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too perfect Premiere at The Orinda

By Andrea A. Firth

The title of Orinda-based movie producer Julie Rubio's new film, *too perfect*, carries a not so subtle hint of irony. Rubio's latest cinematic venture addresses the emotional ups and downs young people deal with as they transition from middle school to high school—a time many teens would describe as less than perfect. "It's a coming of age film about first love, friend-

ship, divorce, bullying and how these things impact kids," says Rubio. As the teens in the film deal with these heavier issues, there is also a lot of laughter, teasing, and playfulness, which suitably characterizes this time in life when young people step toward adulthood with one foot still planted in childhood.

The majority of the cast of *too perfect* is from Orinda and

attends Orinda Intermediate School or Miramonte High School. For almost all of the young actors, this was their first experience in film. The film's leads are played by Rubio's son Elijah Stevana and a close family friend, Tessa Hanson. Rubio recruited most of the other actors for the film through Elijah's network of friends except for a few young actors from southern California.

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Quote of the Week:

"Democracy requires participation amongst the governed..."
 Read Letters to the Editor, page A7-A8

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LAMORINDA WEED

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Significant Development Proposed for Christmas Tree Lot

By Cathy Tyson

Is Lafayette ready for a 315 unit apartment complex spread among fourteen buildings with over 500 parking spaces at the Christmas tree lot site near Acalanes High School? If approved, The Terraces would be the largest project in Lafayette's history. City staff just received the application from the owner of the 22-acre parcel, the Dettmer family, and is reviewing it for completeness. Building the proposed development hinges getting the necessary permits from the Planning Commission and the Design Review Committee.

In April of last year, after months of meetings and heated public comment, the City Council directed staff to down-zone the property to a lower density zoning category, LR-5 "rural residential" up to .2 dwelling

units per acre, or one house per five acres. Prior to that, it had been zoned to allow a maximum of 35 dwelling units per acre in Administrative/Professional/Office/Multifamily Residential classification (APO).

Many residents at that time made it very clear to the City Council they were not in favor of any development on that parcel – citing traffic concerns and preserving views at this gateway location.

Although the City Council ordered staff to rezone the land to a lower density category, "The developer submitted the application before the rezoning process got underway," said City Manager Steven Falk in his Friday Summary.

... continued on page A2

Keeping Mosquitoes from Bugging Moraga

By Cathy Dausman



Josefa Cabnda disperses a mosquito treatment Photo A. Scheck

Contra Costa Mosquito & Vector Control District (CCMVCD) is busy waging war. The agency recently treated Moraga hills and open spaces against mosquito infestations, inspected creeks and treated tree holes

to eliminate standing water.

Standing water is a mosquito's best friend. Mosquitoes and people are not best friends. Mosquitoes can transmit West Nile virus, dengue fever, dog heartworm disease and malaria. They lay their eggs in standing water during breeding season in May or June.

Contra Costa County has 23 different kinds of mosquitoes, says CCMVCD's Deborah Bass. In peak season they mature from egg to biting adult in just five days and can travel up to 20 miles from where they hatch. They need very little water—just a couple tablespoons-- to reproduce. She says mosquitoes reproducing in clogged rain gutters number in the tens of thousands, but that "neglected swimming pools remain our number one concern.

... continued on page D2

Sports C1-C3

SMC Baseball Storms into WCC Play



By Bryant West

The Saint Mary's Gaels entered conference play last week on a win streak and kept it up with a series win over the USF Dons in San Francisco. The Gaels, winners of nine of their past 11 contests, ...read on page C2

Life in Lamorinda D1-C5

Fate Brings War Hero to Lafayette



By Cathy Tyson

Through a very extraordinary collection of events, Lafayette's own Citizen of the Year, Karen Mulvaney, was inspired to reach out to Louis Zamperini – former Olympic athlete, Army Bombardier, survivor of a plane crash and forty-seven ...read on page D1

Our Homes F1-F8

2011 Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour



By Sophie Braccini

Alma Raymond wanted to see more Orinda homes featured on the annual Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour, so she approached Tour organizer Kathy Kramer about her new front yard; Raymond's will be one of three new ... read on page D4



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Downtown Building Height Requirements Tightened

By Aleksandr Auzers, with Cathy Tyson

“Are we serious about preserving Lafayette’s character,” Eliot Hudson, representing the Secluded Valley Homeowners’ Association, asked rhetorically, “or is this all a joke?” Hudson’s impassioned plea to the City’s seven-member Planning Commission, which met in a special session to discuss the ongoing matter of the City’s Downtown Specific Plan (DSP), was one of the latest salvos in an increasingly contentious dispute between supporters and opponents of the DSP’s building height limits.

Presently, developers wishing to construct buildings in Lafayette which will exceed a hard height limit of thirty-five feet must first secure an amendment to the City’s General Plan. Such amendments are implemented on a case-by-case basis, requiring City Council approval. The lone exception is the area north of Mt. Diablo Boulevard, bounded by

Dolores Drive and First Street, where a maximum height of forty-five feet is prescribed.

The Downtown Specific Plan, which is still being revised and weighed, must ultimately obtain City Council approval. In its current state, the Plan proposes a general limit of three building stories, with a maximum height of thirty-five feet. Of central concern on Wednesday, March 30, were the DSP regulations which allow developers to petition for and obtain exemptions to this limit, for a new maximum of forty-five feet in all Downtown zones.

Conversely, four special areas with reduced maximums are identified, including Plaza Way, with two stories and thirty-five feet, and all residential neighborhoods in the downtown area, also with thirty-five feet. These areas are ineligible for height limit exceptions through the DSP. In all Downtown zones, developers

would still be required to adhere to the City’s general design standards.

City planning staff explained that under the DSP, height exception petitioners would address the Planning Commission, whose evaluation of the proposal must conclude that the project under consideration meets criteria within several broad standards, or “findings.” The standards can generally be construed to require buildings which: are proportionally sound, yield relatively unobstructed views from the outside, and provide easily-accessible services that promote the public interest. Projects which are found to satisfy the findings are eligible for height limit exceptions, subject to the Commission’s vote.

Several people spoke during the public comment period. Jay Lifson, Executive Director of the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce, noted that his organization supports

the City staff’s recommendations for the DSP, adding that Lafayette is “not that little anymore.” Other citizens voiced concerns that the DSP will overcomplicate investment in Lafayette, degrade the town’s character, or lead to increased levels of traffic congestion. One man, who was admonished by the Chair for uncivil behavior, accused the Commission of ignoring the wishes of Lafayette’s citizens, calling it “gutless.”

The Commission voted 5-2 in favor of the DSP’s height limit exemption procedures. Commissioners Mark Mitchell and Will Lovitt were opposed, with Mitchell stating that he did not “have confidence in the qualitative standards [of the DSP height exception findings].” Commissioner Rick Humann, siding with the majority, described the DSP’s regulations as “a change in procedure, not a change in spirit.”

Significant Development Proposed for Christmas Tree Lot

... continued from page A1



Pool view image of The Terraces of Lafayette

Courtesy of Norm Dyer, Loving and Campos Architects.

“There is no typical or required time to complete a rezoning – it depends on the parcel(s), land use, environmental considerations and staff resources,” said Ann Merideth, Special Projects Manager for the City of Lafayette. “The applicant is proposing to develop the project under the current zoning Administrative / Professional / Office.”

“Once the application is deemed complete, the project will have to undergo public review by the Design Review Committee and the Planning Commission,” said Meredith. She added the application will need to obtain a Land Use Permit, Hillside Development Permit and Tree Removal Permit. “An example of a land use finding is the project is not detrimental to the health, safety and general welfare of the city,” said Merideth.

“We’re excited about the project, it offers a great diversity of housing that will be a community benefit,” said attorney Allan Moore who represents the property owner. “Not everyone can afford a single family home in Lafayette. We respect the process and want to work with neighbors and community groups”

In a letter sent to the City with the building application, Moore spelled out the history of the property. “Since 2001 the City of Lafayette has made intermittent attempts to change the General Plan and zoning designation.” Having not heard from the City Council since July of last year, and with a record of stop and start administrative hearings, and reversing its own decision, Moore concludes, “the City has treated the Dettmer family in a terribly unfair manner over the ten year period... After all of this time, the Dettmer family has a right to move forward with a project application consistent with current General Plan and zoning designations.”

Although no one is arguing that property owners don’t have rights, the timing of this application seems odd in contrast with Moore’s earlier statements. In the February 17, 2010 edition of this paper we reported that at a recent City Council meeting Moore stated that the Dettmer family was not proposing a project on the site. But in September 2010, we reported Moore said it would be unreasonable not to allow the family to develop the property, “and we are exploring all options.” For more information on the project, including detailed architectural plans, go to their website www.terracesoflafayette.com.

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Lafayette

- Civic News**
- Public Meetings**
- City Council**
Monday, April 25, 7:00 pm
Lafayette Library & Learning Center, Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd
- Planning Commission**
Monday, April 18, 7:00 pm
Lafayette Library & Learning Center, Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd
- Design Review**
Monday, April 25, 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
Chamber of Commerce: www.lafayettechamber.org



Police Report

Is it on the “day old” shelf? 3/29/11 Going to “pick up” a couple things at Safeway usually means you pay for them. A customer who witnessed the shoplifting flagged down police and pointed out the perp. A store clerk signed a citizen’s arrest; the suspect was cited and released and the items (meat and flowers valued at \$19.64) were re-shelved. What could have been the start of a nice romantic dinner must have caused quite a bit of indigestion.

No stamp of approval, 3/19/11 Mailboxes continue to present a tempting target in Lafayette, this time on Monticello Road. Several were vandalized, one to the tune of \$700. Only one resident (the one out \$700) filed a police report.

Ripe for picking, 3/11/11-3/14/11 Some worm picked an Apple Mac computer book from the backseat of an unlocked car parked on Reliez Station Road. “I didn’t think anyone would find it,” said the former owner. Famous last words. Police have no leads.

Not a pretty yearbook picture, 3/18/11 A minor was caught on the grounds of Acalanes High School with less than an ounce of marijuana in his possession. Police photographed the suspect and had him sign a written statement.

Stooping to drink, 3/26/11 Police charged a minor with public intoxication when they found him on his front porch, slurred of speech and with suspiciously alcohol-tainted breath. He was later released to his mother.



Highland Reservoir Construction Moving Forward

By Cathy Tyson



Crews working on the partially completed Highland Reservoir last week.

Photo C. Tyson

It's a new reservoir on reservoir property, although it looks like the world's largest cake pan. Tucked back in the trees and off to the side of the Lafayette Reservoir Recreation Area is the partially finished Highland Reservoir Project. Workers are making steady progress on the new reservoir to increase water supply and stabilize service pressure for water customers in Lafayette and beyond.

The massive 2.7 million gallon storage tank will connect to the Lafayette Water Treatment Plant across Mt. Diablo Boulevard. For those who want a closer look, the best

place to start is to scan the west side of property from the parking lot and head for the big crane on the hill accessible via the rim trail. Hint – it begins at the fish cleaning table to the right of the parking lot bathrooms.

"The project is going very well" said Nora Harlow of the East Bay Municipal Utility District. "The walls and roof are on target to be complete in mid-May." Work still needs to be done on the electrical, valves and the pipes that will connect to the treatment plant. The project is expected to be complete in November of this year.

Commission Seeks to Clarify Parking Goals

By Cathy Tyson

Although a report was issued in January of this year that outlined the current parking situation, Parking for the Downtown Core, the Planning Commission directed staff to work with the Chamber of Commerce to find more specific action oriented recommendations. Although the Parking Inventory Report, Parking Occupancy Survey and Parking Demand Assessment quantified the parking situation, they didn't provide any creative solutions.

The reports concluded that the problem is not how much parking the downtown core contains (over 5400 spots); it's where the parking is located, how accessible it is and how it's regulated. Cooperation of downtown property owners and businesses is critical to remedy the situation.

Jay Lifson, Executive Director of the Chamber, summed up the task, "Convince property owners that creating more convenient parking for their customers puts money in their pockets."

The number one recommendation in the short term is to increase the supply of public off street parking. The City purchased a small lot across from Lafayette Elementary School on Moraga Road; this lot provides forty spaces now, and an additional ten when the medical building on the property disappears. Preliminary steps are also being taken to purchase a lot near the Trader Joe's in the

Happy Valley Shopping Center, arguably the worst parking lot in town, in order to accommodate employee parking and open up spaces to customers of the businesses there.

Also suggested: a cohesive parking arrangement for the center and enforcing a consistent time limit to dissuade BART parkers and shop employees. In the Shield block, City staff wants to work with owners of adjacent properties to connect their parking lots for better access and traffic flow.

In the long term the plan is to work with banks and similar businesses to allow after hours public usage of their parking lots. Already the Mercantile building allows parking on weekday evenings and all day on weekends.

"Each of the ideas from staff have merit, but what 'carrots' do we have?" asked Planning Commissioner Karen Maggio. Given a limited city budget, incentives will have to be creative.

Approximately twelve to fifteen years ago the City spoke with merchants at the Happy Valley shopping center said Niroop Srivatsa, Planning and Building Services Manager, and even paid for an engineer to draw up a new striped parking configuration. At that time they weren't interested, but perhaps the situation has gotten so bad they're open to discussion.



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Moraga

Civic News

Public Meetings

Town Council

Wednesday, April 13, 7:00 pm
 Wednesday, April 27, 7:00 pm
 Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School,
 1010 Camino Pablo

Planning Commission

Monday, April 18, 7:30 pm
 Moraga Library, 1500 Saint Marys Rd

Design Review

Monday, April 25, 7:00 pm
 Moraga Library, 1500 Saint Marys Rd

Liaison

Friday, May 13, 8:00 am
 Fire Station, 1280 Moraga Way

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

Town of Moraga:

www.moraga.ca.us

Chamber of Commerce:

www.moragachamber.org

Moraga Citizens' Network:

www.moragacitizensnetwork.org



Police Report

Driving post-D.U.I., 4/02/11 Near the intersection of Camino Pablo at Rimer an Acura was pulled over for having a broken tail light. The 40-year-old Moraga resident showed the officer his expired driver's license. A routine check showed his license was suspended for a prior D.U.I. He was cited and released. Big no no.

Girls behaving badly, 4/01/11 At about 10:00 p.m. officers who were providing security for the Teen Dance at the New Rheem Theatre were notified of a physical fight involving between six and nine teenage girls in the lobby. Cops observed one teen girl being dragged outside by her hair, while another girl appeared to be hitting her with a closed fist. Both the suspect and the victim fled the scene and could not be located.

And again that same night, 4/01/11 Police saw a boy and girl walking near Moraga Road and noticed the girl appeared to be intoxicated. The 14-year-old young lady admitted to drinking before the aforementioned teen dance. Cops called her dad to pick her up. They were informed of the Town of Moraga Juvenile Diversion Program and agreed to sign up.

D.U.I., 3/31/11 A Dodge Ram was pulled over for making a left turn onto Camino Pablo from Canyon Road without using his signal. The 44-year-old male driver seemed drunk, so police did a blood alcohol test. The legal limit to drive is .08, but his reading came back at .177, so he was taken into custody.

Possession of Pot, 3/31/11 Cops noticed a Ford Explorer that had a broken rear brake light. Turns out the 21-year-old driver had 8 grams, less than an ounce, of marijuana in the car. What he didn't have was proof of insurance, a driver's license, or a medical marijuana card. He was cited for all three – the pot, the insurance and the license. The pot was taken back to the police department and logged into evidence.

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SMC Moves Fields to Make Room for New Rec Center

By Sophie Braccini

Within a few months the entrance to Saint Mary's College will look quite different. Right now, as one enters the campus on Saint Mary's Parkway, the view is of the white chapel set against the backdrop of the hills, with green fields to the left and right of the driveway. Maintaining that open feel will be a challenge when the baseball field, which is now located at the south corner of the campus, is relocated next to the college's front door.

According to the college, moving the baseball field to the east, by the entrance, is the only option short of grading the hills that will allow the construction of a new recreation center – complete with a pool – where the baseball field now stands.

"The view will never be the same," commented Design Review Board (DRB) Chair Allen Sayles during the DRB meeting on March 28. The biggest visual impact will be created by the right outfield fence located 70 feet southwest of the main entrance road.

The outfield fences will have 8-foot high green padding on the inside

of the chain link fence. A 10-foot high net fence will extend above the chain link fence on the northwest, north and northeast sides. The total height will be 18 feet. A 25x60-foot "batter's eye" wall will be installed behind the center outfield fence. There will also be a 25x35-foot score board behind the right outfield fence. The plans for the baseball field include new landscaping with redwood trees to screen the backside of the batter's eye and score board. Tension poles varying in height from 30 to 50 feet tall would be installed along the southwest, south and southeast sides of the baseball field to deflect foul balls and for the bullpen.

Brother Dominic Berardelli, Special Assistant to the President of SMC, stated that with the deep setback and the addition of trees, the perspective entering the campus would not be compromised.

The DRB unanimously approved the design of the new field and made the recommendation to cover the outside of the right outfield fence with a filling that will allow the growth of a mix of evergreen and deciduous

vines. SMC will now be working to-

wards obtaining approval for the new recreation center.

Changes Spur Noise Concerns Among Neighbors

As Saint Mary's College moves forward with plans to shuffle its sports fields, some of its neighbors are worried about the conversion of an existing grass field, located between the Stadium and the McKeon Pavilion – close to Bollinger Canyon Road and the Bluffs residential area – to a synthetic turf playing field. Scheduled improvements include four new 70-foot high light poles with 12 lights on each pole. It's not the lights per se that the neighbors dread; with the lights comes the authorization to use the field until 10:00 p.m. – it is potential noises in the night that are raising concerns.

The college was eager to play a 'good neighbor' role as it presented the project to the community. College staff and consultants came in number the Design Review Board meeting to explain their project.

After hearing SMC's presentation and listening to the neighbors' concerns, Moraga Planning Director Lori Salamack proposed that the college be allowed to light the fields until 9:00 p.m., and then perhaps earn the right to use them until 10:00 p.m.

"We were in support of the Planning Director's proposal to limit the lighting/use to 9:00 p.m. initially, as a neighborly gesture, with the proviso that it could be extended to 10:00 p.m. if nighttime use of that particular field did not present a problem to neighbors," commented Bluff's resident Frank Comprelli. "In other words, allow for the neighbors to acclimate to the new environment and get some experience with a 9:00 p.m. limit before expanding to 10:00 p.m." The DRB voted against this plan, enacting the 10:00 p.m. shut down.

Bandshell Addition and Renovation: Park Foundation to Present Plans

By Sophie Braccini



Conceptual design of bandshell by architect Stan Nielsen

Everyone who has been to a summer concert at the Moraga Commons Park has smelled the aroma of hamburgers and hotdogs prepared on-site for the audience. Long lines form to the right of the stage, while inside the 'snack shack,' cramped volunteers do their best to satisfy hungry spectators.

The facility needs an update, says Foundation vice president Bob Reynolds, "As our audience grows, we're a bit on top of each other working in the snack shack." Reynolds continued, "Additionally, we need to keep up with the Health Department regulations that require that food preparation be done inside."

On Thursday, April 14, the Park Foundation invites the community to view plans for the expansion and renovation of the food service facility. The meeting will be held at the Hacienda de las Flores from 7:00-8:00 p.m. and light refreshments will be served.

The improvements would double the size of the current facility, enclosing what is now a concrete slab that extends ten feet behind the current shack. The Park Foundation believes that the upgrade will permit other local groups to organize their own events, including food preparation, at the park as well. This season will be spent planning and getting permits. Exterior construction will start this October, and a presentation to the Town is scheduled for April, 2012.

Haffner Talks Turkey

By Sophie Braccini

Moraga's large, feathered denizens may not know it yet, but a powerful adversary has just taken aim at them. During the March 23rd Town Council meeting John Haffner, Pear Prince and 2009 Moraga Citizen of the Year, complained that recurrent large flocks of Meleagris gallopavo, or wild turkeys, infest his neighborhood; leaving behind depredation and waste. Vice-Mayor Mike Metcalf asked that the issue,

and possible solutions, be studied by staff and returned to the Council for consideration.

"It is a very difficult question with animal rights issues, required Fish & Game permits, and other concerns," indicated Town Manager Jill Keimach, who said she asked Chief of Police Bob Priebe to look into the matter.

The standard procedure is to lodge a complaint with the Depart-

ment of Fish and Game. If the problem is confirmed, the department can issue an order to kill a set number of turkeys. A similar issue recently set Danville's Canyon Country Club in an uproar – the homeowner's association received a permit to have 75 birds killed, but other residents called the procedure inhumane. The Ross-moor community was also an early adopter of this method of controlling the turkey population. Six years ago

the State of California added turkeys to the list of creatures that can be killed with a permit in cases of property damage and public health problems.

"We have received complaints about turkey issues on and off for the past few years," said Priebe, "I will find out what our options are and let the Council decide how it wants to proceed."

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Bollinger Development on Council's Agenda Tonight

Tonight the Moraga Town Council will study three potential re-zoning options for the Bollinger Valley property owned by the Bruzzone family. The property, which is located beyond the Bluffs, could accommodate hundreds of new single family homes. The area is presently zoned as a "study area" in the General Plan.

S. Braccini

Moraga's 2011 Citizen of the Year

By Sophie Braccini



Gordan Nathan Photo A. Scheck

Gordon Nathan has been named Moraga's 2011 Citizen of the Year. Nathan's career, and later most of his free time in retirement, has been dedicated to safety and emergency preparedness. As an assessor for AAA, he trained independent contractors to meet the safety requirements of his employer. In that capacity, he assisted in the rescue operations both during the Loma Prieta earthquake and the Oakland fire. Back at home in Moraga, he was instru-

mental in the launch of the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) and has been an instructor, helping train hundreds of Lamorinda residents. He is also part of Rescue One, the Foundation that raises funds to support the paramedic operations of the Moraga Orinda Fire District. He will be honored at a dinner organized by the Moraga Valley Kiwanis and the Contra Costa Times on April 15 at the Saint Mary's College Soda Center.

Tri-City Dance to be Held Despite Recent Trouble

By Sophie Braccini

Despite a fight requiring police intervention at the last teen dance held at the New Rheem Theatre, the Youth Involvement committees from Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda are determined to hold the dance they are jointly sponsoring on April 22. The groups have been working together, and with theater, since last November on their plans to host students from Acalanes, Campolindo, and Miramonte high schools.

A dance on April 1st that rallied 350 teens was stopped by police after a violent incident between teenage girls (see our police blotter). "I was one of the people who

intervened to break up the fight and I am still in shock," says Beau Behan, the manager of the New Rheem Theatre, "we put on these events for teens to have a safe place to have fun; this is not a money maker for us, if something like this happens again we may stop the dances." Behan adds that he's been working with the Police Chief to tighten the security rules at the theater and that people breaking those rules will be ejected.

As for the upcoming dance, "It is both the Rheem Theatre's and three teen committees' goal to make this a safe and fun dance," says Moraga Youth Involvement

Committee chair Layth Ramatala, "A large portion of our discussions were dedicated to making sure that the safety of these students are assured. There are clothing requirements along with breathalyzers and pat downs. With these precautionary measures taken, we believe that we should not confront any problems."

"The three Parks and Recreation Departments and three teen advisory committees have worked many hours to host a successful and safe event on April 22. We plan to go forward with the event," said Moraga Parks and Recreation Director Jay Ingram.

Confusing Incident near Rancho Laguna Park

The Contra Costa County Sheriff's office reported that on Tuesday April 5 at 4:45 p.m. a suspicious circumstance happened at 30 Quail Crossing, opposite Rancho Laguna Park. An 18-year-old male who was working on the property called out to his co-workers and said he had been shot in the belly. They called for help, and the injured man was air-

lifted to John Muir Hospital where he underwent surgery. Police conducted a search on land and in the air but could not locate a suspect. Doctors who operated on the young man could not find any trace of a bullet, and could not qualify the wound as a gun injury. According to Sheriff's staff, no one heard a gun shot and at this point it cannot be confirmed that

a shooting took place. The investigation into the incident continues.

S. Braccini

Moraga Teens Collect for Underprivileged Kids

By Sophie Braccini



MYIC displayed the supply they need at the Park Foundation Life Member reception.

Photo Kimberley Nelson

Members of the Moraga Youth Involvement Committee (MYIC) will go door to door on April 16 to ask for donations and school supplies. The MYIC is comprised of about a dozen middle school and high school students who serve the community at Town functions, organize children's activities, and every year choose a local social justice issue they want to work on. This year, in partnership with Shelter Inc., they plan to donate 20 backpacks full of necessities that will be given to children whose families cannot provide them. "A meaningful charitable drive," commented Moraga Mayor Karen Mendonca.

"These kids are great, they impress me more and more," says Kimberley Nelson, the Recreation

and Facilities Coordinator for the Town of Moraga who is in charge of the MYIC organization, "they are committed to school, sports, then they come to the MYIC meetings and they want to do more." The idea came up as part of a group discussion. "We all agreed that it would be a memorable year if we could take on a large-scale project," says Layth Ramatala, Campolindo student and chair of the MYIC, "We originally had a few options and then narrowed it down to this backpack drive."

According to Shelter Inc., on any given night in Contra Costa County there are almost 7,000 homeless men, women, and children; 68% are part of a homeless family with children. Shelter Inc. provides them with a roof and helps the children get to school every morning.

"As always, it is difficult to understand that just 20 minutes away from us, people are struggling to make a living," says Ramatala. "I am sure everyone can agree that living in a safe place like Moraga is wonderful, but a lot of us fail to recognize that just outside of our town, people are just above or even below the poverty line. This backpack drive is not only a great way to donate to people in need, it is also a great way to inform Moragans of the hardships people face within our Contra Costa community."

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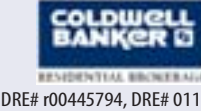
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Orinda to Hold Moraga Way Traffic Workshop - April 26th

By Andrea A. Firth

Traffic moved smoothly along Moraga Way between Miramonte High School and the Crossroads during the morning rush hour over the past week. What happened to the congestion and snail's pace pattern that typically characterizes both the northbound and southbound morning journeys on Moraga Way? Spring Break happened, which kept carloads of Orinda's students in bed or on vacation and off the city's main thoroughfare.

Traffic on Moraga Way from 7:00 to 8:00 a.m. on weekdays

throughout the school year is the bane of carpoolers and commuters as hundreds of students make their way to Del Rey Elementary, Orinda Intermediate, and Miramonte High. No-left-turn signs have been installed at Ivy Drive and most recently Southwaite Court to stem the flow of traffic down Ivy Drive by limiting the use of the street as a bypass and forcing drivers to stay on Moraga Way. When the City's Traffic Safety Advisory Committee (TSAC) recommended the additional no-left turn signage on Moraga Way, they ac-

knowledgeed that it was a band-aid fix to a much bigger traffic issue; TSAC now plans to take a look at that larger issue.

On Tuesday, April 26th TSAC will host a community workshop to discuss concerns about the traffic along the entire length of Moraga Way. According to City Engineer Janice Carey the workshop will include an overview of the traffic studies that have been conducted for Moraga Way and the traffic consultant, who works with the City, will be on hand to answer questions. Atten-

dees will be invited to participate in breakout groups to identify the issues and possible solutions to the Moraga Way traffic quagmire. The meeting is open to all residents, and representatives from the Orinda Union School District and Miramonte High School have been invited to attend.

Community Workshop - Traffic Concerns on Moraga Way
April 26th from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
Founders Auditorium, Orinda Community Center

State of the City Luncheon on April 20th

By Andrea A. Firth



Victoria Smith Photo Ohlen Alexander

Residents of Orinda will have the opportunity to hear how things are going in their fine city at the upcoming State of the City Address to be given by Mayor Victoria Smith on Wednesday, April 20th. Hosted by the Rotary Club of Orinda and the Orinda Chamber of Commerce, the lunch and presentation will be held at the Orinda Community Center. The event will also include special recognitions for members of Orinda's business community: Julian Juricevic, owner of Orinda Taxi; and Orinda News' editor Sally Hogarty and business columnist Valerie Hotz. Tickets are \$20 and available through the Chamber website, www.orindachamber.org, rsvp by April 15th.



Orinda Rotary member Dick Birkhalter, Council member Amy Worth, and Richard Nelson, Chair of the Citizens' Infrastructure Oversight Commission, manned the City's table on opening day of the Orinda Farmers' Market. Photo Ohlen Alexander

too perfect Premiere at The Orinda

... continued from page A1

When asked about the upcoming premiere of *too perfect* to be held at the Orinda Theater later in April, there is a palpable feeling of nervous anticipation among the local cast. They have yet to view the full-length version of the film, and it will be the first time for most to see themselves on a theater's big screen. All of the cast members recall the two weeks of filming last summer as a good time and enjoyed hanging out, making a new set of friends, and getting to know the film crew. "I thought being in the film was an amazing experience," says Jake Linares, who plays one of Elijah's good friends in the film, "The acting wasn't that hard, but it was definitely work and harder than it looks."

The movie was filmed at locations throughout Lamorinda including Theater Square, Republic of Cake, Loard's Ice Cream, 24 Hour Fitness, and Miramonte High School. (Miramonte Principal Adam Clark plays a small part in the film.) "You even see the crosses in Lafayette in the background of one scene," says Rubio, "You can't deny it's a part of our landscape, but it's not there to make sort of political statement."

Rubio says she set much of the film in Orinda because she wants to contribute to the changing vibe of the downtown. "I want people who come to Orinda to find it to be a cool, little city," says Rubio, and she believes movies might be a way to foster that image. She mentions other Bay Area cities that have served as film locations, such as San Rafael which served as a film site for the movie *American Graffiti*. "They may have only done a day filming there, but people still go to visit San Rafael to see that set location."

"Film is the strongest medium we have," says

Rubio. "We have this gorgeous theater in a downtown surrounded by beautiful hills. We need to support what we have here."

Front page photo: The Orinda-based cast of *too perfect* on the steps outside Table 24 at Theater

Square: Back row (L to R) Aaron Valled, Mia Harnett, Antonio Salmeron, Tyler Maramonte, Jake Linares; front row (L to R) Maddie Geary, Madison Gibson, Lindsey Watters, Tessa Hanson, Elijah Stavena, Haley Stanton. Photo A. Firth

too perfect will screen at the Orinda Theater on Friday, April 29th at 7:00 p.m. and Sunday, May 1st at 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. There will a Q and A with the cast following the screenings. Tickets are \$10. *too perfect* will also be shown at Miramonte High School on Friday, May 6th at 7:00 p.m. This screening is open to the public and 25% of the ticket proceeds will be donated to Miramonte.



Orinda Civic News

Public Meetings

City Council Special Meeting Budget Workshop
Thursday, April 21, 4:00 pm
Auditorium, Orinda Library, 26 Orinda Way

Planning Commission

A Special City Council / Planning Commission Joint Meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 26, at 7:00 p.m. in the Garden Room, Orinda Library, 26 Orinda Way

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

City of Orinda:

www.cityoforinda.org

Chamber of Commerce:

www.orindachamber.org

The Orinda Association:

www.orindaassociation.org



Police Report

Not lucky on Las Vegas, 3/25/11 Las Vegas Road, that is. The rear slider of a home was pried open for burglar(s) to gain access and the electricity to the rear of the home was shut off at the main fuse box. Perhaps in case the door was hooked up to an alarm system? The elderly female victim was unable to take an inventory of missing items due to a medical condition.

Tools taken, 3/25/11 Directly across the street, at a home also on Las Vegas Road, approximately \$1,000 worth of tools were taken. Police happened to be at the neighbor's home noted above and came to check to see if anyone had seen or heard anything unusual when they found the door open. The home was ransacked and there was damage to the sliding door.

Plate problems, 3/25/11 A car was pulled over on southbound Camino Pablo at Highway 24 for not having a front license plate and having the rear plate of a different car. The driver admitted to placing the plate on the vehicle, saying he recently bought it, but surprisingly he didn't have a bill of sale with him and he was driving on a suspended license.



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Letters to the Editor

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

Editor:

My only problem with the GIANT, STARK WHITE lettering on our new friendly DOLLAR STORE is that they don't flash 24/7. I do hate to complain, but...

Jari Hazard
Moraga

Editor:

All taxpayers are not treated equal. Take Ivy Dr. residents as an example. They pay property taxes like we all do, but they get preferential treatment. Even though, they live in the Ivy Dr. loop going to Miramonte High School and also, what the city of Orinda considers a collector street and feeder to two schools, they decide who goes through "their" street and who does not. They decided, sometime ago that they do not want Miramonte High school traffic going through their street in the mornings.

So, they went to the City Council and the City granted them a No Left Turn restriction on "their street." They did not want students parking in "their" street and the City granted them restrictive parking on Ivy Drive. They got privileges they did not deserve at the expense of the City taxpayers, that not only pay property taxes, but pay school parcel taxes and end up restricted from using a public street and get tickets if they dare to do so. Is that fair?

No left turn restriction went up on Southwaite Ct, to insure that Ivy Drive was fully blocked from traffic going back to "their" street. Is worth mentioning that left turns are still legal on Leslee Lane.

Maria Campos
Orinda

cancer. However, these studies examine health effects only in the short-term. The early introduction and ubiquity of cell phones in Scandinavia translates into a 240% increased risk of glioma for individuals using their cell phone in excess of ten years.

Comparatively, Israel, Germany, Finland, Russia, Switzerland, France, and Canada have all expressed serious concerns. Switzerland already requires SAR warning labels on cell phones, and France already has cell phone marketing restrictions to children. Additionally, the U.S. President's Commission on Cancer reports that extended cell phone usage causes brain tumors. It is inexcusable to allow technological advances invented to enrich our lives rob us of our lives instead. Reducing direct radiation exposure to the brain can be achieved by promoting simple precautionary measures like wearing a headset, using the speakerphone, or texting. Enacting simple precautions to reduce exposure will save us from a potential global epidemic of brain tumors.

Consumers must continue to demand the successful Right to Know ordinance be implemented in San Francisco. Consumers must demand cell phones require warning labels similar to cigarettes. Consumers must demand their city follow in the footsteps of San Francisco. Even if we agree to disagree on the validity of current studies, we should make the compromise that information and simple precautions help protect public health.

Sincerely,
Zack Marks
Lafayette

Lafayette Measure B

Editor:

As a thirty year resident of Lafayette and a full time Real Estate Broker for 27+ years in Lamorinda, I urge you to vote for Measure B which will provide temporary emergency funding for our top rated Lafayette Schools. The passage of Measure B will positively impact our property values. Threatened by the ongoing state budget crisis, our elementary and middle schools need this support now. It goes directly to classroom instruction and will help keep our schools among the top in the State.

I believe one of the most important factors in families with school aged children coming to Lafayette is the excellence of our public schools. Some come from out of state, but many come from other Bay Area communities. Our top rated Lafayette school district is of monumental importance in their decision to relocate here. As long as our public schools are among the best in the State, the demand for homes in this area will continue, and this will continue to directly impact our property values.

Whether you have school aged children in the Lafayette or not, I urge you to support this important Measure B. Sincerely,
Patricia Battersby
Lafayette

... continued on page A8

Editor:

Democracy requires participation amongst the governed, but the people must be provided the information necessary to render informed decisions. All people maintain a fundamental right to safety and health information about technologies that will directly impact one's health. San Francisco's trend-setting disclosure of radiation specific absorption rates (SAR) signifies a pivotal shift in the raging debate over the hidden long-term health risks of cell phones. Lt. Gov. Newsom describes his legislation as "a modest and commonsense measure to provide greater transparency and information." The FCC, a federal agency handling communication matters, for over a decade, stipulated the exact methods used approximating cell phone's SAR. Shockingly, the FCC established SAR limits without any pre-market safety testing and guidelines are outdated by over 15 years. Currently, the FCC is arguing (without offering any reasoning) that SAR is meaningless and proposing to eliminate all wired landlines. The FCC withdrawal of information from their website paralleled arguments from the Cellular Telecommunications Industry (CTIA) opposing San Francisco Right to Know ordinance about disclosing cell phone radiation levels.

In order to separate truth from fiction, we need more independent research instead of self-serving studies funded by the cell phone industry. UC Berkeley Professor Joel Moskowitz argues that independent studies demonstrate "consistent evidence that heavy cell phone use for a decade or longer increases brain tumor risk at least 30%." Mr. Snowden of the CTIA wants to be "very clear. The CTIA has not said once... that cell phones are safe." The CTIA argues that most studies do not demonstrate a direct link between cell phone usage and



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Letters to the Editor

... continued

Editor:
You know about Measure B having spoken with a friend, received a call from a supporter, or seen a sign in a neighbor's yard. As a Lafayette City Council member, I believe the entire community should support schools. Speak with any leading Lafayette realtor to learn that schools attract new homebuyers to Lafayette. As I campaigned last fall, I encountered many new families, each of whom "Loves Lafayette."
The schools' appeal keeps Lafayette's population steady and partially mitigates the decline in home values. New residents volunteer for school and other activities, patronize local merchants, and pay taxes. Their interest in Lafayette strengthens the community. As their children age, these residents will assume other volunteer and career leadership positions and maintain Lafayette's desirability. Measure B is critical for our children. Since 2008, the Lafayette School District's state revenue declined by \$1,100 per student. The need by Sacramento politicians to make-up for state budget shortfalls could reduce per pupil spending by another several hundred dollars next year.
Parents are asked to contribute approximately \$1,000 per child to augment the school budget. As recent homebuyers, many are stretched.
Measure B will alleviate the worst of the potential reductions but does not allow for lavish spending. Measure B, a four-year parcel tax of approximately 50 cents per day, enables us to retain essential programs, provide children with a good education, and maintain Lafayette's appeal for new residents.
Please join me in voting for Measure B and watch for your mail ballot in April.
Sincerely,
Don Tatzin
Lafayette

Dear Fellow Lafayette Residents,
This letter is to implore you to support our emergency local parcel tax campaign, Measure B.
I currently live in Lafayette and was a principal here for 42 years. During that time I always inquired as to why a new family moved here. As you probably know, 100% of the families I asked responded, "We moved here for the schools."
Lafayette is an affluent area, but the inverse applies to state funding of our district education budget (we are among the lowest per student funding in the state). Our budget shortfall for 2011-2012 will be two and a quarter million more dollars and result in further cuts.
For some time we have been facing and making conscientious muscle and bone cuts to programs, students, services, and staff, all the while trying our best to keep our children's education the center of our focus.
In addressing these huge cuts in our already decimated budget, our Governing Board, staff and community have determined some of the 2011-12 budget reductions will include, but are not limited to:
Employee layoffs
Four additional unpaid furlough days (resulting in four less teaching days for students) in addition to the two furlough days implemented in the 2010-11 school year.
Increase in health care co-pay for all employees
Cuts to music and science instruction
\$75,000 reduction in technology budget
Layoff of four elementary teachers
Larger class sizes with decreased instructional aide time
Once again, we desperately need our wonderful community to partner in funding our schools. Your support will help mitigate the severity of the impact of the aforementioned cuts the Budget Reduction Plan will require (absent passage of Measure B).
We all acknowledge we moved here for our excellent schools. Please support Measure B. It will really help keep the Lafayette educational experience great!
Best regards,
Ben Shaw

Editor:
First they came for our maintenance staff, and I did not speak out because I did not value their importance.
Then they came for our music program, and I did not speak out because I did not see the worth in learning the arts.
Then they came for our science lab, and I did not speak out because I did not see the need for hands-on learning.
Then they came for our teachers, and I did not speak out because I did not understand the benefit of small class sizes.
Then they came looking for the bright, educated leaders of tomorrow to recruit for college, and there was nothing left to say, for there were no qualified applicants.
Stay informed. Get involved. Work together to establish stable funding for our schools.
Sincerely,
Jennifer Paul
Lafayette

Editor:
I have read with interest the pros and cons of Measure B, the Lafayette School District's Parcel Tax. In my opinion, the citizens of Lafayette are being exploited and frightened by a dire scenario if we do not vote for another increase AGAIN.
The District has gone to the well too many times with the same horrendous school district decline predicted if we do not vote more money to the District. It is time for the District to be forthright with its citizens.
I have two questions.
1)- why is the District only using 10% of its \$3,000,000 reserves. I thought reserves were to be used in an emergency - why ask the citizens to pay more when Lafayette School District is only using \$300,000 of its reserves? Also, Lafayette Arts and Science is donating \$1,700,000 and I am sure the PTAs are also raising money.
2) - whatever happened to the money from the sale of three school sites - Burton Valley, Vallecito, and Ellis. These funds have never been mentioned - are they gone? Is the District using only the interest? How were they spent or do they still exist in the reserve account? Remember, it has only been two years since the District came to us with the same dire predictions. I would think one could ask if the administration is so incompetent that they were not able to forecast a need for more money two years ago or did they play the game of "let's get some now and we can go out for more in two years." I was told that this was the District's plan all along.
Do I want great schools - absolutely. Do I think the citizens are being thought of as gullible and easily scared - absolutely. You may also want to consider that the Lafayette test scores have been falling every year - even with the influx of money. I only ask that you think seriously about the tax and its timing.
I would suggest that we call their bluff and see how many services are reduced if the citizens do not vote for the tax. Perhaps they would dip into their \$3,000,000 reserve.
Charles Baker
Lafayette

Editor:
It has been my pleasure to be a teacher in the Lafayette School District for over ten years. I have always felt so blessed to be part of a district that supports the education of all the students. Teachers, support staff, administrators, community foundations and school board members work together for the common goal of excellent education for all students. This takes time, energy and money.
As most are aware, state funding has been unstable, at best. Every year we are faced with deeper and deeper cuts. For the past three years, we have all worked incredibly hard to keep cuts away from the classroom, while maintaining the excellence in classroom education. This year the teachers had two furlough (unpaid) days, which were taken during regular teacher in-service days, keeping student contact days the same. Next year we are facing an additional four furlough days which will impact the student contact days. Teachers will be forced to make choices about how to provide the same excellence within a shorter timeframe. Measure B will help replace those lost days and preserve the quality education we have fought so hard to keep.
We are all hoping to weather this "financial" storm and maintain a quality education in the Lafayette School District. Please join with me and vote "yes" on Measure B.
Sincerely,
Judy Zenoni

Join our Public Forum

If you have significant knowledge about an issue facing Lamorinda, or one of its communities, that requires more than the 350 words to which we must limit Letters to the Editor, don't despair! You can submit your letter to our Public Forum section. Just send your letter to letters@lamorindaweekly.com and let us know you'd like to be considered for the Public Forum. We will not accept Public Forum submissions regarding a current ballot measure or candidate for public office. Opinions expressed in Public Forum are the express views of the writer and not necessarily those of the Lamorinda Weekly.

Earth Day and Other Spring Celebrations in Lamorinda

By Sophie Braccini



The Bike Rodeo during Lafayette's 2010 Earth Day Celebration Photo provided

Spring has sprung, and Lamorinda's ready for it. For three weekends in a row this month, Lamorinda offers activities ranging from Earth Day to spring cleaning – The Wildlife/Earth Day Festival on April 17 in Orinda, Earth Day in Lafayette on April 23, and Moraga Beautiful Day on April 30th are opportunities to build community and help out Mother Nature.

Start in Orinda for the 10th Annual Wildlife/Earth Day Festival that will take place in the beautiful Wagner Ranch Nature Area (next to Wagner Ranch Elementary School, 350 Camino Pablo Road in Orinda) on Sunday April 17th from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. "The Friends of the Wagner Ranch Nature Area will conduct this free festive program to celebrate and support environmental education programs in the Nature Area," says Naturalist Toris Jaeger. The 18 acres of meadows, forest, ponds and stream are a unique outdoor classroom where environmental education programs for children are conducted. It is also a historical site and has served Orinda school children for 30 years. The program on April 17th, designed with families in mind, will offer games and discoveries for adults and children alike – including a chance to test-drive Chevrolet's electric Volt, giant solar balloon, arts, crafts and games, as well as food. For more information go to www.fwrma.org.

The following weekend, head to Lafayette for the Annual Earth Day Picnic and Celebration, on the Plaza in downtown Lafayette from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.; the Bike Rodeo starts

at 9:00 a.m. This is the 6th annual Earth Day event presented by Sustainable Lafayette, the City of Lafayette and the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce. The day will start with the Bike Rodeo at Stanley Middle School, a popular event for kids who come with their bikes and learn from the pros how to safely navigate the suburban landscape. "Young kids really get into the event and appear to learn from it," says Sustainable Lafayette's Bart Carr, who organizes the rodeo, "and parents are very appreciative." There will also be Eco Way, a chance meet Lafayette green businesses and products, buy veggie starters, and visit with local environmental groups. Other activities will be offered before and after a "Picnic on the Green." For more information, go to www.sustainable-lafayette.org.

If you're not exhausted by all the partying and feel like giving back to your community, Moraga is the place to be at the end of the month. On April 30th you won't be fed or entertained. You will have to get up early and go demonstrate your love of nature by giving a few hours of work to make the town "Moraga Beautiful." "We would love to have volunteers to help at the Commons Park this year," says Moraga Parks and Recreation Director Jay Ingram, "I would recommend wearing old clothing because you will be painting some of the park amenities. The Town will supply gloves, brushes, paint and stain." Volunteers should arrive at 8:45am, ready to work from 9:00 a.m.-noon. For more information, contact Ingram at jingram@moraga.ca.us.

Not to be missed

SPRING EVENTS

Zumbathon for Japan! A fun, community event Sat, April 16, from 4-6pm at the Lafayette Library Community Hall Dance for a cause with Midori Miller, our Bay Area's iconic Zumba guru & her fellow instructors while you help Japan. Minimum donation: \$20. Raffle tickets: \$5 each (prizes include two free hotel stays at Renaissance Clubsport, pottery by a renowned local artist, dental services & teeth whitening, and so much more!) Advanced reservations recommended. E-mail Elena Pang at ebpwoman@comcast.net / ph: (925) 212-2035. Make checks payable to: Consulate General of Japan, Memo: Attention - Japan Earthquake Relief Fund Send to: 8 Austin Ct, Orinda, CA 94563

10th Annual Wildlife/Earth Day Festival on Sunday April 17th 1- 4pm, Wagner Ranch Nature Area, 350 Camino Pablo Rd., Orinda. The free festive program to celebrate and support environmental education programs in the Nature Area will offer an electric Volt to test drive, a Raptor Show, ARF dogs, Eagle Shield's trailer of energy efficient systems, a giant solar balloon, native plants for your garden, Arts and crafts, delicious food, music and games, and more – see www.fwrma.org.

Lafayette Earth Day celebration, Saturday, April 23rd: (9am - 11:30am) children K-5th grade can learn practice bike safety on the outdoor course at Stanley Middle School with a festive parade to Lafayette Plaza Park; (11:30am – 1:30pm) enjoy a local, organic, sustainable lunch at the downtown Plaza Park with live music and activities; (11:00am - 3pm) Plaza Way will be turned into "Eco-Way" featuring the "Backyard of Tomorrow" that demonstrates the latest green gardening techniques and materials. Also visit with a number of local environmental groups including Sustainable Lafayette, The Urban Farmers, Lafayette Farmers' Market, Trust in Education, CCC Solid Waste Authority, and more. For info see www.sustainablelafayette.org.

The Cultural Nights at Saint Mary's College take place every spring semester. LU'AU: Celebrating the Polynesian Cultural and Community, Saturday, April 30. Registration 5:30-6pm, doors open at 6 pm. Asian Cultural Night, Thursday, May 5. Registration 5:30-6p.m., doors open at 6pm. Both events will be at the Soda Activity Center, Saint Mary's College of California, 1928 St. Mary's Rd., Moraga.

The Moraga TreeLine Triathlon will take place on Saturday, April 30, 7:30 am at the Soda Aquatic Center, Campolindo High School, 300 Moraga Road. The event is ideal for the beginning triathlete as well as the more advanced competitor. The swim is a challenging 400 meter sprint, followed by a 22 K bike ride out to Canyon, and culminating with a 5 K run. New youth divisions have been added this year. For more information and route details go to www.moragatri.com, or call (925) 888-7035.

Cinco de Mayo celebration on Thursday, May 5, 4:00pm to 7:00pm at Hacienda de las Flores, 2100 Donald Drive, Moraga. Live Mariachi Band, Tortilla making, Pinatas, Games for Children, Authentic Mexican Food, Margaritas, Beer and Soft Drinks, available for a nominal charge. Free parking and shuttle from Rheem. Shopping Center. Sponsored by the Hacienda Foundation and the Town of Moraga Parks and Recreation Department.

Moraga Community Faire, Saturday, May 14, Rheem Shopping Center. Fun for all ages.: classic car show, 26' climbing wall, big bounces, food, local wines, cold beer. Listen to a Campolindo chorus and some local jazz bands. For details, visit www.moragachamber.org.

The first annual "With help comes hope walkathon" will be Saturday, May 14 at Heather Farm Park in Walnut Creek. Registration for the 5K event will be from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. All funds that are raised will support our life-affirming services—24-hour crisis lines, grief counseling program, youth services, homeless services, and 211 information and referral. To find out more, call our business office at (925) 939-1916 or go to www.crisis-center.org.

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◆ Not to be missed ◆ Not to be missed ◆ Not to be missed ◆

ART

Lafayette artist Marsha Ramp will display her paintings at Town Hall Theater through May 6. Ramp's love of nature is evident in her elegant still life paintings which include a variety of stunning floral arrangements. Her portraits reveal a respect for human nature. Visitors are welcome to view Ramp's paintings before Town Hall performances or most afternoons after 3pm. Admission is free. For more information email marsharamp@comcast.net.

Painter Suzanne D'Arcy is presenting dual art shows in Moraga



for the month of April. At the Moraga Library, 18 plein air paintings representing the "Edges of Our Rural Lands" will be displayed until April 30th. "Kitchen Companions" will be displayed in Terzetto's lobby. Suzanne teaches Fine Art painting at the Academy of Art University, and maintains her studio in Moraga. The reception for both of these shows will be held in the lobby of Terzetto's Restaurant on Saturday evening, April 16th, from 5-7pm. All are welcome.

Moraga Art Gallery's show, Chiaroscuro: Light and Shadow runs through June 4. The gallery is located at 570 Center St in Moraga. For more information, go to www.moragaart-gallery.com or (925)376-5407.

Helen Ann Licht's latest paintings will be at the Orinda Bookstore, 276 Village Square, Orinda during the month of April.

Smyers Glass Open Studio with Glassblowing Demonstrations on

April 28, 29, 30, May 1 from 10am to 5pm, 675 East H Street, Benicia. Visitors to the Smyers Glass studio can view hot glass artists at work creating vases, bowl, goblets and more using the same glassmaking techniques that date back to ancient times. Long metal blowpipes are dipped into hot molten glass drawn from the studio's fiery furnace and shaped into objects of beauty. Plenty of free parking available. This is a free event that is open to the public.

MUSIC

Hear up-tempo numbers and ballads, swing and salsa, instrumental and vocal soloists at the SMC Jazz Band's free spring concert. Under the direction of John Maltester. Thursday, April 14th at 8pm in the Soda Center and Wednesday, May 4th at 1pm in Ferragiaro Quad. Cost: Free.

An Afternoon of Dance from China and Korea Performed in Elaborate Costumes by Members of the Culture to Culture Foundation Friday, April 15th from 1:30-3:00 in the Live Oak Room, Lafayette Community Center, 500 St. Mary's Rd., Lafayette. Audience members will be encouraged to learn and follow along with Tai Chi and Luk Tung Kwen steps to join in the fun. Bring friends and enjoy light refreshments provided by BrightStar Lifecare Services. \$3Members/\$5 Non-Members.

"It Might As Well Be Spring"- Talented keyboard musicians from the Contra Costa Performing Arts Society will be highlighting romantic songs and the gaiety of the spring season. Join us at our splendid Lafayette Library and Learning Center and bring friends. Light refreshments will be served. Friday, April 22 from 1:30-2:30 at Community Hall, Lafayette Library & Learning Center, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette.

Generations In Jazz presents The Big Band Of Rossmoor May 6 for a big band dance and concert at The Veterans Memorial Building. Tickets are

on sale at the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce for \$10. Reserve tickets at 284-7404 or purchase at the door. Free dance lessons are available from 7-8pm with instructor Gail Enright. Then the dance and concert begins at 8pm.

The Lafayette Rotary Club's 18th Annual Concert at the Res. will be held on Saturday May 14 from 11am-2pm. The FREE event showcases our local school music programs that play live music at the beautiful Lafayette Reservoir. Performing will be the Stanley Symphonic Band led by Bob Athayde; the highly acclaimed Acalanes Wind Ensemble led by Norm Dea, the Big Band of Rossmoor led by Mo Levich, and the Bentley School Jazz combo led by Brian Pardo. This year's concert will be held for the last time at the meadow just above the Boat House. Shuttles are available to take you from the main parking lot up to the concert.

THEATER

International Film Showcase Series April Film: FIUGTEN, The Escape, screens at the Orinda Theatre Friday, April 22-Thursday, April 28. Directed by Kathrine Windfield, this Danish thriller is set in 2009. The movie starts with a heart-pounding-kidnapping on the war torn streets of Afghanistan and what follows is anything but predictable. Orinda Theatre Box Office Ticket Pricing: (cash only). General admission: \$10.00 (Online purchase price \$11.00) Senior: \$8.00, age 60 and up.

Get ready for some funk, junk and to shake your trunk! The Bulldog Theater Company is excited to announce the opening of its 2011 musical, *The Wiz*, at the Orinda Intermediate School. Preview shows are April 20 (Wed) and 21 (Thu) at 4:30pm. Two casts perform two shows on April 22 (5pm, 8pm) and April 23 (3pm, 7pm). Tickets are available online or at the door. Advance purchase is recommended for the April 22-23 shows which have reserved seating.

The Wiz is a funky, upbeat version of the perennial Wizard of Oz. Tickets go on sale Monday, April 11th. Visit the OIS website at orindaschools.org/ois for more information.

Come to Performers for Progress, a student run variety show featuring many talented local high school students on April 21st and 22nd at 7:30 in the Miramonte High School Theater. Tickets are \$6 for students and \$12 for adults. This spring, we will be raising money for By Any Means Necessary, an organization that brings arts education to under-served public middle schools. The proceeds will fund a semester-long art program at Urban Promise Academy in Oakland. To learn more visit www.performersfor-progress.com.

LECTURE & LITERATURE

Kindergarten Readiness - Is your child ready for school? The Saklan School is hosting a parent education event on Wednesday, April 20 at 6:30 pm. This event is open to the community. Mona Kafoury, M.Ed., a local educational consultant, former teacher and school administrator will present all aspects of Kindergarten Readiness, including curriculum, trends and culture. This evening is tailored for parents of 4 & 5-year olds, or those soon to be. The event will be held in The Saklan School's Kindergarten room. Please RSVP to admissions@saklan.org or call (925) 376-7900 x16. You can also RSVP on our website, www.saklan.org.

Tuesday, April 26th, 2011 at 7:00pm, Lafayette Physical Therapy, Inc. is hosting an informative talk for the Lamorinda Community. Lisa Gibson, Physical Therapist, DPT, and Certified Active Release Techniques® (ART) Specialist will speak on "Optimizing Sports Performance and Injury Prevention". No cost. Seating is limited, please RSVP to (925) 284-6150 to hold your seat. 3468 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Suite B110, Lafayette.

KIDS, PARENTS & TEENS

Orinda Idol Auditions: May 19-21. Registration materials are available at www.orindaartscouncil.org. Orinda Idol Performance: Sunday, Sept. 11, 2011, 11am-7pm.

Tri-City Dance FAN FEST at the new Rheem Theater, 350 Park St., Moraga on Friday, April 22, 7:30 - 10:30pm. Open to current Acalanes, Campolindo & Maramonte students. Purchase tickets at the theater or the Lafayette Community Center for \$20. Wear your favorite sports team's gear. (Theme mandatory, no hats) \$2 cash donation at the door will support Lamorinda high school athletic programs. Full details and rules on Facebook & on the tickets.

JF Kapnek 8th Annual 5K/1K Family Fun Run, May 1st, 9am. Bring your friends and family to celebrate our accomplishments in Zimbabwe with the J.F. Kapnek Trust's 8th Annual 5K/1K Family Fun Run on May 1st at Miramonte High School in Orinda. There will be races for children as well as adults along with music of Zimbabwe, children's crafts and activities and a delicious brunch. Proceeds from this event will go to the Trust's efforts to diminish the impact of the HIV/AIDS epidemic on the children and families of Zimbabwe. Registration fee includes brunch and a T-shirt. Register online at www.active.com (keyword: Kapnek) or go to the Trust's website at www.jfkapnek-trust.org for more information.

On Saturday, May 7th, Diablo High School in Concord will host a Contra Costa Countywide summit called "Come to the Table: Change the Food, Change the Future". The goal of this summit is to raise awareness, educate the community and mobilize action to ultimately create a nationwide transformation in the way we feed our children in our schools. Visit www.wellnesscitychallenge.com to learn more. Cost for the full day is

Lamorinda's Religious Services

Get connected.
Grow in your faith.
Serve others.

Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church
Sunday Worship 9 & 11:00 a.m.
Programs for children & youth

49 Knox Drive | Lafayette | www.LOPC.org | 925-283-8722

St. Anselm's Episcopal Church
A Loving Community

Sunday Services: 8 and 10 AM

Active Youth Program, Sunday School, Nursery Childcare, 10 AM
682 Michael Lane, Lafayette, 284-7420, www.stanselms.ws

ORINDA CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CENTER
24 Orinda Way (next to the Library) - 254-4212

Sunday Service and Sunday School 10 - 11 am
Informal Wednesday Meeting 7:30 - 8:30 pm
Reading Room/Bookstore M - F 11 - 4; Sat 10 - 1

www.christianscienceorinda.org

THE ORINDA COMMUNITY CHURCH
10 Irwin Way, Orinda | 925.254.4906 | www.orindachurch.org

"No matter who you are, wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!"

Join us Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

Celebrate Our Risen Lord
Easter Sunday, April 24, 2011

Maudy Thursday Service
Thursday, April 21, 7pm - Commemorate Jesus' last evening with His followers. Childcare for kids through 5/K.

Easter Sunday Services
9:00am - Easter Egg Hunt for children 18 months-4 yrs.
10:30am - Nursery care available for 2-24 months.

Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church
(925) 376-4800 www.mvpc.today.org
10 Moraga Valley Ln., Moraga

Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church, 433 Moraga Way Orinda

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

925-254-3422

Refuge Community Church

Sundays at 10:30 am

A NEW, non-denominational Christian church
Veterans Memorial Building 3780 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette

www.refugecommunity.org
925-942-1000

Our Savior's Lutheran (ELCA)
1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette
283-3722 www.oslc.net

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP
8:30 Classic 10:45 Contemporary
PROGRESSIVE. PROACTIVE. PRESENT. We welcome you.

EASTER
April 24
8:00, 9:30
Classic Service
11:00
Contemporary

St Stephen's EPISCOPAL CHURCH ORINDA

HOLY WEEK

April 17, Palm Sunday
8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m. ~ Holy Eucharist and Palm Procession

April 21, Maudy Thursday
6:00 p.m. ~ Dinner in the Parish Hall
7:00 p.m. ~ Commemoration of the First Eucharist and Stripping of the Altar

April 22, Good Friday
12:00 ~ Good Friday Liturgy
The Way of the Cross ~ for children and youth
7:00 p.m. ~ Good Friday Liturgy

April 23, Holy Saturday
7:00 p.m. ~ The Great Vigil and First Eucharist of Easter followed by a festive reception

EASTER

April 24, Easter Sunday
7:30 a.m. ~ Choral Holy Eucharist
9:00 a.m. ~ Choral Holy Eucharist, Family Service, Children's Homily
11:00 a.m. ~ Choral Holy Eucharist

66 St. Stephen's Drive, Orinda
254-3770. www.ststephensorinda.org

Not to be missed

\$35/person which includes a healthy breakfast and lunch served by students from local culinary academies. Tickets available at www.cometothetable.eventbrite.com.

OTHER

Freecycle, Thursday, April 28th 9am-12:15pm at the Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church, 10 Moraga Valley Lane. We will be in the breezeway up the first stairwell off of the parking lot Freecycle of gently used children's clothing and equipment. Bring items and take items, or just come and take! This is for everyone in the community!

Lafayette Service League's Annual TOSSED TREASURES SALE will be held on Sat. April 30th (from 9 to 3) and Sun., May 1st (from 11 to 2) at the Lafayette Community Center, 500 St. Mary's Road. Plenty of free parking. Proceeds will benefit Hospice Foundation of the East Bay and the Community Center. If you have items to donate, please call: Judy 284-9266, Diane 283-8790 or Jackie 284-4131.

Electronic Ewaste Collection/Fundraiser for Feed The Children Disaster Relief Fund on Saturday April 30th from 9am to 4pm. Free to recycle televisions, monitors, laptops, cell phones, flatscreens and wires. \$5.00 per item fee to recycle: stereos, telephones, printers, DVD players, radios, fax machines, small appliances etc. Secured Document Destruction also provided at \$10.00 per Banker Box. Contact: (925)-890-1324.

A Community Treasure Sale. (a.k.a. Garage Sale) will take place on April 30th, 8am-2pm at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 66 St. Stephen's Drive. Orinda. www.ststephensorinda.org. Furniture, baby gear, vintage clothes, art, kitchen gems, games, etc. The funds raised will be used by the youth for volunteer service activities.

Not be missed continued on page B4

Not to be missed

EASTER EVENTS



Photo Doug Kohen

Moraga Junior Women's Club presents Spring Egg hunt 2011 on Saturday, April 16, at Moraga Commons, Corner of Moraga Rd. and St. Mary's Rd., Moraga. Ages 1 to 6. Games will be open from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. Two egg hunts are scheduled: one beginning at 10:00 a.m. and the other at 11:00 a.m. The cost is \$10 for a wristband which includes one egg hunt and unlimited games, crafts and bounce houses. Wristbands are only available for purchase in advance online at www.moragajuniors.org or at the Moraga Parks and Recreation Department located at Hacienda de las Flores, 2100 Donald Drive, Moraga, CA 94556, Phone: (925) 888-7045. The hours of operation are from 9am-4pm. Adult admission is free.

The Lafayette Rotary Club's Annual Egg Hunt is open to all children ages 2-through 3rd grade. The event takes place at Lafayette Plaza (corner of Mt. Diablo Blvd. and Moraga Rd) in Lafayette, at 9:30am, Saturday, April 23. The park lawn will be covered with candy for the kids to put in their baskets. The youngest are always

given extra time to get their share! The Bunny will be there to take pictures with the kids. Please arrive on time. We start promptly at 9:30am.

The Lafayette Community Center Foundation presents: Bunny Brunch and family fun on Sat. April 23 from 11-12:30 at the Lafayette Community Center \$7. Advance sale \$9/person the day of the event Pancake Brunch and Egg hunt. Buy tickets at Lafayette Community Center by April 22 for discount. For more info call (925) 284-2232.

Not to be missed

Orinda Rotary Club's Annual Egg Hunt, Sat. April 23, at the Orinda Community Center Play Field will feature over 1000 eggs and 40 prizes as well as pictures with the White Bunny. Ages: Toddlers through Kindergarten and Grades 1 and 2 only. The Hunt begins at 11am sharp, so plan on arriving at least 30 minutes before and park on the street or at the Rite Aid lot. Be sure to bring a basket..

On Saturday, April 23 from 1-3:30pm, The Stratford at Countrywood will be hosting an Easter Basket Eggstravaganza event that will feature entertainment and activities for the very young to seniors and all ages in between. There will be a performance by the award winning Contra Costa Children's Chorus, the East Bay's largest youth choir. Light hors d'ourves, champagne, and dessert buffet will be served. For children, there will be an Easter Egg Hunt, activities and photos with Peter Rabbit. An Easter Basket Auction will benefit Hospice of the East Bay. The Stratford at Countrywood is located at 1545 Pleasant Hill Blvd. in Lafayette. Please RSVP at (925) 932-9910. Free event.

Take a photo with the Easter Bunny on Saturday, April 23rd 11am to 2pm at the Rheem Shopping Center in Moraga. Bring your camera! The

photo is free with your Rheem Valley Shopping Center receipts totaling \$25 or more OR go online to www.rheemvalley.net to print out the coupon for a FREE photo session with the Easter Bunny.

Easter Brunch served in Gregersen Hall from 8:30-11am on Sunday April 24 at Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church, 433 Moraga Way, Orinda. (Suggested donations of Singles \$6 / Children 3-11 \$3 / Families \$15 - will benefit the Lamorinda Adult Respite Center). Please Contact Lisa (925) 254-3422 or Lisaverley@Holyshepherd.org so we can prepare enough food.

The Moraga Certified Farmers' Market Easter Egg Hunt will begin on Sunday April 24 at the information booth at 11am and will end at 12pm. Children will see locally grown food, meet the farmers, and enjoy the excitement of the Easter Egg Hunt and prizes. Every child will receive Easter eggs at the information booth and will have the opportunity to find additional Easter Eggs hidden in the farmers' booths. The Moraga Certified Farmers' Market is open year around on Sunday, from 9am to 1pm at the Moraga Center at the corner of Moraga Road & Moraga Way. For more info see www.CAFarmersMkts.com.

You're Invited To Take a Photo* with the Easter Bunny
 So Bring Your Camera!
 Saturday, April 23rd 🌸 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
 Easter Clowns 🌸 Easter Fairy 🌸 Balloon Art

**With your Rheem Valley Shopping Center receipts totaling \$25 or more OR go online to www.rheemvalley.net to print out the coupon for a FREE photo session with the Easter Bunny.*

Rheem Valley Shopping Center
...a Moraga tradition

Rheem Blvd. at Moraga Rd. in Moraga
 (See stores for details. While supplies last)

Or visit us online at www.rheemvalley.net

Easter Basket Eggstravaganza
 Featuring a Special Performance by THE CONTRA COSTA CHILDREN'S CHORUS
 Saturday, April 23rd, 1:00-3:30p.m.

Easter Basket Auction
 Benefiting Hospice of the East Bay
 Enjoy Rabbit Food (light Hors d'ourves), Champagne and a Dessert Buffet!

A Children's Egg Hunt, Activities, and Photos with Peter Rabbit

Event is Free
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- PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 17**
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 10:45 a.m. Celebrations Worship
 Childcare throughout the morning
- MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 21**
 7:00 p.m.
- GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 22**
 12 Noon & 7:00 p.m.
- EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 24**
 8:15 a.m. Traditions Worship
 9:30 a.m. Blended Worship
 10:45 a.m. Celebrations Worship
 Childcare throughout the morning
 Easter Brunch 8:30 – 11:00 a.m.

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CLUBS
On Friday, April 15, Stephani Bitner, garden designer, will speak about "Growing Spring and Summer Vegetables" at the Montelindo Club's general meeting at Orinda Community Church, 10 Irwin Way, Orinda. Refreshments at 9 a.m., meeting at 9:30, and speaker at 10:30. The meeting is free and welcomes guests and new members. Web Site: www.montelindogarden.com. email contact: montelindogarden@aol.com.

Sons in Retirement Lamorinda Branch 171 meets the first Wednesday monthly at Holy Trinity culture Center 1700 School St., Moraga. Social hour 1 am, lunch 12pm. On Wed, May 4, the after lunch speaker will be Dr. Michael Merzenich, professor emeritus of neuroscience at U.C. San Francisco. He will speak on his research and his company, Posit Science Corp. which develops software programs for improving cognitive, perceptual and motor performance in older adults. For membership information, call Larry at (925) 631-9528.

The Moraga Women's Society will meet on Monday, April 18th at 9:30am at the Holy Trinity Cultural Center, 1700 School St., Moraga. The speaker will be Patti Reising, a reporter on station KCBS. Patti will describe a day-in-the-life of the KCBS newsroom, and describe how the afternoon newscast gets on the air. She will also discuss the changing landscape of the news business in the Internet era. Guests are welcome. Contact Jean Glaser (925) 376-7961.

Aging, transportation issues and services, and how to stay safe inside and outside our homes. The final speaker will speak on "Happiness, if not now, when?" For those interested in attending this symposium, please call and make a reservation at (925) 330-0060. Refreshments will be served, and seniors of all ages, their children, friends, and caregivers are invited to attend.

Garbelotto's lab will analyze the leaves over the summer and post the results in October on his website at www.nature.berkeley.edu/garbelotto/english/sodblitz.php. For training space and material planning, please contact William Hudson willh@ymail.com (Orinda).

Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour, Sunday May 1, 10am-5pm. This is a free self-guided tour of 50 fabulous gardens that provide habitat for wildlife, are pesticide-free, conserve water, and contain 50% or more native plants. For more information go to www.bringingbackthenatives.net. See article in Our Homes section.

"Life in the Lafayette Garden" garden tour, Saturday May 14. Tickets are \$25 each and include an outdoor cooking demonstration, urban farming demonstration, light refreshments, live music, and tours of 5 Lafayette home gardens. The tour will be held from 11 am until 4 pm. Tour maps and garden descriptions will be provided with tickets. Proceeds from ticket sales will benefit the AAUW-OML Tech Trek scholarship program. For ticket information, please call AAUW member Pat Lopker at (925) 376-5155.

SENIORS
An Afternoon of Dance from China and Korea Performed in Elaborate Costumes by Members of the Culture to Culture Foundation Friday, April 15th from 1:30-3:00 in the Live Oak Room, Lafayette Community Center, 500 St. Mary's Rd., Lafayette. Audience members will be encouraged to learn and follow along with Tai Chi and Luk Tung Kwen steps to join in the fun. \$3Members/\$5 Non-Members.

A free symposium will be offered to our community's older adults and their care-givers on 6 May at the Temple Isaiah in Lafayette from 8:30am-12:30pm. The symposium will address the Secrets of Dynamic

GARDEN

Sudden Oak Death ("SOD") has arrived in Lamorinda and is spreading.



Volunteer a few hours on the April 30-May 1 weekend to learn about Sudden Oak Death, and assist an annual UC Berkeley survey for infected trees in areas of your choice. Train on Saturday, April 30, 10am-noon, in the Garden Room of the Orinda Community Center and collect leaves over the weekend. Dr.

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Seder Dessert brings Temple Women Together

By Cathy Dausman



Photo Cathy Dausman

Nearly one hundred Temple Isaiah women from teens to retirees gathered the evening of April 4th in Lafayette for an early Seder celebration. Seder is a Jewish ritual feast marking the beginning of Passover. Temple Isaiah is a Reform Synagogue serving Contra Costa County. Instead of a full meal, the women enjoyed a "Dessert Seder," something that was developed five or six years ago. Deb Phillips, Communications Director, explains:

"Our dessert Seder is organized by Temple Isaiah's women's auxiliary group as a kind of pre-Passover celebration. Because most members celebrate Passover in their homes with their families and small groups of friends this is an opportunity for the women of Temple Isaiah to celebrate in a larger group with people who might not be at the Seders they attend. Rabbis Nicki Greninger and Judy

Shanks led the scripted celebration. Live music accompanied singing, and there was dancing in the aisles to Miriam's Song (Debbie Friedman). Passover begins at sundown April 18 this year.

"A traditional Seder is both a service and a dinner. There is a book used called a Haggadah that guides participants through the service. There are certain readings and prayers that are said and specific ceremonial foods that are eaten," Phillips says. Seder rituals are much the same throughout the world.

Just as sorrows and blessings have marked the Jewish faith over centuries, dessert came only after breaking matza, drinking wine, eating bitter herbs, and listing the ten plagues. The women concluded with a prayer "that next year we will celebrate in a world at peace."

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Lamorinda Boys' Tennis Fights the Rain

Miramonte Defeats Acalanes in Rivalry Match

By Marissa Harnett



Senior Andrew Pises (Miramonte) was last season's NCS singles champion.



Freshman Dan Cardiff (Acalanes) has been noted as a up-and-comer. Photos Doug Kohen

There was no evidence on this 70 degree cloudless day of the dramatic rains that washed out many of the boys' early season tennis matches. This day, March 29, begged for the release of pent-up quality tennis. The boys from Miramonte and Acalanes did not disappoint. Although Miramonte's at-home win with a final score of 9-0 might not suggest it, parents and fans were treated to more than two hours of strong, solid, strategic play from both teams.

The #1 singles matchup pitted last season's NCS singles champion and East Bay player of the year, Miramonte senior, Andrew Pises, against up-and-coming Acalanes freshman, Dan Cardiff. Pises took an early lead by breaking Cardiff's serve in the first game. The match continued with Pises dominating; drilling deep topspin shots in the corners. Cardiff would prove not to be intimidated as he commanded some excellent corner winners himself. He snagged two games in the first set and hit a stride in the second set to own four games (6-2, 6-4). It was an impressive showing by both Pises and Cardiff – classy, skilled competitors. Miramonte head coach Mike McCollom noted, "[Cardiff is] one to watch" in the coming years.

Miramonte sophomore, Luke Bohuslov, had an easier time against Acalanes' Alex Schperberg winning 6-1, 6-0 than did his teammate, senior Brian Tan, who split sets against junior Asher Lichtig taking them to a third set tie breaker. Tan, who lost the first set 3-6, shifted the momentum into his

favor and took the second set 6-1 and, ultimately, the match by winning the tie breaker 10-5.

All three Lamorinda teams are having successful seasons as each team looks to achieve something different. Miramonte has an overall record of 9-2 and is undefeated in DFAL play, 6-0.

McCollom stated, "Our main goal is to win the DFAL and move forward to the NCS team championships. Campo is of course our main focus and the top challenge for us in DFAL."

Campo is having an equally successful season with an overall record of 9-1 and 5-0 in league play. Campo head coach Petro Petreas said, "Our league always comes down to us and Miramonte. Last year, we split the two matches, but we won the tie-breaker due to winning more sets in those two 5-4 matches."

Acalanes' record stands at 2-4 overall and 3-6 in DFAL. Head coach Brad Rieser really emphasizes "perspective and fun (since) high school tennis should be about having fun and being on a team and simply maintaining perspective and not putting too much pressure on themselves to WIN. Of course, they are not satisfied with losing, but they definitely have a winning attitude about learning how to improve and compete and giving their all 100% of the time -- that to me is a winning team!"

The consistent rainfall of the past several weeks has frustrated coaches and players alike. Matches and rematches have been rained out

resulting in a shuffling of the schedule and cancelled matches. The main Lamorinda rivalry – Miramonte vs. Campo – has been rained out twice. Barring more rain they will finally compete on April 14 (at Campo) and April 25 (at Miramonte).



Senior Nolan Richards (Campolindo) Photo Doug Kohen

Other match results:

- #1 Doubles – Chad Boersma /Andrew Tan (M) vs. Alex Mogensen and Greg Hanson (A): 6-0, 6-1
- #2 Doubles – Casey Nichol/Drew Jones (M) vs. Michael Lin/Chris Wool (A): 6-4, 6-3
- #4 Singles – Michael Krakaris (M) vs. Karim Masurwen (A): 6-2, 6-1
- #5 Singles – Trevor Rechnitz (M) vs. AJ Gosling (A): 6-0, 6-0
- #6 Singles – Logan Boersma (M) vs. J. Evangelista (A): 6-2, 6-2.

Lamorinda Soccer Club Competes for State Cup

Submitted by Benson Chan

Mid-March marks the start of Annual California Youth Soccer Association (CYSA) State Cup for top youth soccer teams in northern and central California. Over 300 teams compete in six age groups (U14-U19). Preliminary round play began on March 19-20.

The Lamorinda Soccer Club was well represented with four teams in the 2011 State Cup – the Lamorinda FC 95 U15 boys, Lamorinda FC 96 U14 boys, the Lamorinda United 94 U16 girls and the Lamorinda United 95 U15 girls. All four teams have played well.

After the preliminary round, both girls' teams advanced to the quarterfinals played on April 10. The Lamorinda U15 girls played a spirited quarterfinal match against the sixth-ranked team in the nation, Santa Rosa United Shock, before falling 3-2. The Lamorinda U16 girls, the current fourth-ranked team in the nation, played a physical game against a tough Placer team and won 1-0 to advance to the semifinal match on April 16.

For the LMSC U10-U13 boys and girls teams, March 26 marked the start of the 2011 NorCal spring league.

For new and aspiring players ages 5 to 14 in the Lamorinda community, the LMSC hold clinics over alternating Sundays until May 22 at Bentley High School in Lafayette.

SMC Gaels Home Game Schedule



www.SMCGaels.com

- Fri, Apr 15** BSB Santa Clara (Louis Guisto Field) 3:00 PM
- Sat, Apr 16** BSB Santa Clara (Louis Guisto Field) 1:00 PM
- Sun, Apr 17** MTEN Idaho Timothy Korth Tennis Complex 11:00 AM
- Sun, Apr 17** BSB Santa Clara (Louis Guisto Field) 1:00 PM
- Fri, Apr 22** SB CS Bakersfield (Cottrell Field) 12:00 PM
- Fri, Apr 22** SB CS Bakersfield (Cottrell Field) 2:00 PM
- Sat, Apr 23** SB CS Bakersfield (Cottrell Field) 12:00 PM
- Sat, Apr 23** SB CS Bakersfield (Cottrell Field) 2:00 PM
- Mon, Apr 25** BSB Sacramento State (Louis Guisto Field) 3:00 PM
- Tue, Apr 26** BSB Stanford (Louis Guisto Field) 3:00 PM
- Thu, Apr 28 - Sun, May 01** WLAX MPSF Conference Tournament Saint Mary's Stadium TBD

Schedule is subject to change. Confirm at www.SMCGaels.com



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Sun Valley Swim Team:
www.swimsunvalley.com

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SPORTS LAMORINDA'S LOCAL SPORTS



Deep Water Aerobics Class Forms Friendship Pool

By Cathy Dausman



Deep Water Aerobics at Soda Aquatics Center

Photo Cathy Dausman

It's only natural to think about swimming when the sky turns denim blue and temperatures climb into the 80's. But outdoor pool exercise when it's foggy, windy, cold or snowing? Some Lamorindans say "bring it on!" as they work out in their Deep Water Aerobics class at Campolindo High School's Soda Aquatics Center (SAC).

The class, taught by Peg Shasky, meets for an hour Tuesday and Thursday mornings at 8:30. Participants range in age from 40 to mid 60's and include a nurse, a geologist, a pastry chef, a cosmetic company executive,

an occupational therapist and retired military officer. Teachers swell the class ranks during summer months.

The class aims for a brisk low-impact exercise, alternating workouts with Hydro-Tone barbells and boots (specially designed for water aerobics) and water polo balls. Neck deep in water, most still manage enough breath to socialize. Members say the group has talked their way through dating, weddings, divorces, jobs, school graduations, moves, puppies and grandchildren. And surgeries. Plenty of surgeries. Many of the "mermaids" (Shasky's tongue-in-

cheek moniker for the largely female group) have undergone hip, knee and back surgeries and found the class offers a way to re-build strength gently.

John Sims, the group's current lone male, sometimes joins his cousins Lucy Talbot and Dana Farkas in the aerobics class. He enrolled originally to continue a workout regimen while recovering from an injury. "The days I swim laps and take Peg's class turn me into Jello afterward," he says.

Deep Water Aerobics started at SAC in September, 2006. Shasky, facing retirement from a 30-plus year teaching career, was looking to rede-

fine herself. Pool manager Andrew Morris suggested she teach a swim class. A swimmer since she was five, with years in the pool as an athlete and on the pool deck as a swim parent, Shasky agreed. Half a dozen students showed up for her first classes, but Shasky says attendance was "pretty skinny" during winter months. To begin with, she taught standing on the deck. On days when only one or two showed up, she'd get in, and "swim laps with a kick board, and talk."

Swimmers wore flotation belts for the first couple years. Then one swimmer decided to abandon the belt for a

more rigorous cardio workout, and others followed suit. Average daily attendance now is 10-15 swimmers.

Regulars rise to the challenge of inclement weather. They know the pool water is heated to 80 degrees, and only once have they endured a weather-related cancellation (lightning threat). But Wendy Jacobs says when air temperature dips below freezing "you may have to really force yourself to jump into the steamy pool."

"My first day in class, in January this year, the air temperature on my car gauge was 28 degrees. I could not believe that I was going swimming in subfreezing weather!" says Patti Witalice. Dana Farkas adds, "The best feeling is when it is the middle of winter, in the 20's or low 30's outside, maybe even rain and wind...getting through the workout and then going for a hot shower and off to Starbucks."

Benefits seem to outweigh the challenges, climate-wise or otherwise. In addition to weight loss, muscle tone and post-surgical recovery, regulars cite the friendship and camaraderie they've felt inside and outside the pool. Robin Bradley sums it up: "Rain or shine, being outside in the Soda pool beats being in a gym any day."

SMC Baseball Storms into WCC Play

By Bryant West



Patrick Wisdom was named WCC Player of the Month

Photos Tod Fierner

The Saint Mary's Gaels entered conference play last week on a win streak and kept it up with a series win over the USF Dons in San Francisco. The Gaels, winners of nine of their past 11 contests, bested the Dons 9-4 on Friday, April 8th, lost the second game 0-1 on Saturday, April 9th, and recovered with a 6-5 win on Sunday, April 10th.

Saint Mary's sits at 14-13 on the year after a tough pre-conference schedule, but head coach Jedd Soto's expectations for the Gaels are as high as ever. "Our expectations every year are to win the West Coast Conference," he said. "We know that conference is a battle every inning, every pitch, every series."

Soto's confidence in his team may not be shared amongst the rest of the WCC - the Gaels were picked to finish last in a conference coaching

poll. Saint Mary's was just 19-32-1 overall last season and went 8-13 in the WCC, finishing sixth overall. But this season, the Gaels got off to a great start in their matchups against San Francisco, getting the series win against the Dons for the first time since 2004.

In the WCC opener last Friday at USF, Saint Mary's trailed 4-0 in the top of the eighth, but saw six players belt out RBIs and scored all nine of their runs in the eighth. Junior starting pitcher Mark Anderson won his sixth game of the season, giving up all four earned runs while striking out five.

The Dons won the second contest in a 1-0 pitchers duel. Sophomore pitcher Martin Agosta continued his strong pitching, giving up seven hits and striking out nine with just the one earned run, but Saint Mary's got just five hits of their own against San

Francisco's Patrick Keane.

Saint Mary's recovered in the final game and won 6-5 in another comeback effort. Down 5-2 in the seventh, the Gaels scored four straight runs capped off by a three-run homer by sophomore third baseman Patrick Wisdom that captured the lead and eventually gave the Gaels the win.

Soto said that he thinks the series win will help propel the Gaels forward as conference play continues. "USF is not an easy place to play," he said. "...we had two comeback victories and the kids expect to win."

In addition to their recent victories, the Gaels also swept through the conference awards. Wisdom won WCC Player of the Month, after he went 26-for-60 (.433) in March with 11 runs scored and six doubles, two home runs and 17 RBIs. Anderson won Pitcher of the Month after a

strong March, which included a complete game shutout against then #25 UC Irvine. He currently sits at 6-1 on the season.

Junior first baseman Troy Channing won WCC Player of the Week after going 7-14 against New Orleans the last weekend in March, with three runs, two homers and six RBIs, and Agosta was named WCC Pitcher of the Week after a complete game shutout of Southern Utah on Friday, April 1st.

Despite the recent hot-streak, it's been a turbulent year for Saint Mary's so far, who started the season cold before catching fire in mid-March. The Gaels lost six of their first nine games, and then were swept in the Dodger-town Classic in Los Angeles, losing to USC, UCLA and Georgia on the weekend of March 11th.

"We saw some of the best

pitching the NCAA had to offer the first 12 games," Soto said before the Gaels traveled to take on the Dons. "We had a few of our offensive guys pressing and trying to do too much. They have done a nice job adjusting these past 12 games hitting what the pitchers give us."

As the Gaels offense recovered, so did their record. The Gaels entered conference play with a 12-12 record, having won seven of their past eight games.

The Gaels swept New Orleans March 25th and 27th in a three game series at Laney College in Oakland. Saint Mary's blasted past the Privateers with scores of 14-0, 7-3 and 7-0.

On Tuesday, March 29th, Saint Mary's took on #11 Stanford in Palo Alto and fell 16-14 - a considerable feat in itself, it is even more impressive considering Saint Mary's had trailed 10-2 in the top of the seventh.

The Gaels carried their comeback momentum into a three game sweep over Southern Utah March 31st-April 2nd in which they scored a total of 23 runs.

To the Gaels credit, they've only played three home games so far this year. Nineteen of the Gaels next twenty seven contests will be played in Moraga.

Saint Mary's traveled to Davis yesterday, Tuesday, April 12th for a one game matchup against the Aggies, and return home this week for a three game home stand against Santa Clara this weekend.

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Moraga Triathlon Adds Youth Divisions

By Rebecca Eckland



Photo Ohlen Alexander



Photo Ohlen Alexander



Photo provided

On April 30th, it's time to swim, bike and run. From humble beginnings, the Moraga Triathlon has grown to host nearly 300 athletes, including two new age divisions for children ages 5-7 and 8-11 to celebrate five successful years of competitive, local fun.

This is triathlete Matthew Valen's fourth year participating in the Moraga Triathlon—he has competed in triathlons since 1987. "It's a great venue for everybody," said Valen. "It's low-key so it's great for beginners who want to get into the sport. It's also a great warm-up event for more serious athletes since it's so early in the racing season."

Valen points to the small, local tone as an appealing aspect of the venue. "Sometimes it's fun to do a relay [an option at the Moraga Tri] if you only want to do one event instead of all three."

Race director Jay Ingram of Moraga Parks and Recreation says he's excited about these new youth divisions. "The younger age group will remain on Campolindo's campus even for the bike portion," he said, "and exceptions might be made for the swim distance as well—some swimmers might be able to use a kick board or swim a little less."

The older kids will ride on the shoulder of Moraga Road to Carroll Ranch. Ingram said, "They will be closely monitored; they get to ride a little bit longer so they can have a taste of the 'big' tri."

The 5-7 age group will swim 50m, bike a third mile and complete a quarter mile run. For those in the 8-11 age group, the swim distance will be the same, but they will complete a three-quarter mile bike and a three-quarter mile run.

So far, forty young athletes have

registered for these new age divisions.

Ingram described the kids' course as low-key, flat and fun. "It's a great local event, and it's sponsored by many local, Moraga businesses." Sponsors include Village Associates Real Estate and the Moraga Park Foundation, among many others.

Space is still available for racers in both adult and youth fields.

Ingram also mentioned that the Parks and Recreation department is looking for volunteers for race support, especially with the addition of two additional race courses for the younger groups. Volunteers will receive a free t-shirt for their services.

Finishers of all ages will receive a finishing medal once they cross the finish line.

To volunteer call (925) 888-7034.

To register go to www.moragatri.com.

Lafayette Lightning Girls' Basketball Team Wins Cal Stars Classic

Submitted by Paige Meyer



Top Row: Kristen Thoms, Vanessa Vaisnor, Jessi O'Reilly, Art Thoms III, Terra Murray, Amanda Alessandria, Art Thoms Jr. Bottom Row: Lexi Fraser, Ashley Thoms, Emily Smith, Kailey Meyer, Zoe Del Rosario, Keirra Krawec Photo provided

The newly founded Lafayette Lightning fifth grade girls' basketball team is comprised of girls from Burton Valley, Happy Valley, and St. Perpetua. They play in the MVP flight league in addition to various tournaments. They won the Cal Stars basketball tournament defeating teams from Oakland, Santa Cruz and Livermore by an average of 19 points a game. They also won the Sac Area Sport and Hardwood Palace tournaments earlier in the year. Head Coach Art Thoms said, "All the girls have great work ethic and get along great. We also have a great group of parents."

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 B&W listing will cost \$24 (3.75"x1").

Moraga Baseball Association

Submitted by Jin Meng

March 30, 2011

Mustang Division

Red Sox 8, Giants 3

Red Sox Highlights: Bryson Lothamer 2-for-3, RS; Tom McGuire 1-for-2, 2 RBI, RS; Jeremy Gunderson 1-for-3, 3B, RS, RBI.

Giants Highlights: Jake O'Balle 1-for-2, 1BB, RBI; Dominic Gillibert 1-for-3, RBI, RS, 1 SB; Brandon Gentry 2BB, RS.

Pinto Division

Red Sox 15, Dodgers 14

Red Sox Highlights: Ty Huckntod, 3-for-3 with a double, 1 run, and 3 RBIs; Cade Bennett 3-for-3 with a double, 3 runs, and 2 RBIs; Declan Bagwhat, 2-for-3 with a double, 1 run, and 4 RBIs.

Dodger's Highlights: Sean Donovan 3-for-3, 2 RBIs; Luke McCurdy 3-for-3, 2 RBIs; Jack Williams 2-3, 1 RBI; Brody Crouch 4-for-4, 3 RBIs.

Submit Sports Stories
 to sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com

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Life in LAMORINDA

Saint Mary's Hopes to Host Presidential Election Debate

By Sophie Braccini

The Commission on Presidential Debates announced on April 1, 2011 the short list of 12 colleges that wish to host the 2012 general election debate. Among them is Saint Mary's College in Moraga. The announcement came on the heels of the State of the College address that SMC President Brother Ronald Gallagher presented in Lafayette on March 31. The address emphasized the local successes and the global reach of Saint Mary's College (SMC).

from local community colleges," he said, "but we are also a global institution." The Christian Brothers manage educational institutions in 80 countries, the students and faculty are involved in community service and serve social justice all over the world.

He also framed SMC's athletic results as part of the college's outreach. "The goal is to be competitive," he said, "We are tiny, but playing against giants." The same is true in the College's quest to become a site for the 2012 general election debate. According to SMC Director of Community and Government Relations Tim Farley, in the next months the Commission will visit the different sites and a decision will be announced in November.

Other competing sites: Belmont University (Nashville, TN), Centre College (Danville, KY), Dominican University of California (San Rafael, CA), Eastern Kentucky University (Richmond, KY), Hofstra University (Hempstead, NY), Indiana University (Bloomington, IN), Lynn University (Boca Raton, FL), The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey (Pomona, NJ), University of Denver (Denver, CO), Wake Forest University (Winston-Salem, NC), Washington University in St. Louis (St. Louis, MO).

The President highlighted some of the college's strengths that also make the site very appealing for a debate. The college is a 150-year-old institution teaching the Lasallian values of social responsibility and justice, and education for all. This mission, coupled with the economic crisis, creates a conundrum for the college's administration. "We are getting more applications this year than we did last year, our mission is to make it as affordable as possible," explained Gallagher, "the college distributes five million dollars in Cal Grants to some 800 students every year." The current budget crisis could jeopardize these options.

Gallagher said that SMC plays an important role in this area's economy. "17,000 alumni live in the East Bay, 630 students transferred last year

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Fate Brings War Hero to Lafayette

By Cathy Tyson



Karen Mulvaney and Louie Zamperini

Photo provided

Through a very extraordinary collection of events, Lafayette's own Citizen of the Year, Karen Mulvaney, was inspired to reach out to Louis Zamperini - former Olympic athlete, Army Bombardier, survivor of a plane crash and

forty-seven days on a life raft at sea and a Japanese POW camp, also the star of the phenomenal best seller, "Unbroken" by Laura Hillenbrand. "I felt compelled to reach him," says Mulvaney.

... continued on page D3

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Career Wisdom Institute, Discovering Inner Design and Wisdom

By Sophie Braccini



Sherry Berman (left) and Julie Gleeson moved into their new Moraga office a year ago. Photo provided

Sherry Berman and Julie Gleeson are a great professional match. Berman, a career counselor with a different spiritual vision, and Gleeson, a coach in natural wisdom, bring to their clients complementary tools to achieve happiness through work. They believe that the journey they propose, made of self-discovery, empowerment and joy, is the most complete for those in transition – from teens wondering what professional path to choose, to adults pushed into early retirement.

Berman believes that we are all born with a design; a purpose; something we are made to achieve, that can infuse us with passion. “Everybody has a special design, they are a unique piece in the world,” says Berman, “there is one thing that people came into this lifetime with and it can’t be tested.” She believes uncovering that design and following it is the key to resilience and success, “By age eight Oprah was already interviewing squirrels in her backyard,” she says.

The next question is—how do you uncover the design after years of family and social pressures that might have directed you down a non-optimal path? Yolanda Mendonza took a six-week class with the Career Wisdom Institute, after she lost her long time corporate job in

sales. She reconnected with her long lost love for photography. But what had been pushing her in that direction and how could she turn it into a new career? “Sherry’s first recommendation was ‘notice what you notice,’” remembers Mendonza, “during the workshop I started paying more attention to what makes me curious or intrigues me. We (the workshop participants) had a lot of homework. As we wrote down everything we wanted to be as children, we put them in categories and started realizing how they are connected.” As a result of the workshop, Mendonza has launched her photography career and started creating a network of professional relationship in the non-profit world that really interests her.

The other piece of the Career Wisdom concept is building the confidence that attracts success. That’s Gleeson’s side of the equation. “There are three principles that apply to all human beings,” according to Gleeson, “the first principle states we have thoughts good or bad rolling through us all the time, and we focus only on the those we’re familiar with. The second principle is that of consciousness, meaning that we’re capable of observing ourselves doing things and thinking things in real time. This allows the application of the third principle, which

is wisdom. It’s this wisdom that exists in all of us, all the time and we just need to recognize its voice.” For example, when someone is engaged in an intense argument with a member of the family and that argument is interrupted by a phone call, let’s say from a good friend, bad feelings can change to good in an instant. The situation has not changed, the annoyance still exists, but the perception was changed. “It’s the thinking that’s messed up, not the circumstance,” says Gleeson. She believes that anyone can come to a healthy state of mind, whatever their circumstance, history or brain chemistry. “Thinking that you’re a victim of the economy, or too old keeps you there,” she adds, “our job is to take people to a vibrant and more resilient place where they can discover their design.”

Gleeson and Berman work from their Moraga office at 1036 Country Club Drive. For more information go to careerwisdominstitute.com, or contact Sherry@Switch-Careers.com, (925) 212-7805 or GleesonJ@aol.com, (925) 408-8422.

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

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business briefs

CoreAlign at Absolute
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Katie Santos Co-Owner of Absolute Center, announces a new exercise form called the CoreAlign. Santos works with the company that manufactures the apparatus and is one of only 12 Master CoreAlign Trainers in the world. She has trained a few of her fellow Pilates practitioners in a new exercise form emphasizing upright functional, whole body movement. “Part mind-body, part cardio, part strength, this is totally unique,” says Santos. Absolute is one of only three Bay Area fitness centers to offer this new form of exercise.

New Luxury Magazine, Coldwell Banker Residential
 2 Theatre Square, Orinda, 925-253-6300

Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage announced at the end of March the launch of its online luxury magazine, titled Previews Luxury from the Inside Out. The monthly e-zine, available online at www.PreviewsInsideOut.com, is focused on delivering integrated content of acclaimed interior designers, architects and individuals relevant to luxury homeowners, buyers and sellers.

Putting it all Together: Managing Multiple Platforms Efficiently

A free social media workshop offered by the Lafayette Chamber Wednesday, April 20 at 8am at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center. Success with social media often involves managing communication and network building efforts that cross multiple online platforms and integrate those efforts with traditional marketing ones. In this workshop, we’ll

share strategies for doing just time. The workshop is presented by Robin Fox – Social Media Coach. RSVP to workshops@lafayettechamber.org.

News from the three Chambers of Commerce

Lafayette

• Wednesday, April 13, Monthly Mixer, 5:30pm at Lafayette Physical Therapy, 3468 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Suite B110.

• Sustainable Lafayette and the City’s Environmental Task Force have announced the winners of the 2011 Green Awards. Chow Restaurant and Elmwood Stationers have been chosen from a number of nominees. Both businesses will be recognized by the City Council and Sustainable Lafayette at the Earth Day Celebration on April 23rd. Plaza Park, beginning at 11am.

• The Lafayette Chamber of Commerce and Mechanics Bank are the latest two businesses to complete the Bay Area Green Certification Program.

Moraga

Moraga Community Faire is on May 14; the deadline for participants to register is April 14. Go to www.moragachamber.org.

Orinda

The Orinda Chamber Printed Directory is Coming Soon! A Guide to the Town and Businesses that will list everything about the City, community events, schools, the arts, community organizations, parks, map, important numbers, restaurants, and a directory listing of all Chamber businesses. The 2011-12 Printed Directory will be distributed throughout the area. Firms that want to place an ad in the directory, contact the Chamber Executive Director Candy Kattenburg at info@orindachamber.org or by phone at (925) 254 3909. The deadline for orders is April 22, 2011; the deadline for artwork is May 2, 2011. The Directory will be published in June, 2011.

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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Keeping Mosquitoes from Bugging Moraga

... continued from page A1

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CCMVCD’s work is largely preventative. They eliminate standing water, distribute mosquitofish and kill mosquito larva. The agency uses bacterial insecticides, specifically Bacillus Thuringiensis Israelensis (BTI) or Bacillus Sphaericus (BS) to kill mosquito larva. BTI and BS occur naturally, and are effective against mosquitoes, but do not harm mammals, birds and most other insects because they don’t share mosquito cell type, says Bass. Treating mosquitoes as pupa requires Methoprene or a larvicide oil. Occasionally

Duplex, a mixture of the other pesticides, is used to ensure both larva and pupa are controlled. CCMVCD uses only products registered with the Environmental Protection Agency for mosquito control.

Dan Bernie, Moraga’s Public Works and Parks Superintendent, meets with CCMVCD in two weeks. “We work pretty closely with Vector Control,” he says, “and we try to be a chemical-free town. I’ve seen them [CCMVCD] walk by the Hacienda and tip over bird baths [to clear standing water].” Bernie says a local scout troop, in cooperation with the city, has installed bat boxes in key locations to try to keep mosquitoes in check. He also says he just returned from the Delta and saw standing water in places he’d never seen it before. More standing water means more mosquito breeding grounds.

“We all live and work in places where mosquitoes can breed,” says Bass. “Everyone needs to halt their population growth.” In addition to cleaning gutters and keeping pools mosquito-free, she suggests residents:

- Empty standing water from outside toys, wheel barrows, flower pots and tree wells.
- Stock horse troughs with mos-



quitofish. Each mosquitofish devours 500 mosquitoes daily.

- Keep windows and screens repaired.
- Report dead birds to the West Nile Virus hotline at 877-968-2473.

Inspect your property twice weekly to prevent outbreaks. If you have a problem, kill and save a mosquito for CCMVCD to evaluate.

Residents can also sign up to be notified of mosquito spraying online at

<http://contracostamosquito.com> or follow the agency on Twitter: www.twitter.com/ccmosquito.

Contra Costa Mosquito and Vector Control District is an 85 year-old public health agency. “We are a special District – we are not part of the county government,” Bass says. “Our services include [abatement of] mosquitoes, rats and mice, skunks, yellow jackets and ticks...all free.”

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Fulbright Scholars Come to Lamorinda

By Cathy Tyson



A group of Fulbright scholars meet at a Moraga home for a potluck dinner with one of their hosts, Mary Brennan. Photo Cathy Tyson

These were not your ordinary tourists. Thirty seven of the best and brightest female scholars from eight different countries in Southeast Asia participated in the Fulbright program that brought them to Saint Mary's College for a four day workshop, "Preparing for the Next Step." The "Fulbrighters" are all in their last year of study, receiving graduate degrees from universities across the U.S. The pairings no doubt featured some culture shock: two students from Burma are at St. Cloud University in Minnesota, a student from Indonesia is at Texas A & M, another from Laos is at Duke University in North Carolina.

Students enjoyed multiple day-long programs covering a variety of topics related to their pending return to their home countries that focused on leadership development, problem solving and personal growth.

Lamorinda residents - complete strangers to the students - volunteered to open their homes and welcomed the Fulbrighters. Although they were in class most of the day, host families

were responsible for getting them to and from campus and providing meals. Thursday evening had small groups of students and their hosts coming together for an American style potluck dinner - a new concept to most. Friday evening was slated as time to hang out with host families. One Muslim attendee got an eyeful of scantily clad teenagers queuing up for a dance at the Rheem Theater. Her host assured her they usually don't dress that way.

"They were absolutely charming and good house guests. I enjoyed it and would do it again," said Margaret Stithem of Moraga, who has travelled extensively in the past. She hosted two students, one from Indonesia and one from Burma.

Mary Brennan was grateful for the experience, "I don't know who gained more from this International Exchange experience, the Fulbright Scholars or their host families. Bill and I made quite a connection with our scholar and only wished we had more time to spend together. We tried to learn as much as possible about each other's cultures in our limited time together.

We shed a few tears as we dropped her off at St. Mary's on her last day and vowed that we'd stay in touch and someday see each other again."

Firuz Akhtar Mohamad Bohari from Malaysia is getting her Masters at Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri. She was impressed with our area, "I was so amazed to see the Moraga neighborhood. You are all rich!"

"I feel so blessed to be a Fulbrighter," she said. "The scholarship not only helps me with the school funding, it also gives me a lot of valuable experience and knowledge

through enrichment seminars. Being a representative of Malaysia to an event attended by people from all over the world is an unbelievable experience. Automatically the confidence level boosts up and I feel somehow important and responsible to the people in my country as I am rewarded with rare opportunities."

Susie Miller-Reid, Director of the Center for International Programs at Saint Mary's College, said that the seminar met its main goal, building bridges around the world through person-to-person interactions.

Founded in 1946 by U.S. Senator William Fulbright, the Fulbright Program has competitive merit-based grants for international exchange students, scholars, scientists, teachers and professionals to increase mutual understanding. The program goes both ways, U.S. citizens go abroad and non-U.S. citizens are eligible to come here. Established in the aftermath of World War II, the program is meant to promote peace through educational exchange. Funded through the State Department, 155 countries are currently involved in the program.

It's not just a Mosquito Bite: Heartworm Disease

By Mona Miller, DVM

Heartworm disease is a roundworm infection of the arteries of the lungs and heart of dogs and cats. It is transmitted by certain mosquito species and has been reported in all 50 states in the nation, and is a major problem in the eastern and southern states. According to the American Heartworm Society, the 2007 incidence in the Bay Area was "mild," averaging 5-25 cases per veterinary hospital, although just north of San Francisco the incidence was as high as 50 cases per hospital. Heartworm disease in dogs was first described in the USA in the mid-1800s; and was noted in cats in the 1920s.

Mosquitoes transmit microscopic larvae (called microfilaria) into the tissue of a bite wound in the pet. It takes six months for the infective larvae to develop into an adult worm, and during this time the larvae moves into the circulatory system of the animal, finally entering the large vessels of the lungs and heart. The adult worms may live up to 7 years in a dog, and 3 years in a cat. The female worms produce new larvae that need to enter a mosquito in order to mature into the next infective stage.

Virtually all dogs infected with microfilaria, and more than 67% of cats, will develop disease. This is not an infection that they can clear with their own immune system. Dogs can show variable severity of symptoms: from mild exercise intolerance or persistent cough to reduced appetite, weight loss and difficulty breathing. Cats can exhibit non-specific symptoms, including vomiting, lethargy and weight loss. Cats who are severely affected will demonstrate difficulty breathing, coughing or even sudden collapse and death. Diagnosis is relatively easy with a quick and inexpensive blood test, and often a set of chest radiographs.

Treatment is possible for most animals affected by heartworms. The prognosis depends on the severity of illness. Dogs are treated with an injection that kills the adult worms. The

disintegration of the worm inside the dog's arteries results in an inflammatory response, so this is often treated as well with an anti-inflammatory medication. The microfilaria are treated during this time with heartworm prevention (see below).

Cats can be more difficult to treat, since they tend to have a significant reaction to the worms being destroyed internally. Thus, the parasites are often not treated specifically—they will die on their own eventually. However, most cats infected with heartworm disease will benefit from an anti-inflammatory medication and other supportive care.

Prevention and regular blood testing (in dogs) are truly the key components for this disease. The American Heartworm Society recommends that all dogs be tested annually, even if they are on regular monthly prevention. If the blood test reveals heartworm infection in a non-symptomatic dog, the prognosis with treatment is excellent for full recovery, compared to a dog who is already affected by the disease. Monthly preventive medication is approved by the FDA for both cats and dogs; this will kill the microfilaria at the infective stage, shortly after being transmitted by the mosquito. This is a great example of how "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure."



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

body makeovers by Sheena

"I reduced my body fat from 30% to 16% in 11 weeks."

Emily Gorin Piedmont

I knew I'd reached a critical point when my scale registered a weight I hadn't seen since I was pregnant. My excuse had been a new job - lots of stress and long hours. Instead of calming down after work through exercise, I was coming home late, and de-stressing with a drink and food. Living Lean helped me take control, and get back on-track fast. I started seeing results after one week. The personal attention and accountability made the difference for me in sticking with the program. I felt so supported and encouraged by my trainers and Sheena. The measurable results motivated me to work hard and actually look forward to being weighed and measured each week. I lost weight, and cut my percentage of body fat almost in half - in 11 weeks I went from over 30% body fat to 16% body fat. Before Living Lean, I would stand in front of my full closet with nothing to wear because my clothes were too tight, or didn't fit at all. Now I can look in my closet and pick out any outfit I want - even my "skinny" clothes! I feel healthier, stronger and happier. Other benefits I experience include better posture, better sleep, and more energy. I can sincerely recommend Living Lean to anyone ready to take charge of their body.

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Magazines	Salad dressing bottles (rinsed)	CRV beverage containers	• Garbage, organic or green waste materials.
Manila folders	Shampoo and conditioner bottles	Jars	
Newspapers and inserts	Tub containers (yogurt, cottage cheese, margarine, #1-#7)	Plastic (Containers only; empty; rinsed; with chasing arrows #51-5 & 7; lids, caps OK)	
Office paper	Water jugs	Baby wipe containers	
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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 with the subject header In Service to the Community.

Building Community in Moraga and Abroad

Submitted by Sharron Sue



(From left): Sharon Metcalf, Hacienda Foundation Vice President; Claire Roth, Hacienda Foundation President; Janice Lieu, Treasurer MAAC; Teri Follete, MAAC-Japan Relief Fund
Photo Sharron Sue

Moraga Asian American Club (MAAC) granted \$5,000 to worthy projects in keeping with its mission to promote civic involvement and diversity efforts that value and respect differences to build an inclusive community for all. Grants this cycle were awarded to: Moraga School District, Hacienda Foundation of Moraga, Moraga Education Foundation,

Moraga Library and the Northern Japan Earthquake Relief Fund. All the grantees are repeat recipients, with the exception of earthquake relief. Typically the Moraga Asian American Club (MAAC) makes charitable grants to local community groups, but the Great Tohoku Earthquake of March 11th spurred MAAC to also help the people of Japan with relief, recovery and re-

building from the devastating effects of the earthquake, subsequent tsunami and radiation contamination. MAAC is reaching out to members, family, friends, and community to raise \$8,000 to help the citizens of Japan by April 18th. To encourage support of this campaign, MAAC pledges to match combined total donations up to \$4,000. (\$2,000 from MAAC grants and \$2,000 through the generosity of an anonymous donor.) 100 percent of the proceeds raised will go towards citizen relief efforts on the ground in the most affected areas via the Northern Japan Earthquake Relief Fund established by the Japanese Cultural Community Center of Northern California (JCCCNC) through long relationships they have had since the 1995 Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake centered in Kobe. Updates about the relief efforts that are being supported are available at: www.jcccnc.org and hit the "click here" button. For more information on MAAC or how to help, please contact Sharron Sue at 925-376-2005 or nssue@aol.com.

Realtors and Friends Clean Creeks

Submitted by Tania DeGroot



Photo provided

In what could be considered a prelude to the annual Orinda in Action Community Day, the Orinda Better Homes and Gardens Mason-McDuffie Real Estate office participated in a company-wide 'Giving Day' Project on March 5th. The realtors met behind La Cucina to work with members of the Friends of Orinda Creeks at cleaning and clearing the banks along the creek,

from the Chevron station to the Bank of America building. The Friends' ultimate goal is to create an attractive walking path along the creek with benches and pleasant areas for lingering, but that will take a few years. The group numbered about 25 in all and after having some fresh coffee, donated by Peet's, and bagels, everyone spread out and got

to work. Their tasks included removing litter, as well as other objects including an old vacuum cleaner and fluorescent bulbs, cutting back invasive plants such as ivy and raspberry bushes, trimming dead branches from trees, and spreading bark chips. Thankfully, the weather cooperated and was perfect for this kind of work, with partial clouds and cool temperatures. Just over three hours of labor produced two huge piles of green waste, a few large bags of items for recycling, and more bags and bins of trash. It was a productive and rewarding day for everyone and brought the Friends of Orinda Creeks a little closer to their ultimate goal. All 36 local offices of Better Homes and Gardens donated time and resources to work on designated projects for some 30 charities in their local communities on that day.

Student Art Will Provide Relief to Japan

Submitted by John Fazel



Miramonte High School student Alex Chen recently paid a visit to the Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary Club to ask for help in auctioning off his beautiful brush painting (see photo). Proceeds will be donated to the Japan relief effort through the four local Rotary clubs - Lamorinda Sunrise, Lafayette, Orinda, and Moraga. Chen presented his painting to the Lamorinda Sunrise Rotarians and discussed with them his plan to raise money to help Japan after the earthquake and tsunami. Rotary International will match 50% of all donations. For more information, contact John Fazel of Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary at (925) 324-2017 or runmtns@prodigy.net.

Alex Chen with his brush painting
Photo Don Reichert

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Spring Asparagus

By Susie Iventosch

When it comes to asparagus, I really enjoy the pencil-thin stalks that seem to shout out “spring is here at long last” as they appear in the markets. They barely need any cooking at all, and are quite delicious when still crunchy. In fact, when steaming them, I usually just bring the water to a boil and quickly turn it off, leaving the asparagus to steam

off the heat because they can so easily be overcooked.

This recipe calls for little tiny bites of the raw asparagus, cut into 1/8-inch slices, and tossed into the cooked (and drained) pasta just to take the chill off, before adding the rest of the ingredients. It is such a fresh-tasting recipe with raw asparagus and basil, and yet, with the

minced pistachios and fresh grated Parmesan, it is hearty enough to serve as the main course.

If you find you don't have time to shell the pistachios, try pine nuts, or walnuts. Or better yet, go pick up a bag of already shelled pistachios at Trader Joe's! Pesto is super-easy to make, and is so good when made fresh to go along with this dish. Enjoy!

Piccolini Penne Pasta with Pistachio Pesto and Spring Asparagus

Ingredients

- 1 pound piccolini penne pasta
- 1 bunch fresh basil leaves, stems removed
- 1/2 cup shelled pistachios
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 4-5 ounces Parmesan cheese (split-half grated for garnish and half cut into small pieces for pesto)
- 2 tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil
- 1/4 pound skinny spring asparagus, thinly sliced



Piccolini Penne with Pistachio Pesto and Spring Asparagus. Photo Susie Iventosch

Directions

Place shelled pistachios in a food processor and process until finely chopped. Add garlic, basil and the Parmesan cut into small pieces and process again. Finally, add olive oil and pulse just until integrated. Set aside. Cut asparagus into very thin (1/8-inch) slices. Set aside. Cook pasta to al dente in large pot. Strain out water and return pasta to warm cooking pot. Add sliced asparagus and stir well. Cover for just about two minutes, to slightly warm asparagus. Then mix in all but 1/4 cup of the pesto and serve at once. Pass extra Parmesan at the table. Serve with toasted French bread, topped with extra pesto and tomato slices.

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Susie Iventosch is the author of Tax Bites and Tasty Morsels, which can be found at Across the Way in Moraga, www.amazon.com, and ww.taxbites.net. Susie can be reached at suziven@gmail.com. **These recipes are available on our web site.** Go to: www.lamorindaweekly.com 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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Fate Brings War Hero to Lafayette

... continued from page D1

The upshot of her introduction and subsequent meetings is a special invitation for him to come to Lamorinda for a fundraising event to benefit the Lafayette Library and Learning Center Foundation. At 94, Zamperini might have said “no” for any number of reasons, but he agreed to fly up from Southern California for the event next week.

In January of this year Karen and Tom Mulvaney were on vacation in Kauai to celebrate Tom and his twin's birthday. Although she's usually healthy, Karen got quite sick and ended up spending most of her time in bed reading “Unbroken - A World War II story of survival, resilience, and redemption.”

“The book was like a talisman - I carried it everywhere with me for weeks” said Mulvaney. “I felt like my father's memory had been stirred and his voice reawakened.” In what can only be described as an extraordinarily rare coincidence, the book outlines the many struggles of Zamperini that paralleled her father's journey. It was haunting - her father was a fighter pilot during World War II who was shot out of the sky, but ejected and lived, was captured by the Germans and was a POW in Germany. Both men had war experiences that left wounds.

In yet another twist of fate, Kauai was where Zamperini learned to fly. Mulvaney explained that it seemed strange to her, being bed-bound and reflecting on the story of Louie's time lost at sea. Being ill gave her time to not only read the book but also to ponder the struggles of her

father and Zamperini and the complicated consequences of their war experiences. “I ended up being extremely grateful to have been sick in Kauai.”

Because she was so moved by the story - she ordered a number of books and had them signed by Zamperini, who inscribed, “Be Hardy!” Thus started a unique relationship between the two; that led to a phone conversation, lunch and his acceptance of this speaking engagement. Mulvaney calls it a “powerful connection.”

“To me, Louis' story is a life raft for others,” said Mulvaney explaining the many lessons to be gleaned from it: “everybody struggles; nobody's life is entirely smooth. Louie's ability to forgive even the most brutal treatment by others is a lesson for all. His life-changing experiences and how he overcame them helped me understand my dad better,” adding that she learned to, “embrace opportunities when I can. My hope is that Louie's story will live on and help others with their own struggles.”

It will certainly live on in the phenomenal number of books sold and in this appearance in Lafayette. Mulvaney was so moved, she underwrote the cost of his speaking fee and travel arrangements, no small undertaking. “I wanted more people to have the opportunity to meet him - I wanted to give that as a gift.” Turns out the date that is available, April 17, is the day after what would have been her dad's 88th birthday. The event, at Acalanes High School, is already sold out.

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SCHOOL CALENDAR

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1212 Pleasant Hill Rd, Lafayette
TONIGHT: Wednesday, April 13, 7:30pm
Wednesday, May 4, 7:30pm

Lafayette School District
LAFSD Office
3477 School Street, Lafayette
TONIGHT: Wednesday, April 13, 7pm
Wednesday, May 11, 7pm

Orinda Union School District
OUSD Office
8 Altarinda Road, Orinda
Monday, May 9, 4pm

Moraga School District
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate
School Auditorium
1010 Camino Pablo, Moraga
Tuesday, May 10, 7:30pm

Ross Wins Again

Submitted by Marice George



Miramonte student Selena Ross (right) and Lions Regional Student Speaker Chair Denny Grottrian. Photo provided

Regular readers of the Lamorinda Weekly are familiar with Miramonte senior Selena Ross, the winner of the local Lions Speaker Contest. On March 27 the Multiple District Four California Lions Regional Level Speech Contest was held at the Contra Costa Water District Board Offices, and Ross won again in this third round of competi-

tion. The topic was "Enforcing Our Borders: State vs. Federal Rights." Ross now goes on to the District Level Round to be held on April 23 at 2:00 p.m. at the Boy Scout Hall, 101 Davis Street in San Leandro, California. Ross was sponsored by the Moraga Lions Club, and is in the running for \$21,000 in scholarship money.

Ryerson Says Treat Your Partner Like a Dog

By Andrea A. Firth



Margie Ryerson with her "partners" Photo provided

"Nelson was really the impetus for the book," says author Margie Ryerson referring to her three-year old labradoodle and her new book, *Treat Your Partner Like a Dog, How to Breed a Better Relationship*. "This huge, gentle dog has such a personality and is so gregarious, I spend a lot of time at the dog park," says Ryerson explaining that her pooch has transformed her from a dog owner to a real dog person. And, as she watched Nelson socializing and observed the exuberance "dog people" share with their "best friends," it set her to thinking about the parallels between how we treat our dogs and how we should treat our partners.

Ryerson's experience with Nelson provided the inspiration for her to write a simple, short, constructive guide for couples that is also humorous. Couples are a big part of Ryerson's counseling practice. She has been a Marriage and Family Therapist for over twenty years and has offices in Orinda and Walnut Creek. "I work with couples on communication techniques and all the issues that come up in a relationship—kids, in-laws, sex, financial issues. I'm used to clients coming in and having read segments of longer books. I wanted to write a book that would hold their attention and also serve as a resource."

Humor is a key ingredient to effective couples' therapy according to Ryerson. While her goal is to help couples to understand their issues and develop constructive ways to be with each other, she tries to keep therapy sessions lighthearted. "Humor joins people together. It makes us relax, alleviates the stress and tension, and provides a place

to focus on that is encouraging," she says. In addition to the entertaining comparisons between how to treat one's dog and one's partner in Ryerson's book, it also includes amusing cartoons by artist Barry Hunau.

Ryerson advocates the use of calm assertiveness in a relationship and compares this approach to the way a dog responds well to a strong but calmly and respectfully delivered message. "Assertiveness requires using good judgment, and timing is important," says Ryerson who also emphasizes the importance of supportive and consistent non-verbal communication. "70% of our communication is nonverbal. Your face has to match your words."

Throughout the book Ryerson provides real-life examples and lists of tips and techniques to support these communication principles. "I hope couples will get help from reading the examples and make use of tips and techniques," says Ryerson, but she adds that just like training your dog, it takes practice.

Read an excerpt from Ryerson's book in her Family Focus column on page D8.

Margie Ryerson, MFT, has been a columnist for the Lamorinda Weekly for two years. Cartoonist Barry Hunau, who is also a Lamorinda Weekly regular contributor, provided the illustrations for her book. *Treat Your Partner Like A Dog, How to Breed a Better Relationship* is available at Orinda Books and online through iUniverse. Ryerson will discuss her new book at Orinda Books on Saturday, April 16th at 2:00 p.m.

OIS Students Take Action Locally, Globally

By Cathy Dausman



7th graders at Orinda Intermediate School, Millie Kirchberg (left) and Isabelle Sato are involved in their science class' Take Action Program this semester. Photo C. Dausman

Millie Kirchberg and Isabelle Sato know they are privileged to live in Orinda. But they are developing compassion for the less fortunate worldwide through a science program at their school. They explain in a letter they wrote to Lamorinda Weekly:

"We are 7th grade students at Orinda Intermediate School and are working on a "Take Action Project" for our science class. Each student has chosen a problem that they feel strongly about and have spent the past month researching and organizing ideas to raise awareness."

"It's about the process," says teacher and Science Department Chair Sue Boudreau. "It's the social aspect of kids working with friends." Boudreau developed the Take Action Project (TAP) curriculum at OIS three years ago and wants it to be "fun and imaginative" for her students. To date, some 900 students have participated in the project.

Boudreau says she was inspired to develop a curriculum "to empower, educate and inspire young people" after learning the dire predictions of climate change in the next 100 years. Fellow science teachers Karen Snelson and Kim Campbell-White ensure that each 7th grader experiences TAP. According to Boudreau, a year-end online student survey consistently ranks TAP "the number one thing they will remember from 7th grade science."

Educators from Australia, Hong Kong and Canada have inquired about the TAP program. Boudreau has made curriculum presentations at St. Mary's College and to National Science Teachers Association conferences in Phoenix and San Francisco. Her project information was also published in the October 10, 2010 edition of NSTA "Science Scope" magazine. Those who use the project are very encouraging. One Washington science teacher writes: "my students and I are LOVING the take action project."

Millie and Isabelle's letter continues: *"Our focus concerns the unsanitary water conditions affecting millions of people in Haiti. After much thoughtful research and an interview with a Lawrence Berkeley Lab specialist, we have decided to fundraise for the non-profit organization, Global Giving, in support of clean water in Haiti."*

The girls expect to raise \$300, \$1,000 or \$5,000, depending on which student is talking. Boudreau says most students raise very little money, although a TAP project to benefit Lou Gehrig's disease (ALS) two years ago netted \$33,000. But students are not graded on how much they raise. TAP teaches them to think ahead and work with a partner, "skills and attitudes that will

help them later in life," says Boudreau. *"To raise money, we are doing a walk-a-thon on Saturday, April 23, 2011 at the Lafayette Reservoir starting at 10:00 AM."*

Millie and Isabelle will walk six miles for pledges, wearing tee shirts they'll design. They showed a video they created themselves, "Dirty Drinking Water;" in class.

Global Giving is just one example of many charities students have selected, and there are many other fundraising events. Campbell-White says past TAP students have held bake sales, swim-a-thons, setup lemonade stands, volunteered at shelters and soup kitchens, animal rescue programs; beach clean ups, tree plantings, written letters to government entities, and held a dance fundraiser. TAP projects from Campbell-White's classes include work for Save the Bay Campaign, Susan G Komen for the Cure, UNICEF, World Health Organization, Cool California, The National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, World Wildlife Fund, Food 4 Africa, Amazon Watch, and The Hunger Project, among many others.

Boudreau is Isabelle's teacher; Campbell-White teaches Millie, whose older brother completed TAP two years ago. Because of that "she's always asking questions," says Campbell-White. "As teachers, we love to see students gain interest in current events, relevant topics, and science. We like to give the students a lot of choice in the classroom creating a sense of ownership and practicing decision-making skills."

The girls, along with their classmates, are already learning valuable lessons. "I wish I could make more money [for a cause] and work less," says Isabelle. As for Millie, she's learned what charitable fundraisers everywhere know: that "money doesn't grow on trees."

Donations to Global Giving can be sent care of Orinda Intermediate School, 80 Ivy Drive, Orinda, CA 94563. Mark the envelope: attn: Kim Campbell-White and Sue Boudreau.

Lafayette Elementary Student Council Organizes Drive to Help Sister School in Haiti

By Rosylyn Aragonés Stenzel



Lafayette Elementary Student Council members pose in front of banner before sending it off - along with over 650 pencils - to sister school in Haiti. Photo Pam Severson

Lafayette Elementary Student Council is leading the way for its school to help children in Haiti. Recently, the student council organized a pencil drive to give to students at Victor Hugo School in Gonaives, Haiti. Along with over 650 pencils, they sent a banner that read, "We love our sister school!" Almost all Lafayette Elementary students from each grade signed the banner.

They found out about the opportunity to help Haitian kids through Grace Linderholm, a junior at Acalanes High School. Grace visited

Haiti last year with her mother during a medical mission trip. Moved by the poverty and severe lack of resources, Grace, a Lafayette Elementary School alumna, decided to do something about it. She contacted the PTA to propose a partnership with Victor Hugo School.

Student council decided to take on the challenge, and at the request of the principal at Victor Hugo, sent unsharpened pencils; because in Haiti, pencil shavings are used as kindling. Besides the pencil drive, student council organized a sock hop

dance where they collected backpacks and raised over a thousand dollars for their sister school.

Student council officers Pia Dovichi, Caden Moses, Gia Roberts, and Chase Severson, said that they've learned much from this experience including realizing how fortunate they are and wanting to share it, plus as Chase summed it up, "It feels good when you give something to them."

For more information on how you can support this partnership, contact leopardersisterschool@gmail.com.

**Submit stories to
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Campolindo's Production of *The Laramie Project* Encourages Dialogue

By Lou Fancher

It's a tragic sign of the times that the term "hate crime" needs little definition. From lynchings in our country's history to the horror of September 11th, 2001 to the fatal beating of Matthew Shepard in Wyoming in 1998, Americans have seen what happens when anger, fear and prejudice lead to violence.

But the reasons behind the crimes—and the reverberations that paralyze communities who suffer them—are less familiar territory.

The Laramie Project, a play and film written by Tectonic Theater Project to tell the story of the people in the small, Wyoming town after Shepard's murder has been seen by more than 50 million people worldwide.

On April 22nd and 23rd, Campolindo High School's drama department will bring the production to the stage.

"It's not just a play about what happened to a gay kid. It's about how the community reacts to being looked at through a national lens of judgment," explained Jamie Donohoe, director of Campolindo's Drama Department.

Donohoe still remembers the media attention around the killing of a Miramonte cheerleader in 1986.

"I was a Campo student. All of a sudden Lamorinda had to look at itself through the articles in Rolling Stone and other media. Even as an adult, I've seen how the community reacts when race, sexuality, religion—or whether we put in a Dollar Tree store—comes up. We have a hard time talking about these non-black-and-white issues," he concluded.

Donohoe has heard nothing but positive reaction to his choice for the spring show. He admitted it could push some people's buttons, but considers the community "smart" and the students talented enough to carry off the play's raw, complex content.

"I chose the play with two goals," Donohoe said, "letting young kids really do some strong acting and pushing themselves is first. A kid's going to step outside of his skin to imagine what it would feel like to be in another person's shoes. And second, if we can get the audience to think about it: what is homosexuality? My hope is that people will talk honestly. More than changing perceptions, it's the talking that I hope will happen."

Nicholas Morrill, Shannon Sullivan, Adam Roth and Laura Zenoni

were eager to talk about their participation in the production and the issue of acceptance.

None of the four Campolindo drama students had heard Matthew Shepard's story before being introduced to the play. But they were all quite familiar with homophobic intolerance on their school's campus.

"We must hear the phrase 'That's so gay,' about 100 times a day. It's usually not used to hurt a gay person—because the word has taken on its own meaning. Basically, it means stupid, unfair, flamboyant, negative," Sullivan said.

Donohoe, who has had students talk to him about their sexuality because they do not feel safe and former students tell him how bitter they are for the lie they lived while at Campolindo, was less certain of the term's diluted impact. "Being gay is not okay in America," he insisted. "It's not okay in Northern California. The term 'gay' is still thrown around on this campus as a derogatory term."

"I'm on a mission to change that," threw in Morrill. "It's breeding unnecessary violence: I can't even see the logical argument behind the hatred."

Roth agreed, adding that people in the Lamorinda community live in "a bubble" and homosexuality is "not an open table discussion here."

Zenoni has felt the urge to examine her Catholic upbringing more closely. She has searched to understand Biblical teachings on the issue and said playing the girlfriend of one of the murderers has been eye-opening.

"She's in this terrible situation. Seeing how horrible her life is; it makes mine look not so bad," she said.

When Zenoni recalled participating in "Day of Silence" activities meant to promote peace and acceptance on campus, all four students voiced anxiety.

"The Gay-Straight Alliance no longer exists (at Campolindo). People would throw stuff—water bottles and trash—at us. They'd laugh," Zenoni remembered.

It might surprise an older generation, but the students agreed that being labeled 'bi-sexual' is far preferable to 'homosexual.'

"People are more accepting because if you like boys and girls, you're okay—you're more 'normal,'" explained one student.

"The coolest part [about *the*

Laramie Project] is that we're addressing the issue," Roth said. "It's revolutionary."

Sullivan, although worried about parental reactions, admitted, "I like that we're rubbing it in people's faces. We're saying 'Hey! It's not okay to have this intolerance.'"

Morrill, taking an actor's perspective, said, "Getting to the emotion and understanding how someone who doesn't agree with homosexuality is touched by what happened to Shepard is more difficult than anything I've ever done."

Donohoe had the last word before heading back into rehearsal: "What's cool about *the Laramie Project* is that it presents people as honestly struggling with hard issues. My hope is that people will see that you don't have to have the right answer. Having the dialogue is the important part."

The Laramie Project

Shows are April 22nd at 7:00 p.m. and April 23rd at 1:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. in the Campolindo Performing Arts Center. Tickets: \$5 for students and seniors, \$10 for adults, available online at the Campolindo web-store, <http://campolindo.revtrak.net/tek9.asp>.

Another Perspective

One young man, whose parents did not want us to identify him by name, spoke with us briefly about his experience being a gay student at Campolindo last year; he is currently enrolled at a different school.

"No one really liked to talk to me," he began. "People stared when I walked by, and many avoided me. Not everyone at school was like that, but the majority was. It was subtle – having grown up in this 'safe' community, it was eye-opening to see that people really are like this, that they really can't accept that someone who is gay could be normal. I didn't feel picked on, just excluded – I was an outsider who would never fit in. I never had a day when I didn't feel judged."

What does the phrase "that's so gay" mean to you?

"That the word 'gay' is used as an insult speaks volumes. The word 'gay' does not mean 'stupid, unfair, flamboyant, or negative.' It's offensive even if it's meant differently. In the dictionary, the definitions of 'gay' are 'merry (etc);' and 'homosexual – there's nothing in there about being stupid. But I think of myself as a human being, not as a word.'"

Do you feel the school did anything to change the unfriendly environment?

"They tried to a certain extent, but it's hard to change attitudes; had there been more openly gay students things might have been different. But why would we come out? Kids are called 'fag' if they're not athletic – we're being pushed back into the closet. Students' opinions are shaped by their parents, their friends, and their intolerant religions. It's no different than judging others based on skin color or religious preference. I can't change what I am and I will not apologize for it."

What do you think of the choice to present *The Laramie Project*?
 "It's positive that the school is presenting this play. Having the dialogue is the first step towards change; but the change has to follow. People here need to pop their bubbles and deal with reality – gay people are part of the world and we are not going away."

L.Borrowman

Small Hands, Big Hearts

Submitted by April King



Pictured are Mrs. Nancy Kassover and her Happy Valley Elementary School fourth grade students. The class devoted time and energy to contribute to the Red Cross efforts to help earthquake survivors. Their endeavors included numerous lemonade stands, bake sales, extra chores, and raiding their own piggy banks. The students linked up with Mapua school in New Zealand to show their support across the seas. Photo Rodney Erdmann

Miramonte Holds 53rd Annual Orinda Rotary Career Night

Submitted by Eloise Schneider, Miramonte College & Career Advisor



Miramonte students attend a career panel at the 53rd Annual Career Night event sponsored by the Orinda Rotary. Photo provided.

On Monday, March 21st Miramonte High School hosted the 53rd annual Orinda Rotary Career Night with a record-breaking 690 students in attendance. This popular event is coordinated by Orinda Rotary and Miramonte High School's College & Career Advisor to provide career options for students of all high school grade levels to explore. There was

standing room only to listen to and ask questions of some of the most popular career panels including Psychology, Medical & Health, World Languages, and Business. Students were also able to meet individuals with careers in Architecture & Design, Engineering, World Languages, Government & Law, Media & Communications, and Performing Arts.

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2011 Stanley Science Expo Rocks

Submitted by Dawn Brightbill



Stanley student Chris Mikas makes adjustments to his Rube Goldberg Machine, the Tea Maker.

Photo D. Brightbill

Family Focus

Treat Your Partner Like a Dog

By Margie Ryerson, MFT

(Excerpted from *Treat Your Partner Like a Dog: How to Breed a Better Relationship*, 2011)

"Oh, you are such a love! Come here you sweet thing! Kiss, kiss."

Isn't love wonderful? It's so nice to hear people expressing affection! But too often the recipient of all this devotion is our dog, not our human companion.

Although we may adore our dogs, sometimes we don't put nearly as much effort into our human relationships. Forty to fifty percent of all first marriages, and sixty to seventy percent of all second marriages end in divorce. **Emphasize the Positive (Positive Reinforcement)**

When I take my dog, Nelson, to the dog park here is what happens: I throw a ball for him to fetch. Nelson responds by dutifully bringing back the ball (well, some of the time anyway). Each time that Nelson returns the ball, I say "Good job," or "good dog!" Often I give him a treat for cooperating. Let's face it, Nelson is not bringing me money or doing my ironing, yet I shower him with positive attention.

How often do we use this system of reinforcement and positive rewards with our partner? Do we offer thanks and gratitude when our partner does the laundry, washes the car, or fixes a tasty meal? All too often our humans are the ones going begging for attention and compliments.

Eliminate the Negative (No Negative Reinforcement)

When Nelson makes a mistake, such as digging in the garden, principles of dog training tell me that I am supposed to reprimand swiftly at the time of the bad behavior and then switch gears back to positive mode. The idea is for Nelson to think of himself as a GOOD dog and not have a negative self-image. In this way, Nelson will want to please me because I offer praise and rewards while I minimize his mistakes. In other words, I don't rub his nose in it.

If only couples could get over their grievances as easily! Some couples I see in my practice have memories like elephants when it comes to things their partner did wrong.

Lydia and Dave had been living

together for eight years when they came in for counseling. Three years earlier, after drinking heavily, Dave threw a wine bottle against the wall during an argument. He immediately expressed remorse, and he stopped drinking altogether soon afterwards. Dave had never before engaged in violent behavior, and there were no further incidents.

Lydia continued to harbor distrust and resentment toward him for this incident, although she never let him know how she felt. Her stepfather occasionally beat Lydia with a belt while she was growing up, and Lydia swore she would never tolerate violent behavior when she became an adult. Gradually she distanced herself from Dave physically and emotionally.

After several months of couples therapy, Lydia finally allowed herself to move past this episode. She saw how her doubts and distrust interfered with any chance for a healthy relationship with Dave. She had been overlooking all of his wonderful qualities while she fixated on this unpleasant incident. Now, like Nelson, Dave would be able to think of himself as a GOOD partner and the relationship would have a better chance to flourish.

Is your dog the only one in your household who receives constant praise and a minimum of criticism? If so, it's time to treat your human at least as well as your dog!



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

Lafayette Partners in Education (LPIE) joined Stanley Middle School in sponsoring the 2010 Stanley Science Expo on March 31st. The Expo, held bi-annually, caps an exciting science fair season for Lafayette schools.

In addition to over 100 student science projects, the event highlighted a wide variety of exhibitors. Projects created by Stanley student scientists ranged from scale landform models of various topographical maps, to Rube Goldberg Machines along with more traditional science fair projects with a hypothesis and conclusion. Attendees viewed scale models of Half Dome, Yosemite Falls, and a model of the Caldecott tunnel. Several projects were related to a student's personal science passion. One particularly innovative project included

a multi-student built bicycle that works on both battery and human power. While the projects can be quite time consuming, the results are inspiring.

Stanley Science Department chair and beloved 6th grade science teacher Michael Meneghetti summed up the value of the event best, sharing "the whole emphasis of the Science Expo is that it highlights science and makes science the rock star. The event shows the diversity of science careers and immerses students in an evening that makes science very, very cool."

Stanley Science Expo co-chairs Gwenn Lennox and Lori Moran recruited a diverse array of scientists and exhibitors to the Expo, along with Science Expo Advisor Carolyn Wan. Exhibitors shared their love of science while

middle school students, teachers, and parents looked on and interacted with the numerous hands-on exhibits. Global Vicinity shared the 3D magic behind XBOX while students extracted DNA from their cheeks with the help of scientists from Sangamo Biosciences. NASA scientist Margaret Race provided 3D glasses for students to view 3D images in space while Sustainable Lafayette, in conjunction with Springhill Schools' Green Team, displayed 65 pounds of untouched lunches thrown away from one day of school lunch garbage.

In addition to student projects and exhibits, student volunteers from Stanley's Opp Knocks were on hand to sell food with proceeds going to LPIE. Attendees also brought along reusable water bottles to cut down on trash at the Expo.



Stanley scientist Chris Nelson shows 6th grader Shelby Bocks how to test his Water vs. Air Experiment.

Photo D. Brightbill

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Publishers/Owners: Andy and Wendy Scheck; andy@lamorindaweekly.com; wendy@lamorindaweekly.com
Editor: Lee Borrowman; lee@lamorindaweekly.com
Advertising: Wendy Wuertth-Scheck; 925-377-0977; wendy@lamorindaweekly.com

Staff Writers: Sophie Braccini; sophie@lamorindaweekly.com
 Cathy Tyson; cathy@lamorindaweekly.com
 Andrea A. Firth; andrea@lamorindaweekly.com
 Sports Editor: Caitlin Graveson
Contributing Writers: Dean Okamura, Cynthia Brian, Conrad Bassett, Susie Iventosch, Moya Stone, Roslynn Aragones Stenzel, Lucy Amaral, Alex Crook, Bryant West, Cathy Dausman
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- Tournament of Champions
- SMC Men's Basketball Season Review
- Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian
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SUMMER CAMPS

2011 / #2

presented by Lamorinda Weekly

5th Annual Summer Camp Guide

half day camps & classes

Part 2, Half Day Camps & Classes (Part 1, full-day and overnight camps was published on, March 16 2011)

Summer's Coming – What Will Your Kids Be Doing?



Summer's coming. The very phrase sends thrills of excitement through some kids, while in others it instills fear. Think back...chances are you fell into one of these categories yourself. There are many options in California and beyond for Lamorinda's young, adventurous spirits; but some kids are home-bodies, preferring to spend their days, and nights, in familiar surroundings— nothing wrong with that, and we can only hope they'll still feel that way when we are old

and waiting for them to come visit! Right here in Lamorinda are sleep-away camps that may help bridge that gap – away from home, yet just down the street.

Seems like kids have never had as many choices as they do now. Maybe you are just looking for a week here and there to broaden your child's horizons – give them an opportunity to learn something new, have an adventure, take a hike...you may find just what you're looking

for in our annual Summer Camp Guide (our Full Day Camp Guide appeared in our March 16 issue:

www.lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue0501/read.html.) If your child's summer plans include sleeping in or days filled with swim team, the half-day camps and classes in this issue will give those water-wrinkled fingers a chance to dry out and might even convince sleepy-head to get up and try something new!

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see ad

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9 am - 12 noon

Welcome to PandaMania, a place of fun and adventure where God is *wild* about you! Rock out to our new VBS *live* band. Join the outrageous fun of the PandaMania Game Show. Action-packed recreation, puppets, crafts, skits, snacks and games are just the beginning of a week you'll never forget!
Get your ears on ... join the adventure!

Camp cost: \$60 per child
 Children must be between the ages of 4 years old and entering 5th graders.

 10 Moraga Valley Lane
 Moraga, CA 94556
 376-4800

www.mvpctoday.org

Spanish Immersion Summer Camps (Lafayette) see ad

A unique opportunity for children to learn or improve their Spanish language skills! During each week-long camp students learn vocabulary related to a specific kid-friendly theme such as Crazy Chemistry or Pirates of the "Caribe." Half Day 9am-noon, Full Day 9am-3pm.

Phone: (925) 962-9177
 Website: www.vivaelespanol.org

Specialty Camps and Classes

Summer Bridge Math (Moraga)

This program, intended to be both fun and educational, is designed to reinforce previous math concepts, while introducing future ones. Manipulatives and interactive problem solving will be a part of each session. Groups will consist of no more than 6 students and will meet five times over the summer. Mr. Lorie and Ms. Steelman will lead the sessions.
 Website: www.lorietutors.com

Horse/Farm Camps

Sienna Ranch (Lafayette) see ad

Lamorinda's own ranch camp experience. Camp choices include activities in nature immersion, primitive arts, survival skills, horse riding and care, farm animal interaction, archery, carpentry, and more! Serving campers ages 4-14, Sienna Ranch offers week-long, full day or 1/2 day camp options. All adult, professional staff and amazing, convenient location.
 Phone: (925) 283-6311
 Website: www.siennaranch.net

Music C

Academy of Language and Music Arts/ ALMA (Orinda)

Private lessons in all instruments, including guitar/piano/drums/band instruments/strings/ & voice; private lessons in languages, including Italian, French, Spanish, Chinese, Japanese, ESL; Special summer group classes and performing ensembles, including Rock Combo, Jazz Combo, Vocal Ensemble, Drum Circle, Theatre & Acting Skills. All Ages and Levels Welcome!
 Dr. James Fiatarone, Director
 99 Brookwood Rd., Orinda
 Phone: (925) 254-5056; (925) 254-5053

DON's Camp 2011 (Lafayette)

The Acalanes coaching staff invites you to be the very best football player you can be. At our camp you will learn skills, techniques, rules and how to perform to the best of your ability. There are daily camp awards and all athletes receive a T-shirt. June 20-22, 9am-noon, incoming 3rd-8th graders, non-contact, \$125. Contact Head Coach Mike Ivankovich.
 Email: mivankovich@acalanes.k12.ca.us

Sports C

Football Camp (Moraga) see ad

The Cougar Youth Football Camp, directed by Head Coach Kevin Macy, for Grades 4 thru 8 will run from July 11 through July 22, 1:30-5pm at Campolindo High School. All equipment is supplied, t-shirt is included. Registration forms can be found at campofootball.com.
 Phone: (925) 932-1579

The Lamorinda Weekly Summer Camp listings are not paid advertising. Our intent is to provide a useful reference guide. In the event we have inadvertently printed misinformation please let us know. LW is not liable for errors or omissions.

Moraga Parks & Recreation Summer Camps (Moraga)

Parks make life better and so do fun summer camps! A variety of sports camps are offered through the Moraga Parks & Recreation Department this summer, including: eurosoccer, lacrosse, baseball, flag football, skate board, T-ball, tennis, capture the flag, volleyball as well as various multi-sport camps. Registration is open.
 Phone: (925) 888-7045
 Website: www.moraga.ca.us

Redwood Ranch Riding Camp 2011




www.redwoodranchstables.com

2011 Riding Camp Dates
 June 13 thru June 17
 June 20 thru June 24
 June 27 thru July 1
 July 4 thru July 8
 July 11 thru July 15
 July 18 thru July 22
 July 25 thru July 29
 August 1 thru August 5
 August 8 thru August 12
 August 15 thru August 19
 August 22 thru August 26

5745 Redwood Road
 Oakland, CA 94619
 Phone: 510.531.0262
 Fax: 510.531.0211

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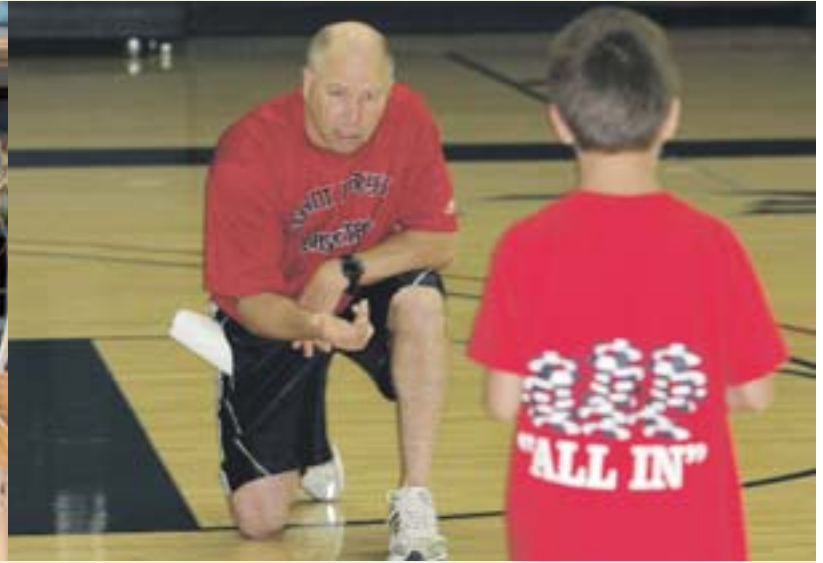
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2011 / #2

Part 2, Half Day Camps & Classes (Part 1, full-day and overnight camps was published on, March 16 2011)

Camp listings collected and compiled by Wendy Scheck



The Art Room (Lafayette)

An art studio where students enjoy the creative process while learning art skills in a nurturing environment. Our goal is to achieve a balance between process and product while building self esteem and a love of art! Summer program starts June 13th. Come have fun with us!

Phone: (925) 299-1515
Website: www.TheArt-Room.com

Horse/Farm Camps

Roughing it - Hello Horse Camp (Lafayette)

see ad

Part of the Roughing It Family of Camps. 1 week, 1/2 day introductory western riding camp. Beginning riding lessons and horsemanship, animal care, crafts and more! Designed for busy families that cannot attend our full day horse programs. 2:15-5:15pm.

Phone: (925) 283-3795
Website: www.roughingit.com/horse

KIDS COOKING CAMP IN LAFAYETTE

visit www.chowbellakids.net for details



Camps

Summer String Thing! (Moraga)

see ad

At the Hacienda de Las Flores in Moraga. Monday-Friday, June 27th-July 8th, 9am-1pm (no July 4th). Guest clinician Irene Sazer, of the Real Vocal String Quartet! Violin, viola, cello and bass players grades 4-9! Orchestra, Chamber and alternative styles! Contact Adam Noel.

Email: anoel@summerstringthing.com
Website: www.summerstringthing.com

Sports Camps

Brown Water Polo Camps (Orinda)

Lamorinda Water Polo, with Coaches Bill Brown & James Lathrop, will offer two camps this summer for girls and boys ages 7-14 who are beginners or players with little experience. Miramonte High School's Bill Brown Aquatic Center, June 20-24 or June 27-July 1; 4 days (M, T, Th, F only). 11am-1:30pm, \$150.

Email: bbrown@astound.net
Website: www.lamorindawaterpolo.org

Camps

Lafayette Boys Basketball Association's Youth Summer Basketball Camp

Boys entering 3rd - 9th grade can sign-up to improve individual/team skills via drills, games, contests and expert instruction with Acalanes Boys Basketball coaches and current players. July 18-22, 9am - 12pm, Acalanes High School, \$150 (includes t-shirt).

Phone: **Donovan Messier, (925) 787-4683**
Email: dmessiersmc@yahoo.com

MATS Hoops Basketball Camps (Orinda)

The Miramonte High School boys basketball staff will host its 4th annual summer basketball camps. Designed for boys and girls grades 3 to 10, our camps emphasize skill development, sportsmanship and team play. Our two camps run June 21 to 24 and July 12 to 15. Mornings: 9am-noon - grades 7 to 10. Afternoons: 1-4pm. - grades 3 to 6.

Phone: **(510) 648-1277**
Email: MatsHoops@gmail.com

Sports Camps

Oakland Strokes (Oakland)

The Oakland Strokes summer program is a 1/2 day summer camp. It is offered 6 weeks during the summer. The program is open to any child in 6th grade through 12th grade. The program is a learn to row program, focused on taking kids from never rowing, to being proficient. We teach the basics and include conditioning in our program.

E-mail: oaklandstrokes@gmail.com
Website: www.oaklandstrokes.org

Sherman Swim School (Lafayette)

see ad

Sherman Swim School has taught more than 36,000 students to Swim and Dive since 1961. Our facility offers 3 pools, a protected warm environment with 90-92 degree water, a shade structure, a misting system, and more. Swimming lessons: from 9 months to adults. Springboard Diving: 7 years to adults.

Phone: (925) 283-2100
Website: www.shermanswim.com

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You may download our Summer Camp Guide:
www.lamorindaweekly.com

SUMMER CAMPS 2011 / #2

Part 2, Half Day Camps & Classes (Part 1, full-day and overnight camps was published on, March 16 2011)

Sports Camps

SMC Summer Camps (Moraga)

see ad

SMC offers 30+ sports camps on one of the most picturesque campuses on the West Coast. Saint Mary's offers boys and girls Day, Half Day, Team, and Specialty Camps for ages 4-18. Summer 2011 offers All Sports, Baseball, Basketball, Golf, Lacrosse, Soccer, Softball, Tennis and Volleyball.

Phone: (925) 631-4FUN (4386)
Email: smccamps@stmarys-ca.edu
Website: www.smcgaels.com, click "camps"

Stars' Basketball Academy (girls) (Lafayette)

High school coaches Clay Kallam (Campolindo), Kelly Sopak (Miramonte) and Dan Middleton (Alhambra) will run a series of camps at the Bentley School this summer. The high school camp will be 3-5pm June 13-17 and June 20-24 (one two-week session), and the youth camps will be 1-3pm. June 13-17, June 27-July 1 and July 18-22.

Phone: (925) 935-7370
E-mail: clayk@fullcourt.com
Website: www.calstars.org/page/show/86855-stars-basketball-academy

The Cougar AAU Basketball Club Summer Camp (Lafayette)

Open to incoming 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th grade boys. The camp will provide instruction focused on skill development and team play concepts for both offense and defense. Players will work with the Campolindo staff and former Cal and James Madison University Head Coach Lou Campanelli. June 21 to June 25 at Campolindo High School from 11:00 a.m - 1:00 p.m. Contact Chris Banard.

Phone: (925) 818-6277
Email: coachbanard@comcast.net

Variety Camps

CAMP HACIENDA (Moraga)

Moraga Parks and Recreation will be offering CAMP HACIENDA, a day camp for kids ages 5-12 that will incorporate sports, games, crafts and more in the safe, secluded environment of the Hacienda de las Flores! June 16 to August 13. 9am- 12:30pm or 12:30 -4pm.

Phone: (925) 888-7045
Website: www.moraga.ca.us

Camp Saklan (Moraga)

Open to the public and located on the Saklan campus. Every week is carefully designed to incorporate our mission to expand the heart, mind and character of every child. Camp programs and activities are lead by a well-trained, dedicated staff in a caring, safe environment. Weekly themes include Science, Drama, Magic, Circus Arts, Lego Engineering, Movie Effects, Swim Lessons and much more.

Phone: (925) 376-7900
Website: www.saklan.org

City of Lafayette Recreation - Camp Awesome (Lafayette)

Lafayette Recreation's Camp Awesome and Awesome Afternoon Camp will feature Games2U, Capture the Flag, Bounce Houses, Sports, Crafts, Dodge Ball and More! Choose morning, afternoon or both. Have the freedom to pick and choose your days with our 5 day punch cards (Awesome Cards). All 10 weeks of summer.

Phone: (925) 284-2232
Website: www.LafayetteRec.org

It Takes an Army (of Volunteers!)

By Rebecca Eckland



Erik Voss and other young BSA campers take aim at their targets.

Photo provided by Deborah MacDonald-Moskowitz

If Boy Scouts of America Summer Camp Director Deborah MacDonald-Moskowitz's five-year tenure is any indication, the most essential ingredients for a volunteer-staffed camp are enthusiasm and dedication. "The camp only runs," she says, "because so many parents and volunteers are helping out."

The week-long Boy Scouts of America (BSA) camp utilizes the campus of Saint Mary's College from August 8-12, 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

each day. Camp activities are only possible via the help of volunteer staff as well as volunteers from the community and parents of the campers themselves. For example, local librarians donate time for "story hour," and the SWAT team stops by to show off its impressive vehicles.

These members of the community are not paid in any way, Moskowitz emphasized, "They simply know what a great program the BSA is for our young people. You

know the saying "it takes a village to raise a child?" That's what the BSA is all about: raising responsible, knowledgeable members of the community."

To manage the 150-165 campers, Moskowitz and her co-director Mary Ann Brent (also a volunteer), rely heavily on the support of the parents who have sons (and daughters) attending the camp. Though volunteers must be trained, parents who volunteer their time are given a discount on their camper's tuition. Parents who volunteer can also enroll siblings who are not Boy Scout members in the "Tag Along" program, which is similar to the BSA curriculum and is open to both boys and girls, 1st through 6th grade.

The camp is "fun, rambunctious and dirty," said Moskowitz, and the campers are able to not only learn athletic skill, but important life skills like knife safety and how to operate a fire extinguisher, to name a few.

"Speaking as a mom myself, volunteering is a rewarding way to witness the lives of your children," Moskowitz said. "You get to see your child within their own milieu; it's a pretty amazing experience. And after the week is over, everyone's just glowing."

You have to be a member of the Boy Scouts of America to attend this summer camp, but Moskowitz says registration is easy. "Just join anytime. It's a nominal fee to join." Registration can be completed online at: <http://www.bsa-mdsc.org>. And once a member, it's just as easy-- if not more rewarding-- to volunteer.

Variety Camps

Orinda Parks & Recreation (Orinda)

Orinda Kids -OK Camp (3.5-5) and Camp Orinda (Ages 6-10) includes games, arts, crafts, music, special fun days, and themes. Week long, half-day and extended day camps. Summer Enrichment Program Go Green (Gr. K-5) features an exciting curriculum designed to allow children to explore our natural world. Taught by OUSD teachers: 6/20-7/15 9am-12pm. Located at 28 Orinda Way, Orinda.

Phone: (925) 254-2445
Website: www.cityoforinda.org

Did we miss your favorite camp?

On May 25 we will list all full day, half day camps and classes. Reach 60,000+ in Lamorinda and advertise with us. Call (925) 377-0977 or email wendy@lamorindaweekly.com.



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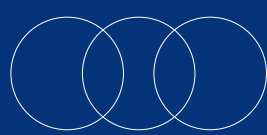
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Lamorinda Weekly

Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 05 Issue 3 Wednesday, April 13, 2011



2011 Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour

Annual event will feature new gardens in Lafayette and Orinda

By Sophie Braccini

Alma Raymond wanted to see more Orinda homes featured on the annual Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour, so she approached Tour organizer Kathy Kramer about her new front yard; Raymond's will be one of three new gardens among the five Lamorinda sites on the 2011 Tour.

6,000 people are expected to attend this year's tour of over 50 gardens located throughout Alameda and Contra Costa counties that will be showcased on Sunday, May 1.

Raymond says she has been a California Native Plant Society member on and off since the early 1960's. But while she was working, she didn't have time to do anything about the grass and junipers that were the ornaments of her front garden. "When I retired, my first objective was to reduce our water use," explains Raymond, "then we also wanted to attract wild life and stop using fertilizer."

Lafayette's Betty Nelson had similar objectives. "I like the idea of native plants and wanted to stop using so much water and chemicals," says Nelson, "and a naturalistic-type garden fits better in this area of Lafayette." For Nelson the front garden is an outside room. She works for a biotech company and sometimes uses a home office that's adjacent to her front garden. "These types of garden are so much more interesting than lawns," she says, "I wanted to work with a landscape designer to get good design ideas and sources for plants." Nelson chose Four Dimensions Landscape in Oakland.

"There are different parts in the Raymonds' front garden," says Kim Larsen of Dragonfly Designs in Orinda, who help Raymond with her yard, "the left side is more woody looking, and in the top right front we have kept some of the original English garden plants that were there and mixed them with natives." The whole space was planted with native shrubs and perennials and sown with native flower seeds. ... continued on page F6



Alma Raymond in her back yard

Photo Sophie Braccini



Island Bush Poppy and Baby Blue Eyes in Al and Barbara Kyte's garden



Photo A. Scheck

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Michelle Holcenberg

michelle@holcenberg.com

925.253.4663
DRE#01373412



Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

LAFAYETTE Last reported: 6
LOWEST AMOUNT: \$410,000
HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$1,700,000

MORAGA Last reported: 9
LOWEST AMOUNT: \$139,000
HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$940,000

ORINDA Last reported: 11
LOWEST AMOUNT: \$480,000
HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$1,580,000

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

3613 Chestnut Street, \$410,000, 2 Bdrms, 869 SqFt, 1941 YrBlt, 3-14-11
1020 Circle Creek Lane, \$520,000, 4 Bdrms, 1359 SqFt, 1953 YrBlt, 3-22-11;
Previous Sale: \$306,000, 12-17-98
3520 Eagle Point Road, \$1,700,000, 5 Bdrms, 2783 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 3-18-11
727 Old Jonas Hill Road, \$1,149,500, 4 Bdrms, 2937 SqFt, 1976 YrBlt, 3-8-11;
Previous Sale: \$645,000, 06-10-98
1360 Reliez Valley Road, \$817,000, 2 Bdrms, 1623 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt, 3-11-11;
Previous Sale: \$1,300,000, 08-14-07
3399 Woodview Drive, \$520,000, 4 Bdrms, 2828 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 3-9-11;
Previous Sale: \$1,098,000, 06-29-06

MORAGA

115 Ascot Court #B, \$220,000, 2 Bdrms, 1191 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 3-21-11
2059 Ascot Drive #108, \$139,000, 1 Bdrms, 713 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 3-14-11;
Previous Sale: \$339,000, 07-14-06
581 Augusta Drive, \$770,000, 3 Bdrms, 1963 SqFt, 1984 YrBlt, 3-11-11;
Previous Sale: \$640,000, 10-27-98
98 Brookfield Drive, \$940,000, 5 Bdrms, 2273 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 3-9-11;
Previous Sale: \$467,500, 10-21-94
516 Butterfield Place, \$615,000, 2 Bdrms, 1703 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 3-8-11
2057 Donald Drive, \$750,000, 3973 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 3-15-11;
Previous Sale: \$225,000, 11-06-80
132 Greenbriar, \$722,000, 3 Bdrms, 2470 SqFt, 1986 YrBlt, 3-9-11;
Previous Sale: \$315,000, 05-15-87
1197 Larch Avenue, \$875,000, 4 Bdrms, 2102 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 3-16-11;
Previous Sale: \$875,000, 07-17-03
1230 Larch Avenue, \$800,000, 5 Bdrms, 2465 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 3-22-11

ORINDA

14 Camino Del Diablo, \$870,000, 2 Bdrms, 2466 SqFt, 1983 YrBlt, 3-14-11;
Previous Sale: \$600,000, 10-30-92
356 Dalewood Drive, \$1,520,000, 3 Bdrms, 3429 SqFt, 1984 YrBlt, 3-9-11;
Previous Sale: \$490,000, 06-14-85
23 Heather Lane, \$1,480,000, 4 Bdrms, 3184 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 3-21-11;
Previous Sale: \$615,000, 02-03-98
101 Hillcrest Drive, \$846,000, 3 Bdrms, 1872 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 3-16-11;
Previous Sale: \$360,000, 06-11-92
24 La Campana Road, \$1,580,000, 4 Bdrms, 3662 SqFt, 1939 YrBlt, 3-15-11;
Previous Sale: \$2,225,000, 06-21-07
29 Las Piedras, \$480,000, 2 Bdrms, 1017 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 3-11-11;
Previous Sale: \$725,000, 05-02-07
32 Los Dedos Road, \$795,500, 3 Bdrms, 2815 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 3-16-11;
Previous Sale: \$750,000, 04-26-00
3 North Lane, \$699,000, 3 Bdrms, 2496 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 3-22-11;
Previous Sale: \$575,000, 08-06-02
80 Orchard Road, \$1,140,000, 2 Bdrms, 1963 SqFt, 1946 YrBlt, 3-16-11
182 Ravenhill Road, \$895,000, 3 Bdrms, 2267 SqFt, 1982 YrBlt, 3-15-11;
Previous Sale: \$560,000, 08-17-00
82 Underhill Road, \$480,000, 2 Bdrms, 1276 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 3-10-11;
Previous Sale: \$262,500, 11-30-09

Lamorinda Foreclosures recorded

LAFAYETTE

1840 Del Rio Drive, 94549, US Bank, 03-14-11, \$502,277, 1706 sf, 4 bd



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- 3) Sell in the under \$1,000,000 range in Lamorinda, where sales are now improving, and move up to your dream house in a higher price range where the best negotiating opportunities exist.
- 4) Downsize, and sell in Lamorinda, where the market has not dropped as much, then buy a great one-story home at a bargain price in a nice neighborhood where homes have dropped more. Keep a low property tax by transferring it to the new house within Contra Costa County.

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The huge bonus room is connected through the laundry hall, and has it's own exterior entrance and furnace. It has a large main room, a bedroom and an office - this space would be perfect for a home business, in-laws, an au-pair, theatre room, party room, man-cave, teen hang-out.....

The flat, private .36 acre lot has a gorgeous pool plus lawn and patio.

- More pictures & details available at www.TheOlsenTeam.com -

Featured Sold and Pending Listings - 2011



**116 Corliss
Sold Before Market!**



**1412 Camino Pereal
Empty Nest Sellers**



**132 Greenbriar
Great Views!**



**39 Sea Pines
Cul-de-Sac + Views!**



**1047 Larch Ave.
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**2 Wingfoot
SALE PENDING**



**182 Ravenhill
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**787 Augusta Drive
Exceptional Lot!**



**4 Sparrow Court
SALE PENDING**

Buyer Representation—2011



**452 Millfield Place
Charming Cul-de-Sac**



**2570 Walnut Blvd
Short-sale Success**



**1588 Del Monte Court
Huge Lot!**



**469 Fernwood Drive
SALE PENDING**



**18 Lavenida
SALE PENDING**



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You Can Recycle That?

By Sophie Braccini



Clear plastic, tubs and boxes; Sandy Jones knows what plastics to recycle

Photo Rod Jones

When Sandy Jones of Orinda first heard about the Recycle Bank it seemed the perfect opportunity to augment her recycling habit. But she had questions; she already recycled quite a bit and was not clear on what else she could do. She contacted the Central Contra Costa Solid Waste Authority (CCCSWA) and got an education. “There were many things I could have recycled that I didn’t know about,” she says, “such as cottage cheese containers and aluminum foil. Now I feel that I do the best I can. We are so lucky to live in this country that it’s nice to be able to help to preserve it,” says Jones.

How can we tell which plastic containers can be recycled? The number on the bottom of the container indicates what it’s made of and how it can be recycled, according to Bart Carr, Senior Project Manager with CCSWA. “Every container with numbers 1-7, except 6, can be recycled,” says Carr.

Number 6 containers are the Styrofoam packaging that’s light, cheap and can be easily molded. Plastic tableware, meat trays, some egg cartons, and shipping blocks are made of this polystyrene and cannot be recycled. But many other plastics can (the below is not an all-inclusive list, just a sampling):

- #1 – these containers include water and cooking oil bottles, and peanut butter jars;
- #2 – such things as detergent bottles, milk jugs, and yogurt cups;
- #3 – shrink-wrap and certain outdoor furniture;
- #4 – dry cleaning bags, trash can liners, food storage containers;
- #5 – ketchup bottles, drinking straws, aerosol caps;
- #7 – includes Tupperware and bio-plastics.

“How about paper cups, paper take-out food containers, or big soiled pizza delivery boxes made of cardboard?” asked Jones. “The question about paper cups is com-

plex,” answered Carr, “if it is coated with a plastic film you cannot recycle it, but if it is waxed, you can.” Figuring out the difference is not easy. Carr recommends scratching the surface with a nail; if what comes out is wax-like, recycle it, if not, abstain. “As far as paper goods that have held food, those can go into the yard waste container (the green one),” adds Carr; our collection district recycles food waste.

As of today, about 20% of all Moraga and Orinda residents are registered with Recycle Bank, a program that gets you points for recycling that can be converted into goods for yourself or funding for local schools.



#5 at the bottom of a yogurt container.

Photo Sophie Braccini

To register with Recycle Bank:

If you’ve lost the letter that contained your PIN number, no problem – Go online to recyclebank.com and click on ‘register.’

Enter your information, including your address.

Get a new pin by mail or immediately with a message sent to your cell phone; now you can complete your registration.

Recycling in Lamorinda

The numbers below are provided by the Central Costa County Solid Waste Authority (CCCSWA) and will be included in the Lamorinda Weekly on an ongoing basis when available.

January 2011	Tons Recycled		Tons Landfill		% Recycled
Lafayette	717		435		62
Moraga	445		243		64
Orinda	601		362		62

The Real Estate Quarter in Review

By Conrad Bassett, CRP, GMS

The first quarter of 2011 showed mixed activity on the residential side of Lamorinda real estate with supply down, pending sales down, closings up and the average sales price down versus the same period a year ago.

Per Contra Costa Association of Realtors statistics reported from January 1 through March 31, 2011, 36 single-family homes closed in Lafayette which was the same as one year ago and in 2009. Sales prices ranged from \$399,000 to \$2,500,000 and the average number of days on market was 70 days. It was 65 days a year ago. The average sales price was \$973,341, which was down significantly from 2010's first quarter average of \$1,065,859.

In Moraga the number of single-family closings was 22 which was a significant increase from the 14 that closed in the first quarter of 2010. Prices ranged from \$615,000 to \$1,175,000. The average sale price was \$823,931 versus a year ago when the average was \$894,892. The average marketing time was 85 days – much higher than the 46 days for the first quarter of 2010.

In Orinda the number of single-family closings was up to 35 from 23 a year ago. Sales prices ranged from \$250,000 to \$1,580,000 with an average price of \$894,857. It took an average of 58 days on the market to sell a home versus a year ago when the 23 sales averaged \$1,009,260 after 68 days on the market.

So far this year, on an average price per square foot basis, Lafayette detached single-family homes sold at \$384 per square foot, Moraga homes sold for \$374 and Orinda was at \$366. In the year ago quarter these amounts were \$432, \$372, and \$417 respectively.

In the condominium/town home category, Lafayette had one closing at \$555,100; Moraga had 15 ranging from \$121,800 to \$639,900 and Orinda had three—a low of \$560,000 and a high of \$895,000. They were all in Orinda Woods.

As of April 5, 2011, there were 92 homes under contract per the MLS in the three communities combined with asking prices of \$99,900 to \$5,800,000. It should be pointed out that there are 19 "Potential Short Sales" that are currently pending and were subject to lender approval. The time for short sales to be approved has shortened in some cases, but the waiting time often re-

mains several months. Eight of the pending sales are REOs (bank owned properties.)

Inventory, however, has decreased to the current supply of 180 homes from 215 at this same time in 2010.

There are "only" 80 properties on the market in Lafayette versus 114 properties on the market at this time a year ago. In 2009 there were 84 in April. Asking prices in Lafayette currently range from \$350,000 to \$10,750,000. Of these, ten are distressed sales—attempted short sales or REOs. In Moraga, buyers have their choice of 45 homes or condominiums listed between \$199,500 and \$1,995,000. A year ago at this time there were 50. A telling sign of what other communities have experienced is that 11 of the currently available properties are short sales or REOs. This is the highest percentage in some time.

In Orinda there are 55 on the market down from 75 a year ago. The list prices range from \$249,900 to \$4,250,000. Two are short sales and six are bank-owned properties.

As is the case nearly every quarter, the most active price range is in the more "affordable" price ranges. At the high end, only one home sold above \$2,000,000 in the three communities combined. It was in Lafayette. A year ago there were four sales in the \$2 million plus range in the first quarter—all in Lafayette. There are 21 currently available above this amount—all in Lafayette or Orinda.

Interest rates continue to be attractive and many corporations continue to relocate families both in to and out of the area. However, this third piece of the real estate market—the corporate owned property segment—is appearing more often.

Corporations often buy homes from their transferring employees if the employee cannot sell the home prior to a corporate "buy out." As the properties are vacant and cost significant sums of money to hold for mortgage payments, taxes, maintenance, utilities and other factors, often the larger corporations would rather sell them at lower prices quickly, rather than holding them for extended periods of time. The relocation management companies do not give away the properties, but their competitive prices often can affect the rest of the market, much like REOs.

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2011 Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour

... continued from page F1



Betty Nelson's garden

Photo provided

"We also cut the use of pesticides," said Raymond, who spends a few hours every week in her garden tending to things and trying to pull weeds before they go to seed.

Raymond and Nelson have their favorite places to get their native plants. "Some local nurseries refuse to carry native plants because they think that residents do not want them," says Raymond, "Orchard and Moraga Gardens carry some." She goes to Tilden Park and the Botanical Garden to get plants. "Garden Natives Nursery in Martinez has plants that are hard to find, like an unusual cultivar of California fuchsia called Calistoga," says Nelson, "there is also Native Here Nursery in Tilden Park that grows local native plants, from local seeds they collect around here; if you want a valley oak from Lafayette, you can get it there."

This year's tour will again feature Barbara Leitner's garden in Orinda, and Al and Barbara Kyte's Moraga garden. Leitner is a botanist and native plant fan, who uses plants local to the San Pablo Creek watershed. The Kyte's garden, 35 years in development, contains over 100 species of California natives, manzanita-based chaparral in front and a Japanese garden concept in the back with a stream and fish pond.

Another garden new to the Tour is Mary Jennings and Michael Jennings' garden in Lafayette, which was developed by Michael who studied horticulture at Diablo Valley College under the legendary Stewart Winchester.

The Tour is volunteer-run and registration must be complete by April 24. For more information go to www.bringingbackthenatives.net.

Earthquake Preparedness: Even a Little Can Help a Lot

Submitted by Julie Lindemann, Moraga Neighborhood Emergency Preparedness Steering Committee

While the tragedy in Japan is still fresh in our minds, all Lamorinda residents are encouraged to review their level of earthquake preparedness. After a large earthquake local supplies of food and water can be quickly depleted. Since roads and bridges are likely to be damaged or blocked, aid may not be able to reach you for 3-7 days or even longer, particularly if you live away from the town center or are in a remote area such as Moraga or Canyon. The good news is that by putting away some modest stores of extra water and food, as well as a few other emergency supplies, you can make a big difference for your family. By preparing now you can reduce your risks of deprivation after a quake.

This is a good time to check on your stored food and water supplies – you should have enough for at least 7 days. Experts recommend that you store 1 gallon of water per person per day which equates to 28 gallons for a family of four to survive one week. Check your stored emergency food as well. This is a good time to rotate out the old and purchase new, so your supplies stay fresh and palatable. Canned food is the logical choice for emergency supplies so remember to have an extra can opener nearby. Don't forget that your pets will need food and water for that same length of time!

Every family should have a first aid kit. Some of the contents may have expiration dates and need rotating just like your food stores. Also check that your

emergency communication plan is up to date – have any family members moved or changed their telephone numbers in the past year? April is a good month to check emergency radio and flashlight batteries. Also check, shake and test fire extinguishers and if necessary, have them recharged or replace them. Finally, since earthquakes can cause gas line leaks that trigger fires, you should know where your gas meter is, how to determine whether you have a gas leak, and how to turn off your gas at the meter if necessary.

Each family should be as prepared as possible for the Big One. However, it is much easier to get and stay motivated if families join with others in their neighborhood to discuss these issues. Neighbors working together make this all more fun too. Emergency preparedness checklists are available on-line at www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/earthquake/info_homeowners.shtm. Check with your local chapter of CERT to find out what emergency training resources are available in your local area. In Moraga there is a dedicated group of CERT trained volunteers that help neighborhood groups in the town get organized. They'll even come to your house and give free presentations and provide other resource materials. Moraga residents can contact them at MoragaNEP@gmail.com.

It only takes a few hours to make a big difference in your level of preparedness. Don't delay!

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Tell us in 50 words or less why your mom is the "Best Mom in Lamorinda."

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ENTRY FORM

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Entries must be received by Monday May 2, 2011.

Winning letter will be published in the Lamorinda Weekly's in our May 11 issue.

Contest judged by our editorial team.

Download additional entry forms at www.lamorindaweekly.com/contest

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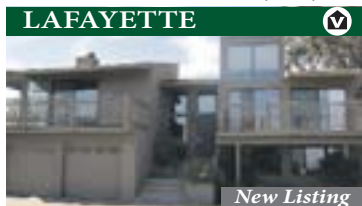
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