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Volume 05 Issue 4

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Wednesday, April 27, 2011

WEEKLY

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Photo Doug Kohen

Top Talent Tackles Triathlon

Mild-mannered public servants by day...weekend warriors in Moraga this Saturday

By Cathy Tyson

Although they can usually be found running the cities of Lafayette, Orinda and the Town of Moraga - next Saturday, April 30th, these young and young at heart athletes will be running, biking and swimming in the Moraga Triathlon. Municipal teams representing City Managers, City Council members and Orinda M.O.D.-D.D.O. team players will come together for a great workout and to secure

priceless bragging rights. The triathlon, now in its fifth year, lends itself to a group effort. As much as these work-out aficionados would love to conquer all three stages, for most swimming a quarter of a mile, bicycling fourteen miles and running three miles through the mean streets of Moraga is not in their job description.

"It's a no-lose proposition," said Lafayette City Manager

Steven Falk, "if we lose we make our bosses (the City Council) look good, and if we win, we're superior athletes." Falk is part of the uniquely configured City Manager team - he'll be swimming, both Janet Keeter of Orinda and Jill Keimach of Moraga will be biking, and Orinda Director of Planning Emmanuel Ursu graciously volunteered to run.

... continued on page C5

Quote of the Week:

"You just gotta have something fun like music at school."

Read Letters to the Editor, page A9-A10

Advertising

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LAMORINDA

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Rheem Boulevard Road Closure Coming Soon

By Sophie Braccini

The deplorable state of Rheem Boulevard in Moraga is no secret. The heavily damaged section of roadway between St. Mary's Road and Moraga Road is in constant use by Saint Mary's students, Campolindo students living in the Bluffs and the Burton Valley area of Lafayette, and many other residents.

Road maintenance funds being scarce, major repairs happen whenever grant funds come along, such as now - repairs to Rheem Blvd. are scheduled to start within a few weeks and will focus on the two ends of that section of the road; the middle section will require a complete dig-out and will not be touched at this time. The project is sched-

uled to last for 20 working days and should begin in late May; it must be completed by the end of June under the terms of the grant. Changeable signs indicating when the road will be closed will be posted around the area and on Rheem Blvd itself two weeks prior to the beginning of the work. The contractor is allowed to completely close the roadway only between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

The Town of Moraga recently approved a significant housing development plan, Rancho Laguna, along Rheem Blvd. Is it a good idea to repair a road that could be damaged by heavy equipment in the near future? "We had funds that needed to be

used this fiscal year, and Rheem was the best candidate, given that we already had the project designed and basically ready to bid," said Town Manager Jill Keimach, "We considered the impacts to the new roadway from the Rancho Laguna construction, and felt that the new roadway would hold up much better than the existing pavement during the construction of the development."

Jill Mercurio, Moraga Town Engineer and Public Works Director, added that there is no guarantee as to when work on the development will start, which compounds a second issue: the most compromised part of Rheem Blvd. is the one adjacent to the development site; since the

repair project does not include this very dangerous segment, drivers will have to be cautious once this spring's repairs are complete. "Coming from Saint Mary's some drivers might pick up speed - neighbors already complain that people are too fast as it is. It may be that more law enforcement will be needed," said Mercurio.

The conditions of approval for the development of Rancho Laguna include the repair of that section of the boulevard. "We really need to dig out the road and repair under it and when that happens, the road will be closed because we will have to dig 30 feet under it and there will be no road," noted Mercurio.

Sports C1-C3

High School Swim Season Ends with Rivalry Matches



By Marissa Harnett
 As the high school swim season draws to a close, key Lamorinda match-ups are playing out. On April 15, Campolindo hosted Acalanes. The Cougars emerged victorious with a total score of 109 to 59 ...read on page B1

Life in Lamorinda D1-C5

Mother's Day Metamorphosis

By Cathy Dausman

Remember your first Mother's Day? I'm not sure I do. It just blends into the patchwork quilt that is new motherhood. We were so busy feeding, changing, bathing, photographing or comforting our baby that one certain Sunday on a May calendar might have slipped away. ...read on page D10



Our Homes F1-F8

Lafayette Kitchen Tour Features Kitchens with Distinctive Styles



By Rosylyn Aragonas Stenzel
 Offering a wide variety of kitchens to suit just about every design taste, the 12th Annual Lafayette Juniors Kitchen Tour is Saturday, May 14th from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. This year's tour ... read on page D1



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Lafayette

Civic News

Public Meetings

City Council

Monday, May 9, 7:00 pm
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd

Planning Commission

Monday, May 2, 7:00 pm
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd

Design Review

Monday, May 9, 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

Not a Pillar of the Community, 4/3/11-4/11/11 A resident on Estates Drive returned from spring vacation to find his two driveway pillar lights smashed and broken. \$200 damage was done. Police think vandals used a baseball bat, but they've struck out finding a suspect so far.

Baby You Can't Drive my Car...4/15/11 Vandals on Los Arabis Drive caused over \$500 in damage to a Saab and Mercedes when they slashed or punctured tires on both cars.

Same Street, Different Day, Different Crime, 4/17/11 A juvenile was arrested on Los Arabis Drive, cited with DUI and released. Police were responding to a report of vehicular collision (that's a car crash in layman's terms). The damaged car pointed to the guilty party.

Bad Guys had the Extra Man, 4/12/11 An i-Phone and \$60 in cash were stolen from two Acalanes High School Lacrosse players during evening practice. The items were taken from the boys' locker room, and the thief made an easy Fast Break.

Can You Hear Me Now? 4/11/11 A juvenile who broke into Radio Shack and stole a \$150 pair of headphones got caught red-handed and was arrested. Now he's got to face the music.

Smaller Version of Burton Valley Remodel Approved

By Cathy Tyson

“We’re happy to say that we are in substantial agreement,” said David Bowie, an attorney representing Joe and Noelle Polichio in their request to add a second story addition to their Burton Valley home. “We have no objections with the staff report and conditions.”

In a process spanning all levels of approval, from Design Review to the Planning Commission to the City Council, a compromise was ultimately reached that settled the matter once and for all. Initial hearings at the City Council were quite contentious, but ended with only positive comments and even a few moments of collective laughter – look for a new design element in Lafayette, the “Don Tatzin ridge,” named after his sugges-

tion of adjusting the roof line above the garage.

The Polichios originally requested approval from the Design Review Commission to expand the existing 2212 square foot home, 1612 of living space plus a 600 square foot garage, to accommodate three bedrooms and bathrooms on the second floor. Although that application was approved by Design Review, it was denied at the Planning Commission level after two neighbors appealed that decision. The plans have gone through a number of changes, but the final version has shrunk to a 718 square foot second story, less than half of the original 1,580 square feet requested.

At a recent City Council meeting,

matriarch Joan Bruzzone, widow of Russ Bruzzone, said, “My husband and I built a number of homes in Burton Valley and he didn’t go through near as much trouble as the Polichios.”

After being encouraged by City staff to work with the neighbors, and holding a couple of negotiation sessions, they came to a compromise that the homeowners and the neighbors could live with. Attorney for the neighbors, Brian Mulry, said his clients wanted to keep the home as one story, but they searched for common ground and the Polichios were very receptive.

“We entered into the process in good faith,” said the Polichios architect, Ken Hertel. “This is a unique lot

with eight large mature dense trees.” Those trees limit the ability to expand on the ground floor.

On a four-to-one vote, the City Council approved the application subject to conditions. Carol Federighi, who originally voted to deny the project, said, “I’m ready to support it; the applicant has come a long way. I can find it compatible with the neighborhood.” The lone dissenter, Mayor Carl Anduri, still has concerns about the size and mass of the addition, “It comes down to finding if it’s compatible in this unique neighborhood. My concern is that it’s setting a precedent – it will change the character of the neighborhood.”

Model Home Needs Permit for Photo Shoots

By Cathy Tyson

Although photo shoots at Brian Griggs’ lovely secluded home on four and a half acres just off South Silver Springs Road had been going on since 2004, it was only after a recent anonymous complaint by a neighbor that the city’s Code Enforcement Officer informed the homeowner that using the residence as a business required a residential business land use permit.

Because the home has high ceilings and is very open, products can be “staged easily” said Griggs in a letter to the Planning Department, that—along with a generous garage for storage during multi-day shoots—makes the home attractive to merchants, including Williams-Sonoma, Pottery Barn, Cost Plus, Walmart, Restoration Hardware and Beverages and More. With a large turn around on the property, a lower parking area, and nearby retailers to pick up last minute props like plants and food for the crew for lunch – it’s easy to see why he has repeat photography visits from these merchants. According to Griggs, over the past three years the home has averaged four shooting days per month, usually in the spring and fall to prepare for the next season’s catalogs.

While some municipalities have a film permit application with associated fees, Lafayette doesn’t. The City of Pasadena has a twenty-four page

contract with a laundry list of multiple fees and requirements, while Morro Bay’s contract is two pages long. At a recent meeting, Lafayette’s Planning Commission weighed testimony and indicated it will likely grant a land use permit to allow residential business activity at the home on Fernside Lane. At press time, there is still some negotiation over the allowed hours of operation.

The small, quiet Silver Springs neighborhood was divided over the request for a land use permit. Many neighbors stated they didn’t even know what was going on. The home is tucked back on a two hundred and fifty foot driveway off the end of Fernside Lane - a private road. “I’m not going to call it a civil war but a tribal skirmish,” said longtime neighbor Mike Olson describing the repercussions of this process. “There is a small group with differing opinions than the rest of us.” Opponents sited noise, safety and traffic as concerns; proponents noted it was not disruptive and that teenagers were by far more of a traffic hazard than professional delivery people.

Griggs, a 29-year resident of Lafayette with four kids, has reached out to smooth things over inviting immediate neighbors for an open house to see the parking situation on the property and where the photography

takes place. He even offered a seven item list of self-imposed conditions. “The restrictions allow continued use of the property and also put in place measures that the City can enforce,” said Griggs.

Planning Commissioners wrestled with the particulars of the Land Use Permit: limiting photo shoot days to forty per year, hours of operation, and imposing an expiration date in three years as a mechanism to review use. After three years, Griggs can request a new permit. All agreed that the City should research a more per-

manent film policy or ordinance. Temporary use permits can only be used for perishable businesses – like a fruit stand or a Christmas tree lot, because of his preference for an ongoing situation, this type of permit isn’t applicable.

Jay Lifson, Executive Director of the Chamber of Commerce concurred, commenting that there are hundreds of home-based businesses in Lafayette, “The City should have a policy or ordinance that is fair and equitable.”

Gerringer’s Day Job

By Cathy Tyson

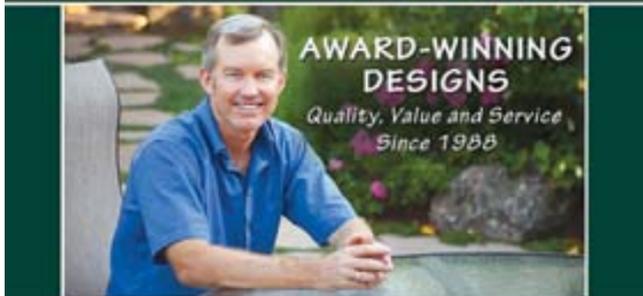
Teresa Gerringer, a member of the governing board of the Lafayette School District since 2000, also has a day job – since March, 2010, Gerringer has worked with Tramutola, LLC, a small political consulting firm in Oakland. She’s responsible for a number of things there: business development, marketing, communications and administrative support.

“Teresa is a great employee, and

committed to her school district,” said Larry Tramutola, President and CEO. “This firm was established to help school districts,” he explained. Indeed their roster of school clients is in the hundreds and they have expanded their services to include healthcare, local government and corporate entities. He added that, “We do lots of pro bono work; it’s just the right thing to do.”

... continued on page A8

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Lafayette City Staff Decline Raise

By Cathy Tyson

For the second year in a row, the Association of Lafayette Employees declined to accept an Annual Merit Increase that was offered by the City Council for fiscal year 2011 – 2012 that starts July 1. The raise would have been, on average, one percent. “Recognizing that the economy is still vulnerable, (they) chose to take no increases in salary,” said City Manager Steven Falk in a Staff report. Employee labor contracts, which also include personnel rules, are negotiated every year and expire one year later.

Although the City recently, “Made \$500,000 in budget cuts, by and large the staff came through unscathed and the employees are grateful,” said Tracy Robinson, Ad-

ministrative Services Director. “Employees like working here – it’s a great environment.” She adds that the City Council has always been fair to employees.

Although the City continues to fund health insurance costs for employees and their families at the same rate as last year, there is a slight cut in health benefits. The cost of that health insurance continues to rise at approximately 11% annually. Workers who chose the “Direct Medical Insurance Payments” plan will see their deductible rise from \$5 to \$25. Those who picked a more expensive plan must pay the difference between the negotiated maximum and the cost of the plan.

Public Art Committee Meet and Greet

By Cathy Tyson



The Public Art Committee

Photo courtesy Paul Filinger

Together these seven Lafayette artists, along with an art supporter and a collector, are helping establish and make decisions about the public art collection for the City of Lafayette. They recently got together for a City of Lafayette-sponsored reception at the Gallery space in the Community Hall to launch their first exhibit and introduce themselves to residents. The event was aptly named, “Who is the Public Art Committee?” Not only do members volunteer their time for the Committee, but many of the artists brought their work to the reception for all to enjoy.

The gallery space was specifically designed for this purpose, and with a growing number of events and civic functions in the Community Hall, many visitors can appreciate something beautiful, even those on

their way to a City Council meeting.

Local artist Tom Taneyhill says that the Committee is still in the early stages and is “working out the parameters” of choosing art pieces. He explains the Committee’s several key responsibilities: “In addition to selecting exhibits for the Lafayette Library, we also advise the City Council on art acquisitions, review public art proposals, and steward the City’s art collection.”

“Submissions,” he added, “are always welcome.” Interested artists should contact Ann Merideth, Special Projects Manager, for more information – amerideth@lovelafayette.org.

In alphabetical order, Committee members include: Susan Dannenfeller, Connie English, Paul Filinger, Erling Horn, Clay Jensen, Dennis Mudgett, Marcia Barrow Taylor, Tom Taneyhill and Sandra Wolfe.

More Lafayette Civic News on Page A8



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Moraga

Civic News

Public Meetings

Town Council

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

Planning Commission

Monday, May 2, 7:30 pm
Moraga Library, 1500 Saint Marys Rd

Design Review

Monday, May 5, 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

Theft at Gym, 4/17/11 Cops responded to a petty theft at 24 Hour Fitness. Sometime between 6:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. two purses were stolen out of a locked locker in the women's locker room. Missing credit cards were used for a shopping spree in Walnut Creek, Pleasant Hill and Vallejo. Total loss approximately \$1,220. The incident is being investigated by Moraga's finest, including a review of surveillance footage.

Stolen car found, 4/16/11 A car reported stolen in Berkeley earlier in the day was found on St. Mary's Road near the Moraga Library. Police did a routine check on a green 1996 infinity 130. Surprise, the DMV reported the car stolen. A screwdriver and crowbar were found on the front seat. Happy ending – the car was released to the daughter of the registered owner. Perhaps the thief checked out a book and took the bus home?

Driving with drugs, 4/15/11 Cops pulled over the 19-year-old driver of a white BMW on Chalda Way near Rheem Boulevard for a broken brake light. An officer could smell alcohol from the car, a search resulted in the seizure of six small balloons containing a black tar-like substance, several hypodermic needles and an open bottle of alcohol and jewelry. The jewelry is being investigated as stolen. The subject was taken to the Moraga Police Department and later to the main detention facility in Martinez and his car was towed away.

Pot pipe at Campo, 4/14/11 Two students were detained by high school staff for possession of drug paraphernalia. Staff handled the incident administratively, giving both students a five day suspension for a glass water pipe containing suspected marijuana residue. One of the students had the option of counseling to reduce her suspension. Does zero tolerance ring a bell?

Laptop lifted from car, 4/09/11 A laptop was taken from a locked car parked on Ascot Drive sometime during a three day period. When the owner returned to his car on 4/09 he realized that the car's rear driver's side window had been smashed and the computer was gone. Total loss estimated at \$1,200.

Loud party, 4/10/11 Cops came to an Ascot Drive apartment to check out a loud noise complaint. Upon arrival cops could hear the shindig from fifty feet away. After removing (?) the unwanted attendees a citation was issued for a "Loud or Unruly Party." No further complaints. Perhaps they were celebrating the exciting conclusion to the Masters Golf Tournament?

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Economic Action Team in the Starting Blocks

By Sophie Braccini



Hollie Lucas-Alcalay in her herb garden with two-year-old daughter Bella
Photo Sophie Braccini

The first meeting of Moraga's new Economic Action Team is scheduled to take place on May 4th from 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. at the Hacienda de las Flores. This brainchild of the Economic Development Team (EDT) is composed of 12 Moraga residents who have indicated an interest in, and have ties to, local economic development. The action-oriented body is tasked with supporting the EDT on two main points – to cre-

ate a Town-wide Commercial Ordinance that streamlines community supported retail, office and other commercial business; and to assist in the revitalization of the Rheem Valley Shopping Center and adjacent commercial areas.

"We wanted to appoint a mix of Moraga volunteers, people familiar with the issues, and others who are new, to help us walk through all the things we want to consider for the commercial ordinance, to contact the owners, businesses and potential investors who can help the Town with the revitalization," said EDT member Renee Zeimer. The Action Team will include two Council members (Ken Chew and Howard Harpham); the three EDT members (Zeimer, Mary Coe, and Rich Larsen); one member of the Revenue Enhancement Committee that worked extensively on these questions last year (Fred Schroeder); members of the Chamber of Commerce, business and property owners (Edy Schwartz, Larry Tessler, Allen Sayles and Dave Shnayer); and two residents-at-large.

One appointee is a new face on the Moraga political scene, Hollie Lucas-Alcalay, the mother of two

young children and a local small business owner with marketing experience. Lucas-Alcalay became involved with the civic affairs during the Dollar Tree debate.

"We've lived here for five years," says Lucas-Alcalay, "I lived in San Francisco, Los Angeles, London, and Washington, D.C. My professional background is in marketing and lobbying, and I also managed fundraising for organic food and wine companies." With two little children, the young woman decided to create a business of her own that she could manage when time permitted and decided to turn her own garden into a little farm. "It's a business I started while my daughter was taking a nap," she says laughingly.

While looking for a local business opportunity, Lucas-Alcalay met with commercial realtors and researched the town's demographic and business rules. So when the Dollar Tree applied to set up shop in Moraga, she had an idea of how things worked. "I just thought that that store was a bad idea, not just for Moraga but for everybody," she says, "they just sell leftover junk. What was great is that I met other women at the meetings

who shared the same views and we immediately hit it off."

Lucas-Alcalay and her partners did not win the battle in spite of their pugnacity. "After it was over, I asked Jill Keimach (Moraga Town Manager), to give me something else to do so I could continue to work on getting Moraga the kind of retail that the residents really want." She then met with Zeimer and agreed to serve on the Economic Action Team.

"We really are at a turn of a corner and things are beginning to happen," said Zeimer, "I'm hopeful we have an opportunity to influence how the community responds to business and as a result, what kind of businesses we can attract." Council Member Harpham, who volunteered to sit on the team, agrees. "You have to grow your way out of the financial situation we are in," said Harpham, "We have limited population, limited ownership; we'll have to change the rules, and if anyone can do it, it is certainly this motivated group."

The second resident-at-large appointee has not been identified at press time; the EDT is looking for a Moragan with ties to the Campolindo High School community.

Moraga Country Club Station Post Office in Danger of Closing

By Cynthia Brian



Moraga postal workers and former Moraga Postmasters attended the April 19th meeting. From left to right, Shelley Hayse (Rheem office), Evelina Ramirez (former Moraga Postmaster, currently in San Leandro), Gurpreet Sohal (former Moraga Postmaster, currently in Fremont), Mark Fahmy (Country Club Station)
Photo Cynthia Brian

"Moraga Country Club Station was the original post office in our community. It is part of our town history. How can you consider closing it?" exclaimed a long time resident of Moraga at an April 19th community meeting organized by the United States Postal Service. The Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School Auditorium was the location of an initial gathering to inform Lamorinda residents that the 1545 School Street location was one of

over two thousand post offices in the country slated for closure.

Postal workers, Moraga's Postmaster (as well as two former Moraga Postmasters), and local citizens were in attendance. A petition to halt the closure and save the post office signed by nearly 500 residents was presented to the District Administrator by a representative from the American Postal Workers Union. Augustine Ruiz, Public Affairs and Communications Director for the

Postal Service, presided over the discussion about the potential consolidation of retail services offered in Moraga.

The lease for the property expires in October of 2011. The speaker admitted that the Country Club Station has always been profitable for the Postal Service, however with deficits throughout the country, it is trimming services. "We know that the Country Club office is profitable, but it would save us \$187,000 a year to close it, with minimal impact on our services since the other office (at the Rheem Center) is located less than three miles away," Ruiz later stated.

According to the current governing law, amended solely by Congressional authority, post offices may only be closed at lease expirations, for maintenance issues, and for reasons unrelated to profits. As a cost cutting measure, the USPS would like to close as many as 16,000 offices nationwide.

Moraga resident Dick Olsen observed, "My first concern is that the post office did not bother to tell the residents of all of Moraga or South

Orinda about their plans to close the Country Club Station."

"My second concern," continued Olsen, "is the potentially significant environmental issues. Will the USPS do an Environmental Impact Report because of the negative environmental impact to the community regarding this discretionary act? People will now be forced to travel to Rheem, Orinda, Canyon, or Saint Mary's College to be serviced. Parking in three of these locales is impossible." Olsen added, "If the Country Club Station closes, there will be a major detrimental impact for seniors, especially those at Moraga Royale and Aegis. The new Moraga Center Specific Plan calls for three hundred additional senior units installed adjacent to the Moraga Center and Safeway, which is basically across the street from this facility."

Traveling a few miles could be a burden, especially if one does not have transportation. The effect on seniors, businesses, and local residents who have depended on the services at this location for years was troubling for the vocal group at the meeting. ...continued on page A8

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Families Play for Families at May Faire

By Sophie Braccini



Dean Myatt, Jane Daniels, Eric Eckstein, Dorothy Watson, Ric Hattabaugh

Photo provided

As green and orange banners unfurl around the Town of Moraga, residents may recognize the signs of the imminent return of the Community Faire. On May 14 the 5th annual event crafted for residents young and old will take place at the Rheem Center from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The Faire is also an opportunity for local businesses and organizations to showcase their offerings. Every year, Mistress of Ceremony Ellen Beans looks to add something fresh and entertaining. "I want to draw attention to two of our music groups this year," says Beans, "Littledog2 from Moraga and Oak Grove, a family bluegrass band. They are families playing for families and bringing wonderful energy and fun to our event."

Oak Grove is a family of five from nearby Walnut Creek— Bob

Schwartz, his wife Gail Miles, their two teenage sons Nate (16) and Max (13), and younger daughter Tessa (7). "I discovered bluegrass six years ago," says Schwartz, "I went to a festival, saw families and kids playing together, and came home and asked my boys if they would be interested. We got them instruments, and they learned very quickly. My wife, who had never played, tried the bass and we got going. Our little daughter had no choice. We needed a fiddle, so as soon as she was strong enough to hold one, she learned to play."

Schwartz says that the kids became very good, better than their parents, and started pursuing musical adventures of their own while still maintaining the family tradition of training together and playing in gigs in the East Bay where they live. "Now they are involved in picking the

songs and arranging the material," says Schwartz, "we all continue to enjoy bluegrass that's such a uniquely American music. The themes are simple and universal, often with a sad tone when you listen to the words, but so upbeat and fun that listeners inevitably start tapping their feet as they get taken by it."

The members of LittleDog2 are not from the same family, but they are all Moraga parents who met five years ago during the planning of a father/daughter dance at Los Perales Elementary School. "Between the five of us, we have 14 children age 9 to 26," says Dorothy Watson, who plays bass and sings with the band. "We all have other jobs; this is our music passion, and we try to get together once or twice a week to practice and add new songs to our repertoire." The band plays rock and roll music, from

the 1970s and 1990s to now. "Music that people our age enjoy and recognize, and for younger kids, we add a couple of songs that are on the radio right now," says Watson.

Over the years the musicians and their families have become good friends. "We do not really have a leader in the band," says Watson, "some are more experienced than others; it becomes a collective thing with different roles." The other musicians are Eric Eckstein, Dean Myatt, Ric Hattabaugh and Jane Daniels.

Other music groups such as the Campolindo Chorus and the JM Ensemble will perform at the Faire. The last hour will be a 'Happy Hour' where appetizers will be served to accompany the drinks available for purchase, while the East Bay Banjo Club performs. The day's activities will include a classic car show, arts and crafts, a sidewalk chalk art contest, a free climbing wall, two bounce houses, and a chance to sample Lamorinda wines and local restaurant cuisine.

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Orinda Civic News

Public Meetings

City Council

Tuesday, May 3, 7:00 pm
Auditorium, Orinda Library,
26 Orinda Way

Planning Commission

Tuesday, May 10, at 7:00 p.m.
Auditorium, 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

ORINDA POLICE

Police Report

Nanny driving drunk, 4/19/11 A 22-year-old au pair was pulled over on Camino Pablo at Brookwood for weaving in and out of her lane. When police pulled her over, she smelled of alcohol, had slurred speech and performed poorly on field sobriety tests. To make matters worse, she was driving her employers BMW. Probably for the last time.

Burglary, 4/18/11 The unlocked door was an open invitation to a thief or thieves who ransacked all of the rooms of a home on Westwood Court. Electronic items and jewelry valued at well over \$10,000 was taken from the home. The door must have had a big car or truck, as they took a 50" TV from the home. Police found latent finger prints and will be on the look-out.

Pot in Orinda, 4/16/11 At just after 9:00 in the morning cops came by an Acacia Drive home and saw a woman sitting in a car in front of a residence. Cops noticed her perfume smelled strangely of marijuana. They searched her car and found small individual bags of pot under the front seat. A house call perhaps?

Drunk in Public, 4/16/11 A different young woman allegedly had an argument with an Acacia Drive homeowner and was asked to leave the home. Cops noticed her slurred speech, bloodshot eyes and asked her if she'd had anything to drink today. It was 9:15 in the morning. She said she had three pints of gin - breakfast of champions. Cops determined that she was unable to take care of herself and took her to jail.

D.U.I. 4/16/11 At the bewitching hour, just after 2:00 a.m. when the bars close, a silver Toyota was observed weaving in and out of traffic on Moraga Way near Oak Drive. Cops immediately noticed the smell of alcohol and when the subject flunked field sobriety tests, he got a free ride to the Martinez Detention Facility.

Possession of Drugs, 4/14/11 A car was pulled over for expired tags on Highway 24 at Fish Ranch Road. The nose - knows the strong odor of burnt marijuana. The driver was cited for possession of less than an ounce of pot.

Mayor Gives State of the City

By Andrea A. Firth



Victoria Smith

Photos Andy Scheck

In a word, the state of Orinda today is "challenged," said Mayor Victoria Smith in her address to the members of Orinda's

Chamber of Commerce and local Rotary Club on Wednesday, April 20th. Property tax revenue, which represents over half of the City's budget, is projected to be flat this year for the first time, and sales tax and investment income were both down last year, according to Smith. She acknowledged that this austere financial forecast would make it difficult to fund City services and make a significant dent in the City's \$100 million infrastructure problem. However, Smith did point out that Orinda would not be negatively affected by the Governor's proposal to pull funding for re-development agencies, because Orinda does not have one, and that the City does not have any unfunded pension liabilities, because City staff participate in 410K program, not a defined benefit program.

Mayor mostly centered around what could and would be done about Orinda's failing roads. The idea of residents contributing to tax-deductible fund for road repairs was raised by a few members of the audience, and City Manager Janet Keeter explained that the City had explored this idea, and while interesting in concept, it did not pass legal scrutiny. Smith stated that in addition to the annual roads repair budget allotment the City would continue to seek state and federal grants and support the neighborhood road repair program. The full Council will engage in a discussion of Orinda's infrastructure issue at the May 3rd Council meeting.

Audience questions to the



Orinda Taxi owner Julian Juricevic (on left) recently accepted the award for Business of the Year from the Orinda Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber also gave special recognitions to Sally Hogarty (center), the Editor of the Orinda News, and Valerie Hotz (on right), Orinda News Business Buzz columnist. Juricevic, Hogarty, and Hotz also received special recognitions from Contra Costa Board Supervisor Gayle Uilkema and State Assemblymember Nancy Skinner.

Council Votes Against Illegal Views and MMDs

By Andrea A. Firth

The City Council's April 19th meeting was wrapped up by 7:42 p.m. (possibly one of the shortest Council meetings on record), during which time the

Council voted against illegally obtained views and medical marijuana dispensaries.

View preservation. The Orinda City Council unanimously

moved toward adoption of a zoning amendment to clarify that views that had been illegally created would not be protected or restored. Residents William and

Patricia Hudson requested clarification of the view preservation portion of the City's Municipal Code after the owners of the property adjacent to their own illegally trespassed on to their property and removed several live oaks without permission in order to create better views before the sale of the neighboring property. According to the Hudsons, the new neighbors subsequently claimed rights to the view created by the illegal removal of the trees.

MMDs. After establishing a temporary ban on medical marijuana dispensaries (MMDs) in July of 2009, the Council voted unanimously to support an ordinance to permanently bans MMDs in Orinda's downtown commercial and office districts. Orinda follows Moraga, which also banned MMDs within its borders. Moraga took a further step, prohibiting the outdoor cultivation of marijuana.



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Another Vision for Orinda

By Andrea A. Firth

Longtime Orinda resident Ann O'Connell Nye has been making the rounds to the Planning Commission and City Council to present her ideas for how to revitalize the City's downtown commercial districts. "I'm proposing

positive solutions that don't cost much and that we can do now to enhance our downtown districts and help to make them better connected," says Nye, who has been a vocal critic of the city's task force recommendation to increase

the building height limit in downtown.

Some creativity, paint, and donated time might be all it takes to give downtown a needed facelift, Nye says. She suggests that the concrete walls under the freeway

overpass could provide the perfect canvas for a mural by local artists. And, the overhead bridge wall surface could be a painted with directions for drivers, such as "To Orinda Village" and "To the Theatre District." Nye also proposed

that the section of Camino Pablo that runs from the Crossroads entrance (at the intersection of Camino Encinas and Moraga Way) to El Toyonal and Orinda Way be renamed with a name that has a historic tie to Orinda.

BART Expands Plan for Solar Shades

By Aleksandr Auzers



West parking lot at Orinda Bart station

Photo Andy Scheck

In the course of a recent Orinda City Council meeting, Council members were notified that the Bay Area Rapid Transit District (BART) plans to construct four hundred solar parking shades at the Orinda BART station, contingent on approval by BART's Board of Directors; that vote is expected by the end of the year.

The District previously indicated it would install forty shades at the station, but developer SunEdison withdrew from the project in February. Under the auspices of the Northern California Power Agency (NCPA), a joint-powers agency representing municipal power concerns, Lightbeam, Inc. was selected to construct the shades. BART will not pay for the shades themselves - instead, it will compensate Lightbeam for the electricity they generate.

Frank Schultz, a manager in BART's Energy Division, indicated the District has solar installations in Hayward and Richmond which have functioned nearly continuously between 6:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. for two years. The Orinda installation would generate 750 kilowatts of power, two-thirds of which would go to run the station, and one-third of which would enter the main BART grid.

The shades would stand twelve feet tall, allowing space for cars to park beneath them; existing lamp poles would be removed in favor of lights hung under the shades. During construction, station parking spaces would be made unavailable on a rolling basis.

Though BART has not yet conducted a lighting impact study, it plans to do so before the Board's decision, said Schultz.

According to City Attorney Osa Wolf, BART has an exemption from area land-use regulations and is not required to obtain Orinda's permission before proceeding with construction, nor is it compelled to conduct an environmental impact report (EIR) using Orinda's usual standards. While a challenge to BART's authority is technically possible, "other cities have tried and failed," she said.

Addressing the Council's concerns about environmental review, Lightbeam representative Jim Lavelle said, "A parking lot is not necessarily considered to be an environmentally-sensitive area."

Orinda Vision's Peter Hasselman and Ian Baird were among only a handful of residents in attendance at

this meeting, and both expressed concerns about the proposed installation. Hasselman said the installation would be neither good for the downtown area nor aesthetically successful. Baird suggested the contract allow for the panels to be moved and reintegrated into future building developments.

BART Director Gail Murray, who represents District 1 (including Orinda), indicated a community forum could be organized to solicit

input from the public.

The proposed solar installation would cover the West parking lot. Asked why BART did not plan to blanket all station spaces, Schultz replied that Pacific Gas and Electric Company restricts "distributed generation" projects to 1000 kilowatts per site, to protect its proprietary interests. He noted that BART is considering a solar deployment at other locations as well, including the Lafayette station.

Coming Soon In Orinda

At the next City Council meeting on Tuesday, May 3rd, the City's infrastructure issues will be on the agenda. Vice Mayor Steve Glazer has suggested that the Council discuss forming a subcommittee to work on ways to address Orinda's road repair needs.

On Saturday, May 21st Orinda will host its first Community Public Services Fair to introduce both new and longtime residents to city and public safety services, utility providers, local nonprofits, and clubs. Staff will be on hand in the Library Plaza, 26 Orinda Way adjacent to the Farmers Market, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. to answer questions and help residents learn more about the community.

At the April 19th Council meeting, Council member Amy Worth suggested, and her colleagues concurred, that the City request the members of Orinda Vision make a presentation at an upcoming Council meeting regarding their ideas for development in the city. The date is to be determined. A.Firth

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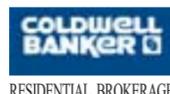
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Civic News Lafayette, Moraga

Senior Symposium Coming Up

By Cathy Tyson

“We just really just want to help seniors and give them information,” said Marechal Duncan, Co-Chair of this year’s free Senior Symposium which will be held on Friday, May 6 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Temple Isaiah, 3800 Mt. Diablo Boulevard.

Seniors, caregivers and adult children definitely won’t want to miss this event entitled “Secrets of Dynamic Aging: Finding New Paths and Staying Engaged,” sponsored by the Lafayette Community Foundation.

Duncan formed the Senior Liaison Committee, a subcommittee of the Lafayette Community Foundation, to specifically address issues of concern among area seniors. “The Committee’s initial focus was to serve as a unifying catalyst by facilitating community discussion and ac-

tion that enhances the lives of seniors in Lafayette” said Duncan. With a number of local churches and organizations offering a variety of services, he saw a need to put them in touch with each other.

Since the first senior symposium in 2008, the event has continued to evolve. “This year the economy has changed, so we wanted to focus on uplifting topics,” said Co-Chair Dr. Anita Rama. In response to questions about where to go for senior-related services, organizers will have exhibits from approximately eleven companies.

Speakers include the vivacious and funny, 72-year old Houston Robertson kicking off the morning with “Shifting Gears – Freedoms of Aging in the 21st Century.” “Dr. Happy,” also known as Dr. Bob Nozik, will talk about, “Happiness –

if not now – when?” Shirley Krohn will discuss “Staying safe in your home and beyond,” and Mary Bruns, the Coordinator for Lamorinda Senior Transportation, will address transportation and senior services in Lafayette.

Duncan is a role model for staying engaged; at 89-years-old he’s involved in a number of groups, including the Lafayette Community Foundation, the Historical Society, the Architectural committee, and Sons in Retirement (SIR).

With Board members of the Lafayette Community Foundation and several helpful volunteers from the community, the Senior Liaison Committee is proud to host the event. To RSVP for this free symposium, please call (925) 330-0060 or email seniors@lafayettecommunityfoundation.org.

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Lafayette Assistant Manager Arice Pittman models the new wheeled basket. Photo C. Tyson

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Gerringer’s Day Job

... continued from page A2

A number of months ago, given its continually shrinking revenue from the state, the Lafayette School District asked two independent polling companies to submit proposals to Superintendent Fred Brill about the possibility of a parcel tax. Both proposals were presented to the Governing Board. The Board voted unanimously to select True North Research.

Based on the encouraging polling results of True North Research, Brill put out a Request for Proposals (RFP) for consulting services related to placing a parcel tax measure on the ballot. Five firms submitted proposals; one of those firms was Tramutola. Gerringer refused herself from the vote.

“Due to the long relationship that Tramutola has had with the Lafayette School District, and the potential conflict of interest related to my Board position - Tramutola offered to do the work at no cost to the district. All services provided to the Lafayette School District by Tramutola were pro bono. The board elected to accept this generous offer based on the fact that the Lafayette School District has worked with Tramutola on every tax election measure since our first parcel tax in 1992 and, of course, the cost savings.”

“No funds have passed between Lafayette School District and Tramutola with respect to the parcel tax consulting services. Furthermore, under the current arrangement, no

contract was brought before or approved by the Lafayette School Board for Tramutola’s services. The decision to pursue a parcel tax was based on the polling information provided by the independent polling firm, and frankly, by the real need for additional sources of revenue to fund our educational programs,” said Gerringer.

“The Measure B committee,” said Brill, “an independent citizen’s campaign committee, without input or direction from me or the Lafayette School District governing board, chose Tramutola as the campaign consultant. No funds have passed between the Lafayette School District and Tramutola on the Measure B campaign.”

Moraga Country Club Station Post Office in Danger of Closing

... continued from page A4

The School Street building is what many called a “walk-able” post office, meaning that a great number of people who use the services do not drive, but stroll.

After the meeting, Postal Workers Union of the East Bay Area President Stephen Lysaght said that his group has lobbied extensively against the closing of the Moraga station. “We are concerned with the customers’ best interest and question the closing a profitable business unit,” he said. He encourages residents who do not want to see the station closed to continue lobbying against it.

“We will continue to give good service to the public in the Country Club or Rheem office,” said Postal Service worker Mark Fahmy, who is currently the only employee of the Country Club station, “This is our commitment as employees of the U.S. Postal Service. But we should take into consideration the issues that people expressed in the meeting.”

Sophie Braccini contributed to this article
 Reach Augustine Ruiz, Public Affairs and Communications Director, at 408-437-6841 or Augustine.ruiz@usps.gov. Letters for or against the closure and consolidation should be directed to the District Manager (or your elected federal representatives):

Kim Fernandez
 Bay Valley District Manager
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USPS Revenue Boost

Shanette Westphal recently got a startling reminder that mail boxes are the property of the U.S. Postal Service and cannot be used for any purpose other than the delivery of stamped mail. “My husband is the president of the Moraga Baseball Association and Opening Day was last weekend,” she wrote in a note to the Moraga Citizens Network in February, “The person in charge of the programs kindly dropped off an extra copy of the program in my mailbox (which lives at the bottom of my steep driveway) with a ‘thank you’ note to my husband. Apparently the US Postal Service collected this program prior to me getting my mail and left a slip stating that there was mail that I needed to pick up with postage due in the amount of \$2.58.” A short time later the mail carrier came to her door with the program, ready to collect the money. A Postal Service employee confirmed that the rule had always been in existence and that it was enforced everywhere. “No one should touch your mail box or you run the risk of paying postage.”

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Michael Frazier
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Letters to the Editor

Share your thoughts with our community! Opinions in Letters to the Editor are the express views of the writer and not necessarily those of the Lamorinda Weekly. All published letters will include the writer's name and city/town of residence -- we will only accept letters from those who live in, or own a business in, the communities comprising Lamorinda (please give us your phone number for verification purposes only). Letters should be 350 words or less; letters of up to 500 words will be accepted on a space-available basis.
 email: letters@lamorindaweekly.com; Regular mail: Lamorinda Weekly, P.O.Box 6133, Moraga, CA 94570

Lafayette Measure B

Editor:
 Unless you live under a rock, California's budget woes shouldn't be news. And each year, the woes get more woeful. The upcoming school year is about to take huge hit and many school programs will suffer, especially music. The future isn't any more promising. All the years of hard work, investment and creativity will chip away to nothing. Music is where my older son found his place starting in elementary and now into middle school, the toughest years. Band is his second home. My youngest son says, "You just gotta have something fun like music at school." Parents say, "No musical performances? Isn't that a right of passage for the kids and the parents?" And pediatricians will tell you the arts are food for the brain. It's like the third leg of a three-legged stool, keeping our kids balanced. We will all feel the pain of the next round of cuts. We will feel them well beyond next year and the next. Music will be a foregone opportunity, a part of child development we can't get back. My family feels fortunate to live in a community that shares such a heartfelt commitment to its people and its schools. Thank you Lafayette for having the foresight and strength to support educational funding, something our legislators seem to lack. Please continue to reach out to our youngest Lafayette citizens. Show them your support and vote yes for Measure B.
 Francie Low
 Lafayette

education. Our schools are renowned for teacher commitment, parent involvement, and community support. Now, with the dwindling financial support of the state, emergency actions such as Measure B can help fill in where the state has failed, and keep music, science, small classes and quality teachers in our Lafayette schools. Please help preserve quality schools in our city by passing the temporary parcel tax that is specifically earmarked for local school programs. Great schools should remain in Lafayette's present and future, not in our past.
 Respectfully,
 Ed Stokes
 Lafayette

Editor:
 I would like to voice support for Measure B, especially as it pertains to maintaining the programs in math/science and art/music at the elementary school level. My son is a first-grader at Burton Valley Elementary and is thoroughly enjoying his weekly time in these programs. He comes home with impressive bits of science information and art projects as a result. He has, like many kids his age, a remarkable capacity to explore his logical and creative sides. As a veterinarian, conservationist and scientist, I believe that exposure at an early age to the above disciplines is crucial to creating interest, talent and life-experiences. This is often the foundation for youngsters to develop life-long desire and participate in these fields as adults. The quality of education provided by the Lafayette School District, supplemented by co-organizations of PTA, LPIE and parent volunteerism, is a primary reason I chose to reside in Lafayette, ideally through my son's high school years. Activities such as the Science Fair and Holiday Sing provide an important community spirit that bonds us together. I firmly believe that it takes a village to raise productive and creative young citizens. Measure B is a limited-time parcel tax designed to preserve these programs at the minimal cost of \$14.67 per month. The programs in math/science/technology and music/arts are a necessary part of our children's education and should not be viewed as "additional" or "extra". I implore the citizens of Lafayette to provide the options of these programs by supporting Measure B.
 Sincerely,
 Mona Miller Johnson

the Lafayette schools have experienced but it will provide local temporary funding for education in Lafayette that cannot be taken by the State. Looking to the future, the LSD prepares its students for the variety of rigorous courses offered at Acalanes and Campolindo High Schools. Lafayette students are preparing to live and compete in a global society. Please vote YES on B -- help preserve education in Lafayette.
 Sincerely,
 Corrine Christensen and
 Juleen Lapporte
 Lafayette

Editor:
 As long-time residents and concerned citizens, we are worried for Lafayette's children. The economic uncertainty emanating from Sacramento has placed the educational future of children in great jeopardy. Currently, millions of dollars have been cut from promised funding of the Lafayette School District by the State of California. By voting YES on Measure B we gain more control locally and help to restore a portion of critical funding taken away by the State. The Lafayette School District provides our children with one of the best public educations in California. Measure B will allow Lafayette children the opportunity to continue receiving a top-flight education. A YES vote on Measure B is the only good answer given the current economic challenges the State has imposed on school funding. All children count on us to provide the promise of a great education.
 Karen and Tom Mulvaney
 Lafayette

... Letters to the Editor continued on page A10

In Memory

Ann Coane De Garmo



June 17, 1929 – April 11, 2011

Ann passed away peacefully at Sunrise Assisted Living in Walnut Creek, surrounded by the love of her family. She is survived by her husband of 57 years, John B. De Garmo, three children-- Lori Prince (Robert Hum), Bill De Garmo (Maureen) and Bob De Garmo (Lisa), and her brother Charlie Coane (Denise), all Bay Area residents. Additionally she is survived by four grandchildren -- Melody Prince, Brian, Michael, and Matthew De Garmo.

Ann was born in Evanston, Illinois and also resided in Wisconsin, Massachusetts and Minnesota prior to coming to California in 1967. She was a long time resident of Orinda before moving to Walnut Creek in 2006.

Until her illness four years ago, she was a licensed Marriage Family Therapist in the Walnut Creek area. Ann believed in the power of God's love, and dedicated her life to helping others. Ann frequently gathered friends and family together for fellowship, laughter, singing and delicious food.

A memorial service will be held at St. Stephens Episcopal Church in Orinda on May 21st at 3pm. For those wishing to make a contribution in her honor, consider a gift to Child Fund International or St Stephen's Episcopal Church. For friends and family, an online guestbook is available at princehum.org.

Editor:
 I am the current Lafayette Elementary School PTA president and the father of two in the Lafayette School District. I have had the opportunity to work with our wonderful Superintendent Dr. Fred Brill and the Lafayette School District Board members and to examine the District's financial status going forward in the upcoming years. To those who refuse to support Measure B, you are failing future generations of kids. That's right; you are failing to provide for the kids. You object to paying \$14.66 per month (\$176 per year) to support the schools while the State of California provides the 48th lowest per capita funding in the United States for our students. You're okay with that? You are okay with California being third in the nation in per capita funding for prisons and police/fire services but 48th in education? Our kids deserve better. California used to provide the best public education in the nation. Education used to be the Number 1 priority in California. Our kids deserve to be put first. Very truly yours,
 Quinlan S. Tom
 Lafayette

Editor:
 Why is Measure B necessary? School funding from the State is inadequate. In 2008-2009, California spent \$2,300 less per student than the national average of \$11,223, which put our state in the bottom ten in the nation (edweek.org). Since then it's gotten worse, we've fallen to 47th in the nation. It is important to note, due to a model established in the 1970s, the Lafayette School District receives LESS than the California State average per pupil. Even with the financial support of the community, the Lafayette School District (LSD) spends less than \$9,000 per student. Top states spend almost twice that amount. In the past three years, LSD funding from the State has decreased by \$1,089 per student. Due to this decrease in funding, the LSD has cut \$2.0M and as part of its 3 year required budget process, has approved cutting an additional \$2.0M. The 18% decrease in funding from the state compromises the quality of education in Lafayette. Measure B does not solve the bigger problem of the State budget crisis. It will not bring back all of the cuts that

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Editor:
 Lafayette means a great deal to our family. As owner of Diablo Foods, I not only reside here but I base my livelihood on the health of this wonderful community and its residents. We take great pride in the historic link our store site has to the early "Apple Valley Days" that third graders study each year. Our family and staff care deeply about things that concern Lafayette. Without a doubt, the state budget crisis is threatening our schools. In order to comply with proposed cuts, the district--and Lafayette's children--must face the reduction or complete elimination of cherished programs and attributes that have made Lafayette schools a model of exemplary public

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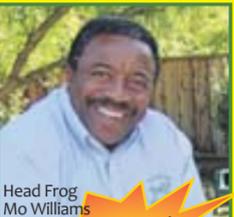
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Letters to the Editor ... continued

Editor:
There is nothing more reflective of a community's social fabric than its level of commitment to education. Seldom is a city viewed as a desirable life destination without a vibrant public education system as a valued resource. Dynamic communities and high-performing school systems are truly inter-dependent social institutions.

During my seven years with the Acalanes Union High School District, I have been blessed to work with a community that cares about public education. The exemplary dedication of the Lafayette School District's educational community has greatly enhanced the ability of AUHSD to assist our students in attaining their post-secondary education goals. The academic, co-curricular, and societal achievements routinely demonstrated by graduates of the schools of Lafayette are truly a combined effort of two districts dedicated to the life-long success of students.

Due to the political stalemate in California, many communities such as Lafayette must now decide whether they wish to have the career paths of students left to compromised funding agreements based on mediocrity as the norm. Without a doubt, these are troubling financial times. It is at times like these that communities really demonstrate what they value most. There is never a great time to ask people to contribute more of their personal income to any cause. However, an investment via Measure B will continue the success story of the Lafayette School District and help maintain the character of Lafayette. Now is not the time to rely upon judgments in Sacramento to direct the paths of our students.

John Stockton
AUHSD

Editor:
I have been a member of the Lafayette Elementary School District Governing Board since 1995. Throughout the Measure B campaign I have heard people say "not another tax". While I understand this response, I can honestly say that in all my sixteen years on the governing board I have never seen a worse fiscal situation for the school district. Due to state cuts to our district budget, we have cut administration to the bone. We have raised class size to its highest levels since I began serving on the board. We have shortened the school year and cut back on music and science programs. Salaries for all employees have been cut. All of these cuts impact the education of our children.

I don't think anyone wants another tax, but I also don't think the people of Lafayette want to see our schools fall into mediocrity. Presently we have schools with some of the highest test scores in the state. More than that, we have created an environment that nurtures the whole child, with an emphasis on challenging every child to work to his or her highest potential. We teach students how to be critical thinkers. We have an award-winning music program. Working together with our education foundation, we provide hands on science and art education to every child.

Do any of us want another parcel tax? No, but these are the things the children stand to lose if the parcel tax fails. Please vote yes on Measure B.

Shayne Silva

Editor:
One of the main reasons that our family moved to Lafayette from Berkeley was for the excellent schools. We greatly value the importance that this community places on high quality educational programs that include music, language, arts and extracurricular activities. We feel fortunate to live amongst other parents who contribute as much time, energy and resources to the schools as ours do.

As Lafayette restaurant owners, we also recognize and appreciate the fact that good schools contribute

to a strong local economy. Without the support of people in this community, businesses here would fail, as many in the nation and California have already. The schools and the businesses are interconnected. We need to continue to support our schools since the state is not.

As parents, we've seen firsthand the cuts that have been made in the Lafayette School District. With 20% more children in every classroom and fewer teacher aide hours, it is difficult for teachers to spend one on one time with students. The District is already very lean, especially after cutting \$2 million over the past three years. As the superintendent mentioned at a Town Hall meeting, the recommended number of administrators for a District our size (3200 children) is fifteen. Our district has managed to cut that down to 11. Further cuts will lower the quality of education that our children receive.

We urge you to vote for Measure B – support our children, our town and our community.

Sincerely,
Jack Moore and Erika Pringsheim-Moore
Lafayette

MOFD

Editor:
Having attended Monday evening's Tri-City meeting and reflected upon the outcome, I would like to share a few things.

As the newest member of the FAIR board, I have spent the past year and a half working with and getting to know the other members and have been continuously impressed with the dedication, hard work, and thoughtfulness that the other members have provided in their efforts to help the city of Orinda. Despite some very public vitriol aimed in their direction, they have always maintained a sense of purpose and decorum that I greatly admire.

FAIR has had the courage to address some very controversial issues, and its presentations to the community, including Monday night's, have always been based on analysis of the facts. To an extent that is even surprising to me, FAIR has always acknowledged OrindaCARES's concerns and evaluated those concerns, again and again, based on the facts. Unfortunately, the results have been consistent; there is an inequity between dollars paid and services provided. OrindaCARES's presentation on Monday night referred to their analysis of the data without sharing any specific information. Rather, their spokeswoman described FAIR's facts as "irrelevant" or "beside the point." I assume we are to take her word for it.

The issues around MOFD are complex and deserve much more attention. It is certainly well beyond what could be expected of the council, much like the related infrastructure challenges we face. Yet, an Emergency Services Task Force shouldn't just be about the inequity. We live in an area that faces danger from earthquakes and fires, and it behooves us to take stock of our strengths and weaknesses as a community and coordinate our efforts.

The decision to form a task force is likely one of the most important decisions Orinda's city council will face. Orinda's future as a viable and vibrant community may well depend upon it. If the perception that the past council was not fiscally prudent evolves from relatively minor concerns about the building of City Hall to the much larger potential problem regarding unfunded pension liabilities for MOFD (a point brought up by OrindaCARES,) the present council could be judged much more harshly than their predecessors. I prefer to consider a future of informed and knowledgeable citizens working together to face their challenges. Orindans must demand that the city council members allow us that right by voting to establish an Emergency Services Task Force.

Diana Stephens
Orinda

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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.

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High School Swim Season Ends with Rivalry Matches

Campolindo defeats Acalanes, Acalanes splits with Miramonte

By Marissa Harnett



Acalanes senior Piankhi Gibson took two events over rival Campolindo.

Photos Doug Kohen

As the high school swim season draws to a close, key Lamorinda match-ups are playing out. On April 15, Campolindo hosted Acalanes. The Cougars emerged victorious with a total score of 109 to 59 on the men's side and 101 to 69 on the women's. On April 20, Acalanes hosted Miramonte and the results were mixed. The Acalanes boys' beat Miramonte 94 to 75. The Lady Mats fared better with a total score of 109 to Acalanes' 60.

The April 15 match-up between Campolindo and Acalanes had some tight finishes, and despite the loss Acalanes posted some exciting wins in their column. In the men's 50 yard freestyle Acalanes senior Piankhi Gibson touched out Campolindo senior Jeffrey Strasser by four-one hundredths of a second. Gibson swam a lightning speed of 21.72 to Strasser's 21.76. Gibson would reign again in the 100 yard fly reaching the wall before Strasser with a time of 51.36. Strasser logged a fast 52.44.

Campo answered back, though, in the 100 yard backstroke in yet another photo finish. In this close race, Campo sophomore Sven Campbell edged out Acalanes senior David Palley finishing 53.02 and 53.89 respectively. The meet ended with the most exciting event of the day – the 400 yd freestyle relay. Campo and Acalanes were neck and neck. After three legs of virtual equanimity, Campo's anchor, Campbell, exploded into the water and managed to pull off a win of a full body length with a total relay time of 3:16.60 to Acalanes' 3:20.37.

On the women's side, the 500 yard freestyle proved to be a surprisingly dramatic race. In an event this long, usually a leader emerges early. In this race, though, there were three serious

contenders for first place – Campo sophomores Erica Muller and Ruthie Hoover and Acalanes junior Molly Quinn. It was anyone's race through the first 300 yards at which point Muller started to solidify her marginal lead. She swam to a first place finish with a time of 5:29.26. Quinn and Hoover were right on her toes, though, and even towards the end of twenty muscle-burning laps, second place was still too close to call. Ultimately Quinn touched before Hoover posting a time of 5:30.88. Hoover's time was 5:31.05 – a mere .17 of a second back.

Each of the three Lamorinda schools has had successful seasons. Although the Acalanes men lost to Campo, they quickly resumed their winning streak over Miramonte to bring their overall record to 5-1. The Lady Dons are even at 3-3.

Speaking on Lamorinda rivalries, the Dons' head coach Marc Cavallero admits, "Campolindo and Miramonte have been stronger swim teams than Acalanes the past few years, but I feel that we are beginning to close the gap and we are hoping to create a rivalry in swimming with Campo and Miramonte as well."

Campo's undefeated dual meet record stands at 6-0 for both the men and women. Campo head coach Dave

Schurhoff concurs with Cavallero, saying, "As far as rivalries go, I would say that Campolindo and Miramonte have the strongest rivalry - a friendly rivalry, but a rivalry no doubt...Miramonte dominated the '90s and Campolindo has had an edge on Miramonte the last decade. The Miramonte/Campo dual meet is always an exciting event that ends our dual meet season and leads us into our DFAL Championship meet and North Coast Section meet."

Miramonte's season has gone extremely well. Both the men and women have had just one loss each overall. Head coach Don Heidary says, "The captains have done an extraordinary job this season. They have led the way and are a significant reason for their success." He also commented that the character, commitment, maturity, and positive outlook that his swimmers possess have contributed greatly to their success as a team.

The dual meet season will conclude on Friday, April 29 at 3:45 when Acalanes takes on Las Lomas and Miramonte collides with Campolindo. All teams will be headed into the DFAL trials at Campo on May 12 followed a week later by the NCS Finals in Concord on May 21.



Orinda Aquatics Swimmer Competes in U.S. Paralympic Nationals

Submitted by Julie Carlson



Megan Liang and her coach, Tony Ravnik

Photo Justin Liang

Megan Liang, a tenth grader at Campolindo High School and swimmer with Orinda Aquatics, traveled to Minneapolis, Minnesota to compete in the U.S. Paralympic Nationals on April 7-9. This was Liang's first visit to this prestigious event, which featured over 150 swimmers at the University of Minnesota Aquatic Center.

Liang swam the 400-meter freestyle event and finished fourth overall with a time of 5:39.91, her lifetime best finish. In the 100 meter backstroke, she placed seventh with a time of 1:29.67 and placed seventh in the 50-free with a time of 34.91.

"It was a really good experience," said Liang, "and I had a lot of fun competing."

Megan, who had one leg amputated above the knee following a battle with bone cancer at the age of six, swims for both the year-round Orinda Aquatics program and the Campolindo junior varsity swim team. "Megan trains and participates in all our workouts fully," said Don Heidary, co-head coach of Orinda Aquatics, "and her positive outlook and attitude are truly inspirational to everyone on our team."

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Gaels Take Third in WCC Tournament Play

By Caitlin Graveson



Senior Alex Poorta was 14-7 on the year and 8-0 against WCC opponents. Photo Tod Fierner

Saint Mary's women's lacrosse looked to repeat at the West Coast Conference Championships. The Gaels snagged the title last year with an upset win over Pepperdine to qualify for the national tournament.

The team did not fare as well this year, losing to Pepperdine in the semi-finals on Friday, April 22, but bounced back to top Santa Clara on Saturday to grab third place. Head coach Lisa Alipaz said she

was a little disappointed about the weekend. "As a whole, we feel a little empty handed. I have mixed emotions about the weekend. It was great for the team to rebound back and take 3rd on the final day after an emotional, hard fought loss to Pepperdine."

The Gaels played a close match against #29 Pepperdine during the regular season, losing 3-4, and had hopes for an upset for the second year in a row. The second-seeded Waves captured the doubles point and swept singles play to earn the 4-1 win.

Pepperdine took the doubles match on court one and snagged a close victory from freshman Jenny Jullien and senior Claire Soper, 8-5, on court three. Senior Alex Poorta and junior Anna Chkhikvishvili dropped a close one, 9-8, in the deciding match, giving the Waves a 1-0 lead.

The only Saint Mary's singles win came from Soper. Alipaz said her team could not

capitalize on critical doubles points and had a shot at winning more of the singles matches. She commented, "The Pepperdine match will take a long time to get over. [We] let some opportunities slip away. Having played and beat #1 San Diego during the season, we knew that if we could get by Pepperdine, we would have a great shot at the title."

Although disappointed with the loss in the semi-finals, Saint Mary's topped Santa Clara 4-1 the next day. The Gael captured the doubles point and took three singles wins.

The Gaels entered the tournament with a three-seed and took on the six-seeded University of Portland (9-12) on Thursday, April 21. Saint Mary's opened the match with a doubles-win. Sophomore Catherine Isp and freshman Laurie Gingras defeated the Pilot's sister-tuosome, Sabine Fuchs and Stephanie Fuchs, easily at 8-1. Court two recorded a win as well,

Poorta and Chkhikvishvili took the match-up, 8-2.

Singles play ended just as handily. No. 48 Poorta defeated her opponent, 6-0, 6-1, freshman Jullien won 6-0, 6-2 to extend her win streak to 12, and Chkhikvishvili finished 6-3, 6-0. Jullien entered the match with a victory over top-rated Stanford.

After the win, Alipaz said, "Our girls went out today and played solid against a very good and very dangerous Portland team. They are a team you don't want to give too many chances to."

Saint Mary's entered the tournament ranked #47 overall with an 11-8 record, finishing 5-1 in WCC play, their only loss coming from Pepperdine. The Gaels notched three wins over top-75 teams, including, Texas Christian University, Boise State and San Diego. Five of the losses came to Top 25 teams including #5 UCLA and #9 Berkeley.

Arcadia Invitational Meet Results

Submitted by Maria Solit



From left: Devon McDonald, Kirby Shultz, Kera Deakins, Rebecca Ent and coach Alison Zamanian Photo Maria Solit

Qualifying for the Arcadia Invitational is a significant achievement for high school track runners. Miramonte High School's Lady Mats sent four athletes to compete in 4x800 and the 4x400 at the meet held April 9-10. The girls ran the 4x800 on the first day of the meet. They finished a full second faster than their entered time, at 9:58:86, and finished 17th out of 28.

On the second day, the girls earned a third place finish in the 4x400. They averaged about 61 second per lap and finished with their fastest time this season, 4:04.15.

CYO Champions

Submitted by Monica Chappell



Photo Annette Robison
The St. Perpetua sixth grade boys CYO basketball team completed an undefeated season by winning both the West Diablo CYO Championship and the Tournament of Champions.

Lafayette Little League Box Scores

Submitted by Todd Bequette

Majors Division

Giants 7, Reds 3

Kyle Bunting collected three hits for the Giants, including his first home run of the season. Ryan Nall notched two hits for the winners, and Nathan Tarkoff pitched three innings of no-hit ball. Paul Griessel led a late inning rally for the Reds, knocking in two with a timely single in the top of the sixth.

Giants 17 Athletics 3

The Giants pounded out 17 hits against their cross-bay rivals. Tyler Schenone led the way with three hits and four RBIs. Ben Ross' towering three run homer provided the offense for the As.

AAA Division

Dodgers 12 Red Sox 11

In a wild one at Cheney Field, the Dodgers rallied with five in the fifth for the win. The Boys in Blue were led by Eddy Burns, who went 2-for-3, and Jack Napper, whose two hits included the game-winner.

Phillies 6 Mets 4

The Phillies opened the regular season with a win over their National League East rivals behind the Justin Bocks and Jack Larsen, who each pitched two shutout innings. Ryan Everly led the victors at the plate with two clutch hits. For the Mets, Andrew Torres threw two

strong innings and Georgio Alessandria banded out two hits.

Indians 8 Yankees 7

The Indians won a barn burner at Cheney Field, rallying from a 6-0 deficit in the third. Nick Kresnak's three run homer set the stage for Murphy Baker's game winning hit with two outs in the bottom of the sixth. The Yankees were led by Henry Rogers, who went 2-for-2, scored two and drove in two more.

Giants 10 Indians 5

The Giants doubled up the Indians in a high-scoring game at Cheney Field. Brett Donat led the way for the winners, going 3-for-4 at the plate.

Phillies 10 Cardinals 4

The Phillies broke a close game open with three in the third, as Nicholas Broback, Mikey O'Donnell and Justin Bocks all recorded two hits. Jack Miles, Max Stryker and Nicholas Geanacopoulos led the Redbird attack at the plate.

Phillies 16 Yankees 8

The Phillies flexed their muscles, doubling up the Pinstrippers in a make-up game over spring break. Kenny Workman sparked the Phil's attack with three hits and Nicholas Broback delivered a bases clearing triple for the winners. Jack Larsen turned in the defensive gem of the game with a double-play catch

and throw from the outfield to thwart a Yankee rally. The Yanks were led by Enzo Sereno's booming triple, and Nicholas Collins-Yarnall's stellar play in the field.

Athletics 8 Giants 6

In a high scoring affair at Cheney Field, timely pitching ruled the day. Will Easley hurled an inning and a third of shutout relief, and fire-balling lefty Keaziah Smith closed it out in the sixth, stranding the tying run at third. Jack Lattin led the way at the plate for the winners. For the Giants, Owen Hanen's crushed an RBI triple to the fence, and Brett Donat threw two shutout innings.

Athletics 6 Cardinals 5

Ethan Frigone and Will Easley combined to limit the Cardinals two a single run over the final four innings. The Cardinals were led by Max Stryker's two shutout innings on the mound and Connor Shultz perfect day at the plate.

Cardinals 8 Giants 2

Luke Miles and Max Stryker each pitched two shutout innings of relief and Ben Bequette's bases loaded single ignited the Redbird offense. Logan Wright chipped in with a booming double to the wall for the winners. Owen Hansen and Jack Muren led the Giants with two hits apiece.

Orinda Aquatics Swimmers Compete at Far Westerns

Submitted by Julie Carlson



Photo provided
From left: Mary Allison Ashby, Alexa Hanley, Charlene Funai, and Natalie Morlock, members of the girls 13-14 400 yard medley relay team.

On April 1-3, 11 swimmers from Orinda Aquatics (OA) traveled to Morgan Hill to compete in the Far Western Championships. Over 150 teams and 1600 swimmers competed in this meet, with teams coming from as far away as Virginia and Canada.

The OA swimmers who qualified and competed were Mary Allison Ashby, Alec Baker, Talbot Jacobs, Liv Baker, Alexa Hanley, Matt Lennon, Kiera O'Brien, Alex Paterno, Natalie Morlock, Charlene

Funai and Jordan Owyong.

Mary Allison Ashby, 13, won the 100 backstroke with a time of 57.20 and qualified for the Junior National Championship later this year. She also placed third in the 50 Free, and fourth in both the 100 Free and the 200 Free.

A number of other OA participants were finalists as well, including Alec Baker, 10, placed fourth in the 100 IM and fifth in the 100 Fly and Talbot Jacobs, 14, placed fourth in the 500 Free and fifth in the 100 Back.

Vicencio Takes Tournament Title

Submitted by Bob Latham



Campolindo freshman Michael Vicencio was the tournament medalist at the San Ramon Valley Golf Richter High School JV Golf Tournament. Vicencio's winning score was a 74. Campolindo took 5th place out of 24 teams, the school's best showing in this tournament. Campo's other tournament players were Anton Reifsteck, Matt Alderete, Matt Freeman, Joey Mediati, and Phillip Richards.

Youth Sports Registration

Lamorinda Basketball Academy (LBA)
Fundamentals of basketball Girls Grades 3-8
Learn basic basketball skills required to play at the next level. Learn/perfect basic skills: dribbling, shooting, passing, rebounding, defensive skills, footwork, and Teamwork! Build toward competitive game play!
Sign up now: Contact us at LBA@LBAhoops.com or 925-681-8400.
Check out our website at www.LBAhoops.com

If you would like to list the registration information for a youth sports club please email wendy@lamorindaweekly.com or call (925) 377-0977.
B&W listing will cost \$24 (3.75"x1").

Faster than Four Minutes

By Rebecca Eckland

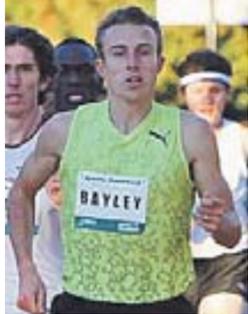


Photo provided

The mile is often the benchmark of fitness for casual joggers to competitive runners. Lafayette resident Tim Bayley can run it in under four minutes. In fact, he can cover the distance in 3:58.3 to be exact; a remarkable time few can accomplish.

A resident of Lafayette, Bayley's running career began eleven years ago in England when, at age 17, he was on the cusp of becoming a professional cricket player. At the time, he had re-

cently started running and decided, in lieu of the game, he would pursue the challenge of distance running.

He competed for the University of Brighton in England where he received his undergraduate diploma before coming to the States to pursue a Master's degree and two-year running career at Iona College in New York. In those two years, Bayley consistently turned out impressive performances in the 800 meter (or half mile) distance; in his first year of competition he placed second in the NCAA outdoor championships, and he placed fifth in his second year. Following graduation from Iona, he placed fifth in the 800 meter race at the British Olympic Trials.

Since that time, Bayley has shifted his focus to the mile. He's broken the four-minute barrier four times so far. Once in 2009 for the Inaugural Sports Basement Elite Mile Event

which was held in Lafayette. "We ran up and down Mt. Diablo Boulevard," comments Bayley in his classic British lilt. "There were nine sub-four minute milers in that event which was exciting," he said.

Bayley's goals are as impressive as his accomplishments: he's working toward the World Championships, and later, the 2012 Olympic Games in the 1500 meter race also known as the "metric mile."

Of the Texas Relays, a recent race in Austin, Bayley said: "It was a controlled race with a big sprint to the finish. I came in sixth, but I beat some really good runners."

In addition to his own training, Bayley coaches youth and adult members of the Lamorinda community. He also belongs to the Bay Area Track Club and is the representative for the Contra Costa County area, promoting fitness community-wide.

Moraga Baseball Association

Submitted by Jin Meng

April 12, 2011

Mustang Division

Cardinals 6, A's 2

Cardinal Highlights: Adrian Hyatt 3-for-3, 3 RBIs, 4Ks; Ian Concepcion 1 RS, 1 RBI; Bryan Kikugawa 1 RBI, 1 RS.

A's Highlights: Paul Gannett 3-for-3, 3Ks; Eddie Gross 1B, 1RBI; Will Weaver 1 RS; Luke Ahearn 1 RS.

Pinto Division

Dodgers 13, Yankees 12

Dodgers Highlights: Luke McCurdy 3-for-4 3RS, Cole Curtiss 2-for-4 2RBI's Shane Nelson 3-For-4 RBI.

Yankees Highlights: Quinn Panos 3-for-4 4RBI, Tommy Richards 1-for-3 2RBI's, Jack Nunn 3-for-3 3RBI

April 13, 2011

Mustang Division

Pirates 3, Cubs 0

Pirates Highlights: Nick Kronenberg 1-for-3, 3B, 1 RS, 2 IP 4K's; Semaje Diestler 1-for-2, 2B, 1RBI, 1BB; Grayson Gillbanks 2 IP, 3K's

Cubs Highlights: B. Woolsey 2 IP, 5 K's

Giants 6, Angels 5

Angels Highlights: Luke Campo 1-for-2, 2B, 2 RBI; Stephen Chilimidos 1-for-2, 1B; Joe Arth 1-for-2, 1B; Derek Schmitz 1-for-1, 2 RBI.

Giants Highlights: Jake O'Balle 2-for-2, 2B, 2 RS, 2 RBI; Aidan Lyon 2-for-2, 3 RBI, 2 SB; Dominic Gillibert 1-fir-2, 1 SB, 1 IP, 3K.

Pony Division

Moraga Tigers 2, Orinda 1

Tigers Highlights: Kyle O'Connell 1-for-3, RS; Jake Rider 2-for-3, RBI, 3IP, 4K; Mark Santaguida 1-for-3, RBI; Double play: Rossi-Smoot-Rider.

Orinda Highlights: Schnier 1-for-3, RS, 4IP, 2K; Haskell 3IP, 1K.

Bronco Division

Giants 9, Dodgers 8

Dodgers Highlights: John Lawicki 2-for-3, 2B, RS; Quinn Cuddihy 1-for-1, 2 RS; Anthony Kim 1-for-1, RS, 2 RBIs.

Giants Highlights: Trevin Kroichick 1-for-2, 2B, 2 RS, RBI; Jake Walgenbach 2-for-2, 2 RS, 2 RBIs; Jacob Pappa 2-for-2, 2 RS; Declan Rector 2 1/3 IP, 1R, 2 Ks.

Pinto Division

Red Sox 6, Moraga A's 14

Red Sox Highlights: Chase Bennett 2-for-3, 2B, Ty Huckuntod 3-for-3, 2B, 3 RBIs; Brent Avenell 2-for-3.

A's Highlights: Ben Jules 3-for-3, 2B; JT Clark 2-for-3, 2B, 2 RBIs; Oliver Bak 2-for-3, 1 RBI; Luca Rago 2-for-3, 1 RBI.

April 16, 2011

Mustang Division

Yankees 10, Angels 8

Yankees Highlights: Grant Harper 2-for-3, 3B, 2B, 3RS, 3RBI, 2IP, 5K; Will Windatt 2-for-3, 2B, 3RBI, 3SB; Chase Peterson 1-for-2, 2B, 2RBI.

Angels Highlights: Joe Arth 2-for-3, RBI, RS; Peter Schmitz 2-for-3, 2B, RBI; Sam Ouzounan 1-for-2.

Red Sox 13, A's 3

Red Sox Highlights: Jeremy Gunderon 2-for-3, 2 2B, 1 RS, 3 RBIs; Donovan Robles 1B, 1 SB, 3 RS; Luka Brown 1B, 3RS; Lucas Allen 1B, 1RS, 2 RBIs.

A's Highlights: Eddie Gross 2-1B, 2 SB, 2RBIs; Peter O'Donnell 1B, 1 SB; Will Weaver 1B, 1 SB.

Giants 10, Cubs 7

Cubs Highlights: Jonathan Gong 2-for-3, 2 RS, 2 IP 0 RS; Will Bishop 2-3, 2B, 3 RBI; Eric Moore 1-for-2, RS; Ryan Jeter 1-for-2, RBI

Giants Highlights: Spencer Drennan 2-for-3, 4 RBI, SB; Cole McNeil 1-2, RS, RBI, 1 IP, 0 RS; Steffan Westphal 2-for-3, SB, 1 IP 0 RS; Jake Chan 1-for-3, RS, 2 RBI, 2 IP, 4 Ks.

Cardinals 13, Pirates 7

Cardinals Highlights: Ian Concepcion 3-for-4, 2RBIs, 2RS, 1SB; Bryan Kikugawa 3-for-4, 3RBIs, 3RS, 1SB; Adrian Hyatt 1IP, 3K's, 0ER 2BB OH, 2-for-4, 1SB; Max Schoenberger 2-for-4, 1RBI.

Bronco Division

Moraga Giants 7, Orinda Hurricanes 6

Giants Highlights: Trevin Kroichick 1-for-2, 2 RS, 2 RBI, 3 IP, 0 H, 0 R, 6 K; Vince Mossotti 1-for-1, 3B, 2 BB, RBI; Declan Rector 1-for-2, BB, 2 RBI; Harry Curtiss 2 IP, 2 R, 4 K.

Hurricanes Highlights: Derrek Garcia 1-for-3, RS, RBI; James Gammon 1-for-3, 2 RBIs; Jimmy Foley 1-for-2, 2 RS.

Pinto Division

Cubs 14, A's 11

Cubs Highlights: Joe Schmidt hit a triple in the third, 3 RS; Drew Isola 3-for-3, 2 RS, 3 1B; Kimo Okamura 3-for-3, 3-1B; Nicolas Meng 3-for-3, 3-1B; Stephan Kikugawa 1-for-2, 1-1B;

A's Highlights: Adam Harper 3-for-3, 2-1B, 1-HR; JT Clarke 3-for-3, 3-1B, 1 RS; Oliver Bak 3-for-3, 3-1B, 1RS; Maxwell Weaver 2-for-3, 2-1B, 2 RS.

Yankees 15, Red Sox 9

Red Sox Highlights: Brent Avenel, 3-for-3 with 2 runs and 1 RBI; Daniel Wheeler, 3-for-3 with 1 run, 1 RBI, and a double; Chase Bennett: 2-for-3 with 1 run, 3 RBIs, and a double; Julia Ortega, 2-for-3

Yankees Highlights: Tommy Richards: 2-for-2 with 2 run; Gideon Johnson, 2-for-3 with 1 RBI; John Hunter, 3-for-3 with 3 runs and 3 RBIs; Nick Fitzpatrick, 3-for-3 with 3 runs, 2 RBIs, and 3 doubles.

Dodgers 17, Giants 13

Giants Highlights: Graham Becker 4-for-4, 3 RS, 2 RBI, 2B, 3B; Jonathon Dow 3-for-4, 2 RS, 2B; Evan Yabu 2-for-3, 1 RS, 2 RBI; Jason Simi 3-for-3, 1 RBI.

Dodger Highlights: Nate Powers 3-for-3, 1 RS, 4 RBI; Josh Fleming 3-for-3, 3 RS, 2 RBI; Michael Coane 2-for-3, 1 RS, 1 RBI.

April 17, 2011

Bronco Division

Dodgers 15, Red Sox 4

Dodgers Highlights: Brett Smith 3-for-3, 2 RS, 1 RBI; Quinn Cuddihy 2-for-2, 1 RS, 3 RBI; Red Sox Highlights: Caleb Casimere 2-for-2, 1 RBI, 2 IP; Will Stenzel 2 RS; Sam Foss 2 IP;

Moraga Giants 16, Orinda Red Bulls 5

Giants Highlights: Ryan Schulze 1-for-1, 2 BB, 3 RS, RBI; Trevin Kroichick 3-for-3, 2 RS, 3 RBI; Harry Curtiss 3-for-3, 3 RS, RBI.

Red Bulls Highlights: Brett Massey 1-for-2, BB, 2 RS; Mike Stanard 2-for-2, 2B, BB, 2 RS.

Moraga A's 6, Orinda Owlz 5

Athletics Highlights: Calvin Gee 2IP's, 3 K's, 3-for-4, 3-1B's, 2 RS; Jack Lawrence 2-for-4, 2-1B's, 1RS, 1RBI; Dylan Richardson 2-for-3, 1BB, 1B, 2SB

Owlz Highlights: Matt Weisenflush 3-for-4, 3RS, 1BB, 2-1B's; Ryan Ochs 2IP's, 2SB, 1B; Hank Chow 1-for-3, 1B, 1RS

Mustang Division

Giants 5, Pirates 2

Pirates Highlights: Michael Crews 1-for-3; Semaje Diestler 1-for-2, BB, RS; Ryan Lenahan 1-for-2; CJ Rago 2 IP, 0 RS, 3K

Giants Highlights: Jake O'Balle 2-for-3, 2B, 2 RBI; 1.67 IP, 5K; Cason Johnston 1-for-3, RS; 1.33 IP, 2K, 0 RS to close game; Cole McNeil 1-for-3, 2 RBI; Brandon Gentry 1-for-2

A's 6, Cardinals 3

A's Highlights: Brian Gross 3-for-3, 1B 2B 2B, 2RBIs, 1RS, 3SB; Mason Loyet 2-for-3, 1B 2B, 1RS, 3SB; Paul Gannet 1-for-3, 1RBI, 2RS, 3SB; Eddie Gross 2IP, 4K's, 1ER 2BB 1H, 1-for-3, 1RS.

Cardinals Highlights: Dylan Grausz 2-for-2, 1RBI, 3SB; Justin Feldman 1-for-2, 1RBI; Cayden Hein 1-for-2; Ian Concepcion 2IP, 3K's, 1ER 2BB 1H.

Redsox 16, Angels 8

Redsox Highlights: Donovan Robles 2 IP, 4 K's, W, 3-for-4, 2-2B, 3 RS; Luca Brown 3-for-4, 2B, 3 RBI, 3 RS; Bryson Lothamer 3-for-4, 2 RS, RBI; Blake Pollock 3-for-4, 3 RBI, Run.

Angels Highlights: Peter Schmitz 2-for-2, 1 BB, 2 1B, 1RS, 1 RBI; Joe Arth 2-for-2, 1BB, 2 1B, 2 RBI; Sam Morasch 2-for-3, 2 1B, 1 RS

Giants 5, Pirates 2

Giants Highlights: Jake O'Balle 2-for-3, 2B, 2 RBI; 1.67 IP, 5K; Cason Johnston 1-for-3, RS; 1.33 IP, 2K, 0 RS to close game; Cole McNeil 1-for-3, 2 RBI; Brandon Gentry 1-for-2

Pirates Highlights: Michael Crews 1-for-3; Semaje Diestler 1-for-2, BB, RS; Ryan Lenahan 1-for-2; CJ Rago 2 IP, 0 RS, 3K

April 19, 2011

Pinto Division

Dodgers 19, A's 16

Dodgers Highlights : Shane Nelson 4-for-4, 3 RS, 2 RBI, 2B; Jack Williams 4-for-4, 2 RS, 3 RBI; Ben Powers 4-for-4, 2 RS, 2 RBI, 2-2B's.

A's Highlights : Conor Fritch 3-for3, 2B, 2 RBIs, 2 RS; Luca Rago 2-for-3, 3 RBIs, 2 RS; Oliver Bak 3-for-3, 2 RS.

April 20, 2011

Mustang Division

Redsox 5, Giants 1

Redsox Highlights: Lucas Allen 2 IP, 5 K's, 0 ER, 2-for-2, HR, 2 RBI, 2 RS; Marco Nykodym 1-for-2, 1 RS; Tom McGuire 1-for-2, 2B.

Giants Highlights: Aidan Lyon 2 IP, 2 K's, 2-for-2, 2B, 1 RS; Dominic Gillibert 1-for-1, 3 IP, 3K; Cason Johnston 1 IP, K, 0 ER.

Angels 4, Cardinals 4

Angels Highlights: Sam Ouzounian 1-for-2, 2B, 1 RS; Stephen Chilimidos 1-for-3, 1B, 2RBI; Kyle Sintchak 1-for-3, 1B, , RBI, 1RS; Joe Arth 2 IP, 4KO.

Cardinals Highlights: Dylan Grausz 2-for-2, 3B, 1B, 2 RBI, 1 RS; Leif Carlson 1-for-2, 1B, RBI; Bryan Kikugawa 2-for-3, two 1B; Justin Feldman 1-for-2, 1B, RBI, 1 RS, 1 IP, 3KO

Pinto Division

Yankees 11, Giants 7

Giants Highlights: Jonathon Dow 3-for-3, 2B, 1 RS; Brady Manz 2-for-3, 2B, 1 RS, 2 RBIs; Sam McGonigle 1-for-3, 1 RS; Will McGaughey 1-for-3, 2B, 2 RBIs.

Yankee Highlights: Jack Dougherty 3-for-3, 3 2B, 3RS, 2 RBIs; William Thomas 3-for-3, 1 RS, 2 RBIs; Gideon Johnson 1-for-3.

Cubs 13, Red Sox 12

Cubs Highlights: Jack Bunzel-Hardie 2-for-3, 2 RBI, 2 RS; Alex Clare 2-for-4, 1 RBI, 1 RS; Stephan Kikugawa 2-for-2, 2-1B; Drew Isola 1-for-4 with game winning single.

Red Sox Highlights: Declan Bhagwat 2-for-3, 2-2B, 2 RBI, 2RS; Arik Nashan 2-for-3, 1-3B, 3 RBI; Julia Ortega 3-for-3, 1-2B, 2 RBI.

April 23, 2011

Bronco Division

Moraga Giants 8, Piedmont Pirates 7

Giants Highlights: Harry Curtiss 2-for-3, RS, RBI, 2 IP, 0 H, 5 K; Luke Jeffries 1-for-2, 2B, RS, RBI; Evan Gabrielson 2-for-3; Vince Mossotti 2-for-4, 2B, 2 RS

Mustang Division

Giants 20, Pirates 2

Giants Highlights: Dominic Gillibert 3-for-3, 2B, BB, 4 RS; Aidan Lyon 4-for-4, 2 RBI, SB, 4 RS, 2 IP, 0 R, 4K; Jake O'Balle 4-for-4, 2B, 3B, 6 RBI, 1 IP, 0 R, 3K; Cole McNeil 3-for-4, 2B, 3 RBI, RS, 1IP, 2K

Pirates Highlights: Semaje Diestler 1-for-2, 2B, RBI; CJ Rago 1-for-2, RS, SB, RBI, 1.67 IP, 4K; Michael Crews 1-for-2, SB

Yankees 10, A's 8

A's Highlights: Paul Gannett 2IP, 3Ks, 3 1B, 2 SB, 1 RBI, 1 RS; Mason Loyet 1B, 1SB, 1RS; Corey Goldman 2 IP, 3Ks, 1RBI, 1RS

Yankee Highlights: Tommy Raftis 2 IP, 2 Ks, 2 SB, 2 RS, 1 RBI; Mark McCurdy 2 IP, 2 Ks, 2SB, 3B, 2 RS; Rex Curtis 1B, 1SB, 1 RS, 1 RBI.

Pinto Division

Giants 13, A's 12

Giants Highlights: Brady Manz 3H, HR; Jackson Rusconi 4H, 4RS; Jonathan Dow, 4H, 4 RBI.

A's Highlights: Ben Jules, 3H, 2B, 4RBI; Max Weaver, 3H, 3B(x2), 2B, 2RBI; JT Clark, 2H, 2B, 2RBI; Xavier Esquer, 3H, RBI, 3RS.

Lamorinda Schools

Will Your Facebook Page Help or Hinder Your College Chances?

By Elizabeth LaScala, PhD

Many parents can recall the days when students applied to one, or perhaps two or three colleges, got accepted to their first choice school, and were done. Colleges too can recall the days when prospective students could be identified, contacted and wooed all for the price of postage. But those times are long gone and college admissions offices around the nation and the world are embracing social media "with more than 80 percent of colleges using Facebook to connect with, recruit and research potential students." (US News and World Report, Colleges Bring Campuses to Facebook, April 7, 2011)

This profound change in communication between colleges and prospective applicants is a very big deal. Several billion people engage in social media (Facebook, Twitter, YouTube) and many of them are applying to college. Today's students have grown up with the Internet, and feel comfortable with it as a means of socializing and communicating with their friends. What many fail to realize is that their on-line presence is now their on-line resume. Just as students can learn a great deal about a school by logging onto Facebook and following the conversations, so too can a college admissions office learn about an applicant. Do admission officers really have the time to check into their applicants social media identities to learn more about them? Yes, they do. And although they do not have the time nor the need to check up on every student who applies, when a selective university is down to the wire on limited seating for their most popular majors, scarce resources and scholarship awards, the information that they find on-line can persuade the admission committee one way or the other.

Here's what our students can do to make their on-line presence work in their favor:

- It's a no-brainer now to clean up your Facebook page and take care not to post dicey photos or racy prose on social networking sites. However, what about more simple matters—like writing to your friends about how much you long to be admitted to your first choice school when you have just composed a sincere, heartfelt letter to your second choice asking to remain on their waitlist and promising to accept an offer of admission the moment it is offered. No matter how private you think your site is, think

again, and take care about what you (and your friends) post.

- According to Jackie Burrell, The 5 Dangers of Facebook and other Networking Sites (About.com) "business and medical school admissions officers surf social networking sites in even greater numbers than their undergrad brethren...as do prospective employers." If this is true, then they are not impressed with posts that shout "Par-tay! Woo-hoo!"

- Admissions officers can use any publicly available information to make sound decisions about candidates in order to strengthen the quality of their entering freshman class. So use social media to enhance your image. If you are an artist post a link to photo galleries. If music is your passion, post clips of your performances. If volunteerism is your deal, post a link to an article that was written in the local press about one of your service projects.

- Consider building your own website. By doing this well, you can display your computer skills as well as your graphic design talents at the same time. Take the time you usually use to post birthday party or prom photos to create an on-line presence that supports rather than detracts from your college or graduate school application by adding substance to those skills, talents, abilities which you can only write about on your application.



Elizabeth LaScala Ph.D. guides high school and transfer students through the complex world of college admissions. She develops best match college lists, offers personalized essay coaching, and tools and strategies to help students tackle each step of the admissions process with confidence and success. Elizabeth helps students from all backgrounds, including college-bound athletes, to maximize merit and financial aid awards. She earned certification from UC Berkeley in College Admissions and Career Planning. Contact her @ (925) 891-4491 or elizabeth@doingcollege.com.



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

Lamorinda Schools

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

SCHOOL CALENDAR

Acalanes Union High School District
Board Room AUHSD Office
1212 Pleasant Hill Rd, Lafayette
Wednesday, May 4, 7:30pm

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

Lafayette School District
LAFSD Office
3477 School Street, Lafayette
Wednesday, May 11, 7pm

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

The Vocal Chords of Victory

By Steven Zhou



The Miramonte State Championship Tournament team waiting at the awards ceremony. Photo Guita Bahramipour

San Diego State University was the location for the annual California High School Speech Association's State Championship over the weekend of April 15th-17th. For three straight days, more than a thousand teenagers from hundreds of high schools around California, debaters, interpretive actors, congressmen and women, orators, and speakers worked skillfully from dawn until dusk, competing for the title of "State Champion."

These participants, having won local State Qualifying Tournaments, are touted as "the best of the best" with Orinda's Miramonte High School boasting twenty-four qualifiers. Parent volunteers and the team's dedicated teacher and coach, Kristen Plant, share in the students' success; fourteen Miramonte candidates made it to the semi-finals, and six advanced to the final competition.

Top scorers included Cecily Schmidt who won 3rd place in Thematic Interpretation, Conor Bean with a 3rd place in Student Congress, and Ross Andrews who garnered 4th place in Original Advocacy.

Plant proudly exclaimed, "In addition to public speaking skills, students learn to be graceful in victory or defeat, to represent Miramonte with pride, and to enjoy pushing themselves to achieve at the highest level of their craft - to accomplish those feats, while having fun, is to have succeeded."

Although it was necessary to focus on the challenges, between competition rounds, the students enjoyed the warm Southern California weather, socializing in the food courts, and cheering on the opposition. The finale of the three days culminated with a costume dinner dance. The Miramonte team chose "beach bums" as their theme, rocking the night away in Hawaiian gear, swim-suits, and sunglasses.

The event was a bonding experience for the group. Lisa Chang, a state qualifier for the past three years, remarked, "We've always been a family, but I think our team got even closer this year. Whether someone did well or badly, everyone felt that person's joy or pain and empathized. The camaraderie makes our team stand out. We always carry so much energy and excitement that other teams notice us."

Steven Zhou is a junior at Miramonte High School.



Kristen Plant, teacher and coach of the Miramonte team. Photo Nora Conklin

Del Rey Team Heads to World Championship

By Eric Pawlakos



Photo E. Pawlakos

When the winners of the Odyssey of the Mind State Competition were announced, the team of six Del Rey fifth-graders was ecstatic. Only the two top teams in each division would advance to the World Finals in Maryland, and the Del Rey team had just been awarded second place. "The feeling was amazing!" exclaimed Avery Maybury, the team narrator.

With its exciting win, the Del Rey team will soon be heading to the University of Maryland, where it will compete in the Odyssey of the Mind World Championships taking place May 27th through May 30th.

Odyssey of the Mind is a worldwide competition that introduces students to the art of problem solving using creative methods by thinking 'outside the box.' When the school year begins, each team (up to seven

members) must choose one of five pre-defined problems from a variety of categories. They then work on creating an eight-minute presentation that demonstrates their solution to the problem in an entertaining and creative manner. At the competition, judges grade the performances based on imagination, creativity, style, the use of props, backdrops, and costumes, and how well everything blended together. Team member Edward Anaya believes that the key to winning Odyssey of the Mind is to, "always be creative, take your time, stay committed, and believe in your team."

The fifth-grade Del Rey team chose the Rube Goldberg problem that had the stated goal of over-complicating a simple tool. The team took the idea of an alarm clock and turned it into an elaborate contraption. Doing away with the annoying alarm

sound, their alarm clock ultimately lowers a food item close to the sleeping person's nose, allowing one to wake happily to the smell of his or her favorite food. With this innovative invention the squad won first place in the regional competition and advanced to the state finals where they finished in second place. Team member Nick Luckenbach said, "I have never been to a World competition before. I'm interested in seeing all the creative ideas that others have come up with."

After a team finishes with the presentation of its chosen problem, they are then asked to respond to a completely spontaneous prompt from the judges. Teams never know in advance what they might be asked to do during the competition. They are given one minute to think of a response to the prompt and four minutes to act out their response. The prompt given to the Del Rey team was, "The last thing I remember was..."

Thinking fast on their feet, some of the responses included, "eating noodles on mars," "a cute guinea pig in the sky," and "somebody saying, 'Look out!'" The creativity and number of their spontaneous responses earned the team first place in the state competition.

Kirsten Theurer, principal of Del Rey, said, "It's just so wonderful to see kids work hard together to get them to the place where they are today."

Eric Pawlakos is a junior at Miramonte High School.

No Shot, No School - Whooping Cough Booster Now Required

By Cathy Tyson

Attention all students entering grades seven through twelve in the fall - or more likely their very responsible parents - California has a new law, AB 354, that requires students to be vaccinated against whooping cough, also called pertussis, before school starts this August. Commonly called Tdap, this one booster shot, protects against tetanus, diphtheria and whooping cough. Parents may be familiar with the tetanus-diphtheria booster shot or "Td," but starting with the 2011 - 2012 school year, it doesn't meet the requirement.

Proof of Tdap immunization is required during the residency verification process in August for all California students, although some local schools are accepting proof now

for those currently enrolled. Getting the vaccine now or during the summer months will help avoid the inevitable rush shortly before school starts.

"Your immunity wanes," says Dr. Sam Lewis, a pediatrician who practices in Orinda. "You still need a booster for two reasons, one - to keep kids from getting it and two - to keep from passing it on to little ones." He describes the symptoms as terrible and semi-serious, a choking, gagging cough for six to eight weeks. He recently had a one month old patient who ended up in Children's Hospital with whooping cough for almost a week.

Cases of whooping cough are on the rise in the U.S. According to the

California Department of Public Health it's a highly contagious bacterial illness spread by coughs and sneezes. They reported 8,000 cases of pertussis in California in 2010, the most in over sixty years - including ten infants who died and hundreds more who were hospitalized.

You can't start school if you don't have proof of immunization. For more information, go to www.shots-forschools.org. For those without health insurance, help may be available via the Vaccines for Children Program, a federally funded and state operated program, information available on the shots for schools website. Children enrolled in California's Healthy Families plan receive free immunizations with no copayment.

Daisies Bloom at Rancho Laguna

(Information submitted by Jennifer Gerst)



Moraga's Cadette Girl Scout Troop 30734 recently hosted a Daisy Play Day at Rancho Laguna Park. Over 80 Daisies, from eight troops in Orinda and Moraga, attended the event. The Cadettes chose the theme of "Friendship" and led the younger girls through a series of fun activities and songs, and presented short skits related to their theme. The Daisies were given special patches by the Cadettes, and the activity helped the Cadette troop complete its Amaze Journey, a prerequisite for starting work on the Silver Award.

Lamorinda Weekly

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- *too perfect* Premiere at The Orinda
- Letters to the Editor
- Fullbright Scholars Come to Lamorinda
- Deep Water Aerobics Class Forms Friendship Pool
- SMC Moves Fields to Make Room for New Rec Center
- Highland Reservoir Construction Moving Forward
- Significant Development Proposed for Christmas Tree Lot
- It Takes an Army (of Volunteers!)
- Downtown Building Height Requirements Tightened
- Campolindo's Production of The Laramie Project Encourages Dialogue

If you wish to view any of the stories above go to www.lamorindaweekly.com and click the link below the story.

AAUW Celebrates Young Women's Achievements

Submitted by Mary Helene Tietz (written by Sandra Fox-Sohner, Gail Burnett, Margaret Padarathsingh, and Mary-Ellen Judson)



Jessica Coleman, Breanne Benedict, Dr. Kris Kulp, Mehrnaz Ahrar, and Courtney Whyte Photo provided

It is the vision of American Association of University Women (AAUW) to make a positive impact on local and global communities by promoting education, empowering women and girls, and supporting personal and professional growth. On April 12, Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette (OML) AAUW gathered members, parents, and friends to celebrate and present nine remarkable young women from the Lamorinda area with college scholarships and Tech Trek camp scholarships.

Three high school seniors and one college senior received the 2011 AAUW College Scholarship Awards. At the meeting, these four winners described their accomplishments and career goals.

Mehnaz Ahrar (Acalanes) is a top academic student in her rigorous study program. She has volunteered more than 800 hours at Kaiser Permanente, serves food to the homeless, is a peer tutor, and supervises four Interact Clubs in the Bay Area. She plans to study pre-medicine at the University of California.

Jessica Coleman (Miramonte) is an outstanding student, dancer/instructor with California Academy of Performing arts, a junior swim coach and a three-year high school facilitator for AAUW's Sister-to-Sister program. Coleman plans to pursue a major in psychology.

Courtney Whyte (Campolindo) shows exceptional leadership in sports, community service, and maintains a strong academic record. She is a four-year member and captain of the varsity swim team and works with the Special Olympics Swim team.

Whyte has volunteered at the Sports Medicine Center for Adolescents at Children's Hospital. She will attend Notre Dame University for pediatrics and sports medicine.

St. Mary's College has a mission that teaches the students to "Enter to learn, leave to serve." This lesson is exemplified by scholarship recipient Breanne Benedict (St. Mary's College). As a student in the school of psychology, Benedict has assisted patients with Alzheimer's and people suffering from domestic violence and elder abuse. During a summer work program, she taught in an inner city boys' school where her goal was to show the boys the importance of completing school. Breanne has been accepted into the fall 2011 Ph.D. program at the Pacific Graduate School of Psychology in Palo Alto.

Since 1998, the OML AAUW branch has provided 40 7th grade girls with scholarships to Tech Trek camp. This year, five Lamorinda girls will be attending the Grace Hopper Tech Trek

camp at Stanford University. The winners were asked to read their essay from their scholarship application. These girls are outstanding students with a passion for science and math.

Caiseen Kelley (OIS) said, "My interest in technology is evident in my everyday life. After finishing homework, I normally read my favorite tech websites, including CNET, Engadget, and CNN tech."

Sophia Settle (JM) explained, "I am hoping to go into either marine biology or architecture."

Molly Faller (JM) mentioned her interest in CSI: "I enjoy hands-on science and science reports. I've always been interested in solving crimes, so I have a particular interest in the branch of science known as forensics."

Emma Connolly (Stanley) said: "I want to go to college and study math and science. Then I think I will get a job studying wildcats in their natural environment and help find ways to prevent them from being endangered."

Tess Olsson (Stanley) said, "My hopes and dreams for my future career are for me to go to medical school and become a radiologist. I love the way Tech Trek is trying to show girls that we can do anything we want and become anyone we want to become."

Keynote speaker Dr. Kris Kulp from LLNL explained how scientists and engineers from many fields work together to solve today's complex biological research problems. Melinda Moir, co-director of the Grace Hopper camp, described camp life for us. Both speakers donated their honoraria to the Grace Hopper Tech Trek camp at Stanford University.



Tess Olson, Emma Connolly, Caiseen Kelley, Melinda Moir, Molly Faller, and Sophie Settle. Photo provided

In Other News...



Photo provided

On April 20, Girl Scout Troop 31361 volunteered at the Lafayette Community Center by sweeping sand out of the playground in preparation for the Bunny Brunch and Family Fun. Pictured are Olivia, Kira, Marika and Julianna.

Parks, Recreation and Trails Director Jennifer Russell has other volunteer opportunities available; reach her at (925) 284-2232.



Photo and caption submitted by Ken Ryerson

Moraga's Pack 505 with guest speaker Don Dendinger, a physical therapist in private practice in Walnut Creek. Dendinger visited the pack at the Moraga Commons on April 12th and spoke about the benefits of exercise and taking care of oneself. It was informative and a good time was had by all.

When approached by the news media and asked the question, "What did Waldorf education do for you?", Norwegian Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg replied...

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Youth Ink Winners, 2011

Submitted by Lisa Rodriguez

The Orinda Junior Women's Club (OJWC) is pleased to announce the winners of Youth Ink, an annual creative writing contest open to all sixth-, seventh- and eighth-grade students who live or attend school in Orinda. Each Youth Ink submission was read and critiqued by an esteemed panel of local professional writers comprised of Ann Manheimer, Melissa Manlove and Yvonne Prinz.

"This year's Youth Ink participants approached the *But if you Really Knew Me...* theme with honesty and creativity," said Molly Griffin Wilson, president of the Orinda Junior

Women's Club. "We were particularly impressed with the number of sixth grade writers who participated this year and we hope to see this trend continue in the future."

Generous co-sponsors of Youth Ink include The Orinda Association, Orinda Community Foundation and Orinda Books. The Orinda Junior Women's Club welcomes additional sponsorships to ensure continued success.

Youth Ink winners will be honored at an awards ceremony and reading at the Orinda Library Auditorium on Thursday, April 28, at 6:00 p.m. The public is welcome to attend.

The 2011 Youth Ink winners are:

First Place, Prize of \$250:
Gabriel Moran, OIS, Grade 7, for "The Burdens of Trojuma"

Second Place, Prize of \$125:
Kate Nerone, OIS, Grade 6, for "Swimming Upstream"

Third Place, Prize of \$75:
Riley Hummel, OIS, Grade 7, for "Silver Doors"

Listed in alphabetical order, the following individuals were selected by the judges to receive an honorable mention. Each will be awarded with a \$25 gift certificate from Orinda Books.

- Katherine Cane, OIS, Grade 6, "My Best Friend (If you really knew me, you would know that I love my dog, Maddie)"
- Paul Cane, OIS, Grade 8, "The Alexander Parker Cattle Ranch"
- Hannah Fishlow, OIS, Grade 6, "Athlete"
- Olivia Fishlow, OIS, Grade 6, "Who I Really Am"
- Jessica Guo, OIS, Grade 6, "But If You Really Knew Me..."
- Haley Lewis, OIS, Grade 7, "Super Siblings"
- Anna Saldinger, OIS, Grade 8, "She Isn't Real"
- Clarissa Sandvik, OIS, Grade 7, "Strangers"
- Christian Schillinger, OIS, Grade 6, "The Day I Learned"
- Aoife Tejada, OIS, Grade 7, "If You Really Knew Me"

All other participants will receive a gift certificate for Loard's Ice Cream in Orinda.

Orinda Moraga Girl Scout International Faire 2011

Submitted by Susan Rockwood

(written by Marie-Claire Schillinger and Sarah Rockwood)



Photo provided

Young excited Daisies, cheerful Brownies, mature Juniors, and supportive parents all had a great time at the annual Girl Scout International Faire hosted by Cadette Troop 30446 for the Orinda Moraga Service Unit on March 13. The International Faire is an event where many local Girl Scouts choose countries and, on their own, learn about them

their troop. They gather at the Faire to represent their country by hosting a booth that may feature games, activities, food and more to share with others. This year, Troop 30446 added a fashion show to the agenda. Each member of the troop, and a few volunteers, wore Girl Scout uniforms from many different countries and described them to the audience.



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Life in LAMORINDA

Recycling for the Greater Good

By Cathy Tyson



John, Angie, Ann and Amy at work on the recycle project at Las Trampas. Photo C. Tyson

In a special recycling program generously sponsored by Rudney Associates, Las Trampas clients work on recycling shampoo, conditioner and lotion. "It was his idea," said Development Director Bonnie Peacock of Eric Rudney, "that instead of using them once and throwing it away, why don't we help recycle and have a project for the clients."

After wrestling with how to most efficiently top off the little bottles, one of the clients came up with the

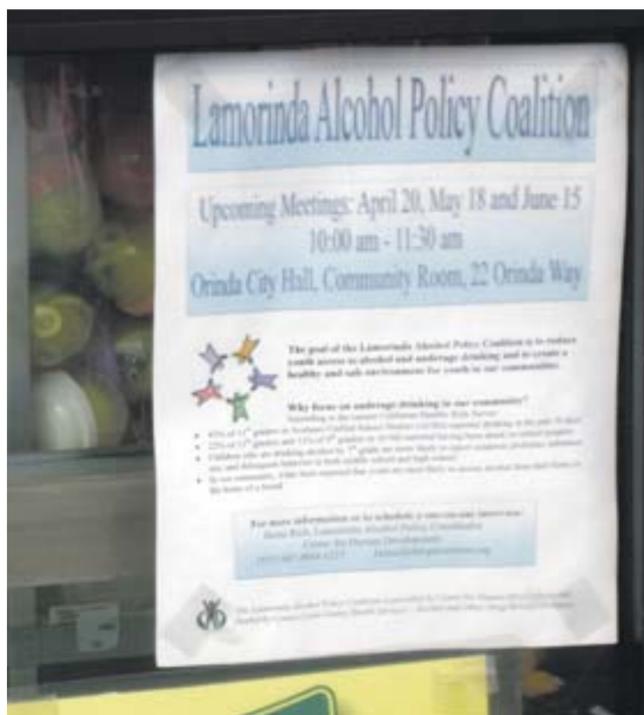
idea of using a ketchup bottle to do the job. Partially used bottles are donated by the Lafayette Park hotel and other local hotels, then filled up by the clients and finally donated to charities like Monument Crisis Center, Shelter Inc., Cassidy Program for Homeless Seniors and Nierika House.

Las Trampas is also hosting a fundraiser event, "What's in our Hat? - The French Connection" on Sunday May 1 at the Lafayette Park

Hotel and Spa. With French food by executive chef Chuck Courtney and live music by Generations in Jazz, along with a silent auction and bidding on a variety of get-aways, restaurants, sports tickets and more, it's sure to be a fun afternoon. Proceeds will benefit Las Trampas in its mission to support adults with developmental disabilities to discover their capabilities and lead fuller lives. For more information, call Las Trampas at (925) 284-1462.

Lamorinda Alcohol Policy Coalition Reaches Out

By Sophie Braccini



Moraga Safeway supports the Coalition and displays upcoming meeting dates. Photo Sophie Braccini

Since last October Jaime Rich has covered a lot of territory. Hired by the Center for Human Development to start the Lamorinda Alcohol Policy Coalition, the Miramonte mom and clinical exercise physiologist has been holding regular meetings with a team of local stakeholders to define the Coalition's first objectives. "We have decided to start with identifying how our teens get access to alcohol and propose actions to limit this access," she said. At an April 20th meeting, actions items were listed and a global policy began to take shape.

Rich said that she contacted the different stores in Lamorinda that sell alcohol; using fake identification (ID) or stealing alcohol from stores is, according to the Coalition's research, the third most common way for teens to acquire it - after their parents' home and through older friends and siblings. According to Rich, the Safeway stores reported a sizeable number of incidents where youth were suspected of stealing alcohol from the premises. "The tactic seems to be to take a bottle to the bathroom and hide it in the backpacks," explained Rich, "but since the stores have a 'no chasing' policy some teens were not stopped." A proposal was made to have surveillance outside of the store. No store reported problems with fake IDs, may be because the bearers were never caught.

Orinda Chief of Police Jeffrey Jennings reported meeting one-on-one with students on this issue. According to his sources, students are getting alcohol with fake IDs, and parties continue to rage, often covered up by parents who either prefer to look the other

way, or decide that they'd rather have their kids drink inside their homes than outside.

In a March 26 address to parents, Miramonte Principal Adam Clark wrote: "The Lamorinda Alcohol Policy Coalition found through their research that the number one place where teenagers obtain alcohol is from the home. Please speak to your students about attending parties where adults are allowing alcohol to be served to young people. These parties are continuing to occur where Miramonte students are present."

In the coming weeks, Rich plans to survey parents in order to better understand the behaviors and to inform parents of the legal implications of providing alcohol to minors. The Coalition participants agreed that the survey should be released to parents whose children attend middle school as well.

The meeting's guest speaker was clinical psychologist Dr. Tim Browne of Lafayette, who stated the average age at which children start drinking in Lamorinda is 13. He added that studies show that 40% of the children who started drinking before age 15 will become alcoholics at some point in their lives. "Things can be done," Browne added, "parents, schools and community can have a buffering influence. Parental involvement in the lives of teens is crucial and needs to be supported by good role modeling."

Coalition meetings are open to the public and are held once a month at Orinda City Hall in the Community Room from 10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m. For more information, contact Jaime Rich at (925) 687-8844 x227 or jaime@chd-prevention.org.

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Moraga Orinda Fire District
Board of Directors Meetings
Meetings of the MOFD Board of Directors are open to the public and take place on the third Wednesday of each month in the Board Room, Administration Building, 1280 Moraga Way, Moraga.

Next meeting(s):

May 18th, 7:00pm
Regular Board of Directors Meeting, Station 41 (1280 Moraga Way, Moraga), (go to www.mofd.org as the meeting date approaches for more information)

MOFD Moves Forward

Begins Station 43 construction project; creates Emergency Preparedness Coordinator position

By Lucy Amaral

The Moraga-Orinda Fire District's (MOFD) Board of Directors moved to begin the interviewing process for securing an architect and project manager for the replacement of MOFD Fire Station 43, located on Via Las Cruces in Orinda. The motion was approved at the meeting held April 20. On the same evening, the Board approved the creation of a new position – Emergency Preparedness Coordinator.

The action on Station 43 comes as a response to research conducted by the Board regarding the District's aging facilities. The Board formed an ad hoc committee, made up of Board members Brook Mancinelli and Richard Olsen, charged with evaluating the condition of MOFD facilities and what, if any, potential changes they might make.

Olsen and Mancinelli presented their findings and recommendations to the Board in March. The Board formally approved the replacement of Station 43 at its April 9 meeting.

According to the report, Station 43 is over 60 years old. Facility issues include: housing three to four firefighters of both genders when it was designed to house two male firefighters; not being up to earthquake code; the garage that houses the engine was originally designed for smaller apparatus; and, the structure does not meet current building standards. The report cited the estimated cost would be \$2.9 million. Financing of the structure would come from MOFD's current and future Fire Flow tax, which is separate from its general fund.

MOFD Fire Chief Randy Bradley was charged to review information from interested project managers and architects who are experienced in fire station construction and bring a final list back to the Board for approval. Bradley said that the time frame for construction would not begin until after June 30, and will not affect this year's budget.

Additional renovation/relocation projects include upgrading Station 41 in Moraga to national standards for firefighter health, safety and gender issues, as well as centralizing or relocating administrative offices. Bradley said MOFD is in negotiations to purchase a building located next to Station 41.

The Board also approved the creation of an Emergency Preparedness Coordinator position. The candidate hired for this position would be responsible for developing relationships with local agencies, business and associations as well as assist in coordinating emergency plans and exercises. He added that this will be a part time position and will report to MOFD's Fire Marshal.

"The creation of this position will allow the Fire District to provide leadership and emergency preparedness management resources to the City of Orinda, Town of Moraga, Canyon and the other unincorporated areas of the District. This is a great opportunity for the District, City and Town to form a partnership that will ultimately serve to improve the overall safety of the citizens of our jurisdictions," said Bradley.

Bradley added that he would like to form a similar partnership with the City of Lafayette. "I believe we could realize some efficiencies by developing standardized programs in each community. I also believe that the person in this position will be able to identify grant opportunities that could help fund plan-development, training, drills and exercises."

Bradley said that Lafayette has expressed interest in the Lamorinda emergency-planning concept, however a formal agreement will have to be negotiated to bring it into the program. And, he added that because Lafayette is served by the Contra Costa Consolidated Fire District it would also have to be involved in program management if Lafayette were to join.

During the meeting, the Board and Chief Bradley also agreed to meet with executive management consultant Larry Bienati to review the Board Governance Model. Bienati, a principal in the firm Consultants To Management, worked with the Board last year in the development of its Strategic Plan. According to Board President John Wyro, there is a range of perception of what the roles of the Board and Chief are in the administration of the District.

"Our Chief has a set of experiences that inform him as to what his role should be. Each board member brings a different perspective and approach to their perception of what their role should be," said Wyro. "We see a need to better clarify and agree on our respective roles to most effectively carry out the mission of the District. Having a document that better defines those roles will not only help this Board and Chief but those who follow."

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Final Meeting of Ad Hoc Tri-Agency Committee

The Tri-Agency Ad Hoc Committee for Fire and Emergency Medical Services, composed of representatives from the Orinda City Council, Moraga Town Council and Moraga Orinda Fire District Board, convened on April 11 and heard presentations from two citizens' groups with opposing points of view, FAIR (Fire and Infrastructure Renewal) and OrindaCARES (Orinda Citizens Against Reducing Emergency Services). Though the Committee acknowledged the necessity of improvements to area roads and water infrastructure, further meetings will not be held, and Committee members will report back to their respective jurisdictions with recommendations. Orinda City Council member Amy Worth asked MOFD representatives to prepare further recommendations on water delivery infrastructure needs. *A. Auwers*

Lynn's Top Five - Income Tax: Get a Refund or Plan to Owe? The Great Debate!

By Lynn Ballou, Certified Financial Planner™

When it comes to income tax refunds, most pundits say that getting a refund is similar to getting a bad sunburn – to be avoided! But clients often feel otherwise finding that receiving a meaningful refund is a great cash flow tool for them and an integral part of their cash management techniques.

I thought it would be fun to share some of the things I've heard from clients over the years

about this topic and offer some other options.

1) I LIKE GETTING REFUNDS, BIG ONES, BECAUSE I'LL DO SOMETHING SIGNIFICANT THAT I WOULDN'T OTHERWISE BE ABLE TO AFFORD! For many this big check --- often times many thousands of dollars --- is the money they might use for something such as a family vacation. Their thinking: if they don't see that extra cash in their paychecks every month, and get a big check annually from the government instead, it's like a Christmas Club account. Better idea: move money automatically each paycheck to a savings account. That way you have access if needed and you don't need to wait for tax season to get your own money back! You can still let it accumulate for that Disney Cruise and take it whenever YOU want!

2) I LIKE GETTING A REFUND THAT'S THE SAME AMOUNT AS WHAT I OWE FOR MY SPRING PROPERTY TAX BILL! Property taxes, that unfortunately timed spring bill, seem to loom large for many. If you depend on your refund consistently every year to pay your income taxes, you might want to call your mortgage lender and set up a monthly impound account instead. Again, you are in control, not the government.

3) I USE MY TAX REFUND TO PAY OFF MY CREDIT CARD BILL EACH YEAR. Ouch. So, if the amount of the refund is the same as the credit card bill, then wouldn't it make more sense to adjust your withholding each month so as NOT to incur any credit card debt? Rates on credit cards are awful! Don't incur them if you can avoid it! Adjusting your withholding is a simple step toward getting that accomplished and use your debit card to buy only what you can afford that month.

4) I WANT TO OWE!!! WHY GIVE THE GOVERNMENT AN INTEREST FREE LOAN? These folks tend to WANT and LIKE to owe the government as much tax as they can get away with. And, okay, this had way more teeth as an argument when we actually earned a decent interest rate on our money, right? But point well taken: your hard earned money is just that---hard earned. And who does a better job of managing it, you or the government? Cautionary tale: The government has cash flow problems and is on to you! Pay systematically what you owe during the year or face BIG penalties come April.

5) I OWED SO MUCH INCOME TAX THIS YEAR --- I REALLY GOT CAUGHT OFF GUARD AND THIS IS A REAL MESS FOR ME AND

MY FAMILY. I find these statements come mostly from those who are paid irregularly throughout the months, are self-employed with erratic income, or had an unusual transaction during the year such as a profitable investment sale AND they didn't make time to pay up and get caught up with taxes due during the year in real time. What's the lesson: If any of these situations resemble your life, you should schedule a mid-year tax tune-up and get on top of things! April comes around again faster than we'd like to think!

The power of great financial planning is not just math based solutions, but solutions that inspire us, match our psychological profiles, and give us positive results. And as in most things in life, one size does NOT fit all! So, go ahead --- color outside the lines --- if it works for you! The real lesson is to be in control, look at the real numbers, and PLAN AHEAD!

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- 11:00am–Campo Chorus
- 11:45am–JM Ensemble
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- 1:45pm–Oak Grove Bluegrass Family
- 3:00pm–Peter Pan Foundations Kids
- 3:30pm–Car Show Trophies (Awarded)
- 4:00 - 5pm–Happy Hour with East Bay Banjo Club (Raffle prizes given)

www.moragachamber.org/faire

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LOSE INCHES? STAR PILATES.

Acalanes Don Recalls the Early Days

By Cathy Dausman



Bud Moulthrop

Photo Cathy Dausman

Bud Moulthrop is an original, at least where Acalanes High School is concerned. A member of the class of 1944, he was in the first graduating class to complete all four years on campus. Moulthrop's family lived in Orinda on acreage at the end of Dias Dorados overlooking Miner Road.

Franklin Roosevelt declared war on Japan when Moulthrop was a freshman. His school bus route ran by Orinda Country Club. He says locals nicknamed the school "The Watch Factory" because of its flat building profile. Its parking lot was unpaved.

Lamorinda was "big time horse country," says Moulthrop. "Half the roads in Lafayette were paved; the other half were sand." The boys wore Levis or khaki slacks, collared shirts and tennis shoes or cowboy boots to school. The girls wore skirts and sweaters. Student population was a modest 300; "we just about knew everybody," Moulthrop says, and "everybody got along really well." Students danced to Glen Miller music before class.

During the 1940's in Lamorinda "nobody thought about money," Moulthrop recalls. Gas was plentiful, even during ra-

tioning, because the area was agriculturally based and eligible for generous "C" ration stickers. Teens earned their drivers license at age 14 or 15. Moulthrop got a car at 16 when he paid a friend \$50 for half-ownership in a 1929 Model A. He'd get picked up at home, and the two would swap driving chores halfway to school. During lunch or breaks, those that dared would quietly push their cars off the school's gravel lot so the noise of the oversized engines starting up wouldn't give them away.

In sports, Moulthrop recalls the Acalanes High School (AHS) swimming pool was built without copper or brass because those metals went to the war effort. The St. Mary's College men's basketball team played at the AHS' then-new gym, and the football field had lights. Moulthrop lettered in sports. He ran cross country, jumped hurdles and boxed. He had very little free time after school: "We tended Victory Gardens, kept bees and sold the combs," he says.

Pinning down Moulthrop about class work proves difficult. He remembers taking penmanship ("we had no computers"), and recalls a teacher named Joan

Orr. "I don't know what she taught," he says "but she was good looking!"

Thoughts of impending high school graduation brought a dose of reality. Moulthrop remembers thinking "I gotta go to work?" And work he did - as a Navy Petty Officer late in WW II and an Army Supply Officer during the Korean conflict. He graduated from U.C. Berkeley in 1950 and married in 1951. He'll celebrate his 60th wedding anniversary this year. After a work stint in Southern California in the early 1950's, Moulthrop returned to the East Bay, and has settled less than

two miles from his alma mater.

Moulthrop hasn't attended a class reunion since 1984 but says

his classmates had "lots of pride" in Acalanes High School. It's apparent that he still does.

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“The Way of the White Tiger” – East West Kung Fu of Lafayette

By Sophie Braccini

Richard Lee’s East West Kung Fu, which opened its doors in Lamorinda last February, is a haven for champions. The nine world champions and 20 national champions who work there practice six hours every week with Grandmaster Lee himself, in the system he invented – Bok Fu Do, ‘the way of the white tiger.’ Bok Fu Do is a synthesis of the four major schools of martial arts, Chinese, Japanese, Okinawan and Korean, that Lee studied all over the world. A trainer and teacher for 50 years, Lee’s had schools in several locations, and opened the Lafayette school to accommodate a growing number of Lafayette students. Grandmaster Lee is world renown figure in his field, yet he is very approachable, calm and warm; a perfect embodiment of his 3000-year-old art.

Grandmaster Lee’s story is a tale



Grandmaster Lee with Meghan Mannion-Gray, a first degree black belt (right), and Anna Winder, a second degree brown belt.
Photo Sophie Braccini

of epic proportions, impossible to summarize in a few words. It starts with an impoverished family and an abusive father who was a semi-professional boxer in Connecticut, then moves to California where a teenage Lee trained as swimmer while dreaming about the martial arts he had discovered by accident in the 1950s. It continues with his pursuit of martial arts, first with Al Tracy in the early 1960s in San Jose and with Kenpo legend Ed Parker, then to the growing success of his own school that he opened in Castro Valley upon becoming a Kenpo master himself in 1967. But Lee was not satisfied with the commercial success that his school immediately found and he continued his search for perfection, embarking on a quest for knowledge that took him all over the world (visit his website, www.bokfudo.com, to read about his journeys.)

It is hard to pinpoint the root of Lee’s motivation and determination. “My motivation is to become the best martial arts teacher in the

world,” says Lee, “when my students participate in a World Tournament they know that they deserve to win, because they have been through such an incredible training program.” His staff and students boast impressive records, including his general manager, Morgan Newman. “I have been World Champion three times in a row,” says Newman, “These championships happen every three years in a different country. Each country sends its 17 best martial artists, who are selected during national championships.”

The school is welcoming to people of all ages and aspirations. “Our students are adults and children alike,” says John Buckley, a student of Lee for 25 years, now a Master himself and the trainer of the U.S. team, “It has something to offer to everybody in a friendly and congenial atmosphere. The vast majority of our adult students have families and careers, they look for a positive outlet and can come for as little as once a week to once every day; they study

at their own pace and the teachers respect that.” Buckley explains that the technique is not abrasive to the body, it promotes flexibility, strengthens muscles, takes the student on an incredible emotional journey and stimulates the brain. “You feel cleansed,” says Buckley, “you are mentally and emotionally rewarded.”

East West Kung Fu offers classes six days a week to children, adults and families. The first trial class is one on one and free, from there potential students decide what they want to pursue.

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business briefs

Grand Re-Opening of Orinda Theater on May 14th

Beau Behan, the General Manager of both the Orinda Theatre and the New Rheem Theatre, is working hard on a grand re-opening event at the Orinda Theater that will involve the whole community – Behan hopes to demonstrate that the California Independent Film Festival Association (which operates the New Rheem and recently assumed operation of the Orinda), is there to become an active part of the Orinda scene, contributing to its creativity and vitality. “Rich Little, ‘The Man of a Thousand Voices,’ is our special guest for the evening,” says Behan, “We are now planning with the City of Orinda, the Chamber of Commerce and the Orinda Arts Council to include local artists in the celebration.” For event details go to www.theorindatheatre.com.

ECOLunchboxes Goes Even Greener



Sandra Ann Harris with some of her EcoLunchboxes Photo provided

Sandra Ann Harris, Lafayette mom and founder of the Lafayette-based sustainable lunchware company ECOLunchboxes, announced that the business she started three years ago is now a Certified Green Business with the Contra Costa County Green Business Program and has been accepted into Venture Greenhouse’s accelerator program for sustainable businesses. “The Contra Costa County Green Business Program sets standards for sustainable business practices and ECOLunchboxes successfully demonstrated good environmental practices to win the certification,” says Harris. The local business owner was also very excited to have been accepted into the Venture Greenhouse accelerator program. “Venture Greenhouse is run by the Green MBA Program at the Dominican University in San Rafael,” she explained, “it seeks to leverage the success of small, sustainable businesses in the San Francisco Bay Area and support the growth and jobs-generation of these businesses.” For more information, go to www.ecolunchboxes.com.

‘Market Moraga’ Becomes ‘Student Deals’

Two months ago, Saint Mary’s student Matt Lebel launched Market Moraga, with the support of the Moraga Chamber of Commerce, a website and Facebook page dedicated to students wanting to get good deals in town. “We analyzed the performance of our

‘Market Moraga’ two-month pilot and rolled our conclusions into a new program that we feel will better connect St. Mary’s students/faculty/staff with Moraga businesses,” says Lebel, who is renaming the program ‘Student Deals.’

Dana Green Team Announces Affiliation with Pacific Union International (925) 339-1918, www.danagreenteam.com

“It always amazes me how life comes full circle,” says Dana Green, “I started my real estate career with Pacific Union when they were independently owned. In 2009, Pacific Union was purchased by a local real estate entrepreneur, Mark McLaughlin, and again all 18 Greater Bay Area offices are privately held.” The company has committed to opening a new Lafayette branch so Green will continue to work and live in her community. “I look forward to helping launch this office; along with my long-time manager, Ellen Anderson,” she added.

News from the three Chambers of Commerce

Lafayette

- Big Band Ballroom Dance on May 6 at the Veteran’s Memorial Building in Lafayette, 3780 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Dance Lessons from 7-8pm are provided by Gail Enright. Live music by The Big Band of Rossmoor from 8-10pm. Tickets are \$10.00 and can be purchased at the Chamber office or by calling 284-7404.
- Monthly Mixer On May 11, 5:30-7pm at Clocks, Etc., 971 Moraga Road, celebrating Clocks Etc.’s 35th anniversary.
- 9th Annual “Taste of Lafayette,” Tuesday, May 17, sponsored by the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce and the Lafayette Community Foundation. Taste of Lafayette is a tour of Lafayette’s finest eateries that lets you sample the signature cuisine of each restaurant. Tickets will be available online on the Chamber web site at www.lafayettechamber.org

Moraga

5th Moraga Community Faire on Saturday, May 14th from 11am-5pm at the Rheem Shopping Center, sponsored by the Moraga Chamber of Commerce. There will be great bands (noise level lower than last year), food, wine, climbing wall, jumpies for the kids, and a classic car show. A total of 80 booths are scheduled to feature many of the Moraga retailers, organizations, sports groups, and artists. An added bonus: Saint Mary’s basketball players will sign autographs for the young and old alike!

Orinda

After-hours mixer on Thursday, May 19, 2011, 5:30-7:30pm at Union Bank of California, 140 Brookwood, #101, Orinda.

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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Leaning Toward St. Mary's College

Commencement is May 21st



It's not exactly an ivory tower, but Jacqueline Barnes of Pleasanton (on sign) and her mother Caroline Barnes (foreground) found the brick St. Mary's College entry sign a suitable location for pre-graduation photographs. The younger Barnes is a senior business major who transferred from San Diego State University and says "things are awesome with this school." She plans a five week trip to Europe after graduation before starting a job search. St. Mary's 148th undergraduate commencement will begin at 9:30 a.m. on May 21 at the stadium. *C. Dausman*

THE APP RAP

By Eric Pawlakos

BART Rider

Price: Free
Developer: Sinan Akay
For: Android

For anyone that has ever ridden BART, one of the most frustrating experiences is missing your train by just a few seconds. After running through the station as fast as you can, you stand helplessly by as the train doors close and you're forced to wait for the next train. However, with BART Rider, you will now be able to make that train on time. BART Rider is a very useful app that makes riding BART a more relaxing experience. The first thing it does is locate the station closest to you. Then, using real-time data, it displays a list of trains that will arrive at that station, with very accurate time-of-arrival. Gavin Shag, an Acalanes High School student says, "BART Rider is so much better than a schedule because you are getting real-time information right off of the BART system."

For Lamorinda parents who commute on BART, this app would appear to be a necessity. For example, rather than just hop-

ping to catch a train, the commuter now has the ability to time their departure from the office at the end of the day. BART Rider also lets you read any BART Service Advisories that alert you to any disruptions in service that could have you waiting for a long time in a BART station.

BART Rider also gives you a handheld 'BART system map' which lets you choose the most convenient station for your destination. In addition, it displays a good street map of the area where each BART station is located. You can use this street map as you navigate around unfamiliar areas as well as to find your way to the closest BART station. "This is an absolutely great app for when I am spending a day in San Francisco," said Miramonte student Carolyn Murphy.

For anyone who takes BART, this free app could save a lot of aggravation.

Eric Pawlakos is a junior at Miramonte High School.

Top Talent Tackles Triathlon

... continued from page A1

And the breakfast of champions? Keeter, who has completed the triathlon solo in the past, plans on downing some yummy GU - sports energy gel; Falk favors "Man candy - Advil, possibly before and after," and Ursu wants pasta the night before and beer afterward. Keimach will be helping to set up the race in the morning, so breakfast will be "Whatever I can grab plus coffee."

The City Council team includes Moraga's Ken Chew, and Brandt Andersson and master swimmer extraordinaire Don Tatzin of Lafayette. Tatzin was the 2009 United States Master Swimmer "Go the Distance" Champion, swimming over 1,543 miles in a year. Surprising no one, he'll be doing the swimming leg of the race; avid cyclist Brandt Andersson will take to the bike and Ken Chew will run, again, having recently won reelection.

Cleverly named Team M.O.D.D.-D.D.O., based on their collective initials, all hail from Orinda. Comprised of City Clerk Michele Olsen, the current office egg toss co-champion (with Ursu), Senior Administrative Assistant in the Planning Department Dorothy Dickson-Dodds, and new

City Council member Dean Orr - their game plan is to finish before the other Lamorinda teams.

Who knows which team will win? See for yourself - the first stage, swimming, starts at the Soda Aquatic Center pool at 7:30 a.m., meandering bike ride to follow; the final leg is a run through the Campolindo neighborhood culminating in a victory lap around the Campo track.

Participants may register online at www.moragatri.com; space is limited and is expected to sell out.

Front page photo: From left, back row: Moraga Town Council Member Ken Chew, Lafayette City Council Member Brandt Andersson, Orinda Planning Director Emmanuel Ursu, Lafayette City Manager Steven Falk; front row: Orinda City Manager Janet Keeter, Orinda Planning Senior Administrative Assistant Dorothy Dickson-Dodds, Orinda City Clerk Michele Olsen (with coach Ava Olsen), Moraga Town Manager Jill Keimach. Not pictured: Don Tatzin and Dean Orr.

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| Envelopes with metal clasps | Household cleaning containers (empty) | Food cans (clean) | |
| Envelopes (plastic windows OK) | Lids and caps | Pet food, Steel, Tin cans | |
| Gift wrap (non-metallic) | Milk jugs | Glass (Rinsed; all colors; lids, caps OK) | |
| Junk mail | Prescription bottles (empty) | Bottles | |
| Magazines | Salad dressing bottles (rinsed) | CRV beverage containers | |
| 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 #5-1 & 7; lids, caps OK) | |
| Office paper | Water jugs | Baby wipe containers | |
| Paper bags | | Bleach bottles | |
| Paper towel & toilet paper tubes | | | |

DON'T PLACE IN BURGUNDY/BROWN CART:

- Plastic bags, plastic film wrap, Styrofoam, paper or plastic cups, paper towels, Kleenex or other facial tissues, plastic utensils, sharps, metal or plastic hangers, mirror glass and disposable diapers.
- Garbage, organic or green waste materials.

Place all recyclables in the burgundy/brown recycling cart, and be sure all materials fit in the cart with lid closed.

Central Contra Costa Solid Waste Authority

Call VWM at 925-935-8900 for more information or check out the **CCCSWA website at www.wastediversion.org.**

Please submit:

Events:

calendar@lamorindaweekly.com

Stories:

storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com

Lamorinda's Religious Services



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

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

Worship the Lord With Us



Sundays
at 9:00am & 10:30am
Moraga Valley
Presbyterian Church

10 Moraga Valley Lane, Moraga • mvpcctoday.org • 925.376.4800

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

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

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.



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.



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

St Stephen's Episcopal Church



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

Sunday 8am & 10am.
Music at both services. Choir at 10am.
Sunday School & childcare at 10am.

St. Stephen's Preschool
254-3770 x19

◆ Not to be missed ◆ Not to be missed ◆

ALAMO 3rd ANNUAL NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN ART SHOW AND SALE

Friday May 13 (Preview) 3-7pm
Saturday May 14, 10-6pm
Sunday May 15, 10-4pm

Alamo Womens Club
1401 danville Blvd.

(680 to Stone Valley Rd. West, left Danville Blvd. Alamo CA)



Baskets, Pottery,
Jewelry, Kackins,
Totem Poles, Native
American Food and
much more!

Adults \$5.00
Seniors \$4.00
Children FREE
FREE parking

ART

Gift of the Gods: Exploring Maize, Culture and Indigenous Art in the Americas, is on view through June 19 at the Hearst Art Gallery, the museum of Saint Mary's College. The exhibition has been organized by Anthropology professor Lynn Meisch, Ph.D., and students from her Museum Studies course. The Gallery is open to the public Wednesdays through Sundays, 11am-4:30pm. Adult admission is \$4, students and Gallery members are free. For more information, call (925) 631-4379. Website: www.hearstartgallery.org.

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.

Smyers Glass Open Studio with Glassblowing Demonstrations on April 28, 29, 30, May 1, 10am-5pm, 675 East H Street, Benicia. Visitors to the Smyers Glass studio can view hot glass artists at work creating vases, bowls, goblets and more using the same glassmaking techniques that date back to ancient times. Plenty of free parking available. This is a free event that is open to the public.

MUSIC

On Saturday, April 30 at 7pm the Our Savior's Lutheran Church Concert Series, 1035 Carol Lane in Lafayette, features the 45-member Oakland-East Bay Gay Men's Chorus, under the direction of Michael Robert Patch. In addition to classics by composers including Schubert and Vaughan Williams, they will present glorious arrangements of familiar favorites such as Scarborough Faire, Shenandoah, and O Danny Boy. Free admission; a voluntary offering will be collected. More information at www.oslc.net.

Acalanes Ridge Music Celebration with Musicians of the San Francisco Opera—concert to benefit the Muir Heritage Land Trust Acalanes Ridge Acquisition, Sunday, May 1, 3-4:30pm, Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Drive, Lafayette. Visit www.muirheritagelandtrust.org or call (925) 228-5460 for more information. Suggested contribution of \$25 at the door.

The Cantare Con Vivo Chamber Ensemble and Maestro David Morales present a concert of 21st century choral works, featuring a rich mixture of international composers expressing their fresh and diverse perceptions of life on Sunday, May 1, 4pm, Lafayette Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Drive, Lafayette. The music is expressive, passion-filled and entertaining. Ticket prices are \$25 General, \$20 Senior, \$10 Youth. Advanced purchase of tickets by going on-line to www.cantareconvivo.org or by calling the CCV Office at (510) 836-0789.

Hear up-tempo numbers and ballads, swing and salsa, instrumental and vocal soloists at the SMC Jazz Band's free spring concert, Wednesday, May 4th at 1pm in Ferraggiaro Quad. Cost: Free.

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. 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

Acalanes DramaDons present "A Company of Wayward Saints" by George Herman on April 27, 28, 29, and 30 at the Acalanes Performing Arts Center Little Theatre, 1200 Pleasant Hill Rd. Lafayette. Show time 7:30pm. Doors open at 7pm. General Admission \$10.00, Students \$7.00. For more information: http://dramadons.org. Tickets may be purchased online at http://acalaneshs.revtrak.net/.

V-Day Lafayette will present a benefit production of The Vagina Monologues at the Town Hall Theatre Company of Lafayette, located at 3535 School Street, Lafayette, on Friday April 29th and Saturday April 30th with both performances starting at 8:00 pm. Proceeds will benefit The Gretta Foundation. 100% tax-deductible tickets can be purchased online for \$35. A cocktail reception will begin at 6:30 pm and all seating is general admission, so early arrival is recommended. Please see www.grettafoundation.org for details.

Join Jan Wahl, movie reviewer and film historian, at the New Rheem Theatre, for her 4-part Reel lecture series, beginning on May 1st at 1:30 p.m. Proceeds will benefit the upgrading of the Theatre's sound systems. The first part of the series will be held on May 1st, 2011 at 1:30pm and is titled, "Reel Delicious: Food and Wine in Film." Tickets: \$25 each. For more information, visit www.thenewrheemtheatre.com or call (925) 388-0752.

Annual spring Saint Mary's College Dance Company concert, "A Random Plate of Deliciousness," celebrates our rich diversity of dance styles with works in the modern dance genre, contemporary ballet, tap, and world dance traditions of Ghana. May 5, 6, 7, @ 8pm Saint Mary's College, LeFevre Theatre. Ticket Prices: \$10 general admission, \$8 Seniors (65+) and non-SMC students, \$5 SMC faculty, staff and students. For tickets and information call (925) 631-4670.

Come and enjoy the grand re-opening of Orinda Theatre. Special Guest Star is the legendary comedian and impressionist, Rich Little. It will be held on Friday, May 14th, at 7pm For more information, visit www.theorindatheatre.com or call (925) 254-9065.

Green Rheem Movie Night will view "Tapped," an unflinching examination of the big business of bottled water, May 17, 6pm, The New Rheem Theatre, Moraga. For more information and to purchase discounted tickets in advance of the show please visit www.generationgreen.com.

The Last Days of Judas Iscariot by Stephen Adly Guirgis. Drama/Dark Comedy directed by Nicole Hess Diestler, Apr 29 through May 22. Curtain time(s): Fri-Sat 8pm; Sun 2:30pm Ticket Price: \$10.00-\$20.00. Diablo Valley College Department of Drama, www.dvcdrama.net, box office: (925) 687-4445. Adult Language and content, no one under 16 will be admitted without an adult consent.

LECTURE & LITERATURE

P.O.I.S.E. May 4th Meeting will feature Dr. Ricki Robinson, M.D., M.P.H., and author of "Autism Solutions - How to Create a Healthy & Meaningful Life for Your Child" on Wednesday May 4th, at Orinda Books, 7-9pm.

Justin Fox, nationally acclaimed business writer, will speak at First Friday Forum, May 6, 1:30pm at the Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Drive, Lafayette. "Bad Predictions: Why We Keep Getting The Economy Wrong" is his topic. Refreshments will be served in Fellowship Hall at 1pm with the lecture in the Sanctuary at 1:30pm. For further information call (925) 283-8722 or click on lopc.org.

BOOK SALE - Friends of the Orinda Library monthly book sale is Sat. May 7, 10am-1pm in the Book Shop and Sorting Room. Monthly sales include quality books for all ages and interests. Orinda Library, 26 Orinda Way, (925)254-1358.

Join acclaimed area photographer Stephen Joseph and local author Linda Rimac Colberg for a free digital presentation of the recently published book, Mount Diablo: The Extraordinary Life and Landscapes of a California Treasure at the Moraga Library, Tuesday, May 17, at 7pm. Stephen's presentation takes the audience on an up close and personal journey around Mount Diablo, with a surprise at every turn, as he shares exquisite photographs and personal tales of the popular places and hidden faces of this natural wonder. The free presentation includes Q&A, and finishes up with book sales and signing.

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-7 pm.

Del Rey Elementary School cordially invites you to attend their 2011 Musical, Dear Edwina Jr, which will be performed by the 4th and 5th grade students on April 27th and 28th at 7pm in Del Rey Multipurpose Room. Tickets cost \$10 for general seating and \$5 for child seating (under 18). For tickets please contact Kate Riley @ (925) 246-0445.

Science Discovery Day, Saturday May 14th, from 10am to 1pm at Lafayette Nursery School; come play with huge bubbles, visit with animals, and dig for dinosaur bones. Make a volcano explode, blast a rocket into space, or explore the gooey texture of slime. This science fair is designed for children preschool age through third grade and features over 20 exciting hands-on experiments. Lafayette Nursery School, 979 First Street, Lafayette. \$4.00 per child preschool age through 3rd grade (parents and infants are free). For more information contact Nancy Turtle at (925) 253-7985 or visit www.lafayettenurseryschool.com.

OTHER

City of Lafayette Emergency Preparedness Commission Emergency Preparedness Class, Thursday, April 28, 7-9pm, Lafayette Community Center, 500 St. Mary's Rd. in the Elderberry Room (back parking lot). This quick and easy session will help you prepare yourself and your family for the next earthquake whether you are at home, work, or out and about. Bring pencil and paper. Materials will be provided. Class is taught by the Emergency Preparedness Commission and is free. Register at 284-2232.

Not to be missed

Orinda Workshop to Prepare for Disasters. On Saturday, April 30 the Orinda Citizen Corps Council will sponsor a workshop for Orinda CERTs and Neighborhood Leaders from 12:30-4:00pm in the Equipment Bay of MOFD station 41. These volunteers will continue to train to make their homes and neighborhoods safe before, during and after a local disaster. Register at rkunzman@comcast.net.

The Padua Family of Lafayette will be holding a fundraiser event at The Bridges Golf Club to benefit the Bobby Padua Family Fund April 29th. For more info. visit www.bobbypadua.webs.com or call Megan Padua, (925) 899-4967.

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. Training: Saturday, April 30, 10am-noon, in the Garden Room of the Orinda Community Center. For training space and material planning, please contact William Hudson willhh@gmail.com (Orinda) if you will be participating.

Electronic E-waste Collection/Fundraiser for Feed The Children Disaster Relief Fund on Saturday April 30th from 9am- 4pm at the Orinda Lafayette Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Dive, Lafayette. 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.

On Monday, May 2, Children's Home Society, a nonprofit 501 (c) (3), will hold its "Eggstraganza" with salad buffet lunch at Our Savior's Lutheran Church at 1035 Carol Lane. The time is 11:30am-1:30pm. Tickets: Lola at (510) 267-1860.

On Thursday, May 5 at 4pm the Moraga Library presents a free beading workshop. Beading pro Yolanda teaches participants to make a colorful bracelet of your own. Limited to 15 participants, ages 12 and up. Please call the library at (925) 376-6852 or stop by the information desk to register.

Cinco de Mayo celebration on Thursday, May 5, 4-7pm 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. For more information, please visit www.CincoMoraga.com.

Moraga Bright Beginnings will be having their last Yard Sale on May 7, 9am-2pm. This is a 50+ family event, everything from furniture to hockey sticks. 1689 School Street, Moraga. We are closing in June. We are hosting a reunion party for our past 15 years of students from 2pm-6pm. Call (925) 376-2600 for more information.

The Stroke Support Group of Contra Costa County will hold its monthly meeting in the Concord Room at John Muir Medical Center-Concord Campus, 2540 East Avenue, Concord on Monday May 9 from 7-9 pm. The speaker will be Gerald Starr, a stroke survivor who recently completed a 5K walk with his cane. His topic will be "Setting and Achieving Your Rehabilitation Goals."

Moraga Movers next monthly meeting is May 9 at St. Mary's College Soda Center. Social hour is at 5pm followed by dinner and a speaker- Dr. Steve Woolpert of St.Mary's. For reservations call (925) 376-6622 or going online to www.moragamovers.org.

Lafayette Historical Society's Annual Potluck Dinner, Tuesday, May 10, Lafayette Library – Community Hall, Mt. Diablo Blvd. and First Street, 6:00 pm. Topic: Treasure Island's 1939 Golden Gate Exposition. \$10.00 per member; \$15. Non-member donation requested to help defray LHS costs, PLUS: Your favorite hearty salad or casserole (please bring serving utensils) Reservations requested: Please call - 283-1848 or email – Lafayette.his-

tory@comcast.net. Questions : Call Mary McCosker, 284-5376.

Electronic E-waste Collection/Fundraiser for Citizens For The Lost on Saturday May 14th, from 9am to 4pm at Lafayette Christian Church, Glenside Drive, Lafayette Contact: (925)-890-1324.

Moraga Community Faire will take place on May 14, 11am-5pm at the Rheem Center and will feature a car show, wine tasting, music, art, food and fun. There will be a free climbing wall, two bounce houses and plenty of other activities for children. The Moraga Community Faire is organized and sponsored by the Moraga Chamber of Commerce and supported by the Town of Moraga. For more information, visit www.moragachamber.org/faire.

Join Tony La Russa's Animal Rescue Foundation (ARF) as we celebrate 11 years of Animals on Broadway, a free community event at Broadway Plaza in Walnut Creek on Sunday, May 15 from 10:30am to 4pm. Visit www.arf.net for more information.

The Moraga Women's Society will host a fashion show on Monday, May 16; start with mimosas at 10am with the Fashion Show about 10:30. A salad lunch and special dessert will be served following the Fashion Show. Location is the Holy Trinity Cultural Center, 1700 School Street in Moraga. Tickets are \$25.00. All proceeds from this fund raiser go to Moraga Schools, the Library, and Park and Recreation Department. For ticket information, please call Jean Glaser, 376-7961.

9th Annual "Taste of Lafayette," 5:30-8:30pm, Tuesday, May 17. Enjoy "tastes" at close to 20 participating restaurants along "Restaurant Row." Tickets for the event will be available through the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce, located at 100 Lafayette Circle, Suite 103. Visit www.lafayettechamber.org or call (925) 284-7404.

SENIORS

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 8:30 am to 12:30 pm. The symposium will address the Secrets of Dynamic 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 care-givers are invited to attend.

Senior Helpers of Contra Costa presents a Senior Health Faire, to be held at the Hacienda de las Flores at 2100 Donald Drive, Moraga on May 17th from 2-4:30pm. Judge Joyce Cram, a leading authority on legal issues concerning local seniors will headline a group of presenters. Volunteers will be conducting free and confidential Community Memory Screenings, an initiative of the Alzheimer's Foundation of America. Admission is free and refreshments will be provided. Space is limited so please call (925) 376-9900 to reserve your spot.

GARDEN

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.bringing-backthenatives.net.

Lafayette Garden Club meets 9:30am, Second Thursdays monthly, Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette. The May 12 meeting features a Spring Plant Sale. Contact: petersbn4@aol.com.

"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. The tour is sponsored by John Montgomery Landscape Architects. 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.

Dining • Dining • Dining •

Terzetto presents:

Art Show & Sale

Saturday April 30th

5:00 to 8:30 pm

Special Event for Mother's Day



featuring
Donna Arganbright Pottery
Lucy Beck Photography
Mariann Mortensen Jewelry

1419 Moraga Way, Moraga Shopping Center
925-376-3832 - www.terzettocuisine.com

Mon: 7am - 2pm; Tues-Sun: 7am - 8:30pm

Join us for a special
Mother's Day Buffet
Brunch or Mother's
Day Dinner on May 8.

Hail, Caesar – and Asparagus!

By Susie Iventosch

Last week, I was trying to come up with other great ways to serve asparagus, and saw a recipe that called for roasted asparagus served in a Caesar dressing. I thought it looked delicious and since my husband makes a terrific Caesar, he set about the business of the dressing, while I made the salad. Then I spied the beautiful Campari tomatoes in my produce drawer, and added them to the mix. We no sooner sat down to have the first bite of salad, than it dawned on me the hearts of palm sitting in my cupboard would be a fabulous complement to the roasted asparagus. This is how recipes often develop at our house! It's a wonder I ever sit down to eat, between photographing the dishes, and adding ingredients here and there! Anyway, we loved the result and wanted to share it with you.

Believe it or not, asparagus is a member of the lily family, and it comes in three color varieties: green, purple and white. I have never seen purple asparagus, although often the tips have a bit of a purplish cast. The name "asparagus" comes from the Greek meaning "shoot" or "sprout"

and was believed to have both medicinal and aphrodisiacal qualities. Asparagus dates back some 2000 years to origins in the eastern Mediterranean region.

Asparagus is a perennial crop and can be grown in the home garden. We've never grown it, but it is said to yield a harvest for years. Just think of how many children's pockets that could fill. (Rumor has it that my brother did that with his broccoli one time when he was little!)

Hearts of palm, also known as "palmito" is a wonderful addition to any salad, and can be made into an au gratin side dish, too, by adding a little cheese and perhaps some bread crumbs or panko. It is sometimes difficult to find just exactly the texture you like, but be patient and test out a few brands. I much prefer the firm heart of palm to the mushy. I have found that those bought at Costco are usually pretty firm, but it can also be hit and miss—even within the same jar. It seems that the wider ends are softer, while the narrower parts are more firm. Some processors cook the product longer to obtain a softer texture, which

many in Central and South America prefer. But, since we prefer the firmer texture, those are what we strive to find in the markets.

Hearts of palm come from the center cord that runs right up the middle of certain varieties of young palm trees. The trees are harvested at about one year of age, to produce the most optimum texture. Nowadays, most hearts of palm we produce or import are a domesticated farm species, instead of from the wild, where fatal damage occurred to the tree during harvesting.

The bulk of the hearts of palm we buy in the U.S. comes from Costa Rica, but also from an assortment of Latin American nations, and more recently from Florida and Hawaii. In Costa Rica, they serve Palmito (Hearts of Palm) Salad everywhere and it is so fresh and delicious.

Interestingly, the hearts of palm contain none of the risky palm oil, (that comes from the nuts of the mature palm trees) and have no cholesterol or fat. And, in fact, an entire jar is said to have less than 100 calories! What could be better? Great taste and good for the figure, too!

Caesar "Asparagustus" Salad

(Serves 4)

INGREDIENTS

- 1 head Romaine lettuce, torn into bite-sized pieces
- 3-4 small tomatoes, quartered or cut into eighths
- 12-16 spears asparagus, roasted and cut into 1½-inch pieces (toss with olive oil, S&P, and roast for 6-8 minutes at 375°. Make sure it is still al dente.)
- 4 spears of hearts of palm, cut into ¼-inch rings (each spear should be approximately 4-5 inches long)
- ½ cup freshly grated Parmesan for garnish
- 1 recipe Caesar Dressing:

- 1 clove garlic, minced (can use more ... I seem to get garlic overload easily, so I prefer less)
- Juice of about a ¼ of a regular (not sweet) lemon
- 8 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
- 5 tablespoons white or red wine vinegar
- 1 tablespoon of Dijon mustard
- 2-3 dashes of Worcestershire
- Dash of Tabasco Sauce (or Crystal Louisiana Hot Sauce)
- ½ teaspoon anchovy paste, optional
- Liberal shake or grind of black pepper
- Dash of sea salt, optional
- ¼ cup finely grated Parmesan

Mix all dressing ingredients (except Parmesan) and shake well. Then whisk in the Parmesan until well-integrated. The creamy texture of this dressing comes from whisking in the Parmesan—notice there are no eggs.

To assemble salad, place lettuce in large salad bowl along with tomatoes, cooled asparagus, hearts of palm and tomatoes. Toss with dressing and grated Parmesan.



Meet Susie!

Susie Iventosch will conduct a cooking demonstration at the season opening of the Lafayette Farmers' Market on Thursday, May 5.

Contra Costa Certified Farmers' Markets
Website: <http://www.cccfm.org/>
Phone: 925.431.8361
Orinda Farmers' Market – April through November Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Lafayette Farmers' Market-opens May 5 and runs through Sept. 29
Thursdays from 3:30 to 7 p.m. (new hours)
Moraga Farmers' Market-year round
Sundays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.



Purple asparagus offered at the Moraga Farmers' Market
Photo A. Scheck

Asparagus and Hearts of Palm Tidbits:
<http://www.webmd.com/diet/features/the-health-benefits-of-asparagus>
<http://hubpages.com/hub/10-Super-Health-Benefits-of-Asparagus>
http://www.napoleon-co.com/pages/product_pages/palm.html
<http://www.foodista.com/food/2KPZYLD5/hearts-of-palm>



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 www.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.

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.

Children in Nature

Submitted by Kathy Barrett



Photo provided

Sunday April 17th, the Wagner Ranch Nature Area was brimming with children and their families celebrating Earth Week. The Nature Area is 18 acres of meadow, forest, ponds, and streams owned by the Orinda Union School District. Local wildlife columnist Gary Bogue

launched the event with a tribute to outdoor experiences, commenting on the Nature Area's importance to education and connecting families with nature. Children created colorful leaf designs on Tee shirts while others explored the trails in a scavenger hunt. Students from the Academy

of Language Arts and Music provided inspiring background music for nature games, pond and creek explorations, and hands-on experiences with the Lindsay Museum's gentle snake.

Guests were mesmerized by Jenny Papka's live raptor show, which inspired the audience with

the beauty and ecological importance of birds of prey. Youngsters carried wildlife passports through the festival to receive stamps from each activity station. Steve Gentry and his bees provided free honey sticks for full passports. As one boy received his dragonfly stamp, he pointed out that they are his favorite insect and explained how they actually eat mosquito larvae.

At the entrance, adults lined up to test drive Winter Chevrolet's new electric car, the Volt. In addition to its Earth friendly zero emissions, drivers were impressed by the car's quiet and user friendly interior design as well as its sleek look. More than sixty people in the region are now the proud drivers of this alternative to gas guzzlers.

Willa and Scout, ARF golden retrievers, lured many families into the garden area for a very special reading session. Local children's author and community leader, Ginger Wadsworth, has taught her lovely dogs to promote the Orinda Library's PAWS program. Children shared their early reading skills with their patient canine buddies.

Nature Area naturalist, Toris

Jaeger, chatted with her large fan club of students, and thanked visitors for donating to support outdoor programs like Pioneer Days and Native American studies, two of the five curriculum-connected programs for elementary school children in the district. Two dozen students from Orinda Intermediate School's after school clubs, Others First and The Green Team, volunteered because of their cherished memories of the Nature Area programs that Jaeger taught.

Another favorite educator, Jenny Maguire, taught Math in the Garden to eager youngsters, and coordinated more than 25 students from Saint Mary's College who led hands-on activities at a dozen activity tables. A number of adult visitors said they came to the festival because they had loved the Nature Area programs when they were in grade school. One such alum is a mom who won a fabulous collection of Gary Bogue's nature books to read to her son. Participants generated more than \$2000 to help the Friends of the Wagner Ranch Nature Area support Nature Area programs.

Visit www.fwrna.org, to learn more about these programs.

One Weekend

6 Teenages, 60 pounds of turnips, 432 apples, 53 Blankets, 63 pairs of socks

Submitted by Leslie Darwin O'Brien



Photos provided



Distributing Bread at Word of Mouth Pantry

On a recent weekend in January six Orinda teenagers participated in 34 Hours of Service, an outreach effort to help hungry and homeless people in San Francisco. The teens began their Saturday by distributing fresh vegetables (lots of turnips), tins of tuna in hot sauce, bread and other food to needy people who came to the City of Refuge Food Pantry in San Francisco. Then they joined members of the City of Refuge for a monthly lunch for folks who live in Seniors One-Room-Only housing. The kids then headed to Market, where they handed blankets directly to people on the street. Then the youngsters took a break by riding the cable car to Ghirardelli Square for some ice cream! That evening they joined the San Francisco Night Ministry (a group that offers compassionate, non-judgmental care for those in need during the wee hours of the morning) and walked around the edge of the Tenderloin District giving more blankets and socks to cold people. It wasn't a typical weekend for most of the kids, but it seemed to make an impact on them. The weekend was sponsored by Orinda Community Church. For more information, contact Director of Community Life at Orinda Community Church, Leslie Darwin O'Brien.

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Orinda Motors Offers Women's Car Care Clinic

Submitted by John Vanek

Orinda Motors, in partnership with the Orinda Women's Club, will co-host a community car clinic at 1:00 p.m. on May 14. The clinic will focus on education for women motorists, including car maintenance, operation and becoming an informed consumer.

Join long-time Orinda Motors manager John Vanek as he discusses the responsibility that the car owner has in the operation and maintenance of a vehicle. Participants will learn how to find information in their owner's manual, keep track of their maintenance history, become more preventative in the care of their vehicle, and understand what maintenance should be performed at mileage milestones. There will also be an emphasis on how to achieve good communication with your car care provider. Hands-on demonstrations will help

explain what worn components such as tires, belts, and filters look like and how they affect the reliability of your vehicle.

The clinic will last about two hours and includes time for questions and answers; refreshments will be provided. To sign up, go to www.orindamotors.com or visit Orinda Motors, at 63 Orinda Way, to fill out the registration form. The deadline for registration is Friday, May 13.

The clinic is free of charge but donations to Senior Helpline Services are encouraged - cash or a gas gift card will be accepted to help defray expenses for volunteer drivers (gift cards are available at Safeway for \$25, or your nearby Chevron station in any denomination.) For more information about Senior Helpline Services please visit www.seniorhelplineservices.net.

Easter Baskets for the Elderly

Submitted by Mary Lou Beeler



Frances Perry and Betsey Young ready to present this year's Easter Baskets to residents at Lafayette Nursing Home. Photo provided

The Suburban Woman's Club of Lafayette has been making Christmas and Easter baskets for residents at the Woodland Convalescent Hospital since 1998 and are now delivering them to the Lafayette Nursing Home. Betsey Young is chairman of the craft group that meets at her home once a month to glue little noses on Easter bunnies and beards on Santa Claus, have

lunch, and a lot of laughs.

The recipients are delighted to receive their baskets; some have kept them over the years. It is such a little thing but means so much to them. If you would like to join us for the making of the Christmas baskets and also get more information regarding the club and our many other activities, please call Jean Cappa at (925) 283-2759.

As Seen in Lamorinda...

Photos Doug Kohen



Last Saturday morning at Lafayette Plaza Park



Last Saturday morning at Orinda Community Park



Last Saturday morning at Lafayette Community Center

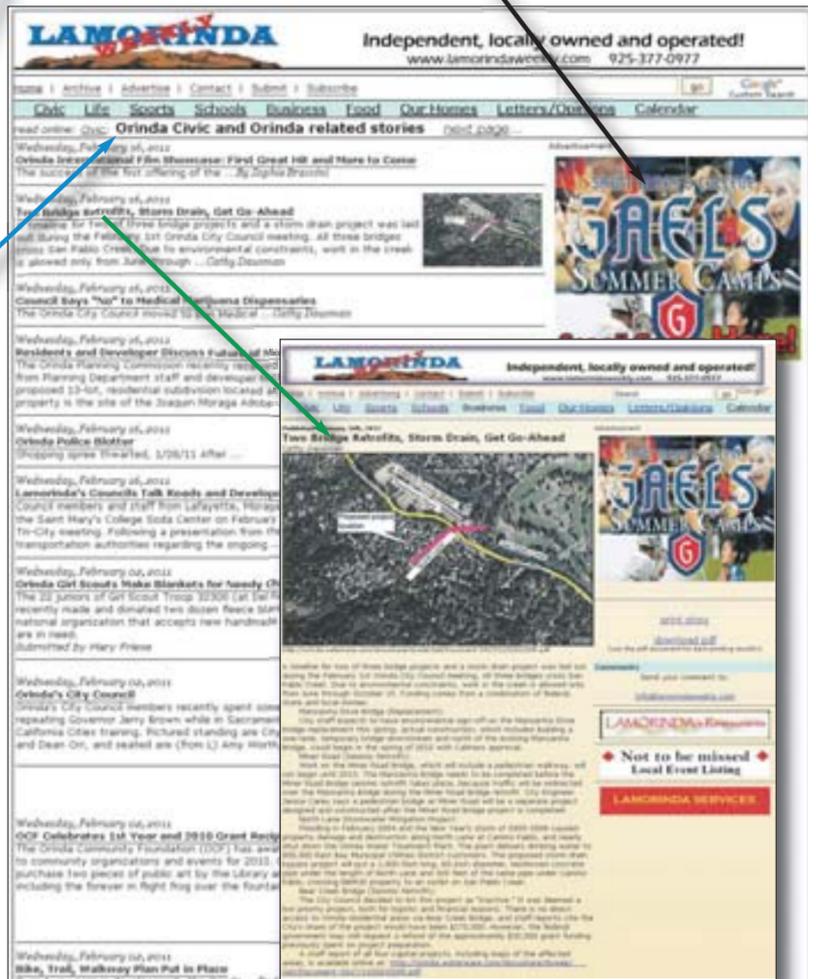
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We recently updated our web site to improve access to our archives. All of the stories we've ever published are now available by category (eg. Sports, Schools, etc.) as well as by issue date.

Find stories by category

Web ads available. Call for details 925-377-0977

Stories are listed by publication date. Click next page to see more.



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Happy Mother's Day



Mother's Day Metamorphosis

By Cathy Dausman

Remember your first Mother's Day? I'm not sure I do. It just blends into the patchwork quilt that is new motherhood. We were so busy feeding, changing, bathing, photographing or comforting our baby that one certain Sunday on a May calendar might have slipped away. Sorry, Hallmark!

and sometimes thankless chore, even for those of us lucky enough to have our mothers lend a hand. Then suddenly your baby enters school, and you step back. When your child enters high school they make you take two steps back! As your child matures, it's all about change and separation.

When your son or daughter becomes a new parent however,

connectedness takes on a whole new meaning. I am currently grandmother to just one child. That doesn't make me an expert. But it does give me bragging rights!

Being a grandmother means watching as your child tackles a new role, and reinvents the wheel. "Our child has his first tooth!" "She took three steps today!" Every mother recalls these comments about her own child or children, and now they're delivered by your adult offspring. How retro is that?! You find it's time to get out the baby book—your grandchild's, and your son or daughter's—and compare notes! "He's just like his father!" "Her mother

did that!"

Being a grandmother means looking ahead and reminiscing. It means remembering your mother and how she cared for you; remembering caring for your own children, and watching your daughter or daughter-in-law take up the cause for the next generation.

Being a grandmother can be bittersweet. Skype can put you in the same room with a long distance grandchild but it can't put the child in your arms. Patti Witalice of Orinda misses "the tradition of our children piling on the end of our bed for Mother's Day, Father's Day and birthdays," but hopes her daughters will de-

velop a similar experience in their households for her grandchildren.

A longtime friend is a new grandmother. She says:

"When I became a grandmother my mother became a 'great' grandmother.

But my dad says, 'Aren't all grandparents "great" already?' So maybe Mother's Day should be Great, Grand, Mother's Day, because at that moment of birth, at that exact point in time, it is great and it is grand to be a mother."

When our grandchild was born a friend sent a gift. The small plaque bears a simple inscription: "When a child is born, so is a Grandmother." For me, that pretty much sums it up.

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ENTRY FORM

(also available on our website, www.lamorindaweekly.com, for download)

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Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 05 Issue 4 Wednesday, April 27, 2011



Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian ...read on page D8

Lafayette Kitchen Tour Features Kitchens with Distinctive Styles

By Rosylyn Aragonés Stenzel

Offering a wide variety of kitchens to suit just about every design taste, the 12th Annual Lafayette Juniors Kitchen Tour is Saturday, May 14th from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. This year's tour features six brand new and remodeled kitchens with an interesting variety; ranging from California Arts and Crafts style to East Coast Traditional. Also showcased are two homes with outdoor kitchens, and not to be missed, a Happy Valley home with a wine cellar built underneath.

Walking into Lance and Kari Grosz's kitchen, it's easy to feel relaxed and at home. It's an open, light-filled kitchen with a soothing color scheme of sage green and soft cream. As the owners of Lamorinda Construction, the Grosz's worked as both designer and contractor for their home. Kari chose sage green polished granite countertops with cream-colored cabinets for the main kitchen work area, and for the large island, designed the opposite; with sage cabinets and a cream marble countertop.

What she likes best about her kitchen is that it has great flow; with a prep sink and main sink, two dishwashers and plenty of counter space, there is lots of room where people can be work-

ing. Kari describes their style as, "California comfortable; kid-friendly, and a place where you can kick back and put your feet up," resulting in a kitchen that was built with a family and entertaining lifestyle in mind.

The eat-in table, which is part of the large island, is where the family of four has their meals and also serves as a place for the kids to do homework. A built-in desk nearby is a great place for Kari to work while multi-tasking and

making dinner. Keeping in the family-friendly theme, the spoke-shaved, distressed maple floors are stylish and classic, yet easy to fix, if dinged.

...Continued on page D4



Lance and Kari Grosz's kitchen functions perfectly for family living and entertaining.

Photo Kelly Wood

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**133 LOMBARDY LANE
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Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

LAFAYETTE	Last reported: 8
LOWEST AMOUNT:	\$595,000
HIGHEST AMOUNT:	\$1,715,000
MORAGA	Last reported: 3
LOWEST AMOUNT:	\$204,000
HIGHEST AMOUNT:	\$1,010,000
ORINDA	Last reported: 5
LOWEST AMOUNT:	\$705,000
HIGHEST AMOUNT:	\$1,750,000

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

- 11 Benthill Court, \$820,000, 4 Bdrms, 3215 SqFt, 1976 YrBlt, 3-30-11;
 Previous Sale: \$1,295,000, 07-08-05
 379 Castello Road, \$595,000, 3 Bdrms, 1423 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 3-25-11
 1267 Laurel Lane, \$1,066,000, 4 Bdrms, 2355 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 4-1-11;
 Previous Sale: \$780,000, 07-15-03
 3620 Madrone Drive, \$1,075,000, 3 Bdrms, 2518 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 3-28-11;
 Previous Sale: \$475,000, 07-01-91
 1335 Martino Road, \$1,715,000, 3 Bdrms, 4076 SqFt, 1994 YrBlt, 3-25-11;
 Previous Sale: \$418,000, 08-31-89
 519 Silverado Drive, \$1,333,500, 4 Bdrms, 2873 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 3-25-11;
 Previous Sale: \$400,000, 02-19-93
 2 Tanglewood Place, \$945,000, 2 Bdrms, 2247 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 3-24-11;
 Previous Sale: \$562,500, 10-31-96
 1217 Warner Court, \$735,500, 3 Bdrms, 1774 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 4-1-11;
 Previous Sale: \$732,000, 04-27-04

MORAGA

- 1965 Ascot Drive #12, \$204,000, 2 Bdrms, 1130 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 4-1-11;
 Previous Sale: \$440,000, 08-22-06
 787 Augusta Drive, \$1,010,000, 4 Bdrms, 2680 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 3-30-11;
 Previous Sale: \$1,255,000, 06-17-08
 39 Sea Pines Street, \$694,000, 2 Bdrms, 2273 SqFt, 1910 YrBlt, 4-1-11

ORINDA

- 42 Diablo View Drive, \$705,000, 2 Bdrms, 2088 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 3-30-11;
 Previous Sale: \$90,000, 08-17-76
 133 Lombardy Lane, \$1,535,000, 4 Bdrms, 3112 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 3-25-11;
 Previous Sale: \$402,000, 11-30-94
 1 Moraga Court, \$990,000, 4 Bdrms, 2769 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 3-25-11;
 Previous Sale: \$1,225,000, 01-12-07
 99 Sleepy Hollow Lane, \$1,750,000, 5 Bdrms, 3368 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 3-29-11;
 Previous Sale: \$2,625,000, 06-01-06
 453 Tahos Road, \$799,000, 5 Bdrms, 2461 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 3-24-11;
 Previous Sale: \$580,000, 12-12-96

Lamorinda Foreclosures recorded

MORAGA

- 144 Ascot Court #1, 94556, Deutsche Bank, 04-04-11, \$289,685, 945 sf, 2 bd
 217 Rheem Boulevard, 94556, Rww Properties, 04-01-11, \$442,391, 1610 sf, 3 bd

ORINDA

- 18 Oak Court, 94563, Magnate Fund 2, 03-25-11, \$505,088, 3665 sf, 4 bd

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Lafayette Kitchen Tour Features Kitchens with Distinctive Styles

...continued from Page D1

The walk-in pantry serves double duty as food storage and also houses the remote infrared television controls and wireless computer equipment. Off the kitchen and leading into the dining room is a wine bar which can be used to set up a buffet or dessert station.

The whole kitchen opens up into the family room which hosts large sliding doors that opens into the backyard with pool and outdoor kitchen. Weather permitting, the backyard is where the family enjoys spending most of their time. The outdoor kitchen is also great for entertaining; boasting a large gas grill with rotisserie, beverage refrigerator, double kegerator (two beverages on tap), and sink with garbage disposal. Whether it's inside or outside entertaining, for the Grosz Family, it's all about welcoming family, friends, and clients or hosting fundraisers for their kid's school.

Sitting high on top of a hill, Paul and Alison Cocotis's majestic home has sweeping, breathtaking views. Their home, a labor of love as they are also the builders, is designed in the California Arts and Craft style and is inspired by the houses of historic architects Charles Sumner Greene and Henry Mather Greene whose work includes the Gamble House in Pasadena and the Thorsen House in Berkeley.

Those grand views can be seen from almost every room in the home including the kitchen from which the whole house was built around. With ceiling skylights and large windows, lots of natural light flows into the grand space of the kitchen.

Seamlessly matching the Arts and Crafts style with a French bistro theme, the kitchen in itself is a one-of-a-kind masterpiece, with amazing attention to detail and fine craftsmanship at every turn.

Once in the kitchen, one is immediately drawn to the refrigerator door which is an original Bea Johnson painting. The homeowners say it sets the mood as if they were somewhere special - perhaps sitting at a cabaret in 1920s Paris. The yellow in the painting matches the Provence yellow range. This is no ordinary range, but a Lacanche Range - both electric and gas - imported from France.

Around the corner is Alison's favorite feature of their kitchen, a built-in Miele Coffee System where she

can conveniently make an espresso. Nearby is a breakfast nook with built-in seating, a walk-in pantry with custom Enclume cookware shelving, and a freezer with a magnetic board panel to display the children's artwork.

The Cocotis' enjoy having friends over, and it's certainly a kitchen made for entertaining, showcasing a pewter bar that wraps around part of the kitchen; reminiscent of a French bistro. There is a beverage and buffet area complete with a wine refrigerator, and nearby are refrigerator drawers perfect for storing beverages.

Not to be missed is the kitchen island displaying a Calacatta Michelangelo Marble countertop while the kitchen table and remaining countertops feature a pol-

ished black Caesarstone. There are so many other amazing features of this well-appointed kitchen including custom European style cabinets, two dishwashers, an appliance garage, and central vacuum system.

Also featured on the tour are four other spectacular kitchens, including a newly built East Coast Traditional, Contemporary Craftsman, and wine country inspired wine cellar. Proceeds from the tour will benefit Contra Costa Interfaith Housing, a non-profit organization committed to creating a permanent, affordable, supportive solution to local homelessness. For more information or where to purchase tour tickets, visit www.lafayettejuniors.org.



Paul and Alison Cocotis's kitchen features a one-of-a-kind painting on their refrigerator door, flawlessly matching the yellow Lacanche Range.

Photo Kelly Wood

Free Workshops to Help Citizens Prepare for Disasters

Whether you're a seasoned CERT veteran with disaster preparedness training or just beginning to learn about this important topic, there's a workshop coming up in Lamorinda that will help you take the next step.

Orinda

Saturday, April 30, 12:30-4:00 p.m.

The Orinda Citizen Corps Council will sponsor a workshop for Orinda CERTs and Neighborhood Leaders in the Equipment Bay of MOFD station 41. These volunteers will continue to train to make their homes and neighborhoods safe before, during and after a local disaster. Topics will include: Disaster Worker Safety, Neighborhood and City Communications in a Disaster and Transporting Injured Victims. Instructors will include the Moraga Orinda Fire Department, the MOFD Communication Team and Search and Rescue trained volunteers. Recent worldwide events remind us again that we need to be prepared as individuals, neighborhood and communities. Register at rkunzman@comcast.net.

Lafayette

Thursday, April 28, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Emergency Preparedness for Individuals and Families

This quick and easy session will help you prepare yourself and your family for the next earthquake whether you are at home, work, or out and about. Emphasis will be on earthquake preparation, but the information applies to other emergencies as well. Bring pencil and paper. Materials will be provided.

Thursday, May 12, 8:30 p.m.

Neighborhood Captains' Training

Join other Lafayette residents in becoming a neighborhood captain in the Lafayette Emergency Action Response Network (LEARN). This session is designed to help you organize your block or neighborhood in becoming self-sufficient for the first 72 hours following a major disaster. Attendance at a basic preparedness class (as above, CERT or Red Cross class) is recommended prior to attending this class. Bring paper and pencil. Written materials provided.

All classes will be held at the Lafayette Community Center, 500 St. Mary's Rd. in the Elderberry Room (back parking lot). Classes are taught by the Emergency Preparedness Commission and are free.

Register for these free Lafayette classes by calling the Lafayette Community Center at 284-2232.

Special Classes

The Lafayette Emergency Preparedness Commission can arrange classes specifically for Lafayette Homeowner groups, church or service groups, possibly closer to home. For more information call the Commission at 283-3680 or email csurges@lovelafayette.org.

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- 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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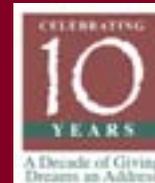
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**Open Sunday
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This lovely 2019 square foot end unit boasts the very best views in Summit Ridge. Two master suites: one with a fireplace, one with a separate sitting room - both have their own decks. A spacious kitchen with vaulted ceiling provides an informal eating area and tons of natural light. The inviting living room with fireplace provides direct access to a welcoming patio while a second access from the formal dining to the charming patio offers gracious entertaining. This home is filled with natural light, has beautiful hardwood floors, and a gracious floor plan for indoor/outdoor living. Steps away from walking and hiking plus excellent Lafayette schools. Simply the best!

Offered at \$625,000



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20 MONTICELLO CT LAFAYETTE



Tucked away in one of nature's most serene and naturally beautiful settings, this Happy Valley Glen property offers one of the most special residential retreats. Privacy with a secluded setting as it backs to Briones Regional Park, this 1.60 acre Mediterranean style estate property ISBD and 4.SBA +/- 4729sfl built in 2000 is the perfect venue for informal gatherings and grand-scale entertaining.

The 1.60 acre grounds are magnificent with level lawn areas, a complete professional outdoor kitchen, fireplace, infinity pool with water slide and beach area, outdoor spa, volleyball court all surrounded by lush gardens and towering Oaks.

Offered at \$2,999,000



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Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian

The Potager Kitchen Garden

By Cynthia Brian

“The miracle of the seed and the soil is not available by affirmation; it is only available by labor.” - Jim Rohn

After two weeks of pulling weeds, hauling manure, spading, triple digging, and finally sowing seeds, my nails are nubs and my back is aching. Yet, I am exuberant for the harvest that will begin soon as a result of my newest experiment—planting my personal potager.

Potager is a French word for a manner of gardening mixing flowers with vegetables, fruit, berries, and herbs in a formal style. If you want fresh, succulent, and abundant produce straight from the garden to the table, planting a potager is the smartest garden practice to adopt.

Americans are used to planting vegetable gardens, the English plant kitchen gardens, and the French have potagers. Since the Middle Ages, the French have been combining anything they want for decor or culinary delights in one garden plot. The advantage of a potager is that this type of cultivating is ideal for any plot size. It saves space, nutrients, and water, all the while adding a bountiful beauty to your landscape. A glorious Renaissance chateau in France, Villandry, is considered one of the world’s most famous potagers with acres of formal beds divided into nine equal squares, edged with boxwood and changed seasonally. Artichokes, leeks, cabbages, pumpkins, peppers, beets, Swiss chard, squash share space with roses, nasturtiums, catmint, marigolds, and violas. The plan has been replicated and copied all over the globe.

Potagers are mostly filled with annuals as opposed to permanent plantings of perennials to allow for rotation and choice. The secret is to blend plants that are edible or are useful as natural pest and insect resisters. When creating your



Leeks and cabbages are the stars of the kitchen potager.



The magnificent formal potager at Chateau Villandry in France with purple kale, tree roses, and peppers edged with clipped boxwood.

Photos Cynthia Brian

Lamorinda potager, start by drawing a design for the beds. A central focal point such as a small tree, decorative frame, a bean teepee, or a dramatic plant such as a globe artichoke sets the stage. The pattern is more effective when you plant generously for an opulent outcome while choosing specimens carefully. Each vegetable, herb, berry, fruit, or flower is meant to shine individually while complementing the looks or habits of its neighbors. Aim for symmetry and balance, planting in patches or clumps as opposed to rows.

I bordered my terraced potager with sunny colored calendulas, also known as pot marigolds, using the bright orange petals in salads for a fresh snappy taste, and in cooking as a poor man’s saffron. Armenian cucumbers are being trained on a tripod I made from pear tree trimmings along with scarlet runner beans. Two large artichokes anchor one corner of the potager where fennel, parsley, and onions nestle beneath the large fronds. A dwarf volunteer apple tree

(with the most delicious crunchy apples) proudly grows on the other side planted with sprawling strawberries, mounds of potatoes, squares of basil and beets. Once sprouted, peppery nasturtiums will spill over the raised edges meeting the thyme growing between the steppingstones, the hues mingling boldly with the variety of lettuces, carrots, spinach, and eggplant. Seven varieties of grapes are trellised along the fence with rosemary as ground cover and black currants as end pillars.

Tomatoes, jalapenos, and white corn will dominate the sunniest spots with sunflowers standing guard.

The patchwork of legumes, vegetables, herbs, flowers, and fruit engaged in a system of succession sowing is decorative in shape, form, color, and texture while being functional in providing quantities of the freshest produce throughout the year. The key element to the high drama of a potager is to create a plan for what you enjoy, then, dig in.

Cynthia Brian's Potager Kitchen Garden Spring Planting Favorites

Vegetables for Delicious Cuisine

Arugula	Eggplant	Peas
Artichoke	Garlic	Peppers
Beets	Kale	Pumpkins
Beans	Kohlrabi	Radishes
Broccoli	Lettuces	Sorrel
Cabbage	Leeks	Squash
Carrots	Melons	Spinach
Chard	Mustard	Tomatoes
Corn	Onions	Tomatillos
Cress	Parsley	Turnips
Cucumber	Purslane	Zucchini

Easy Herbs

Basil	Fennel	Parsley
Bay	Lavender	Rosemary
Chamomile	Lemon Balm	Sage
Chervil	Lovage	Savory
Chives	Marjoram	Stevia
Cilantro	Mints	Tarragon
Dill	Oregano	Thyme

Edible Flowers

Begonia	Daisy	Pansy
Calendula	Hibiscus	Peony
Carnation	Impatiens	Rose
Cornflower	Johnny Jump ups	Scented Geranium
Dandelion	Marigold	Sunflower
Daylily	Nasturtium	Viola



Ruby Swiss Chard.

Whether you are seeking a dazzling horticultural sculpture garden, or a modest vegetable area, a potager is the future for fresh, nutritious, hearty, healthy food in abundance.

Vive le potager!

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Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for May

"To forget how to dig the earth and to tend the soil is to forget ourselves." - Mahatma Gandhi

The blossoms from the apples, pears, and cherries are almost spent while the buckeye, chestnut, dogwood, and red bud trees flaunt lightning bolts of color. The heady fragrance of lilac shares a beautiful balance with bearded iris, rose, and wisteria as they brighten with a repetition of color moving the eye in soft waves throughout the landscape. Butterflies and bees flock to these plants creating a fluttering pollination habitat. With the warmer weather, we'll need to watch our water consumption. Scientists at the University of Twente in the Netherlands found that producing one rose bloom requires three gallons of water. With your new potager kitchen garden, you'll save water while enjoying exuberant edibles including flowers and herbs. Time to play. Hurray, it's May!

- WELCOME the migrating birds back to your garden by providing plenty of fresh water, food, shelter, and a place to nest.
- KEEP up with the weeds. Pull by hand when they are small and add to your compost pile.
- EMPTY standing water from all containers, downspouts, or saucers (pour in your pots) to prevent the 23 kinds of mosquitoes from breeding and biting (According to Vector Control, mosquitoes mature in five days and travel up to twenty miles.)
- ATTRACT bees, hummingbirds, butterflies, and other pollinators to your garden by planting nectar producing specimens including flowering culinary herbs, poppies, salvias, and sunflowers.
- WEAR boots while gardening and hiking. Snakes are in abundance this year, including rattlers.
- EXPERIMENT with what we call a weed but is really a plant packet of Omega 3's, vitamin A and C by sowing purslane in your potager.
- CHECK health and safety issues before planting a tree. Is it the right tree for the right place? Precautions include those for utilities, fire safety, height restrictions, root damage potential, toxicity, and biogenic emissions.
- ALLOW narcissus, daffodil, and tulip foliage to dry to a crunchy golden brown before cutting back. You are feeding the bulb for next season's show.
- BAIT for snails and slugs, especially when the seeds are sprouting.
- CLEAR the last of the remaining fallen camellias from around your bushes.
- TALK to your plants. Bloom, baby, bloom! It works for me!
- MOW the grass weekly and give one last shot of nitrogen before the weather warms.
- BRIGHTEN your shady areas by planting bleeding heart, astilbe, or big root geranium. Despite what you may read, deer do eat geraniums!
- CLEAN sheds, potting benches, or your garage to make room for summer projects.
- PICK sprays of sweet peas and roses from your garden for a Mother's Day fragrant posy present.
- ADD structure with shrubs such as smokebush or spirea.
- EXPLORE new colorful annuals at your local garden center including the tall spires of self-seeding verbenas bonariensis, or heliotrope to perfume the evening air.
- BUY a California grown living plant for Mother's Day. According to the February 2011 Smithsonian magazine, the majority of bouquets purchased by Americans are grown, designed, and packaged overseas. When buying bouquets, look for the Rainforest Alliance Certification which observe strict sustainability requirements of their floral farms.
- COME to the Be the STAR You Are!® charity car wash on Saturday, May 14th, 10-4pm at the STAR Gas Station on the corner of Rheem Blvd. and Moraga Rd., adjacent to the Moraga Faire for a spring cleaning. Receive a FREE bag of fragrant homegrown and hand made potpourri.
- EXPERIENCE the beauty of the blossoms by sharing a Mother's Day picnic in your backyard with your Mom and family.



Sending big hugs to the most wonderful women of Lamorinda—MOMS!

Wishing you a joyous, sun filled Mother's Day.
Happy Gardening to You!

New. Lamorinda Realtor Marketing Meeting will be held every-other-Tuesday morning in Lafayette. The first meeting will be Tuesday morning, May 3rd at 8:30 am sharp at the Lafayette Library (Mt. Diablo Blvd. and First Street in the Arts & Science Discovery Center room). The meeting is free to attend, Contact Dominic Silvestri at Prospect Mortgage at 925.260.4984 or Raad Ariff at First American Title Company at 925.253.0757 for more information.

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.

Febuary 2011	Tons Recycled	% change	Tons Landfill	% change	% Recycled
Lafayette	593	83	404	93	59
Moraga	368	83	236	97	61
Orinda	496	83	320	88	61

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.'

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It Takes a Family



Darren and Lew Edwards

As a boy, Darren Edwards loved to scamper up trees, much to his nursery school teacher's chagrin, and he could often be found 30-feet up in the branches surveying the scenic vistas in his home town of Moraga. After graduating from Campolindo in 1986 he decided to forgo the college route and instead followed his heart to start Advance Tree Service with just a pick-up truck and one helper. Shortly thereafter his father retired and, looking to keep busy, joined him as a partner. Next his mother, Faye (and eventually his sister Lorie), came aboard to run the office; by November of 1994, Advance Tree Service incorporated and business was booming. Along the way, both father and son become ISA Certified Arborists and licensed Landscape Contractors and now enjoy the art and science of planting, caring for, and maintaining trees and landscapes.

Today the Edwards have three officers and a crew of nine regular, full-time employees providing both residential and commercial tree services throughout the Bay Area; including but not limited to emergency tree care, tree pruning, tree removal, landscape design, maintenance, diagnostic and disease control for trees and plants.

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ORINDA



New Listing

109 Ardith Drive

Contemporary style with expansive views! You'll love the gorgeous Euro-style kitchen w/granite countertops. Hdwd flrs, soaring ceilings plus an ideal proximity to K-12 schools.

Offered at \$949,000



ORINDA



New Price

97 Coral Drive

Fabulous 4bd + ofc in sought-after Ivy Dr. neighborhood. Beaut updated Chef's kitchen opens to fam rm. Hdwd flrs, skylights, dual panes, fenced lvl yd. Walk to 12 yrs of schools + tennis/swim club.

Offered at \$940,000



ORINDA



New Listing

99 La Cuesta

Fab 4bd/2.5 ba OCC custom hm w/dazzling views of Lake Cascade & surrounding hills. Lvl yd, decks, beaut renovated thruout w/granite, stainless kitchen, gorgeous fam rm, lovely mstr suite.

Offered at \$1,175,000



ORINDA



New Price

255 La Espiral

4bd/2.5ba Old Orinda classic 1937 beauty lovingly restored & enhanced w/Carmel charm. Elegant yet comfortable formal liv/din rms & Chef's kitchen w/adj family rm. Ideal setting, privacy, views, vineyard.

Offered at \$1,235,000



ORINDA



New Listing

73 El Gavilan

Mid-century modern 5bd/4.5ba with exceptional updating throughout. Spectacular views, lvl yd off kit/fam rm, pool & guest apt in great OCC location. Extensive use of wood, stone, copper & walls of glass.

Offered at \$1,975,000



MORAGA



New Price

528 Tahos Road

Style & design c.e alive in approx. 5100 sf, 5bd/4+ba total renovation, incredible attn to detail, light/bright w/lg windows. EZ access to grassy yd, decks, balconies, views.

Offered at \$2,325,000



LAFAYETTE



New Listing

4 Dolores Court

Well-maintained charming living w/vaulted ceilings, updated kitchen/baths, hdwd flrs & great style. Ideal privacy on cul-de-sac, very quiet. Beautiful gardens & patios, lovely setting. Den used as 3rd bd on main floor.

Offered at \$599,000



LAFAYETTE



New Listing

1230 Quandt Road

Charming cottage style ranch w/hdwd flrs, crown moldings, tons of natural light. Updated kit-, formal dining ell w/access to covered patio & lvl yd. Room to expand. PVt, easy freeway access, walk to school.

Offered at \$690,000



LAFAYETTE



New Listing

3193 Lucas Circle

Tucked away in popular Burton Valley neighborhood, this charming 3bd/3ba home on .5 ac. has wonderful indoor/outdoor flow. French doors open to incredible outdoor space.

Offered at \$879,000



LAFAYETTE



New Listing

1475 Reliez Valley Road

Beaut updated sgl lvl 5bd/3ba w/sep 1bd/1ba guest house on premium .46 ac lvl lot w/3219 total sf. Voltaic solar panels, hdwd flrs, Loewen dual panes, heated pool, mature orchard and more.

Offered at \$1,179,000



LAFAYETTE



New Price

4090 Coralee Lane

Great 5bd/4ba in fabulous low maint landscaped setting. Walls of glass clerestory windows, high ceilings. Extra space for studio or office. Peaceful yet easy freeway access.

Offered at \$1,185,000



LAFAYETTE



819 Las Trampas Road

Custom blt 3548 sf 4bd/4.5ba home on oak studded 1 ac lot in Las Trampas trail neighborhood. Pool & extensive landscape/hardscape. Fabulous flrpln w/grand spaces.

Offered at \$1,495,000



LAFAYETTE



New Listing

3242 Glenside Drive

Traditional 1940's 4bd/2.5ba ranch style cottage uniquely blending Old World charm w/"green" materials. Fab sgl lvl 3018 sf on flat .28 ac w/saltwater pool. Popular Trail neighborhood.

Offered at \$1,499,000



LAFAYETTE



New Listing

3460 La Caminita

Fab unique newer custom 5bd/3ba 4200 sf home on 3 acres at top of ridge w/views, sunlight, privacy! 18" ceilings, antique wood flrs, thermal heating/air system. Room for horses/vineyard.

Offered at \$2,198,000



LAFAYETTE



20 Monticello Court

Spectacular one-of-a-kind estate tucked away in Happy Valley area on 1.6 ac built in 2000. Incredible yard - maybe the best in all of Lafayette. Reduced \$500k from last year.

Offered at \$2,999,000



WALNUT CREEK



New Price

314 Warwick Drive

Charming 4bd home in Scottsdale w/sidewalks nr Heather Farms, Northgate HS, recreation areas & trails. Lots of updates, hdwd flrs, great yard, lg bedrooms.

Offered at \$685,000

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