin-Pin Wong

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**Corn at the Plate**

**By Suzie Iventosch**

It's funny how stories evolve. You'll be talking to someone about a certain subject, one thing leads to another and soon a new story is brewing, or, in this case, a new summer salad recipe.

Catherine Dieterich, President of the Lombardy Branch of Children's Hospital recently teamed up with her husband Bill and good friend Tony La Russa to bottle and distribute the traditional Dieterich family "secret" salad dressing. The original dressing was the invention of Bill's grandmother Nellie more than 100 years ago.

Nellie Dieterich, who moved to Orinda in the 1930s, created this dressing and bottled it in empty bourbon bottles for family and friends. The recipe passed through the generations, and when Bill was first dating Catherine, he invited her to dinner and was about to dress her salad, when she tried to stop him.

"I'm northern Italian and we always dressed our salads with straight olive oil and vinegar – never dressing out of a bottle," she said.

But Bill convinced her to try it, and she loved it!

"He marinated steaks in the dressing that night and tossed the salad with it, too," she remembers.

"After that, I was hooked!"

For years, Catherine and Bill made the dressing for friends and family, bottling it in wine bottles – not so many bourbon drinkers these days. One morning over breakfast, Bill and Tony La Russa, of baseball fame, got the idea to market the dressing as a way to fund philanthropies that were dear to each of them.

La Russa provides shelter and care for rescued animals through his Animal Rescue Foundation, (ARF), while the Dieterich Family Charitable Fund supports a variety of children's programs from youth medical care to sports programs.

Recently, At-the-Plate added a balsamic dressing to its repertoire. Both dressings are all-natural and vegetarian, with no trans-fat and no artificial flavors or colors. They are available for purchase at Diablo Foods in Lafayette, David M. Brian and Whole Foods in Walnut Creek, and Dreager's Market in Danville. And for those who have family in the Midwest, the product is also sold through the 90-store Snuck's Market chain.

For more information on these products please visit www.at-the-plate.com

**At-The-Plate Fresh Corn Salad with Nellie's Original Salad Dressing**



**Ingredients**

- ½ cup At-the-Plate Original Salad Dressing
- 6 ears fresh corn on the cob (or approximately 2 cups)
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 tablespoon green onions, coarsely chopped
- ½ cup red bell pepper, diced
- ½ cup orange bell pepper, diced
- 1 mild red chili pepper, diced
- 1 tomato, chopped
- 2 teaspoons fresh lime juice
- 1/3 cup fresh basil, chopped
- Salt and pepper to taste
- My additions:
- 1/3 cup fresh cilantro, chopped
- 2 tablespoon red wine vinegar
- ½ cup sharp cheddar cheese, grated

**Directions**

Cook corn and slice kernels from cob. (Can be prepared a day or two ahead and refrigerated)  
Place all ingredients, except corn, olive oil, and dressing, in a large salad bowl and toss. Heat the olive oil in a large skillet. Add corn and sauté over medium-high heat for about five minutes, or until golden-brown. Remove from pan and add to ingredients in salad bowl. Toss all together with the dressing, or drizzle dressing over individual servings. Serve in a butter leaf lettuce cup along with warm French bread.

**Per Tutti Ristorante—  
Lunch with Your Best Friend**

... continued from page 11

As we finished, I asked the waiter to bring out the doggie menu. Pepsi was disappointed to learn that they were out of the Hot Diggity Dog, an all turkey dog with bacon bits, but he seemed to be appeased by the alternative—the Hen House Chicken, five ounces of boneless chicken breast. Bryce opted for the Quarter Hounder, a doggie burger deluxe. Each of the doggie meals described cost \$3.95. There was a fourth item on the doggie menu—the Good Dog, six ounces of grilled filet for the very special dog. Either our dogs were not sufficiently special, or with the price tag of \$12.95, we were not willing to pay more for our dogs' lunches than our own.

The dogs' lunches were served on paper plates and included a side of rice and grated cheese. Pepsi, the mutt that he is, displayed few table manners. He dove into his food pushing his plate across the

sidewalk knocking over his water bowl and spilling rice in the process. Bryce showed his pedigree and lay down gently next to his plate as he ate. Pepsi consumed his entire lunch in less than two minutes, so he moved on to "help" Bryce with the remainder of his. The whole event was reminiscent of lunches with my mothers' playgroup when my twins were toddlers—fast and messy. Trying to take a photo of the dogs to document the lunch was similar to taking a photo of two toddlers as well—I never could get them both facing the camera.

Per Tutti, located at 3576 Mt. Diablo Boulevard in Lafayette, serves lunch Monday through Saturday starting at 11:30 and dinner seven days a week. Well-behaved dogs are welcome to dine with their owners at the outside tables at anytime.



From left, Catherine Dieterich, Elaine LaRussa (Tony's wife) and Billy Dieterich at the Paws on Broadway event in Walnut Creek

Photo courtesy of subjects

**This recipe is available on our web site. Go to:**  
<http://www.lamorindaweekly.com>  
**Susie can be reached at**  
[suziven@hughes.net](mailto:suziven@hughes.net)

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- ◆ Steak Cobb Salad
- ◆ French Dip

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- ◆ Prawn Pasta
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**LAMORINDA's Restaurants**  
-- updated May 14, 2008 --

<b>American</b>	Bistro	3287 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	283-7108	Squirrel's Coffee Shop	998 Moraga Rd, Laf	284-7830	Mucho wraps	1375-B Moraga Way, Mor	377-1203	
	Chow Restaurant	53 Lafayette Cir, Laf	962-2469	Village Inn Café	290 Village Square, Ori	254-6080	Baja Fresh Mexican Grill	3596 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	283-8740	
	Hungry Hunter	3201 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	938-3938	<b>Continental</b>			Celia's Restaurant	3666 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	283-8288	
	Quiznos	3651 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	962-0200	Petar's Restaurant	32 Lafayette Cir, Laf	284-7117	El Balazo	3518D Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	284-8700	
	Ranch House	1012 School St, Mor	376-5127	Vino Restaurant	3531 Plaza Way, Laf	284-1330	Maya Mexican Grill	74 Moraga Way, Ori	258-9049	
	Terzetto Cuisine	1419 Moraga Way, Mor	376-3832	Duck Club Restaurant	3287 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	283-7108	Numero Uno Taqueria	3616 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	299-1333	
	The Cheese Steak Shop	3455 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	283-1234	<b>Hawaiian Grill</b>			<b>Pizza</b>			
<b>BBQ</b>	Bo's Barbecue	3422 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	283-7133	Lava Pit	2 Theatre Square, St. 142, Ori	253-1338	Mountain Mike's Pizza	3614 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	283-6363	
<b>Burger Joint</b>	Flippers	960 Moraga Rd, Laf	284-1567	<b>Indian</b>			Mountain Mike's Pizza	504 Center St, Mor	377-6453	
	Nation's Giant Hamburgers	400 Park, Mor	376-8888	India Palace	3740 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	284-5700	Pennini's	1375 Moraga Rd, Mor	376-1515	
	Nation's Giant Hamburgers	76 Moraga Way, Ori	254-8888	Swad Indian Cuisine	3602 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	962-9575	Round Table Pizza	361 Rheim Blvd, Mor	376-1411	
<b>Café</b>	Express Cafe	3732 Mt. Diablo Blvd # 170, Laf	283-7170	<b>Italian</b>			Round Table Pizza	3637 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	283-0404	
	Ferrari- Lucca Delicatessens	23 Lafayette Cir, Laf	299-8040	Giardino	3406 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	283-3869	Village Pizza	19 Orinda Way # Ab, Ori	254-1200	
	Geppetto's cafe	87 Orinda Way, Ori	253-9894	La Finestra Ristorante	100 Lafayette Cir, St. 101, Laf	284-5282	Zamboni's Pizza	1 Camino Sobrante # 4, Ori	254-2800	
	Rising Loafer	3643 Mt. Diablo Blvd Ste B, Laf	284-8816	La Piazza	15 Moraga Way, Ori	253-9191	<b>Sandwiches/Deli</b>			
<b>California Cuisine</b>	Gigi's	1005 Brown St., Laf	962-0882	Mangia Ristorante Pizzeria	975 Moraga Rd, Laf	284-3081	Bianca's Deli	1480 Moraga Rd # A, Mor	376-4400	
	Metro Lafayette	3524 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	284-4422	Michael's	1375 Moraga Way, Mor	376-4300	Europa Hofbrau Deli & Pub	64 Moraga Way, Ori	254-7202	
	Shelby's	2 Theatre Sq, Ori	254-9687	Mondello's	337 Rheim Blvd, Mor	376-2533	Gourmet Bistro Café	484 Center St, Mor	376-1551	
<b>Chinese</b>	Asia Palace Restaurant	1460 B Moraga Rd, Mor	376-0809	Pizza Antica	3600 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	299-0500	Kasper's Hot Dogs	103 Moraga Way, Ori	253-0766	
	Chef Chao Restaurant	343 Rheim Blvd, Mor	376-1740	Postino	3565 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	299-8700	Noah's Bagels	3518 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	299-0716	
	China Moon Restaurant	380 Park St, Mor	376-1828	Ristorante Amoroma	360 Park St, Mor	377-7662	Orinda Deli	19 F Orinda Way, Ori	254-1990	
	The Great Wall Restaurant	3500 Golden Gate Way, Laf	284-3500	<b>Japanese</b>			Subway	396 Park St., Mor	376-2959	
	Hsiangs Mandarin Cuisine	1 Orinda Way # 1, Ori	253-9852	Asia Palace Sushi Bar	1460 B Moraga Rd, Mor	376-0809	Subway	3322 Mt. Diablo Blvd #B, Laf	284-2627	
	Lily's House	3555 Mt. Diablo Blvd #A, Laf	284-7569	Blue Ginko	3518-A Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	962-9020	Subway	Theatre Square, Ori	258-0470	
	Mandarin Flower	581 Moraga Rd, Mor	376-7839	Kane Sushi	3474 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	284-9709	<b>Seafood</b>			
	Panda Express	3608 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	962-0288	Niwa Restaurant	1 Camino Sobrante # 6, Ori	254-1606	Yankee Pier	3593 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	283-4100	
	Szechwan Chinese Restaurant	79 Orinda Way, Ori	254-2020	Serika Restaurant	2 Theatre Sq # 118, Ori	254-7088	<b>Singaporean/Malaysian</b>			
	Uncle Yu's Szechuan	999 Oak Hill Rd, Laf	283-1688	Tamami's Japanese Restaurant	356 Park St, Mor	376-2872	Kopitiam	3647 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	299-1653	
	Yan's Restaurant	3444 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	284-2228	Yu Sushi	19 Moraga Way, Ori	253-8399	<b>South American</b>	The Patio Tapas and Restaurant	960 Moraga Road, Laf	299-6885
<b>Coffee Shop</b>	Millie's Kitchen	1018 Oak Hill Rd #A, Laf	283-2397	<b>Jazz Dinner Club</b>			<b>Steak</b>	Casa Orinda	20 Bryant Way, Ori	254-2981
				Joe's of Lafayette	3707 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Laf	299-8807	<b>Tea</b>	Patisserie Lafayette	71 Lafayette Cir, Laf	283-2226
				The Orinda House	65 Moraga Way, Ori	258-4445	Tea Party by Appointment	107 Orinda Way, Ori	254-2206	
				<b>Mediterranean</b>			<b>Thai</b>			
				Alex's	2 Theatre Sq # 105, Ori	254-5290	Amarin Thai Cuisine	3555 Mt. Diablo Blvd # B, Laf	283-8883	
				Oasis Café	3594 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	299-8822	Baan Thai	99 Orinda Way, Ori	253-0989	
				Per Tutti Ristorante	3576 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	284-5225	Royal Siam	512 Center St, Mor	377-0420	
				<b>Mexican</b>			Siam Orchid	23 Orinda Way # F, Ori	253-1975	
				360 Gourmet Burrito	3655 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	299-1270				
				El Charro Mexican Dining	3339 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	283-2345				
				El Jaro Mexican Cafe	3563 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	283-6639				
				La Cocina Mexicana	23 Orinda Way, Ori	258-9987				

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



## Digging Deep -The Plum Pretty Sister

By Cynthia Brian

*"Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap, but by the seeds you plant."*

Robert Louis Stevenson



Justin was a climber. By one and a half, he had discovered the purple plum tree in the backyard, and its friendly branches became his favorite hangout. At first he would climb just a few feet and make himself comfortable in the curve where the trunk met the branches. Soon he was building himself a small fort and dragging his tractors and trucks up to their new garage.

When Justin was 3, I became pregnant. My husband and I explained to him that we were going to have another baby as a playmate for him. He was very excited, kissed my tummy and said, "Hello, baby, I'm your big brother, Justin." From the beginning he was sure he was going to have a little sister, and every day he'd beg to know if she was ready to play yet. When I explained that the baby wasn't arriving until the end of June, he seemed confused. One day he asked, "When is June, Mommy?" I realized I needed a better explanation; how could a 3-year-old know what "June" meant?

Just then, as Justin climbed with his dog in his arms to the top of our Orinda home's plum tree, he gave me the answer I was looking for...his special tree. "Justin, the baby is going to be

born when the plums are ripe. You can keep me posted when that will be, okay?" I wasn't completely sure if I was on target, but the gardener in me was confident I'd be close enough.

Oh, he was excited! Now Justin had a way to know when his new baby sister would come to play. From that moment on, he checked the old plum tree several times a day throughout fall, winter, and spring to report his findings.

June finally arrived, and so did the purple plums. At first they were fairly small, but Justin climbed his tree anyway to pick some plums off the branches where the sun dappled near the rooftop. He brought them to me to let me know the baby wasn't ripe yet.

I felt ripe! I was ready to pop! When were the plums going to start falling from that darn tree?

Justin would rub my tummy and talk to his baby sister, telling her she had to wait a little longer because the fruit was not ready to be picked yet.

Then one day, it happened. Justin came running into the house, his eyes as big as saucers, with a plastic bucket full to the brim of juicy purple plums.

"Hurry, Mommy, hurry!" he shouted. "She's coming, she's coming! The plums are ripe, the plums are ripe!"

I laughed uncontrollably as Justin stared at my stomach, as if he expected to see his baby sister erupt any moment. That morning I did feel a bit queasy, and it wasn't because I had a dental appointment. Before we left the house, Justin went out to hug his plum tree and whisper that today was the day his "plum pretty sister" would arrive. He was certain.

As I sat in the dental chair, the labor pains began, just as Justin had predicted. Our "plum" baby was coming! I called my parents, and my husband rushed me to the hospital. At 6:03 p.m. on June 22, the day that will forever live in family fame as "Plum Pretty Sister Day," our daughter was born. We didn't name her Purple Plum as Justin suggested, but chose another favorite flower, Heather. At Heather's homecoming, Justin kissed his new playmate and presented her with his plastic bucket, full to the brim with ripe purple plums. "These are for you," he said proudly.

Although we moved from the home that housed Justin's favorite plum tree, the first tree to be planted in our new yard in Moraga was a purple plum, so that Justin and Heather could know when to expect her special day. Throughout their growing-up years, the children spent countless hours nestled in the branches, counting down the days through the birth of leaves, flowers, buds and fruit. Our birthday parties are always festooned with plum branches and baskets brimming with freshly-picked purple plums. Because as Mother Nature—and Justin—would have it, every year the purple plum has ripened exactly on June 22.



## Sudden Oak Death Starting to Invade East Bay Area

... continued from page 11

"The good news is there are measures one can take to protect your trees from SOD," says Brian Gates, owner of Expert Tree Service. "Agri-Fos® is a non-toxic treatment to protect trees from getting infected or suppress the disease from progressing in some hosts. Currently, it is the only treatment approved by the State of California to protect oaks and tanoaks against SOD."

The compound, Agri-Fos®, is best used as a preventative measure and is not considered a cure for Sudden Oak Death. The treatment does prevent infection of SOD in healthy

oak trees, plus it can suppress the disease in very early



Classic example of non-oak species infection

stages of progression. After the first treatment is injected directly or sprayed on the trunk with a mixture of Pentra-Bark®, a second applica-

tion is recommended six months later, followed by yearly treatments.

"Unfortunately, there is no cure for Sudden Oak Death once it has reached advanced, noticeable stages," says Gates. "It is imperative to treat oaks as a preventative measure. I highly recommend homeowners in our area contact a certified arborist to evaluate the risk of SOD."

Visit California Oak Mortality Task Force's website, [www.suddenoakdeath.org](http://www.suddenoakdeath.org) to learn about SOD, or call Expert Tree Service at 925-254-8733 for a complimentary SOD consultation of your property.

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

*"Show me your garden and I shall show you what you are."* Alfred Austin

School's out, summer is here! Gardeners are enjoying the labors of their spring planting efforts. If you haven't already planted your annuals, warm-season lawns and vegetables, June is our final chance before the hot weather sets in (and the EBMUD water rate hikes!) Weed seeds are germinating faster in this warm weather, so be sure to hoe and pull while they are still small. Get your swing set primed for children's play and enjoy a barbecue in the patio as the honeysuckle perfumes the air!

Ah, the lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer are upon us. Relax, rejuvenate, and frolic in your garden bliss while you give your yard a tune up.

- **RAKE** with an iron tine rake any fern rhizomes that are overtaking your garden. Ferns like slightly acid soil rich with humus.
- **TREAT** your houseplants to light summer sunshine. Acclimate them slowly, water thoroughly, and inspect for insects. While they are outside give them a shower to wash off their dusty leaves.
- **SPRAY** plants with a garden hose using a hard stream of water to eliminate white flies. Check under the leaves. If the water doesn't work try this potent organic insect killer: In a blender pulverize 6 tablespoons red peppers, 3 cloves garlic, 2 onions. Strain through a cheese cloth. Dilute 50/50 with water and spray on pests. Add a little detergent to make the solution stick to the leaves. Works like a charm!
- **CONTROL** powdery mildew which shows up on roses, apples, begonias, zinnia, and crape myrtle by thinning the branches for better air circulation. Refrain from watering late in the day.
- **FERTILIZE** using time release doses of fertilizer on annuals and vegetables.
- **PLANT** summer blooming annuals such as petunias, salvias, verbenas, marigolds, cosmos, zinnias. Check your nursery for the latest varieties.
- **LAWNS** such as diondra go to seed this month. You can plant warm weather lawns such as Bermuda.
- **SAVE** water by watering early in the morning. Water deeply and less frequently avoiding run off.
- **WATER** summer means using more water. Clean your drip system remembering to soak trees such as magnolia with a deep soaker.
- **VEGETABLES** to plant in June include corn, cucumbers, squash, beets and Swiss chard as well as several herbs such as basil, chives, cilantro, and lavender.
- **CUTTINGS** of azaleas, fuchsias, hydrangeas, chrysanthemums, and carnations will propagate if sown.
- **PINCH** buds for more blossoms later.
- **COVER** your fruit trees with netting as the delicious apricots, peaches, cherries, loquats will be devoured by hungry birds.
- **WEED** and hoe, before old weeds send out new seeds.
- **COMPOST** to stimulate microbial activity to limit nematode populations.
- **WARM** yourself with a portable fire pit as cool June evenings are cozier with a fire.
- **SURROUND** yourself with natural aromatherapy by placing containers of fragrant perennials on the perimeter of your patio.
- **DESIGN** a culinary herb barbecue bed with seedlings of basil, chives, marjoram, oregano, parsley, sage, thyme, savory, tarragon, and cilantro.
- **DRESS** up an enclosure with a large rustic mirror, iron stars, or outdoor decorative towel hangers.
- **FRESHEN** up your lounge chair pads with a thorough cleaning. If they are beyond repair, it's time to toss and buy new ones or do like I do, and use recycled fabrics to make new pads. Eclectic, fun, and festive.
- **SAVE** water by showering while your sprinklers are watering your garden! (Okay, maybe that's not a great tip, but be conscious of our water supply!)
- **CREATE** an edible floral arrangement using branches of plums to adorn your kitchen counter. Plums are a delicious nutritious snack that everyone in your family will enjoy!

Whatever you do this summer, save time to bask in our gorgeous Lamorinda weather, spend time outdoors with friends and family, have fun and remember that these are the good 'ole days!

HAPPY GARDENING TO YOU from the Ultimate Mom Gardener, Cynthia Brian! [cynthia@star-style.com](mailto:cynthia@star-style.com).

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# SPORTS

## LAMORINDA'S LOCAL SPORTS NEWS



### Lamorinda Schools Give Stellar Performance at Championship Track Meet

By Jennifer Wake

Stanley Middle School hosted the seventh and eighth grade "A" Championship track meet at Campolindo on Tuesday, June 3. "With 14 middle schools entered, it was a tough competition," Stanley Track Coach Stephanie Coffee said.

Joaquin Moraga's seventh grade girls were well represented among top finishers. JM's Hadley Swanson won both the 200M and 400M races along with a win as a member of the 4x100 relay team. Also on the winning 4x100 team was Mia Monopoli, who took second place in both the 100M and 200M races. Rounding out the winning relay team were Mette Huberts and Abigail Healey, who also took second place in the 400M and 800M, respectively.

"Stanley finished second overall in the team competition with some fantastic finishes," Coffee said. "Justin Capener finished first in the 400M; Nicolette Sorensen finished first in the 800M; Paul Nork finished second in the High Jump; and Adler Faulkner finished third in the 200M and the 400M."

In addition, Stanley athletes



Bottom left to right: (laying) Nicolette Sorensen, Nicole Shimotake, Kendall Coffee, Caroline Wilcox. Top left to right: Alia Shafi, Amy Thomas, Addison Mullins

Photo provided set three new league records: Nicolette Sorensen in the mile 5.27.17 time; Tyler Sorensen in the mile 4.48.77 time; seventh grade girls 4x400 relay of Zoe Bauer, Alia Shafi, Caroline Wilcox and Nicolette Sorensen 4.39.32.

Orinda Intermediate School also had a stellar day with six first place finishes starting with a new meet record by Kevin Booze in the boy's 200M with 25.21. Micah Solit placed first in the boy's 100M,

Carlyn Wright in the girl's 100M and Hosanna Fuller in the girl's 800M. The eighth grade boy's 4x400 relay (Sheldon, Barber, Blove, and Solit) also took first, setting a new meet record of 04.10.07, while the OIS eighth grade girl's 4x400 relay team of Yan, Blove, Wright and Fuller took first place with 04.49.88.

"Congratulations to everyone who competed on Tuesday!" said Coffee.



Hadley Swanson (JM) finished the 7th grade 400 meter in 01.03.93 Photo Andy Scheck

#### Outstanding Lamorinda Times from Class "A" Championship Track Meet

##### JM

- 7th grade girls 200 finals – first place Hadley Swanson (28.58); second place Mia Monopoli (28.98)
- 7th grade boys mile – third place Josh Binder (05.41.65)
- 7th grade girls mile – second place Sarah Orders (05.46.88); third place Meera Madua (05.59.79)
- 7th grade girls 100 finals – second place Mia Monopoli (14.13)
- 7th grade girls 800 – second place Abigail Healey (02.42.45)
- 7th grade girls 400 finals – first place Hadley Swanson (01.03.93); second place Mette Huberts (01.08.61)
- 7th grade girls 4x100 – first place Hadley Swanson, Mette Huberts, Abigail Healey and Mia Monopoli (00.57.05)

##### Stanley

- 7th grade girls mile – first place Nicolette Sorensen 05.27.17
- 8th grade boys mile – first place Tyler Sorensen 04.48.77
- 8th grade girls 200 – third place Siena Del Ponte 29.5
- 7th grade boys 200 – third place Adler Faulkner 28.56
- 8th grade boys 200 – third place Justin Capener 25.84
- 7th grade girls 4x400 – first place (Bauer, Wilcox, Shafi, Sorensen) 04.39.32
- 7th grade girls 800 – first place Nicolette Sorensen 02.40.99
- 8th grade boys 800 – third place Tyler Sorensen 02.23.63
- 7th grade boys 400 finals – third place Adler Faulkner 01.02.10
- 8th grade boys 400 finals – first place Justin Capener 00.57.27; second place Paul Nork 00.58.21
- 7th grade girls 4x100 – third place (Coffee, Wilcox, Shimotake, and Mullins) 00.58.44
- 7th grade boys 4x100 – second place (Faulkner, Nathan, Lundgren, and Anderson) 00.55.70
- 8th grade boys 4x100 – second place (Capener, Nork, Quinn, and Diede) 00.51.56

##### OIS

- 8th grade boys 200 finals – first place by Kevin Booze
- 8th grade girls mile – third place Savanna Ryder (06.10.00)
- 8th grade boys 100 – first place Micah Solit (12.23); second place Kevin Booze (12.25)
- 8th grade girls 100 – first place Carlyn Wright (13.46)
- 8th grade girls 800 – first place Hosanna Fuller (02.38.28)
- 8th grade boys 4x400 – first place Sheldon, Barber, Glove, Solit 04.10.07

### Lamorinda Girls Win MVP Spring League

Submitted by Karen S. Rhodes



The 2nd/3rd Grade Cal Stars AAU basketball team won the MVP Spring League, ending the spring season with some impressive accomplishments.

The Stars won the MVP regular season by going 9-1 in league play and captured the Sac Sting AAU Tournament Championship. They also claimed the

MVP Post Season Tournament with their two wins, winning 13-6 on Saturday, May 24 and 15-5 on Sunday, May 25.

This marked the first AAU season for all of the second and third graders. It was a great season.

The team of eight players, consists of six Orinda second and

third grade players including second graders Clair Steel and Kelly Murphy, and third graders Charlotte Rhodes, Lauren Sopak, Elle Louis and Kathryn Silveria. Other players include Carrie Polkinghorn and Megan Ikeda.

The Team is coached by Jenny Kawakami and Jenny Inouye.

### Competition in Bay Cities Golf League Heats Up

By Garrett Ley



Alex Paxton at hole 2



Erik Thompson to finish at hole one

The Bay Cities golf league is the one premier junior golf leagues in the nation, featuring 31 private and semi-private golf clubs in the San Francisco Bay Area. Bay Cities give youth golfers a chance to compete for nine straight weeks from May to July.

The Orinda Country Club team, which was coming off a season-opening loss to Round Hill on May 30, faced Diablo on June 7 looking to pick up their first win of the season. However, OCC had an incomplete lineup to go against a Diablo team that featured the number one golfers from San Ramon Valley, De La Salle and Monta Vista.

Though Diablo prevailed 33-3, OCC got an impressive performance from Patrick Fabian, one of the top middle-school golfers in the Bay

Area who fired a team-best 81 on Saturday to pace OCC. He had to step up on a day when Miramonte standouts Scotty Williams and Jack Fembacher were out of the lineup because they were playing in an LMYA Recreational Basketball game for the "Nads."

Team OCC demonstrated its depth on Saturday when Patrick Fabian, Brandon Caldwell and Matt Klein each earned points for OCC under the match-play settings. Factor in players like Alex Paxton, Erik Thompson and Kelsey Williams to the equation.

An element of the sport, which often is overlooked, is the presence of college players. To play in Bay Cities, a player must be under the age of 21, which allows freshmen and sophomores in college to come back and

play for their country clubs. OCC unfortunately doesn't feature a single college golfer, putting the team at a slight disadvantage.

"Even though we're not that strong, we play against some teams that show up with some of the most talented juniors in Northern California," Coach Fabian said.

Though Orinda Country Club stands 0-2 two weeks into the season, Coach Fabian believes his team has a good shot of winning a few matches and becoming a contender down the stretch.

"If we can get everyone there at the right time, we will definitely win a few matches," Coach Fabian said. "It's just a matter of us getting kids back from college, getting kids graduated, and coming together before everyone heads back to college."

### Campolindo Pole Vaulter Finishes Fourth at State Meet

By Garrett Ley



running down



going up



flying over



going down

When Stacey Jung arrived at Campolindo as a freshman, she identified herself as a sprinter. But after two straight appearances at the California State Championships, she will now likely be identified with another sport: pole vaulting.

The Harvard-bound senior cleared 12 feet, six inches at the 2008 CIF State Track and Field Championships at Cerritos College in Norwalk, California—a feat that earned

her the fourth best mark in the state.

Not bad for someone who took up pole vaulting as an afterthought.

"I went into high school track and field thinking that I was not going to be a pole vaulter," says Jung. "My coach handed me a pole the first day of practice and had me try it, and I thought I might as well go for it. I kept at it and eventually got better, and I found that I actually really liked it."

Jung not only enjoyed the sport, she dominated it. Even when she was hampered by illness, Jung cleared 11 feet or higher in both the DFAL Championships and the NCS Championships. When she was back to 100 percent strength for the State meet, she leaped 12'6" to shatter the Campolindo school record of 11'8" set by Tiffany Chang in 2004.

"I did have higher goals," Jung said. "I wanted to clear 13 feet, but I'm still really happy with 12'6"."

Jung's success stems from her hard work during the off-season. She trains in the summer, fall and winter before the track season be-

gins in February.

"I don't stop practicing," she says. "With the exception of a few weeks here and there, I practice year-round."

Her hard work was worth it, and she now has back-to-back top-five finishes in the State. After she cleared 12'3" to capture fifth place at the 2007 State Championships in Sacramento, she reached State once again in 2008.

"Knowing that I could reach State again was really gratifying," she said.

Though Jung has experienced a lot of success, the best part of pole vaulting in her mind is the people she has met over the years.

"The pole vaulting community is really awesome because everyone is supportive of each other," Jung says. "It's always really nice to have people—even if they are on other teams—route for you."

After a lauded high school athletic career, Jung looks for her success to carry over to her college years, as she plans to continue pole vaulting at Harvard University next fall.

### Red Hawks Clip Hoyas in Playoff Thriller

Submitted By Jim Stehr

In an elimination game packed with excitement and drama, the Orinda Red Hawks defeated the Orinda Hoyas 7-6 to stay alive in the Mustang division playoffs. The Red Hawks jumped out to a 2-0 lead in the bottom of the 1st inning on a 2 out single by Tim Tague.

After plating a single run in the bottom of the 3rd, the Hoyas came to bat in the top of the 4th trailing 3-0. A hit batsman and 2 errors loaded the bases with nobody out. Sam Conklin then smashed a 2-2 pitch well over the left field fence for a Grand Slam and a 4-3 Hoyas lead. The Hoyas were able to scratch across another run to lead 5-3 heading into the home half of the 4th.

Tague opened the bottom of

the 4th with his second single of the afternoon. With 2 outs and runners on 2nd and 3rd, Caleb Casimere hit a single to center to drive in Tague. A great relay throw from Hoya shortstop Clayton Stehr nailed the potential tying run at the plate so that the Hoyas clinged to a 5-4 as the 4th inning ended. The Hoyas went quietly in the top of the 5th without scoring. Sam Foster opened the bottom of the 5th with a walk. Two walks and a double steal sandwiched around a strikeout again left runners on 2nd and 3rd with 2 outs. Red Hawks leadoff hitter Justin Joss then delivered a clutch double to deep left to drive in the go ahead run.

The Hoyas were down to their final at bat. Dan Ritelli drew a lead

off walk and went to 2nd on a single by Conklin. After Aidan Pitt advanced the runners with a ground out to first, McClain Marks drove in the tying run with a line drive single to center. Joss was able to escape without further damage, however, as the Red Hawks were able to turn a double play with the bases loaded to end the Hoya threat.

The game was knotted 6-6 as the Red Hawks came to bat in the bottom of the 6th. Their half of the inning would not last long, however, as James Vaccaro promptly hit the first pitch he saw for a walk off home run to left, clearing the fence by a matter of feet. The Red Hawks' victory will go down as one of the better Mustang games played this season.



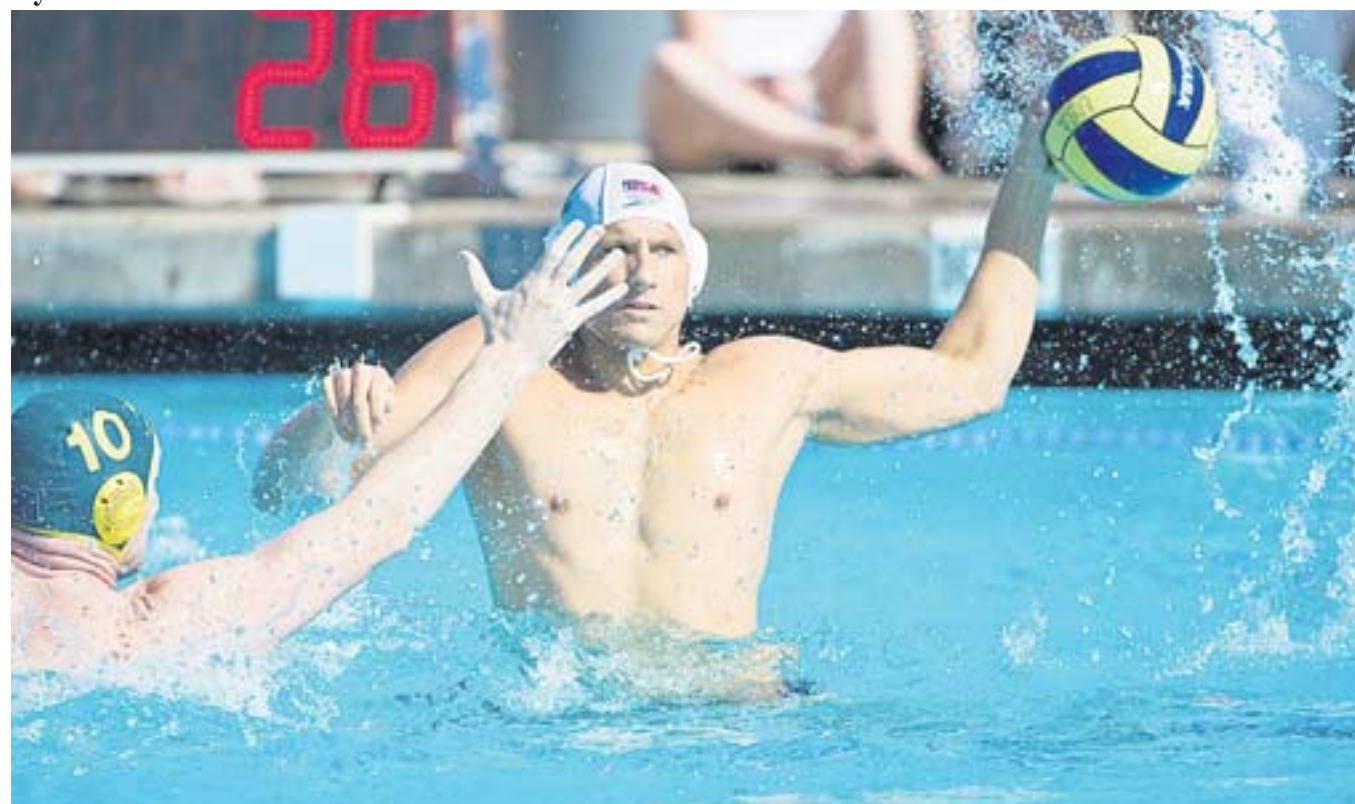


# SPORTS

## LAMORINDA'S LOCAL SPORTS NEWS

### Local Water Polo Standout Plays Back At Home

By Jack Fernbacher



Peter Verellas



Photo Robert Johnson Jenny White, a member of the 50 and over group, on team Soda Moms Photo Robert Johnson



Peter Verellas surrounded by the youth

Photo Doug Kohen

After months of traveling around the world, one water polo standout got the rare chance to play in his hometown with the Senior National Men's Water Polo team. Campolindo graduate Peter Verellas played with the national team against Australia in familiar water at the Soda Aquatic Center at Campolindo High School on June 7.

"It was really great to be back," said Varellas, who has been playing professional Water Polo in Italy for the past couple of years. "As a national team, we don't get many chances to play in the United States. It was nice to be at home, see all the familiar faces, and literally sleep in my own house."

In the game, the United States got off to a roaring start as captain and Stanford graduate Tony Azevedo scored two early goals and led the team to a 4-0 lead at

halftime. The United States held on to the lead to defeat Australia 6-4 in front of a sold out crowd at the Aquatic Center.

"We were favored to beat Australia, but it always feels nice to win," said Varellas. "It was really awesome to see the younger players and fans supporting us at the game."

The United States National Team came into the Australia game with momentum after beating the reigning world champion Croatia 8-5. Currently the United States is ranked ninth, so the victory over Croatia was a big win.

The Olympic squad for the United States will only have thirteen players and right now the national team consists of eighteen players. The final thirteen will be determined later in June and Varellas hopes to be headed for Beijing. "Our team is headed off to

Europe right now to play other national teams," said Varellas. "Then, we will train back in the U.S., and all I can do is try my hardest and hope for the best."

At the introduction of the game, players of the Lamorinda Water Polo Club team surrounded Varellas as the announcer listed off his numerous accomplishments. At the end of the welcoming speech, the announcer inducted Varellas as the first ever player into the Lamorinda Water Polo Hall of Fame.

"The special intro was awesome and made me think about how many people helped me get to where I am," said Varellas. "When I started, there was no avenue for any players to play before high school. Lamorinda has been a huge part of my development as a player and I got to where I am because of all the people who helped me."



Team Soda Moms, 3rd place National Championship USA Waterpolo, 50 and over age group From Left to Right: Front Row, Kneeling: Connie Miller, Jenny White, Ann Bundy, Jane Allen, Back Row, Standing: Deborah Simmons, Mary Ann Ellsworth, Jerilyn Moore, Carole Lynn, Jeannie Johnson, Pauline Dorr, Linda Buchanan, Anni Minuzzo, Patty Trenkwalder; Back Row: Coach Andrew Morris Photo Robert Johnson

### Lamorinda Soda Moms Place at Water Polo Tournament

By Jack Fernbacher

Most women water polo players throw in their towels after high school, but a select few Lamorinda moms have kept playing into their 50s. The Lamorinda teams called the H2O Soda Moms have one team consisting of women 40 and older and another team of women 50 years and older.

From June 6-8, the Soda Moms competed in the Masters Nationals tournament at the Soda Aquatic Center at Campolindo High School. The 40's team won three games on Friday and Saturday, and

made it into the Championship game. In the championship game, the team lost to the Oakland Grayhairs and placed second in the tournament.

The 50's team won three games and lost two to place third in the field. Playing against nationally ranked teams like the Fighting Flamingos, the 50's team didn't give up in any of its games.

"We were down by 11 at half-time," recalls a member of the 50's team Jane Allen of her game against the Flamingos. "Our coach Andrew Morris told us not to give and keep

playing hard."

The Soda Moms didn't give up and beat the Flamingos by one goal in the second half.

In the whole Masters tournament, there were 23 women teams of four age groups: 20+, 30+, 40+, and 50+. Though there weren't as many fans at the Soda Mom's games then there was at the Men's National team game against Australia, the team was having fun and the true fans including family and friends came to support them at their games.

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# SPORTS

## LAMORINDA'S LOCAL SPORTS NEWS



### Saint Mary's Golf Finishes Stellar Season 30th In the Nation

By David Anderson



Senior Chadd Cocco, who has three top-five finishes this season, had the lowest round of any St. Mary's Gael at the NCAA Championships  
Photo submitted by Rich Davi

The Saint Mary's Men's golf team finished the season thirtieth in the country this past weekend after qualifying and competing in the National round of the 2008 NCAA Championship Tournament in West Lafayette, Indiana.

The team advanced to the final round after finishing seventh out of 27 teams in the West Regional tournament in Bremerton, Washington. This appearance marks the first time that a Saint Mary's Men's golf team has advanced to the National Championship round of the NCAA tournament, while being just the team's second NCAA tournament appearance.

Saint Mary's ended their run at the championship with a final score of 307, or 19 over par for the round. Chadd Cocco, a senior from Bend, Oregon, came painfully close to securing one of the six individual spots in the finals after posting a score of 225 for the tournament, which forced a three way playoff with Scott Langley of Illinois, and Jurrian van der Vaart of Virginia Tech. Cocco ended up missing the cut after a van der Vaart birdie on the fourth playoff hole forced him out of the running for the final spot in the six man final.

Despite not playing as well as they would have liked, the Gaels finished with their best season in school history. Head Golf Coach Scott Hardy said about competing in the finals that "it was an exciting and good opportunity to get there [with the great competition], but it would have been nice to be able to put up a better fight."

The team's success this year and in previous years is due in part to the work of Hardy. Hardy seems to have a knack for keeping up with the bigger and stronger teams such as Stanford and UCLA that seem to get first pick when it comes to recruiting.

After taking over in 2001, the team has seen a vast improvement. The Gaels advanced to the Regional finals for the first time in history in 2005, and this season marks the first time the Gaels have advanced to the NCAA Championship Tournament in school history.

Things are looking good for the future of Men's Golf at Saint Mary's. As Hardy points out, "I'll be interested to see how we do. We've got a great recruiting class, and if we can do the same thing with the young guys [next year] that would be great."

### Local Cyclists Go the Distance

Information submitted by the Garff and Rains families



Chandler Haueter is in front, followed by Shaun Garff, Chris Rains, Gregg Rogers, and Parry Garff as they pass through northern Utah on their way to Seattle

In 1991, Gary and Lynn Anderson of Piedmont founded the Epidermolysis Bullosa Medical Research Fund (EBMRF). Their son and daughter had both been afflicted with a rare, tragic skin disorder called Epidermolysis Bullosa (EB). After living short lives filled with pain, Chuck Anderson died at the age of 27 and Christine Anderson at age 14. This spring, four students from Brigham Young University, including Campolindo graduate Shaun Garff and Miramonte grad Chris Rains, embarked on a 2600-mile bicycle trip to raise funds and awareness for the disease that affects more than 100,000 Americans, most of whom are children.

EB is characterized by infection and blistering of the skin. Simple daily occurrences such as bumps, bathing or even human touch can create new blisters or increase infection. Most EB patients do not survive beyond their twenties.

The Garff and Rains families

are friends of the Andersons. "I've seen kids who have this disease and have seen how painful it is," said Shaun Garff. "I'm motivated by the thought that a cure is right around the corner and children can be freed from this pain very soon. I want to be part of that."

The trip started on May 12 in Provo, Utah. The men (Garff, Rains, Parry Garff and Chandler Haueter) rode from central Utah north through Idaho to Seattle and then headed south along the Pacific Coast. They arrived in the Bay Area on June 7th and spent a few days resting before their scheduled departure for Santa Cruz on Thursday. The trip will end in San Diego.

EBTrek'08 is a student-run venture organized under the non-profit Adventures for a Cause. More information about the trek can be found at <http://www.ebtrek08.org/>, and about EBMRF at <http://www.ebkids.org/>.

### Miramonte Seniors Win LMYA High School Hoops

By Jack Fernbacher



Mavericks player Rob Grier is swarmed by the Nads twin towers Lincoln Haley (10) and Sammy Karp.  
Photo Doug Kohen

After winning the OYA High School Basketball League in 2007, the unstoppable force made up of eight determined seniors nicknamed the Nadadores took the LMYA by surprise.

"I'll be honest. I really didn't expect to do very well," said Nadador point guard Scott Williams. "None of our play-

ers are on the varsity basketball team at Miramonte. Some of the players on our team couldn't even make the freshman team and we are going against teams like the Cavaliers that has four varsity players."

The Nadadores, who played as the Timberwolves in the LMYA, went 8-1 on the

season and won first place in LMYA that ended on June 7. The Nads won their first seven games, winning two of those games by on two points.

"We had good chemistry on the team the whole season and used a strategic play called cherry-picking," said third-year Nadador Lincoln Haley. "We would out-run our opponents and score easy layups the entire game and nobody ever caught on."

The one team that did catch on to the Nads' brilliant game plan was the Cavaliers. When the Nads faced off with the Cavs, the Stanley Middle School gym was sold-out thirty minutes before the tip-off. Miramonte students represented both teams, but the Cavaliers featured four varsity players including one player in John Toman who can dunk.

"I was guarding John and let him go baseline on me and he dunked the ball," said fourth-year Nad Timothy Eckhart-Fong. "Players that can dunk shouldn't play in LMYA because no one can stop them."

In the game against the heavily favored Cavs, the Nads trailed the Cavs by fourteen points at halftime, but they didn't give up. In the game, the Nads were brilliant from the free-throw line making thirteen of fourteen attempts.

Yale-Bound Nadador Sudiptho Paul and fellow teammate Sammy Karp took the game into their own hands in the second half and led an unbelievable comeback to put the Nads up by one point with seventeen seconds left in the game. Shaky free throw shooting for the Cavs allowed the Nads to get back in the game.

"Sudiptho drove the ball to the basket and all the de-

fenders swarmed him, so he dished it off to me," said Sammy Karp about the drive that put the Nads in the lead. "I couldn't believe they left me open and I made an easy layup."

As the crowd went crazy in the final seconds, Miramonte varsity point guard Zachary Akin drove to the hoop and was fouled with a controversial one second left on the game clock. Akin calmly made his first three throw to tie the game, but the Nads point guard Williams rattled him with his smack talk to make him miss the second free throw.

"Zac missed the second free throw, but my man John Toman tipped the ball in and we defeated one of the best basketball organizations of this century," said Cavs general manager and six foot four shooting guard Wilson Cheung.

After losing to the Cavs in week 8, the Nads needed a win in the final game of the season to clinch first place in the league. In week 9 the Nads faced the Mavericks, a team consisting of juniors from Miramonte. With stellar playing in the first quarter by their amazing shooting guard who scored 14 points in the first quarter, the Nads easily rolled over the Mavs and won the LMYA title.

When shooting guard Matt Randleman was asked about what the future lies for the Nads players in basketball he said, "we are all going off to different colleges, so we won't be playing with each other. We all hope that basketball will make us successful in life."

**Lamorinda Weekly is an independent publication, produced by and for the residents of Lafayette, Moraga, and Orinda, CA**

<p><b>Lamorinda Weekly, P.O. Box 6133, Moraga, CA 94570-6133</b>                  Phone: 925-377-0977; Fax: 1-800-690-8136; email: <a href="mailto:info@lamorindaweekly.com">info@lamorindaweekly.com</a></p> <p>We're a community newspaper, and we welcome your input:                  Letters to the editor (max 350 words): <a href="mailto:letters@lamorindaweekly.com">letters@lamorindaweekly.com</a>                  Sport events/stories/pictures: <a href="mailto:sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com">sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com</a>                  Art, theater, community events: <a href="mailto:calendar@lamorindaweekly.com">calendar@lamorindaweekly.com</a>                  Business news or business press releases: <a href="mailto:business@lamorindaweekly.com">business@lamorindaweekly.com</a>                  School stories/events: <a href="mailto:schooldesk@lamorindaweekly.com">schooldesk@lamorindaweekly.com</a>                  General interest stories: <a href="mailto:storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com">storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com</a></p> <p>Publisher: Andy Scheck; <a href="mailto:andy@lamorindaweekly.com">andy@lamorindaweekly.com</a>, phone 925-330-7916                  Associate Publisher: Wendy Wuertth-Scheck; <a href="mailto:wendy@lamorindaweekly.com">wendy@lamorindaweekly.com</a>                  Editor: Lee Borrowman; <a href="mailto:lee@lamorindaweekly.com">lee@lamorindaweekly.com</a>                  Advertising: Wendy Wuertth-Scheck; 925-377-0977, <a href="mailto:wendy@lamorindaweekly.com">wendy@lamorindaweekly.com</a></p> <p>26,200 printed copies; 24,600 mailed to homes and businesses in Lamorinda. 1,500 delivered to pick up locations.                  Layout Andy Scheck, Moraga. Printed in California.</p>	<p>Staff Writers:                  Jennifer Wake; <a href="mailto:jennifer@lamorindaweekly.com">jennifer@lamorindaweekly.com</a>                  Sophie Braccini; <a href="mailto:sophie@lamorindaweekly.com">sophie@lamorindaweekly.com</a>                  Cathy Tyson; <a href="mailto:cathy@lamorindaweekly.com">cathy@lamorindaweekly.com</a>                  Andrea A. Firth; <a href="mailto:andrea@lamorindaweekly.com">andrea@lamorindaweekly.com</a></p> <p>Contributing Writers:                  Jean Follmer, Linda U. Foley, David Anderson, Conrad Basset</p> <p>Sports Editors: Jack Fernbacher, Garrett Ley                  Intern: Alex Crook, Sports Reporter                  Steve Johns, Sports Reporter                  Photos: Tod Fiermer, Jordan Fong, Gavin Schlissel                  Doug Kohen</p>
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# SPORTS

## LAMORINDA'S LOCAL SPORTS NEWS

### Piedmont Eliminates Campolindo from NCS

By Steven Johns

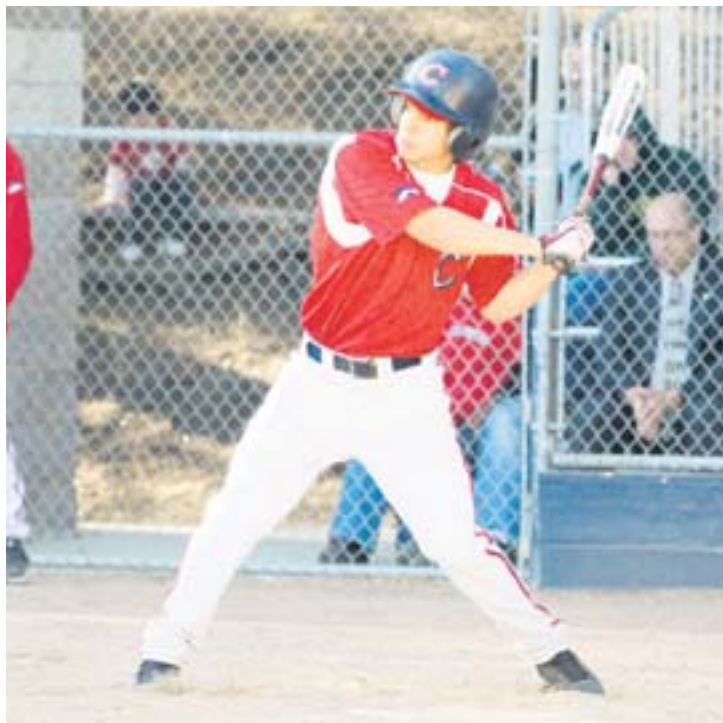


Photo Doug Kohen

After taking a beat down in the NCS soccer final, the Piedmont Highlanders returned the favor to the Campolindo Cougars in the NCS semifinal baseball game.

Dominant pitching and a powerful offense led the 7th seeded Highlanders to a 13-7 thrashing of the Cougars.

The Cougars looked on their way to a win after a good first inning. In the top of the first starter David Wirth quickly retired the Highlanders in order. In the bottom half of the inning the Cougars were able to rally with two outs and take the first lead of the game. Sophomore Corbin Chase started off the rally with a walk and was followed by a single from senior Chris Hilk. Chase was then driven in on a Chris Killeen single to right-center field.

Unfortunately for the Cougars, however, the game went downhill from there.

In the top of the second inning Piedmont took over the game. Alexander Menke started off the inning with a walk and was followed by a fly-out to right field. Then the hit parade started. Lawrence Davis doubled deep into the gap in left-center field, driving in Menke. Trevor McCalmont then

"We became flat, but we came back" commented Guy Stevens about the home run.

Unfortunately for the Cougars the morale of the team was not going to affect the outcome of the game. Junior Jeff Gold came into the game and gave up six more runs to make the game 13-2.

Campolindo did try to rally in the bottom of the seventh. After a single from senior Tom Wraith, Junior Anthony Fadelli reached on a fielder's choice. Three singles from Jimmy Hilk, Chase, and Chris Hilk drove in a couple of runs for the Cougars. Two more hits from Sam Gregory and Stevens made the game 13-7. The rally, and season, ended when Tommy Stephens grounded out to second base.

"They hit better than we expected" said Stevens. Wirth also had praise for the Highlanders: "Their pitching was on... hadn't seen a pitcher throw that well since pre-season." The outstanding pitching and timely hitting handed the Cougars a loss and an end to the season.

Campolindo finished the season with a 16-9 overall record and an appearance in the NCS semifinals. "I'm proud of the way the team played" stated Wirth, "I'm proud of our season."

drove in Davis to make the game 2-1 in favor of Piedmont. After Steven Deutsch was hit by a pitch, Jeremy George singled to load up the bases. A run quickly scored when Wirth balked. After striking out Alex Steady Wirth faced the number two hitter, Jordan Remer. Remer singled and drove in two runs to make the game 5-1. The big hit came when pitcher Bryce Chu launched a home run well over the left-center field fence.

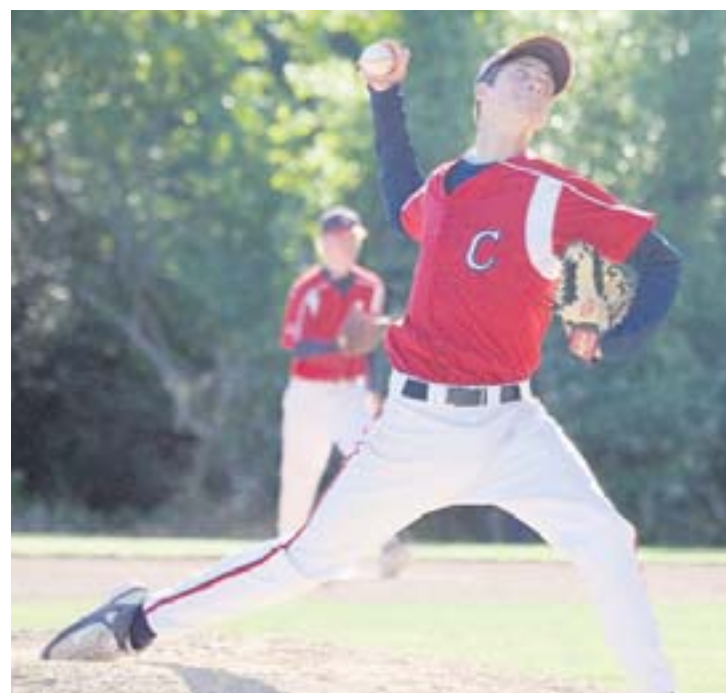


Photo Doug Kohen

### Memorial Day Baseball Tournament

Submitted by Renie Gannett

The MBA Pony Cougars won the 13/14 under division of the Citrus Height Memorial Day Tournament. They went undefeated in five games and

topped off the weekend with a 4-3 victory over Pinole in the championship game.



Team members include: Back row: Andy Grubbs, Chris Martin, Joe Cushing-coach, Josh Cushing, Beau Davis, Jamie Vega, Ryan Gannett, Vince Graziano, Adam Thompson-coach. Front row: Dan Fadelli, John Arth, Ryan Hooper, Conner Rosenbaum, Alex Mirante, Brett Stephens.

### Oakland Strokes Push For Nationals

Submitted by Claire Grover



Varsity 8 racing

On June 13th, 13 Lamorinda athletes will head to Cincinnati, Ohio with the Oakland Strokes to compete for a national championship title at the USRowing Youth National Championship Regatta. The Oakland Strokes, a youth rowing club that rows out of the Oakland Estuary, qualified four crews for this prestigious event. The women's varsity 8+, women's lightweight 8+ (all rowers under 130 lbs.), men's varsity 4+, and men's lightweight 4+ (all rowers under 155 lbs.) qualified by placing in the top three in their events at the USRowing Southwest Junior Championship in May.

Competing in the women's varsity boat from Miramonte are seniors Leslie Chou and Piper Akol, junior Claire Grover, and sophomores Kelly Bauer, Nikki Dahlberg-Seeth, and Dana Walsh. Acalanes senior Dara Dickson rounds out the rest of the Lamorinda rowers in the varsity boat.

In the women's lightweight boat are Miramonte sophomores Molly Fehr and Anne Hofinga.

Lamorinda representatives in the lightweight 4+ are Bentley junior James Lenczowski and Miramonte junior Daniel Migdale. Campolindo junior Coleman Williams and Head Royce sophomore Jack Howerton both row in the varsity 4+.

To prepare for nationals, the crews have been practicing six days a week, often at 5 am to avoid harsh afternoon winds. These practices, though often grueling, are a

necessary and exciting of the nationals training regime.

"We want to come away from Cincinnati knowing that we did our very best and raced to the best of our abilities, and we're looking forward to having the opportunity to do so," said women's head coach Ian Simpson.

Last year, the men's lightweight 4+ placed 5th at this regatta, and look to improve on their finish with a more experienced and older crew. The women's side fields a less experienced group, with only two of the 18 athletes having competed at nationals before.

"This is a relatively young team, with very little big race experience," said Simpson. "Six of the eight rowers in the varsity boat were novices (new to the sport)

just last year. But they are motivated, athletic girls who feed off of each other's energy."

The lightweight 8+ experienced some high level success earlier this year by winning their event at the San Diego Crew Classic in April, and hope to repeat this effort on the national stage.

"[The lightweights] have a great fighting spirit and never back down from a challenge," said Simpson.

After nationals, many of the athletes plan to continue their rowing training over the summer. Chou, Dickson, Lenczowski, and Walsh were invited to attend the US Junior National Team Selection Camp, to compete for a chance to represent the US in July at the Junior World Championships in Austria. Bauer, Dahlberg-Seeth, Grover, and Fehr will all attend the US Junior National Team Development Camp.

All of the seniors have committed to rowing at the Division I level in college. Chou and Akol will further their crew careers at UCLA, while Dickson will pursue collegiate rowing at Yale.

To learn more about the Strokes, visit their website at [www.oaklandstrokes.org](http://www.oaklandstrokes.org).

### Moraga Baseball Association

Submitted by Vince Caro

MBA Box Scores for May 31, June 1, 3, 4, 7, & 8, 2008 Moraga Baseball Association Bronco Division May 31, 2008

Moraga Nationals 9, San Ramon 1 5

Nationals Highlights: Tyler Bartis 3IP (W), 0 RA, 4K's, 3-for-4, 2-2B, 3 RS, 1 RBI; Philip Rei 3IP, 1 RA, 2K's; Ryan Hoffman 2-for-4, 2 RS.

Moraga Baseball Association Mustang Division May 31, 2008

Yankees 11, Mariners 6

Yankees Highlights: Patrick Ratchford 4-for-4, 3 RS, 2 RBI; Scott Zurnacian 2-for-3, 3 RS; Matt Zurnacian 2 IP, 2 K's.

Mariners Highlights: Steven Leserman 3-for-3, RS, RBI, 3 IP, 3 K's; Michael Hooper 1-for-1, 2 RS, RBI; Callan Beaver 1-for-3, 1 RS

Moraga Baseball Association Bronco Division June 1, 2008

Moraga Nationals 11, Walnut Creek 4

Nationals Highlights: Kevin Lehman 2IP (W), 2 RA, 1K; David Ortega 3IP, 1 RA, 2K, 3-for-3, 3 RS, 2-2B, BB; Ryan Hoffman 3-for-4, 2 RS, 1 RBI; Connor McNally 3-for-4, 2 RS, 3 RBI; Ryan Smith 3-for-3, 3B, 1 RS, 2 RBI; Lehman 1-for-3, 1 RS, 3 RBI.

Moraga Baseball Association Bronco Division (Play-Off Tournament) June 1, 2008

Moraga Brooklyn Dodgers 5, Moraga A's 4

Dodgers Highlights: Nathaniel Armen 5 Shut-Out IP, 6K's; Nick Fadelli, Brian Pfaff, & Zach Cole combined for a 2-3-1 Game Saving DP; Marty Cunnane 3 put-outs in CF, and was on the back-end of Tristan Caro's Suicide Squeeze Bunt; Tommy Pride Great Running Catch on bomb to deep RC.

A's Highlights: Scott Smoot 2-for-3, 1RS; Daniel Zur 2-for-3 1B, 2B,

1RBI; Josh Sherman BB, 1 SB, 1 RS. Highlanders 9, Giants 6

Highlander Highlights: R. Nakamura 5 IP 10 strikeouts; J. Clifford 2-for-3 1-2B 2 RS; C. Pieper 1-for-1 3 RS.

Giants Highlights: TRIPLE PLAY! T. Westernoff diving line drive catch, steps on 2B and throws to E. Baldwin to complete the triple play; E. Baldwin 2-for-4, 1-3B; J. Hofmann 2-for-3 1-3B; T. Cella 1-for-3 1 RS.

Moraga Baseball Association Pinto Division June 3, 2008

Marlins 19, Giants 9

Marlins Highlights: Russell Alger 2-for-3, 2 RS, 2 RBIs; Luke Jeffrey 3-for-3, 1RS, RBI; Trevin Kroichick 4-for-4, 4 RS, 3 RBIs.

Giants Highlights: Travis Hartman 3-for-3, 3 RS; Kyle Davis 3-for-3, RBI, 1RS; Teddy Buckley 1-for-2, 1 RBI.

Moraga Baseball Association Mustang Division June 4, 2008

Yankees 12, Orioles 3 (Play-Off Tournament)

Yankees Highlights: Scott Zurnacian 4-for-4, Hit the Cycle! (1B, 2B, 3B,HR), 3RBI's; Pat Ratchford 4-for-4, 2-1B, 2-2B, 1 RBI, 3 IP, 4 K's; Grant Bartis 2-for-3, 2-1B, 2 RBI's; Dylan Caro 1-for-3, 1B, 2 RBI's.

Orioles Highlights: Ryan Rossi 1-for-3, 1B, 1 RS; Andrew Armen 3-for-3, 3-1B, 1 RS; Wyatt McNeil 1-for-3, 1 RBI.

Moraga Baseball Association Bronco Division (Play-Off Tournament) June 7, 2008

Moraga Nationals 20, Danville 2

Nationals Highlights: Robbie Kalish 2-for-3, 3-Run HR, 2B, 5 RBI; Tyler Bartis, 3-for-4, 3 RS, HR, 2B; Neil Kelley, 2-for-3, 3 RS, 2B, SB; Kevin Lehman 2-for-3, 3 RS.

Moraga Nationals 4, Tara Hills 0 (Semi Finals)

Nationals Highlights: David Ortega, 2-for-3, HR; Ryan Smith, HR; Conner McNally 2-for-3, 1 RS; Tyler Bartis, 3 IP, 7 K's.

Moraga Baseball Association Pinto Division June 7, 2008

Cardinals 13, Marlins 11

Marlins Highlights: Carter Whiting 2-for-3, 2 RS, 4 RBI; Vince Mossotti 2-for-3, 1 RS, 2 RBI; Lauren Kozicki 3-for-3, 2 RS, 1 RBI.

Cardinals Highlights: Luka Brown 2-for-3, 2 RS; Ryan Jeter 1-for-2, 1 RS; Erik Wenning 2-for-3, 1 RS, 3 RBI.

Moraga Baseball Association Bronco Division (Championship Game) June 8, 2008

Pleasant Hill 8, Moraga Nationals 7

Nationals Highlights: Phillip Rei 2-for-3, 2 RBI; Tyler Bartis, 2B, 2 RBI; Ryan Hoffman, 1-for-2, 2 RS, 2 SB's.

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