

# 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

Editor:

Moraga is my kind of town! My two sons grew up here since 1985, my husband passed away in 1988 and I am now an empty nester with a ten year old mini poodle as my walking partner and personal trainer. Businesses have come and gone and fortunately I took photos of some of them -- Fudge Alley, Apple Market, Blockbuster, Baskin Robbins, just to name a few. Buddy and I often walk around Rheem Shopping Center and recently thought about all the new establishments since moving here from Oakland -- Shish Kebab Show, Moraga Produce, CVS instead of Long's, TJMaxx, Homegoods, Tuesday Morning and many more.

My profession was teaching piano and I have taught an Olympic water polo player, his Mom and sister, a current Campolindo volleyball starter, a former United airline employee, children 7 years and older, adults who are grandparents, just to name a few. I belonged to Kiwanis when they held meetings at St. Mary's College, volunteered at Habitat for Humanity, Shelter, Inc. and Loaves and Fishes. My volunteer positions pale in comparison to the people that I met at Kiwanis.

I met former mayors, men and women who served dual positions on the town council and the Moraga Commons board. All the members impressed me by their enthusiasm and love of Moraga. I am the first one to admit that I don't understand politics. Today I read an article that confused me about Moraga town politics. How is the mayor chosen? I don't know but I commend anyone who is chosen or voted in to become a town leader. My hat's off to anyone who runs for a political position.

Please thank anyone from the police force, fire fighters, town council and volunteers for all their effort who make Moraga the best place that I have ever lived. I will continue to enjoy Moraga and all my friends and neighbors who make it such a special place.

Sincerely,  
 Mary Mark  
 Moraga

### Join our Public Forum

If you have significant knowledge about an issue facing Lamorinda or one of its cities 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](mailto:letters@lamorindaweekly.com) and let us know you'd like to be considered for the Public Forum.

## Lafayette Temple Isaiah Turns Sixty

By Cathy Dausman

Sixty years ago a Lafayette restaurant stood where Temple Isaiah stands today. What once was Planters Dock has since become a place to nourish the Jewish soul and provide interfaith outreach. Those who joined decades ago are still active members.

In the early 1950s, a small Jewish community held its weekly Sunday school meetings in Lafayette Town Hall and in private homes. Then 47 families pledged nearly \$8,000 to get something going, purchased Planters Dock and its surrounding 14 acres, and Temple Isaiah was born.

The congregants built a new sanctuary in the 1960s and dedicated Oakmont Jewish Cemetery then. The 1970s saw the establishment of a family school, a temple gift shop and annual inter-faith teas. By the 1990s Talmud Torah Center, an education building, was completed. The temple built a new sanctuary and renovated its social hall in the last 10 years.

Over time, the temple created

Lamorinda Interfaith Ministerial Association, and hosted its first community-wide Thanksgiving service. The temple held an all-night interfaith vigil on 9/11. It hosts Alcoholics Anonymous meetings, and supports a community agriculture program. Its members volunteer for Loaves and Fishes and partner with the county-wide Winter Nights program, and the temple recently earned a Lafayette Chamber of Commerce Green Business designation for installing solar panels, composting and reducing printing.

Communications director Deb Phillips said the congregation has celebrated throughout the year, but it will hold a special Shabbat worship service April 27, during which they will honor temple members of 50 years or more. The event is open to the public and begins at 7 p.m. There is also a fundraiser gala at Blackhawk Car Museum April 28. For details about the Blackhawk event, call Melissa Gianotti, (925) 283-8575.

### Civic News orinda

## Orinda Police Department Presents Annual Report for 2011

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A recipient of the Lamorinda Alcohol Policy Coalition's "People Who Make a Difference" award, Jennings was also honored by the California Senate in 2011.

Working with City Manager Janet Keeter to hold the line on spending by running staff on overtime rather than filling a vacant position, he saved the City roughly \$98,000. Further savings were generated when the Contra Costa Sheriff's Department (CCSD) agreed to a seven percent reduction in total salary and benefits, making

CCSD now the lowest paid law enforcement department in the area.

However, running forever on overtime is not realistic. New officers require training, and experienced personnel need vacations from high-stress work. And, OPD has not seen a staffing increase in 12 years -- even though Orinda's population has increased. So, Jennings and Keeter will engage in further budget planning to find the best way forward financially while maintaining Orinda's high public safety ratings.

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