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Volume 04 Issue 20

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Wednesday, December 8, 2010



Photo Doug Kohen

# State Champions!

**Quote of the Week:**

"Thomas Jefferson later claimed he could not possibly have maintained his estate at Monticello, with all its deciduous trees, had he not been the beneficiary of Ben Franklin's redesigned leaf blower." Read Letters to the Editor, page A8

## Campolindo Volleyball Takes the Title

Read the full story on page L8

Advertising

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**LAMORINDA WEEKLY**

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## Fire Chief Warns of Possible Fire Station Closures

By Cathy Tyson



Station 16, at risk of closure

Photo Cathy Tyson

Without a parcel tax next year, up to eight fire stations could close said Fire Chief Daryl Louder at a recent Board of Supervisors workshop, due to a projected \$12 million budget shortfall for fiscal year 2010/2011.

Calling a parcel tax "crucial to the survival of the District," Louder explained the dire financial straights of the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District (CCCFPD).

... continued on page A3

## Going, Going...Sold

By Andrea A. Firth

Orinda recently acquired two sculptures that have been on loan to the City for the past few years: Gale Wagner's *Outta Here*, more commonly know as the frog that jumps over the Library fountain, and *Springtime*, a columnar sculpture located in front of the Community Center on the right as you enter.

"This has been possible through a wonderful partnership between the City and the APPC [Art in Public Places Committee]," said Ted Urban, Chair of the APPC, at Monday's City Council meeting. The Council voted unanimously to purchase the two sculptures, which had a combined price tag of \$46,000, with a combination of Park Dedication funds and private donations.

Park Dedication fees are assessed on commercial and residential development projects, and the funds may only be used for the creation and improvement of park and recreation facilities in the city, explained Parks and Recreation Director Todd Skinner. The Council set aside \$20,000 over the past two years for the procurement of public art, and the APPC set to work to solicit matching funds.

"There is enthusiastic support for the Art in Public Places program," said Urban, reporting that the Committee was able to exceed the matching fund goal to raise a total of \$26,000 to make the purchases possible.

... continued on page A6

## The Caldecott Tunnel—History in the Making

By Andrea A. Firth



Tunnel building technology has changed significantly since a group of merchants from Oakland pooled their resources to fund the first hand-dug passageway through the hills over 100 years ago. What hasn't changed is how long it takes to tunnel through the dirt and bedrock between Orinda on the east side and Oakland on the west.

... read on page L1

## Sneetches Spotted in Orinda

By Lou Fancher



Liz Piatt's Orinda home is being overrun by Dr. Seuss characters and she isn't going to take it anymore. Instead, she's sending The Cat in the Hat, a pair of Six-foot Sneetches, Horton the Elephant, Thing One and Thing Two, and more than 50 other soft, hand-sewn sculptures she created to Orinda Books.

... read on page H1

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# Civic News



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# Lafayette

## Public Meetings

- City Council** Monday, December 13, 7:00 pm  
 Lafayette Library & Learning Center, Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd
- Planning Commission** Monday, January 3, 7:00 pm  
 (scheduled meeting on December 20 has been canceled)  
 Lafayette Library & Learning Center, Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd
- Design Review** Monday, December 13, 7:00 pm  
 Lafayette Library & Learning Center in the Arts & Science Discovery Center at 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements  
 City of Lafayette: [www.ci.lafayette.ca.us](http://www.ci.lafayette.ca.us)  
 Chamber of Commerce: [www.lafayettechamber.org](http://www.lafayettechamber.org)

## Police Report



**To Fly or Not to Fly, 11/25/10** A couple parked their car – full of packed luggage – on Sierra Vista Way and went inside for the night. When they approached their car to drive to the airport the next morning, they discovered the left rear window had been smashed and their luggage was missing. The stolen belongings were valued at \$350 and damage to the car was estimated at \$400. Tough way to be spared the long baggage check lines created by the Thanksgiving holiday.

**Just When You Thought it was Safe, 11/25/10** A Lafayette Circle resident locked his bike to his rear balcony and turned in for the night. Guess what happened? That's right – it was missing the next morning! A stealthy bicycle thief cut the lock

and presumably sped into the night on the \$400 Marin Hawk mountain bike.

**Another Missing Bicycle, 11/26/10** A Sibert Court resident regrettably left his garage door open, enabling a thieving bicycle enthusiast to make off with his \$3,000 bicycle. You read it correctly - \$3,000 – for a bicycle...ouch! There are no suspects or witnesses.

**Bank Robbery, 11/26/10** Lafayette Police responded to an alarm from Citibank on Mt. Diablo Boulevard and arrived to discover a robbery had taken place. The teller told police the suspect appeared to fill out a deposit slip and then approached her window, opened his wallet and presented a “demand” note. Although Citibank tellers have “bandit barriers,” she wisely gave the suspect the cash from her drawer since customers were in the bank at the time. The unknown suspect left on foot.

## No Escape from Lafayette – Shop Locally



Left to right standing: Walter Nelso and Cathy Nelson of the Moraga Chamber of Commerce; from the Lafayette Chamber, Mike Wilson, Dave Simpson, Robin Fox, Linda Carlson, Karen Rose and Jay Lifson in the front. Photo Andy Scheck

Jay Lifson, Executive Director of the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce, front and center along with a supporting cast is trying to encourage post-Thanksgiving shoppers from leaving town to shop elsewhere. “The Friendly Chamber” wants to encourage everyone to spend their valuable holiday dollars locally in the many unique shops and great restaurants in Lafayette, supporting neighborhood merchants and keeping tax revenue here. “We all win when our local economy thrives,” said Lifson.  
*C. Tyson*

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## Is a Pathway Possible Through Downtown?

By Cathy Tyson

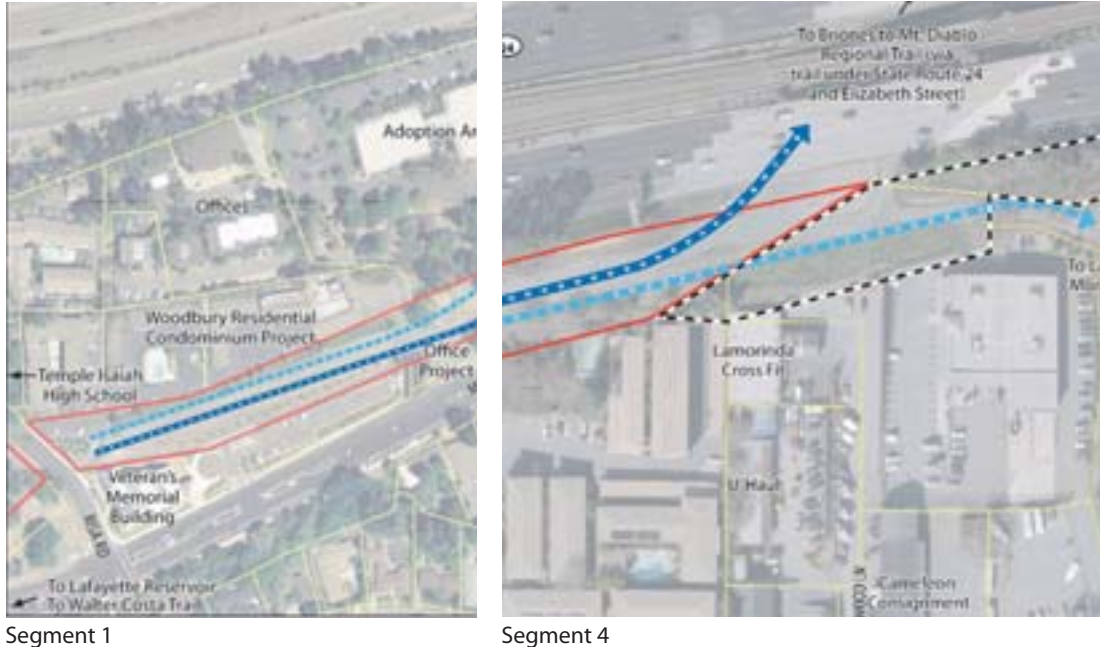


Image courtesy Ian Moore, Alta Planning + Design

A friendly, relaxed group contemplated the possibility of having a bike and pedestrian pathway through the heart of downtown Lafayette at a recent workshop. At issue is the EBMUD Aqueduct right-of-way land that runs behind the Veterans Hall, continues between highway 24 and Safeway and ends at Brown Avenue.

The workshop was part of a feasibility study funded by a Cal-Trans Community Planning Grant to determine the viability of constructing a pathway that would address topography concerns and challenging intersection crossings and in the process provide a safe functional pathway for walkers and cyclists and that is compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act. The City of Lafayette hired consultant Alta Planning + Design along with Mark Thomas and Company and Fehr & Peers to complete the study, but is also partnering with stakeholders Cal-Trans, EBMUD, the East Bay Regional Park District and BART.

“What is possible, what would it cost and why is it important,” said Project Manager Ian Moore of Alta Planning + Design, referring to the goal of the study.

Participants at the December 1 workshop were asked how they would use the site - for recreation or commuting, on foot or on bicycle, along with other topics on each of the four sections of pathway. So far there are a lot of questions, but only some answers. In the near future, Moore anticipates quantifying options, and identifying potential sources of funding.

The EBMUD easement is wide, but includes a very large, very old water pipe that serves the community and beyond. This, coupled with some steep slopes, make for significant structural limitations. Add to that several intersections that would be challenging to cross without a traffic signal or in one instance, a bridge, contribute to the project's complexity.

One of the first issues is determining what type of pathway

is appropriate for the sections of the proposed path; choices include Class 1 Bike Path, Multi-Purpose Trail and Park/Open Space trail (see illustration). Each has benefits, limitations and differing costs of construction.

“This is great - doing a study to determine real costs and opportunities,” said Jim Townsend, East Bay Regional Park District Trails Development Program Manager, adding, “It's a challenging project with undetermined utility.”

Commenting on the usefulness of what will likely be an expensive (even if government funded) project, one participant, an avid bicyclist, questioned if this is the best use of money - could Concord put it to better use, or if it should go toward paying down the deficit.

Look for a final report with specifics in the fall of 2011. All of the documents produced to date are available at www.lafayettepathway.com. City staff want to hear from you about the project - check the website to see how to contribute.

## Fire Chief Warns of Possible Fire Station Closures

... continued from page A1

Calling a parcel tax “crucial to the survival of the District,” Louder explained the dire financial straights of the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District (CCCFPD). Funded primarily through property tax assessments, due to the decline of the housing market that revenue has decreased by almost 12% since 2007. Having already cut back on administrative expenses, the largest portion of the budget, 85%, is salaries and benefits. “The only methodology available to achieve savings and balance the budget is to further reduce personnel costs,” noted a county staff report.

Although no final decisions were made at the recent workshop, the chief did single out several stations for possible closure: Lafayette Station 16 (Los Arabis), Martinez Station 12 and Concord Stations 22

and 6. In his presentation to the County Board of Supervisors, Louder described the criteria for identifying fire station closure: Hazards and risks to the community are on the top of the list. This includes wildland/urban interface, refineries and chemical plants, railroads and freeways along with high rise and commercial buildings. However other considerations are also taken into account, like the probability of fire, call volume and the ability of surrounding stations to absorb calls.

Although it sounds rather odd, the District is already planning to close half of a Walnut Creek station by January 1. That station has two crews of three firefighters at all times. Pending Board approval, staffing will go down to a single crew.

Supervisors decided to hire a polling firm to gauge interest in a possible parcel tax to avoid service reductions. While its clear Lafayette residents value their fire stations - it's unclear if the balance of county residents in these tough economic times will feel the same way.

Despite \$6 million in reduced expenditures by managing vacancies, controlling overtime, deferring raises, eliminating 15 positions and more - the District will deplete its reserve account in fiscal year 2011-2012.

Adding to already ugly budget picture is an additional \$6 million pension payment due next year as well as already agreed upon 2.5 percent raises in July, 2011 and January 2012 for firefighters that were deferred from the prior fiscal year.

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- Sharp Bicycles

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- Veterans Memorial Building
- Yankee Pier Restaurant

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# Civic News Moraga

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| <b>Public Meetings</b>     |   |
| <b>Town Council</b>        | Wednesday, January 12, 7:30 pm<br>Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School, 1010 Camino Pablo |
| <b>Planning Commission</b> | Monday, January 3, 7:30 pm<br>Moraga Library, 1500 Saint Marys Rd                       |
| <b>Design Review</b>       | Monday, December 13, 7:00 pm<br>Moraga Library, 1500 Saint Marys Rd                     |
| <b>Liaison</b>             | Friday, December 10, 8:00 am<br>Fire Station, 1280 Moraga Way                           |

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements  
 Town of Moraga online: [www.moraga.ca.us](http://www.moraga.ca.us)  
 Chamber of Commerce: [www.moragachamber.org](http://www.moragachamber.org)  
 Moraga Citizens' Network: [www.moragacitizensnetwork.org](http://www.moragacitizensnetwork.org)

## • Police Report •



incident. Good luck with that.

**Attempted burglary, 11/29/10**  
 Officers checked on a Francisca Drive home at 10:30 in the morning. Two female suspects were seen at the time of the incidents. The gal who attempted entering the home was appropriately dressed for the crime with black clothes and a black backpack, her hair in a bun. Despite attire, the pair didn't actually break in the home, so nothing was taken.

**Fruit theft, 11/11/10**  
 Sometime during the night an unknown suspect snuck into a Silvia Court backyard and removed fruit from a Fuyu persimmon tree. The homeowner estimates the value of the stolen persimmons at \$300. That's a lot of persimmons.

**Loud noise at swim meet, 11/13/10**  
 A homeowner on Josefa Place called police to complain about excessive noise at a swim meet at the Soda Aquatic center at Campolindo High School. The disgruntled homeowner said she will contact the Acalanes Union High School District and the Town of Moraga to discuss the

**Incomplete burglary, 11/21/10**  
 Would-be burglars strike again, but get nothing. The homeowner right next door on Francisca Drive came home to find her bathroom window open, the master bedroom screen torn and two broken screens outside – but nothing taken. Finger prints were lifted from the window sill and screens.



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## Moraga Saves Energy

By Sophie Braccini

There's nothing like a bit of grant money to sweeten a budget's harsh reality. Federal funding can be hard to obtain, and many long hours of effort goes into preparing a grant proposal that has no guaranteed results; time not easy to find in a small town with a bare-bones staff. Moraga Staff Engineer John Sherbert is passionate about improving the town's energy efficiency, and put in the time – as a result, Moraga will get \$93,465 in grant money, and an 11-year loan of \$198,000 at 3% interest, to fund a series of energy efficiency projects (see sidebar).

The funding is a combined ARRA (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act) grant and low-interest loan that will permit the Town to save 1/3 of its energy bill over at least the next 20 years.

"John Sherbert did a yeoman effort of combining projects and the projected energy savings in order to maximize the Town's ability to receive funds," says Town Engineer and Public Works Director Jill Mercurio,

was worth his time. "I researched and proposed that program at this time last year," he recalls, acknowledging that, although Mercurio was always supportive, his request was met with skepticism.

When he received approval to proceed, he was stunned by the amount of paperwork that was required. "The amount of formalities exceeded by far what I had anticipated," said Sherbert. He believes that this level of control and minutia, exerted especially at the federal level, is probably adequate for multi-million projects, but totally absurd for small jurisdictions. "I was invited to talk at the California Energy Commission and I told them what I think," says Sherbert.

"Given the amount of benefit that the Town will receive by implementing these projects, it is well worth the time and effort to wade through the required reporting," concludes Mercurio. As always, she and her staff remain on the lookout for other grant opportunities.

**Moraga's newly-funded energy efficiency projects:**

- Replacement of the HVAC boiler at the library with a high-efficiency model
- Upgrade of the Hacienda de las Flores' three "forced-air" furnaces and the upstairs air conditioner to high-efficiency models
- Removal of the asbestos-covered ductwork in the Hacienda crawl-space and replacement with new insulated ducts
- Insulation of the attics at the Library, Hacienda, and Casita
- Upgrade, to LED, the streetlights on Moraga's main roads, and the lighting in the Library, Commons, and Hacienda parking lot
- Installation of occupancy sensors in restrooms and enclosed conference areas and photo-sensors on the exterior lighting at the Library, Hacienda, and 329 Rheem
- Installation of a photo-voltaic (PV) system on the roof of 329 Rheem

## What's Going on Here?

By Sophie Braccini



Construction workers secure the access to the AT&T – Verizon site off Rheem Boulevard.  
 Photo Sophie Braccini

Some Moraga residents became curious when they saw heavy equipment plowing the hill on the north side of Rheem Boulevard, between Saint Mary's Rd and Moraga Rd. Is the development of the Rancho Laguna property starting already, even though the project is still under review? Short answer: No.

The work taking place on the Rancho Laguna property is part of the approved installation of AT&T and Verizon Wireless telecommunication antennas that were approved by the Town of Moraga in the first part of 2010. The project will add nine panel antennas on an existing PG&E tower, and an equipment enclosure southeast of the EBMUD Fayhill Reservoir. According to the Design Review Board resolution, the new structure will be camouflaged and appear to be part of the existing facility.

## Mulholland Ridge Trees Targeted

By Sophie Braccini

The Lamorinda Weekly recently received an anonymous, but very concerned, note from a resident. According to the writer, "within the next two to three years... PG&E will be removing all the trees over 17 feet tall within 100 feet in either direction of the high voltage lines. This would remove most of the trees on Mulholland Ridge and make the neighborhoods an eyesore." The Town of Moraga halted the removal of these trees last spring – so what happened?

Since the Town put a stop to the tree removal, PG&E and the Planning Department worked on tree removal permits, and replacement, in compliance with the Moraga municipal code that regulates the removal of historic and native trees.

On October 25th, the Planning Department received a communication from PG&E's legal department citing a recent California Court of Appeal, Third Appellate District, published opinion that the California Public Utilities Commission has jurisdiction over all of PG&E's tree trimming requirements, and that they supersede any local requirements.

"The Town of Moraga does not have the authority to regulate anymore," confirmed Moraga Planning Director Lori Salamack, "PG&E can remove trees that could interfere with their lines. For example, a distant tree that's so tall that it could interfere with the electric lines if it fell will be removed."

PG&E indicated that work on Mulholland Ridge for 2010 had been completed and was done in the interest of public safety and reliability. Agents will patrol again in February of 2011, and then figure out their plan of action, if any, going forward.

**Please submit Letters and Opinions:**  
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**Librarian Linda Waldroup to Retire**

By Sophie Braccini



Linda Waldroup in the Moraga Library

Photo Sophie Braccini

Linda Waldroup, Moraga's librarian for the past nine years, will retire on January 7, 2011. Waldroup managed the library at a turning point in its history. According to all who know her, Waldroup is an outstanding librarian who was able to transform the Moraga library into one of the strongest facilities in Contra Costa County as far as activity programming for all ages is concerned. Her care and diplomacy made her a widely-loved figure in Moraga, she will be missed.

Contra Costa Library administration at the same time, in April of 1995," recalls Lafayette librarian Susan Weaver. Waldroup made a career change after 20 years in retail, managing a Berkeley pharmacy with her husband. She was in fact returning to her first career; she started out as a librarian in Vallejo in the 70's.

In the pre-internet age, librarians were the gatekeepers of knowledge; searches were done manually, shuffling through drawers of index cards. Now with electronic search tools and books,

libraries have morphed into community centers where residents congregate not only to research and read, but to participate in activities. "I didn't know a thing about programming," confessed Waldroup, "but with increased partnering and strong support from the Friends of the Moraga Library, we were able to vastly grow our programming."

Partnering with community organizations, Waldroup brought the Moraga library into the 21st century. "She has been a tremendous librarian," says Friends of the Moraga Library president David Kruegel, "She has improved and enhanced the programming for adults in particular, and as a result we enjoy some of the strongest programs in the county." Kruegel cited, among other events, a series of speakers from the San Francisco Art Museums and the new music program.

What made the programming so interesting was Waldroup's ability to find interesting topic and speakers for the library and 'book them' before they became expensive celebrities. For example, when Madeline Levine's "The Price of Privilege" came out, Waldroup was the first to call her agent and book her for a talk that filled the library well beyond its normal limits. She was also the one to secure Abraham Verghese, author of "Cutting for Stone", the last selection of the Lamorinda Reads program, for a talk that concluded the 2010 tricity program.

Lamorinda Reads is also a program that can be credited to Waldroup's creativity, along with her colleagues in Lafayette and Orinda. "Increased cooperation between our three libraries made sense," said Weaver, "I was thrilled to be able to work with her when I arrived at the Lafayette li-

brary. We got together right away with Orinda Librarian Caroline Gick and have had so much fun planning the Lamorinda Reads yearly program." The next cooperative program will be in conjunction with Saint Mary's College, related to the university's presentation of the "Lee and Grant" exhibition early next year.

"She is such a wonderful person to work with," says Gick. Pam Jahner, who has been the Moraga Librarian Assistant for 27 years, will miss her too. "She created a real team atmosphere among staff," says Jahner, who has worked with several librarians during her tenure, "and she was able to foster a very positive interaction with the community."

Waldroup will be leaving a thriving organization that will nonetheless have to face financial challenges in the years to come. "She has planned the programming for the next three months to make the transition easier," says Kruegel, "that's emblematic of who she is, a very thoughtful and dedicated person."

"I'm going to miss her, she is a special person," Kruegel adds, "Mayor Ken Chew said that the Library was the heart and soul of the community; I will add that Linda was the heart and soul of the library."

A new librarian, Beth Girshman, has been hired to replace Waldroup. She is the adult services/community outreach librarian at the Jones Library in Amherst, Massachusetts. She will have to fill some pretty big shoes.



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# Civic News Orinda

## Public Meetings

**City Council** Tuesday, December 21, 7:00 pm  
Auditorium, Orinda Library, 26 Orinda Way

**Planning Commission** Tuesday, December 14, 7:00 pm  
Auditorium, Orinda Library, 26 Orinda Way  
Workshop at 6:00 pm Garden Room

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements  
City of Orinda: [www.cityoforinda.org](http://www.cityoforinda.org)  
Chamber of Commerce: [www.orindachamber.org](http://www.orindachamber.org)

### • Police Report •



watery eyes and slurred speech and arrested her. Lucky she didn't end up in Lake Cascade.

**Standing while drunk, 11/23/10** A middle-aged gentleman was standing in front of CVS store making rude and aggressive remarks to passers by. He showed objective signs of intoxication and had a blood alcohol content more than twice the legal limit. Deemed unable to care for himself – he was arrested. Maybe he was celebrating in a cranky way, "Because it's Tuesday" – apologies to Davidson and Licht.

**Drunk in public, 11/20/10** A different middle-aged man was staggering around Brookwood Road, something out of the ordinary for Orinda. "Tis the season – apparently. The cop questioning him had to hold him up to keep him from falling over. He had an open 12-pack of beer next to him on the ground. "I drink all the time," said the fellow. He also had an outstanding warrant for failure to appear – so he was arrested and bail was set at \$20,000.

**D.U.I., 11/22/10** A 69-year-old woman was driving on Camino Sobrante at almost 11:00 p.m. when she ran off the roadway and struck a house. She was confused and still in the driver's seat when police arrived. Officers noted red

**Nursery robbed, 11/18/10** An unknown suspect smashed a window panel on the front door of McDonnell Nursery. Petty cash from the register was taken and the office was ransacked. No information as yet on missing plants and pots.

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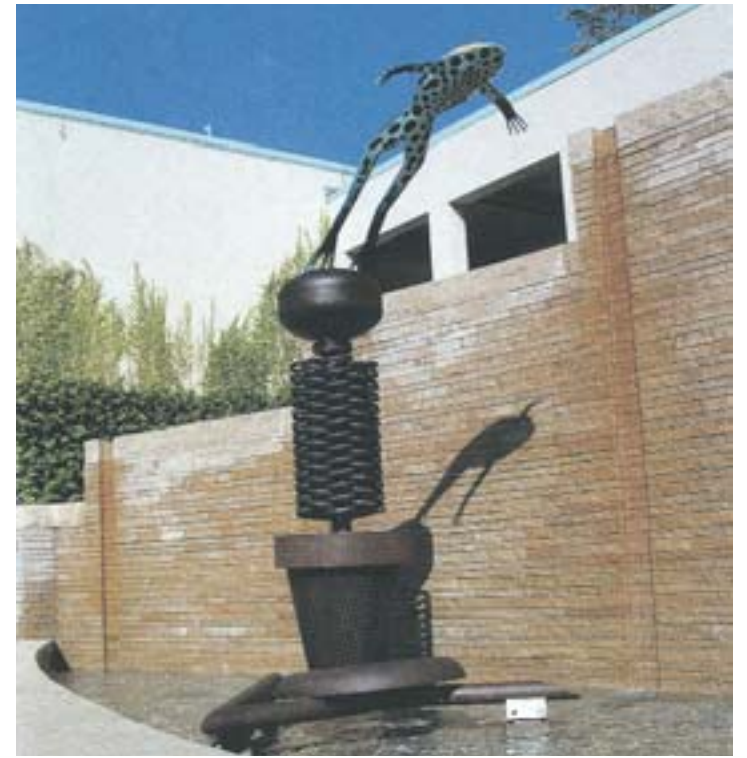
## Going, Going...Sold

... continued from page A1



John Toki's *Springtime* is located in front of the Community Center. Photo provided

The primary focus of the APCC is to obtain art on loan and regularly rotate what is displayed in the City's public spaces around the Library and Community Center, explained Urban. "But residents have become attached to some of the pieces and did not want to lose them." Half of the contributions



Gale Wagner's *Outta Here* will continue to leap over the Library fountain. Photo provided

came from individuals and half from organizations including the Orinda Community Foundation and the Friends of the Orinda Library, said Urban. "This is a fine use of these funds for a program that really enhances our City," stated Council Member Steve Glazer.

## Orinda's Officers to the Rescue



Pictured from L to R are Officers Neil Rafanan, Kevin Mooney, Ron Westhorpe, and Yvonne McDaniel (by the podium). A.Firth

One day in late October, Orinda resident Yvonne McDaniel wasn't feeling well. A call from concerned family members to the Orinda police that day may have saved her life. When Officers Ron Westhorpe and Kevin Mooney arrived at McDaniel's home, they saw her stumble around and fall. Westhorpe proceeded to kick down the door to the home in order to gain access to McDaniel while Mooney

called for medical assistance. "They were just marvelous," said McDaniel in her comments to the Orinda City Council on November 29th when the two officers were recognized by the City for their life saving efforts. McDaniel suffered a stroke that day but has experienced no sequelae, which she attributes to the fact that she was transported quickly to the hospital and was able to receive a clot-busting drug.

## The Orinda Sign Finds a Home

By Andrea A. Firth



In our last issue, we ran a photo of the Orinda sign that popped up in the triangular garden plot across from Orinda Motors on Orinda Way. It turns out this sign has quite a provenance, and the City and the Orinda Historical Society have been in search of a permanent home for the sign for many years.

"The great day has arrived," said Carl Weber, a member of the City's Historic Landmark's Committee, enthusiastically adding, "It's special. It's historical. This sign goes back 75, maybe 80 years."

The sign was originally displayed in the mid-1930's on top of a small real estate office that was located where the sign now sits again. According to Weber, the sign was

taken down in 1969 and was stored under the stage in the Community Center for a number of years. The real estate building has long been gone.

Over the past 15 years, the Orinda Historical Society, the most recent custodian of the sign, worked with the City to identify a public place for the sign to reside, and a number of locations were explored. But as the old adage goes, "there's no place like home," and the sign has found its way back to where it started.

While there was some discussion regarding the design for the platform to permanently set the sign in place and whether the sign would be more aesthetically pleasing in another color such as brown or a less glossy green, the Council voted four to one, with Mayor McCormick dissenting, to make the triangular garden plot at the intersection of Orinda Way and El Sobrante the permanent home for the currently green Orinda sign. Stay tuned for news of a color change.

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# Orinda Inches toward Affordable Senior Housing

By Andrea A. Firth

Plans for a senior affordable housing development in downtown Orinda have been in the works for 15 years, and the City Council recently moved a few steps closer to making this senior residence a reality.

The City has been working with Eden Housing, a non-profit affordable housing developer based in Hayward, to develop a senior affordable housing project on the city-owned property at 2 Irwin Way, the former library site adjacent to the Orinda Senior Village and the Community Park. At its November 30th meeting, the City Council voted unanimously to amend the City's General Plan to allow the property to be developed for residential, multi-family use. The site had been designated solely for public, semi-public use such as a park or a library.

Council member Sue Severson dissented when the rest of the Council next voted to adopt an ordinance for the creation of a senior overlay district at 2 Irwin Way and the Orinda Senior Village next door. Planning Director Emmanuel Ursu explained that the standards for the maximum height and number of stories for building on the old library site, which have not been changed from the original public use designation, are flexible. The Planning Commission can set the maximum allowable height at 35 feet, like the downtown commercial areas, at 25 feet, like the nearby residential areas, or at the height it feels is most appropriate.

Although the audience of about 50 who attended the meeting was uniformly in agreement with the concept of incorporating senior affordable housing into Orinda's landscape, not everyone agreed with the location or process and the issue of building height remained a sticking point.

"The location is amazing due to the access to transportation, retail, and other services," said Erik Andersen, a 28-year resident of Orinda. He recalled the public outcry against the building of the Orinda Senior Village back in the 70's and stated, "That project has worked out great, and [the concerns have been dispelled]. I encourage you to support this project."

In direct contrast, Planning Commissioner Chris Kniel stated that rezoning the prop-

erty was a mistake for a variety of reasons. He felt the parcel should remain designated for public use to better serve all Orindans versus what he termed one special interest group. Kniel also felt moving forward with decisions on this project conflicted with the City's pledge to get more resident feedback about the downtown planning process and building height.

"Our ability to do this is very limited. There is only one [viable] parcel that the City controls," said Council Member Amy Worth regarding the City's requirement to provide affordable housing to comply with State Housing Element law. Worth also noted that the City risked losing County funds that had already been committed to the development of the affordable housing project. "It's only by putting together these packages of local, state, and federal funding that makes it so Eden can make this project happen," added Council Member Steve Glazer. Eden Housing Senior Housing Project Manager Woody Karp agreed that rezoning the parcel and getting guidance from the Council regarding the applicable design standards were important steps to moving forward.

Orinda is committed to putting senior affordable housing at the old library site secondary to an agreement made with the developers of the Wilder project. The City received \$2.5 million in June of 2006, which was the approximate value of the land at 2 Irwin Way at the time, from Gateway, LLC for the development of senior housing at this specific site. Ultimately, the City can provide the land to Eden for the project, and use the Wilder payment for other City expenses. The property appraised at \$2.3 million about six months ago, according to Ursu, and the City will be required to contribute any shortfall to the senior affordable housing project.

Storypoles erected on the old library site over the summer to show the footprint, height, and scale of the building drew criticism from some residents and caused some Planning Commissioners to hesitate. Subsequently, the Planning Commission rejected the original conceptual design and sent Eden back to the drawing

board. In response, the building was pulled back off Orinda Way and Irwin Way and the number of units was reduced from 71 to 67, explained Karp. "There is a significant change in the presentation on the street as re-designed," he added.

The next step in the process will be for Eden to submit an application to the Planning Department. The Department's review of the application will take about three months at which point it will go before the Planning Commission for consideration. The Planning Commission's decision regarding the development will be final unless appealed to the City Council within 10 days.

### Affordable Housing— it's Required

The State mandates all cities carry their fair share of housing at all income levels in order to meet the regional housing needs of the area. Orinda's current allotment of new low-income housing is 70 units, and the proposed senior affordable housing project has been part of the City's Housing Element plan since 2004.

In Contra Costa County, the housing mandates are tied to the City's receipt of Measure J funds, which help to pay for road repairs—something Orinda sorely needs. "The City relies on Measure J funds for approximately 1/3 of its roads budget, according to Planning Director Emmanuel Ursu. Orinda's Measure J funds budget will amount to \$327,000 in 2011. State law also provides density bonuses and other incentives to developers of low-income housing. The Senior Housing overlay district approved by the City Council allows no more than 38 units per acre, however the application of the 35% state density bonus will enable Eden to build at a density of 50 units per acre on the 1.45 acre lot. Eden can also request up to three concessions, waivers or modifications of the building standards or parking, which they feel are necessary to make the project economically feasible. A. Firth

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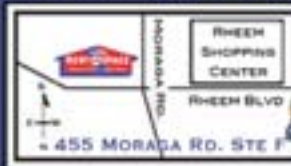


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# In Memory

## Karen Stafford



Passed away, Saturday, November 27, 2010 at age 65, after a long and courageous 18-year struggle with brain tumors. Karen grew up in Orinda and attended Miramonte High School from 1959-1963 and graduated from the University of Colorado, Boulder. She briefly lived in San Francisco where she met her first husband, Jon Rantzman, with whom she traveled around the world for two years in their VW van. Returning to Berkeley, she remained a world traveler, pursuing her career as a gifted photographer until it was cut short by her illness. Karen was a lover of the arts, theatre, museums, symphony and opera as well as a dedicated docent. She was a beautiful, loving, caring person, who never had a bad word to say about anyone and never complained.

Predeceased by father Paul Stafford and nephew Jason Hunter, Karen leaves behind her adoring family: mother, Virginia Stafford of Moraga; sister, Kathrine Hunter of Santa Rosa; niece, Kelly vanZutphen (Ben) and their daughters, Savannah, Liliana, Eloise and Georgie of Healdsburg. For the last 17 years, Karen has resided in El Granada, with her long-time partner, Fred Wright. Their favorite pastime was enjoying the beauty of the Pacific Ocean from their home and walking along the beach.

A memorial service will be held at a future date. For more information, contact Miller-Dutra Coastsides Chapel at 650-726-4474. Donations in her memory may be made to the National Brain Tumor Society at www.brain tumor.org or 124 Watertown Street, Suite 2D, Watertown, Mass. 02472.

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## Community Service

We are pleased to make space available whenever possible for some of Lamorinda's dedicated community service organizations to submit news and information about their activities. Submissions can be sent to [storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com) with the subject header In Service to the Community.

## Memorial Bench Dedicated to Eddie Roodveldt

Submitted by Gary Irwin



Friends of Eddie Roodveldt sit on the bench dedicated to his memory. Standing, Left to Right: Margaret Layshock, Don Miller, Dan Murphy, Jim Drennan, Nora Avelar, Lydia Avelar, Jose Avelar, and Marcela Avelar. Sitting, L to R too: Dotti Miller, Mary Drennan, Lillian Roodveldt, Al Simonsen, and Joan Ulrich. Photo submitted by Gary Irwin

A bench at the Moraga Commons was dedicated to the memory of prominent Moragan Eddie Roodveldt by his family and friends in early November. Funds for the bench and its maintenance had been donated by his friends and business acquaintances after his death from melanoma in February, 2008. Roodveldt and his wife, Lillian, had been Moraga residents since 1995 and were very active in both the Moraga and Lafayette Chamber of Commerce. He was a leader in establishing the Farmers Market in Moraga and a very active member of the Rotary Club of Moraga.

# Letters to the Editor



Share your thoughts with our community! Opinions in Letters to the Editor are the express views of the writers and not necessarily those of the Lamorinda Weekly. All published letters will include the writer's name and town (please give us your phone number for verification purposes only), and should be 350 words or less.  
email: [letters@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:letters@lamorindaweekly.com); Regular mail: Lamorinda Weekly, P.O.Box 6133, Moraga, CA 94570



Editor:  
I am writing in response to the reader who unfairly attacked Burger King in Moraga. I have never found the place "filthy" and find the staff extremely pleasant and hard working. If this reader has a problem with Dollar Tree they should direct it accordingly. In addition, you would have to be crazy to open a high end retail establishment in "our beloved Moraga". They can say all they want that they would shop at such but we all know this wouldn't be the case. And the argument that property values will suffer due to a Dollar Tree is just plain silly.

Tara Murphy  
Moraga

### Leaf Blowers

Editor:  
I was at the city council meeting and spoke against the proposed ban on leaf blowers.

QUIET ORINDA IS DISHONEST!  
The argument about particulate matter and pollution is phony and contrived. They seem to think all particulate matter in the air comes from leaf blowers. The arguments about particulate matter and pollution from leaf blowers are meaningless in the absence of any attempt to measure the quantity of such pollution caused by leaf blowers compared to the total amount of such pollution that exists. Until they come up with valid quantitative measurements, their word is worthless.

When asked what they would go after next, they claimed there would not be any followup attempts to ban other things that make noise. Due to their dishonesty about particulate matter, I do not believe them. Leaf blowers are quiet and tranquil when compared to the noise chain saws and wood chippers make. Yet those tools are as necessary as leaf blowers.

Maybe Quiet Orinda will not go away...but neither will we!

Henry R. Pinney  
Orinda

Dear Editor:  
From decade to decade I like to peruse articles on local concerns and letters to the editor to assess my own views of the world in relation to my community's and I am always richly rewarded. I was particularly rewarded in last week's (Nov 24) *Lamorinda Weekly*.  
On page one, I was shocked and disgusted to find that through-out my many years, I have been subjected to, "...*particulates* - the microscopic particles of fecal matter, herbicides,

and pesticides - made airborne by leaf blowers...." [Italics added]. My gosh, in all my years of intermittent listening to lawn mowers, chain saws, leaf blowers and the like, I had no idea that my very life was in danger, that, "... it's the particulates that will kill us."

How could I have known? (Maybe gardeners we see, dead on our sidewalks and filling our hospitals, dropping like flies from these highly offensive and dangerous *particulates*,- but that can't be).

Orinda organizer Jeff Segall certainly has a most reasonable response to this dreadful problem; twice each week this poor man is, "... forced to retreat indoors ..." [To protect his 3 year old twins and wife against] "... this onslaught of mow and blow *landscaping crews* ..." While I do not know how to protect myself from dangerous poo poo dust (yucky!) and unnamed killer toxins; I really must be honest here and admit that I have never personally noticed these airborne perils or their after affects, nor has anyone I know, but I guess we are just insensitive and unaware; the walking dead, so to speak.

I might also admit that the sound of leaf blowers and other machinery, on rare occasions, has annoyed me for 10 minutes or so - but not enough for me to tell my fine neighbors to stop cleaning their lawns and walks and not even enough to force me into my hermetically sealed home to protect my little children, long now grown up and healthy, from this impending airborne death.

Maybe Segall, Kendall and their ilk will take on those nasty base woofers in passing cars, the kind that rattle us to our bones. I want them to ban whatever annoys me and use any ridiculous hyperbole they can get into print, by golly!

Sincerely  
David K. Lindemuth

Dear Editor:

I am writing to thank the Orinda City Council for their unanimous vote to KEEP leaf blowers in Orinda. Years ago, summer vacationers were reluctant to come to Orinda because of our "foliage problem." It was not until the advent of the leaf blower, after which our meadows and orchards and streets were blown clean, that Orinda's population surged. It is very likely that, today, Orinda would suffer a sizable population decline if these implements were banned.

Historical documents show an even earlier and more important role for the leaf blower, particularly in the settlement of the American West. Meticulous records kept by the explorers Lewis & Clark show how often their mission faltered until Congress provided funding for the purchase of two, early model leaf blowers, allowing the explorers to clear a pathway through the mountainous, foliage-laden territory that we now call California and Oregon. Going further back in our history, it is a little-known fact that our first settlers brought with them on the Mayflower an early prototype of the leaf blower. It is rumored that Myles Standish refused to set foot on Plymouth Rock until the blower was gassed up and the debris swept from that outcropping. Thomas Jefferson later claimed he could not possibly have maintained his estate at Monticello, with all its deciduous trees, had he not been the beneficiary of Ben Franklin's redesigned leaf blower.

There has been much talk from the would-be blower banners about the deleterious health effects of blowers on children ("asthma in children has increased almost 200% in the last 25 years, etc."). This kind of emotionalism has no place in a debate about serious matters: put simply, what is to be done about the ubiquitous presence of fallen leaves, sticks, and

dog droppings on our lawns and driveways? Am I to allow this debris to accumulate simply because my neighbors' toddlers might contract asthma or another respiratory disease from the regular dispersal of particulate matter while they are at play? Councilwoman Severson struck the right note at November's meeting: if some Orindans are worried about the noise and pollution caused by leaf blowers, why can't they simply invest in triple-pane windows and remain indoors?

Many of those opposed to leaf blowers fail to understand the variety of useful tasks that this versatile machine can perform. Recently, when my wife's hair blower shorted out and we were faced with the prospect of arriving late for an important social engagement, I employed my leaf blower successfully in drying and curling Barb's perm. When my little terrier Toby had a piece of sirloin caught in his throat, I was able to dislodge the impediment by applying several blasts of forced air from my blower directly to his larynx, saving the animal's life.

It is unfortunate that some in this community put their own family's health and peace of mind before their neighbor's right to use whatever power tool he chooses. I applaud the Orinda City Council for having the good sense to silence those who beg for quiet and to place the right to a well-manicured lawn and an unblemished driveway above any public health concerns. I hope council members have placed a small replica of a blower in their Orinda time capsule, emblazoned with the inscription across its throttle, "Blow Free or Die: Orinda Then, Orinda Now, Orinda Forever." God bless them all.

Yours sincerely,  
J. Segall  
Orinda



## See's Candies Comes to Moraga – Kiwanis Holiday Fundraiser

Submitted by Bob Reynolds



Bob Reynolds in the Rheem store, next to TJ Maxx

Photo Sophie Braccini

To help fund its local charitable giving, members of the Kiwanis Club of Moraga Valley will operate two See's Candies fundraising locations at the Rheem Shopping Center until Christmas Eve. The main shop is next door to TJ Maxx, with a satellite location at the CVS store in Rheem. Kimco Corp. donated the shop space and CVS provided its prime lobby space, both at no cost.

Kiwanis President John Haffner said that the See's Candies shop will benefit Kiwanis' efforts to support children in Lamorinda, the larger community, and across the world.

Both locations will be open from noon to 6:00 p.m., Wednesday-Sunday, through December 24th. Both feature many of See's holiday favorites and gifts.

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## Natural, Compassionate Healing in Lafayette

By Sophie Braccini



Dr. Tara Levy (left) talks with office assistant Angie May

Photo Sophie Braccini

**D**r. Tara Levy is a young N.D. (Doctor in Naturopathy) who wanted to expand her Concord naturopathic practice. Naturopathic doctors are licensed by the State of California since 2006. They practice the art of healing based on natural therapies. They believe that health is a state attained

when body, mind and spirit are balanced. To foster that state, naturopathic doctors don't just treat symptoms, they look at the whole person. After ten years of practice in Concord, Levy is joined at 3186 Old Tunnel Road by two other licensed naturopathic doctors, Rebecca Green and Elizabeth Large, along with

a nutritionist, a mid-wife, and an acupuncturist.

Levy almost became an M.D. She was accepted at the Emory School of Medicine, but decided to take a year off to work in a conventional medical office. There she saw doctors who, driven by insurance companies, were forced to spend

less and less time with their patients. She determined that was not the type of medicine she wanted to practice and instead went to Vassar College where she earned her Doctorate in Naturopathy.

"We see all kinds of patients," explains Levy, "some have already been diagnosed by conventional doctors, but either are not feeling better or do not want to take so many drugs; others suffer from insomnia, high blood sugar, allergies, chronic fatigue, and are not finding responses elsewhere."

When Levy and her colleagues meet a patient for the first time, the consultation lasts an hour. During that time, the practitioners take a complete picture of the history, health concerns and life style factors of the client. She can order lab tests to complete the evaluation. The follow-up visits are 30 minutes on average. For Levy this a more satisfying way of caring for her clients.

For more information, go to [www.taranaturalmedicine.com](http://www.taranaturalmedicine.com), or call 949-8604.

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**Lauren Masi, PT, OCS, ATC**

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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**  
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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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# Life in LAMORINDA

## The Caldecott Tunnel—History in the Making

By Andrea A. Firth



Construction on the east side of the 4th bore of the Caldecott Tunnel, October 2010. Photo Albin Reinhart



Construction of bores 1 and 2 of the Caldecott Tunnel in the 1930's. Photo courtesy of the Orinda Historical Society

Tunnel building technology has changed significantly since a group of merchants from Oakland pooled their resources to fund the first hand-dug passageway through the hills over 100 years ago. What hasn't changed is how long it takes to tunnel through the dirt and bedrock between Orinda on the east side and Oakland on the west.

Construction of the 4th bore of the Caldecott Tunnel, which got underway in February of this year, utilizes a new Austrian tunneling method with a sophisticated piece of machinery called a roadheader that was shipped in pieces from

Germany and reassembled at the tunnel construction site. It will take about three and half to four years to complete the 4th bore, which is about the same amount of time it took to build bores 1 and 2 of the tunnel in the late 1930's and the third bore in the mid-1960's.

"Tunnel building is a slow, methodical process," said Jeff Weiss, Public Information Officer for Caltrans, in his presentation about the Caldecott Fourth Bore Project to the attendees of the Orinda Historical Society Annual dinner. Weiss was joined by Ray Mailhot, a 39-year Caltrans veteran and the de facto historian of the

Caldecott Tunnel, who shared his experiences as supervisor of the tunnel along with old photos and video footage.

"It was a wet, dark tunnel," said Mailhot, describing the original tunnel that opened in 1937. The 1,040 foot-long tunnel, which was first called the Kennedy Tunnel and later dubbed the Old Broadway Tunnel, was dug from both sides and did not meet in the middle creating a four-foot jog at the center. A few of the dinner attendees recalled going through the one-way, 17-foot wide passage built with timber supports. Travelers would set wads of newspaper on fire to signal drivers on the other

side to wait until they had passed through until a lantern system was put in place.

Traffic through the early tunnel had grown to 30,000 vehicles a week when construction on bores 1 and 2, known as the Lower Broadway Tunnel, began in 1934. "Bores 1 and 2 were completely hand-dug with the excavated dirt hauled out on train tracks," said Mailhot. "It was dangerous, and there were frequent cave-ins, almost weekly," he added. Up to 1,000 men living in temporary housing alongside the project worked on the bores at any one time, and three workers were killed in a cave-in.

Orinda resident John Kirby shared a postcard that his mother, Peg Kirby, had received confirming that she was one of the first one thousand individuals to travel through the Lower Broadway Tunnel when it opened in 1937—a trek she made on horseback. The twin bores are each 3,610 feet long with a 14-foot 10-inch vertical clearance and two 11-foot wide lanes without any shoulders.

Traffic through the Lower Broadway Tunnel had reached 55,000 vehicles a day before the third bore was opened in 1964 to help relieve the congestion. The third bore is a bigger and more sophisticated tunnel and may be one of the safest places to be during an earthquake, said Mailhot. He confirmed that the Wildcat Fault runs through the tunnel but added that he was told that the bore's construction could survive a strong shake. "The third bore is so well built. The walls of the tunnel are six to seven feet thick at four feet high."

The Caldecott Tunnel has not been without accident or tragedy. In 1982, a woman stopped her car inside the tunnel and got out to use the emergency phone. A gas tanker following her car struggled to stop and was then clipped by a bus that was barreling through. A 2,000 degree flame shot through the tunnel and seven people perished. "All of the tiles popped off the tunnel walls," said Mailhot, "It looked like a cave afterward."

... continued on page L2



Alex Gailas

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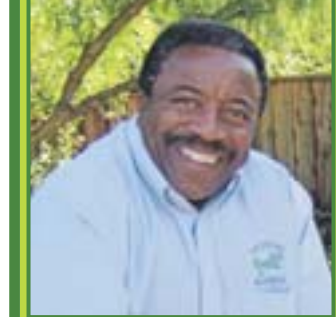
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## The Caldecott Tunnel—History in the Making

... continued from page L1



Construction of bores 1 and 2.

Photo courtesy of the Orinda Historical Society

The \$400 million 4th bore project will provide another two-lane tunnel north of the existing three tunnels. When complete, two bores will be dedicated to traffic in each direction to carry the 160,000 vehicles that traverse the tunnels daily and eliminate the need to switch traffic flow in the middle bore.

Construction of the bore has progressed about 420 feet since the tunnel excavator started to drill through the portal wall on the east side in August, said Weiss in his brief update on the project adding that drilling from the west side of the bore is scheduled to start soon. The tunnels won't meet in the middle but at a point about 2/3 from the east side. Construction is ongoing 24 hours a day, five days a week;

the excavated dirt is taken to Treasure Island to be used for landfill. The project, which received \$179 million in federal stimulus funds, currently employs a hundred peo-

ple and that number will grow to 250 when working at full capacity.

To see photos of the 4th bore project underway, go to [www.lamorindaweekly.com/caldecott.html](http://www.lamorindaweekly.com/caldecott.html).



Workers in the mud

Photo Ohlen Alexander



Jeff Weiss (on L) and Ray Mailhot

Photo Kent Long

### Caldecott Tunnel Trivia

Ray Mailhot, who gave thousands of tours of the Caldecott Tunnel during his tenure at Caltrans, displayed an encyclopedic knowledge of Tunnel history in his presentation at the Orinda Historical Society dinner. Here's some of the of the tunnel trivia he shared.

**What happened to the original Kennedy Tunnel?**

Mailhot heard that the retired tunnel was used to grow mushrooms in the 1940's after the Lower Broadway Tunnel opened. Eventually both ends of the Kennedy Tunnel were blocked off due to safety concerns. There is a flagpole and monument commemorating the passage near the old tunnel site.

**Why is there a bounce as you enter the third bore of the tunnel from the east side?**

"It's the ground water pushing up on the roadway," said Mailhot, noting that his crews had ground the roadway down to eliminate most of the bounce.

**How many people does it take to run the tunnel?**

There were approximately 65 people assigned to Mailhot's crew when he took over supervising the Caldecott Tunnel in the late 1970's. When Mailhot retired three years ago, the crew was down to a total of 20.

**It would have made sense to build the 4th bore when the third bore was dug, right?**

Mailhot agreed, but not surprisingly, money was the limiting factor.

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"We're not going to talk about that," said Mailhot with a laugh. "My guys used to work on that three or four times a week." He attributes the problem to an antiquated radio broadcasting system.  
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## Famous Tree Takes a Break

By Sophie Braccini



Last year's lights on the tree in front of Diablo Foods Photo Andy Schreck

Every November the proud Redwood tree that stands in front of Diablo Foods lights up for the holidays. But not this year. Ar-

borist Thomas Raeth of Lafayette Tree and Landscape, who has been taking care of the tree for 20 years, advised the Stokes family to give

the tree some room to breathe, and not turn on the bright garland of lights enjoyed by passersby over the last several seasons.

"We were told that the tree was stressed and needed more oxygen," says Connie Collier, daughter of Diablo Foods founder Ed Stokes, "so we dug up the asphalt around the trunk to increase the size of the bed, aerated the dirt around the roots and fertilized it." The garland, which has lain amongst the branches for seven years, was removed.

"What happens with a tree is that when something stays on it for a long period of time, the tree tends to try to incorporate it," said Raeth, "I saw signs that the tree was trying to 'digest' the wire and that could become dangerous. Additionally, the tree needed an extended footprint to continue to be healthy."

As the asphalt was removed from around the trunk, Raeth discovered a deep ring of concrete

that was choking the tree down to its root system. "It took two days to remove it," says Raeth, "but now, with the new planter, we've been able to inoculate mycorrhiza fungi and nutrients in the root system and we anticipate seeing some healthy growth from that tree."

"It's sad not to see the tree lit, but its health comes first," states Collier, "this is a landmark and we want to take good care of it." Although the Stokes family does not own the building or the parking lot, Collier says that they feel a sense of responsibility toward the tree.

"Next year we'll take out the dead wood, lightly prune it, and we'll be able to string new lights," says Raeth. He's expecting new white LED lights from Germany to be available next year, which will be "energy saving, longer lasting and less heat generating," adds Raeth's wife Tamara. "We are looking forward to lighting it again next year," said Collier.

## Yoga for Seniors, by a Senior

By Cathy Dausman



Charlie Bonney's Santa-esque beard is seasonal; he vows to shave it off come January. Photo Cathy Dausman



"Seniors? And yoga? Well, why not?!" Charlie Bonney designed a special half-dance, half-yoga class for the over 50 crowd beginning in January at Moraga's Hacienda de las Flores. Bonney, whose students sometimes call him "Swami Charlie," sees the importance of body movement as a way to keep joints open and arthritis and rheumatism at bay. "At 32 I couldn't touch

my toes," he said when he took up Ashtanga, a fast-paced yoga in Hawaii. To maintain flexibility in knees, elbows, back and other joints, Bonney maintains a "move it or lose it" philosophy. He credits yoga for doing the trick. A senior now himself (he's 67) he wants to teach a discipline that is kind to other seniors.

So Bonney starts slowly, with gentle dance movements

in the first hour, playing a mix of '50's and '60's rock and roll ("imagine you are a teen again,") and classical music to build body heat. The second hour is yoga composed of slow posture movements. The aim is to slow down, get a good stretch but stop before it becomes painful, he says.

Leather soles glued to lace-up walking shoes or sneakers offer best support and proper

glide; a shoe repair shop should be able to do the work. Students will also need a 5/8 or 3/4 inch thick yoga mat and leotards.

Classes start January 5 and run eight consecutive Wednesdays, from 10 a.m. to noon. Registration is by phone (925) 888-7045, online www.moraga.ca.us; or walk-in. The Hacienda de las Flores is at 2100 Donald Drive; on-site parking is available.

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• Dining • Dining • Dining • Dining • Dining • Dining •

**A Grape Walked into an Olive Bar...**

By Susie Iventosch

This wonderful recipe, sent to me by one of our faithful Lamorinda Weekly readers, Anna Morrison of Orinda, is most unusual ... and incredibly delicious, too!

I must admit, I was a bit leery of this concoction, created by epicurean Susan Jeter, and included in Robin Maxwell's novel, Signora da Vinci. Somehow grapes and Greek olives

did not seem the perfect combination to me, though I love each—separately. Still, it was an intriguing recipe and I decided to give it a whirl, making a few changes of my own.

Oh my gosh ... what my family had been missing for all of these years! The compote is divine when served over a mixture of goat, blue and cream cheeses on baguette slices toasted with olive oil and sea salt. I have now served this dish to guests at eight different gatherings and everyone, from college boys to 80-year old adults, has absolutely loved it!

The recipe calls for seedless red grapes, and even though I tried it with green grapes one time, I don't recommend it. It is best to stick to the red grapes on this one. Perhaps you could try adding some green Greek olives, too. We used just Kalamata, but I think cracked green olives would add a nice touch.

The compote can be made days ahead and refrigerated until ready to serve, and over the Thanksgiving holiday, when the oven was preoccupied, we also made the Grape-Olive compote on the stove top, cooking it down in a good sauté pan.

**Grape-Olive Compote over three-cheese spread**

**Ingredients**

- Compote*
- 2½ cups seedless red grapes, cut in half or quarters (measure after cutting)
  - 1½ cups pitted Kalamata olives, cut in half (measure after cutting)
  - 1 teaspoon dried thyme, or 1 tablespoon minced fresh thyme
  - ½ teaspoon sea salt
  - 2 tablespoons olive oil
  - 2 tablespoons balsamic vinegar
- Cheese spread (adjust quantities as you like)*
- ½ cup crumbled blue cheese
  - 1 cup cream cheese
  - 4 oz. Montrachet goat cheese



Grape-Olive Compote on 3-cheese spread.

Photo Susie Iventosch

**Directions**

*Compote*

Toss all together and place in a greased or sprayed, small casserole dish Bake at 350 degrees for 1 hour. Stir and cool. Refrigerate until ready to use.

*Cheese Spread*

In a medium sized bowl, beat blue cheese with an electric beater until as smooth as possible. Beat in cream cheese and goat cheese. Refrigerate until ready to use. Then spread in a round, about 1 inch thick, on a serving platter, and spread compote on top. Serve on crostini toasted with olive oil and a wee bit of sea salt.

**These recipe is available on our web site.**

**Go to: [www.lamorindaweekly.com](http://www.lamorindaweekly.com)**

Susie Iventosch is the author of *Tax Bites and Tasty Morsels*, which can be found at Across the Way in Moraga, [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com), and [www.taxbites.net](http://www.taxbites.net). Susie can be reached at [suziven@gmail.com](mailto:suziven@gmail.com).

Many of our readers like Susie's recipes. Our website now features a link to our recipe page where you can read, print or download all of the recipes we have published. If you would like to share your favorite recipe with Susie please contact her by email or call our office at 925-377-0977



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**Pilot No More**

*Lamorinda restaurants do their part for the environment*

By Sophie Braccini

**T**he commercial food waste recycling pilot was a success thanks to the valuable support we received from participating Lamorinda businesses," said Bart Carr, Senior Program Manager with the Contra Costa County Solid Waste Authority (CCCSWA). In fact it was so successful that the program is now a standard service offered to restaurants and food providers in CCCSWA's service area, which recently gave recognition awards to all of the Lamorinda establishments that participated in the pilot.

The program consists of sorting food scraps at the source, collecting it, and transferring it to an

EBMUD digester that transforms the waste into electricity and regurgitates soil-covering material. During the pilot phase, CCCSWA supported businesses by providing containers and training that made the transition easy.

"It's not difficult to implement," says Matt Carroll, General Manager of Sodexo Dining Services at Saint Mary's College, "We collected probably 2000 pounds of waste a week, and continued to divert some of the food waste for the campus' garden compost as well."

As the program expands on a voluntary basis CCCSWA, and its partner Allied Waste Services, are recruiting a full-time manager who



David Shields (El Charro) received a recognition award in Lafayette; from left, Shields, Paul Morsen, Mike Anderson, Carol Federighi, Bart Carr  
Picture courtesy of CCCSWA

will continue the training and support for this program. Carr indicates that the goal for the rate of expansion is of 10-12 new participating businesses per month. Some of the new participants in Lamorinda include Berg Senior Services (Moraga Royale) in Moraga, Mountain Mike's Pizza and Blue Ginko in Lafayette, and Trattoria Lupetti and Table 24 in Orinda. Carr noted that Safeway does not participate in the program because it collects its own fruit and vegetable waste and composts it in Livermore.

Read our April 1, 2009 article about the launch of the pilot program here: <http://www.lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue0302/CCCSWA-Turns-Commercial-Food-Scraps-Into-Electricity.html>

**Lamorinda Participants in the pilot Food Waste Recycling Project:**

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## Uh-Oh, Here Come More Scrooges!

By Cathy Dausman



From left, back row: Dave Pinkham, Sara Steenhouse, Ted DeAtley; front: Ben Fraticelli  
Photo Cathy Dausman

Just what the world needs—more Scrooges at Christmas! But Director David Pinkham gleefully points out that while most plays feature a single Scrooge, “we’ve got five!”

The Lafayette resident, along with four others, are presenting four free performances of “Uh-Oh, Here Comes Christmas”

at three Lamorinda venues December 16 through 20.

The two-act musical play is based on stories by Robert Fulghum, author of “All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten.” It pokes gentle fun at dealing with the hassles and realities of the Christmas season. “The silly thing [the script] sat on my desk for five

years” Pinkham says, before he decided to produce it. Three of the four performances use church venues, but “this is not a church play.”

The play employs a low key approach, using simple, unadorned performance space. The cast is tired in Christmas party casual. Five chairs, four poinsettias and one refrigerator set the stage. Everything -- props, costumes, lighting and sound equipment -- even venues-- have been donated. Admission is free, but audiences will be encouraged to donate to the Contra Costa Food Bank and the Town Hall Theater Education Program.

Pinkham has directed and performed in the East Bay for nearly twenty years. He directs Campolindo’s musical performances and works with Diablo Theater’s Stars 2000, California Academy of Performing Arts and The Lafayette Town Hall Theatre Company, where he is on the Board of Directors. This production came from his desire to work with an adult ensemble with some natural

story telling ability. There were no tryouts, laughs cast member Ben Fraticelli – “We were appointed!”

Joining Fraticelli in the cast are Sara Steenhouse, Ted DeAtley (also from Lafayette), and Carol Somerton. The cast met though their participation at Lafayette Christian Church, where Steenhouse is an Associate Pastor. DeAtley formerly taught at an elementary school in Bangkok, Thailand. Fraticelli is a “partially retired Executive Director” of the Community Health Academy in Oakland. Somerton is a Contra Costa County children’s librarian.

“Uh Oh, Here Comes Christmas” will be presented December 16, 7 p.m. at Lafayette Christian Church, 584 Glenside Drive Lafayette; Dec 17 and 18, 7:30 p.m. at Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church, 10 Moraga Valley Lane, Moraga and at 8 p.m., Dec 20, Lafayette Town Hall Theatre, 3535 School Street, Lafayette. Admission is free.

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## Festival of Trees Nearly Falls

By Sophie Braccini



Dianne Wilson with her dog Ranger

Dianne Wilson couldn’t help but feel proud at the sight of seven decorated Christmas trees, ready to be auctioned, in the side lobby of Moraga Royale. The Festival of Trees fundraising event that Wilson, the Executive Director of the assisted living facility, started planning last July almost didn’t happen – three days before the opening date most of her corporate sponsors bailed out.

Accomplishing a real tour-de-force, supported by staff, residents and their families, as well as two remaining sponsors (CVS Pharmacy and Hospice of the East Bay), Wilson managed to get all of her trees decorated and generously complete with gifts. The silent

auction started on December 1st closed on December 7th. All proceeds will go to the Rescue One Foundation, the organization that supports Moraga Orinda Fire District (MOFD) paramedics.

“MOFD comes here twice a month on average,” explains Wilson, “they are always very professional and kind, and their equipment, some of which was purchased with Rescue One donations, saves lives.” State law requires that the facility call them if a resident falls and bumps his/her head, even if it is a minor fall. Every time it happens, Wilson says, she gets the same graciousness and quality of service from MOFD.

“We are doing this for our residents, too,” adds Wilson,

Photo Ohlen Alexander

“they enjoyed the whole process as well as coming here and seeing the trees.” Wilson explains that some of the older residents do not feel confident venturing outside of the grounds and really appreciate activities and new entertainment on site.

Moraga Royale, a retirement community of over 80 residents, is located at the corner of Country Club Drive and Canyon. About 18 of the patients are part of the dementia unit that’s separate from the rest of the grounds. “We take these residents for a visit to the trees every day,” says Wilson, “and they enjoy it every time.”

It was the first time that such an auction was organized in Moraga. “I feel that this is

only a beginning and that this fundraising event has the potential to become bigger and maybe include a dinner and/or a fashion show,” says Wilson. For a first time, the display was quite impressive. Wilson added a ‘donation boot’ from MOFD where visitors could just contribute a few dollars to their favorite fire department.

Reflecting on what happened with the donors that fell short of their promises, Wilson concluded, “It’s like what is happening in the world, it’s the small, local people that are making it happen.”

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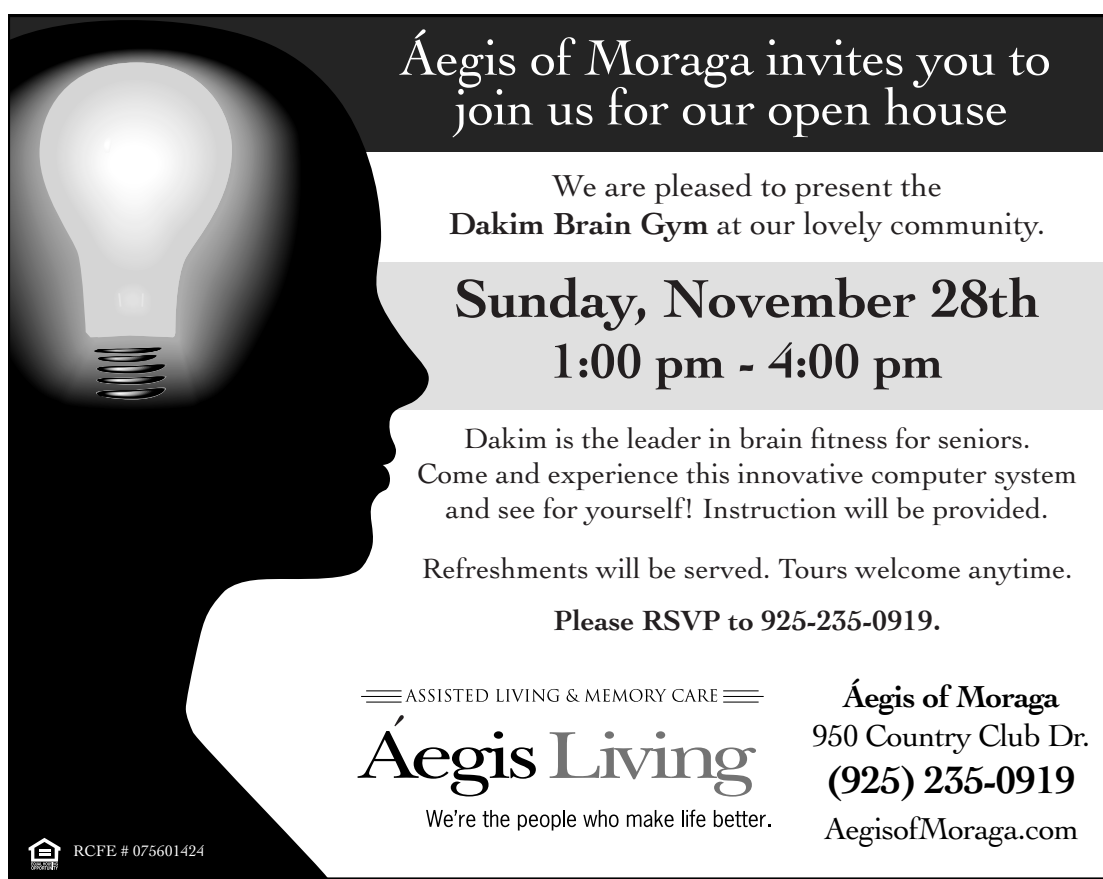



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# Campolindo Cross Country Runs Record Breaking Race

Carrie Verdon heading for Nationals

(Information from Campotrack.com and Wayne Verdon)

Campolindo's Cross Country had a record breaking finish to the season at the State Championships on Saturday, November 27 at Woodward Park. The team notched the second state title for Campolindo cross country, while breaking a Division III record and recording the fastest time since 1987.



2010 Campolindo Girls' Cross Country Team, from left: Grace Orders, Sarah Orders, Carrie Verdon, Juliet Farnan, Rachel Meadows, Sara Mostatabi, Haley Shipway  
Photo Wayne Verdon



Carrie Verdon (#291) won the North Coast Sectional race on November 20  
Photo Wayne Verdon

Leading the Cougars were junior Carrie Verdon and senior Grace Orders – both finished in the top five, in first and third, respectively.

Individually, each athlete's time was notable, Orders placed 62nd on the state's all-time list, and Verdon's 17:15 victory gives her bragging rights as the 10th fastest Californian ever. Verdon's time is now the DIII record.

Verdon and Orders traveled to the Western Regionals on Saturday. Verdon finished in fifth place and Orders came in eleventh. Verdon will race in the Nationals in San Diego this weekend.

Other Cougar top finishers included junior Rachel Meadows at 17th place, with an 18:32 finish, giving her the fifth all-time fastest time in school history. Senior Sara Mostatabi and junior Juliet Farnan also scored, both recording the best times of their careers. Sophomore Sara Orders and freshman Haley Shipway, in the sixth and seventh spots, out-paced every other team's number five scorer.

C.Graveson/W.Scheck

## Four Orinda Aquatics Swimmers Honored by Pacific Swimming

Submitted by Julie Carlson



From left: Mary Allison Ashby, Steven Stumph, Megan Liang, Sven Campbell, Coach Don Heidary  
Photo provided

On Sunday, November 21, four swimmers from Orinda Aquatics were recognized by Pacific Swimming, an organization of more than 100 clubs and 15,000 athletes. The swimmers were honored at a banquet at the Pleasanton Hilton attended by over 500 swimmers, coaches and officials. Mary Allison Ashby was

recognized for her swimming short course season in the 12-year old age group, in which she was ranked sixth in the nation for her 100 yard backstroke and set a Pacific Swimming record. She achieved top 10 finishes in Pacific Swimming for 50 free, 100 free, 200 free, 500 free, 50 back, 100 back, 200 back and 50 butterfly.

Sven Campbell was recognized for his long course season in the 15-year old age group, in which he was ranked third in the nation for his 100 meter freestyle and seventh for 200 free, ninth for the 100 back and seventh for 200 back. He also achieved top two finishes in Pacific Swimming for the 50 free, 100 free, 200 free, 100 back, 200 back and 200 individual medley.

Steven Stumph was recognized for his long course season in

the 16-year old age group, in which he was ranked fourth in the nation for his 200 meter breaststroke, fifth in the 100 breast, seventh in the 200 individual medley and sixth in the 400 individual medley. He also achieved top two finishes in Pacific Swimming for the same events, and placed tenth for the 100 butterfly. Steven also qualified for the 2012 Olympic trials.

Ashby, Campbell and Stumph are also ranked in the All-Time Top 100 of USA Swimming.

Megan Liang was awarded the Walt Eggert Disability Achievement Award for her performance and her inspiration over the past year. Besides being an integral part of the Orinda Aquatics team, Liang has traveled to the Paralympics in Texas and Canada, where she placed in the top 50 in a number of events.

## Miramonte Cross Country Improves at State Championships

Submitted by Alison Zamanian



Tyler Hanson Photo provided

It was a perfect running day for the 23rd annual State Cross Country Championships in Fresno where sophomore Tyler Hanson, representing Miramonte High School, placed 59th with a time of 16:16 on the challenging 5k course.

This course is not new to Hanson. He ran this course as a freshman, where he was 163rd with a time of 17:34. He also ran this course on for the Clovis Invitational on October 9th with a time of 17:22. Not only did Hanson run one minute and six seconds faster at State than he did at the Clovis Invitational, he ran a faster pace than he did at the North Coast Section Meet of Champions on November 6th, at a 5:15 per mile pace instead of the 5:17 per mile pace.

## Karate Kid Shines at the World Karate Championships

Submitted by Thomas Westernoff



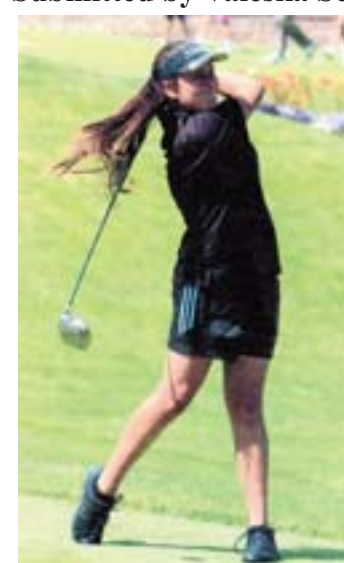
Haze Mach Photo provided

Karate & Fitness Place USA's Haze Mach returns home from the World Karate Confederation's WKC World Karate Championships held in Venice, Italy with a silver and a bronze medal.

Mach earned the silver in Kumite (Sparring or Fighting) in the 14-15 year old division and third place and the bronze medal in Kata (form) 14-15 year old division. Mach was honored at a medal ceremony, representing the United States with a flag wrapped around his shoulders.

## First Year, First Team

Submitted by Valeska Schultz



Elizabeth Schultz Photo provided

In her first year as a golfer, Acalanes High School freshman Elizabeth Schultz was selected for DFAL First Team. She ranked third in total points as an individual. In post-season play, Schultz finished top in at NorCal qualifier sectional, held at Sunol Golf Course, to qualify for the NorCal Sectional held at Lone Tree Golf Course in Antioch. Schultz finished four strokes short of going to the NorCal Championship.

From the entire MOL family,

# Thank You Joe!



MOL Football thanks Joe Cushing, for 12 years of service as coach, commissioner, and mentor to hundreds of local high school boys.







# SPORTS LAMORINDA'S LOCAL SPORTS

## Saint Mary's Falls 1-2 on the Road

By Bryant West



Rob Jones (#22) Photo Tod Fierner

Facing three of the best squads they will play all season, the Saint Mary's Gaels went 1-2 over the past week and a half, defeating Texas Tech 88-68 on Nov. 26 but

losing to #23 BYU 74-73 and #17 San Diego State 69-55.

These three games – especially the road contests against ranked BYU and San Diego State

– were important games for the Gaels, who hope to make it back into the NCAA Tournament again this year. With the exception of a 76-71 win over St. Johns on Nov. 15, the Gaels had played a weak non-conference schedule to begin the season, with wins against two NAIA teams and a 121-52 win at home against Chicago State.

Texas Tech may not have been up to the standard of the ranked BYU and San Diego State squads, but the Gaels 88-68 victory was one of the better of the season. The contest against the Red Raiders, held in South Padre Island, Texas, was the third round of the South Padre Island Invitational and earned the Gaels a spot in the Invitational Championship.

The Gaels dominated the Red Raiders down low with 48 points in the paint and shot 59.3 percent from the field. Backup big Tim Williams led the way with 20 points and 10 boards for his second double-double on the season, while senior guard Mickey McConnell had 18 points and sophomore Matthew Dellavedova had 10 points and eight assists.

The contest with BYU was the championship of the Invitational but also a preview of seasons to come. BYU will join the West Coast Conference next season and, along with Gonzaga and Saint

Mary's, makes the conference one of the more respectable mid-majors in the NCAA.

Saint Mary's took the largest lead of the game – 66-63 with 4:08 remaining – after two layups from Young. Dellavedova gave the Gaels a 70-69 lead with 25 seconds left after he sank two free throws.

Saint Mary's duelled the Cougars to a stand-still, but a three by Jimmer Fredette with ten seconds left put BYU up 74-70. Dellavedova missed a runner in the paint, and a three in the closing seconds from McConnell put the final score at 74-73.

"I was proud of the team, they played well and competed hard," head coach Randy Bennett said. "They know they played a good team and we played pretty well. If the shot doesn't go in it's a different feeling."

Junior forward Rob Jones had 18 points, while sophomore big Mitchell Young and McConnell had 12 points and Dellavedova had 11 points and five assists.

The Gaels fell behind early and couldn't come back in the 69-55 loss to #17 San Diego on Thursday. The Aztecs started the contest with a 14-2 run, capped off by a jumper from Billy White with 15:21 left in the half.

"We came in here and spotted them 10 points at the start of the game," Bennett said. "This was our

first true road game and it showed. I give them credit though. They exposed us. They exposed a lot of things. Most of all we have to get mentally tougher and be better competitors on the road."

Saint Mary's got back into the game – a layup from Dellavedova cut the lead to 23-19 – but the Aztecs pulled away after that and the Gaels couldn't recover.

"We started off flat and gave them a lead," Jones said after the loss. "We got back in the game, and then let them get away with it again. That's maturity on our part. We have to be tougher than that." Jones led the Gaels with 17 points, and Dellavedova chipped in 15, but the Aztec's

Chase Tapley had 14 and big man Thomas Malcolm had 12 points, six boards and six blocks.

The matchup against the Aztecs was the third meeting in three years for the Gaels, who saw their season end two years ago with an NIT loss at San Diego, but won a home contest against the Aztecs last season.

The Gaels return home to meet Denver tonight, Wednesday, December 8th. Saint Mary's has two more strong non-conference opponents – an away contest at New Mexico State on December 23rd, and a matchup against Mississippi State in Las Vegas on December 29th – before the start of conference play.

## Lamorinda Soccer Pre-Season Recap

DFAL Play Kicks Off Today

By Alex Kozela



Marco Tavecchio (#22) passed the ball to Matt Reshke (#6 far left) who scored for Campolindo in the 3-1 win over Northgate Photo Andy Scheck

The boys' high school soccer season has begun, and today serves as a big day for all the teams in the area – the Diablo Foothill Athletic League matchups start today. Campolindo, Acalanes, and Miramonte are all in action; here is how they have fared in the nonleague games leading up to DFAL play.

### Campolindo

The Cougars have begun their new season in stellar fashion with an impressive 6-0-0 record, conceding only three goals thus far while scoring 21. One year

after finishing with a 13-9-3 overall record, and a 4-6-2 league record, Campolindo is poised to build off their strong start. The team has overwhelmed opponents, racking up whopping non-league wins over Hercules (5-1), Northgate (3-1 and 4-0), and Mission San Jose (6-1). The Cougars open conference play today in San Ramon against Dougherty Valley, who they defeated last Saturday, 2-0, thanks to goals by Marco Tavecchio, who leads the team in assists with five, and Sam Palano. Matt Reshke leads Cam-

polindo in goals with seven, nabbing a hat-trick in the Mission San Jose win.

### Acalanes

After losing only four times last season, the Dons appear to be on the right track early on in their new campaign; they have maintained an undefeated record of 2-0-2 in non-league match-ups. The team has picked up resounding wins over Northgate (3-0) and De Anza (7-0), a game in which junior midfielder Bryan Berlier, who leads the team in goals, scored a hat-trick and senior forward Nick

Pereira added a deuce. The Dons also picked up draws against Heritage (2-2) and Las Lomas (0-0). The team has a big week ahead of them with rivalry games at Miramonte today and at home against Campolindo on Friday.

### Miramonte

After a disappointing year of finishing winless, the Matadors can only improve – they have started the year 1-2-1. After dropping the first two non-league games to McFarland (4-1) and Bishop O'Dowd (0-2), Miramonte has reclaimed its form with a 2-0 win over Irvington and a 1-1 draw with Heritage. The team will look to build on its two-game unbeaten streak today against local rival Acalanes.

## Lamorinda United 95 Girls Win League

Submitted by Benson Chan



Back row (from left): Lindsay Wilson, Jane Fessenden, Sarah Mills, Mali Tehaney, Carly Moran, Jordan Rowley, Julia Reshke, Megan Reid, Tori Kallerud  
Front row (from left): Annie Loose, Emily Orwig, Stephanie Munoz, Sam Martin, Kristen Chan, Maddy Jones, Regan Gong

Not pictured - Coach Pedro Osorio

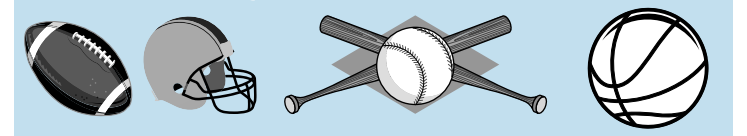
The Lamorinda Soccer Club (LMSC) girls' United 95 team won the Golden State Soccer League Under 15 Silver division. Building on a successful summer tournament season, the team went unde-

feated during the ten-game Fall 2010 league season -winning nine games while tying one (9-1-0). Employing "possession-style" play, the team's high powered offense scored a league-leading 43 goals while

the stingy "shutdown defense" surrendered a league-low nine goals. With only a brief break for the high school soccer season, the girls will be preparing for the State Cup championship tournament in March 2011.

Photo Brian Fessenden

## Youth Sports Registration



### PLAY RUGBY! Grades 1-12

Registration for Lamorinda Rugby Club is now open for the 2011 season! No prior rugby experience necessary, just a love of fast-paced contact sports. Practices start after Thanksgiving, Nov. 29. Youth season runs through March; High School finishes regular season end of April. Come on out! Register online at [www.LamoRugby.com](http://www.LamoRugby.com). For more info contact Nancy Taylor 925-253-1435, or check the website for FAQ and schedule info.

**Lamorinda Soccer Club 2011 Winter Weekend Clinics** begin in January for kids ages 6-13 years old. If you have a player who loved fall soccer, wants to try a new sport, or wants to see if traveling soccer is a good fit, come out to Bentley school to learn new skills, meet the coaches and have fun! For more information and to sign up, go to the LMSC website at [lamorindasc.com](http://lamorindasc.com) registrar@lamorindasc.com

If you would like to list the registration information for a youth sports club please email [wendy@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:wendy@lamorindaweekly.com) or call (925) 377-0977. B&W listing \$24 per inch, Color listing \$34 per inch.

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# SPORTS LAMORINDA'S LOCAL SPORTS



## Matador Football Turns Heads in Playoffs

By Alex Crook



Ross Anderson (9) drops back to throw

Photo Jordan Fong



John Coupin (33) blocks the pass

Photo Jordan Fong

Miramonte, the only Lamorinda high school football team to escape the first round of post-season play, defeated #11 San Marin in the second round on November 27 before falling in the third round to #2 Cardinal Newman on December 3.

Miramonte tied with Alhambra for the regular season league title with a 9-1 record and was given a third seed.

Miramonte blew by Anly in the first round to host San Marin. San Marin shocked Alhambra the week before.

Miramonte started their first drive confident, as back-to-back 14-yard runs put the Mats on the Mustangs' 16 yard line. However, in the next play junior quarterback Ross Anderson fumbled and turned the ball over.

Later, the Matadors drove down the field 86 yards to set up a one-yard touchdown run by senior running back John Coupin, which put the Mats up 7-0 late in the first quarter.

The second-team all-DFAL running back added another touchdown to finish with 16 carries for 125 yards. Behind Coupin, Miramonte rolled to a 23-0 shutout of San Marin to advance.

Coupin, like many of his teammates and coaches, was optimistic about a successful year and expected this playoff run: "I'm not that surprised actually, I thought we were going to be very strong from the very beginning of the season. I thought we had the potential to go undefeated."

The Mats, winners of their

last six, put their nearly perfect 11-1 record on the line a week later against a traditional powerhouse in second-seeded Cardinal Newman.

Cardinal Newman's defense showed up at the beginning and stopped Miramonte on their first possession. Newman gradually made their way down the field, and junior running back Stephen Tomasin punched it in from one yard out to put the visitors up 7-0.

Late in the first quarter, it was Miramonte's turn to drive and Anderson connected with Coupin on a screen pass that accounted for 23 yards, setting up a 15-yard touchdown run for Anderson within a minute to play in the quarter. The first twelve minutes ended in a 7-7 deadlock, but

it was Miramonte who carried the momentum.

Cardinal Newman stormed back with an answer on their ensuing possession, with a touchdown in the first minute of play of the second quarter as Tomasin again ran it in, this time from 30 yards out for a 14-7 Cardinal lead.

Newman rolled from there, as Miramonte was outscored in the quarter 21-3, with the lone field goal coming from 47 yards out from senior kicker Anthony Piganelli.

As the game went on, the Matadors tired out, and ended their playoff run with a 42-17 home defeat at the hands of Cardinal Newman. The Mats finished their season with an 11-2 record.



Anthony Piganelli makes the catch

Photo Jordan Fong

## State Champions!

Campolindo Volleyball Takes the Title

By Alex Crook

find more photos at [http://dckimages.smugmug.com/Sports/Volleyball/120410-Campolindo-Womans-Volleyball/14944703\\_XCEib#1115806227\\_mHwkb](http://dckimages.smugmug.com/Sports/Volleyball/120410-Campolindo-Womans-Volleyball/14944703_XCEib#1115806227_mHwkb) or go to [lamorindaweekly.com](http://lamorindaweekly.com) and click the link at the top of the story.



Left to right: Coach Scott Bishop, Anisa Smith, Mallory Loomis, Mary Vaccaro, Abbie Noland, Annie Shurtz, Chandler Moore, Brooke Standing, Lena Olufson, Sophie Seiberth, front row: Kit Koelzer, Sophie Smith, Stacy Drury, Cassidy Abel, Kim Condie

Photo Doug Kohen



Chandler Moore (#4)

Photo Doug Kohen

After countless hours of practice, patience and determination, the Campolindo girls' volleyball team finally got what they rightfully deserved, the Division III state championship.

The Cougars took down defending champion Cathedral Catholic, from San Diego, three sets to two on Saturday, December 4. Cathedral Catholic has played in the State Championship the last three years but Campo came prepared with a game plan that didn't need much alteration. Head coach Scott Bishop said, "Other than changing serving targets, we stuck to our game plan. We scouted them extensively."

Both teams came to play in the most important match of the year, and Campo had been preparing for handling the pressure all season. Bishop said: "From day one we teach that 'Pressure is a Privilege and Champions Take Risks.' We seek out pressure knowing that it has the opportunity to teach and grow. We try to distance our focus

on rewarding the win and only praise them for stepping up to meet that challenge."

Campo captured the momentum in the first set of the match. Both teams exchanged a one point lead early in the opening set, until four straight points for the Cougars gave them the edge in the first game.

Cathedral Catholic senior hitter and captain Taylor Milton led a comeback, and the Dons tied the score at 23.

Again, the one point lead went back and forth, but Campolindo held on to edge out the win in nail-biting fashion, 27-25.

The second set went almost identical to the first, with the designated host Cougars starting strong, and Cathedral Catholic fighting to get back into it. Late in the set, Campolindo rattled off three consecutive points, including a block by Cougar senior middle blocker Chandler Moore, tying the score at 20 and forcing Cathedral to call

time. But Campo held on to win 25-23 in the second set.

Campo fans started to believe that it would be possible to win their first state championship since 2006. On the other side of the court, Cathedral Catholic had other plans.

In set three, it was the Dons' turn to control the pace and Cathedral Catholic found their rhythm, with Milton leading the way. Despite three straight hits landing out of bounds, the Dons powered their way to a 25-21 set victory to force a fourth set.

In set four, things would again go Cathedral's way, as the Dons led the entire set to more comfortably force a fifth and final set, 25-18 and tie the score at two sets apiece.

The fifth set was hard fought and again the teams traded points early. The final point was won off a long rally which ended with Cathedral Catholic's error.

"I am very pleased to have had the opportunity to see them win in this manner. It made the victory so sweet," Bishop said.

Senior Campo hitter Mary Vaccaro was named Finals Most Valuable Player for her outstanding contribution to Campo's championship win; she recorded a double-double with 20 kills, 17 digs.

Vaccaro pointed to team effort as key to the team's success: "This season has been the greatest team experience for me, and I have never been on a team where everyone cares about each other so much. This season and state title were a total team effort, and that is what allowed us to beat teams throughout the season that looked better on paper, and to win the state title beating the best team we have faced all year. We have great individual players, but the best part about us is that we come together as a team more so than any other teams that center around one or two star players."

Vaccaro will play for West Point next year.

The Campolindo girls' volleyball team has a slogan of "Si Se Puede." The popular translation from Spanish is, "Yes we can." All season long, these Cougars never took their eyes off the prize and, in the end, their determination rewarded them with a state title.

Acalanes High School • Bentley School • Burton Valley • Camino Pablo Campolindo • Contra Costa Jewish Day School • Del Rey Donald L. Rheem • Glorietta • Happy Valley • Joaquin Moraga

# Lamorinda Schools

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

## The New Bullies Among Us

*Cyberbullies take it to a whole new level*

By Jean Follmer

There have always been and will always be bullies. Long dismissed as "kids will be kids," a mere glance at recent news indicates the national thought on bullying is maturing. Bullying practices have become crueler and resulting suicides are getting national attention. A number of character development programs are present in our schools and operate with varying degrees of success. The newest challenge is cyberbullying.

"I think it's been pretty effective - we've seen good results; we've seen improvement," said Sharon Pincus, Moraga School District Director of Pupil Services, about the Safe Schools Ambassador Program at Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School (JMIS). The results of the latest Healthy Kids survey indicate that JMIS still has a significant problem with bullying - 40% of 7th graders reported that they have been harassed at school. (The percentages are 29% in Lafayette and 31% in Orinda.)

"We take bullying incredibly seriously. Every principal goes into each classroom three or four times a year to talk about it. We hold annual assemblies like Day of Respect at Stanley and then bring the students together to talk in small groups," said Rachel Zinn, Lafayette School District Director of Curriculum and Instruction.

Cyberbullying comes into play at the middle school level. "Students are not to be using electronic devices during school hours," said Lisa Bissell, Orinda Union School District Director of Curriculum and Instruction. However, the District can't prevent access to social networks like Facebook after hours. All three

districts allow for anonymous reporting of cyberbullying even if it takes place outside of school hours.

"Cyberbullying has increased and our high schools are taking different measures to address it. Data suggests that kids are on-line at least 1 1/2 hours per day so cyberbullying is perhaps a more accessible way to bully," said Dr. John Nickerson, Acalanes Union High School District Assistant Superintendent of Education Services. Nickerson added that cyberbullying seems to peak in middle school because it appears to be most common with incoming freshman. The high schools have Diversity Committees and older students let the incoming freshman know: "We don't do that here; this is high school and that's not cool," said Nickerson.

Stanley Middle School Principal David Schrag agrees that middle school is the birthplace of cyberbullying. He says it's much more common amongst 8th graders than it is amongst 6th graders. Most incoming 6th graders have just gotten their first cell phones and Schrag said they're so engrossed in the early stages of texting that they haven't progressed to social networking sites like Facebook.

"The bullying and making inappropriate choices is much more common in the older grades," says Schrag. He says there is a strong correlation between middle school cyber-bullies and middle school students who have siblings in high school. Many of those middle school students are "Facebook Friends" with high school students so are part of a more advanced on-line culture.

Due to the Child Online Protection Act of 1998, kids are not legally allowed to use Facebook or other social networking sites until the age of 13.

"The Child Protection Act was intended to protect children under 13 from objectionable content and predators; kid-on-kid harassment was not contemplated at the time," since social media sites like Facebook weren't around yet, said Annie Fox, a nationally renowned Bay Area author, lecturer and blogger.

Fox recently launched a new anti-bullying campaign called "Cruel's Not Cool!" Even though 13 is the minimum legal age to use social networking sites like Facebook, Fox said it's not a magical age. "Sixth and 7th graders have no business using Facebook and 8th graders have to be monitored (by parents)," she stated, adding that unlike adults, kids have a hard time ignoring online criticisms. "They can't just disengage - then it escalates due to a lack of self-control."

Kids often don't tell their parents or another adult they've been bullied on-line. "Kids who are targeted by friends are ashamed. They are afraid if they tell their parents (about the bullying), they will take away their computers and phone," she noted.

Schrag agrees that parents need to monitor the on-line activities of their kids more closely. He said a lot of parents aren't comfortable using the technology so don't know how to adequately monitor their children.

The Lafayette School District recognizes a strong need for parent education in this area and

brings in regular speakers. "Last year we brought in Dr. Richard Freed who spoke on Losing our Children to the Internet, Video Games and Texting and this spring we are bringing in Larry Magid to address this subject," said Lori Brueckner, Lafayette School District Parent Education co-chair.

So, who are these cyberbullies? Often, they're children of adult bullies. "They are the kids who are picked on by parents or are exposed to an abusive marriage. They're also children who are over-indulged at home or are at the center of the marriage. They are the kids of 'Velcro-parents' who constantly send texts to their kids throughout the day," said Fox.

Like Nickerson, Fox said technology has made it easier to bully others. Why? "You don't have to see their face; you just type it, hit send and drop your bomb," describes Fox. It's so much easier to be mean to other people when you're not there to see the hurt in their eyes, to see them cry or to know they don't want to go to school tomorrow because of you.

"It's not a technology issue, it's a parenting issue. It's a permanent electronic footprint (these kids are leaving)," continued Fox. If we're not careful, she said, we'll lose our ability to relate to each other emotionally. If we're buried in our screens as our primary source of communication, our species will unlearn the meaning of facial expressions. "Does this look like a happy face? Do I look happy right now?" will be lost on us, said Fox.

For more information on Annie Fox and Cruel's Not Cool!, visit [www.anniefox.com](http://www.anniefox.com).

## SCHOOL CALENDAR

**Acalanes Union**  
High School District  
Board Room AUHSD Office  
1212 Pleasant Hill Rd, Lafayette

**TONIGHT** Wed., December 8, at 7:30pm  
Wednesday, January 12, 7:30pm

**Lafayette School District**  
LAFSD Office  
3477 School Street, Lafayette

**TONIGHT** Wed., December 8, at 7pm  
Wednesday, January 12, 7pm

**Orinda Union School District**  
OUSD Office  
8 Altarinda Road, Orinda  
Monday, January 10, 4pm

**Moraga School District**  
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School Auditorium  
1010 Camino Pablo, Moraga  
Tuesday, December 14, at 7:30pm

## Family Focus

# How to Raise a Disrespectful Child

By Margie Ryerson, MFT

Now that we're approaching the holiday season, there will be more opportunities to teach your child appreciation and respect for others. There will be gifts, gatherings with relatives and friends, more time together as a family, and opportunities to perform charitable deeds.

No one sets out to raise a disrespectful child. But if you're not vigilant and highly determined, you may contribute to your child's poor attitude and behavior. Here's how a disrespectful child is produced and reinforced:

- Always allow your child to interrupt your conversation with others. Immediately give him your attention, even if it's to scold him about interrupting you. This will help him feel he has the ability to get your attention, either positively or negatively, whenever he wants.

- When your child whines, shouts, or pouts, be sure to pay a lot of attention to him. This will help reinforce these behaviors so he will continue doing them.

- Allow your child to correct or contradict you as much as possible. If the details are truly insignificant and if he does this in front of others, he will definitely be on the path to becoming a disrespectful child.

- Tolerate your child's mistreatment of his siblings. If he is younger, be sure to always assign blame to his older brother because, after all, "your older child should know better." Find ways to excuse your child's misbehavior with his siblings and friends.

- If your child comes home from school complaining about his teacher, be sure to automatically agree with him, and then call or email the teacher to rebuke her. Let him see how easily he can undermine his teacher's authority and at the same time avoid responsibility for his own behavior. Better yet, don't check out the situation with his teacher at all. Go straight to the principal to complain.

- If you hear from the school that your child is bullying others, don't believe it. Your child would never act in this way. It must be the other children who are trying to get him in trouble. As a matter of fact, your child is probably the one being picked on. Give your child a lot of reassurance and support.

- Let your child hear you criticize

his teacher, the school district, other parents, and those in authority. He will learn that it is okay to disrespect adults and institutions.

- Allow your child to say mean things to you, and even curse you out, without responding. You may think ignoring this behavior is best, but he is actually succeeding in disrespecting you.

- Let your child hear you make fun of others behind their backs. Ridicule their behavior, appearance, and lifestyle choices. If he joins in with you so that you laugh together, he will learn to become even more disrespectful of others.

- Find fault with your child easily and nag him often. Make him work hard for a compliment from you. Be sure to label him in negative ways, such as telling him he's lazy or selfish or ignorant. This way, he will develop low self-esteem and will tend to not care how he behaves. He will also be likely to have resentment toward authority.

- Do nice things for your child -- buy him something special, throw him a great birthday party, take him to a special event -- and don't insist upon receiving a "thank you." After all, you enjoy giving to him, and seeing him happy is your reward. He will then expect you to cater to him without any responsibility or reciprocity on his part.

As parents, you want to give your child everything he needs to become a successful, fulfilled person. This season give him the gift of ensuring he respects others so that he will be better able to respect himself.



**Margie Ryerson, MFT,** is a marriage and family therapist in Orinda and Walnut Creek. Contact her at 925-376-9323 or [margierye@yahoo.com](mailto:margierye@yahoo.com). She is also available for parenting consultation.

## China, Here We Come!

*With the help of the Lamorinda community, Campolindo Orchestra prepares to go to Beijing*

Submitted by Carola Ziermann



Photo Brian Goto

The Campolindo Orchestra, invited by the Chinese Ministry of Culture and the International Fine Arts Institute to perform in Beijing, China, during Spring Break 2011, is getting an overwhelming response to their Rent-A-Student and other fundraiser activities.

The Rent-A-Student program, which was launched to

help students who need scholarships and to earn money for the general trip fund, is running very successfully. Tessa Cunha, the student who coordinates it, is very busy matching students with job requests. "There are 21 students actively enrolled in the program right now. Requests range from babysitting to help with electronics such as i-pods

and computers, but also housework and gardening are in demand. I also had requests for musicians to play at luncheons and even at a wedding", says Cunha.

Music Director Harvey Benstein is proud of his students. "These are exciting times in the music program at Campolindo as the students prepare to perform in Beijing in April," he says. "Throughout the school year the orchestra will build its tour repertoire. One of the pieces will be Aaron Copland's "Appalachian Spring" in its original scoring and instrumentation."

The Campo Music Boosters is experiencing record high numbers of visitors to their website since the China trip was announced. "Our community is so supportive and everyone is very interested in what's going on with our China trip planning" says Sue Carlson, the Music Boosters Fundraising Chair for

the trip. "Local businesses like Lamorinda Music show their support not only with financial contributions, Pizza Antica in Lafayette held a fundraiser night for us, Mountain Mike's Pizza helped us raise money with a coupon sale and Moraga Movers has hired a student string quartet for their Christmas luncheon.

Even some Campolindo teachers collected money to contribute to the trip fund. Campolindo High School Principal Carol Kitchens is very impressed with all the activities going on. "Students, parents, teachers and entire community are pulling together. This also shows how much pride we all take in our school. With so much support, I'm confident we will make this trip happen."

For more information about the orchestra's trip to China and upcoming events go to the website [www.campomusic.org](http://www.campomusic.org).

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

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**Publishers/Owners:** Andy Scheck; [andy@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:andy@lamorindaweekly.com), phone 925-330-7916  
Wendy Wuerth-Scheck; [wendy@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:wendy@lamorindaweekly.com)

**Editor:** Lee Borrowman; [lee@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:lee@lamorindaweekly.com)

**Advertising:** Wendy Wuerth-Scheck; 925-377-0977, [wendy@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:wendy@lamorindaweekly.com)

**Staff Writers:** Sophie Braccini; [sophie@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:sophie@lamorindaweekly.com)  
Cathy Tyson; [cathy@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:cathy@lamorindaweekly.com)  
Andrea A. Firth; [andrea@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:andrea@lamorindaweekly.com)  
Sports Editor: Caitlin Graveson

**Contributing Writers:** Dean Okamura, Cynthia Brian, Linda U. Foley, Conrad Bassett, Susie Iventosch, Moya Stone, Roslyn Aragon Stenzel, Lucy Amaral, Alex Crook, Alex Kozela, Bryant West, Cathy Dausman

**Photos:** Tod Fierner, Doug Kohen, Jordan Fong, Ohlen Alexander

**Circulation:** 24,200 printed copies; 23,200 mailed to homes & businesses in Lamorinda. 1,000 delivered to pick up locations.

**Layout/Graphics:** Andy Scheck, Jonas Scheck, Amanda Griggs. Printed in CA.

Lamorinda Weekly, P.O. Box 6133, Moraga, CA 94570-6133  
Phone: 925-377-0977; Fax: 1-800-690-8136; email: [info@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:info@lamorindaweekly.com)

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- Dreaming About Golden Gate Way
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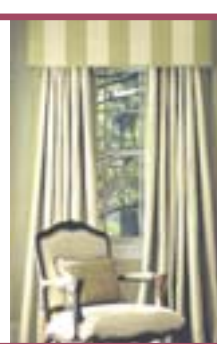


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# Happy Holidays

## Lafayette Home a Christmas Extravaganza

By Cathy Tyson



Lu Huish surrounded by some of her treasures



Photos Andy Scheck



find more photos at [www.lamorindaweekly.com/christmas-extravaganza.html](http://www.lamorindaweekly.com/christmas-extravaganza.html)

When 94-year-old Lucienne "Lu" Huish came to California as a young woman, she fell in love with the state, got married, raised her children here and never left. Besides the vibrant economy and sunshine – the golden state offered a real contrast to her childhood in Des Moines, Iowa. Coming from a family with seven children, Christmas was a very modest affair; their home was fairly spartan.

The yellow house on a corner in the Hamlin Road neighborhood, her home since 1972, could not be more different. Every room and every surface is decorated in an amazing array of holiday decorations, collected over a lifetime. "I do this all on my own," she admits, but adds that occasionally neighbors will help out. They call her the "Christmas Lady."

Living room, dining room, bed-

rooms and bathrooms are covered in neat groupings of Santas, sleighs, reindeer, nutcrackers, multiple table top trees, with tiny lights and sparkling ornaments. Although she calls it all "a bunch of junk" collected from dime stores and her one-time antique business – it's clearly a labor of love. She jokes about her favorite feather Christmas trees saying, "I'm taking them with me to the grave." The seven foot tall giant Santa near the front door is bequeathed to the Shriner's Burn Center. She's already given away quite a few items to her kids, neighbors and just had a garage sale last month, but by all appearances there's no shortage in the house.

Huish proudly points out the village that came as a kit that her husband put together, purchased when Disneyland first opened in 1955. The lit buildings and town square are poised on

plywood above a bathtub. She frets that whole thing might collapse if it's moved.

She and a lady friend had an antique business many years ago. At that time they came across feather trees from Germany – the original artificial tree. "You don't see them anymore – they get old like we do," she said, referring to a white tree that has faded to beige over the years. "I'm partial to the white ones." Every room is filled with six or seven feather and man-made trees along with an explosion of holiday decor.

Even a dollhouse that was a gift to her daughter on her first birthday is fully loaded with miniature furniture and holiday themed accoutrements. "I remember it cost \$17. Back then that was a lot of money."

She's quite independent and busy these days – going to ballroom dancing in Pleasant Hill and helping out a

disabled family member who needs help running errands, also working at a food bank in Oakland.

Her father came to this country from Switzerland, and received his citizenship in 1923 – he was sponsored by a jeweler in Iowa, so that's where the young family settled. After high

school, Huish worked in an ordnance plant in Des Moines. One of her older sisters had come out to California and persuaded her to come west with stories of good looking soldiers and sailors. As the second youngest sibling, Lu reflects, "They are all gone now, I'm the last one left."

## Sneetches Spotted in Orinda

By Lou Fancher



Photo Ohlen Alexander

Liz Piatt's Orinda home is being overrun by Dr. Seuss characters and she isn't going to take it anymore.

Instead, she's sending The Cat in the Hat, a pair of Six-foot Sneetches, Horton the Elephant, Thing One and Thing Two, and more than 50 other soft, hand-sewn sculptures she created to Orinda Books.

The December exhibit, reflecting children's universal love for Ted Geisel's books and the store's mural, painted by Gerry Wallace years ago, will be installed for the entire month of December.

Piatt, better-known for her fabulous quilts—one of which hangs in the new Walnut Creek Library—took up the Seuss project at the request of her second son, Brad.

"One of my grandsons graduated from Campolindo in June 2009," she said. "The high school parents go all out to decorate the gymnasium, the

auditorium and the outside area between the two. My son and his wife Trish asked me to help with the decorations."

The theme was Seuss and Piatt described the project: "They did a water scene with actual water, so I made a whole bunch of fish. Then there was a corner with Sneetches. I made two Sneetches that were taller than I am. I think they were about six feet tall," she paused, took a deep breath, and continued, "I did *There's a Wocket in My Pocket*—I made all the characters from that book. I think it's 23 characters. Oh, and there was a fourth corner where I made the two beetles."

After the graduation ceremony, a few sculptures were given to students, but most of them traveled back to Orinda.

... continued on page H4



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**Reception Honoring Elementary School Artists** at Lafayette's Town Hall Theater, December 11, 6:30-7:30pm. Fastframe of Lafayette has again sponsored "The Luck of the Draw", a collection of budding young artists' original artwork. Local school children entered their artwork in a drawing coordinated by LASF, and the lucky winners received complimentary custom framing from Fastframe. Call Fastframe owner Anthony Ruiz at 283-7620 for more information.

**Through December 24 from 11am to 4pm, Winter Wonderland Annual Holiday Exhibit** at the Lafayette Gallery, 50 Lafayette Circle, Lafayette. Painting, prints, photography, unique artistic ornaments, ceramics, watercolor and more. Special Trunk show with crafts on 12/11. For more information call (925) 284-2788 or go to www.lafayettegallery.net.

**Celebrated artist Pam Glover has works on exhibit** at Allison McCrady Fine Arts. The gallery is located in Orinda Theater Square, suite 130, hours are noon to 4pm Tuesday-Saturday, call for an appointment this time of year! For information call (925) 788-5866.

### MUSIC

**Friday December 10 from 1:30 - 3:00pm, Lafayette Senior Services** presents the Devil Mountain Chorus for their annual Gala Holiday Fund Raiser event. This four part a cappella group of male vocalists will celebrate the season with the LaDiDa Trio wrapping up the show. Refreshments and

raffle prizes. Funds raised go towards the Spirit Van Program that supports seniors who no longer drive. Tickets are \$3 for members and \$5 for non-members. Event takes place at the Lafayette Community Center, 500 St. Mary's Road. For more information call (925) 284-5050.

**Saturday and Sunday, December 11 & 12, 4pm Christmas Concert** at the Lafayette Orinda Presbyterian Church: Tidings of Comfort & Joy. Featuring Finzi's In Terra Pax and Mechem's Seven Joys of Christmas with Beverley Jane Peatross, soprano, and Nick Hengl, baritone, and the LOPC Festival Choir and Chamber Orchestra. Caroling and other favorites, too! Admission is free but advance tickets are required, all 600 seats will likely get taken. Go to www.lopc.org or call (925) 283-8722 for information.

**Voci Women's Vocal Ensemble, conducted by Jude Navari,** presents "Voices in Peace X," featuring the Jupiter Chamber Players. Sunday, December 12-4pm Lake Merritt United Methodist Church, Oakland. \$20 general, \$17 students, seniors and groups, free for children under 12. Available at the door or online at www.vocisings.com. For more information call (510) 531-8714.

**Sunday December 12, 4pm, Our Savior's Lutheran Church Choirs** with special guests the St. Francis Choir of St. Francis Lutheran Church, San Francisco under the direction of Dr. David Schofield. Enjoy a festive afternoon of choral and handbell music followed by a reception. Enjoy the choirs at 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette (925) 283-3722.

**Yours, Mine and Ours: Welcoming the Baby Together.** A free concert of Christmas favorites, including an audience carol sing, featuring the combined singing and ringing choirs of Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Lafayette, and St. Francis Lutheran Church, San Francisco. Sunday, December 12, 4:00 pm at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 1035 Carol Lane in Lafayette; More information at www.oslc.net

**December 13, the East Bay Contra Costa Wind Symphony** celebrates the holiday season in a festive concert of carols and other selections with the Contra Costa Children's Chorus, harpist Shannon Polley, vocalist Vanessa Anderson, guitarist Julio

## Not to be missed

Reyes, and sports announcer Dick Callahan. 7:30pm, at the Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Drive, Lafayette. Admission free. For more information go to www.ccwindsymphony.org.

### THEATER

**California Academy of Performing Arts presents "The Nutcracker"** December 10-12 at Campolindo Performing Arts Center. With more than 100 performers and extra characters & surprises, dancers from five to eighteen years put on a brilliantly narrated full-length performance. For more information and tickets, please contact: www.cacadance.net or call (925) 376-2454.

**The Orinda Ballet Academy & Company** (Artistic Director, Patricia Tomlinson) will present "A Sweet Dream Nutcracker" in the Orinda Library Theater, Dec 10 - Dec 12. Both evening and matinee performances. Tickets for children & adults: \$15. Contact: Jane Black (925) 254-0877 or email: eg-black47@aol.com.

**On Dec 11th, 2010, 11am, the California Independent Film Festival** will screen "Christmas Story" at the New Rheem Theatre. This is an installment to their very successful and popular Classic Film Series. Scott "Flick" Schwartz will be on hand to do a live Q&A with the audience. Tickets are available at the newrheemtheatre.com or box office of the New Rheem Theatre. Prices are \$12-Gen Admission; \$8 -Seniors, Students & Children.

**S.T.A.G.E. Troupe, teen theater in Pleasant Hill,** will present eight showings of the "North Pole Revue," an original holiday musical, from Dec. 3 -12, 2010 at the Winslow Center, 2590 Pleasant Hill Road. The teen actors come from all over Contra Costa County. The classic holiday show takes place at the North Pole, and features elves Jack and Dolly as they prepare for the holiday season. It also includes dancing reindeer and trees, and an appearance by Santa and Mrs. Claus. This fun-filled holiday spectacular is appropriate for all ages. For more information or to purchase tickets (\$12 in advance or \$15.00 at the door), please contact the Pleasant Hill Recreation and Park District at (925) 682-0896 or www.pleasanthillrec.com.

**The family favorite, Scrooge! The Musical** returns to Town Hall Theatre in Lafayette this December. The Musical runs through December 19. For tickets and ticket information contact Town Hall Theatre Box Office at (925) 283-1557, or purchase online at www.TownHallTheatre.com.

**Galatean Players Ensemble Theatre is celebrating** the 15th Year Anniversary of the popular children's musical Whiskers! (an adaptation of Margery Williams' classic The Velveteen Rabbit) by Caroline Altman playing at the Leshner Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek, Dec. 11-20. Tickets are \$10-\$15 and are available by calling (925) 943-7469.

**The Peter Pan Foundation presents:** "Twas the Opening Night Before Christmas," Sat., Dec. 18 (7pm) & Sun., Dec. 19 (1 & 7pm) at San Ramon Valley High School Performing Arts Center (501 Danville Blvd., Danville, CA). Tickets: www.peterpanfoundation.org. Proceeds benefit local charities - such as Children's Hospital & Research Center Oakland, and others.

### KIDS, PARENTS & TEENS

**Kids & Connection: Personal and Emotional Safety** in a Changing World. Thursday, December 9, 7-9 pm at the Lafayette Public Library- Arts & Discovery Center,

3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Panel discussion, Q&A, demonstrations and resources to aid parents in helping children develop healthy personal relationships. Topics include fostering resiliency and talking with children and teens about difficult topics, setting boundaries, and regaining emotional safety after stressful events. Presented by the Bay Area Psychotherapy Training Institute (BAPTI). For more information call (925) 284-2298.

**Orinda Academy is offering an Open House** for prospective families on Saturday December 11th from 1-4pm. There will be campus tours at 1:00 and an informational meeting at 1:30. Orinda Academy is a fully accredited college preparatory school for grades 7-12. Orinda Academy provides small classes and a 9:1 student teacher ratio, and they can accommodate students with learning style differences. Orinda Academy also provides arts, sports, academic coaching and college counseling. For questions, please call (925) 254-7553 x305 or visit www.orindaacademy.org.

**Boy Scout Troop 246 Open House Bocce Ball/Wii Event.** All Cub Scouts and boys ages 11 and older that are interested in scouting are invited to attend Troop 246's Bocce Ball and Wii afternoon of games. The event is Sunday, December 12th at 2pm. Please RSVP, and get directions, to jeannehuan-gli@gmail.com or Leslie Green at wess-njoe@netscape.net.

### CHRISTMAS EVENTS

**5A's 3rd annual "Santa's Secret Wrapping Room"** is free and open to the public through Dec. 24th. This decorated storage unit is set up with table, chairs, large rolls of wrapping paper, tape, ribbon - everything needed to get presents wrapped. This is especially handy if you're trying to wrap presents away from the recipient of a surprise.

**The Lafayette United Methodist Church** presents an interactive performance that takes you back through time. Tour Guides will lead groups of about ten people through the marketplace of Bethlehem on the night of the Messiah's birth. The program is a social event that emphasizes the spiritual meaning of Christmas. Performances 5:30-8pm, Dec. 10, 11 and 12. One-hour long tours begin every fifteen minutes. The last tour begins at 8pm. Freewill donation: \$5/person or \$20/family. For questions call (925) 284-4765.

**Brad & Gloria Noggle, manager's of Moraga's 5A site,** will host their 3rd Annual "photos with Santa" on Saturday, December 11th from 11am-3pm. Receive a holiday photo frame, visit with Santa, enjoy hot cocoa and cookies, and get paper & envelopes for children to write "letters to Santa." Everything is free and everyone's invited! They will also accept donations of gently used shoes for the Athletic Department at Saint Mary's, to help those less fortunate this winter. It's been a tough economy and the holiday celebration at 5A is their way of saying "thank you" to the entire community for the business that has been provided this last year. 5A Rent-A-Space is located at the corner of Moraga Road and Rheem Blvd. For more info call (925) 631-7000 or email moraga@5aspace.com.

**Dechen Designs' 5th Annual Holiday Boutique & Gift Show.** An exclusive trunk-show event with local artists and vendors of high quality gift items, featuring fabulous Himalayan Cashmere Shawls, silk scarves, jewelry, hats, fused glass art, skin care, cosmetics and much much more. Saturday, Dec. 11th 12-4pm and Saturday, Dec. 18th 1-5pm. Lafayette

Library's Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. Enjoy delicious holiday cider and gourmet treats.

**Live Nativity at the Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church** on December 11, 5:30-8pm. See the Christmas story come to life! The courtyard will be transformed into a Bethlehem manger. Light refreshments will be served. MVPC is located at 10 Moraga Valley Lane in Moraga. Questions: (925) 376-4800.

**The Bethlehem Experience: Performances 5:30-8pm,** Dec. 10th, 11th, and 12th. This interactive performance takes participants back through time. Tour guides lead groups of about 10 people through the marketplace of Bethlehem on the night of the Messiah's birth. Tours begin every 15 minutes and take about one hour. The last tour leaves at 8pm, Lafayette United Methodist Church, 955 Moraga Road, Lafayette. Questions: (925) 284-4765.

**Concert: Christmas on the Hill, on Sunday,** December 12, 7pm. Experience a heart-warming evening of music celebrating a story that matters. The MVPC Choir and Worship Team, the Kurt Ribak Trio, the Kingdom Kids Choir, and soloists will lead us. MVPC is located at 10 Moraga Valley Lane in Moraga. Questions: (925) 376-4800.

**At Unity of Walnut Creek's Remembrance Service,** you can remember and honor your loved ones who have transitioned. The Remembrance Service will be held on Tuesday, December 14 at 7pm at Unity, 1871 Geary Rd., Walnut Creek. This annual event is open to all on a free-will donation based. More information about Unity of Walnut Creek can be found at www.unitycenter.net or by calling Unity at (925) 937-2191.

**The elves of Saint Mary's College Guild will host** their annual Christmas luncheon on December 16. All proceeds will benefit the student scholarship fund at the College. A reception will begin at 11am followed by a festive luncheon at noon. The cost is \$35.00 per person. Entertainment will be provided by the Contra Costa Children's Choir and our own Brother Martin will play Christmas music during the reception. All are welcome. For more information, please contact Pat McEnaney at (925) 376-3306.

### OTHER

**Every Wednesday through Saturday and New Years Eve** - Diamond Dave from 9pm to 1am at Petars Pub. The adjacent restaurant has changed owners and has a new name - the Grape Leaf Restaurant, one of the few restaurants open on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, 32 Lafayette Circle (925) 284-7117.

**Lamorinda Adult Respite Center (LARC)** sponsors a free Caregiver Support Group the first and third Tuesdays of each month. Facilitated by Dr. Ruth Pease this group offers education, guidance and hope for those caring for loved ones who suffer from memory loss disorders. Everyone is welcome! Lamorinda Adult Respite Center, 433 Moraga Way, Orinda, CA 94563. (925) 254-3465.

**Lafayette Garden Club will be meeting at 9:30am second Thursdays** monthly, at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 1035 Carol Lane Lafayette. Dec. 9 is our Holiday Extravaganza! Our Christmas Party will be held at IL Fornaio in Walnut Creek. This function is for members only. Our January meetings will return to Our Savior's in Lafayette and visitors are welcome. For more information please contact, petersonb4@aol.com.

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## "Scrooge!" — A Musical for the Whole Family



**B**ased on the 1970 movie starring Albert Finney, Scrooge is a musical retelling of Charles Dickens' classic tale, A Christmas Carol. A family favorite, the play is returning this holiday season to Lafayette's Town Hall Theater under the direction of Jessica Richards, Associate Artistic Director at the California Shakespeare Festival. The shows will run December 2-19, with caroling in the lobby before matinees. Go to www.thtc.org for tickets and more information.

S.Braccini

John Blytt and Jennifer McFarlane  
Photo Stu Selland

# Girl Scout Troop 31983 Launches Toy Drive

Submitted by Leslie DeWolf



Photo provided

Girl Scout troop 31983 of Lafayette has a wonderful tradition of allocating cookie profit from thousands of boxes of cookies sold over the years to purchase toys for needy boys and girls and then joining other helpful folks at Willow Spring Church of Moraga to wrap what has been collected.

This year, we have been told there are no toys in the Mission's storage so some of the girls in troop 31983 decided to do something to help. They will be buying toys this year but are also asking the community for help.

The good people at Handle Bar Toys have happily accepted a barrel to receive toys this year, through December 17.

If you feel blessed by living in this community and would like to bring a smile to a child this season, please stop by and pick something out. Thank you so much from Girl Scout Troop 31983!

# Donations for Foster Children

Submitted by Val Cook-Watkins



Photo provided

Coldwell Banker manager Val Cook-Watkins and MaryAnn Hughes-Jones; Hughes-Jones and Dick Holt (not pictured) have spearheaded the Adopt and Angel program in the Orinda office for the past 15 years.

gifts, for the past 15 years. The office has a culture of "giving back to the community" and participates in many other community outreach programs. This year Coldwell Banker Orinda's agents raised \$7000 for Habitat for Humanity and the sales associates and their clients participated in a Habitat "Build" in Oakland this past summer. They also created and raised money for The Spencer Neale Memorial Scholarship for Excellence in Art which honored the late daughter of one of their colleagues by assisting two Campolindo High School graduating seniors in their college studies in the field of Art. December 6-10, Coldwell Banker is promoting it's Bay Area Food Bank Drive and will match donations up to \$10,000; the money will benefit the communities in which is collected.

Coldwell Banker Real Estate's Orinda office once again this year sponsored 60 "Angels" as part of the Contra Costa County Social Services' "Adopt an Angel" pro-

gram. The real estate office has participated in this program, which grants Christmas wishes for the county's foster children who otherwise might not receive any holiday



# Santa's Bag Boutique

Santa's Bag Boutique with over 50 vendors is once again a very popular shopping destination in Lafayette. Complimentary homemade cookies and coffee greet shoppers as they enter the emporium of all things Christmas. From jewelry to clothes pin Christmas ornaments, scarves and more to the separate edible goodie room chock full of jams, spiced nuts and the very popular almond toffee covered in white chocolate. Lafayette residents Kelly Wood and Jenny Burford have been making this confection for the last ten years. They estimate they produce 1,000 pounds of it.

Lafayette residents Kelly Wood and Jenny Burford with attractive bags of their delicious almond toffee covered in white chocolate. Photo C. Tyson

# Hospice Tree Lighting

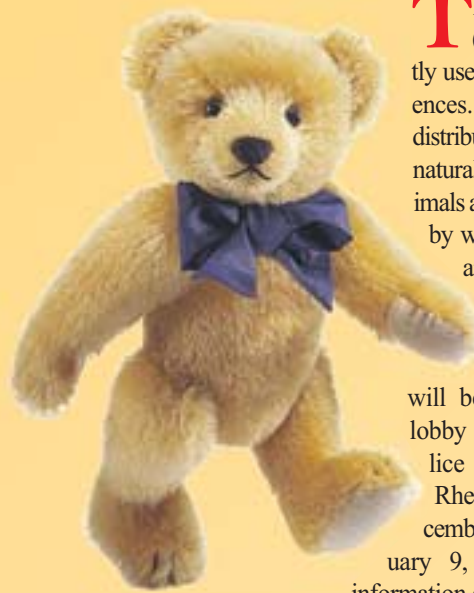


Orinda's Hospice tree was lit last weekend to the enjoyment of a large, dry crowd; while late rain did not deter people from the Hospice tree-lighting in Lafayette!

Photos Ohlen Alexander



# Moraga Police Go Soft and Cuddly?



The Moraga Police Officers Association, along with S.A.F.E. (Stuffed Animals for Emergencies) is collection new or gently used stuffed animals to help children through traumatic experiences. The toys are given to local police and fire departments to distribute to children they encounter who have been affected by fires, natural disasters, or the loss of a loved one. Some of the donated animals are even distributed by our troops overseas to children affected by war and poverty. With your donation of new or used stuffed animals, the Moraga Police Officers Association and S.A.F.E. will make sure a child always has a hand to hold in a time of need.

Stuffed animals will be collected in the lobby of the Moraga Police Department, 329 Rheem Blvd, from December 1, 2010, thru January 9, 2011. For more information go to

www.MoragaPOA.com and http://www.stuffedanimalsforemergencies.org/. (Information submitted by Sergeant Brian South, President, Moraga Police Officers Association)

## Give gifts that keep on giving.

Books are like a garden in your pocket. For a tax deductible donation of only \$99, you can have a case of brand new books valued at \$500 or more shipped anywhere in the US to the cause of your choice. Books for all ages are available. Checks or credit cards accepted. Be the Star You Are!® 501 c3 charity, PO Box 376, Moraga, Ca. 94556. Donate at www.bethestaryouare.org. Call (925) 376-7126. Email: info@bethestaryouare.org.

## Winter Clothing

On Saturday, December 11, 2010, Orinda Girl Scout troop 31143 will be collecting gently used winter clothing from 4-6pm near the fountain at Theater Square in Orinda. The girls will sort and distribute the clothing to Shelter, Inc, an organization that provides transitional housing and other services to homeless families in Contra Costa County.

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**CAPA'S NUTCRACKER ON SALE NOW!!**

December 10 - 7:00 PM with Concerto  
December 11 - 2:00 & 7:00 PM with Concerto  
December 12 - 2:00 PM

Reserve your seat now for CAPA's spectacular Nutcracker featuring over 150 performers in a lavishly staged production. As the snow falls onstage and the Christmas tree magically grows, life-size toys capture the imagination of all ages. Dancers from five to eighteen years put on a brilliantly narrated full-length performance. This is a perfect outing to celebrate this holiday season.

For Tickets: [www.capadance.net](http://www.capadance.net)

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# Moraga's Luminarias, a Bright Christmas Tradition

By Sophie Braccini



Photo Mike Wilson

Six years ago on Christmas Eve, new Moraga resident Cathy Schultheis was coming back from Mass around midnight to her Tharp home and lost her way. Then from Camino Pablo, she spotted the luminarias on Rimer Drive, rows of lights shining through paper bags on both sides of the street, "one after the other, the little lights led me to my home," she remembers. She following year, she decided to join the Rimer group and added the Tharp/Deerfield loop to the display. That's how a tradition that was born many years ago, south of the border, has expanded in our suburb.

According to Michelle Wilson, who lives on Rimer, the Moraga tradi-

tion started at the very end of Rimer, past Tharp, in the area nicknamed 'Rimer Court.' When she arrived in Moraga seven years ago, Wilson wanted to create a 'giving tradition' for her family to celebrate Christmas. She had read an article about the Old Town Albuquerque luminarias in *Sunset* magazine and had heard of the Rimer Court tradition, though she thought it was extinct. The Wilson family decided to order the small candles, the paper bags and the sand used to weight the bags down, and to deliver supplies for 10 bags with instructions to each of their neighbors along Rimer. "It was our gift to the neighborhood," explains Wilson. Mike Wilson remembers the first

night of the luminarias. "It was a bit foggy that night, the display was truly magical." The next morning the Wilsons found, on their doorstep, little thank you gifts from their neighbors.

This year's luminaria lighting will be the 7th for the Wilsons; they will supply 80 homes with luminarias. Many other streets have joined them, not only the Tharp area, but also Oxford Dr., Greenfield Dr., Sanders and Carr Dr.

"It's become a tradition for people to come out around 6:00 p.m. to light their candles, walk up and down the street, meet and greet," says Wilson, "almost everyone participates, even if they do not belong to the Christian religion. Only one resident has asked us not to deliver candles any more."

As the popularity of the display grows, more residents from outside of the area come to enjoy it. "It's nice that people come," says Mike Wilson, "but may be they could park (near Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School on Camino Pablo) and walk our street, otherwise, too many headlights are not very good for the charm of the display."

"This is a real Christmas feeling," says Schultheis, "something that can't be bought in a store."

# Sneetches Spotted in Orinda

... continued from page H1



Photo Ohlen Alexander

"I had all these creatures, and my house isn't that big," Piatt said. "I thought, *What am I going to do with these?*"

Years ago, Piatt used to show her artwork at Orinda Books, so one call to owner Janet Boreta and the December exhibit was born.

The sculptures are made by drawing the patterns on newspaper, then cutting them out of flannel or felt. Piatt stuffs and sews them while watching tel-

evision at night.

"I use pipe cleaners, yarn or anything that works to make things stick up right. I'll use a piece of wood, if I have to. I used old cardboard boxes and colored paper to make a chimney I needed," she remembered.

Her favorite is The Cat in the Hat, followed closely by the cellar characters from *There's a Wocket in my Pocket*. "I like all those creatures that are down there in the dark. They typify the book and I like how they turned out."

At age 80, Piatt sounds very much like the schoolgirl she once was, growing up in Columbus, Ohio.

"When I was in elementary school I read *And to Think That I Saw It on Mulberry Street*, and it was magic. Oh, that was a wonderful book!"

She attended a private school, called University School, that offered an innovative art program she described as "tremendous." There, she learned to build furniture, practiced fine art and began to sew. The memories are sweet, especially as she reflects on the slim offerings in today's public schools.

"I think art is a very big part of life and can be used in so many different ways. I suppose it boils down to money. The emphasis just isn't on art anymore, but art is really all around us. I think it's a big

# The New Rheem Theatre's First Christmas

By Sophie Braccini



Photo Ohlen Alexander

On December 4, about 300 people gathered at The New Rheem Theatre for a screening of "Miracle on 34th Street," preceded by a reception featuring Santa Claus himself. The event was supported by

Charles Schwab. Girls Scout Troop 30550 gathered toys for the Martinez-based Shelter Inc. and set craft tables for children. Meredith Clark, harpist from the San Francisco Symphony, played during the reception, and

hors d'oeuvres were served.

"It was a pleasure organizing this event with Beau (Behan- Manager of the Theater)," said Chuck Kallgren, Financial Consultant with Schwab and father of Caroline, a 4th grader at Los Perales Elementary and member of troop 30550, "This makes it a real community event."

"Every month we screen a different classic film," said Behan, "we are so happy to have been able to create this first Christmas event at The New Rheem Theater, with the support of Schwab." The event was open to California Independent Film Festival Association members and Schwab clients.



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**CHRISTMAS EVE December 24, 2010**

**Family Candlelight Service**  
5:30 p.m.

**Walk our Labyrinth**  
Sun. Dec. 26 & Wed. Dec. 29-Fri. Dec. 31 12-4 p.m.

**St Stephen's Episcopal Church**

66 St. Stephen's Drive, Orinda  
254-3770. [www.ststephenorinda.org](http://www.ststephenorinda.org)

Sunday 8am & 10am.  
Music at both services. Choir at 10am.  
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682 Michael Lane, Lafayette, 284-7420, [www.stanselms.ws](http://www.stanselms.ws)

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**Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church**

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December 12, following the 9am & 10:30am services  
Use your holiday gift-giving to change the world.

**Live Nativity**  
December 11, 5:30-8pm  
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**Christmas on the Hill Concert**  
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9:40 a.m. Education for all ages  
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10:45 Contemporary Service

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# Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 04 Issue 20 Wednesday, December 8, 2010



*Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian ...read on page OH4*

## The Buzz about Bees

By Sophie Braccini

The fact that her grandfather was a beekeeper, a long time ago in her native Ukraine, may have something to do with Roxy Wolosenko's attraction to the *Apis mellifera* (the Western Honeybee); but it was not until she became a Master Gardener, and got more into plant life, that the Lamorinda resident took the leap. "The whole idea of the

connection between all living things became very real," she says, "bees are a part of the wild animal kingdom and we can interact with them. Having them around gives me the feel of being part of a cycle, of being part of the wilderness."

Not to mention the delicious honey she gets for her family every year.

Wolosenko has two hives in her garden. She transferred the colonies from her rural Bollinger Canyon home to suburban Lamorinda. "Bees give a better yield in our gardens because we grow flowers year round that feed them," she says. She is one of the many Lamorinda residents who have a few hives in their gardens. They get honey,

and their flowers, fruit trees and vegetables get pollinated; some feel part of the fight to keep the *Apis mellifera* healthy in California.

When the Shivelys moved to their new Lafayette home 12 years ago, they soon noticed a wild bee colony nestled in one of their oak trees. They enjoyed having them around and would have liked to capture a swarm, but they lacked the know-how. Then they found Steven Sparks, a biology professor at Ohlone College who cares for a plethora of hives – they now have three hives in their orchard. No one has ever been stung, the orchard has been producing like never before, and the Shivelys get a pound of wild honey each year for their own use.

"There are many experienced beekeepers around, and some of them may be willing to have 'new bees' help them in their hives," says Brian Wort, president of the Mount Diablo Beekeepers Association (MDBA) – the group which serves as the main source of information for individuals wanting to start caring for bees.

According to MDBA founding member Steve Gentry, there are about 25 Lamorinda families in the group. Gentry, an Orinda resident, sells his honey in farmers market (he was featured in the July 11, 2007, issue of Lamorinda Weekly), and is one of the group's instructors.

Wolosenko is also a member of MDBA. When she decided to start keeping bees six years ago she went to Craigslist and found Walnut Creek resident Mike Stephanos, who was giving out hives.

...continued on Page OH3



*The wild beehive at the Shively's.*

*Photo Sophie Braccini*



## Red Bows & Silver Bells Happy Holidays

We would like to say thank you to our clients and friends for their continued support and trust over the years.

It is because of you that we continue to be leaders in the Lamorinda residential real estate market.

May your holidays season bring you good health, happiness, and prosperity in the new year!

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## Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

|                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|
| <b>LAFAYETTE</b> | Last reported: 9 |
| LOWEST AMOUNT:   | \$770,500        |
| HIGHEST AMOUNT:  | \$1,325,000      |
| <b>MORAGA</b>    | Last reported: 1 |
| LOWEST AMOUNT:   | \$747,000        |
| HIGHEST AMOUNT:  | \$747,000        |
| <b>ORINDA</b>    | Last reported: 1 |
| LOWEST AMOUNT:   | \$410,000        |
| HIGHEST AMOUNT:  | \$410,000        |

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

- 8 Amanda Lane, \$940,000, 3 Bdrms, 1953 SqFt, 2006 YrBlt, 10-26-10
- 549 Arrowhead Drive, \$1,235,000, 5 Bdrms, 2970 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 11-10-10
- 985 Hawthorne Drive, \$799,000, 3 Bdrms, 1341 SqFt, 1941 YrBlt, 10-27-10; Previous Sale: \$775,000, 04-15-04
- 547 Merriewood Drive, \$1,065,000, 3 Bdrms, 2082 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 11-10-10; Previous Sale: \$254,500, 08-21-85
- 1090 Oak Hill Road, \$770,500, 4 Bdrms, 2066 SqFt, 1939 YrBlt, 10-28-10; Previous Sale: \$30,000, 03-14-72
- 20 Olympic Oaks Drive, \$965,000, 3 Bdrms, 2330 SqFt, 1996 YrBlt, 10-27-10; Previous Sale: \$488,000, 11-05-96
- 1369 Reliez Valley Road, \$875,000, 2 Bdrms, 1483 SqFt, 1942 YrBlt, 10-26-10; Previous Sale: \$108,455, 10-26-10
- 19 Springhill Lane, \$1,325,000, 4 Bdrms, 2797 SqFt, 1947 YrBlt, 10-26-10; Previous Sale: \$1,345,000, 11-30-07
- 3454 Sky Lane, \$1,010,000, 3 Bdrms, 3027 SqFt, 1992 YrBlt, 11-9-10; Previous Sale: \$90,000, 01-10-89

### MORAGA

- 9 Laird Drive, \$747,000, 3 Bdrms, 1640 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 11-9-10; Previous Sale: \$840,000, 09-15-04

### ORINDA

- 23 Hall Drive, \$410,000, 4 Bdrms, 1806 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 11-5-10

## Lamorinda Foreclosures recorded

### LAFAYETTE

- 1 Nephi Court, 94549, Wells Fargo Bank, 11-04-10, \$848,155, 3751 sf, 4 bd
- 840 Reliez Station Road, 94549, Morgan Stanley, 10-20-10, \$1,060,390, 2269 sf, 4 bd

### MORAGA

- 126 Ascot Court #C, 94556, Wells Fargo Bank, 10-28-10, \$153,639, 858 sf, 1 bd
- 744 Country Club Drive, 94556, California Equity Management, 10-21-10, \$473,900, 2079 sf, 2 bd

### ORINDA

- 241 Orchard Road, 94563, Indymac Mortgage, 11-12-10, \$166,683

# The Buzz about Bees

...continued from page OH1

“Beekeepers are very generous and Mike helped me get started with my hives; he recommended that I join MDBA.” Wolosenko explains that the group provides training and organizes meetings that supported new beekeepers. Also a horticulturist, Wolosenko enjoys observing the bees when “they do their own thing.” She thinks that the biggest problem beekeepers have is keeping other creatures from preying on the bees. “An ant attack can wipe out a whole colony in the few days,” she recalls from experience.

Something similar happened in the communal Moraga Garden Farms. Bill Durkin recounts that a hive was installed in a corner of the garden for a year and made a difference in terms of yield. “They swarmed twice,” he said, “but then one day, they disappeared.”

Bees have been under a lot of stress. According to Sparks, the country is losing 40% of its bees to diseases and Colony

Collapse Disorder (CCD). “It is a very complex issue with more than one cause,” explains Sparks, “when we saved bees from certain diseases we might have weakened the hives by keeping alive individuals that should have died. Plus certain pesticides are very detrimental to bees and when traces find their way into honeycombs it weakens the larvae.” According to Sparks, if the country continues to lose 40% of its bees every year the situation will be catastrophic for farmers. “We will have to import massive quantities of bees from all over the world, thus creating another potential problem there.” Everyone remembers the horror stories of the Africanized bees, dubbed ‘killer bees.’

Wolosenko, a landscape architect with Roxy Designs, also believes that everyone can contribute to support the local bee population. “I have designed gardens for beekeepers,” she says, “To determine if a garden is a good wildlife habitat



Roxie Wolosenko and her 13-year old daughter, Anya, check on their bees



A bee in the Shively's garden

Photos Sophie Braccini

you look at the air space above the plants and you see who is coming to visit.” She recommends planting native plants such as Coyote Brush, because they will attract native bees, and plants such as lavender and rosemary that have a long flowering season and can help support the hives during the winter.

For those seriously interested in learning about bees, the best bet is to go to the first meeting of the season organized in January by MDBA. “We meet the second Thursday of the month at Heather Farms between January and October,” explains Gentry, “interested people should come to the first meetings in January, February and March to learn the basics, then in April, they will join the group’s order for new colonies and they will be able to start their beehives.” On April 15 MDBA holds a traditional workshop at which participants can obtain all they need to become active beekeepers, including a few thousand bees to set in their boxes.

“It is a wonderful experience,” concludes Gentry, “you learn to see like a bee – to see the world through their unique perspective.”

For more information go to [www.diablobees.org](http://www.diablobees.org).

December 2010 - Digging Deep

## Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian-Gifts of the Garden

*"In search of my mother's garden, I found my own." -Alice Walker*

Other than a trip to Disneyland, traveling to my mother's gardens during the holiday season is an experience to remember. Her acres of flora are spectacular any time of the year, but from early December until January 6th the grounds are turned into a dazzling winter wonderland of color, light, sound, and fragrance. Growing up on the farm in Napa Valley, we five children anticipated Christmas a full three hundred and thirty days every year. The other thirty-five days were spent in total ecstasy as we played, sang, and celebrated this festival of merriment.

Since we lived so far away from the city lights (down in the boondocks as we lovingly referred to our valley), Mom and Dad told us it was imperative that we decorated the gardens and orchards so that Santa could find his way to our vineyards. Oh, how many nights we spent scanning the star lit sky for any sign of his sleigh sailing through the galaxy! Rudolph's bright red nose would be spotted on Christmas Eve after we had distributed many gifts from the garden and kitchen to friends and family. We'd rush home from midnight Mass to fill a bucket of freshly harvested carrots as a treat for the tired reindeer and of course, leave Santa and the elves plates of homemade cookies accompanied by a bouquet of cyclamen or roses for Mrs. Claus. The secret to a happy holiday was always centered on giving from the garden.

The magic and majesty of our holiday traditions continues today as I learn the lessons from my mother's garden while designing my own. No matter what the temperature of the economy, the best things that come from the garden are gifts for other people. Whether you have a large or small plot, a cornucopia of creative concepts abound in the ground. Whether decorative, culinary, or keepsake, homemade presents are always appreciated because they truly come from the heart. Here's a list of ideas for your green holiday giving.

- If you have pine trees, gather pinecones. Fill a Santa hat and wrap with a bow.
- Fill large pinecones with peanut butter. Tie a ribbon from the stem, wrap in cellophane and make a tag, "For the birds only!" Everyone loves watching the birds enjoy their treats.
- Allow some rose hips to form on your favorite rose bushes. Cut a stem of bright red rose hips along with a spray of lavender, tie with cheerful trim, and add a recipe for a vitamin C fragrant tea.
- Amaryllis is a spectacular long lasting bloomer available in a variety of colors perfect for the season. Plant a bulb earlier in the season for a December show, or buy a flowering plant now and place it in a watering can or decorative bucket to give as a garden gift.
- Dry flowers for potpourri and make beautiful sa-

chets and aromatic fresheners.

- Gather and press flowers in unique compositions against a velvet background in a gilded frame reminiscent of the Victorian era.
- For the feline on your gift list, construct a sturdy pillow filled with catnip.
- Preserve the favor, appearance, taste, and aroma of favorite flowers and leaves by making candy from violets, rose petals, lilac florets, citrus peels, and mint. (Caution-make sure that all the flowers and leaves you use for any gastronomic treats are indeed edible. Don't guess-be certain!)
- Flavor a cup of sugar by mixing in  $\frac{3}{4}$  cup of fresh petals of roses, lemon balm, lavender, verbena, geranium, or mint. Sprinkle on fruit, dust a Yule log, or sweeten a holiday punch.
- For enchanting savory treats, package carafes of herbed vinegar and olive oil using sprigs of basil, tarragon, dill, thyme, rosemary, or nasturtium. Add a couple of gloves of garlic for zing.
- Buy four-inch color spots and line a French bread basket. Top with tinsel.
- Give rooted cuttings of your favorite plants in a variety of pretty recycled jars.
- Customize your gifts by giving a mushroom farm

with a box of herbs to a chef or mints, lemons, and limes to a bartender.

- Make table place cards for the party host of pomander balls using thick-skinned fruit such as oranges, apples, lemons, grapefruit, and limes. Stud with cloves, roll in allspice, and slide the nametags between the cloves.
- Pull up volunteer trees from your yard, making sure to protect the roots. Plant in holiday themed urns, practical containers, or refurbished canisters.
- Teens can collect discarded CD's, string a glittering ribbon through the center, and present a box as décor for a shimmering outdoor tree. (Great to deter the birds and squirrels from your persimmon trees!)
- For the gardener, wrap a basket containing a high quality pruner, exotic seeds, the book, *Chicken Soup for the Gardener's Soul*, a pair of heavy-duty gloves, and a bottle of hand lotion.
- Buy cymbidium orchids with two or more glorious blooming stems for under \$20 throughout December. Add a peacock or pheasant feather, wrap in Chanukah, Christmas, or Kwanza cloth, and write a homemade sticker that reads, "Water weekly with warm H2O. Keep in 50-70 degrees providing moderate light. Celebrate beauty!"

...continued on next page.



*Magenta cymbidium orchid with peacock and pheasant feathers makes a wonderful gift.*

*Photo Cynthia Brian*

Over the years some of my favorite gifts from my family have been bales of hay, yards of manure, shovels, chain saws, boots, shredders, tillers, hoes, and boxes of gloves. Every once in awhile, I'll get a gift certificate for a massage or a manicure, or better yet, a pledge of a few hours of helping hands. Friends often chuckle at my lack of interest for babbles and bangles as presents, but my garden is my jewel box, my preferred sparkling diamond in nature.

Whether you make wreathes, cards, ornaments, jellies, salts, or just wrap up a few pinecones, this holiday season, have fun spending time with your family creating natural delights and a dazzling winter wonderland with color, light, sound, and fragrance. Light

up the life of those you love and give the gift of, from, and for the garden. HAPPY, HEALTHY HOLIDAYS!!



Close up of rose hips from a pink bonica bush. Photo Cynthia Brian

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A magnificent gift of Amaryllis.

Photo Cynthia Brian

## Cynthia Brian's Digging Deep Gardening Guide For December

"Nature gives to every time and season some beauties of its own."

Charles Dickens

With all the suggestions on how you can give of, from, and for the garden, I'm sure you are ready to start digging deep. We do have a bit of work to do before the winter storms. Get ready, get set, grow!

- **SPREAD** three inches of compost around perennials to insulate against the coming onslaught of cold weather. When warm temperatures return, the nutrient rich cover acts as a feeder.
- **WASH** empty pots and containers with a bleach solution, then store upside down until spring planting season.
- **LOWER** the blades of your lawn mower to a two-inch height and give one final fertilizing.
- **HYDRATE** young plants with deep watering to prevent frostbite.
- **BRING** tender outdoor plants indoors for over wintering, or move close to the warmth of the house foundation. You may want to spray with a fog to prevent freezing.
- **DIG** in the rest of your spring flowering bulbs now-daffodils, tulips, crocus, snowdrops, and scillas. Plant in drifts of a dozen.
- **REMOVE** all diseased or bug infested plants and toss with the trash. Do not compost!
- **FEED** the birds by allowing sunflowers, aster, Echinacea seedpods to remain on the plants.
- **POSITION** poinsettias in a barrel of ferns for a splash of color at the front door.
- **DONATE** to your favorite charity. It is the season of giving. Mine of course, is Be the Star You Are!® 501c3 (<http://www.bethestaryouare.org>)
- **PICK** persimmons and pomegranates to use in your culinary feasts.
- **PLANT** bare root berry bushes, asparagus, grapes, and artichokes.
- **PROTECT** birds of paradise or other tender perennials by covering them with burlap covers or even dog blankets.
- **PRUNE** rose bushes for a final flurry of flowers. For rose hips, don't prune.
- **FINISH** planting all spring blooming bulbs. For months of future blooms, plant throughout the month.
- **SPREAD** peanut butter in pinecones to feed overwintering birds, or buy seed to fill your feeders.
- **BRING** branches from your evergreen trees inside to use as inexpensive holiday décor. The fresh fragrance gives your home a cozy, festive feeling.
- **CHECK** out the new documentary, Tapping the Source, where I encourage viewers to turn failure into fertilizer. (<http://www.tappingthesourcemovie.com>)
- **CONTINUE** our quest to READ, PLANT, GROW!

May the magic, miracles, and memories with family and friends be your greatest gift this December. Keep digging deep-it's the power of your source.

Happy Gardening to you!

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# Gardening at the Movies

By Cynthia Brian



Cynthia Brian with stars Neale Donald Walsch and Michael Bernard Beckwith. Photo Eileen Goodis

For the past three decades I have enjoyed the privilege of working in films and television with some of the greatest thespians and directors in history. I've had parts in Oscar winning movies such as Heaven Can Wait, Milk, and Peggy Sue Got Married to being in cult classics like Sudden Impact, A View to a Kill, and Star Trek IV. As an acting coach, I am forever advising my clients that all acting is reacting while showing them the importance of being real. What I never expected was that as an actor, I would be featured in a film playing myself.

Earlier this year, I was interviewed for a documentary by the same team that distributed the film, The Secret. The crew of the movie, Tapping the Source, produced by Bill Gladstone, Gayle Newhouse, and Richard Greninger traveled the globe interviewing thousands of people considered pioneers on the planet for living authentic lives of happiness, abundance, and service. They told me I was chosen to participate because of the positive messages contained in the books I write, the radio show I produce, and the speeches I give as well as the empowerment to women, families, and youth I provide through the non profit charity I founded in Lamorinda, Be the Star You Are!®

I was delighted to receive an invitation to the world premiere of Tapping the Source being held in Los Angeles. When I read the list of celebrities included in the film, I was certain that my humble contribution to the project would never make it to the big screen and would instead rest on the cutting room floor. Movies are always made in the editing room. A few of the stars included Jack Canfield, Mark Victor Hansen, Michael Bernard Beckwith, Dannion Brinkley, Monique Coleman, Cathy Lee Crosby, Barbara DeAngelis, Bob Proctor, Tanya Roberts, Neale Donald Walsch, Mariel Hemingway, Jean Houston, Barbara Maxx Hubbard, and many more.

Imagine my surprise when I was invited to walk the red carpet to meet the press along with these dignitaries, and moreover to learn that I am featured prominently in the film! It was also rewarding to see my gardens and animals showcased in the documentary. The premiere attracted a sold out crowd of over twelve hundred

attendees. After the screening, I was invited on stage to interact with the audience. You'll recognize my final words of wisdom, "Failure is fertilizer! Put your mistakes in your compost pile and grow a new garden."

The movie is a journey of joy and enrichment featuring a hundred renowned scientists, actors, authors, athletes, spiritual leaders, philanthropists, and healers. The film has launched a movement promoting the secret of success through service to others. My entire life has been dedicated to helping others achieve their dreams while living a life of meaning. What an honor to be profiled in Tapping the Source.

For those of you who read my gardening column, Digging Deep, you understand that gardening is my metaphor for life because when we attend to the inner garden of our spirit, we live natural, happy, healthy, connected lives. Tapping the Source is debuting at film festivals around the country. It is a glorious garden of personal growth on the silver screen. I hope you'll have the opportunity to witness the magic of its message so that you may continue to live with passion, purpose, and possibility.

Cynthia Brian is Lamorinda Weekly's gardening columnist of Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian. Her inspirational books include Be the Star You Are!®, Be the Star You Are!® for TEENS, Miracle Moments®, The Business of Show Business, Chicken Soup for the Gardener's Soul. For more information visit [www.cynthiabrian.com](http://www.cynthiabrian.com) or [www.bethestaryouare.org](http://www.bethestaryouare.org).

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## MORAGA



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## MORAGA



### 1412 Camino Peral

Desirable sgl lvl townhouse. Sunny 2bd + den w/indoor lndry. Nice mstr w/en suite bath. Dining area open to pvt patio, great indoor/ outdoor living, oversized 2-car garage.

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## MORAGA



### 108 Walford Drive

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## MORAGA



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## MORAGA



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## MORAGA



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## LAFAYETTE



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## LAFAYETTE



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