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**AMERICAN LEGION POST 517**

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When: Sunday, January 9, 2011  
Where: The Veteran's Memorial Building  
3780 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Lafayette, CA  
Friendship Hour: 5:00pm Dinner: 6:00pm  
Menu: Marinated crab, pasta, salad, garlic bread, wine & dessert  
Raffle: Please bring items to help raise raffle funds.

Cost: \$35.00- Before December 15, 2010 / \$40.00- After December, 15, 2010  
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**A Real Estate Agent with a Different Background**

By Sophie Braccini



Tran Turner in his Orinda office

Photo Sophie Braccini

Did you know that modernist, 94-year old architect Olof Dahlstrand designed a few Usonian homes in Orinda and Lafayette? Or that his greatest inspiration, Frank Lloyd Wright, designed one Orinda home? At least one real estate agent in Lamorinda knows all about it – his name is Tran Turner, and he is a new agent for Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage in Orinda. Formerly an Art Museum

Curator of 19th & 20th Century Architecture & Design, Turner recently came to live in Orinda in order to be closer to aging parents. As he moved, he decided to channel his love of significant homes to the commercial sector, and serve buyers on the lookout for very specific homes. He knows that the Bay Area contains many of these gems and that they need a specific marketing approach.

Elegantly dressed, with polite and reserved manners, Turner does not come across as a typical good-humored real estate agent. His passion for architecture and beautiful homes quickly shines through, and carries his interlocutor through the history of American architecture.

"There are many homes designed by established architects in the area, as well as homes with historical significance," says Turner, "and there are clients with high architectural demands who want a specific architect. It can be difficult for them to find an agent who has done the research and knows where the homes are, and who owns them."

Turner is creating a database of art deco, Spanish and colonial revival homes, modernist homes, as well as significant contemporary architects and their work in the area. "I have a lot of the information I need in my books and the collection of architecture magazines I have

gathered over the years," says Turner. His web site already lists the 20th century architects he will focus on.

As a new agent, Turner has been practicing door-knocking to find customers. Once his database is complete, he will do it with the purpose of identifying which of these special homes could reach the market in the near future, both in the East Bay and in the Carmel area where he was born. "I believe that there is nobody with my specialty in the area," says Turner, "I know that it will take me a few years to get established, but I find this work very exiting. Finding clients for these exceptional homes is like doing an exhibition or writing a book."

Turner can be reached at (925) 395-7588 or by e-mail to Tran.Turner@cbnrcal.com.

Lamorinda Weekly business articles are intended to inform the community about local business activities, not to endorse a particular company, product or service.

**business briefs**

**Petar's, Reborn**  
32 Lafayette Circle, Lafayette  
(925) 284-7117, www.petars.com



Nosrat Kermaninejad finally dared to update the Lafayette traditional restaurant, Petar's. After 11 years of ownership, Kermaninejad is transforming it into what he knows very well -- a Mediterranean restaurant. To make it official, the owner has changed the name; it is now called 'Grape Leaf Restaurant Petar's Pub.' "We wanted to keep the name Petar's because we are continuing the traditions that have made this restaurant successful, but we wanted to add a more modern touch, adding a focus on lighter offerings featuring healthy selections made with local produce and organic items when available," says Kermaninejad. The change is very recent, the beginning of December, but the owner says he has already positive responses. "All our customers gave us positive feedback on the new menu," he says, "and they probably enjoyed the drop in menu prices, too." To make the switch, Kermaninejad did not have to look too far. Until 1999, he was the owner of Chardonnay restaurant in Livermore, a successful Mediterranean restaurant. He decided to leave on the menu some of the items that have made the reputation of the old Petar's. "We are continuing the tradition of live music as well," says the owner, "Petar's pub is a popular night spot in Lafayette featuring headliner and one-man band, "Diamond" Dave Hosley. There will be no changes in the night time programming. Check out the new Grape Leaf menu posted on the website (above).

her Doctor of Medicine degree from the University of California San Francisco School of Medicine in 1986 and holds bachelor degrees in both Cellular and Molecular Biology (San Francisco State University) and Psychology (Michigan State University). Dr. Eisenberg has over fifteen years experience treating adolescents and adults with addictions to various substances. She also has experience treating patients suffering from chronic pain. While Dr. Eisenberg will be sharing her expertise in addiction medicine with both adolescents and adults, she is particularly concerned about the growing numbers of young people living in Contra Costa County who are becoming addicted to OxyContin, an opiate that is often prescribed for the relief of moderate to severe pain. "Ten years ago, opiate addicts were shooting heroin; now what we see are teenagers as young as age thirteen who are heavily addicted to OxyContin as well as other prescription medications," said Dr. Eisenberg.

**News from the three Chambers of Commerce Lafayette**

- Shop Lafayette Meeting on Tuesday, December 14, 12:30pm in the Chamber Conference Room
- Green Committee Meeting on Wednesday, December 15, 12:00pm in Chamber Conference Room
- Entrepreneur's Club on Thursday, December 16, 8:30am in the Chamber Conference Room

**Moraga**  
California Independent Film Festival Comes to Moraga from January 28th through February 3rd. Between one and three thousand people will attend this film festival. It will benefit the business community, and there are many ways to be involved. Email Beau Behan, Manager of The New Rheem Theatre, at beau@caiff.org for more information or if you want to be part of the fun of helping with this event. Check their website, www.caiff.com, for updates.

**Orinda**  
Holiday Mixer on Thursday, December 9, 5:30-7:00pm. The Chamber invites its members and their guests to come for the traditional Holiday Mixer, held this year at Citibank, 37 Orinda Way.

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

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