

business briefs

Powell's Celebrates its First Anniversary
3591 Mount Diablo Blvd. Lafayette, 299-9866
 Powell's Sweet Shoppe celebrated its first birthday on Saturday, March 14. A year after they opened, they continue to cater to Lamorinda's collective sweet tooth. On Saturday, the store gave away 1,000 Wonka Bars and five people received a Golden Ticket giveaway reminiscent of Road Dahl's classic children's tale, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. Each Golden Ticket entitles the winner to \$50.00 in gift certificates. Adding to the fun was face painting, live music, and the visiting guest of honor Mike Tee Vee, of Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory fame, who signed photographs.



1,000 free Wonka Bars were given out last Saturday at Powell's Photo Andy Scheck

The Independent Speech Pathology Network ISPN moves to Moraga
1030 Country Club Drive, 247-0363

ISPN, the Independent Speech Pathology Network (also known as The Independent Therapists Network), was founded and directed by Speech and Language Pathologist Monique Eurich. For the first five years the therapist managed her business from her home office. "But as the business expanded there came a time when I needed to move to a real professional space." Eurich works as a therapist and has constructed a large network of other professional who can offer pediatric speech and language services all over the Bay Area. Eurich is one of few leading experts providing specialized intervention for children with mild to profound Apraxia of Speech (AOS) and Autistic Spectrum Disorders (presently occurring at the rate of 1 in 150 children, 80% of which present with Apraxia of Speech). She prides herself on supporting and promoting early detection and Early Intervention, which is critical for the most successful outcomes, via outreach with pediatricians and pre-schools/private schools. "One of the unique features of this practice is its network of independent therapists, many of whom provide in-home treatments," says Eurich, "the in-home model is the best modality for expedited and successful treatment. I make every effort to connect families with therapists that have the specialized skills needed for their child as well for the individual needs of the family." But no two families are alike and sometimes therapists, including Eurich, may visit with children at their pre-school or private school as needs dictate.

E-Waste Recycling Event in Moraga

Moraga Hardware and Lumber, 1409 Moraga Way, Moraga Shopping Center. 376-3600
 Moraga Hardware will hold an e-waste collection day on March 22nd from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. E-Waste will be collected in the back of the building.

Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage Manager Honored Among Top Managing Brokers in Nation



Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage announced that Valerie Cook-Watkins, Managing Broker of the company's Orinda office, has earned the coveted President's Council awards for her office's success in 2008. "I am thrilled that Valerie has been honored with this distinction, especially in light of today's trying economic conditions," said Joe Brown, President of Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage.

David Pierce, Prudential's 2008 Top Producer



David Pierce, Broker-Realtor with the Orinda Office of Prudential CA Realty, has earned that office's title of Top Producer for the Year 2008. Pierce, who joined Prudential in 1994, has over 20 years' experience in the Real Estate industry. His 2008 performance earned him a place among Prudential's Top Ten, a ranking encompassing 40 offices and more than 1,500 agents throughout Northern California. In addition to his accomplishments with Prudential, Pierce's pet project reflects his passion for music and he serves as a Director of the Friends of Big Band Jazz as well as delivering community service through the Orinda Rotary Club. Pierce has served, among other involvement, as President and Director of the Orinda Chamber of Commerce and is a State of CA Superior Court Special Master for Real Estate.

News from the Three Chambers of Commerce

Tri-Chamber Meeting: The Lafayette Chamber of Commerce invited its neighbors from Orinda and Pleasant Hill for a networking session on March 11th. The meeting took place at the Absolute Center (which was also celebrating its 6th anniversary.) "We have a crowd of about 200 people," said Jay Lifson CEO of the Lafayette Chamber, "people are eager to reach out and love the opportunity to meet new people and invent new synergies." "I always come to these meetings," added Steve Snyder, mortgage consultant with RPM, "there are always cross-marketing opportunities."



Tri-Chamber Meeting Photo Sophie Braccini

Lafayette Chamber of Commerce

Seminar on Tuesday March 24 at 5:30 p.m., "How to Survive in Today's Economy." Mechanics Bank and the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce present a free Business Forum featuring Brian Pretti and Raully Butler from Mechanics Bank and Keith Blakeney, local representative from SCORE. The event will be held at Mechanics Bank, 3640 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Lafayette. Reservations can be made by calling 925-962-6900 or at lafayetteevents@mechbank.com.

Business Issues Meeting, Friday, March 27 at 8 a.m. in the Lafayette Chamber Conference Room.

Moraga Chamber of Commerce

Chamber meeting, Hacienda de las Flores, Fireside Room, Friday, March 27, starting at 7:30 a.m. The meeting speaker will be John Harper, who will talk about efficient websites for small businesses. Many small businesses have nice websites, but very little new business is generated from them. Can anything be done to correct the situation? Learn how you can beat the competition by changing your Internet marketing with Harper, who has worked in the field of Internet marketing for years. He is a partner with HarperMees & Associates, a top producing team at Keller Williams Realty in Danville. He is director of Internet marketing and technology for the team. Last month, their website-www.harperMees.com received over 8300 visits.

The Community Faire will be held on Saturday May 9 from 11 to 4 p.m. It is a perfect opportunity for Moraga businesses, both retail and professional, as well as our non-profits and service clubs, to market and showcase their products and services. But the registration deadline is approaching, so don't delay. Get your registration forms on the Chamber website, www.moragachamber.org. Forms due by April 1.

Orinda Chamber of Commerce

Special Roundtable Coffee Business Idea Sharing Event Thursday, March 26 8:00 a.m. to 9:15 a.m. Village Pizza, 19 AB Orinda Way, Orinda. Come hear what fellow Chamber members are doing differently in today's market and share what you are doing, as well. Enjoy coffee & pastries, too. Mark your calendar for this informative event. \$5.00 per person (paid at door).

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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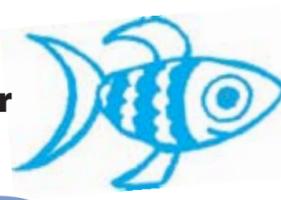
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The Green Buddha: A Mother and Daughter Share The Attitude of Gratitude
 By Sophie Braccini



Dana Windatt and Jeannie Dowell discuss strategy

Photo Sophie Braccini

As Dana Dowell Windatt sits across the table from her mother, Jeanne Dowell, in her Moraga home there is a flow of excitement between the two women. Their strong bond and shared values explain why they are in business together. The pair recently launched an online retail store, The Green Buddha.

"For me it all started after I went to a grief workshop, Jacquelyn Aldana's 'The 15 Minute Miracle,' explains Dowell, a popular local yoga instructor, "she recommended that everyday we write about something we are grateful for and what it does in our lives, and I quickly felt the positive power of this attitude of gratitude."

Windatt quickly took on the same writing habit and the two started to brainstorm ideas for sharing their new attitude with others. Dowell asked her daughter to illustrate the concept. Windatt, who is an actress, yoga teacher and artist, drew the jolly green Buddha that has become their messenger.

They worked with their friend Michele Houston, of Insight Resources in Orinda, to have the drawing printed on commercial products. The two women didn't want to use just any fabric or material. The idea was to choose a sustainable and beautiful medium for their message.

The two feel that The Green Buddha has become their way of sharing their gratefulness. "Cultivating gratitude boosts your well being and helps you sleep better," says Dowell, "it energizes, inspires and transforms." The two hope that every time one of their customers wears one of their shirts or uses any of their other products, they are re-

mindful to be grateful.

The Green Buddha's most popular item has been the signature tee-shirt. The women's version is made of bamboo fiber, a fabric that feels like silk, is naturally thermal regulating to keep users warm in winter and cool in summer, and it wicks away moisture. "One of my friends bought five of them and she wears them every night," says Dowell.

"We buy our plain men's t-shirts from EDUN," Windatt explained, "a fair trade non-profit

clothing company created by U2 leader Bono to foster trade in Africa through the wholesale of blank cotton t-shirts, one hundred percent African from grower to sewer."

Other products include hoodies, tote bags, socks, water bottles and stationery; there are more ideas on the drawing board. A percentage of the proceeds go to SEEDS, a non-profit organization that provides grassroots relief to Nepal's poorest villages. For more information go to www.thegreenbuddha.net



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Moraga Rotary Is Hosting An Open House!

Come and learn what it means to be a Moraga Rotarian.

Learn About:

- Our History
- Our Local Projects
- Our International Projects
- How to Become a Member



Please join us for a hosted lunch at our open house on:
Tuesday, April 14th, 2009 at Noon
 at ... **Saint Mary's College, in the Soda Center**

Please RSVP: Let us know if you will be attending the Open House by phone, Day: (925) 376-2244 Night: (925) 631-0725 or by email, Mike@MikeisThere.com (Limited Space Available)

We are looking forward to seeing you there!

Moraga Rotary has been serving the community since 1967



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