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JM science teacher Deanna Josephson floating weightless

Photo Doug Kohen

Weightless flight—it's like nothing on Earth. Ask Deanna Josephson, a science teacher at Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School, about her out-of-this-world experience. "Amazing, awesome, unlike anything that I have ever done," reports Josephson, who recently was a passenger on a zero-gravity aircraft flight where she felt weightlessness comparable to what astronauts experience during space travel.

Josephson was among sixty math and science teachers from throughout California who experienced the zero-gravity environment through the Northrop Grumman Foundation Weightless Flights of Discovery program. An astronaut wannabe from an early age, Josephson attended a weeklong space camp as a middle-schooler, so a trip into weightlessness was a logical next step. "After I applied for the program, I waited two months to learn that I had been chosen for this flight," she states. "I was really excited when I found out."

... continued on page 7

JM Teacher Defies Gravity

By Andrea A. Firth

LAMORINDA WEEKLY this week

Coping with Food Allergies in our Schools Page 13



Fire-Wise Gardening Pages 16-17



We've Got Letters! Pages 18-19



Our mailbox is bursting with letters from Lamorindans on this year's election issues

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Local Impact of Bond Measure WW – Parks Bond

By Cathy Tyson

Local voters will have more on the ballot than Presidential candidates and City Council members this November 4th. Contra Costa and Alameda county residents will have an opportunity to decide on Measure WW, which extends an existing East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) bond.

It's a \$500 million measure that would extend the expiring twenty-year-old Measure AA park bond at the same level as before, a property tax of \$10 for every \$100,000 of assessed value. The money would go toward acquiring and improving regional parks, trails and recreation facilities and purchasing and restoring open space and wildlife corridors and to provide funds to cities and local park and recreation districts for acquisition and development of local parklands. The measure needs a two-thirds majority to pass.

Where would all of this money go, if approved? According to smart voter.org, a nonpartisan election information website, of the \$500 million raised by Measure WW, \$375 million or 75% will fund regional park acquisitions, open space preservation, new parks and trails for walking, hiking and biking, environmental maintenance, the rehabilitation of aging park

facilities and wildlife habitat restoration. In addition, and perhaps more important to Lamorinda voters, is that 25% of the revenue will fund city parks and recreation departments.

That translates to \$1,095,000 to Lafayette, \$737,000 to Moraga and \$801,000 to Orinda based on the populations of these towns.

... continued on page 10



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Confusion Over Moraga Campaign Signs -and then some

By Sophie Braccini



AUHSD Superintendent Jim Negri

As November approaches, political signs are starting to grace every significant crossroad and sidewalk of our fair cities. Campaign managers, hoping to get name recognition and ultimately votes, invest a lot of money in these items and much consideration goes into their design (see sidebar). The recent Moraga debut of one sign in particular brought an immediate reaction from the Su-

perintendent of the Acalanes Union High School District (AUHSD). Throw in some "fringe Berkeley extremists" and the debate grows even more interesting.

The Measure J campaign has designed one of its signs to include, below the line reading "Yes on J," the phrase "Go Cougars." The red, white and blue signs are printed in the colors of Campolindo High School, and the cougar is the school mascot.

Superintendent Jim Negri was quick to send a message to the press and to his constituency rebuking any suggestion that the AUHSD was supporting Measure J.

"Once the signs appeared, I started receiving emails asking why AUHSD was endorsing a local ballot issue," said the Superintendent.

... continued on page 6

Candidates Night in Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda.
See pages 2, 3, 4 and 6

In this issue: Moraga Citizens' Network Voter Information brochure inserted
(Moraga only, extra copies available at 329 Rheem Blvd, Town Offices)

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Lamorinda Community

Calendar, Notes, News

Lafayette

Calendar	
City Council	7pm
Community Center, Manzanita Room 500 St Mary's Road	
Thursday, October 9 joint meeting with Planning Commission	
Tuesday, October 14	
Planning Comm.	7pm
Community Center, Manzanita Room 500 St Mary's Road	
Thursday, October 2	
Thursday, October 9 joint meeting with City Council	
Design Review	7pm
Community Center, Manzanita Room 500 St Mary's Road	
Tuesday, October 7	
Park, Trails, Rec.	7pm
Community Center 500 St Mary's Road	
Wednesday, October 8	
Senior Services	3:30pm
Community Center, Alder Room 500 St Mary's Road	
Thursday, October 23	
Town of Lafayette:	
http://www.ci.lafayette.ca.us	
Chamber of Commerce:	
http://www.lafayettechamber.org	

Candidates Night
Monday, October 6, 7:30 p.m.
Lafayette Community Center, 500 Saint Mary's Rd.



No Need to Break In to Enter
The Burton Valley area recently suffered a home burglary and several thefts from autos parked in driveways. During the middle of the night the unknown suspects successfully opened the doors of the unlocked home and vehicles. Police Chief Hubbard urges all residents to always lock doors to homes and cars.

Kicking Under the Influence
Lafayette Police responded to a tripped alarm on Mt. Diablo Boulevard. When they arrived, they discovered a seemingly drunk suspect nearby. The suspect confessed to breaking two office windows with his foot. The kicker was cuffed and stuffed.

Don't Be Late for Yoga
After arriving late for yoga class, a woman put her cell phone in her jacket and placed the jacket on the floor in the back of the full class. After class was over, she went to retrieve her jacket and found it missing. An unknown classmate mistakenly left with her Dynamic Kevlar motorcycle jacket and pink Razer cell phone.

Missing Car
A McBride Drive resident discovered his car had gone missing during the night. The owner said he pulled the car into his driveway the night before and had left the car unlocked with the windows down. The owner said he had not given permission to anyone to take the car.



Candidates Break Out the Crystal Ball

By Cathy Tyson
We recently wondered aloud what the future might hold for Lamorinda's biggest little city. Who better to ask than those very candidates who hope to play a prominent role in shaping that future? So we got in touch with the four candidates who are vying for the three open seats on the Lafayette City Council and asked them to describe their vision of what Lafayette will look like in ten years. This was meant to address concerns of growth and density, especially relevant with the Strategy for Downtown Lafayette in the works and Association of Bay Area Government's (ABAG) housing requirements. Due to space considerations, these are brief comments. In order to get a better picture of the candidates' positions, see them at the upcoming Candidates Evening hosted by the Lafayette Homeowners Association (see box for details).

Gabriel Froymovich
Challenger Gabriel Froymovich thinks that, "We are at a crucial moment in determining what Lafayette will look like in ten years. If we keep going in our current direction, we will have a drastically different city than we do now." He sees a more congested downtown, more apartment buildings, and fewer single family homes as a proportion of total units. "This is the plan for Lafayette, as laid out by ABAG and our current City Council."

He continues, "We may also have fewer businesses, with a smaller proportion of independent merchants. If the Council does not restrain spending, and instead passes large sales tax increases, some independent businesses will be forced out of town in today's rough economy... Sadly, in the last Lafayette Vistas, the Council stated that they still hope for a sales tax increase."

As the alternative candidate, he hopes to keep all of this from happening. "My ideal future

Lafayette is not so different than the present Lafayette: built on healthy neighborhoods and unique businesses, with breathing room and a low crime rate."

Carl Anduri
"What is essential is having a vision now for where we want to be in ten years and having the right leadership to pursue that vision," said incumbent Carl Anduri. If re-elected, he will do what he can so that in the future, "We can continue to enjoy the beauty of our undeveloped ridges, hillsides and open space and our semi-rural, small town ambiance."

Commenting on the need for multi-generational housing where residents can thrive, Anduri notes, "We must find ways to make it possible for our seniors to continue to live in Lafayette and to contribute to our community." Other important factors in his vision include: having a vibrant, pedestrian and bicycle-friendly downtown filled with one-of-a-kind shops and restaurants, expanded recreation facilities with an extensive trail system, an excellent library for life-long learning and great schools to prepare students for the future.

Finally, he wants to be prepared to meet the fiscal challenges of the next ten years. "Our infrastructure, including our neighborhood roads, will be in excellent condition."

Mike Anderson
"Thanks to our comprehensive Hillside and Ridgeline Protection Ordinances, as well as the General Plan, most of Lafayette will look the same as it does today," opines Mayor Mike Anderson.

Although he does see some potential for growth, "However, there may be development downtown sparked by the new library that will change the area near the Park Theatre and Golden Gate Way, possibly creating a Civic Arts District with walking paths and access to Lafayette. There should also be

opportunities for seniors to live in this area near services and activities vital to a healthy lifestyle."

Equally important to Anderson is, "how the city will feel in ten years?" He sees the continuation of the small-town atmosphere, and returning students coming back to settle in the community like their parents did a generation ago. "Because of this, there will continue to be that more-than-chance opportunity that you will encounter a smile or friendly greeting from someone that you may or may not know as you live a day in this wonderful place we call home."

Carol Federighi
"Lafayette's downtown will continue to evolve and revitalize in the next ten years," said incumbent Carol Federighi. "By the end of next year, our much anticipated Lafayette Library and Learning Center will open, making the block at Mt. Diablo, First Street and Golden Gate Way a much livelier, attractive place." She thinks residents are likely to see attractive new development across the street on Golden Gate and anticipates Lafayette Circle will have additional quality retail and restaurants. Housing growth is also part of her vision, with opportunities especially in the downtown area in the next ten years, "New affordable senior housing units on Mt. Diablo Boulevard near the Forge, luxury condominiums on the site of the Hillside Inn and India Palace, and multi-unit family dwellings at the east end of town, and we are likely to have another condominium project at Town Center III south of BART." She is hopeful that additional retail and housing in our downtown will be accompanied by enhancements of our creeks; conveniently located additional parking; preservation and restoration of the Park Theatre and a community park. "All improvements will enhance our town's pedestrian friendly atmosphere."

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Busy Weekend at Art & Wine Festival



Jessica Laversin and Sophie Braccini serving wine at the Lamorinda Weekly booth. Photo Wendy Schreck

One only had to look around at the number of adults, children, dogs and strollers to appreciate the magnitude of this event. By all measures the thirteenth annual Lafayette Art and Wine Festival, sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, was a big success.

"We do not have final numbers yet; however, based on what we sold, we had our biggest crowd ever. Good weather, no major problems to speak of, the artists reported better sales of artwork and the non-profits were happy with the people they met," said Chamber Executive Director Jay Lifson. "This is, of course, our biggest event of the year and it does represent close to 40% of the chamber's

annual budget. Without it, we could not provide all the free services to the community."

A portion of the proceeds after expenses will go to LASF, the Lafayette Art and Science Foundation and other community partners.

Police Chief Hubbard said that Festival goers were well behaved; no fights, no drunk driving arrests.

Staff, including yours truly, was pouring wine as fast we could at the Lamorinda Weekly wine booth. Perhaps it was the opportunity to chat up a local newshound, ask the correct pronunciation of Viognier, or maybe just people waiting for the chiropractor next door, we will never know.

Condo Project Finally Gets Okay

By Cathy Tyson
At the very end of the Mt. Diablo Court, past Blodgett's Abbey Carpet and two other exist-

ing condominium complexes, the 2-acre parcel owned by Lafayette Properties recently received an approval to finally start building, subject to conditions from the City Council. It was more than a year ago, September 19, 2007, that this paper reported that the Council was wrestling with the Lafayette Park Terrace project.

Originally planned as a much

larger 40-unit condominium complex, a year ago that was whittled down to 28, now the final approval will be for 18 units.

In late July City Council members took the unusual step of visiting a few of the units in the adjacent complex to get a better idea of the visual and possible noise implications of the proposed project.

... continued on page 6

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Lamorinda Community Calendar, Notes, News **Moraga**

Calendar	
City Council	7:30pm
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School 1010 Camino Pablo Monday, October 6	
Planning Comm.	7:30pm
Hacienda, La Sala Room 2100 Donald Drive Monday, October 6	
Design Review	7:30pm
Hacienda, La Sala Room 2100 Donald Drive Tuesday, October 14	
Park & Rec	7:30pm
Hacienda, Mosaic Room 2100 Donald Drive Tuesday, October 21	
Liaison	8:00am
Fire Station 1280 Moraga Way Friday, October 10	
Town of Moraga online: http://www.ci.moraga.ca.us	

Open Space Initiative Forum
Monday, October 13, 7:30 p.m.
Soda Center at St. Mary's College



Car burglary, 9/17/08 At just after 11:00 in the morning, officers came to the Growing Tree Preschool on a report of a car burglary. Apparently a white male in his early 20's drove into the parking lot, smashed the front passenger window of a parked vehicle and took a purse from the front seat, then drove off. The victim's credit cards were used at three gas stations in Concord, Pleasant Hill Safeway, and a Longs Drugs in Walnut Creek. Perhaps the robber thought this was the Money Growing on Tree Preschool.

Fight at SMC dance, 9/19/08 Officers detained a male suspect who had battered two young men while attending a dance at the college. The victims requested prosecution, although they were uninjured after being struck with a fist by the drunk attendee.

Driving without a license, 9/20/08 A white Taurus station wagon was pulled over for speeding on St Mary's Road, travelling almost double the speed limit. As it turns out, the driver had three prior unlicensed driver citations. The driver received another citation, and his car was towed. Four strikes and you're out.

Pot possession, 9/23/08 A car was pulled over on Moraga Way near Ivy drive at 11:30 p.m. recently for having a tail light out. The officer noticed a strong odor of marijuana emanating from the vehicle; oddly enough the driver pulled two plastic baggies of green plant material from under his seat. The driver was cited for possession of less than an ounce and released. It's possible the driver had the pot to treat his glaucoma, but not probable.

Moraga Town Council Candidates Discuss Priorities

By Sophie Braccini

There will be many serious issues facing the Moraga Town Council in the next few years. What would the six candidates for the Moraga Town Council do first if they find themselves elected to fill one of the three open seats?

We recently asked all six candidates the question, "If you are elected to the Council, what would be your highest priority and why?" The financial situation of the town is a clear winner, but other issues such as the police force and development rank high as well on the candidates' list of issues.

"There are many important issues facing the Town Council in the coming year. Undoubtedly, the

most critical is our Town's fiscal situation," says Janice Kolbe. Dennis Wanken agrees with her, "The budget concerns must be addressed as soon as possible. Revenues are declining and expenditures are rising. This trend must be reversed."

Karen Mendonca and Howard Harpham also named the state of the Town's finances as their first concern. "Fiscal solvency is the foundational underpinning necessity to ensure the Town's ongoing vibrancy," says Mendonca, while Harpham adds, "Unless our Town Council focuses immediately on reducing unnecessary expenditures and finding ways to increase our revenues, we will be faced with

having to begin cutting back on local services in order to bring our expenditures in line with our revenues."

The candidates' concern is rooted in the present and future budget situation of Moraga. "Our Finance Director warned the Council just three months ago that if we fail to address this issue now we would be facing substantial deficits beginning in less than a year and growing steadily over the next five years to unmanageable proportions," recalls Howard Harpham.

...continued on page 6

Bluffs Residents Get An Education

By Sophie Braccini

Last Thursday evening, Bluffs Neighborhood Association President Frank Comprelli invited his neighbors to the library to meet with the proponents of Measures J, K and the "No on Both" campaign. (The Bluffs is the Moraga neighborhood located to the north of Bollinger Canyon Rd, around Joseph Drive.) Comprelli's objective was for the residents to be educated on the issues so that they could make an informed decision. 40 to 50 residents came, heard the presentations, and asked questions of the three groups. This precursor to the Moraga Citizen's Network forum that will be held on October 13th for all the residents saw the emergence of serious points of contention that are likely to be debated again.

Bob Jungbluth, a planning commissioner in Orinda, presented for Measure J until he was replaced by Dave Bruzzone during the debate. He stressed that Measure J would preserve the Town's General Plan, add more than 500 acres of open space and leave options in the hands of the Town to negotiate the development agreement that's included in the Measure. He argued that Measure K would force the town to develop multi-family housing in the town center, because the measure would protect ridge lines, creeks, riparian corridors and prohibit development on slopes of more than 20% and thus would prohibit development almost anywhere in town but the center.

The extent to which measure K would apply to the entire town was at the center of the de-

bate that night.

Renata Sos, who spoke for Measure K, said that Jungbluth's interpretation is incorrect. Sos stated that Measure K would apply only to the land that is designated in the measure as MOSO 2008 land: Bollinger Canyon, Indian Valley, Rheem ridge, Campo Ridge, Mulholand Ridge, Sanders and Larch ridges. She explained that Measure K was necessary to provide tools to stop development in areas that are not regulated by MOSO 1986 (Bollinger Canyon) or insufficiently protected. She added that the idea that Measure K would generate lawsuits was already used against the previous MOSO, and that many more such lawsuits over open space have been won by towns since.

Steve Woehecke, a former Moraga planning commissioner who was there to represent the "No on Both" movement, took the stand and used the debate between K and J proponents to build his arguments. "The measures are complex and invite conflict," he said, "we could get into multiple law suits." He explained that the present process works well and has effectively protected the town against excessive development. "Neither initiative is needed," said a very animated Woehecke, "the average number of homes that have been built every year in the town is 19." He explained the audience that rather than voting non-negotiable ordinances, his group favors a planning process that can be long, but invite discussion with public input.

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Lamorinda Community

Calendar, Notes, News

Orinda

Calendar	
City Council	7pm
Auditorium, Orinda Library 26 Orinda Way Tuesday, October 7	
Planning Comm.	7pm
Auditorium, Orinda Library 26 Orinda Way Tuesday, October 28	
Parks & Recreation Comm.	7pm
Orinda Community Center Room 7 28 Orinda Way Wednesday, October 8	
Public Safety Comm.	7pm
Sarge Littlehale Community Room 22 Orinda Way Thursday, October 9	
Mayor's Com. Liaison	9am
Community Room at City Hall 22 Orinda Way Monday, October 6	
Community Meeting	7pm
Bicycle, Trail Walkway Master Plan Library Auditorium, 26 Orinda Way Thursday, October 9	
Town of Orinda: http://www.ci.orinda.ca.us/	

Candidates Night
Thursday, October 16, 7 - 8:30 p.m.
Library Auditorium



Orinda Police Blotter will be back on October 15

Orinda's Candidates Answer the Critical Questions

By Andrea A. Firth
When the candidates for City Council were asked about their vision of Orinda in the next five years, incumbents Victoria Smith and Steve Glazer identified fixing Orinda's crumbling roads as their number one priority, and newcomer, Dr. Bob Larsen, focused on the need to promote commercial growth in the City.

"My vision for Orinda is one in which our citizens have safe roads," states Smith who estimates the cost of repair at \$100,000,000. "Fixing Orinda's roads will require additional resources, including grant money, increased fees, redirecting funds within the City's budget, potential benefit assessment districts, and potential taxes... Roads are my first priority."

Glazer agreed that the poor condition of Orinda's roads is his top area of concern noting that the City inherited 92 miles of standard roads and drains upon incorporation and that 40% of Orinda's roads are now in failure condition. "I'm running for re-election to the Council, because I don't think we can afford to give up on this problem. We need to bring the community together and find a consensus solution. We will never be able to please everyone, especially when it comes to new taxation," states Glazer. "I hope the residents and the new City Council will roll up their sleeves and work for an achievable solution to this vexing problem."

Larsen has pinned his vision for Orinda to the City's commercial

business potential. "Increasing business in Orinda is important, because Orinda needs sales and commercial property tax revenues to meet city expenses and school costs," states Larsen. "We should develop a successful business plan using a consulting firm with a track record of revitalizing small city downtown districts," he adds. "Identifying existing business needs as well as products and services desired by Orindans will allow us to build for success. The type of new businesses may well include a small luxury hotel, a medical supply store, and a sporting goods shop, amongst others."

The three candidates are unified in their responses regarding Orinda's need to be prepared for a potential natural disaster such as a major earthquake or fire. Both Smith and Glazer note that the City government is already working to ensure residents are prepared in the event of a catastrophe.

"We know it's not a question of 'if' but 'when', and for that reason, we created the Orinda Public Safety Advisory Commission," states Smith. "That Commission has done a tremendous job of training CERT volunteers, forming Neighborhood Watch Groups, raising public awareness and conducting emergency drills, and is preparing a list of local medical volunteer professionals," she adds.

Glazer is on board with Smith's assessments of Orinda's government efforts thus far. "This

is a huge priority for Orinda," states Glazer, "I was the author of our new Public Safety Commission, because emergency preparedness must be front and center for our City every day."

Dr. Larsen brought his perspective as physician to the discussion of disaster preparation identifying the need for a roster of clinicians and a vaccination program. "I feel confident that our police and fire departments will respond professionally. During a crisis, they will need the help of doctors, nurses, and counselors within our community," states Larsen. "Last year people in Orinda went without flu vaccinations," he adds. "Orinda should work with the County, the California Department of Health, and other agencies to de-

velop a program for vaccinating seniors, residents with respiratory conditions and public safety officers."

So who are the two to choose in this top-two winners take all election? Let's allow the candidates to tell us.

"As Mayor, I've met many young people, and I always tell them that they must exercise their right to vote, and with that right, comes the obligation to give back to the community," states Smith. "I bring a history of volunteering in Orinda and getting things done locally, and with citizen support, I hope to continue that work."

"I have experience as a community volunteer working for our schools, parks, and fire district along with my service as a Mayor

and City Council member," states Glazer. "I have a strong commitment to open and accessible government that focuses on problem solving and fiscal restraint and accountability. I want to continue our work to promote improvements to our planning and design review process, increase public safety and emergency preparedness activities, and direct the most city resources possible toward fixing our roads."

And from Dr. Bob Larsen, the Alternative... "As a successful businessman for over two decades, I will bring a new set of skills and ideas to our Council. I will encourage others previously uninvolved to participate. Unlike my opponents I will not take campaign money from PACs, lobbyists & special interests. We can and should do better."

Orinda City Business

By Andrea A. Firth



Front row (L to R): Harriet Ainsworth, Kate Wiley, and Jim Luini; Middle row: Sue Severson, Mayor Victoria Smith, Amy Worth, and Mark Maxson; Back row: Steve Glazer and Tom McCormick Photo Andrea A. Firth

At the last regular City Council meeting, the Council took time to recognize the significant efforts of the Orinda Association and individual Orindans who contributed to the celebration of Orinda's 25th Annual 4th of July Parade. ... continued on page 11

Residential Burglaries on The Rise in Orinda

By Andrea A. Firth
Orinda has experienced an increased number of residential burglaries over the past month. According to the Orinda Police Department (OPD), The City averages one residential burglary a week on an annual basis. In September, there was a spike in the number of burglaries to a total of eight, and homes throughout Orinda on both sides of Highway 24 have been burglarized. "The majority of residential burglaries occur on the weekdays during the daytime," states Orinda Police Chief Bill French. "Several recent victims have been out for a short time during the day and not had their home-alarm systems activated."


While Chief French strongly encourages residents to turn on their alarms and remain alert for unusual activity in their neighborhoods, he

has also boosted the number of police on patrol throughout the City. Chief French notes that is remarkable that no one has seen the burglars who are working in daylight and who have stolen large items such as laptops and flat screen televisions along with smaller items such as jewelry. "I feel strongly that the thieves are from outside the City, and they driving a car to or near the houses that they target," states French.

The OPD is working hard to solve these crimes with aggressive patrol tactics investigative police work. Chief French notes that a group of burglars was apprehended by the OPD last month, and that the current burglars may be part of that group or a completely different group. "Our job now is to catch the burglars with stolen goods to enable

a conviction or to convince them that it's not worth coming to Orinda." If you see a suspicious person or vehicle in your neighborhood, contact the police department immediately.

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—Jane Swim

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Life in LAMORINDA

Grass-root Efforts in Lamorinda: Making Change at the National Level

By Sophie Braccini



Nick Gerber hands out a reusable bag with his name on it at the Lafayette Art and Wine Festival. Photo Sophie Braccini

Metro in Lafayette rarely sees tens of customers sitting in its dining room, each with a cell phone at their ear and just a cup of coffee on the table. The unusual call center was created by the restaurant's Erika Pringsheim-Moore as part of the Move On Obama campaign. Moore is but one of the many Lamorindans, both Democrats and Republicans, who feel that they can make a difference at the national level and will continue to campaign until the November election.

"I was raised in a home where talking politics was a family sport," says Pringsheim-Moore, whose father was a political science professor, "so today, even if I do not have a lot of time with two jobs and two young children, I can't fathom not acting and trying to effect change." The objective at Metro on Sunday the 21st was to call Oregon Move On members to get them to get involved in the race in their State.

David Finkbeiner, an Orinda resident, also believes that actions at the individual level can effect change. Finkbeiner invited about thirty people to his home that same afternoon. Move On, a movement that's celebrating its 10th anniversary this year, is a progressive effort that believes in the power of individuals, as long as there are enough of them who are motivated. Meetings, petitioning and fund raising are usually initiated by internet messaging. "They have become quite sophisti-

cated," says Finkbeiner, "the approach is targeted and they can mobilize an impressive number of people in a very short time."

Under the Republican Women's canopy at the Lafayette Art and Wine Festival, the volunteers were just as fired-up. The Sarah Palin life-size stand-up poster had not arrived yet, but the excitement about the vice-presidential candidate on the Republican ticket was palpable in the booth.

Club President Phyllis Stout said, "We are part of the National Republican Women Federation. Our mission is to educate the public and support our candidates." Much of this is achieved by hosting luncheons with invited speakers. At the fair, the objective was to get as many people as possible registered to vote.

Volunteers, like Stout or Tracy Ragnall Lloyd, have done their share this year of door-to-door campaigning. "We go where the people are," says Lloyd, "we target a specific group, like the 'decline to state' and we bring them literature." Most of the time the women, who do not want to intrude on people's lives, leave the documents by the front door.

But where are the Republican men? "We have an associate membership for them," says Stout, who obviously welcomes them. She says that many of them work with the Republican Central Committee in Walnut Creek.

However, some Republic

men put their nose to the grindstone when it gets personal. Moraga resident Nicholas Gerber is one of these motivated, tireless politicians. He is running for the Congressional seat in District 11, presently held by Ellen Tauscher. The manager of his own campaign, Gerber has invested \$50,000 of his own money in his dream of going to Washington. The rest of Gerber's campaign financing comes largely from individual donations because, according to him, "The Republican party endorses me and supports me with their good wishes and prayers," but this has not translated into much hard cash. For a year and a half Gerber has been determinedly pacing his district and personally shaking thousands of hands. His "Go Gerber" sign can be seen all over.

Obtaining funding is one of the major goals of all these local efforts. Some are completely individual and spontaneous. Jim and Jill Larsen, Orinda residents who believes that small streams create large rivers, are organizing a barbecue at their home to fundraise for Barack Obama. No big names are invited, there will be no media coverage (except in your friendly neighborhood newspaper) - just a simple gathering of friends and acquaintances who will watch the Vice-Presidential debate together and make a donation in whatever amount they are comfortable with. The Larsen's objective is to raise \$2,000.

First Friday at the Moraga Art Gallery

First Friday at the Moraga Gallery brings you tips to **GET THE MOST OUT OF YOUR DIGITAL CAMERA.** The 2 hour program (7 to 9 pm on October 3) will present tips, answer questions, and give demonstrations on use of a digital camera. Presenting the program are John Diestler and Ken Young, both artists with the Moraga Art Gallery. Bring your digital camera with you.



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Open Space Initiative Forum

Monday, October 13, 7:30 p.m.
Soda Center at St. Mary's College

Moderator:
Lee Borrowman
Editor of Lamorinda Weekly

Speakers: Dick Loewke, Yes on J
Renata Sos, Yes on K
Bob Reynolds, No on Both

Hosted by
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LAMORINDA Community

Condo Project Finally Gets Okay

... continued from page 2



East Elevation of Lafayette Park Terrace, Hollman Bologna Architects

Concerned neighbors throughout the process have requested reducing the height and mass of the building, and increasing the distance between the new building and the Lafayette Pointe condos next door.

At the meeting a letter was presented by Kathy Skovgard on behalf of the residents of Lafayette

Pointe and Randy Castro, President of Pleasant Hills and Valleys Homeowners Association, with nine specific requests.

Noting that, "we've made changes in direct response to the neighbors concerns," Mike Hollman of architectural firm Hollman Bologna, was "basically in agreement with all nine points except the

last one." Even that one they ended up compromising on – reducing the height of the building, again.

Neighbor Carol Gray wanted to voice her opposition, "We feel the development is out of proportion to the site. We also are concerned with the number of cars – it's already a crowded court. The people of the east end do not need

or want intense development on this side of town. Once this goes through – what's next? It sets a precedent for future developments." She went on to compliment the Council, however, for being very considerate and attentive throughout the process.

Council members recognized that the applicant has gone a long way toward accommodating neighbor concerns. Member Carol Federighi mentioned that the density is not inappropriate for the site, and that twelve individual homes that could be built on the parcel would have a greater negative impact.

Curious residents can see story poles on the site with bright orange tape to mark the height of the building, just past the cemetery, turn right into Mt. Diablo Court.

Moraga Town Council Candidates Discuss Priorities

... continued from page 3

Kolbe explains, "Joan Streit (the Town's Finance Director) projects that beginning as soon as the summer and fall of 2009 our expenditures will begin to exceed our revenues by as much as \$100,000 a year; and within five years we will be looking at deficits of as much as \$600,000 a year."

Dennis Wanken believes that all of the issues faced by the town are the consequence of the budget crisis, "The infrastructure of our community is rapidly evolving from needing repairs to needing replacement. Moraga faces an infrastructure bill of nearly \$40,000,000. This bill constitutes replacement of residential streets, utility distribution systems, and improvement of arterial roads some of which are currently dangerous."

Each of these four candidates has ideas on how to correct the situation, "My highest priority will be to address the need to reduce unnecessary expenditures and increase revenues without adversely affecting the local services our citizens expect and rely upon," promises Harpham.

Kolbe sees eye to eye with him, "Unless we focus on reducing expenditures and increasing revenues, we will have to begin cutting back staff and local services – police, park & recreation and others – something nobody wants to see."

Mendonca focuses on the process to get there, "I am particularly interested in working with fellow Council members and Town officials in establishing a well thought out budget reserve that could potentially provide an ongoing income stream for the Town of Moraga." She adds a positive spin to the situation, "While budget shortfalls often necessitate the implementation of both reduced expenditures and enhanced revenue streams, they also can provide the catalyst for identifying creative revenue enhancement opportunities."

Wanken stressed the need for the community to get together to solve its problems, "Stakeholders in our community need to work in unison to promote and assist current and new businesses to operate in Moraga and the growth versus

no-growth advocates need to come to compromise in the best interest of all citizens in Moraga."

Harpham stresses the importance of trying to maintain the level of service Moragans have come to expect. "Maintaining our police, park & recreation and infrastructure needs must be the highest priority for all of us at this point." And that's where he meets with Mike Metcalf, who didn't list the budget as his first priority, but one of the consequences of the budgetary constraints: the difficult situation of our police force.

"Our police force struggles to provide the services our residents and businesses need and deserve," states Metcalf, "thirteen officers are inadequate to service 16,400 citizens. I will see that our police force is increased by several officers, consistent with what we can afford. Augmenting the police force will put a dedicated traffic safety officer back on the streets, and will free up police management to work on emergency preparedness and department efficiency." Using his experience

on the Council, he proposes, "I will encourage St Mary's College to contribute to funding our force, since we are obliged under law to provide police services to the college." Metcalf cited as well the maintenance and improvement of our infrastructure.

Brad Kvederis does not share his opponents' financial concerns, "Our Town's budget problems will disappear anyway as the last of the pre-Proposition 13 houses are sold or passed down over the course of the next decade." Kvederis' first priority is to preserve the character of our town, "My highest priority is to permanently ban tract housing in Moraga, and to preserve every remaining acre of our open space that I possibly can." Kvederis explains, "The housing market likely won't experience a resurgence for years, so now is not the time to build large numbers of homes. All we'll accomplish is to create an oversupply of housing and drive down local property values even further -- not to mention ruining our small-town character."

Confusion Over Campaign Signs

"Some people confused it with our Measure E. I want to be clear that the district does not support or oppose local issues like Measure J."

Negri added that the district does not plan to take further action. "The District has contacted the 'Yes on Measure J' campaign and the Town of Moraga regarding the signs, but neither the Town of Moraga nor the District has any legal authority to remove the signs."

The use of the high school slogan was sure to raise more than one eyebrow, so why do it?

George Lakoff, Professor of cognitive linguistics at the University of California, Berkeley, where he has taught since 1972, suggests that, "the use of 'Go Cougars'

on Measure J serves two functions. First, it suggests that the supporters of Measure J are the real locals, while the supporters of Measure K are not and hence are interlopers. Second, since the proposals are about which is better for open space, 'Go Cougars' suggests (without overtly claiming it) that measure J would allow animals more open space to roam."

Moraga resident Frank Comprelli goes even further, "I think that the Measure J campaign people...are misleading voters by trying to piggyback on a school measure on the same ballot. This sort of confusion can only hurt the school bond measure."

Mary Jo Rossi, spokesperson for Measure J, said, "In a democracy, there is nothing wrong with painting signs red, white and blue – those are American colors – even our candidates for president have red, white and blue signs. Measure J advocates are mainstream Moraga residents who are

... continued from page 1

youth sports leaders, parents, firefighters, and educators who take great pride in Moraga – not fringe Berkeley extremists like the individuals supporting Measure K."

Fringe Berkeley extremists? At a public meeting held on September 25th, Dave Bruzzone explained to what the

Measure J campaign is alluding: "Many supporters of Measure K are County residents with Moraga addresses, they are not Moraga residents," he explained, referring to the folks who live in the unincorporated

part of Bollinger Canyon. He suggested that a look at the 460 report, which lists financial supporters of the Measure, would show a significant number of groups that are not from Moraga.

Renata Sos responded on behalf of Measure K. "Those assertions are incorrect," she said. "Residents of Bollinger Canyon are part of this community, they send their children to Rheem school, shop in town, and coach the sports groups." She added that the backers of Measure K are a cross-section of residents and that 80% of the contributors are Moraga families. According to Sos, the Sierra Club gave \$2000 in 2007 to the campaign, which represented 10.6% of the total dollars raised. "For the next quarter the 460 report will show an even lower percentage," adds Sos, who wishes to dispel the rumors that measure K supporters are outsiders: "Nine out of ten of our volunteers are Moraga residents, a few come from the Bollinger unincorporated area and one is an Orinda resident."

The Color of Politics

The design of campaign signs is a whole field in its own right, incorporating elements of human perception and psychology.

A survey by the University of Florida claimed that a yellow background with black lettering was the best color combination for a sign to attract attention; the second best combination is white on blue, followed by yellow on blue.

Besides plain visibility, colors carry emotions and have historically been associated with ideas. The color white evokes images of purity; politically, white is often associated with pacifism.

Orange has been identified in the past as one of the colors of royalty, and has since evolved in politics to represent religious political interests.

The color black is alternately associated with fascism and anarchism, and can be used to great effect in small amounts to provide shading and detail on print designs but is traditionally the color choice of extreme politics that fall outside the realm of democracy.

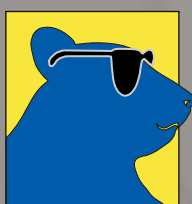
Red and blue have switched party affiliation over the years; at this point the line is still fairly blurry so we tend to see a lot of red, white, and blue campaign signs. Very patriotic – not exactly distinctive, but usually safe.

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Life in LAMORINDA

JM Teacher Defies Gravity

... continued from page 1



Deanna Josephson (second from left) flying like Superwoman

Photo Doug Kohen

This excitement was palpable as the teachers boarded the flight on G-Force One, a modified Boeing 727-200, operated by Zero Gravity Corporation, which has partnered with the Northrop Grumman Foundation for the past three years to provide teachers with this unique opportunity. The first-class flight included aviator jumpsuits, which enabled the novice flyers to look the part of a "zeronaut" as the participants are called. Once the aircraft achieved a complete zero-gravity environment, the teachers who ranged in age from their mid-twenties to mid-sixties, enjoyed the moment and laughed, hooted, and hollered just like a bunch of kids.

Weightlessness on earth is created through parabolic flight—the aircraft is taken through a series of maneuvers called parabolas, or arcs, where the plane climbs and dives between the altitudes of 24,000 and 32,000 feet. The controlled descent creates a temporary zero-gravity environment, which lasts approximately 30 seconds.

The teachers were eased into weightlessness with a few warm-up dives that simulated the low-gravity environments of Mars, where teachers felt 1/3 their weight

and could do one-handed push-ups with ease, and the Moon, where teachers took bounding Neil Armstrong-like leaps around the plane's "floating zone." From that point forward the arcs took the passengers into zero gravity for a total of 15 weightless episodes.

In advance of the flight, Josephson participated in a daylong workshop where she designed microgravity experiments that were videotaped so that she could bring the experience back to the classroom. "I asked my students to contribute ideas for the experiments that I would conduct on the flight, and they suggested trying to drink water and blow bubbles while weightless," she explains. "The water experiment was a lot tougher than I expected," says Josephson, who found that one of the biggest challenges was keeping the straw in the bottle while floating weightless.

Josephson's students shared her enthusiasm for experiencing a temporary escape from gravity's pull. "I thought it was really cool, and that she would have a lot of fun," says Clark Nichols, a 7th grader in Josephson's science class. "If she could have taken the whole class on the flight, I would have definitely

gone," he adds.

Over the next few months, more than 200 teachers across the country will experience zero-gravity flight through the Weightless Flights Discovery program—one of several programs sponsored by the Northrop Grumman Foundation to promote education and student interest in science, mathematics, and related fields. "Every engineer, every scientist, every technically trained person in our nation can look back and identify a teacher who played a significant role in his or her decision to pursue a technical career," explains Sandra Evers-Manly, president of the Foundation. "This program is all about giving teachers the tools and experience they need to show their students that math and science are not only entertaining, but can also be the basis for a fascinating career."

"I try to bring astronomy and space exploration into the classroom discussion whenever possible, because the kids get so excited about it," states Josephson. "I'm excited about space exploration and what NASA is doing. After this experience, I feel like I can bring a personal perspective to the discussion."

A Life Changing Experience

People talk about the power of the press, but they don't often speak much of the perks of the press. When the Lamorinda Weekly was invited to cover a local teacher's experience of weightless flight, the editor kindly offered me the story. In truth, I almost passed the experience up. I get carsick driving across the Bay Bridge, so the idea of taking a flight that simulated a roller coaster ride left my stomach reeling. However, when I mentioned the zero-gravity opportunity to my two teenagers, they excitedly blurted out that they had just seen the guys from MythBusters on board the very same zero-gravity plane. The envy in their voices made it clear to me that this was something too cool to pass up.

I set a goal to being in the moment when the flight went weightless, to achieving a Zen-like state, to enjoying a wild ride. Secretly, I wanted to get through the flight without watching my stomach contents float by. I went on a water diet and skipped dinner the night before and breakfast the morning of the flight, and I added some pharmaceutical insurance by taking a Dramamine an hour before take off.

There were no windows in the front two thirds of the plane, so I had no idea where the pilot had taken us to find the 10-mile wide and 100-mile long stretch of airspace needed to conduct the 15-parabolas I had been promised. We were directed to lay flat on our backs, and I felt fairly relaxed as the aircraft climbed upward at a 45-degree angle, and my arms and legs were pressed to the floor by the G-force. As we pushed over the apex of the arc, I felt my stomach lurch, but within a second I was floating in the air and smiling uncontrollably. No nausea, just euphoria. When the flight leader shouted "Feet down," I obeyed the command, not wanting to land on my head. I was ready for another round of weightlessness. In fact, I couldn't wait.

I have been in a hot-air balloon; it's a nice ride but not even close to a zero-gravity experience. And, I never quite understood the attraction of being an astronaut, but having experienced weightlessness, now I do. There are not many events in life that you classify as life changing—moving, marriage, childbirth. It might seem unbelievable that fifteen 30-second intervals of weightlessness could fall in the life-changing category, but I think it does.

Andrea A. Firth

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MUSIC-THEATER

Soprano **Ann Moss** presents **STORY/SONG**, a recital of art songs that tell stories, at 7 pm Oct. 4 at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 1035 Carol Lane in Lafayette. Accompanied by pianist Martin Morley and clarinetist Asher Davison, this program includes works by Schubert, Barber, Mozart, Richard Strauss and others, with world premieres of songs by living composers.

Lafayette's Town Hall Theater's presents "The Graduate," Through Oct. 11. See story on page 10.

Onstage Theatre presents "Helen's Most Favorite Day" by Mark Dunn, Di-

rected by Helen Means. Love at 'second sight' and a magic wish doom Helen to repeat the best day of her life ad infinitum, unless she can be rescued by those nearest and dearest to her. Through Oct. 11, Ticket prices: \$15 general and \$12 students/seniors. Reservations: (925) 944-9006. School House Culture Center, 2050 Oak Park Blvd corner of Pleasant Hill Rd in Pleasant Hill.

Piano Jazz Café at the Lafayette Community Center Friday 10/10-1:30pm - 2:30pm. The music varies from show tunes and jazz standards to original compositions. There is no charge but, a small donation would be appreciated. Light refreshments are offered. Located at 500 Saint Mary's Rd. RSVP (925)284-5050.

ART

"The Luck Of The Draw," artwork on display at Fastframe of Lafayette. Local elementary school children entered their artwork in a drawing coordinated by LASF, and the lucky winners received complimentary custom framing from Fastframe. The artwork will be displayed in Fastframe's through mid-November. An opening reception for these young artists will be held on Sunday Oct. 5th from 1-4 p.m. Call Anthony at 283-7620 for more information.

Moraga Art Gallery Show through Oct. 26th-"Summer of Decision" by local Bay Area and Lamorinda artists showing watercolors, oil painting, collage, ceramics, photography, mixed media, jewelry and glass design. Moraga Art Gallery, 570 Center St., Rheem Valley Shopping Center/ next to Longs Drugs Moraga. Open Tuesday through Sunday, 12-5 pm, 925.376.5407.

"A Novel Idea," is the new show featured at the Lafayette Gallery from Oct. 7-25, 2008. The four featured artists have incorporated references from both prose and poetry into their art. An opening reception is scheduled for Oct. 10 from 7 to 9 pm. Lafayette Gallery is located at 50 Lafayette Circle, Lafayette. 925-284-2788. www.lafayettegallery.net Gallery hours are Tuesday - Saturday, 11am to 5pm.

Gallery artists work in a variety of mediums including printmaking, painting, collage, jewelry, ceramics, photography, watercolor and mixed media techniques. Gallery Hours are Tuesday to Saturday, 11 am to 5 pm. 925-284-2788, www.lafayettegallery.net.

Not to be missed

Lindsay Wildlife Museum -Vanishing Wildlife- through November 16. Watercolor and mixed-media by Rita Sklar Vanishing Wildlife depicts American, European, Latin American and African wildlife. Critics describe her paintings as a mix of abstraction and realism, giving the paintings a feeling of movement and immediacy and praise them as capturing the subtle mood of the mystery of nature. Lindsay Wildlife Museum, 1931 First Avenue, Walnut Creek. www.wildlife-museum.org.

LECTURES & LITERATURE

"Physics for Future Presidents" - 7:30 p.m. on Thu., Oct. 2 at the Lafayette Library. Dr. Richard Muller, a professor of physics at the University of California at Berkeley, explains what every world leader needs to know. The book provides the scientific know-how would-be leaders need to challenge ill-informed, partisan advice on science-based issues such as terrorism, global warming, the value of manned exploration of space and the dangers of nuclear weapons. This free public lecture is based on his renowned course for non-science students which was voted "Best Class at Berkeley." Books will be available for signing and are sold by The Lafayette Book Store. 20% of the proceeds go to the new Lafayette Library and Learning Center. Sponsored by the Friends of the Lafayette Library. For more information, call (925) 283-3872 or go to www.lafayettelib.com.

Thursday, Oct. 2, 4 pm, Paula Boswell will discuss and sign copies of her memoir, *No Ordinary Life: The True Story of a Dutch Girl and an American Marine*. Orinda Books, 276 Village Square, Orinda. 925/254-7606.

The Friends of the Orinda Library will celebrate its 45th Annual Orinda Book Fair on Saturday, Oct. 4th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Orinda Library Plaza. Hundreds of gently used, hard-bound and paperback books of every genre and for every age group will be on sale at fantastic prices - some as low as .50 cents and \$1.00. A special section of collectible books, videos and CDs will also be offered.

Finding Gifted Children: Gifted Behaviors In and Out of the Classroom- Book Signing After the Event Free Event - Open to the Public- presented by Saklan Valley School & its Parent Association James T. Webb, Ph.D., ABPP-CL, has been recognized as one of the 25 most influential psychologists nationally on gifted education and he is the lead author of five books and several DVDs about gifted children, four of which have won "Best Book" awards. Thursday, Oct. 23rd 7pm - 9pm. Oakwood Athletic Club, Lafayette. Please RSVP at www.saklan.org, or call at 925-376-7900

OTHER

Preschool Yard Sale- Sat, Oct. 4, 9am-2pm - Moraga Bright Beginnings 1689 School Street, Moraga, (near Moraga Way and Country Club Drive) Furniture, toys, clothes, books, DVDs, CDs, sports equipment, kitchen gadgets and much, much more.

Sunday Tour of Homes-Orinda-view 6-8 homes in one afternoon. FREE! Next Tour Dates: Oct. 7th at 1pm. www.SundayTourNow.com 800-414-4045 ID# 4073.

Widowed Persons Support will be offering a series of six GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP MEETINGS. The next series of Grief Support Group Meetings will be on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to Noon. Oct 4 and 11th. St. Stephen's Church, 66 St. Stephens Drive, Orinda. There is no charge and no reservation need. For information call: (925) 932-3448.

Sunday, Oct 5, "Oktober Fest". From 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Join us at our an-

nual fund raiser at St. Perpetua in Lafayette for great food, traditional drinks, fun games for kids and adults alike and a silent auction of exceptional donated gift baskets. 3454 Hamlin Road, Lafayette, CA 94549; 925-283-0272 or www.stperpetua.org."

Mount Diablo Challenge-Sunday, Oct. 5th. The Mount Diablo Challenge is a 10.8 mile timed bike ride, starting at Athenian School in Danville and climbing up Southgate Road 3,249 feet to the summit of Mount Diablo. All proceeds benefit Save Mount Diablo's land conservation efforts. Registration cost is \$50.00. To register please visit www.savemountdiablo.org or www.active.com. No Day-Of registration.

National Fire Prevention Week is Oct. 5-11, 2008. The theme of Fire Prevention Week 2008 is "It's Fire Prevention Week: Prevent Home Fires!" The Moraga-Orinda Fire District is marking this week with an Open House on Saturday, Oct. 11, 2008, from 10AM to 3PM, located at Station 41 - 1280 Moraga Way. Bring the whole family!

Single Malt Tasting with Evan Cattanch- Metro Lafayette-Wednesday Oct. 8th at 7pm. Jackson's Wine and Spirit will be hosting a tasting of single malts with Master Distiller Emeritus Evan Cattanch. Cattanch has spent more than 40 years of his life managing various single malt distilleries and serving as a Whisky Ambassador around the globe. He is one of the world's greatest authorities on single malt whisky. Cost is \$50 each. Hors d'oeuvres are included. 925-284-4100.

Serbian Food Festival - Oct. 11, 12 Noon - 9 PM. Featuring authentic Serbian cuisine and pastries, live music and dancing. Great fun for entire family. Holy Trinity Cultural Center, 1700 School Street, Moraga. 925/376-6850.

The Rainbow Community Center of Contra Costa Fundraiser-Casino Night-Friday Oct. 10th, 7 - 11 pm. Cost \$50; includes over 25 Raffles for prizes; live auctions for 2 different Maui condominium stays; 1 free cocktail ticket for a glass of wine, a Cosmo or an Appetini; buffet dinner and a dessert bar. All the proceeds support programs for LGBT youth, LGBT Seniors and people living with HIV/AIDS in Contra Costa County. For more information about the RCC please visit www.rainbowcc.org

Miramonte friends and alumni are invited to attend the dedication of the athletic field in Paul Yriberri's memory prior to the Homecoming game on Friday, Oct. 10, at 6:30 p.m.

Ditch the routine, Join the Party! Latin/Reggaeton cardio total body workout. Experienced dancers will love moving to the unique and motivating music, and novices will get fit with the easy to follow moves. Register now at 284-2232 or www.LafayetteRec.org for the Thursday, 10:30 class. Call Debbie at (925) 395-6199 and checkout www.DebbieZumba.com for more info.

Lamorinda Republican Women, Federated - Monthly Luncheon Meeting - "All the Answers to All the Questions You Have About the Republican Party, Politics and the Law" presented by special guest Charles Bell, General Counsel to the California Republican Party. Thursday, Oct 16: 11:30am - Arrival/Networking, 12 - Luncheon, 12:30 - Speaker. Orinda Country Club, 315 Camino Sobrante. \$25 luncheon/\$15 speaker only. RESERVATIONS REQUIRED: Meeting is open to the public. For details see website at lamorindarepublicanwomen.org. For reservations please call (925) 254-8617 on or before Thursday, Oct. 9, 2008.

Las Trampas Celebrates 50 years- Thursday Oct. 16 11am to 2pm See story page 10

Saint Mary's College

Campus Happenings



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

Blue Mass - Thursday, Oct 2, 2008 at 10am. Mass and Interfaith memorial service for East Bay emergency first responders, in conjunction with the Feast of the Guardian Angels. Chapel, Saint Mary's College of California, 1928 St. Mary's Rd., Moraga.

Lectures

Wednesday, Oct 8, at 8 p.m "The Making of the President 2008". An evening of lively commentary on politics and the historic 2008 presidential election with celebrated author, Richard Reeves. Best known for his acclaimed trilogy on the presidencies of John F. Kennedy, Richard Nixon and Ronald Reagan, Mr. Reeves is currently Sr. Lecturer at the Annenberg School for Communication at the University of Southern California.

Committee for Lectures, Art and Music and The Disney Forum Soda Center, Saint Mary's College of California, 1928 St. Mary's Rd., Moraga Cost: \$20-\$25. Contact: www.stmarys-ca.edu (click on "Arts") or call 925.631.4381 for tickets

Disney Fourm Speaker Series- Shirin Ebadi- Tuesday, Oct. 14, 7 p.m.

Shirin Ebadi Nobel Peace prize winner in 2003 will be on campus as part of the Disney Forum speaker series. In its statement, the Nobel award committee said it chose her because of her focus on promoting human rights and democracy in her country (Iran). She is the first Muslim woman to be awarded the peace prize. Free and open to the public. Soda Center, Saint Mary's College of California, 1928 St. Mary's Rd., Moraga.

Creative Writing Reading Series - Peter Orner - Wednesday, Oct 8, at 7:30 p.m. Peter Orner is the author of the

novel "The Second Coming of Mavala Shikongo," which won the Bard Fiction Prize and was a finalist for the Los Angeles Times Book Award, and the story collection "Esther Stories," which won the Rome Prize from the American Academy of Arts and Letters and the Goldberg Prize for Jewish Fiction. Soda Center, Saint Mary's College of California, 1928 St. Mary's Rd., Moraga

Great Books Seminar - Tues, Oct 14-Willia Cather's "Paul's Case" - led by Prof. Jim Smith and held in Dante 203. These seminars are open to alumni, parents, friends and community members. All participants can share and exchange their views on the texts that we will read and discuss together. The fee for each session is \$12.00. The cost for texts is not included. There is room for only 25 participants- register by Oct 7th. To register and order the book contact Greta Stenersen at 925/631-4162 or gsteners@stmarys-ca.edu.

Art Exhibits

The Second Golden Age of Dutch Art: 19th Century Dutch Paintings from the Beekhuis Collection. Oct. 12 - Dec. 14 Paintings by more than sixty artists represent a broad range of styles and subject matter, including cityscapes, landscapes, seascapes, still lifes, portraits, and interiors. The exhibition is comprised of three main groupings: Dutch Romanticism, The Hague School and Dutch Impressionism. A 68 page catalog, with an essay by the curator and a complete checklist, accompanies the exhibition.

Art Lectures

Sunday, Oct. 12, at 2 pm. "Confessions of Art Addicts" by Dr. Jan and Mrs. Mary Ann Beekhuis followed by "The Status of Dutch Artists in the 19th Century" by Thea Grigsby, curator and catalog essayist. LeFevre Theatre, Saint Mary's College.

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.

Widowed Persons Support group will have a luncheon on Saturday, Oct. 18, 2008 at 1 p.m. at Back Forty Texas B.B.Q., 100 Coggins Drive, Pleasant Hill. Cost: \$16. Reservation required by Thursday, Oct. 14. Call Molly Rurnion (925)283-1119 or Millie Weisberg (925)906-9483. Widows and widowers are invited.

Town Hall Meeting with Congressman Keith Ellison (D-MN 5) on Saturday, Oct 18 at 11 am. Mt. Diablo Unitarian Universalist Church, 55 Eckley Lane, Walnut Creek. Co-Sponsors: Social Action Committee of Mt. Diablo Unitarian Universalist Church, Northern California Peace Alliance, Lamorinda Peace and Justice Group, Rossmoor Grandparents for Peace

Open House-Hacienda de las Flores - Sunday, Oct 19th from 2 to 5 p.m. 2100 Donald Drive in Moraga. This romantic Spanish-style estate features a patio with central fountain, large lawn and beautifully landscaped gardens. Discover the beautiful historical buildings and share your views of what the Hacienda should become to better serve the community. Tours for all ages, Treasure Hunt for the younger crowd, refreshments and informal discussion with the Foundation members at 4:30 p.m.

CERT Communications (FRS & Amateur) Workshop. Fred Lothrop is offering a workshop on "How to Use" your FRS or Amateur Handsets. Saturday, Oct 11. Elderberry Room, Lafayette Com-

munity Center, 500 St. Mary's Road. FRS: 9am to Noon (includes classroom discussion and practical exercise) HAM: 2pm to 4 pm (information and practice with 2 meter and 450 MHz bands) Bring your equipment with you. Seats are limited to 30. RSVP to Fred. K6req@comcast.net.

Free Seminar on Pain Management by Anne Randolph, Physical Therapist Thu., Oct 16th, - 6:30pm to 7:30pm. Aegis of Moraga, 950 Country Club Drive in Moraga. RSVP to: Candice Moses, 925-377-7900

Lafayette Community Center will host portrayer of flamboyant Quentin Crisp "The trouble with children is that they're not returnable." This is one of many pithy quotes of the late Quentin Crisp, an English writer, actor and raconteur, who will be portrayed by Richard James at 1 p.m., Friday, Oct. 17. The performance is sponsored by Emeritus College, a Diablo Valley College program. Tickets are \$15 (\$13 for Emeritus members). For reservations, visit www.dvc.edu/emeritus or call (925) 906-9105. The community center is at 500 St. Mary's Road, Lafayette.

Halloween masquerade ball Friday, Oct. 24th with live music, dancing, cash bar and a special planetarium show experience. The kids can trick or treat at Chabot on Saturday, Oct. 25 in their costumes and have a family fun day. Call the Box Office at 510-336-7373 to register. Box Office (510) 336-7373, Online tickets www.chabotspace.org

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- ~ When the body is clear, confidence boosts
- ~ When the spirit is clear, joy is achieved
- ~ When all are clear together, miracles happen

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www.WholisticArtsFestival.com

* proceeds go to Bret C. Harte Fund

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The Second Golden Age of Dutch Art:
19th Century Paintings from the Beekhuis Collection



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- Showcasing the importance & influence of 19th c. Dutch painting
- Cityscapes, landscapes, seascapes, portraits, interiors, still lifes, florals

Lecture: Sunday, Oct. 12, 2 PM,
LeFevre Theatre,
Reception: 3 - 4 PM, Art Patio
\$5 lecture, reception & exhibit;
children 12 & under free; members free

In the Keith Room:

Dutch Influences in William Keith's
Portraits and Elizabeth Keith's Still Lives

Exhibition Hours: Wednesdays - Sundays, 11 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Gallery Admission: \$3 adult; children 12 & under free; free parking

http://hearstartgallery.org
925.631.4379



Rotary Golf and Wine Classic October 6 at the Rossmore Golf Course

This year's Rotary Golf and Wine Classic will be held on October 6, 2008 at the Rossmore Golf Course. The Golfing Fee will be \$125.00 plus a Bottle of Wine valued at \$10.00 or more. Fee includes Driving Range, Box Lunch, Cocktails, BBQ Dinner catered by Susan Foord Catering, Prizes and Awards. Every Par 3 will feature a wine event. Plus on one of the Par 3's a BMW will be given away for a-hole-in-one. Also, refreshments will be served during the Golf Tournament. Dinner only Guests are \$25.00. Registration starts at 10:00am, Shotgun Start at 11:00am, Cocktails served at 4:00pm, and BBQ Dinner at 5:00pm. This year we are featuring a \$1000.00 Raffle, which includes a Bed & Breakfast and a BMW Z-4 for a weekend, Wine & Picnic Basket Tote, Auto Detail, Assortment of Fine Wines, and a Golf Foursome.

Applications for golf are available at the Pro-Shop for both Golf and Dinner only Guests. Raffle Tickets are \$10.00 each. Please call Gene Wilson 925-935-5785 or Polly Bernson 925-283-6610 for Raffle Tickets or any questions.

All proceeds benefit local & international Rotary charities.
We are a 501c-3 Non Profit Organization. Donations will be appreciated.

Life in LAMORINDA

Local Salon Donates Excess Hair to Clean Up Oil Spills

By Jennifer Wake



Salon Cartier owner Robin Cartier sits next to approx. 10 pounds of hair clippings being donated to make oil spill hair mats. Photo Jennifer Wake

Each week at Salon Cartier on Olympic Boulevard, nearly five pounds of hair clippings, which had been destined for the downstairs dumpster, are now being boxed up and sent to a warehouse in San Francisco as part of a massive operation to create mats suitable for cleaning oil spills.

The mats were originally invented by hair stylist Phil McCrory of Smartgrow.net following the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill in Alaska after he noticed how oil clung to the hair of otters.

"You shampoo your hair because it gets greasy," explains McCrory on the Matter of Trust Web site -- an ecological public charity founded by Lisa Craig Gautier. "Hair is very efficient at collecting oil out of the air, off surfaces like your skin and out of the water, even petroleum oil. Hair is adsorbent (as in "clings to" unlike absorbent which is to "soak up.")

The mats, which are typi-

cally the size of a doormat, have been used throughout the country and across the globe to clean up oil spills affecting waterways.

Salon owner Robin Cartier had heard about the hair mats several years ago, and had been intrigued, but forgot about it until Stefani Martin brought up the idea at a staff meeting five months ago.

"It's amazing to see what you think is waste and what you can do with it," Cartier says. Prior to their participation in Matter of Trust, Cartier says they simply threw away any excess hair, aside from 10 to 12 inch-long strands that would be donated to Locks of Love which makes wigs for cancer patients.

"It's nice to be able to do something every day," she says. "Our clients are in awe. They're excited that they're actually helping. Parents will show teenagers their cut hair and explain that we're going to make mats out of it to clean water and

soak up oil."

Last November, Matter of Trust used the mats at Ocean Beach to help soak up some of the 58,000 gallons of bunker fuel that leaked into the San Francisco Bay from the Cosco Busan cargo ship after it hit the Bay Bridge.

To close the recycling loop, used oil mats are sprinkled with oyster mushroom spawn (donated by Paul Stamets of Fungi.com), which shoot out millions of roots, clinging to the mesh of the oil-soaked mats, breaking down the hydrocarbon bonds in the oil and turning the toxic waste into landscape-grade fertilizer.

Martin says the project is "a practical, hands-on study to further the cause of efficient closed loop systems for oil spill cleanup -- from collecting the hair, to the creation of mulch and the many steps in between."

After last year's oil spill in the Black Sea, Matter of Trust sent hair mats to Russia and has also worked with Korea to utilize the technology to clean up its contaminated shorelines. According to the organization, there were 2,600 oil spills in the world last year -- many of which affected our environment -- and there are more than 370,000 hair salons in the United States that cut about one pound of hair per day, much of which ends up in landfills. The hair mats provide an ecological "win-win."

Salon Cartier sees more than 130 clients a week (95 percent of whom are from Lamorinda), and collects between two to five pounds of hair clippings for the project each week. "I would see the garbage fill up, and now it all goes," Cartier says.

Thanks to Main Street Postal & Business Center in Walnut Creek, which has partnered with Salon Cartier, there is no cost for the salon to participate in the program. The postal center generously boxes and pays to ship the excess hair to Matter of Trust.

"I called [Main Street

Postal] to see if they would be interested in helping Mother Earth," Martin says. "Manager Cate Venables did not bat an eye. She has been a fundamental part in making this possible. I wish there were more people willing to use generosity in their lives."

For Cartier, it's simple. "It's just people taking the time to do something," she says. "They can even use pet hair and individuals can get involved. This helps otters and sea life as well as provides clean water for our kids; it's so important."

For more information about Matter of Trust and its Oil Spill Hair Mats, you can visit their Web site at www.matteroftrust.org.



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Complaining Worked – 24-Hour Fitness Acquiesces

By Cathy Tyson

Indicated members celebrated power to the people upon hearing that the management of 24-Hour Fitness revisited their previous decision about increasing dues for most members and even got a little something extra for their trouble.

"It has become apparent to us that a number of our long-term and loyal members in Moraga did not have a positive experience with our organization during the opening of the new facility," said Divisional President Dan Benning in a letter sent to members. He goes on to say, "24-Hour apologizes for any confusion or inconvenience that may have occurred." Those that chose to "upgrade" will soon be refunded the \$9.95/month charge imposed to use the new club. They go the extra mile in allowing Moraga members access to Super Sport locations nationwide and are even throwing in a complimentary personal training session as a thank you for the hassle.

Prior to the grand opening of their new facility in Rheem this summer, many 24-Hour members were disgruntled at having to pay an additional fee and the rocky way the transition to the new club was handled. They were so angry that many complained to the Better Business Bureau, the District Attorney's office and to TV's "Seven on Your Side." It took a little while, but in this case the squeaky wheels got the grease.

Contra Costa Deputy District Attorney Steve Bolen confirmed he had been working on the issue, "Their transfer may not have exceeded, but certainly approached the unfair business practices threshold." The case is now closed.

The brouhaha started when long standing members of the older, original 24-Hour Fitness, formerly a Linda Evans facility, were abruptly told that they were welcome to use the Walnut Creek club, or pay the upgrade fee to what they defined as a new Super Sport level club just down the street. Only recent members, presumably paying higher dues, who joined in anticipation of the long-delayed club were excluded from the fee.

Many long term members were understandably upset, mostly because an additional charge was never mentioned or implied during the construction of the new gym.

"A lot of us complained to the company, to the District Attorney and to the club manager. I don't know which method had the greatest effect (perhaps all of them). I am really pleased by this result -- but they stopped short of admitting that this club is really not a Club Sport. Compared with many of the other Club Sports, it does not compare in size or amenities, said Annette Knox. "I think 24-Hour Fitness restored some good will by that move and I do appreciate their response."

Another member was pleased at the turn of events, while noting the unsavory process,

"While I still feel that the Super Sport designation for the club is inappropriate, I will give 24-Hour Fitness credit for taking care of its most loyal Moraga members by upgrading us for free. It is a shame though that we needed to complain so vehemently, even threatening lawsuits, before we were paid any attention," said Eric Yabu. "It left a bad taste in many mem-

bers' mouths and was not a good introduction to our small community."

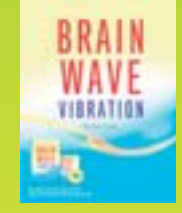
At 21,000 square feet, the new gym is large and upscale, but has less than half of the amenities of the normally 50,000 square foot Super Sport level clubs.



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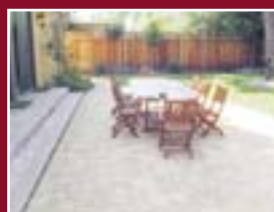
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Lamorinda's Religious Services



Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church, Orinda, 254-3422

8:15 a.m. Traditions Worship Service
 9:15 a.m. Coffee Fellowship
 9:40 a.m. Education for all ages
 10:45 a.m. Celebrations Worship Service
 Childcare available for ages 5 and younger

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 Education Hour, 9:30-10:20 am
 Contemporary Worship, 10:30 am

Concert
 10/4 7 pm
 Pet Blessing
 10/5
 10:30 am

St. Anselm's Episcopal Church A Loving Community

Sunday Services: 8 and 10 AM
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 682 Michael Lane, Lafayette, 284-7420, www.stanselms.ws

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Isaiah For specific questions, call the Temple office at 925-283-8575
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 1st and 4th Friday evening - 6:30 PM
 2nd and 3rd Friday evening - 8:00 PM
 Saturday mornings at 10:30 AM

If you would like your services listed, please email to info@lamorindaweekly.com or call 925-377-0977.
 A one inch listing will cost \$20.

A Proposition for You

Submitted by Gloria Weston

Looking ahead to the November election, the Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette Branch of the American Association of University Women will devote its October 21st meeting to a discussion of state and local propositions on which we will be voting. Roundtable discussions of the twelve state propositions will begin at 9:30 am at the Serbian Orthodox Church, 1700 School Street, Moraga. The public is welcome to be part of the discussion groups, each of which will have a point person with materials from the League of Women Voters and

similar organizations. At the end of the discussions each group will report its observations and conclusions to the participants as a whole.

Over a catered salad luncheon starting at 11:30, the Acalanes High School District bond issue, Moraga Measures J and K (the land-use initiatives) will also be discussed informally. A representative of the Acalanes High School District Board will be present to explain Measure E and the District's needs. There is no charge for the lunch, but donations will be accepted.

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- Orinda 4th of July Marching Band - 8 years
- Generation In Jazz Foundation Advisor to Board of Directors
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- Lafayette Summer Music Jazz Workshop Drum Technician

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Life in LAMORINDA

Las Trampas Inc. Celebrates 50 Years of Service to the Developmentally Disabled

By Sophie Braccini



Ron Kilgore in the "Sensory Room" Photo Sophie Braccini

On Thursday October 16, Las Trampas Inc. will host an Open House & Art Show in the Lafayette campus at 3460 Lana Lane (off Moraga Boulevard). Las Trampas is celebrating its 50th anniversary with an art show, music, a raffle, campus tours and refreshments.

In 1958 founding parents

bought and incorporated the 3.5 acre property and facilities that had been started a few years before as a school for developmentally disabled children. The Center evolved to what it is today, a range of programs and services for adults who have some degree of mental retardation.

Las Trampas manages li-

censed group homes, supported living services and vocational and developmental services. Las Trampas currently serves sixty seven adults. "Our philosophy is to integrate people in the community as much as possible," says Associate Director Ron Kilgore, "some can live independently in one of our residences; they come here for activities, and we support them in their everyday life."

Service-based programs such as Las Trampas cost ten times less than the old model where adults were institutionalized in hospitals, and are better for their development. Some of the residents are holding jobs in surrounding cities, helping with yard and janitorial duties.

The community involvement has been important for Las Trampas' sustainability. "We get 10% of our funding from in-kind donations," says Kilgore "many local groups have helped us as well." He cites the Lafayette Sunrise Rotary

that is helping with the landscaping, the Lamorinda Presbyterian Church that built the large overhang that protects consumers from the rain while they wait for the bus, Chevron who sent a group of volunteers to repaint the entire facility, or individuals like chef Chuck from the Lafayette Park Hotel who comes once a month to engage the clients in his cooking activities.

The result of the team effort is a staff that has a very low turnover. Rakeshia, who has been working in the center for four years, says, "I do it because it is fun and rewarding. I do something useful and can sometimes witness progress in the patients." Kilgore believes that their way of engaging their consumers is the reason of their success, "we used to think that people with Down syndrome wouldn't live past their 20's or 30's. Here we see them aging in their 60's. I believe it is because they are living a meaningful life."

Town Hall Theater's The Graduate – An Evening of Nostalgia

By Sophie Braccini



Dennis Markham as Ben and Xanadu Bruggers as Elaine in "The Graduate" Photo courtesy of Town Hall Theater

There are benchmark stories that are must-sees at different stages of life. For the Baby Boomers who first saw "The

Graduate" when the movie came out in 1967, revisiting the story is more than a stroll down memory lane, it is a paradigm shift. Today, instead of identifying with Ben Braddock or Elaine Robinson, we may wonder which of our children

will most resemble those characters. The Town Hall Theater's new Artistic Director, Clive Worsley, brings the stage adaptation of The Graduate to Lafayette. "Most of us are familiar with the movie," says Worsley, "the stage play was made in 2000 for Kathleen Turner. Even though the story is set in the 60's, love, desire, family relationship, expectation on how we should live our lives are still relevant today and the production is very fresh."

The play opened on September 13th and will run for five weeks. It's a challenge for the actors to step into the big shoes of Anne Bancroft, Dustin Hoffman and Katharine Ross. Some are right on target, like Melissa Myers who plays a very powerful Mrs. Robinson, cynical to the bone, or Sally Hogarty and Jerry Motta as clueless suburban parents. At the time of the preview, some of the other actors had not yet hit the mark. There is hope that these talented performers will master their characters over the weeks of the performance.

Director Joel Roster was very successful in creating a rapid succession of set designs manipulated by the stage crew, a group of Lafayette teens who have been trained by professionals. Beds become couches; tables appear and disappear, doors are moved to create different spaces. These swift transformations take place during the delightful musical interlude

provided by singer and guitar player April Kavanagh.

Kavanagh, a charming musician, set the perfect mood for the entire evening. Sitting at the edge of the stage, the case of her guitar laid open with a few dollar bills inside suggesting donations, she brings back the musical tempo of the time: beautiful songs by Simon and Garfunkel, inserted perfectly throughout the play. "We all know the title songs," says Worsley, "the voice of Paul Simon reflects this period of history and each song resonates in its own way, and deepens the conversation with the audience."

The play resonates with the Lamorinda audience and their life experience. "A play is a way to see our own experience reflected on the stage, an understanding about our own lives," believes Worsley. Down the line, Worsley's ambition is to see Town Hall become the artistic and cultural center for Lamorinda. "We are making high quality classical and contemporary art form available to the community," he says. In the short term he will be bringing new voices and further the dialogue between the theater and the community. Residents are likely to see surveys, focus groups, and Town Hall in the schools.

The Graduate will be playing until October 11th, tickets are \$18-\$32. Call 283-1557 or go to www.thtc.org. This play is not recommended for children under 12.

Local Impact of Bond Measure WW – Parks Bond

... continued from page 1

"Supporting Measure WW is a natural for Orindans. So many of our youth camp with the Boy and Girl Scouts in Tilden Park, as well as attend summer and swim programs at Lake Anza. We have the district's trails in our own backyard, literally, and those outdoor trails will be expanded over the next few years with the addition of over 1000 acres of open space in Wilder, some of which will be managed by the EBRPD. Orindans love to connect with nature, and we are very supportive of the excellent recreational opportunities the district provides in the East Bay hills," said the Mayor of Orinda, Victoria Smith.

"Both the Town and the Parks and Rec approve of WW," says Moraga Parks and Recreation Director Jay Ingram, "we have benefited from its predecessor to equip our parks and manage our trails, the new measure will make available \$737,000 for recreation in the town." The Director insists that the new measure will not add to the tax burden of residents since it's a continuation of the previous bond measure.

Lafayette's Parks and Recreation Director Jennifer Russell is equally supportive, "AA (the original measure passed in 1988) was wonderful for Lafayette – EBRPD does

an excellent job – especially buying up land – because once it's gone it's gone forever."

Arguments against the measure include that in these economically difficult times, WW would perpetuate a tax that would otherwise expire. Opponents say the EBRPD already controls 153 square miles of parkland, and that additional land, if purchased, would no longer generate tax revenue. They also allege that EBRPD wants the land of family farmers, and that further land set-asides make housing even more unaffordable. For more information, go to www.ebparks.org or www.smartvoter.org.



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Life in LAMORINDA

Local Silk Artist at Orchard Nursery

As part of the Harvest Festival

By Cathy Tyson



Anna George with her silk artwear

Photo provided

Lafayette artist/designer Anna George will be painting in public view, presenting her work, and fielding a few questions at Orchard Nursery's Lazy K Boutique on October 11 from 1:00 to 3:00, and again Oct 19 from 11:00 until 2:00.

Shoppers will get a rare view of how she builds her richly colored, one-of-a-kind painted designs.

She creates wraps, scarves, shawls, lovely silk shawl-jackets, also couture silks for elegant wear. Ms. George donates one scarf for

every ten purchased for women losing their hair due to cancer treatments.

"Sometimes it takes several days to produce one. There are layers of color which dry, are rendered fast, and then receive more paint. Like with fine art painting, I apply color until I have something satisfying. I use French paints made for silk, and fine Chinese silks. I'm self taught in silk painting, though I studied the fine arts in college and later sold my paintings and original décor for the home," said Ms. George.

"I want to be happy and productive, and I'm happy when I'm painting. It's been gratifying - the scarves have been very well received. And it's quite a pleasure when I'm able to witness the excitement," she continued.

She also offers a men's line of silk artwear, many of which are stone-washed. Ms George tumbles a heavier crepe with stones two times to produce an extreme softness, which has a matte look. She works in Charmeuse, China Silk,

Habotai, and Silk Satin. She is also currently working on lingerie and Alpaca. For more information see her website, www.californiapaintedsilk.com.

Ms. George notes she's "all for expanding the arts" and hopes her demonstration will inspire when she appears twice as a part of Orchard Nursery's Harvest Festival.

The Festival which features music and garden themed activities has something fun for every weekend from October 5th through Halloween. On the schedule are musical groups from classical guitar to smooth jazz to a steel drum band, a rose expert, pie contest, home composting seminar and, of course, "primp your pumpkin" decorating class. Check out these events and many others every Saturday and Sunday throughout the month. Be sure not to miss arguably the largest collection of unique pumpkins around, scarecrows and farm animals. For a complete schedule go to www.orchardnursery.com.

Pat Adams at Wagner Ranch

By Sophie Braccini



Ida and Theodore Wagner with little George in front of their first Orinda house. Photo courtesy of the Adams'

For the first time in her life Pat Adams, the great granddaughter of Wagner Ranch founders Ida and Theodore Wagner, set foot on the remaining sixteen acres of preserved lands that once belonged to her family.

The "Friends of Wagner Ranch," the Orinda Union School District, which now owns the land, and the Orinda Historical Society were there on September 16th to greet her. It was a perfect opportunity to recall the history of Orinda and highlight the importance of preserving landmarks for future generations.

Theodore Wagner was a Surveyor General for the State of California. The couple bought the original 241-acre property in the 1880s and built first a small ranch, then an elegant two-story mansion that was the center of Orinda social life at the turn of the century.

Wagner wanted the property he called Oak View Farm to be a show farm and self-sufficient ranch. The property included a forge, a dairy barn, a brick kiln, a carbide gas plant and a winery.

The family lost most of its assets in different business ventures, capped by the failure of

the California Nevada railroad and a fire that destroyed the main house. Except for the land that Theodore Wagner had given to Orinda as a school site, the property became part of the holdings of the East Bay Water Company.

The Wagners did not leave California, but moved to Berkeley and later to Glen Ellen. Pat Adams, who was raised in Berkeley, never knew her grand-father George Wagner, who died young, but collected stories from her grand-mother Josephine, George's wife, and still possesses most of her archives.

Adams brought pictures and documents for her visit to Wagner Ranch and proposed to give some of them to the Orinda Historical Society. The Society's President, Lucy Hupp Williams, took the pictures to make copies and plan to return the originals to Adams, "That's where they belong," she said.

Toris Jaeger has been a naturalist with the Orinda School District for thirty years. Wagner Ranch has been the property of the Orinda school district since Theodore Wagner gifted it more than 100 years ago. It is the stage on which Jaeger and Wagner Ranch teachers have taught generations of children about the wonders of nature and living history.

"This place is a unique opportunity for us to teach our children about living history," says Jaeger, "the children can explore native plants and reflect on the life of Native Americans; they study early California and pioneers and imagine their lives on their property; they study biology in the ponds and creek and botany in the garden."

The Friends of Wagner Ranch say the property contains about 2000 different plants, many of which are natives like the Santa Barbara sedge, the long, fibrous roots of which were used in basket weaving by Native Americans, and some quite rare species like the original black walnut that are hard to find nowadays. The group hopes to transform the property into a non-profit entity in its own right, which would allow them to raise money to preserve it and make sure that the landmark is preserved for the future generations of Orinda children.



Pat Adams (pointing) discovers the foundation of the ranch that her great grand-father established in Orinda in 1884, with husband Rich, Toris Jaeger (left) and a member of the Orinda Historical Society. Photo Sophie Braccini

Orinda City Business

... continued from page 4

"I think this was the biggest July 4th parade held in Orinda's history," stated Mayor Victoria Smith as she presented certificates of appreciation to Kate Wiley and Jim Luini of the Orinda Association, which organized the many event before and on the 4th; Harriet Ainsworth, a longtime Orinda volunteer who served as the Grand Marshal of the parade; and Mark Maxson, who has provided vintage car transportation for the Council members during the parade for many years.

Then it was down to business as usual, as the five-member Council and staff discussed a variety of policy matters. The

group agreed unanimously to name changes for the thoroughfares leading to the Wilder housing development and the California Shakespeare Theater. One will soon no longer see a large green sign for Gateway Boulevard after emerging from the Caldecott Tunnel and heading toward Orinda. Both Gateway Boulevard, which traverses Highway 24, and Upton Road, which leads into the housing project, will be renamed Wilder Road. The road leading to the Cal Shakes theater grounds has been modified from Shakespeare Festival Way to California Shakespeare Theater Way.

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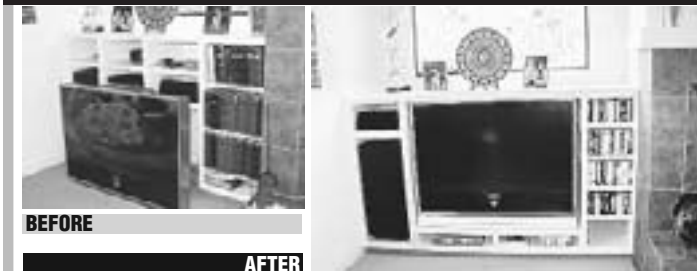
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Lamorinda Home Sales continued

LAFAYETTE	Last reported: 11
LOWEST AMOUNT:	\$500,000
HIGHEST AMOUNT:	\$1,415,000
MORAGA	Last reported: 9
LOWEST AMOUNT:	\$364,000
HIGHEST AMOUNT:	\$1,550,000
ORINDA	Last reported: 7
LOWEST AMOUNT:	\$650,000
HIGHEST AMOUNT:	\$990,000

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**
- 3619 Brook Street, \$580,000, 3 Bdrms, 1253 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 8-28-08
 - 2420 Cherry Hills Drive, \$502,000, 4 Bdrms, 2200 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 9-2-08
 - 3721 Highland Court, \$899,000, 4 Bdrms, 1594 SqFt, 1975 YrBlt, 9-4-08
 - 1040 Leland Drive, \$800,000, 3 Bdrms, 1350 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 8-28-08
 - 3670 Nordstrom Lane, \$1,425,000, 4 Bdrms, 2837 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 8-28-08
 - 1600 Shangri La Court, \$1,415,000, 4 Bdrms, 2883 SqFt, 1975 YrBlt, 9-3-08
 - 3145 Stanley Boulevard, \$715,000, 4 Bdrms, 1898 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 9-5-08
 - 3294 Sweet Drive, \$669,000, 3 Bdrms, 1278 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 8-29-08
 - 811 Topper Lane, \$815,500, 2 Bdrms, 2075 SqFt, 1906 YrBlt, 9-5-08
 - 821 Topper Lane, \$500,000, 9-5-08
 - 1033 Windsor Drive, \$920,000, 3 Bdrms, 1774 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 9-3-08

- MORAGA**
- 1968 Ascot Drive, \$370,000, 2 Bdrms, 1234 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 8-29-08
 - 1406 Camino Peral, \$520,000, 3 Bdrms, 1440 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 9-2-08
 - 850 Camino Ricardo, \$1,000,000, 4 Bdrms, 2155 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 9-3-08
 - 291 Deerfield Drive, \$1,130,000, 4 Bdrms, 2061 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 9-5-08
 - 23 El Camino Flores, \$940,000, 4 Bdrms, 2205 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 9-5-08
 - 651 Moraga Road #17, \$364,000, 2 Bdrms, 1144 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 9-5-08
 - 79 Sanders Ranch Road, \$1,550,000, 4 Bdrms, 2839 SqFt, 1988 YrBlt, 9-4-08
 - 1746 St. Andrews Drive, \$799,000, 2 Bdrms, 1464 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 8-28-08
 - 1753 St. Andrews Drive, \$925,000, 3 Bdrms, 1728 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 8-29-08

- ORINDA**
- 3 Bates Boulevard, \$607,000, 3 Bdrms, 1553 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 8-29-08
 - 67 Brookwood Road #6, \$377,000, 2 Bdrms, 897 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 8-28-08
 - 19 Calvin Court, \$990,000, 3 Bdrms, 2016 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 9-5-08
 - 9 Eastwood Drive, \$863,000, 3 Bdrms, 1603 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 8-28-08
 - 37 La Cresta Road, \$799,000, 3 Bdrms, 1496 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 9-4-08
 - 525 Moraga Way, \$650,000, 3 Bdrms, 2385 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 9-2-08
 - 16 Oak Ridge Lane, \$1,316,000, 3 Bdrms, 1990 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 8-28-08

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What Are You Waiting For, America?

By Steve Snyder, Loan Consultant

Famed Money Manager Peter Lynch is perhaps best known for his timeless wisdom that you can beat the pros by focusing on stocks of companies where you either work or shop or have some other edge. But a more relevant Lynchism today is this gem:

Ignore the headlines! That's no easy thing with all the negative media. How do you tune out all the chatter and ink on recession, housing, sub-prime woes, foreclosures, the credit crunch, rogue traders, insolvent bond insurers, \$120.00 oil and nukes in Iran? It's enough to make you sit on your thumbs and wait before making any big moves, but what, exactly, are you waiting for?

There has rarely been a moment in history when you couldn't scare yourself into doing nothing. And yet, as Lynch observed nearly 20 years ago, "in spite of all the great and minor calamities that

have occurred... all the thousands of reasons that the world might be coming to an end—owning stocks has continued to be twice as rewarding as owning bonds," a top reason to not buy stocks. In Lynch's view, if you don't already own a home that should be your first investment, since an owner-occupied home is generally always profitable. Through a spokesman, Lynch reaffirmed these views to me regarding the housing debacle and all.

When prices are falling, few people have the discipline to buy stocks, a house, gold, art or any other asset. But those who do pull the trigger excel in the long run. As John D. Rockefeller famously said, "The way to make money is to buy when blood is running in the streets."

Start with stocks; they have been pummeled this year. GDP braked sharply last quarter and there has been plenty of panic about a recession. The

Look At Buffet!

Federal Reserve has been slashing short-term interest rates this past spring at the fastest rate in decades. And rates today are very good. But if you stick to your steady, diversified plan while everyone else is retreating, you will be happy years from now. For one thing, Fed rate cuts always lift the economy eventually, and the stock market typically starts responding just as headlines get gloomiest. Sure, the market could fall again before recovering. But the recession may be half over already! Usually the media tells us we are in a recession and have been in it when the worst is past. Or we may avoid one altogether. You just never know.

As for housing, certainly some skepticism is in order. Formerly sizzling markets in Florida, Nevada, Arizona and California probably haven't seen the worst headlines yet, though they may well be close and "Jumbo" mortgages, those more than \$729,500.00, are likely to remain artificially high for a few more months while banks work through their credit issues. But let's say you are emotionally ready to be a homeowner. Its time to get serious- before an inevitable rise in interest rates wipes out your advantage.

The thing that will make

home prices stop falling is the very same thing that will push mortgage rates higher. So anything you gain by a further drop in prices might be offset by rising financing costs. Consider a typical



Lamorinda home that sells for \$900,000.00. You put down 20% and get a 30-year fixed-rate mortgage at today's best conforming jumbo rate of 6.000%. Monthly principal and interest come to \$4,316.76. Let's say that 12 months from now the same house goes for 10% less, or \$810,000. But by then the recession is history and the Fed is jacking up rates to stem inflation. If mortgage costs rise .875%, to 6.875%, your monthly payments would be \$4,256.90 and you would have saved almost nothing.

Meanwhile, home prices might steady and sellers might become less willing to negotiate. And you have spent a year living someplace you would rather not be. It's more complicated if you must sell before you can buy. But that log jam won't persist forever, and if it appears you'll be trapped for a few years, try to refinance at today's lower rates.

The rate as of this writing on Sept 26 for the Conforming

Jumbo is 6.000%. Risks always seem most acute when the headlines give you ulcers. But that's exactly when you should think long term and get off your thumbs and act. People like Warren Buffet and the big boy and girl investors are actively buying now along with the small individual investor. And also investors buying pools of the foreclosure properties are extremely active. As we all know, one thing has a track record that is hard to dispute: Investor buyers always lead us out of the bottom of cycles for as long as we can look back in

history. We are starting to look upward once again. It is the right time to both purchase and finance property, either for personal residence or for an investment.

If you waited a year to buy, you would have saved very little, spent a year living some place you'd rather not be, and missed out on a year's worth of tax benefits from owning real estate.

If you have any questions about the financing of a residential or commercial property, give me a call. I will be glad to help you and answer your questions.



Steve Snyder is a Loan Consultant with CMG Mortgage Services. Reach him at 925-287-2236 or visit the website at www.SFBayAreaLoans.com

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Parents and Schools Respond to Food Allergies

By Jean Follmer

According to the Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis Network (FAAN), "more than 12 million Americans have food allergies. That's one in 25, or 4 percent of the population. The prevalence of food allergies has doubled in the United States within the last 10 years. Eight foods account for ninety percent of all food-allergic reactions in the United States: milk, eggs, peanuts, tree nuts, wheat, soy, fish and shellfish. Of these, approximately 6.9 million Americans are allergic to seafood and about 3.3 million are allergic to peanuts or tree nuts." Approximately three million of Americans with food allergies are children and many of their allergies are life-threatening. The parents of these children jump through whatever hoops are necessary to keep their children safe.

FAAN defines a food allergy as "a condition in which the immune system incorrectly identifies a food protein as a threat and attempts to protect the body against it by releasing chemicals in the blood." That chemical release results in an allergic reaction. Allergic reactions may present in many ways including itching, a metallic taste, breathing difficulties, vomiting or diarrhea, blood pressure drop and a loss of consciousness due to anaphylaxis. After exposure, allergic symptoms may appear within minutes or after a couple of hours.

Anaphylaxis is a serious allergic reaction that occurs quickly and may result in death if not treated immediately. Anaphylactic symptoms can include vomiting, diarrhea, constricted airway, fainting and swelling of the face, mouth, neck or throat. According to FAAN, "food allergy is the leading cause of anaphylaxis outside the hospital setting and is responsible for an estimated 150 to 200 deaths and 30,000 emergency room visits annually." An anaphylactic reaction is most common with peanuts, tree nuts and shellfish, but may also occur as a result of contact with other foods. The most effective antidote for a case of anaphylaxis is adrenaline and it can be administered in the form of

an EpiPen or Twinject.

Due to the higher risk of anaphylaxis from peanuts and tree nuts, many schools have implemented or are considering some type of "nut free zone" policy. Some schools have gone completely "nut free" while others have designated nut-free zones in portions of the school.

"Los Perales went nut-free this



year," said Los Perales parent Rebecca Cushing. On the radioallergosorbent test (RAST) scale that ranges from 0-6, with 6 being the worst, Cushing's daughter scored a 5.7 for peanuts. Her son scored a 3.3 for hazelnuts. Although her son's score is much lower than her daughter's, Cushing said the threat is very real. "He ate a bite of Nutella one day and had to be transported to John Muir. It (the nut-free policy) certainly makes it safer, but my duty as a parent is to teach my kids to ask questions. My kids both carry (EpiPen) shot kits in their backpacks."

Allergic reactions can vary widely from person to person. While one child with a peanut allergy could sit next to someone eating peanuts and not have a reaction, another child could go into anaphylactic shock due to the peanut dust in the air. While some allergies can improve or worsen over time, allergies to peanuts and tree nuts rarely improve.

Springhill Elementary parent Wendy Gilberd, said they discovered their son's food allergies when he was an infant. "We had Alex allergy tested when he was six months old, before solid food, because he was getting hives. It turned out that we were giving him hives from touching food before touching him," said Gilberd. Alex can have an anaphylactic reaction to peanuts, tree nuts, milk, casein, wheat and eggs. "He is also allergic to soy, oats and beef. These

foods give him GI problems, but do not require an EpiPen," said Gilberd.

The Gilberds take many precautions to avoid an allergic reaction. "At home, we do not have peanuts in the house, but we eat other food that Alex is allergic to. I am A-type about cleaning the kitchen counters and preparing food separately for Alex, but dinner is usually something that all of us can eat. When Alex visits a friend's house, I send a lunchbox with food that he can eat and ask if the parents have nuts on the tables," said Gilberd. Gilberd said Springhill has been very proactive and helpful with Alex's allergies. The school currently maintains nut-free zones in its kindergarten and special day classrooms.

Cushing said the allergic reactions can get easier to manage as kids get older "because they get better about washing their hands." The efforts of the greater community also help. "My kid's friends are so vigilant for them," said Cushing.

Acalanes Junior Danielle Lincoln is allergic to tree nuts. "We didn't really know about it when she was younger. It's gotten worse since she's gotten older," said Danielle's mom, Cindy Lincoln. Danielle recently was rushed to the emergency room with anaphylaxis after eating a piece of candy with a small trace of walnuts in it. Danielle has learned to be cautious about what she eats. "I have to read the labels on everything I eat. It's really different when I go out to eat in restaurants because I have to ask the waiters (if there are nuts in the food). My friends look out for me too," said Danielle.

There is currently no known cure for food allergies and their cause is uncertain. The best way to try to avoid an allergic reaction is to adhere to a strict avoidance policy. On September 20, FAAN held its 5th annual Walk for Food Allergy (in San Francisco) to promote awareness and education and to raise funds for research to find a cure for food allergies. Gilberd said her family walked for the second year in a row. "I think it's great for Alex to see so many kids with allergies just like him," said Gilberd.

Boy Scout Troop 212 Bavaria Bike Trek

Submitted by Fran Miller



Moraga Boy Scout Troop 212 took their semi-annual bicycle trek in July. Returning once again to Bavaria for 10 days, they followed the route the troop first took in 2001. In all, 26 scouts and 14 Dads rode over 200 miles. After arriving in Munich, they took a day to visit Dachau, the BMW Museum and Central Munich. The next day, they left Munich in the pouring rain for Wilhelm

via Lake Starnberg and their first night at the Naturfreundehaus. The following day's schedule had them riding to Garmisch via Oberammergau, but a storm flooded the bike trail. They caught a train for the final 10 miles and the weather improved.

A cogwheel train and tram trip up the Zugspitz (Germany's tallest peak) was spectacular. Other highlights included a river

rafting trip in Austria on the Ins River, a visit to Oberammergau by bus and a rousing Bavarian meal at the Gasthaus Fraundorfer. From there, they continued on a 55-mile ride to Fusen. They visited the famed Neuschwanstein Castle and then took a long, leisurely ride back to Wilhelm. The final day took them back to Munich for a victory dinner at the Ratskeller before flying home the next day.



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PTA Reflections Program –

Children Are Encouraged To Express Their Artistic Creativity!

Submitted by Linda Murphy and Rachel Browne, Burton Valley PTA

This fall several schools in Lafayette and Moraga are participating in the National PTA Reflections program, in which our students have an opportunity to express their creativity. The program accepts many types of artistic expression: visual arts (drawings, paintings, sketches, etc.), literature (poems, stories, etc.), photography, dance choreography, music composition, and film/video production. This year's theme is WOW! Students use any of the various media to explore and interpret this theme.

Burton Valley, Lafayette, Camino Pablo, Los Perales and Rheem Elementary Schools are currently accepting entries, as are Stanley Middle and Joaquin Moraga Intermediate Schools. Contact the individual schools for entry forms, rules, and deadlines (most deadlines are mid- to late-October). Entries are judged and finalists are advanced to the greater area PTA competition, which culminates in a showcase at Walnut Creek Intermediate School on December 6.

You can download an entry form at http://www.capta.org/sections/programs/downloads/ReflectionsStudentEntry_Fill-InForm.pdf.

You can also view past years' winners and access rules at <http://www.capta.org/sections/programs/reflections.cfm>.

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SCHOOL CALENDAR

School Governing Board Meetings
Acalanes Union
 High School District
 Board Room AUHSD Office
 1212 Pleasant Hill Rd, Lafayette
 Wednesday, Oct. 1 at 7:30 pm
 Wednesday, Oct. 14 at 7:30 pm

Lafayette School District
 LAFSD Office
 3477 School Street, Lafayette
 Monday, Oct. 13 at 7:00 pm
Orinda Union School District
 OUSD Office
 8 Altarinda Road, Orinda
 Monday, Oct. 13 at 4:00 pm

Moraga School District
 Joaquin Moraga Intermediate
 School Auditorium
 1010 Camino Pablo, Moraga
 Wednesday, Oct. 14 at 7:30 pm

Del Rey Pumpkin Patch is Green – Don't Miss It!

By Jean Follmer

Del Rey Elementary School in Orinda will hold its annual Pumpkin Patch on October 11 from noon to 3:00 pm. In addition to the pumpkins and traditional activities, Del Rey is adding some new activities that promote Earth consciousness.

Making their Pumpkin Patch debuts will be a 6-foot diameter canvas Earth ball as well as 50-foot long solar bags. "It is important to remind everyone to be Earth-friendly and Earth-conscious and have fun at the same time. We want to show that 'green' activities can be incorporated into any event. When was the last time the kids could hold the whole Earth in their hands?" asked Pumpkin Patch Coordinator Charmagne Peters. "Anybody can get a jump house; how fun is it to play with the world? Our Earth ball that will be featured this year is currently a classroom project. The canvas ball comes to us unpainted, so we've decided to have the 5th

grade classes paint in the continents and bodies of water. So not only does it become an education experience, but an event that the students can bring ownership to," said Peters.

The 50-foot solar bags hold over 200 cubic feet of air. "The solar energy of the sun heats the air inside the bag and within minutes it rises and floats up to 50 feet in the air," said Peters. The Pumpkin

Patch will also feature the Garden Committee this year. Peters said "Our Garden Committee is harvesting fresh lavender" for the kids to make sachets with. The proceeds from the lavender sachets will go directly to Del Rey's "Math in the Garden" program.

Del Rey is also taking other environmentally conscious measures. "We are composting using scraps from the kitchen and are really focusing on the environment. There are lots of exciting things going on at Del Rey," said Peters.



Other Halloween Events and Activities

Sleepy Hollow Elementary School Pumpkin Patch Saturday, October 18th from 11:00am-3:00pm. Bring your child to Sleepy Hollow School for games, food and fun at our annual fund raising carnival. 20 Washington Lane, Orinda.

The Moraga Juniors annual Halloween Carnival will take place on Sunday October 26, 2008, from 10:00-2:00 at Campplindo High School at 300 Moraga Road in Moraga. It is a fun and fanciful event perfect for children ages 2 to 8 years, and attracts over 500 children each year. Participants will be able to choose a pumpkin from the pumpkin patch, enjoy carnival games with prizes for all and a festive art center with trick or treat bags and face painting. In addition, children can visit a variety of fun booths including "The Land of Oz," "Oscar," "Catch the Joker," pocket witch, and a Cakewalk as well as a Toy walk. Lunch, snacks and refreshments will be sold at the Leaky Caldron Café and various homemade ghoulish goodies will be sold at the Carnival bake booth. Admission is \$3 per child, plus a small charge for game tickets and food. All children are encouraged to come in costume. Each year, MJWC raises funds to benefit a variety of philanthropies including local libraries, CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates), BARM (Bay Area Rescue Mission), Royal Family Kids Camp, and other organizations that serve the women, children and the homeless of Contra Costa County.

For more information please contact Michelle Dow at Halloween@moragajuniors.org.

Lamorinda Schools

Family Focus

Caring What Others Think

By Margie Ryerson, MFT



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

One advantage of getting older is being able to care less what others may think of us. When we're children and teens, however, there is almost nothing that matters more. At that age, we're forming our identities and our place in the social strata, and we are preoccupied with others' opinions of us, real or imagined.

Recently, I thought more about this subject when I received questions about my relationship to another columnist in this newspaper who happens to have the same last name. He alluded to having a difficult relationship with his parents. Some readers who don't know me well wondered if I was, by any chance, his mother. It seemed ironic to me that, while I

write about improving family relationships, someone with my last name wrote about his strained relationship with his parents. And it also made me care more than usual about what others might think.

For the record, Ken Ryerson and I are not related. I'm not sure if I'm old enough to be his mother because I don't know how old he is (Of course, he must be quite young for me to qualify!)

Some people in our community struggle with this issue on a regular basis. I see a twenty-three year old woman for therapy who thinks that she always needs to come across as nice and happy in order to please others, and this makes her feel fake and superficial. Instead of adding to her happiness, she feels worse about herself. She can't say "no" when friends ask her to borrow money or clothes, or when co-workers ask her to fill in for them at work. She is prone to depression, anxiety, and has a history of emotional abuse by boyfriends.

Parents can address this self-conscious feeling of being on display and the fear of displeasing others when children are young. You can help your child realize that others are not always looking at her, and that typically they are more concerned with how

they are being perceived.

You can allow your child to be in a bad mood, or to withdraw from social contact occasionally (and respectfully) when she is with you in public. You can give the strong message to your child that everyone has ups and downs, and that it is okay to be herself. She does not have to plaster on a smile or put on an act. You can explain to others, while she is listening, that she is just in a temporary bad mood. Let her hear you reassure others that it is nothing to do with them. And by being sure to say the word "temporary," your child will know that you're not labeling her as a cranky, difficult person, but rather that you are supporting her need to be true to herself.

Needless to say, it helps if parents can be as genuine as possible, since we are our children's role-model. Children often say how much it bothers them when a parent is in a bad mood, yelling and complaining, and then becomes Sally Sunshine the minute the phone or doorbell rings. It's human nature to seek acceptance and approval from others. But we can help our children find a healthy balance by not letting ourselves place too much emphasis on what others may think.

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Acalanes Holds Annual Community Service Fair

By Jean Follmer



Sophomore Jard O'Rourke, Senior Jane Loria, Senior Rebecca Colby, Senior Jenny Reich, Senior Linda Swift and Junior Ellie Stern at the Acalanes Community Service Fair
 Photo Jean Follmer

Acalanes High School recently held its annual Community Service Fair on campus. Over thirty vendors were present to solicit the required community service hours of the Acalanes students. The fair is run by students on the Acalanes Community Outreach Board.

"The Community Outreach Board plans the Community Service Fair so students can fill their community service requirements," said Ellie Sterns, a Junior and Board member. The fair was part of an entire week of community service related activities that included stuffing brown bag lunches for Meals on Wheels and writing and mailing letters to our military troops in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Vendor Sandy Long of the small non-profit, Active Reading Clinic, said, "We have all of these needs like data entry and filing. To be able to come here and tap into this enthusiasm is very cool." She said they had already filled four sheets worth of volunteers. Long also said she appreciated the level of

organization at the event: "They directed me in, took my things from my car and walked me to my table."

Shelter, Inc. of Contra Costa County also had accolades for Acalanes. "Acalanes has been a really big presence in our organization. It helped start our teen organization. They've done tons of drives for us and the overall support has been very helpful. We can always count on them," said Theresia Ortiz of Shelter, Inc.

In addition to outside entities like Active Reading Clinic, Shelter, Inc., Bay Area Rescue Mission, Animal Rescue Fund and the American Cancer Society, there were student-run service organizations seeking help. New Global Citizens (NGC) is one of those organizations. NGC is a national program that seeks "to educate, equip, and mobilize young people to help solve the greatest challenges faced by communities around the world." It's made up of student-run high school teams throughout the United States

that "select one of NGC's global partner projects" to focus on. The Acalanes team "is helping kids in India (near New Delhi) who pick through trash to make money," said Senior Rebecca Colby. The kids suffer from related health issues and Colby said they are trying to "help break the continuing cycle of poverty. It's great because we have a community service requirement at the school. I've been looking for a way to combine my interests for awhile and I want to give back. We're going to be on the Earth for a long time."

Stern said the Community Outreach Board sponsors many opportunities to serve throughout the year. The number of required community service hours increases with each year as does the number of those hours that must be filled off-campus. Stern said some of the off-campus places they'll offer service opportunities at will be Glide Memorial and the San Francisco Zoo.

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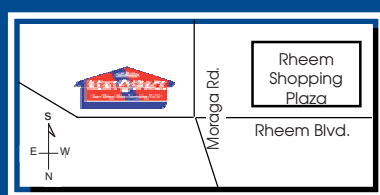
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Lamorinda Schools

Teresa Gerringer Flies Through Life With Purpose

By Jean Follmer



Teresa Gerringer

Photo provided

If you've been to Lafayette, chances are you've seen Teresa Gerringer. When she's not with her family, Teresa can be found serving in a number of volunteer positions. Some of her regular positions include Lafayette School Board member (since 2000), California School Boards Association Region 7 Delegate, CSBA Legislation Committee Member, Lafayette Library & Learning Center Foundation Trustee, Lafayette Community Foundation Board member and a Sunday school teacher at Lafayette United Methodist Church. Some of her past volunteer activities and accomplishments include Co-Chairing the "Yes On J" Parcel Tax Campaign Committee, Lafayette Chamber of Commerce Advisor, Founder of the Las Trampas Creek Council PTA Legislative Network Email Alert System, various PTA and PFC leadership roles as well as "a variety of Lafayette Arts & Science Foundation, school site, classroom, and Girl Scout roles." The list is by no means complete.

Teresa was raised in Sheridan, Indiana, and her parents separated when she was a young girl. Teresa and her four younger siblings were raised by her grandparents. Teresa credits the generosity of her grandparents with the fact that she is "drawn to kids who are underserved. I care so much about getting as much for our kids as we can. Probably my grandmother taking us on was the ultimate call to give back and to get things done." Teresa received her undergraduate degree in Public Administration from Indiana University. At the time, she planned to go on to law school and focus on juvenile law; but she changed her mind. She said it was an "interesting twist of things, coming back full circle," that her undergraduate degree is so applicable to her current

activities.

After college, Teresa moved to Southern California to live with her mother. She ended up working for Security Pacific Venture Capital. She started as the assistant to the President and rose through the ranks to Chief Information Officer. She completed her MBA at Pepperdine University while working for Security Pacific. It was during an MBA accounting course at Pepperdine that she met her husband to be, Bay Area native Michael Gerringer. Teresa said she and Michael "spent a lot of time together on a group project" but they didn't start dating for awhile. At the time, Michael was working at Hughes Aeronautics. He later went to work for Security Pacific Venture Capital too. After dating for four years, Teresa said they were married in 1986 at a friend's home in Rancho Palos Verdes overlooking the Pacific Ocean. Their first daughter, Mackenzie, was born in 1990 and Teresa left work to be home with her.

Security Pacific went through a period of downsizing and Michael was offered a position with Bank of America in St. Louis. They moved to St. Louis for two years before returning to Southern California with the bank. In 1995, Michael was transferred to San Francisco and the Gerringers settled in Lafayette. They have since welcomed their second daughter, Madison, to the family. Both girls have attended public schools in Lafayette. When they first attended Springhill Elementary, "I helped all the time in the classroom the first year," said Gerringer. She increased her involvement at Springhill by handling the weekly newsletter and chairing the science fair. Teresa became close with then current PFC President, Kate Davis. Teresa said Kate told her "I see you're into everything. I'd

love for you to be my Vice President next year." Teresa accepted the Vice President position and became the PFC President the following year. Teresa was PFC President during the ribbon cutting ceremony of the new Springhill Elementary School building.

"After being PFC President, Shane Silva and others (on the Lafayette School District Governing Board) were getting ready for the 1999 Parcel Tax," said Gerringer. Gerringer had been attending Governing Board meetings because "I felt it was important to be there and to know what was going on," said Gerringer. Shane (still a current Governing Board member) encouraged Teresa to become involved and Teresa ended up co-chairing the Parcel Tax effort with Janet Tittiger and Maudie Silverman. During that time, Teresa worked a lot with the Parcel Tax consultant and "became really aware of the budget and where it comes from," said Gerringer. This insight motivated her to become further involved in school-related efforts. In 2000, "a seat became open on the board," said Gerringer. Teresa was one of three applicants. After a public interview, it was moved and seconded that Teresa be appointed to the Governing Board.

Due to her active schedule, Teresa has experienced periods in which she's taken on too much. "I admire people who can set boundaries. I'm now able to say 'no,'" said Gerringer. "It's really easy to want to do things in Lafayette because of the volunteer spirit. It's why we want to live here," continued Gerringer. Her family has been very involved in her volunteer pursuits. She said "My kids sacrifice for it...they've made calls with me and their lives have changed." It would seem Mackenzie and Madison are following in their mom's footsteps. Madison is currently the President of Opportunity Knocks volunteering program at Stanley Middle School and both girls have run for many school positions throughout the years. Mackenzie graduated from high school last spring and is now attending Whitman College in Walla Walla, Washington. When asked how she is doing with the separation, Teresa said "We have really long phone conversations. I'm doing fine because she's doing fine." When asked about future aspirations, she hasn't ruled out political ones. However, her personal priorities dictate that she would wait until Madison leaves home for college. "I am first and foremost a mom," said Teresa.

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Stanley School Keeps Dollars in Town

By Trina Audley



Book Fair at Stanley Middle School

Photo provided

All school sales capitalize on the community's desire to benefit schools while making holiday purchases. But what if that "bang for your buck" could go even further? At one Stanley Middle School event, it does.

"The only thing better than supporting a local school in this economy," says Elena Toohey, parent committee chair of the Stanley Book Fair, "may be supporting a local school and a local business at the same time!" Each year in October, for the past fifteen years, Stanley Middle School and local Lafayette Book Store have teamed up to run the successful Stanley Book Fair.

Unlike many school book fairs that are run through large publishing houses, the Stanley Book Fair keeps income and employment in town. In addition, "there isn't all the shipping to keep the books moving around the state," adds Angie Cozad of Lafayette Book Store, "so we can be a little more green." Cozad, who coordinates book fairs for the store, also proudly points out that "you won't see toys or plastics for sale either. We handpick books

tailored to each school's interests."

With budgets tight and an eye on the environment, choosing a local bookstore to host school book fairs seems to be catching on. "We've had to turn some schools away this year," says Lafayette Book Store owner Dave Simpson. And he feels he knows why. For Stanley School, for instance, Simpson donates a high percentage (20%) of sales while also offering special orders on any book in print. He sells custom gift certificates, and makes his entire bookstore part of the book fair by inviting anyone "to

mention the Stanley Book Fair at the store the week of the book fair or the week after and Stanley will receive 20% of your purchase, same as if you bought the book at the book fair."

As for the planning of the fair, Stanley Librarian Barbara Stevens is glad for the personal relationship with Lafayette Book Store. "We work closely together and that goes beyond book selections," says Stevens. On one night of the fair each year, store and school co-host an author night featuring a panel of local and celebrity authors. It is an open forum where the public can approach an author to ask direct questions. Authors will sign books and/or illustrators will demonstrate their techniques for interested students. Stevens notes, "The evening can really personalize literature for the kids and the community."

The Stanley Book Fair runs Monday, October 27th in the Stanley School Library and through Thursday, October 30th 8am-4pm. The author night is Tuesday, Oct 29th from 6-8pm.



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Moraga School District and Town Council Meet

Sports Fields are the Hot Topic

By Andrea A. Firth

Members of the Moraga School District Governing Board and Town Council recently held a joint meeting to discuss issues that impact both the schools and the town. "The meeting will serve as a better means of communication to the public on common issues," stated Dennis Kelleher, President of the MSD Governing Board. However, he noted that the meeting would serve as a forum for discussion and was not intended to produce specific action. "This meeting and future joint meetings will serve as important steps toward moving forward on these issues," added Mayor Lynda Deschambault.

The first item on the agenda—community use of the MSD facilities—led to a long discussion and focused primarily on the use of the School District's many athletic fields. MSD Superintendent Rick Schafer provided some history on the issue explaining that the Town of Moraga has contributed \$45,000 a year for the maintenance of the schools' facilities based on a verbal agreement that was established in the early 1990's.

"Community use of our facilities far exceeds student

use," stated Schafer. "There is a quantifiable difference in the revenues that we can bring in as compared to the expenses associated with maintaining these facilities," he added. Schafer estimates that the District is down about \$91,000 annually secondary to facility maintenance. The Town suggested some adjustments to the District calculations and estimated the excess maintenance cost need at closer to \$52,000. However, Town Manager Jay Tashiro noted, "The problem is that there is no written agreement between the Town and the School District."

Councilmember Mike Metcalf recalled that four years ago the Town Council was prepared to reassess their contribution to the District for facility use and that a draft agreement had circulated between the two governing bodies. "What happened to the agreement that we worked on four years ago," asked Metcalf. Some speculated that the document had died in the hands of the lawyers, others felt the stumbling block to moving forward was the dollar amount to be inserted, in any case, the two groups agreed to revive the draft agreement and renew negotiations.

A third party to these renewed discussions will be the facility users including the Moraga Sports Alliance, which represents several sports groups across town, and club programs such as the Lamorinda Rugby Club. "We would be happy to participate," stated Joe Rosenbaum, the current leader of the Sports Alliance. Although these user groups may be faced with increased facility usage fees to help close the Districts revenue deficiency, they were committed to the process.

The condition of the sports fields was also reviewed at length. "I'm concerned about throwing money down the hole by maintaining bad fields," stated Councilmember Rochelle Bird. Schafer explained that a study of the fields had been recently completed that identified several problems and maintenance issues. "We over-subscribe our fields. The fields need to be rotated and rested," stated Schafer. A discussion of the potential for installing one or more turf fields at school sites to curb maintenance costs followed and generated questions about safety, security, and funding. The two groups agreed to further study of the topic.

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In the Back Yard

“Autumn is a second spring when every leaf’s a flower.” --Albert Camus

By Cynthia Brian



The colors of fall

Last year at this time I was exploring glorious gardens in Paris, France. The weather was balmy, the smell of fall filled the air. Strolling through an organic veg-

etable patch, I was thrilled by the profusion of newly harvested purple potatoes and the array of brightly hued foliage. Despite the beauty of the City of Lights, I

couldn't wait to return to Lamorinda to watch the changing of the leaves and start digging in my dirt to harvest my cornucopia of root vegetables, gourds and pumpkins.

Photo Cynthia Brian

Autumn squash provide entertainment for the entire family. I usually hollow out a variety of white, blue, and peach colored pumpkins, place four inch pots of frilly kale, ornamental cabbage, or fall perennials inside as a front porch display of blazing accent. The squishy flesh and dried seeds offer a tasty treat for my chickens. As All Hallows Eve approaches, I remove the potted plants, carve creepy creatures into the gourds, insert scented candles and watch these natural vessels metamorphose into scary Jack O'Lanterns that delight the kids. With candle lit pumpkins illuminating driveways and sidewalks, the flickering of flames is part of the autumn panorama, and sometimes it's a haunting scene.

For the past several Halloween's, I have donned the same costume. Actually it's not a costume, but well-worn turnouts, boots, and a fire helmet that belong to my fire fighting family. They smell strongly of smoke and soot and charred landscapes, which persuaded me to write this addendum to my autumn article.

Fires have raged throughout California in the month of October in recent years. When a wildfire comes through your bucolic neighborhood, could your home survive on its own? Do you have a fire safe garden?

Firescaping is landscape design that reduces house and property vulnerability to fires. The goal is to enhance your property while developing a design with choice of planting options that offer the best protection. Since October is a great time to plant and landscape, why

not incorporate vegetation that makes significant contribution to wildfire survival?

With firescaping, plant selection is primarily determined by the plant's ability to reduce the fire threat. Vegetative fuel flame lengths can exceed 100 feet and the radiated heat can ignite combustible materials from 100 feet or more. Add a wind factor, and live fire brands carry for several miles.

Did you know that firefighters call junipers the gasoline plant? Evergreens, conifers, junipers, and other broadleaf trees and plants contain oils, resins, and waxes that burn at a high intensity. Ornamental grasses and berries are also highly flammable which make all of these poor choices for landscaping in residential areas.

So what are the fire smart ideas? Deciduous trees are generally more fire resistant because of higher moisture content when in leaf and lower fuel volume when dormant. At maturity, trees can be very tall, so remember to factor their mature size into your overall

design and keep their branches a minimum of 10 feet from any chimneys. Rocks, bricks, boulders, and fences constructed of non-flammable materials are fire retardant elements in a garden. Water features including ponds, pools, fountains, even dry creek beds are fuel breaks as are healthy green lawns. It may be tempting to leave your garden bare, especially in these times of water rationing, however, it is not recommended as soil erosion may occur.

Within 30 feet of your home, plant low growing, non-woody deciduous plants in addition to well-irrigated perennials. If you are cutting down on turf grass, try using clover, groundcovers, and conservation grasses that you are willing to keep green during fire season. Leave spaces between the plants and express the natural beauty of the surroundings. When planting a new garden use fire-resistant materials for a fire safe environment that will enchant and protect your family for years to come.



Cynthia Brian

“The difference between a good life and a bad life is how well you walk through the fire.” Carl Jung

CYNTHIA BRIAN'S FIRE WISE PLANT LIST

Although there are no fireproof plants, here is an abbreviated list of fire resistant plants that may work well in your new or re-imagined garden.

TREES	SHRUBS and VINES	Sedum
Maple,	Buddelia	Yarrow
Redbud	Datura	Ajuga
Beech	Cotoneaster	Litriope
Citrus	Privet	Mock Strawberry
Tulip	Oleander	Vinca Minor
Magnolia	Hawthorn	PERRENIALS
Olive	Rhododendron	Iris
Chinese Pistache	Azalea	Lantana
Liquid Amber	Yucca	Lavender
Crape Myrtle	Periwinkle	Society Garlic
Pepper	Potato Vine	Bird of Paradise
Locust	Star Jasmine	Lilies
Dogwood	SUCCULENTS and	Fuchsia
Stone Fruit Trees	GROUND COVERS	Geranium
Coast Redwood	Iceplant	Coreopsis
Oaks	Aptenia	Coral Bells
Buckeye	Hen and Chicks	Lamb's Ear
White Alder		Calla

Besides being aware of the danger of fires and reducing the amount of flammable plant specimens in your garden, autumn is the opportune time to consider replanting or replacing your lawn. By re-seeding, fertilizing, and aerating now, you'll enjoy a healthy carpet of green which will require less water when springtime arrives. As the

weather cools, the migration of birds increases. You'll attract spectacular insect eating birds such as thrushes, thrashers, warblers and vireos when you make sure your fountains and birdbaths are filled with fresh water. Moving water is preferable as the birds hear the splashing from a distance and come to investigate. If you don't want to invest in a cir-

ulation pump for a pond or fountain, a shallow dish with pebbles at the bottom and clean water will entice fine feathered friends. Hummingbirds prefer misters, although they'll hover over the spray from a fountain.

Would it be autumn without the fire tinted falling leaves? The changing colors of the trees through-

out our neighborhoods are candy to the senses, particularly pleasing are the Chinese pistache, liquid amber and Japanese maple. Gather branches or individual leaves for a creative centerpiece. Rake leaves into a pile to add to your compost pile, or use as mulch around frost tender plants. Most of all enjoy Nature's display of flora sunsets.



A sunny day in the garden

Photo Cynthia Brian

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In the Back Yard

CYNTHIA'S DIGGING DEEP GARDENING GUIDE FOR OCTOBER

"Gardens are playgrounds for adults." Cynthia Brian



Photo Cynthia Brian

Fall is leisurely and lovely. The early days of October are warm and sunny, while later in the month the colors of the fall foliage are bursting with extraordinary exuberance. This is another busy gardening month. Our pumpkins are harvested now to become Jack O'Lanterns for little witches and goblins. The heat of the summer is past, the soil is still warm and it is time for landscaping to the maximum! There is plenty of work to be done!

- CLEAN up the annual flower beds and send to the compost pile. Wash out pots and store in your shed.
- CUT off dead perennial blossoms and divide overgrown ones such as agapanthus and columbine.
- FEED and fertilize newly planted winter perennials monthly.
- WEED the remnants of crab grass and other nuisances. Many weeds are perennial plants which will spread their roots and their damage over the winter months.
- FERTILIZE houseplants and do not repot.
- ROSES need to be snipped continuously to keep them blooming until pruning time in January.
- CONDITION soil by mulching with 3 inches of matter to protect plants over the winter.
- CHOOSE fire safe plants when creating a new landscape. Fire safe plants tend to be low growing, have a high moisture content and have stems and leaves that are not resinous, oily, or waxy.
- RESEED lawns with cool season grasses while feeding existing lawns to strengthen grass for earlier, stronger growth next spring.
- AERATE soil when the ground is moist to loosen compacted dirt.
- SOW winter vegetables such as cabbage, chard, lettuce, turnips, radishes, and spinach.
- START onions from seed but buy six packs of broccoli, cauliflower and Brussels' sprouts for best results.
- GROUND COVERS, vines, shrubs and trees all are safely planted in October. Refrain from planting citrus or frost tender trees and bushes.
- SET out spring flowering bulbs such as crocus, scillas, snowdrops, daffodils, and hyacinths. Bulbs need a moderately sunny place to thrive.
- CHRISTMAS CACTUS needs to rest now. Eliminate watering completely and put in a dark, cold room or outside. If temperatures are above 70 degrees, it will not set bud.
- PROVIDE water sources for migrating birds.
- RAKE leaves from essential places such as lawns. A thin pile of leaves in a garden can serve as mulch and will fertilize the soil.
- WATER as October is usually a dry month. Deep water new lawns, seedlings, and new landscaped plants.
- DRAW migrating birds to your backyard by placing shallow birdbaths and gurgling fountains in protected areas of your landscape.
- PICK apples and the final flush of tomatoes.
- HARVEST squash, gourds and pumpkins for Halloween décor, and save whole ones for November celebration.
- FILL gourds and pumpkins with fresh flowers or small potted plants after hollowing them, then re-use on Halloween as Jack O'Lanterns.
- USE caution with the lit pumpkins. Embed the candle in sand and place your Jack O'Lanterns in noncombustible areas, such as on gravel, brick, or concrete.
- DRIVE along the roadways and enjoy the spectacular experience of fall foliage.
- PLAY in your backyard and have fun in the sun with the final blaze of warm fall sunshine.
- PLAN your Halloween wardrobe. You could be a firefighter or take a cue from your scarecrow. This year I'm trading in my turnouts to become a goddess. Actually, I'll be a goddess gardener. Now that's a costume!



Non-toxic creative protection

Photo Cynthia Brian

HAPPY GARDENING TO YOU!

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www.GoddessGardener.com, Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com

Garden Club Meetings

Moraga Garden Club Meeting: Thursday, Oct 16, Holy Trinity Cultural Center, 700 School St., Moraga. Meeting: 9:30 a.m. Gary Bogue, Contra Costa Times Columnist, will speak about "Critters In The Garden." For membership call Pat at 925-376-4675.

Montelindo Garden Club Meeting: Friday, Oct 17, Orinda Community Church, 10 Irwin Way, Orinda. Meeting: 9:00 a.m. Speaker: 10:30 a.m. Andrew Baxter from the San Leandro Dahlia Society, will speak about Dahlias. Free; open to the public; guests welcome. www.montelindogarden.com



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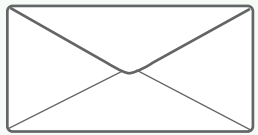
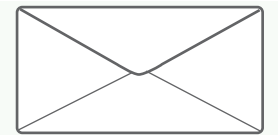


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Letters to the Editor



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

Dear Editor,

If you want to understand how California got to be what we didn't want it to be, I recommend the book, "Paradise Lost" by Peter Schrag. Regarding our abuse of the initiative process, he describes it as, "first, a quick-fix autopilot remedy for perceived legislative failure -- a self-enacting political solution that exempts citizens and voters from the need to engage themselves in individual elections; second, a tangle of unintended consequences; and, third, further exacerbation of the tension between reform and frustration, and between the voters and the courts."

Schrag points out that many of the major measures enacted by initiative in California have been challenged in court, so the courts have become increasingly engaged because of no checks and balances; no legislative hearings; no studies or expert witnesses; no requirement that majorities in two houses, plus a governor, be in agreement; no possibility, in most cases, that errors and inequities can be amended through legislative action.

The next time someone sticks a petition under your nose and tells you that you don't need to understand the proposal because "this is just to get it onto the ballot," don't sign it. Please.

Dale Walwark
Moraga

Dear Editor,

Malignant melanoma can be a fatal cancer when it metastasizes to the brain and causes seizures. Senator McCain, the Republican candidate for the President of the United States has a history of malignant melanoma, yet he has repeatedly refused to fully release his health records. To say the least, this is very disconcerting to a citizen trying to make an informed vote.

Senator McCain's last biopsy was reported to the public as "negative." This is of little comfort to me, coming from the candidate whose party has been famous for falsifying scientific documents to suit their purposes.

It is imperative that the public be fully informed of the health status of a candidate for the highest office in the land, especially when his running mate is believed by many to be unqualified for that job.

Insist that John McCain make a full disclosure of his medical records so that we can cast an informed vote for the President of the United States this November.

Are we really a nation of laws? The recent financial calamity has brought to mind the many areas in which the laws and regulations of our country are not enforced. Things are getting out of hand. Pelosi refuses to impeach Bush for his many criminal acts documented in a plethora of recent books. Immigration laws have not been enforced for decades, resulting in the ever worsening of the immigration crisis. Karl Rove thumbs his nose at a Congressional subpoena while enjoying a high paying job on Fox news. Todd Palin refuses to answer a subpoena in Alaska. Are there no consequences to refusing to comply with the law? Is "big money" really the law? Are we returning to the good old "robber-baron" days where the rich ruled and there was no middle class.? This election is crucial to the future of our country. Please take the time to study the issues and vote intelligently.

Forrest J. Cioppa MD
Moraga

Dear Editor,

I feel I'm at a tennis match, listening to one expert, then another. Who to believe, who to trust? "We must move quickly." Isn't that how we got into the mess in Iraq?

Two candidates before me, no crystal ball. No expertise to know who's right. What I do know:

McCain

1. Graduated near bottom of his class
2. Admits no understanding of economics
3. Advisor Phil Graham, author of bill responsible for current problems
4. Agreed with Bush, fundamentals sound (then changed story daily)
5. Wants to postpone first presidential debate, denying us info to make decision
6. Denies access to Palin (3 interviews) preventing informed choice

Obama

1. Graduated Harvard Law, President of Law Review (academic excellence)
2. Constitutional lawyer, knows/ respects Founding Fathers' intentions
3. Advisor Warren Buffet, financial genius, does well for investors/ himself, gives generously to charity
4. Carefully weighs options while consulting his experts
5. Recognizes public's need to keep debate schedule
6. Biden (over 84 speeches/interviews to date) gives us insight

And, houses (Mc 8, Ob 1), cars (Mc 13, Ob 1), temperament (Mc hot, Ob careful), Sunni/Shia /Pakistan's borders (Mc confused, Ob clear). For me, just one choice: Obama I trust, he "gets it" and gets my vote in November.

Sandra MacKenzie
Moraga

Measure E

To the Editor:

Voters beware! The Acalanes Union High School District wants more money from district residents.

The Acalanes District has put Measure E on the November ballot. The measure, if passed, will allow the district to issue \$93 million worth of bonds. The bonds will be used to establish a technology fund, replace worn out roofs, and upgrade electrical systems.

Measure E will not raise tax rates but will extend existing taxes.

Measure E is a direct assault on the bank accounts of the district's senior citizens. These citizens, most of whom live on fixed incomes, have been paying outrageous prices for gasoline, food, and medical care. Moreover, the stock market, a major source of income for seniors, has been performing miserably.

A few years ago, when the Acalanes District asked for a property (parcel) tax increase, the district offered an exemption for senior citizens. The current Measure E offers no such exemption.

Property taxes are especially egregious because they tax an asset (a home) before it is sold. Stocks and bonds are not taxed until sold. Other assets -- like a person's furniture, clothing, and appliances -- have no property taxes.

In general, property taxes should be eliminated. If replacement funds are needed, a tiny income tax might be acceptable.

Specifically, Measure E should be voted down. It's time to give senior citizens some relief from the greedy hand of government.

Richard S. Colman
Orinda

To the Editor:

As a 15-year resident of Orinda, I've come to appreciate much about the Lamorinda community. Our strong public schools top that list.

Moving to California from the east coast, I was surprised and dismayed by the sorry condition of public education in California. The Lamorinda schools are among a handful of schools in Northern California that can compete with some of the best schools across the country; I believe that is due to the long-standing history of community support. In fact, I researched the history of community support of education before purchasing my home.

Now, even as my youngest child nears the end of her high school years, I am proud to carry the torch for continued investment in our local schools. I endorse Measure E, the facilities bond measure that will fund repairs and upgrades for our high schools; and I do this with the knowledge and understanding that our community's greatest asset -- and best investment -- is our schools. It's an investment that we can't afford to neglect.

Please join me this November in voting Yes on Measure E.

Pat Rudebusch
Orinda

To the Editor:

As chair of the Acalanes Union High School District's Measure B Citizens Oversight Committee I had a front row seat in watching the prudent manner in which our schools manage facilities funds. All of the school improvements funded under the 2002 Measure B funds have been completed. Moreover, the district completed these projects in a cost-efficient and timely manner.

In our final report, the Citizen's Oversight Committee commended the district on its aggressively pursuing all sources of revenue, its leadership in obtaining state matching funds, and for refinancing previous bond issues at lower interest rates thereby saving taxpayer dollars.

Now that the Acalanes District is poised to continue its facilities repair and maintenance program, I can wholeheartedly endorse their continued efforts. Measure E is a facilities bond measure on the November ballot that will do just that.

Measure E is a sound investment in our local high schools. Please join me in voting Yes on Measure E. For more information, readers can go to www.AboutMeasureE.org.

Art Kapoor
Lafayette

To the Editor:

On the November 4 ballot, one issue will be easy for us to decide: a yes vote for Measure E.

Why vote for a school bond measure when the economy is suffering? There are several reasons: Measure E will not raise our current tax rates. It will help maintain our property values by keeping our high schools' facilities in good repair and improving the technology available for students. And by issuing bonds now, while interest rates are low and contractors are looking for work, it will give our schools the biggest bang for their buck.

Our high schools were built between 1940 and 1961. Previous bond measures have provided repairs that kept the roofs in one piece and provided facilities for growing enrollments, but the job is not complete. It is especially important that we keep up with the technology that students need to function in the 21st century. Measure E will do this. The state will not pay for it; we need to do it ourselves.

Our property values are high in great part because excellent schools drive demand for housing. Measure E won't create Taj Mahal schools—it just lets us keep the schools in decent condition and able to teach our students what they need to know.

Get the facts on Measure E at www.AboutMeasureE.org -- and then join me in supporting our students: Vote yes on Measure E.

Linda Landau
Orinda

Lafayette: Council Candidates

Dear Editor,

Vote for Carl Anduri, Lafayette City Council.

I am a 23 year resident of Lafayette and a product of its high ranking schools, and have chosen to raise my own children here largely because of the quality of life that Lafayette has to offer. I have observed the many challenges that the City of Lafayette has faced over the years and am pleased with the work to improve our downtown, to build the new library, and to preserve the integrity of our local neighborhoods.

I urge you to support Carl Anduri for Lafayette City Council. As a current council member and past Mayor, he has the experience and knowledge that it takes to continue running our great city. He is an incredibly careful listener and weighs every point of view when making his decisions. In fact, all three incumbents running this fall (Carl Anduri, Mike Anderson and Carol Federighi) have worked extremely well together to bring about thoughtful, responsible change in Lafayette and address ongoing challenges. I urge you to vote for all three.

Carl also supports the preservation and protection of Lafayette's hillsides, ridges and open space for the enjoyment of all residents. He has done a great job in maintaining the semi-rural nature of our city.

Brad Kisner
Lafayette

Dear Editor,

I have known Carl Anduri since he became a member of the Lafayette City Council in early 2002, and have always been impressed with his fair and unbiased opinions, questions, and voting on matters before the City Council. About two years ago I became very much involved with senior citizens in Lafayette when I organized the Lafayette Senior Liaison Committee and became its chairman. In that capacity, I have been involved in committees, task forces, and discussions with Carl Anduri and have found him always to be very supportive of Lafayette senior citizens, their challenges, and solutions.

I support Carl Anduri 100% for his reelection to the Lafayette City Council and urge you to vote for him as well.

Sincerely,
Marechal Duncan
Lafayette

Dear Editor,

I urge Lafayette voters to reelect Carl Anduri to the Lafayette City Council. Carl continues to demonstrate talents that have made him an effective community advocate and problem solver for 16 years. Not only is Carl intelligent, well-organized and hard-working, he is also ethical, thoughtful and fiscally responsible.

I have witnessed all of Carl's impressive and balanced leadership qualities while serving with him on Lafayette's Environmental Task Force. I have been particularly impressed with Carl's careful and responsible approach to all problems. When discussing the Environmental goals Lafayette might adopt, Carl has made sure that voices from all community constituents have been heard. He has supported an extensive search of data about communities with similar demographic and geographic features to get a sense of environmental strategies that work, and that are not too costly. In meetings, I am always impressed with Carl's excellent organization, background knowledge, communication and leadership skills, as well as his clear commitment to and forward looking vision for Lafayette.

Carl and the rest of our current Lafayette City Council have been an impressive team, and I look forward to benefitting from their experienced judgment and leadership for years to come.

Sincerely,
Janet Thomas
Lafayette

Dear Editor,

I would like to encourage voters in Lafayette to re-elect Carl Anduri for City Council. As a Board Member of the Lafayette Homeowners Council and Burtonvalley.com, I have worked with Carl on several high-profile and controversial issues, and found him to be extremely thoughtful and sensitive to community concerns. Lafayette's General Plan articulates the community's desire to maintain

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the city's small town, "semi-rural" feel by limiting building heights downtown, prohibiting development on protected ridgelines, and maximizing open space. In spite of continued pressure to bend if not break the spirit of the General Plan, I have found Carl to be its staunchest defender.

The city is now in the process of developing a downtown strategic plan, and will be under even more pressure to intensify development. While many of us want to see a family-friendly, livable, and economically vital downtown, we don't want to lose the semi-rural character we all enjoy. Carl is one person I would want on the council to balance competing interests and arrive at a solution that is in the best interests of Lafayette's citizens.

Clifford Tong
Lafayette

Dear Editor:

I urge all Lafayette voters to re-elect Carol Federighi, Carl Anduri and Mike Anderson to the Lafayette City Council on November 4.

I have seen how hardworking and thoughtful they are on behalf of our City. Each brings many years of community service before they joined the City Council. Each has a unique perspective to represent the varied interests in our neighborhoods.

In Carol's professional life as an attorney she has dedicated herself to helping juveniles who have become dependents of the court, and giving legal assistance to seniors.

Carl specializes in business law with an emphasis on finance. He is uniquely situated to help Lafayette manage its limited finances, protect our hillsides and land use ordinances.

Mike works for the East Bay Regional Park District; he is an invaluable resource for Lafayette's Parks and open space interests. Mike and the other council members have all served on the Planning Commission, adding years of experience and service to our City.

They all have supported the new library and the Senior Housing Task Force. Through their stewardship Lafayette is one of a few cities that is not in financial trouble, because they have been prudent in maintaining a balanced budget.

Anne Grodin
Former Mayor
Lafayette

Dear Editor,

In this very important election there are four people running for three positions on the Lafayette City Council. I am writing to urge all voting citizens of Lafayette to vote for the three incumbents, Carl Anduri, and Carol Federighi and our Mayor Mike Anderson, They are compassionate and thoughtful people with exceptional experience and backgrounds, who care very deeply about the concerns of people of all ages in our city. They work to provide services that help make our lives comfortable and fulfilling. They are the essence of what City Council members should be.

In my 44 years of living in Lafayette, this city has always been far ahead of its time. 18 years ago, when I became a member of the Lafayette Senior Services Commission very few cities the size of Lafayette had advisory commissions which focused on the concerns of Seniors. Because we have people like Carl, Carol and Mike on our City Council, we are still ahead. We have the best schools in the State for our children, a new Library which will be a model for other cities across this nation, and plans for a downtown where we can "Shop Lafayette", so that the sales tax goes to Lafayette instead of surrounding communities, and Seniors (20% of our population) will be assured they can "age in place" in Lafayette. I have attended many City Council meetings and have spoken on behalf of a number of issues. What truly impresses me about Carl, Carol and Mike is that they LISTEN, THINK and CARE deeply about what is being said. I know that I have had their full attention. We are for fortunate that they volunteer their time and energy to serve us all. So please vote for them, and keep Lafayette on the right track.

Sandra A,Smith
Lafayette

Moraga: Measures J and K

Editor:

Without some growth, Moraga will die. Picture vacant stores, as currently in the Rheem shopping center.

If Measures J or K pass, it is very likely that the Town will be sued and will have to spend money it doesn't have to defend itself. To provide that defense means taking from police, parks, roads and other services as the Town has no budget for this type of expense. Note last Friday's article on the front page of the Contra Costa Times citing that Police Chief Ruppenthal has to do patrol duty himself because of inadequate funding for staff, while burglary, assault and theft are rising.

The existing General Plan adequately protects Moraga open space and does not need fixing.

We urge you to vote no on both Measures J and K.

Sincerely,
Howard & Deborah Hall
Moraga

Dear Editor,

Moragans received a glossy mailer from the Measure J camp this week, featuring a letter from Joan Bruzzone. I understand that Joan is a very pleasant person so it is sad to see her campaign write such a misleading letter for her signature. The brochure is a flagrant attempt to sway the undecided vote through scare tactics and outrageous statements. To address a few of the most egregious:

1. Measure K is not the work of "Berkeley fringe groups" – I'm one of dozens of Moraga volunteers for Measure K and 9 out of 10 of us are town residents (the rest are residents of unincorporated Moraga plus one from Orinda).

2. Measure K does not "ban single family homes." Measure K explicitly allows single family homes, along with secondary units. (See Measure K, Section 9(a))

3. Measure K does not apply to downtown or promote low-income units downtown. The development of the downtown remains entirely under the control of the Bruzzone family and the Town.

4. Only Measure K protects Moraga's threatened ridgelines. The Bruzzones have submitted a 126-lot development plan that would build 35+ houses along Bollinger Ridge, which rises to 1000 feet and is visible to much of Moraga. Measure K would keep development off that ridgeline.

We are all busy people with limited time to spend investigating Measure J's allegations. And this is what its proponents are trying to exploit. In this single mailer, there are so many distortions that it's impossible to respond here to every misleading statement that is made. But that's the political technique used when one's own program is bankrupt.

This election is one of the most important in Moraga since its founding in 1974. Moraga's remaining open space is threatened with several hundred houses under current laws. Measure K would reduce those to approximately 50 houses and ensure that they are not permitted to destroy ridgelines, scenic views, and natural resources. Measure K would also prevent an additional 3000 car trips each day on our roads. Please vote yes on Measure K to prevent overdevelopment that will harm Moraga's quality of life.

Jan Blumer
Moraga

Dear Editor,

Despite opponents' false claims, Measure K is not about downtown development

Measure K, the community-sponsored open space protection measure for Moraga, does not contain a single provision that applies to downtown Moraga. The Town's official "9212 Report" on Measure K makes clear that it applies to the specific open space parcels listed in the initiative, not one of which is downtown.

Nevertheless, the Bruzzone campaign—having evidently determined from phone polling that the current Specific Plan proposal for high-density development on Bruzzone-owned land downtown is highly unpopular—is attempting to link that development to Measure K. They do so by asserting—with no factual basis—that Measure K's "true agenda" is to support "lower income" apartments downtown.

Don't believe this deceptive propaganda. Measure K has one agenda and one agenda only: to protect Moraga's open space and scenic ridgelines from overdevelopment and prevent the excessive traffic that large-scale subdivisions in these areas would cause. Measure K is about preserving our small town, not about helping the Bruzzones develop the land they own next to the shopping center.

Susan McNeill
Moraga

Orinda: Council Candidates and Kudos

To the Editor:

I recently attended a presentation by the engineer Tom Chan, a member of the Orinda Public Safety Advisory Commission. The Orinda Chamber of Commerce sponsored this update on disaster preparedness. It was very informative for merchants & small businesses.

As a physician with a Masters in Public Health from U.C.Berkeley, I support disaster preparedness in Orinda. A list of volunteer physicians, nurses & crisis counselors should be established. A major earthquake on the Hayward Fault will likely disable Highway 24 for 1-4 weeks according to Mr. Chan. There will be injuries. There may not be access to hospitals & emergency facilities for some time after a Big Quake. We must be prepared to take care of ourselves. A clinician roster, a cache of medical supplies & designated triage sites should be established expeditiously.

Orindans and other Contra Costa County residents need a flu vaccination program. 100 million people died in the Pandemic of 1918 when the world's population was far less than today. The Centers for Disease Control have forecast millions will die or become disabled should Avian flu hit the North American continent & we are unprepared. Better to be safe than sorry. A program for vaccinating our older residents, those with respiratory conditions & public safety officers should be established now. The flu season is approaching.

Our community through active planning should pledge that mismanagement of a disaster like Katrina will never happen in Orinda, Lamorinda or Contra Costa County.

Thank you for your consideration,
Dr. Bob L arsen
Orinda

To the Editor:

Orinda City Councilmember Steve Glazer is running for reelection to the Orinda City Council on the November ballot. It's worth noting that Mr. Glazer's business is that of advisor to developers.

It was proposed in a recent City Council meeting that the PG&E towers be moved from downtown Orinda and relocated in the El Toyonal hills. The enraged residents of the El Toyonal Hills showed up and pointed out

that it has been proven that the high-voltage electricity in the PG&E power lines causes cancer and that both their health and their property values would be severely downgraded by the relocation of the towers. Even after hearing the severe hazard to residents Mr. Glazer voted to continue the study of relocating the PG&E towers.

It is obvious that Mr. Glazer values business interests far more than residents' welfare and safety. What else would you expect from a developer's consultant?

If you wish your City Council members to protect your interests you should vote for another City Council candidate and not Mr. Glazer.

Clyde Vaughn
Orinda

Dear Editor,

We wholeheartedly support Victoria Smith for a second term on the Orinda City Council! Victoria has been a tireless servant to "what's best for Orinda" from her contributions to the Parent's Club at Miramonte and Scouting to her service on the Planning Commission and the last four years for her leadership on the Council and as Mayor.

As a Council member and Mayor, she has provided sound leadership on city priorities and day-to-day issues and judicious financial stewardship over our limited city budget. Some recent accomplishments working with the Council include: Repairing Moraga Way from Camino Encinas to the Moraga border, creating the Traffic Safety Advisory committee to resolve traffic "hot spots" in neighborhoods, working with the Lafayette and Moraga Councils to develop a Lamorinda emergency preparedness plan, and working with the Chamber of Commerce to promote Orinda retailing and restaurants that provide additional tax dollars to the city.

While working directly with Victoria on the roads and infrastructure campaign (Measure E), the Public Safety Commission and local neighborhood issues, we find her to be a keen listener focused on constructive solutions, collaborative in working with people and possessing impeccable personal integrity.

Public service (especially for volunteers) is noble in every sense of the word when the individual delivers on the priorities of the community and it's constituents. Victoria has consistently focused and delivered on our community priorities over the past four years and we will be very fortunate to have her leadership on the City Council for a second term. She is "what's best for Orinda."

Victoria has our enthusiastic vote for City Council and we urge other Orinda residents to vote for her as well.

Russ and Mary Belden
Orinda

Editor:

The recently completed Moraga Way reconstruction project has accomplished more than just providing a smoother ride for motorists. As a resident who lives near Moraga Way, this project has substantially improved the quality of life for me and my neighbors. The rubberized asphalt pavement has noticeably reduced the traffic noise from the road to the point where I can now enjoy being outdoors in my yard. And recycling of old tires benefits the environment, as well. I would like to extend my thanks to the City of Orinda and the City Council for doing this much needed project and doing it right.

Equally improved is ambient noise level in the Crossroads/Theater Square area since Highway 24 has been repaved with rubberized asphalt. You can now sit outside at Starbucks, Casper's or the Greek Café and enjoy the street without the deafening roar of the freeway making conversation impossible, as was the case before.

So - kudos to the City of Orinda and Caltrans for improving the quality of life in our community.

Sincerely,
Fred Smith
Orinda

Dear Editor,

We support Victoria Smith for re-election to the Orinda City Council because her informed, thoughtful, and civil governing style. Her talents and experience are particularly needed to help solve a number of pressing issues, including street infrastructure and fire safety. We urge Orindans to vote to retain Victoria on November 4.

Wayne and Jo Alice Canterbury
Orinda

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It's Oktoberfest in Germany
But we eat the rest of the year, too
 By Linda U. Foley



Peter and Kirsten in front of the Oktoberfest entrance Photo Andy Scheck

German food is considered by many to be heavy and therefore, more of a cold weather fare. While this may be true especially in California, curiously, much of what we cook could be mistaken for Italian, a cuisine most welcome any time of year.

Where Germans like to cook with goose fat (don't knock it if you haven't tried it) or butter, use smoked bacon, almonds, potatoes, and horseradish, Italians like to use olive oil, pine nuts, tomatoes, prosciutto and lots of garlic. And, one thing we definitely agree on is lots of red wine. We like to marinate, incorporate into sauces and, of course, drink it. If short on wine to marinate, substitute beer. If short on both for marinating venison or rabbit, use buttermilk.

Accompagnement: Red cabbage or Sauerkraut
 Both can be purchased in glass jars at the supermarket. The best brand, in my view, and every bit as good as homemade, is Gundelsheim. (Try their barrel pickles.) Nonetheless, I tend to add either a diced apple and/or grated raw potato, caraway seeds, and some cloves or bay leaf to the sauerkraut. Sometimes, I add some beer or white wine. Simmer for about 40 minutes or until it smells really good.

Accompagnement: Raw or cooked potato dumplings
 A Panni product and available in specialty aisles in supermarkets, or at Lunardi's. I prefer the raw (they still need to be boiled but have more fiber). Instructions are painless. If you like dumplings, these are very good. Great with the gravy.

Or: Potato & Celeriac salad
 Bavarians do not make warm potato salad. We do like to add celeriac which is the celery root—cooked, peeled and diced just like a potato. Add to cooked/sliced potatoes and add vinaigrette. I don't use ready-made dressing. Instead, salt, pepper, vinegar (flavored rice or white vinegar) extra virgin olive oil, onions or capers and maybe chives or parsley across the top.

Or: Cucumber and radish salad
 The colors look great together. Make with vinaigrette mentioned earlier but cut back on olive oil and add crème fraîche and fill. Serve with slices of black bread and a nice Sterling or Rombauer red or a Sankt Pauli beer. I like Bamberger smoked beer, not always available.

Dessert suggestions:
 Linzer Torte
 Bavarian Apple Cake
 Windbeutel (filled puff pastry) and
 Kaffee mit Schlag (a Viennese specialty)
 Strong coffee topped with real whipped cream (cream is actually whipped—done ahead of time, some sugar added to keep stiff)
 I add some grated orange peel and sometimes a jigger of Cognac.

Rouladen (a.k.a. 'Braciolo' in Italian)
A great company dish to make ahead.

Ingredients:

- 8 thin slices of top round or beef, about 7 oz. each, inch thick
- Have butcher tenderize or pound thin with mallet
- Mustard (Dijon or French's) and/or horseradish
- 8 strips of lean bacon or prosciutto
- 8 slices of lengthwise quartered dill pickles
- marjoram
- 1 large onion sliced thinly
- 1 stick unsalted butter
- 4 large mushrooms
(I love mushrooms, so I add quite a few more)
- 2 medium carrots
- 1 medium onion
- sprig of parsley
- 6 Ts flour (or crème fraîche or sour cream)
- 3 cups heated beef broth
- 1 cup red robust wine
- 2 bay leaves

For Rouladen:
 Spread each meat slice with mustard (and/or horseradish)
 Mound on each beef end: bacon, pickle, marjoram, onion, parsley sprig
 Roll up from filled end. Secure with toothpicks, skewers or string

For Sauce:
 Melt butter in 5-qt. casserole or Dutch oven; medium heat. Add beef rolls 3 at a time.
 Sauté until brown, approx. 2-1/2 min. per side. Transfer to a plate.
 Add mushrooms, onions, carrots until slightly browned.
 Stir in flour (crème fraîche or sour cream) slowly to thicken.
 Slowly whisk in broth and wine; add bay leaves
 Heat to boiling. Reduce heat. Add beef rolls. Simmer over low heat approx. one hour.
 Transfer to ovenproof casserole, straining gravy into it. (I like texture in my food, and don't strain) Can be refrigerated at this point for next day.
 Reheat over medium heat for 30 minutes.

Moraga Pear Festival 2008 - A Success!

John Haifner, Parks and Rec Commissioner, welcomes the community to the 2008 Pear Festival

Vice Mayor Dave Trotter shows off a pear pie

Early Bird Dinner 5-6pm

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Petar's is open for lunch Monday through Saturday from 11:30 to 4:00 and open for dinner nightly.

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Petar's Restaurant is located in the heart of Lafayette at 32 Lafayette Circle.

* Regular menu only, not valid with daily board specials, early dinner menu or with any other specials or promotions. (soup & salad sides are not considered entrees) - Exp. Oct. 31, 2008 -

LAMORINDA's Restaurants
 ... updated October 1, 2008 ...

Cuisine	Restaurant Name	Address	Phone	Cuisine	Restaurant Name	Address	Phone		
American	Bistro	3287 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	283-7108	Squirrel's Coffee Shop	Village Inn Cafe	998 Moraga Rd, Laf	284-7830		
	Chow Restaurant	53 Lafayette Cir, Laf	962-2469		Village Inn Cafe	290 Village Square, Ori	254-6080		
	Hungry Hunter	3201 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	938-3938		Continental	Petar's Restaurant	32 Lafayette Cir, Laf	284-7117	
	Quiznos	3651 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	962-0200		Vino Restaurant	3531 Plaza Way, Laf	284-1330		
	Ranch House	1012 School St, Mor	376-5127		Duck Club Restaurant	3287 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	283-7108		
	Terzetto Cusine	1419 Moraga Way, Mor	376-3832		French	Chevalier Restaurant	960 Moraga Road, Laf	385-0793	
	The Cheese Steak Shop	3455 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	283-1234		Hawaiian Grill	Lava Pit	2 Theatre Square, St. 142, Ori	253-1338	
	BBQ	Bo's Barbecue	3422 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf		283-7133	Indian	India Palace	3740 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	284-5700
	Burger Joint	Flippers	960 Moraga Rd, Laf		284-1567	Swad Indian Cuisine	3602 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	962-9575	
	Nation's Giant Hamburgers	400 Park, Mor	376-8888		Italian	Giardino	3406 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	283-3869	
Nation's Giant Hamburgers	76 Moraga Way, Ori	254-8888	La Finestra Ristorante	100 Lafayette Cir, St. 101, Laf	284-5282				
Café	Express Cafe	3732 Mt. Diablo Blvd #170, Laf	283-7170	La Piazza	15 Moraga Way, Ori	253-9191			
Ferrari-Lucca Delicatessens	23 Lafayette Cir, Laf	299-8040	Mangia Ristorante Pizzeria	975 Moraga Rd, Laf	284-3081				
Geppetto's cafe	87 Orinda Way, Ori	253-9894	Michael's	1375 Moraga Way, Mor	376-4300				
Rising Loafer	3643 Mt. Diablo Blvd Ste B, Laf	284-8816	Mondello's	337 Rheem Blvd, Mor	376-2533				
Susan Foord Catering & Cafe	965 Mt. View Drive, Laf	299-2469	Pizza Antica	3600 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	299-0500				
California Cuisine	Gig's	1005 Brown St., Laf	962-0882	Postino	3565 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	299-8700			
Asia Palace Restaurant	1460 B Moraga Rd, Mor	376-0809	Ristorante Amoroma	360 Park St, Mor	377-7662				
Chef Chao Restaurant	343 Rheem Blvd, Mor	376-1740	Japanese	Asia Palace Sushi Bar	1460 B Moraga Rd, Mor	376-0809			
China Moon Restaurant	380 Park St, Mor	376-1828	Blue Ginko	3518-A Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	962-9020				
The Great Wall Restaurant	3500 Golden Gate Way, Laf	284-3500	Kane Sushi	3474 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	284-9709				
Hsiangs Mandarin Cuisine	1 Orinda Way # 1, Ori	253-9852	Niwa Restaurant	1 Camino Sobrante # 6, Ori	254-1606				
Lily's House	3555 Mt. Diablo Blvd #A, Laf	284-7569	Serika Restaurant	2 Theatre Sq # 118, Ori	254-7088				
Mandarin Flower	581 Moraga Rd, Mor	376-7839	Tamami's Japanese Restaurant	356 Park St, Mor	376-2872				
Panda Express	3608 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	962-0288	Yu Sushi	19 Moraga Way, Ori	253-8399				
Szechwan Chinese Restaurant	79 Orinda Way, Ori	254-2020	Jazz Dinner Club	Joe's of Lafayette	3707 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Laf	299-8807			
Uncle Yu's Szechuan	999 Oak Hill Rd, Laf	283-1688	The Orinda House	65 Moraga Way, Ori	258-4445				
Yan's Restaurant	3444 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	284-2228	Mediterranean	Alex's	2 Theatre Sq # 105, Ori	254-5290			
Coffee Shop	Millie's Kitchen	1018 Oak Hill Rd #A, Laf	283-2397	Oasis Café	3594 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	299-8822			
				Per Tutti Ristorante	3576 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	284-5225			
				Mexican	360 Gourmet Burrito	3655 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	299-1270		
				El Charro Mexican Dining	3339 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	283-2345			
				El Jaro Mexican Cafe	3563 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	283-6639			
				La Cocina Mexicana	23 Orinda Way, Ori	258-9987			
				Mucho wraps	1375-B Moraga Way, Mor	377-1203			
				Baja Fresh Mexican Grill	3596 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	283-8740			
				Celia's Restaurant	3666 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	283-8288			
				El Balazo	3518 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	284-8700			
				Maya Mexican Grill	74 Moraga Way # Ab, Ori	258-9049			
				Numero Uno Taqueria	3616 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	299-1333			
				Pizza	Mountain Mike's Pizza	3614 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	283-6363		
				Mountain Mike's Pizza	504 Center St, Mor	377-6453			
				Pennini's	1375 Moraga Rd, Mor	376-1515			
				Round Table Pizza	361 Rheem Blvd, Mor	376-1411			
				Round Table Pizza	3637 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	283-4044			
				Village Pizza	19 Orinda Way # Ab, Ori	254-1200			
				Zamboni's Pizza	1 Camino Sobrante # 4, Ori	254-2800			
				Sandwiches/Deli	Bianca's Deli	1480 Moraga Rd # A, Mor	376-4400		
				Europa Hofbrau Deli & Pub	64 Moraga Way, Ori	254-7202			
				Gourmet Bistro Café	484 Center St, Mor	376-1551			
				Kasper's Hot Dogs	103 Moraga Way, Ori	253-0766			
				Noah's Bagels	3518 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	299-0716			
				Orinda Deli	19 F Orinda Way, Ori	254-1990			
				Subway	396 Park St, Mor	376-2959			
				Subway	3322 Mt. Diablo Blvd #B, Laf	284-2627			
				Subway	Theatre Square, Ori	258-0470			
				Seafood	Yankee Pier	3593 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	283-4100		
				Singaporean/Malaysian	Kopittiam	3647 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Laf	299-1653		
				Steak	Casa Orinda	20 Bryant Way, Ori	254-2981		
				Tea	Patisserie Lafayette	71 Lafayette Cir, Laf	283-2226		
				Thai	Tea Party by Appointment	107 Orinda Way, Ori	254-2206		
				Amarin Thai Cuisine	3555 Mt. Diablo Blvd # B, Laf	283-8883			
				Baan Thai	99 Orinda Way, Ori	253-0989			
				Royal Siam	512 Center St, Mor	377-0420			
				Siam Orchid	23 Orinda Way # F, Ori	253-1975			
				Vietnamese	Little Hearty Noodle, Pho & Pasta	578 Center Street, Mor	276-7600		

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.

business briefs

SewNow! Supports Lee National Denim Day, Raising Money for Breast Cancer Research

960 Moraga Road, Lafayette, 283-7396 www.sewnow.com
 Since 1996, Lee Jeans has supported Lee National Denim Day, an event that has raised \$70 million by inviting companies to "go casual for a cause" and encourage their employees to wear their jeans to work in exchange for a \$5 contribution. SewNow! Fashion studio will join in on October 3rd and invites their customers and the community to participate by wearing denim and making a \$5 donation. The studio will serve coffee, tea and treats all day and will be providing free services and special discounts. Anyone in the community who would like to participate on the 3rd is also invited to join the Lafayette Juniors project to create "comfort pillows" for local breast cancer patients. This project is on going and hosted at SewNow! for the day.



Lafayette Juniors Sewing "comfort pillows" for cancer patients
 Picture courtesy of SewNow

"Wall Street and the 2008 Elections"

Free seminar from J. Rockcliff Realtors and the Lafayette Business Networking Alliance. On Thursday, October 2, a stimulating and informal seminar will offer attendees the opportunity to discover how the 2008 elections may impact the economy from a non-political point of view. The seminar will be conducted by George M. Noceti. Noceti is a financial advisor with Morgan Stanley. "This is both an exciting and frightening time in American history," said Barbara Corsi of J. Rockcliff Realtors. "George will be offering a unique insight into how five important current topics have an effect on the nation's economy as well as how they may impact the financial pictures of seminar attendees."

The topics that Noceti will examine include the uncertainty of congressional control, the lack of a presidential heir-apparent for the first time since 1928, issues with the federal budget situation, questions about the impact of the Alternative Minimum Tax on middle-class Americans, and the short and long term impact of the nation's deficit.

The seminar will be held at the Lafayette Veteran's Hall from 6 to 8:00pm. Refreshments will be served. The Lafayette Veteran's Hall is located at 3780 Mt. Diablo Boulevard in Lafayette.

"Communication Is The Key To Success" - Do you make contact, but not really connect?

Are your relationships thriving or stagnant? How do you rate your personal and professional communication skills? This workshop can change your life. Learn how to become a skilled communicator and increase your business and enhance your relationships. Presented by Marian Woodard, business coach and partner in The Quantum Business. October 8, 5:30-7:30pm (light meal included), Orinda Library - Garden Room, \$10.00. Sponsored by: Women's Business Connection of Lamorinda. For more information call: 925.283.7546.

From the three Chambers of Commerce

Lafayette Chamber of Commerce

- Monthly Mixer - Wednesday, October 8 - 5:30 pm - Lavande Spa - 3589 Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- Coffee With The Mayor - Friday, October 10 - 8 am - Chamber Conference Room

Moraga Chamber of Commerce

- Nominations for Chamber Board: The Moraga Chamber of Commerce will be selecting new board members in October. The Board of Directors meets one Wednesday a month from 8:00-10:00 am. It is a two year term. If you are interested in becoming a member of the Board of Directors or if you would like to nominate someone, please contact Yelena Mucovich: globalsecuritysystems@juno.com, 925-376-6850; or Wendy Scheck: wendy@lamorindaweekly.com, 925-377-0977.

Orinda Chamber of commerce

- The Chamber organized the first restaurant Tour on September 30th. Thanks to the community for making the event a success.

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

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The Orinda Chamber of Commerce Meets at Historic De Laveaga Estate

By Sophie Braccini



Chamber members tour the grounds

Photo Andy Scheck

A very serene Martha de Laveaga Stewart greets her guests in front of the beautiful mansion that was built by her great grand-father in the late 1880. Her poise and charming demeanor is in perfect harmony with the beauty of the historical estate. A member of the Orinda Chamber of Commerce, the Marriage and Family Therapist was happy to host the September Orinda Chamber reunion on her property. The house was designated as an historical landmark by the City of Orinda some years ago; it is a testimony of the dream of a family who came to Orinda, fell in love with its comeliness and became significant actors in what it was to become.

Jose Vincente de Laveaga emigrated from the Spanish Basque country to Mexico where he was very successful in silver mining and banking. He had six children; one of the boys was Miguel de Laveaga, Martha's great grand-father. During a trip, he landed in San Francisco and liked it so much that the family decided to stay there. Their banking and financial investments met with great success and their wealth increased. In San Francisco Miguel met Marie De Bretton, they married and had three children. They owned a lot of property in San Francisco, Santa Cruz (which today is deLaveaga Park and golf course), San Mateo and San Benito County.

They also owned the prop-

erty on the north side of the "Crossroads" in Orinda. Miguel and his wife liked it so much that they decided to build a summer home there. Marie built the first catholic Santa Maria church. Their 3 children were Vicente, Julia and Edward, who was to become a significant developer of the city of Orinda.

October of 1971. Martha remembers how on Sunday mornings, after church and pancake breakfast, they had to work two hours in the garden before they could do anything else.

As she shows her guests the original furniture, stain glasses, hunting trophies, and pictures, Martha is aware of the honor she



Martha deLaveaga Stewart in front of the family house Photo Sohie Braccini

Edward and his wife Delight lived there mostly in the summer months. The house was completely destroyed by a fire at the beginning of the century, but rebuilt exactly the same. The couple moved permanently into their Orinda home in the early 1920's when Edward decided to develop the property. He started to subdivide the land and established the village where it is now. He built Peretti's, the first general store, and riding stables. His big dream was to construct the country club, the lake and San Pablo road. Edward lost everything in the 1929 depression. He took lots back from people who couldn't pay anymore and he was left owing the bank great sums of money. The bank took everything but he was able to salvage the old home on Bien Venida ("welcome" in Spanish).

The family has kept the property since. When Edward's wife Delight died in the early 60's the family got together to decide what to do with it. There were 5 living children and their families. One of his sons, Ned and his wife Alyson, had young children and Ned had his business in town. So they moved in. "It's been wonderful for our children to have the privilege of the heritage, and to work out in the garden and to live in the house," wrote Alyson in

enjoys, but weights the challenges that the maintenance of the place presents for its owners. When her parents, Ned and Alyson, died, once again the family gathered to decide the faith of the property.

The four children made each other the promise that the estate would stay in the family, whatever the cost. "It is a blessing to have this beautiful place for all of us," says Martha, "last year we had a big de Laveaga reunion with cousins coming from Mexico. All our marriages are celebrated here, the children and grand-children come for the summer, they know it is their place, and what it means."

Keith Miller, President of the Chamber of Commerce, was delighted to be there, "It is such an historic estate, it is very generous of Martha to have opened her house for us, it is a great venue to meet and network." As they enjoyed the buffet prepared by Barbara Llewellyn some of the more senior guests talked about Ned de Laveaga who was the owner of the downtown Chevron station and long time President of the Rotary Club. "Ned was quietly behind anything that was happening in town," remembered Ken Woznack. "The town should do something for that family," he added, "like a de Laveaga Boulevard in one of the new developments."



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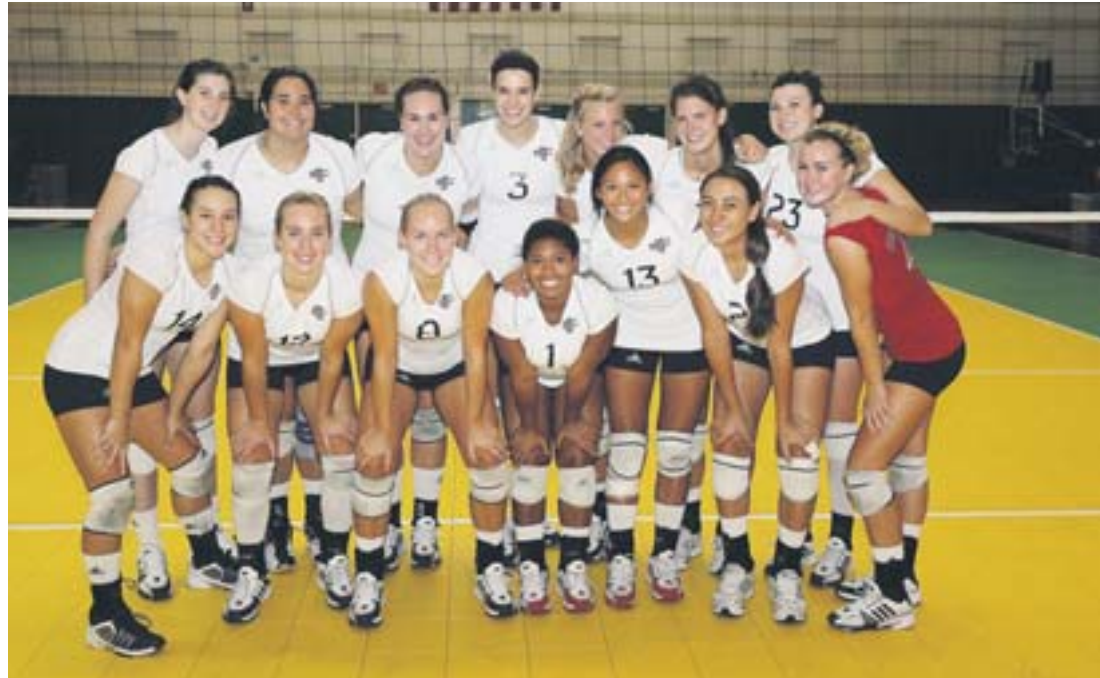
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SPORTS

LAMORINDA'S LOCAL SPORTS NEWS

St. Mary's Women Dismantle Seattle University

By Kevin D. Shallat



Back row (left to right): Missy White, Megan Burton, Shannon Lowell, Brittany Barker, Lauren Jaeckel, Taylor Groess, Lyndsey Parker; Front row (left to right): Kapua Kamana'o, Alita Fisher, Megan York, Erin Thompson, Nikki Gonzalez, Chanteal Satele, Kelly Huston
Photo Tod Fierner

The Saint Mary's women's volleyball team got off to a good start at home as they hosted their first game of the season against a young and inexperienced Seattle University team.

It was a special homecoming of sorts for the Gaels as they returned from Hawaii after playing national powers Washington and host Hawaii, ranked Nos. 9 and 10 in the nation respectively. After beating UOP in Hawaii and no. 19 Cal Poly in San Luis Obispo, the Gaels continued their strong play on Friday, Sept. 26, as they beat the Seattle University Redhawks 3-0.

This year, Seattle University begins a formal four year transition period back into division I sports. It will return to full active status in the fifth year and be eligible for the NCAA championships.

The Gaels may have breezed by Seattle in this match, but the Redhawks have two weapons that they can build upon for the future.

Freshmen Cristin Richards and Kaytlyn Dill gave the Gaels all they could handle, as both players were involved in many plays for the Redhawks. Richards led all players with 16 kills.

The Gaels jumped out to an early 6-1 lead in the first game, but the Redhawks kept the score close throughout the match. Seattle closed the scoring gap to 23-17, but the game was not as close as the score indicated.

Sophomore sensation Megan York did most of her damage in the match during the first game, recording six of her 14 kills. Junior middle blocker Megan Burton is emerging as one of the key players on this Gaels squad. Burton's strong defensive play around the net helped propel the team to win their first game 25-17. She would finish the match with nine kills, second only to York's 14.

The second game proved to be a struggle for the Gaels, and

they had trouble distancing themselves from the Redhawks. After Seattle evened the score 8-8, head coach Rob Browning urged his players to get focused. Soon after, Taylor Groess answered the call, breaking the tie with one of her eight kills for the match.

Late in the game, York impressed the crowd with a defensive play in the style of Willie Mays or Andre Agassi. She chased a ball all the way under the VIP section of seats, hitting it blindly over her head and back into the Redhawks side of the net.

"I go for everything, or at least I try to, and I expect the same thing from my teammates," said York.

Saint Mary's was able to sneak by Seattle in the second game 25-20, and finished off the Redhawks with a score of 25-17 in the third game.

Catch the next Gaels game by checking the schedule online at: www.SMCGaels.com



Megan York (8)
Photo Tod Fierner

Second Half Propels Dons to Victory

By Alex Crook

On Friday, September 19, the 0-1 Acalanes Dons played host to the 0-1 Saint Mary's Panthers of Berkeley for the Dons' third game of the season.

The first quarter was highlighted by the Panthers' senior running back Jordan Wilder. Wilder broke through the Acalanes defense for a couple of nice runs, but other than that, not much happened in the opening 12 minutes, which ended scoreless.

Fifty-five seconds into the second quarter, the Dons were faced with a tough situation. Backed up deep in their territory, punter Nick Manning was forced to work from his own end zone. The ball sailed through Manning's hands over his head, where it was recovered out of the end zone for a Saint Mary's safety.

The Panthers brought the ensuing safety kick back with a strong return to the Acalanes 40 yard line. But Dons defensive end Mat Lewis came up with a sack, forcing the Panthers to punt it away. And with that, the first half ended 2-0 Panthers.

A line drive kick by Millie Triano to start the third quarter shot straight into the arms of Acalanes wide receiver and cornerback Jesse Weiner, who took it to the Dons' 45.

Following a 19 yard run to the Saint Mary's 12 just 59 seconds in, Dons QB Tyler Caldwell connected with running back Tyler Malley for 12 yards, putting the Dons up 7-2.

Late in the third when the Dons were faced with a third and long, Manning called a trick play and nearly ran for a Don first down, but was stopped just short of the marker. The third quarter ended 7-2 in favor of Acalanes.

Malley exploded up the middle of the field 1:31 into the fourth for an 89-yard touchdown run to extend the home team's lead to 14-2.

After an Acalanes punt, Saint Mary's took control and began marching down field.

Following a perfect 36-yard hook-up, the Panthers capitalized yet again with a 25-yard lob down to Acalanes' 5. Wilder punched it in from the 1, cutting the lead to 14-9.

Triano's onside kick was fielded by Acalanes at their own 49. Saint Mary's used their last time out with 46 seconds left, Caldwell only had to kneel twice, and Acalanes won the game 14-9.

The win pushes the Dons over the .500 mark, sending them to 2-1. Saint Mary's has yet to be victorious this season, falling to 0-2 on the year.

Coach Marc Cavallero Joins LMYA Dolphins Swim Team

By Toby Wendtland



Jeff Miller



Kristi Buck



Marc Cavallero

In an effort to provide long term stability to the coaching staff of the LMYA Dolphins, Marc Cavallero has agreed to become co-head coach along with Jeff Miller. Miller, a Walnut Creek native, returned to LMYA this summer after having coached the team from 1996-1998. When he realized that he couldn't commit 100 percent to coaching in the summer of 2009, he went to Springbrook and developed strong relationships with my swimmers and their families that will continue as I see more and more of them come through Acalanes High School," Cavallero says.

Miller knew the gravity of what he was asking his friend. "He put a lot of time and effort into Springbrook the past two years, and I knew he would be faced with a difficult situation," he says.

LMYA team director Kristi Buck has been adamant in her effort to reestablish the Dolphins as one of the top swim teams in the county. The key, she says, is to establish consistency in the coaching ranks. "If you can hire a career coach, you can thrive," she says, "Kids get top quality in-

struction no matter what time of year they swim."

Buck has a further vested interest in seeing the LMYA team succeed; she has two daughters, Hannah, 11, and Becca, 9, who swim for the team.

Buck believes that with Cavallero on board with Miller, the two can work together to improve on this summer's success, a summer that saw them jump from division 3 to division 2.

Cavallero is also excited about the pairing. "At Acalanes, I coach the swimmers a little more on the technical details and Jeff works with the swimmers more on the training/endurance side of things," he says, "To develop a complete swimmer, you need to do both, so Jeff and I work together and complement each other extremely well."

For Cavallero, "It has been a dream come true for me to get to be a swim coach for my career, particularly in the community that I have grown up in."



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Fri, Oct 3 1:00 PM
Women's Soccer
San Jose State at SMC

Fri, Oct 3 4:00 PM
Men's Soccer
San Diego at SMC

Sat, Oct 4 1:00 PM
Women's Volleyball
Loyola Marymount at Moraga

Sun, Oct 5 2:00 PM
Men's Soccer
Loyola Marymount at SMC

Sun, Oct 12 12:00 PM
Women's Soccer
San Francisco at SMC

Thu, Oct 16 7:00 PM
Women's Volleyball
San Francisco at Moraga

Fri, Oct 17 All Day
Men's Tennis
ITA Regionals at Berkeley, CA

Sat, Oct 18 All Day
Men's Tennis
ITA Regionals at Berkeley, CA

Sat, Oct 18 1:00 PM
Women's Volleyball
San Diego at Moraga

Sun, Oct 19 All Day
Men's Tennis
ITA Regionals at Berkeley, CA

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SPORTS

LAMORINDA'S LOCAL SPORTS NEWS

Skyline Offense Stays Grounded in Cougar Win

By Alex Crook



Tommy Stephens (8) hands off to Cookie Kazzaz (25)

Photo Doug Kohen

On Friday, Sept. 26, Campo varsity football kept on rolling with a 21-0 rout of the Skyline Titans.

The first quarter saw a slow progression for Campo quarterback Tommy Stephens and the Cougar offense as they steadily drove the ball down field.

With five minutes left in the first quarter, Cookie Kazzaz carried the ball 15 yards to the Titan 25 before moving it 14 more yards all the

way down to the 11. The Cougars slowly made their way into the end zone, and Anthony "Rocket" Rodriguez punched it in from the two yard line to give his Cougars a 7-0 lead at the end of the quarter.

In the second, Stephens dumped a short pass out to his receiver but couldn't hold on, giving the ball back to Skyline. On the ensuing Titan possession, the well-known Cougar defense came up big time with a stop on fourth and one.

Rodriguez went back to work.

The Cougars drove the ball 13 yards to the Campolino 46. Rodriguez easily converted on a fourth and one, and Campo kept the ball. Rodriguez's 15-yard run set up a first and 10 at the Skyline 29.

On a gutsy call on fourth and 10, Stephens connected with Garrett Holmes 13 yards for another Cougar first, this one at Skyline's 16. Rodriguez later rushed for his second touchdown of the night, taking off

from the 10-yard line. The board read 14-0 Cougars.

On the kickoff, the Titan return man weaved through the Campo special teams before being brought down at the 50.

The Titans started to feel some momentum after that kick with an 18-yard run to Campo's 32 yard line. With five seconds left, the Titans had a fourth and seven on the Campo 29, but their QB went down hard, and the first half ended 14-0 Cougars.

In the second half, Skyline's lightning fast kick returner intercepted Stephens' pass and the Titans had a first down at Campo's 26. When it came to fourth and 15 from the 32, Will Coleman broke through the Titan line for a quarterback sack, forcing a turnover on downs.

Further into the quarter on a Titan possession, a pass interference call on the Cougars gave Skyline a first down at Campo's 48. However, the Titans wasted their chance, putting the ball on the ground. Joe Durantini recovered it for the Cougars.

With 1:35 left, Tommy Stephens let go a beautiful 43-yard bomb to Nathan Kinney for another Campo score, which made it 21-0.

On the kickoff, the Cougars again couldn't handle the Skyline special teams, and the Titans took it

back to Campo's 41 for great field position to end the third quarter.

In the final 12 minutes, Skyline fumbled two straight times but recovered both. On the fourth down punt, Skyline took the ball back, only for it to be picked off by the outstanding Cougar defense.

When the Titans finally got the ball back, they fumbled again and the Cougars recovered it. It was Skyline's fourth fumble of the night.

On fourth down with 2:55 left, Stephens' pass was incomplete. Skyline only had time for one more play before the clock ran out on them.

Next week the Cougars can sit back and relax for their bye week, and the Titans will try again to record a win when they return home to face Jesse Bethel High.



Anthony Rodriguez (20)

Photo Doug Kohen

Coupin Strikes Early to Lead Matadors to 34-12 Victory

By Toby Wendtland



John Vaccaro (12) taking off while Robert Mendoza (1) and John Coupin (32) clear the way

Photo Doug Kohen



John Coupin (32), Eric Severson (55) and John Vaccaro (12)

Photo Doug Kohen

The Miramonte Matadors' (3-0) talented backfield just got a little more imposing. After being paced in their two previous victories by senior running back Robert Mendoza, September 19th belonged to sophomore fullback John Coupin, who scored two touchdowns in the opening four minutes on runs of 32 and 4 yards.

While the game plan against the Skyline Titans (0-2) was not to feature Coupin extensively, Miramonte Coach John Wade said, "We thought we'd give him the ball a little more this week."

The results were 101 yards on only 13 carries with the two touchdowns for Coupin.

After taking the two touchdown advantage, the Matadors nearly gave the lead back. The Titans returned the next kickoff for a touchdown, and after a 42 yard Matt Lloyd field goal, the Titans returned the ensuing kickoff to the Matadors' 28 yard line and were able to drive the ball into the end zone. A blocked point after touchdown and failed two point conversion by Skyline

gave the Matadors a 17-12 lead at the end of the first quarter. Then Miramonte's defense took over.

The Matadors were able to shut out the Titans for the rest of the game. Coach Wade said, "We really did a great job defending, considering it's only the third game. We're young at defense, but we're maturing quickly."

Junior defensive back Jimmy Miller led the team with six tackles, while senior linebacker Andrew Rivin added two sacks.

The Matadors' offense was kept off the scoreboard until, with 17 seconds left in the first half, quarterback John Vaccaro (6-8 for 109 yards and one TD) connected with junior wide receiver James King for a 41 yard touchdown strike to make it 24-12 at the half. King finished with five catches for 144 yards and two touchdowns.

A 23 yard field goal by Lloyd late in the third quarter stretched the lead to 27-12, and King's second touchdown catch with 5:25 left in the game rounded out the scoring for the undefeated Matadors.

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