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Kevin Bernie tells his story while standing near one of 300 Redwoods he planted in Moraga.

Photo Andy Schreck

Moraga's Johnny Redwood Seed

By Cathy Dausman

Arbor Day is April 27, but what's that got to do with Moraga? Just ask Kevin Bernie. Bernie's family calls him Don Quixote, but instead of tilting at windmills, he spent years planting redwood trees in the town.

Those trees are a fitting tribute, said Bernie, considering the town's original name of Rancho Laguna de los Palos Col-

orados (Ranch of the Lake of Redwoods). But why did a Saint Mary's College graduate, and businessman with a law degree invest in the future by planting 300 seedlings that can grow to 300 feet tall? "I had a thing for trees," he said. A thing, indeed.

Bernie recounted the California East Bay history of the late

1800s, when post-gold rush inhabitants nearly stripped the Berkeley hills bare of their native redwoods. He learned to love the beautiful Muir Woods redwood groves, and the "magnificent" grove in Sequoia National Park south of Yosemite. Bernie wasn't out to save the world; he only wanted to "plant the tree."

... continued on page A12

Quote of the Week:

"Please thank anyone from the police force, fire fighters, town council and volunteers...who make Moraga the best place that I have ever lived."

Read Letters to the Editor, page A9

Advertising

New Lamorinda Listings ~ Additional Information on Page D4



Lafayette - \$1,850,000



Moraga - \$1,025,000



Moraga - \$795,000



Moraga - \$988,000

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LAMORINDA WEEKLY

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Fire Station Open House Sparks Interest

By Cathy Tyson



MOFD Fire Fighter Adam Goodyear from station 45 helps Mason Batt (4) of Orinda out of the fire truck. Big sister Miranda Batt (6) follows. Photo Andy Schreck

Was it the sunshine, the Farmers' Market right down the block, clever Dalmatian bouncy house, or the lure of a hot dog lunch that made the Spring Open House for the Moraga Orinda Fire District the place to be on a recent Saturday? Young families with pre-schoolers were in abundance, ready to check out the fire trucks on display at the downtown Orinda Fire Station.

Darcy Musso, the mother of Ty Bruton, an enthusiastic 4 1/2 -year-old, reported her son's always wanted to be a fireman. With a much needed boost to the driver's seat, he got his wish - however briefly. A number of their family members are police and fire personnel, said Musso.

Decked out in a firefighter-superhero ensemble, complete with red plastic fire hat, snappy red cape, and red high-tops, 2 1/2 -year-old Avery Coats from Orinda was obviously thrilled to be the man/boy behind the wheel. It's not every day a toddler gets to "drive" a massive paramedic unit. ... continued on page A11

MOFD Board Considers New Option to House Administrative Staff

By Lucy Amaral

The Moraga Orinda Fire District (MOFD) Board of Directors once again revisited the concept of consolidating its administrative staff into one building and renovating Station 41 in Moraga. At the April 18 Board of Director's meeting, Fire Chief Randy Bradley noted several options that had been discussed before, then ended up recommending a new option.

A facilities report approved by the MOFD Board in April, 2011 cited the need to retrofit Station 41 in order to bring it up to ADA standards. The report also addressed administrative staff needs. ... continued on page A11

Life in Lamorinda B1-B12

Poetry - A Team Sport

When poetry, chalk, and youthful enthusiasm collided, Laurie Snyder was there. B1



Sports C1-C3



SMC Golf Wins!

A first-ever WCC title, won on a long shot. Rebecca Eckland has the story. C2

Our Homes D1-D12



Kitchen Tour

Rosylyn Aragon Stenzel previews the Lafayette Juniors' Kitchen Tour D1

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Lafayette

Civic News

Public Meetings

City Council

Monday, May 14, 7:00 pm
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd

Planning Commission

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

Design Review

Monday, May 14, 7:00 pm
Lafayette Library & Learning Center
in the Arts & Science Discovery
Center at 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

School Board Meetings

Acalanes Union High School District
Wednesday, May 2, 7:30 pm
Board Room AUHSD Office
1212 Pleasant Hill Rd, Lafayette
www.acalanes.k12.ca.us

Lafayette School District

Wednesday, May 9, 7:00 pm
Regular Board Meeting
LAFSD Office
3477 School Street, Lafayette
www.lafsd.k12.ca.us

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

City of Lafayette:

www.ci.lafayette.ca.us
Phone: (925) 284-1968

Chamber of Commerce:

www.lafayettechamber.org

Police Report



Dear Readers: We are experiencing difficulty obtaining detailed crime reports from the Lafayette police departments, which is staffed by the Contra Costa County Sheriff. Please bear with us as we try to determine how to best serve the public given the limited information that is being made available to us.

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Send a letter to the editor:

letters@lamorinda
weekly.com

Council Hears Zoning Update

By Cathy Dausman

The possible rezoning of the familiar "Christmas tree lot" property at the corner of Deer Hill Road and Pleasant Hill Road was less about substance than having a say during a lightly attended April 9 Lafayette City Council meeting. City Attorney Mala Subramanian read a prepared zoning update statement to the Council that described a brief history of the parcels along Deer Hill Road.

An application for development was received for a large multi-family project called the Terraces of Lafayette in the midst of city-spon-

sored discussions about possible down-zoning. Because the city is required to process the application, which includes an environmental review, an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is expected to be completed by late April that will outline impacts of the proposed development.

"The data collected for the environmental review will likely provide new and useful information for the city as it makes final determinations regarding the most appropriate zoning designation for the property," said Subramanian in her report to the

City Council. Any action on zoning will have to wait for the completed EIR, and a subsequent thorough review.

The controversial project already has neighbors concerned. Traci Reilly said the process described in the staff report, "wasn't an accurate depiction of what was happening." Cliff Wagener added that he "can't see how it [the proposed development] can be done safely," arguing he thinks the area has the worst traffic in Lafayette.

David Bowie, counsel for the O'Brien Land Company, spoke next,

making it clear his client opposes rezoning of the site as there are "no rational grounds for it."

Only once the EIR has been completed will the application be considered by the city's Planning Commission, as Council Members reminded speakers they were not discussing the application that evening.

As if to clear the air, Council Member Don Tatzin commented, "We're getting too much into the definition of what 'is' is." And so, after 20 minutes of speakers and back and forth, Mayor Carol Federighi said simply, "We move on..."

Local Family Shares Art in New Exhibit at Library

By Cathy Tyson



From left: Liam, Lucas, Valentina, wife Jen, Sebastian, Zackary and Alan. Photo provided by Brian Goggins at the outdoor plaza at First Street and Golden Gate Way, or the unusual "String of Pearls" at the base of the main stairway from the Library's parking garage, the Community Hall Gallery at the Lafayette Library

and Learning Center is a hidden gem.

Unless you're a regular attendee at municipal meetings like City Council or happen to enjoy functions sponsored by the Library Foundation in the Community Hall, it's fairly easy to miss out on the Gallery tucked into the main event space at the Library.

There have been a number of interesting exhibits since the doors officially opened in November of 2009. Members of the Public Art Committee, who are all working artists, have been diligently fulfilling their mission statement to secure art that will "contribute to the cultural enrichment of residents and visitors with a diverse and stimulating cultural environment."

Lauren Faulkner, Art Manager for

the Varella family, reports that, "Friend, fellow board member at the Oakland Museum of California and member of the Public Art Committee, Sandra Wolfe, approached Alan (Varela) regarding the loan of pieces from his collection to be featured in the exhibition series: Lafayette Collects." In appreciation of the Varella family's generosity, there was a reception at the Gallery to kick off the exhibit.

When asked about his motivation for sharing part of their private collection, Varela responded, "As a resident of Lafayette with five school-age children, it is important to my wife and I to pursue every opportunity to bring enrichment and diverse education into the community."

... continued on next page



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Lemonade Entrepreneurs



Neighbors as well as friends, Alana Brinkman and Hans Ramirez, both six-years-old, opened up their first lemonade stand of the season last week, and business has been brisk – with three customers in the first half hour. This is not the kindergartener’s first rodeo, Hans reports he sold lemonade last year. No plans as yet about what to do with all the money they are making. C. Tyson.

Local Family Shares Art in New Exhibit at Library

... continued from page A2

This exhibition series is a powerful tool, bringing people together and exposing the resource residing within our community. For this reason, I am happy to share the works.”

Varela enjoys exploring different cultures, evident by the variety of artwork throughout the family home. His philosophy on collecting centers on bringing uninhibited views of the world as interpreted by others into his own realm. According to Faulkner, “By doing this, he is gently exposing his children, as well as members of the community, through events such as Lafayette Collects, to the diversity of the world at large.”

Currently displayed are three acrylic/collage pieces by William Theophilus Brown from the Bay Area, a series of 12 small works on

paper by Joaquin Gonzalez from Miami and finally two large mono-prints by San Francisco abstract artist Gustavo Rivera. This first exhibit of the Lafayette Collects series will be on display until the middle of May and, like all exhibits in the Community Hall Gallery, is free of charge. The Public Art Committee is anticipating featuring Lafayette collectors once or twice per year. Look for an exhibit by Lafayette photographer Blake Farrington to go up when the Varela collection comes down.

Graduating from Sonoma State with a B.A. in Art History, Lauren Faulkner, whose family is from Lafayette, met the Varela family through mutual acquaintances, leading to her unique position as manager of their collection.

Book Bags Donated to Friends Corner Book Shop



Photo Jenny Wu

Mechanics Bank of Lafayette Vice President Debbie Cooper (right) and Financial Services officer Rene Cain (left) presented 100 book bags with the Friends of the

Lafayette Library and Learning Center logo to Sharon Lingane (center) last week at the Friends Corner Book Shop. The bags will be sold to raise funds for the Library. C. Tyson



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Moraga Civic News

Public Meetings

Town Council

Wednesday, April 25, 7:00pm
Wednesday, May 9, 7:00pm
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School,
1010 Camino Pablo

Planning Commission

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

Design Review

Monday, May 14, 7:00 pm
Moraga Library, 1500 Saint Marys Rd

School Board Meeting

Moraga School District

Tuesday, May 8, 7:30 pm
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate
School Auditorium
1010 Camino Pablo, Moraga
www.moraga.k12.ca.us

See also AUHSD meeting page A2
Check online for agendas, meeting
notes and announcements

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Phone: (925) 888-7022

Chamber of Commerce:

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Moraga Citizens' Network:

www.moragacitizensnetwork.org



Police Report

Driver in Pond, 4/10/12 At Moraga Country Club – that usually refers to a golf club. However a 32-year-old female driver of a rented red 2010 Mazda was, not surprisingly, under the influence when she drove down Country Club Drive and kept going after the street ends and landed in the pond. She was able to swim from the completely submerged vehicle to safety, then ended up walking to Safeway where she called police to report the incident. Looks like she made it through a pile of wood chips and into the pond on the ninth hole with only a slight injury to her wrist. Value of lost pride and DUI charges hard to know at this point.



Superhero tow truck driver prepares to take a dip in the pond at the ninth hole of the Moraga Country Club to rescue car. Because rowing the car ashore won't work, driver stands on the roof of the submerged rental Mazda before diving in to hook up tow cable. Photo Pete Heckler

Stolen car found, 4/04/12 An anonymous caller reported an abandoned car parked on Rimer Drive. Cops investigated and after checking DMV records, found the car was stolen from Easy Rent a Car in San Leandro. The car was towed by Lamorinda Tow Company, since the registered owner was unable to be located at the time of the incident. Only twenty miles more or less from San Leandro to Mo-town – but a world apart.

Pot at Campo, 4/14/12 On routine patrol of Campolindo High School at roughly 11:00 p.m., cops observed a parked car in the rear lot with two people in it. Is that eau de marijuana emanating from the car? Why yes, turns out in addition to smoke, two plastic baggies of pot and several unspecified drug paraphernalia items were found. Parents of the pair were contacted and the kids were released to their custody.

False alarm, 4/14/12 Although there were no signs of forced entry or suspicious activity, an audible alarm was sounding from a Camino Peral home. Cops checked the perimeter, and didn't find anything unusual.

Drunk college kid, 4/13/12 It was barely happy hour when Moraga Police were dispatched to St. Mary's College to assist Moraga-Orinda Fire District personnel with a 21-year-old intoxicated female. She was awake and responsive enough to say thanks, but no thanks to an offer of a ride to the hospital for medical evaluation.

Under the influence, 4/08/12 Usually residents are tucked in and fast asleep at 1:20 in the morning, but police were called to check on an unknown female knocking on a Camino Ricardo door. The woman in question didn't know where she was or how she got there. Although she was rambling, she 'fessed up that she had taken LSD two hours earlier.

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Moraga Town Council's Cohesiveness Shaken

Town staff charged with finding out what works in Lafayette

By Sophie Braccini

For over 25 years the titles Mayor and Vice Mayor rotated among elected members of the Moraga Town Council according to who won the highest number of votes in the general election, and one year's vice mayor usually became the next year's mayor. Since there are five council members each serving four-year terms, and the mayor and vice mayor seats are held for one year, there was always one council member who never got a turn—according to tradition, the loser of this game of musical chairs was always the one who residents sent to the council on the fewest votes.

Occasionally this tradition has

been challenged. For example, a few years ago now-mayor Mike Metcalf attempted to pull the chairs out from under both Lynda Deschambault and Ken Chew. He did not succeed because the rest of that particular Council was determined not to break the unwritten rule.

But tradition was cast aside last December when Karen Mendonca proposed that Howard Harpham become vice mayor—despite an expectation that the seat would go to Dave Trotter, who got more votes than Harpham—and no one opposed. In another twist, Harpham's term in office ends this December, although he said during a recent interview that he plans to run for a second term.

This dramatic end to a system that had been perfectly predictable for so many years took some Moraga residents by surprise and, during a public comment period, Ellen Beans called for the issue to be put on the Town Council's agenda for discussion.

On April 11 the Council considered the question of how Moraga's mayor and vice mayor should be chosen.

Mendonca, Metcalf and Chew agreed that because the current tradition was not set in writing there was no reason to be bound by it, and having flexibility in the choice of who would lead was more important. "If the Council thinks that a particular leader would be best at the time, that's

when the Council would want to maximize its flexibility," said Mendonca, recalling a conversation she had with a former Town Manager who explained the rules to her.

Trotter preferred a system that he said has kept politics, lobbying, and personal disputes out of the process, and that has served the town well; but he received no support from his colleagues.

With the Council's agreement, Metcalf concluded the discussion by asking staff to look into the City of Lafayette's process, by which the mayor's seat rotates among all Council members regardless of the number of popular votes received, and bring a proposal back to the Council at an unspecified future date since other, more pressing, issues are presently on the Council's plate.

What will Moraga's staff find in Lafayette?

Like Moraga, Lafayette does not have a formal written procedure for selecting its mayor and vice mayor. According to the Lafayette City Council members themselves, it's a loosely-defined process that works well because the members are respectful, listen more than they talk, and even if they sometimes disagree with one another, they never carry a grudge.

"We used to rotate the mayor's seat the same way Moraga did," explained Lafayette City Council Mem-

ber Don Tatzin who, with 27 years of service, is the Council veteran. "We always knew what the policy was and followed it. We never took anyone out of order or skipped anybody. My experience has been that everybody always does the best they can when it is their year to be the mayor."

But Tatzin felt it was a bit unfair that this system could prevent the lowest vote-getter from ever becoming mayor and, when Brandt Andersson was elected to the Council, Tatzin supported Andersson's proposal under which everyone gets a turn – and the Council agreed.

"We still do not have anything in writing," said Andersson, who has now been on the Council for seven years. "I discussed it with the city manager and the mayor at the time, and we decided on a system that's a combination of who's been on the Council the longest and not had a turn the longest. That person gets to be the next in line."

What makes this system work in Lafayette is that council members all agree on the concept. "We have an understanding that this is a collegial decision," added Andersson. "We've had many years of very successful city government and we continue to serve because everybody works together to make life better here. There are not a lot of conflicts, otherwise we would want to get out of it," he concluded.

Cinco en Seis

Moraga's Cinco de Mayo celebration to take place on May 6

By Sophie Braccini



Mariachi music at last year's festival

Photo Andy Schreck

Moraga's Hacienda Foundation invites the community to come and enjoy the beautiful Hacienda de las Flores and its grounds for a family celebration of Cinco de Mayo—loosely based on the celebration of the Mexican military victory of *la Batalla de Puebla*, around here the 5th of May brings a celebration of California's Hispanic heritage.

This year, in addition to the various food and live entertainment that residents have learned to expect at this event, a piece of local history will be presented by the Friends of the Joaquin Moraga Adobe (FJMA). Actually located just across the border in Orinda, the Adobe is the original home of Joaquin Moraga, to whom

much of the land that comprises Lamorinda was granted by the Mexican government in the 1800s. The presentation about the historic structure, which is now at the center of a development battle and was recently struck by vandals, will emphasize its historical significance.

"FJMA will participate in the 'Cinco de Mayo Fiesta' to build community awareness of the Moraga Adobe," said FJMA president Kent Long. "We will have an information booth dedicated to the Adobe plus various fun, kid-oriented activities." FJMA has secured the presence of the National Park Service, who will come with informational displays about the de Anza exhibition and reproductions

of historic Presidio uniforms that kids can dress-up in.

The Adobe was built by Moraga in 1841, out of clay, water and straw bricks, on the land known as Rancho Laguna de los Palos Colorados. The land grant included parts of Orinda and Lafayette and the communities of Canyon, Redwood, Rheem, and Moraga.

The subject of much public debate, the Adobe today is located on a 20-acre private property in Orinda, close to the Moraga border, that successive owners have tried to develop. The current owner is working with the Orinda Planning Department on a 13-home project that would renovate the Adobe for use as a homeowner club house. ... continued on page A8

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Michael Frazier
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Moraga Prepares its First Five-Year Financial Plan

By Sophie Braccini

It was among the Council's two dozen objectives for 2012 and Moraga's Administrative Services Director, Stephanie Hom, is making it a reality—Moraga will soon have its first five-year financial plan, a management tool that will aid in strategic planning. Hom presented an initial working document to the Town's Audit and Finance Committee on April 17.

The plan is a living document that will evolve as time passes, events occur and adjustments are made to reflect new conditions. Hom calculated the first projections using historical data and extrapolated trends, as well as existing projections from other sources. "Municipal Resource Consultants gave us our most recent sales tax results as well as a five-year projection," said Hom. "We also factored in an anticipated increase of the rental revenue from Town property that's used by the Country Club, using market value." It's expected those funds will increase by a factor of more than 800 percent in 2014.

The Audit and Finance Committee (Committee), which is composed of two Town Council members—Mayor Mike Metcalf and Council Member Karen Mendonca, and three members of the public—Robert Kennedy, Bradley Ward and Gary Breaux, discussed at some length the way municipal departments plan and save for capital replacement, and

agreed that fund reserves need to be detailed and replenished.

Metcalf noticed that no money was set aside to update the General Plan. "We do not have an obligation to update the General Plan every ten years," said Town Manager Jill Keimach. "We agreed to do incremental revisions so we do not have to engage in a complete revision." The estimated of the cost of a comprehensive update is \$1 million.

The last section of the proposed financial plan is a 5-year capital improvement plan. Hom's document showed an astronomical amount of \$46.7 million in unfunded needs, including \$25 million for the roads RECON program, \$3.6 million for the storm drain system, \$2 million for the repair of Rheem Boulevard, \$2.5 million for Moraga Road traffic calming and beautification, and a town gymnasium and recreation center that would cost \$10 million. The latter element raised eyebrows. "This is a wonderful idea and could be very nice for our town, it fits within our Parks and Recreation Master plan, but with the reality of our roads, this is not realistic planning," said Mendonca. The Committee agreed to remove the gym/recreation center from the 5-year plan.

According to the document, the Town will still have to find \$36 million in new revenue in the next five years. The Town's current annual revenue is roughly \$6.5 million.

What Keeps Ellen Beans Going? Moraga's 2012 Citizen of the Year

By Sophie Braccini

There are different nicknames that suit Moraga's 2012 Citizen of the Year, Ellen Beans. To many, she is 'the quiet leader,' because of the way she takes charge of things when the need arises without ever putting herself in the forefront. But to her longtime friend Edy Schwartz, it should be Beans' legal first name, Grace, "because this is the way she goes through life, does things and is with people," she says.

"When I think of Ellen I remember that her father was a minister and that her service to the community is in a very broad sense carrying on his ministry," says Janet Foreman, another longtime friend. "She serves with great caring, great respect, and with very hard work. I think that it was Maya Angelou who said that 'we often don't remember what a person said but always remember how they made us feel.' When I'm with Ellen I always experience being heard and seen for who I really am and the feeling from that experience is extremely satisfying."

Beans says that she was fortunate enough not to have to work once she began raising her family and she's always serving a cause, a community. "Whatever I have done I have always done 100%," she says. "It is intense, fulfilling, and challenging and it has allowed me to discover parts of myself that I ignored, and I have matured immensely."



Ellen Beans at a CERT training session in Gordon Nathan's home.

Photo Sophie Braccini

Schwartz has watched Beans' transformation since the 1970s (when Beans' daughter belonged to a Girl Scout troop led by Schwartz.) "Ellen wanted to stay in the background," remembers Schwartz, "but she has developed her leadership skills over the years."

Moraga Mayor Mike Metcalf has also known Ellen Beans for some years. "Since she first started coming to Council meetings she's always worked on increasing transparency in local government," says Metcalf.

"Then she started working with Edy Schwartz on the economic development of the town, with the Shop Moraga First movement, reviving the Chamber of Commerce, and in leading the yearly Community Faire." Metcalf, who works side-by-side with Beans on the Revenue Enhancement Committee Outreach to Neighborhoods (RECON), adds that he enjoys working with her and appreciates her sense of humor.

... continued on page A8

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Orinda Civic News

Public Meetings

City Council

Tuesday, May 1, 7:00 pm
Auditorium, Orinda Library,
26 Orinda Way

Planning Commission

Tuesday, May 8, at 7:00 pm
Auditorium, Orinda Library,
26 Orinda Way

Finance Advisory Committee

Special Meeting:
Wednesday, May 9, at 6:00 pm
Community Room, City Hall
22 Orinda Way

School Board Meeting

Orinda Union School District
Monday, May 14, 6:00 pm
OUSD Office
8 Altarinda Road, Orinda
www.orindaschools.org
See also AUHSD meeting page A2

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

City of Orinda:

www.cityoforinda.org
Phone (925) 253-4200

Chamber of Commerce:

www.orindachamber.org

The Orinda Association:

www.orindaassociation.org



Police Report

Pipe dreams, 4/16/12 When report of a suspicious subject came in, Orinda police stopped a 49-year-old male driver. Said driver was found to have a pipe and white powder. Not being Frosty the Snowman, the pipe wasn't corn cob, it was glass, and the suspicious powder wasn't snow, but looked like methamphetamine. Tests showed it was methamphetamine. The subject, already on active probation, was arrested and booked; his car was towed.

All of the above, 4/16/12 A 27-year-old male pulled over for a traffic stop presented police with a California ID card instead of a license. He volunteered that his license was suspended for a variety of reasons – a) driving under the influence, b) not having insurance, c) expired auto registration and d) past parking violations. Police added an on-site arrest to his resume, the man was released at the site and his car towed.

Ring in the rain, 4/11/12 A 22-year-old male was found walking barefoot in the rain in 40-50 degree weather, going door to door ringing door bells. His clothes were soaked, his speech was slurred, he reeked of alcohol and he didn't know what city he was in or how he got here (hint: it was Orinda). He admitted to police he drank "around ten drinks last night." He was arrested, transported and booked into Martinez Detention Facility, where he presumably dried out, inside and out.

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Of Fences and Neighbors

By Laurie Snyder



Gate between Knickerbocker and Stein Way Photo Laurie Snyder

The great gate debate rages on as residents of Orinda's Knickerbocker Lane and Stein Way recently laid concerns about a gate separating their two neighborhoods at the feet of Orinda City Council members.

Multiple presenters on April 10 stressed that the debate, which has grown decidedly discordant over the last few months, should not be thought of as neighborhood against neighborhood, but rather as a disagreement between those who favor keeping the gate in place

with those wanting it removed – the pro-gaters versus the no-gaters.

"This is not two neighborhoods locked in combat," observed Steve Schnier, Chair of the Orinda Traffic Safety Advisory Committee (TSAC), as he also explained why TSAC members voted to ask the Council to permanently remove the gate.

Often on the receiving end of praise, TSAC has been criticized in the gate debate of late for overstepping its "traffic calming bounds." "We are purely advisory,"

began Schnier. "We do not conduct hearings. We do not make decisions," he said as he recalled opportunities area residents were given over the past several months to express support for or against the gate.

"We had been asked by City Council to consider this. We considered it," Schnier said. "In the end, there was one value that carried the day.... We did not even want to take a single step," he continued, toward supporting a gate that would contribute to making Orinda "a patchwork of gated enclaves."

Pro-gaters cited guarantees made by the developer, real estate agents, and even City personnel to keep the gate in place to reduce traffic and speeding. "We don't think it's fair to ignore promises made," said the group's lead presenter, who also stated that there is "no motivation to exclude Orindans," and observed that the gate in question was placed on the street

because that street "was never intended to be a through road."

Another pro-gater advised Council members of the existence of a formal agreement between the City and Castlegate regarding the structure, and warned that opening the gate would cause problems. When the gate came down before, she said, traffic and speed increased – as did vandalism.

"It's not geography, but ideology," said Mike Low, who served as the no-gaters' chief spokesperson, and asked the Council to consider what action would serve the greatest amount of good.

No-gaters cited the wear-and-tear on the neighborhood's roads and environmental degradation from residents forced to drive 1.5 miles with the gate instead of 0.5 miles without – estimated by the group to be an increase in travel of 160 percent. Several felt the gate was un-neighborly and created an undesired enclave feel to the area.

... continued on page A12

Jeffries Named Orinda Police Department's Officer of the Year

By Laurie Snyder



"This has been my best assignment in 20 years," says Detective Danny Jeffries, of his time with the Orinda Police Department. Photo Cathy Dausman

Orinda Police Detective Danny Jeffries describes himself as simply a generalist. "I am not an award guy. I just enjoy doing my stuff."

His direct supervisor, Detective Sergeant Neil Rafanan, tells it differently. Explaining to Orinda City Council why Jeffries was being honored as Orinda's 2011 Officer of the Year April 10, Rafanan credited Jeffries with the arrest of over 24 suspects last year.

Reached later for comment, Rafanan commended the investigative abilities of his friend. "He's got great perspective... natural instinct."

Jeffries got his start with his high school Explorers club, and recommends it as "a great program" for young people interested in law enforcement.

His first job was as an officer for the Oakland Housing Authority Police, followed by stints in Kensington, Hayward, and Kensington again, where he received a promotion to the rank of Sergeant before

moving to the Contra Costa Sheriff's Department (CCSD).

He's been with the Orinda Police Department (OPD) for five years, and is described by Rafanan as the best partner he's ever had. The two share a warm camaraderie. Both speak highly of their chief, Jeffrey Jennings.

Interviews with the three were punctuated by active chatter coming in over new P-25 radios, illustrating just how frenetic OPD days are.

"You get some hard core people coming to Orinda to commit crimes," said Jeffries, who noted the majority come from outside of the area. "A couple have even made me shudder."

"Orinda is a target-rich environment," added Rafanan. Laptops, big screen televisions, and other electronics are the most popular items.

They can be easily grabbed and sold.

"That's why we created the home security audit," said Jeffries. The free assessments average 15 minutes and help make homes less vulnerable. Residents who have not yet had one done may contact OPD for details: (925) 254-6820.

When the worst happens, he said, call OPD promptly. The quicker police can get cracking on tracking, the more likely they are to be successful. They've recovered a significant amount of stolen property, including priceless and irreplaceable heirloom jewelry which had been passed down to one resident from her great-grandmother.

"Be vigilant in your neighborhoods," Jeffries advised, "and look out for one another."

Jeffries will rotate out of Orinda for a new assignment in June.

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Orinda Police Department Presents Annual Report for 2011

By Laurie Snyder



Vice Mayor Amy Worth welcomes the City's newest police officers, from left: Reserve Officer Daryl England, Reserve Officer Bill Howard and Officer Travis Dennison. Photo Cathy Dausman

Attendees at Orinda City Council's April 10 meeting were introduced to the newest members of the Orinda Police Department (OPD) by Chief Jeffrey Jennings. Travis Dennison and Maynard Patacsil of the Contra Costa Sheriff's Department have begun as new police officers. Darly England and Bill Howard will be serving in reserve.

Jennings also presented his department's annual report. Advising Council members that OPD had

stepped up traffic enforcement in 2011 because his staff had been required to conduct 87 collision investigations related to nearly 200 traffic accidents, Jennings observed that the increased focus on safety appeared to be working. "Reported traffic accidents dropped by eight percent over the last three-year average," he noted.

Reached later for comment, Jennings explained that although "the amount of citations we write doesn't even pay for a full-time officer," there

are genuine savings to the City via reduced property damage and officer response costs.

Thefts, once on the rise, also began declining in July 2011 as OPD personnel turned their attention to criminals attempting residential and commercial property crimes. The word is out, Jennings said, that criminals will lose their cars if they get caught. So crooks now go elsewhere.

... continued on page A8

Council Members Talk Wilder

By Laurie Snyder

At a nearly packed meeting April 10, the Orinda City Council conducted its annual review of the Wilder Project to determine whether or not OG Property Owners, LLC (OGLLC) is in compliance with its development agreement with the City. Council members learned from City staff that OGLLC has been late making its required payments to the City and in getting paperwork to staff, but still plans to open two Wilder sports fields by June 1, 2012.

According to the staff report, the developer has always paid its fees in the past and there is no reason to believe that OGLLC will not follow through this time. That report and the audio for this meeting are available on the City's web site.

Additional problem areas included OGLLC's failure to obtain required approvals for its bioswale redesign in connection with stormwater management and a delay in making the playfield

picnic area accessible as promised.

Council Member Victoria Smith described OGLLC's actions as troubling, but also noted that the February 1 hiring of construction consultant John Tuttle "has been a great way to speed the process."

Tuttle was brought on by the developer and the City to provide construction oversight of the Phase I [playfield] improvements for the City and to facilitate communica-

tions between the developer and City staff. His services have been, and will continue to be paid for by OGLLC.

Following deliberation, the Council found OGLLC in compliance, voting 4-0 (with Mayor Steve Glazer recused due to a potential conflict of interest). However, when the developer asked that the City Council authorize the City Manager to accept the improvements and the property for Phase I without requir-

ing any further discretionary action the Council declined, saying that OGLLC needed to get the project done.

Because the project won't be as complicated in its next phases, according to City Manager Janet Keeter, the Council did establish a two-member subcommittee to provide more streamlined oversight moving forward, and named Council Members Amy Worth and Dean Orr as its first appointees.

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Aug 27-31

Civic News Moraga

Calling 911

By Sophie Braccini

Two home burglaries in Moraga in March and April serve as reminders that, although the town remains one of the safest in the county, it is not crime-free. The first incident happened at night, in the home of an older resident, and is still under investigation. The other took place during the day—a suspect was arrested on unrelated charges. Moraga police recently talked about these crimes and what residents can do to stay safe.

“Most of the time, burglars want to enter homes while owners are away during the day. They don’t want to be seen. It’s a good idea to keep the doors locked and if you see someone, make noise,” advised Detective Will Davis.

At about 10 a.m. on April 12, a Tharp Drive resident was at home when she spotted a stranger in her backyard. She saw him walk around the house and heard him try to enter through a back window. She called 911 and exited her house through the garage. A nearby mail carrier stayed with her while she waited for police to arrive.

“We surrounded the house and used a Contra Costa County Sheriff’s Office K9 to track the suspect,” said Lieutenant Jeff Price. “Nobody was in the garden or had entered the home. The dog picked up a scent and we followed the foot tracks over a fence, but the trail was lost.”

Later that day, a security guard at Sanders Ranch spotted a suspicious person walking down Camino Pablo and called police. “We finger-printed him

and arrested him on unrelated charges,” said Price, who could not divulge the details of an open investigation.

A few weeks earlier Shirley Lawrence, an elderly Moraga resident, was awakened in the middle of the night by sounds in the home she has lived in for 47 years. At first she thought she was dreaming, she recalls, but then she heard the sounds again and knew someone was there. “I got really scared,” she said. “They knew I was there, locked in my bedroom, because my dog was coughing. I took my cell phone and called 911.”

Lawrence reports that the police were there within minutes. “We are so lucky to have our own police department,” she said. “They are the most marvelous people and I’ve called them many times to thank them.”

Nothing was stolen, but the backdoor had been broken. Lawrence believes that the burglars were after drugs and couldn’t find any in her home.

“If a house looks like it is not inhabited, then people might attempt to enter at night,” said Davis.

Both Davis and Price say that the best way to get help in an emergency is to dial 911 from a landline. “The moment you enter that second ‘one’ your address appears on the screen of the dispatcher in Martinez with whom we contract services,” explained Price, who advises residents to call (925) 284-5010 from a cell phone to reach the emergency dispatcher. “That might be your best option if you can’t use a landline,” he said.

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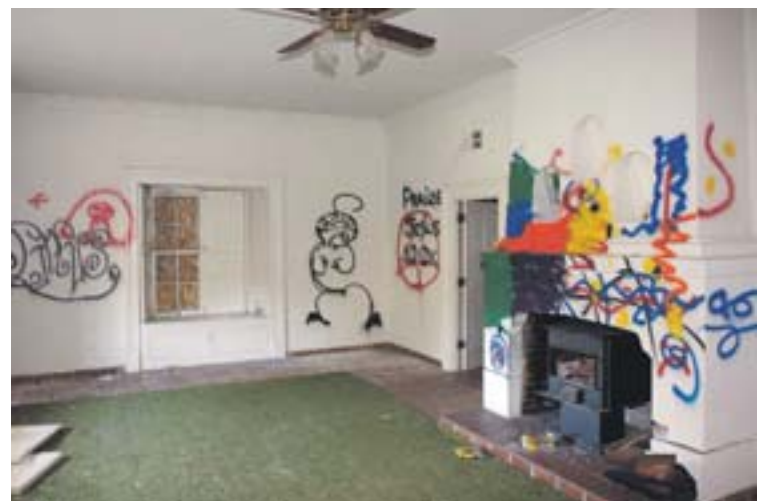
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Cinco en Seis

... continued from page A4



Joaquin Moraga Adobe recently vandalized

Photo Kent Long

Sadly, the Adobe made news recently for another reason when residents alerted FJMA that the building had been vandalized. When Long arrived at the site he found broken windows, open doors and lots of graffiti. The historical plaques were missing. But what he found most disturbing was a section of wall where someone had

been digging at the old adobe bricks.

The Cinco de Mayo Fiesta will be held on Sunday, May 6, 3 to 7 p.m. at the Hacienda de las Flores, 2100 Donald Drive in Moraga. For more information about the event go to www.haciendafoundation.org, and to learn more about the Joaquin Moraga Adobe visit moragaadobe.org.

What Keeps Ellen Beans Going? Moraga's 2012 Citizen of the Year

... continued from page A5

Beans is currently at the helm of the Moraga Citizens Network (www.moragacitizensnetwork.org). Town Manager Jill Keimach, who met Beans only recently, says that she is a quiet leader who is all about letting residents know about every aspect of what is happening in Moraga. “She puts that before any of her own interests,” says Keimach. “She communicates, she listens, she shares, and she works tirelessly to make Moraga better and more community oriented.”

Gordon Nathan, last year’s Citizen of the Year and a Community

Emergency Response Team instructor knows her in that capacity. He was also struck by her enthusiasm, hard work and desire to communicate with others. “She came to the CERT training, did some research on her own, and followed up by organizing information sessions with her neighbors,” he remembers.

“My motivation is sharing information and creating connections with the community, bringing people together,” says Beans. “In this town of Moraga, I love to work with so many wonderful people to make Moraga an even more vibrant community.”

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- 12:00pm Dunk Tank Moraga Celebrity
- 12:15pm Oak Grove Bluegrass Family
- 1:15pm Dunk Tank Moraga Celebrity
- 1:30pm EE and Friends (Littledog2)
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Letters to the Editor



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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

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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

... continued from page A7

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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Community Service

National Charity League Class of 2012

Submitted by Carrie Dern

The Acalanes Area Chapter of National Charity League – a mother-daughter non-profit organization dedicated to serving local communities – once again celebrated their graduating seniors during the 2012 Senior Celebration Program March 3 at the Claremont Hotel.

Nationally, there are over 168 chapters committed to fostering the mother-daughter relationship through philanthropic, leadership and cultural activities. Membership in the Acalanes Area Chapter is drawn from the Lamorinda communities of Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda. Participation begins in seventh grade and continues through the senior year of high school. The girls are honored for their many hours of philanthropic work volunteering at Foster-A-Dream, Lafayette Library, California Shakespeare, Juvenile Diabetes, Smiley Dog and Special Olympics, among others.

These volunteer activities combined with activities focused on leadership development and cultural awareness, form the three pillars of National Charity League, and help to initiate a life-long commitment to community service and deepen the bond between mother and daughter. For membership information, please visit www.nationalcharityleague.org.



Standing from left: Alicia Macler, Carlyn Wright, Erin Furay, Kit Koelzer, Brittany Preston, Nicole Forbes, Mallory Loomis, Rachael Oczkus, Katie Thompson. Sitting: Gabriela Blum, Jamie Fiero, Jessica Zischke, Audrey Vogel, Courtney Neff, Shelby Dern, Gwendolyn Tom, Emily Davis, Kelsey Figone, Barbara Lanier, Nicki Bartak, Tamar McCollum
Photo Terry Riggins Photography, Moraga

National Girl Scout Awards Announced

Submitted by Linda Bailey Wurgley, Senior School Organizer, Events Coordinator



Geni Federas Photos provided

of the requirements, and assuring them that it will get easier, one fellow leader noted. "This important skill of reassuring the new troops is important. The new leadership is not scared off by the mountain of forms and paperwork.

"When Federas first started the volunteer position she was a stay-at-home mom. She has continued the position, worked full time, attending to the Service Unit Registration details in the evenings. She attends each Fall and Spring Leader Meetings to teach leaders, old and new, the updated registration procedures. She does it in an entertaining style with handouts for easy reference later."

Sandra Patterson, who was awarded the Honor Pin, is unwavering in her forward-march attitude and problem-solving abilities. Through her ability to structure activities, she makes it seem easy to jump on board. She possesses a rare combination of being detail-oriented and having a broad, clear vision for the organization. She is masterfully organized and truly cares that everyone feels able to effectively carry out their jobs and motivates fellow leaders to take on new challenges.

As the interim school organizer for Happy Valley Elementary she learned about eight second-grade girls who had been on a waiting list for a troop, and she committed to starting a second-grade troop so that the parents could see how a troop runs. Sandra was also interim Membership Coordinator and SUD while working full-time.

Both of these role models recognize, understand, and practice the values of inclusive behavior. The 1,443 girl and adult members are proud and thankful for these women's service to our community. As a small token of Lafayette Girl Scouts' appreciation, both of these outstanding women will be honored at a special lunch with Girl Scout Northern California CEO Marina Park.

If you really want to fight poverty, fuel growth and combat extremism, try girl power. Two Lafayette women exemplify this edict and contribute to the Girl Scout goals of the three C's: courage, confidence and character.

Geni Federas, who was recently honored with the Appreciation Pin, patiently attends to each and every leader, making them feel that it is okay to be a bit overwhelmed by all

Bears Pick Up Litter in Moraga

Submitted by Catherine Becker



Photo Catherine Becker
Pack 505 Cub Scout Bears were up bright and early on Sunday, April 15 to pick up litter in Moraga. The boys met at 8 a.m. to pick up many bags of litter on the walking/running corridor beside the Safeway to help keep our community beautiful. Bears shown from left: Cooper Alford, Jack Keough, Graham Becker and Keith Millar,

Brownies Clean Up Day Camp, Donate to Campsite

Submitted by Linda Murphy



Photo Linda Murphy
Lafayette Brownie Troop #31881 (Burton Valley, second grade) donated their troop's proceeds from this year's Girl Scout Cookie sales to the Girl Scout Twin Canyon campsite in Lafayette. The troop members also volunteered their time and energy at the Diablo Day Camp Twin Canyon clean-up day on Saturday, April 14. The girls cleared campsites and the Brownie trail to ready the camp for 10 sessions of day camp this summer. Troop members are

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.

MOFD Considers Restructuring Fire Marshal Position

By Lucy Amaral

The sudden announcement of the retirement of Moraga Orinda Fire District Fire Marshal Mike Mentink at the end of March has afforded Fire Chief Randy Bradley the opportunity to look at ways the District can continue to streamline its administration without compromising service. At the April 18 Board of Director's meeting Bradley presented the Board with an option.

In his report Bradley asked the Board not to fill Mentink's former position noting that, according to the health and safety code, the Fire Chief is the designated Fire Marshal for the

District. Bradley suggested that the Board eliminate the positions of Fire Marshal and Fire Prevention Officer and create a new position of Assistant Fire Marshal. The move, he said, would help to produce a balanced financial plan with no impact on service levels.

Mentink had been with MOFD since 2008 and his duties included fire prevention, public relations and fire investigation. Bradley said that when looking at the job responsibilities of the Fire Marshal, Fire Prevention Officer and his position as Fire Chief there were many similarities and over-

lapping responsibilities. Eliminating the two positions and bringing on an Assistant Fire Marshal would result in a reduction of \$145,000 in total salary and benefit costs.

"This arrangement is not built to be a permanent solution," Bradley said. "When the economic environment improves, I fully expect a full time Fire Marshal would be hired and the Assistant Fire Marshal position would most likely be dissolved." He added that the Assistant Fire Marshal at that time might move into the Fire Marshal position.

Bradley said that because Mentink

only gave a one-week notice, the current Fire Prevention Officer, Kathy Leonard, took over many of the Fire Marshal's duties and suggested to the Board that she is the best qualified to move into the role of Assistant Fire Marshal.

Questions from the Board focused mainly on the vagueness of the new position's job description as presented, and how fire districts compare salaries. The Board agreed, however, that a decision should be made quickly and instructed Bradley to return with a re-edited job description and a clear salary matrix.

A common theme from both the Board and the public comments dealt with concerns about the quality of service. "We want to make sure services don't fall through the cracks," Board member Frank Sperling said regarding his request for more details from the Chief. "We are looking for additional information to ensure that the Board, and the community, understands how this move will be better while still offering the same level of service."

The Board plans to meet again in early May to deliberate and possibly approve the position.

Fire Station Open House Sparks Interest

... continued from page A1



Avery Coats from Orinda was obviously thrilled to be the man/boy behind the wheel. Photo Cathy Tyson

Perhaps burning off some energy from complimentary popcorn, the dog-inspired bounce house was as popular as the vehicles. Parents seemed more interested in some of the safety and preparedness information available; it's no secret that both Moraga and Orinda have potentially high fire danger and a nearby earthquake fault line.

Grace Santos, Secretary to the

Fire Chief, was responsible for the logistics of putting together this semi-annual event - no easy task, especially with celebrities like Smokey the Bear and Sparky the Fire Dog popping in. She said they always have their Spring Open House in Orinda, and a fall pancake breakfast event in Moraga to equally cover the two municipalities that compose the Moraga Orinda Fire District.

MOFD Board Considers New Option to House Administrative Staff

... continued from page A1

Currently MOFD staff is split between two fire stations: 41 in Moraga and 45 in Orinda. The report said that combining the currently split administrative offices would allow for an economy of scale, saving the District money while increasing efficiency. The Board had considered a wide range of office locations including renting space for the City of Orinda, renting from a private building owner and purchasing and renovating an existing building. All of the options were eventually shelved.

Bradley's staff report discussed the previous choices as a review, however this time he recommended the purchase of a modular building which would be located directly behind Station 41. By using a modular structure of approximately 1,000 square feet, Bradley said the two offices could be combined, Station 41 could be updated without a major renovation, and the operating budget would not be affected as funds would come from the Capital Fund budget (fire flow tax). Bradley added that he has spoken with the current project manager for the reconstruction of Station 43 in Orinda regarding the possibility of taking on this project as well.


"We are trying to find what would work best with regards to our budget and our logistics," Bradley said. He added that he believes the project could be completed for \$150,000 and would cover needed improvements in order to blend with the Moraga Scenic Corridor requirements.

Board members Frank Sperling and John Wyro were hesitant to approve a modular unit until more information was presented and understood how this building would blend into the long-range strategic plan. Board President Fred Weil said he wanted to move the process along and find an economical option that would not impact MOFD's level of service. "This is cheaper than any other alternative that has come before us," he said. "We need to give the Chief what he needs

to consolidate staff in one place and to reduce the cost of administration as best we can."

Orinda's Mayor, Victoria Smith, and Vice Mayor, Amy Worth were in attendance that night and made an appeal for the MOFD Board to reconsider leasing space in Orinda City Hall. "We would really like to have you there," Smith said. "Having your administrative staff (housed in Orinda) would allow us to create a public safety floor. It makes a lot of sense, having police, emergency communications systems (and MOFD) located there." Both Smith and Worth stated they were willing to work with MOFD regarding the lease length and vetting any concerns the District might have.

The Board instructed Bradley to return to the next Board meeting with a site and space plan for the modular units as well as a detail cost estimate. The Board also requested that Bradley keep the idea of leasing space from the City of Orinda on the table. However, Weil finished the conversation by stating that the financial aspect would be key. "I would like to find as low cost a solution as possible," he said.



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 at the Orinda City Hall, Sarge Littlehale Room, 22 Orinda Way, Orinda.

Next meeting:
Next regular MOFD Board meeting May 2, 2012
 (6:00 pm closed session)
7:00 pm at Orinda City Hall
 (go to www.mofd.org as the meeting date approaches for more information)

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Moraga's Johnny Redwood Seed

... continued from page A1



First plant. From left: Bernie, Mike O'Brien and Kevin Humann, 1981



Kevin Bernie on right

Photos provided

And plant he did, starting with a section in front of St. Mary's Gardens, where his parents moved after he started college next door.

In 1981, he contacted the East Bay Municipal Utility District and Contra Costa County Sanitary District for approval to plant 30 Aptos Blue Redwoods along the entrance to St. Mary's Gardens. Then he approached 124 homeowners, asking for donations to buy saplings.

Many asked him, "What's in it for you?" He simply replied, "It makes me happy."

Bernie also figured that an affluent community like Moraga would pass laws to protect the trees. It took six months, but he gained approval and funding.

The earth was so tough when the first holes were dug that Bernie stood atop the auger in order to break ground. Those trees have grown to

nearly 100 feet, he said, under the watchful eye of his brother Dan, Moraga's Public Works and Parks Superintendent.

It's likely they'll continue "reaching for the stars," said Bernie, crediting his brother with keeping the saplings alive. "It's one thing to plant a seed[ling]," Bernie said, "but Dan has been able to 'stick around and water it.'"

Bernie planted 50 more trees in 1988 – the same year that two U.C. Berkeley students attempted to harvest a 15-foot redwood tree for Christmas at their fraternity house. Moraga Police caught them in the act and the pair made financial restitution for their "youthful indiscretion."

At first, it was just Bernie and friends Mike O'Brien, Kevin Humann and John Holroyd who planted trees. Later Bernie enlisted town residents, volunteers from Youth for Environmental Action (YEA) and Saint Mary's College. In 1991, Bernie and his volunteers planted 125 Aptos Blue Redwoods on the north side of St. Mary's Road near the Moraga library.

Seventy-five more trees followed in 1992 and another 20 were planted along Moraga Boulevard across from Campolindo High School in 1993. To celebrate those plantings, they held an environmental fair and music fest at Saint Mary's Redwood Amphitheater. The fair, "Redwood Rage," ran for three years.

The man who loves trees and admires John Muir and his mentor Galen Clark simply hopes that the people he's involved in the redwood plantings "drive a little slower" through the developing glade. Sounding a bit like a character from the movie *Avatar*, Bernie said with a smile, "The secret to long life is in the trees."

Civic News orinda

Of Fences and Neighbors

... continued from page A6

But it was the specter of safety issues that truly took center stage – potential delays by Moraga Orinda Fire District (MOFD) if firemen must leave trucks to unlock the gate en route to house fires, emergency personnel blocked from even getting to the gate by UPS trucks that sometimes block the structure while transferring packages between vehicles, residents unable to evacuate in the event of an emergency, and the most worrisome for many – the possibility that ambulances and paramedics would lose precious, life-saving seconds to administer oxygen or CPR while driving an alternate route or wrestling with the gate.

When one resident said that an additional 20 seconds to unlock the gate would not add much response time in light of the security benefits the gate conferred, another countered

with the image of a child choking on a carrot, unable to breathe.

The structure does, in fact, present an obstacle according to MOFD Chief Randy Bradley. The gate has been vandalized – allegedly by Orinda residents – and then reinforced repeatedly over the years by City staff, becoming so sturdy that it is no longer "crashable" by fire trucks responding to an emergency, he explained.

Council members also learned from Bradley, however, that the paramedics most likely to assist Knickerbocker-Stein Way residents would in all reality not face gate-related delays. Primary crew members on ambulance calls for this area are actually dispatched from MOFD's downtown station and travel the non-gated route.

Bradley posed one possible solution – employing an automated gate that could be opened by a device sim-

ilar to a garage door opener. Such an upgrade would be problematic, though, because the gate's reinforcements are too heavy and the cost for the fix would be high – \$25,000 to \$30,000.

When asked for his take, Orinda Police Chief Jeffrey Jennings noted that, for the gate to truly thwart crime, it would need to be guarded. Analyses have also shown a negligible impact on traffic. The greatest benefits of having the gate removed, he said, would likely come through residents and police having an easier time of leaving and entering during any emergency.

Cautious Council members delayed "splitting the baby" in Solomon-like fashion and, instead, sent staff back to the stacks to dig for documents to help them craft a deft, down-the-road decision to satisfy all concerned.



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Poetry – A Team Sport at Del Rey Elementary

By Laurie Snyder



Chloe Liljegen (left), Brigette Finger (center), and Brendan McFeely (right) ponder Carl Sandburg's "Fog," one of the famous poems chalked around the schoolyard for Del Rey Elementary's National Poetry Day celebration April 16, 2012. Photo Laurie Snyder

“Hey! Over here,” came the call, followed by the unmistakable sound of sneaker-clad feet slapping against macadam – their many fifth-grade owners bolting as one in pursuit of the prize.

Gym class? Soccer match? Trotting tootsies signaling the start of recess?

Nope. Those were the sounds of poetry – in motion – as boys and girls actively engaged in celebrating National Poetry Month at Orinda's Del Rey Elementary School April 16.

Sedentary students suddenly set free to skip and sleuth glee-fully at words written in chalk on walks and walls by some unknown crusader for creativity: “Today Is Very Boring,” by Jack Prelutsky; “The Road Not Taken,” by Robert Frost; “Who Has Seen the Wind?” by Christina Rossetti; “Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Blackbird,” by Wallace Stevens.

Kids ran from stanza to stanza, jabbering joyfully and even forming up teams to help locate lines of verse more quickly – not because they wanted to get the assignment over with – but because they were having a blast and wanted to en-

courage each other to have fun learning, too.

Nowadays, it's not really news to hear that teachers employ resources over and above the traditional classroom basics. Many do – even though they must often pay for such extras out of their own pockets – because they're forced to compete for the hearts and minds of their students against flashy video games, smart phones, and other high tech toys.

But what happens when those same resources fall into the hands of truly gifted educators? Those resources become something special – magic wands that call forth a sense of wonder in children, transforming merely satisfactory students into enthusiastic, lifelong learners.

Kristin Rasmussen, the brain behind Del Rey's poetry day, credits www.poets.org as her inspiration. “This is a great resource for parents, teachers, and anyone who loves poetry,” she said of the web site.

Known affectionately by the kids as “the library lady,” Rasmussen began working at Del Rey more than six years ago as a classroom assistant, and has been the Li-

brary Technician for the past two.

“The wonderful people at the Educational Foundation of Orinda (EFO) and the Del Rey Parents' Club raise the funds to keep the district libraries open and staffed with library techs like me. I am so grateful for their support.”

Rasmussen's ‘partner in rhyme’ on this special day was fifth-grade teacher John Moran, who turned his young Sherlocks loose and then held a classroom response session later in the week to keep his kids' passion for poetry percolating.

“I love to pick things that they may not be familiar with – things they might not see normally,” said Rasmussen, who not only put a great deal of thought into which poems to chalk around the school – but worked out where best to place the lines of verse to help the fifth-graders truly connect with what they were reading.

Asked for his thoughts in the midst of poem-hunting with a buddy, one fifth-grader did not hesitate as he recalled lines from “Nothing Gold Can Stay” by Robert Frost. “I think this is my favorite. ‘Nature's first garden is gold.’”

Rasmussen listened thoughtfully and then planted a new seed as she tipped the boys off to S.E. Hinton's “The Outsiders” – a wonderful book waiting for them in a future classroom experience.

“They love the chase of it, I think,” said Rasmussen, who noted that even the school's littlest ones got into the act, tugging moms along as designated readers when they noticed that something was different upon arrival at school that day.

Later, fourth-graders were suddenly sleuthing as well after their teacher spontaneously seized a learning opportunity too good to pass up.

Teachers at Del Rey just took the road “less traveled.” Someday, their students may find that decision “made all the difference” in how they look at the world.



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Crowd Charmed by Art and Artists at Gallery Reception

By Cathy Tyson



Wayne Blake posing in the Lafayette Gallery Sculpture Garden with his unique art pieces.
Photo Cathy Tyson

Under gloriously sunny skies, with backyard azaleas blooming right on cue, there was a fantastic turnout for the Lafayette Gallery's current exhibit "Imagine," celebrating the seasonal re-opening of the outdoor Sculpture Garden.

What could be more welcoming than being greeted by a guitar player at the entrance, wine and appetizers throughout? Founding member and print maker Linda Yoshizawa commented on the "very festive" atmosphere and the variety of two-dimensional and three-dimensional art pieces. In business since 1990, the Gallery is a collective of 23 artists that sell an array of art: jewelry, craft, sculpture and works in oil, acrylic, mixed media and more. They share the charming house with "The

Art Room," an art instruction studio.

One of the many artists featured in the backyard was the team of Wayne Blake and girlfriend Dayna Hinson; together they use laser cut recycled stainless steel and a blow torch to create lovely garden butterflies and dragonflies. When asked about the process, Blake said, "Her torch, my ideas." He has a day job welding at cellular sites for a telecom company and noticed a by-product of the welding was an array of colors on steel.

Although the butterflies were flying out the door, fear not, the couple will be making more. The Gallery, located across the street from Chow Restaurant on Lafayette Circle is open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday.



Raise It to Give It

Local kids step up their charity efforts

By Sophie Braccini



Lafayette kids participate in a triathlon to support Afghani children.

Photo provided

When Budd MacKenzie entered the Stanley Middle School gym April 13, the hundreds of students who had assembled knew the gist of the stories they were about to hear. For years now, MacKenzie had enlisted them in supporting the Trust in Education Foundation and the Lafayette teens wanted to hear news about the Afghani street children that they've been supporting since their elementary school years. This time, however, MacKenzie told them something different: He didn't want them to ask their parents for money to support the children of Afghanistan; he wanted them to earn that money.

The Lafayette lawyer had already presented this new 'earn to give' strategy at the elementary school level, and the challenge was met with great enthusiasm. While MacKenzie knew kids were imaginative, he was still surprised when two fifth-graders from Springhill Elementary School came up with something quite different: a virtual triathlon.

"I thought it was a great idea when I heard that Mr. MacKenzie wanted us to earn the money," said fifth-grader Spencer Tompkins, "and I started looking for different ways to earn it. Then I went to my friend Bradley Sides' home, and he thought about the virtual triathlon."

To participate in the virtual triathlon, kids signed up online at [www.crowdrise.com/virtual-triathlon/fundraiser/bradleyand-](http://www.crowdrise.com/virtual-triathlon/fundraiser/bradleyand-spencer)

spencer and either participated in the different local organized events, or vouched to do it on their own.

"Bradley and Spencer researched the appropriate distances for a kids' triathlon," said Spencer's mother and Springhill third-grade teacher Stephanie Tompkins. "Bike five miles, run three miles and swim ten laps. Kids could do it anytime, anywhere before March 30th." They also organized local events: Biking on Sunday, March 11 at 2 p.m. at the Stanley parking lot, swimming the same day at 3 p.m. at Springbrook Pool, and running on Sunday, March 25 at 2 p.m. from the Stanley parking lot.

"We wanted to raise six hundred dollars," said Bradley. "That takes one kid off the streets of Afghanistan and sends him to school for one year. We didn't know if we would be able to raise that much." Money is raised by adults sponsoring children who participated. "I thought this was a great way to involve distant family members such as grandparents," said Bradley's mother. More than 25 kids in five different states participated, their ages ranging from 6 to 13 years old. When the triathlon ended, the two fifth-graders had raised \$1,000.

"We gave Mr. MacKenzie the money that we earned and he'll go to Afghanistan two or three times a year to see how the money is used and follow up with the children," said Spencer.

"Earning the money they gave

added meaning," Bradley's mother said. "I was also impressed by the way they organized the whole fund raiser and by the support they got from their classmates and the community. For example, the Karr family sponsored every Springhill fifth-grader who participated in the race."

At the end of his Stanley presentation, MacKenzie told the students about Spencer and Bradley's achievement, as well as what other children are doing to 'earn' their giving, from bake sales to chores to lemonade stands.

"Club Grow on campus is preparing a series of fundraisers to support Trust in Education," said Stanley volunteer Kit Bozzini. "They are organizing a teacher/student volleyball tournament, they will have a drink-selling booth at the cultural fair on May 5th, and are also planning a dance with a two dollar ticket price, with all proceeds going to the Lafayette non-profit."

According to MacKenzie his non-profit is able to keep 75 kids off the streets of Kabul where they had to beg to support their families. His group also supports 28 teachers in Afghan villages who are teaching a grand total of 1,407 children, 749 of which are girls. "A large portion of those girls would not be getting an education otherwise," he said.

For more information about Trust in Education go to www.trusteducation.org.

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Moraga Grandma Creates the ABCs of Asperger's Syndrome

By Andrea A. Firth



Jo Mele with her grandson Nick.

Photo provided

Moraga resident Jo Mele has worked in the education field for over 40 years. After graduating college with a degree in elementary education, she taught kindergarten, and when she moved to Moraga, she worked as the art teacher at Rheem School. After a 13-year stint as the town's Director of Recreation, she now serves as the Executive Director of the Emeritus College at Diablo Valley College in Pleasant Hill. While her students are bit older these days—Emeritus College offers non-credit classes, tours, trips, and lectures for those 50-plus—Mele is committed to helping people of all ages explore and understand their world.

So when Mele's 10-year-old grandson Nick was diagnosed with Asperger's syndrome (a mild form of autism) four years ago, her first step was to learn everything she could about the condition. The second step was to share this knowledge with Nick's teachers and classmates. To make the information accessible, Mele created the ABCs of Asperger's Syndrome, tying the 26 letters in the alphabet to words that explain the symptoms and behaviors of the condition. Mele later updated the alphabet to reflect Nick's personal experiences as well.

For example, Mele's ABCs start with A is for Aloof. Mele notes that kids who have Asperger's are often onlookers, not participants, and when Nick says that he does not want to play with other kids he just doesn't know how to get included. E is for Eye Contact, H is for Hyperactive, Q is for Questions. . . . Mele's list, which was recently published in the April issue of Parents magazine, provides a comprehensive description of the syndrome.

Mele knew early on that Nick was different from other kids his age. In preschool he had difficulty organizing his muscles to run, skip, and throw a ball in a coordinated way. In kindergarten he wore a striped shirt every day by choice. Sitting still was impossible. He had difficulty focusing and was often overwhelmed by the noise and distractions in the class-

room. Nick complained that sometimes other kids "just didn't get him."

"Nick is a nice, bright child. He just had some quirky behaviors," says Mele. She says as students and teachers learn more about Asperger's syndrome, they come to better understand Nick.

Individuals with Asperger's syndrome can learn the social norms that are not as hardwired for them, says Mele. They can work on eye contact, develop techniques to manage stimuli (lights, noise, movement), and practice conversation. But a little less small talk may not be such a bad thing, thinks Mele.

When Nick was visiting his grandmother one day, he seemed very quiet, so she asked why. "He told me, 'I don't have anything to say,'" Mele says laughing. "I love the honesty in his response. It makes perfect sense."

What Mele says she has learned most from spending time with her grandson is that we need people like Nick, because they think outside the box. She cites Nick's obsession with building things as an example. Mele recalls reading Nick the story of the Three Little Pigs when he was much younger.

With the first little pig who built a house of straw, Nick said, "That will never work." In response to pig two who used twigs as his building material, Nick said, "Better, but still not good." With the third pig and the brick house, Nick said, "Finally a contractor pig who knows what he's doing. He should help the other two."

"My goal with the alphabet is to familiarize as many people as possible about Asperger's syndrome," says Mele. She plans to update the ABCs of Asperger's as Nick moves into new developmental stages like middle school and high school. And Nick seems on board. "If you want to know about Asperger's," says Nick, "call my grandma."

You can read Mele's complete "A to Z Guide to Understanding the Symptoms of Asperger's" at www.parents.com/kids/health/autism/understanding-aspergers-syndrome.

Students Invited to Play a Part in History

School children grades K-12 from Contra Costa and Alameda counties are invited to participate in a competition to inspire the design of three "medallions" which will be displayed on the outside of the fourth bore of the Caldecott tunnel. The theme of the design is "Art Deco Revisited" which was selected by Bay Area residents via an online survey and will serve as a tribute to the original Caldecott medallions, designed by the late Henry H. Meyers, a prominent local architect. Students are encouraged to exercise their creative imaginations around the Art Deco theme, which is characterized by simple and bold geometric

shapes, clean lines and often features abstract symbols, and to explore ways that the past and present styles come together.

To enter, students should go online (<http://www.caldecott-tunnel.org/index.php/stay-informed/medallion-design-competition>) to download the contest entry packet and other forms, to review the contest rules and guidelines, and to learn more about specific entry requirements. Entries must be mailed or dropped off by 4:30 p.m. Monday, May 7. For more information, e-mail medalliondesign@caldecott-tunnel.org. -J. Wake

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College Financial Aid Strategies that Make Sense

By Elizabeth LaScala, PhD

Your student is halfway through high school and the gap between what you can pay and what a college education costs has widened. Your kid has good grades so you are hoping for as much financial aid as possible, preferably in the form of grants and awards you do not have to pay back. Your mailbox, electronic and street side, is filled with offers from financial aid consultants who claim they can help you navigate the complex financial aid process and save you thousands of dollars.

Buyer beware – there is good advice and bad advice available for a price. Some strategies have negative side effects. However, there are several strategies that make sense:

- Save in your name, not in your child's. The federal formula for financial aid assesses the student's savings at 20%, and parental assets at 5.6%. If you have already saved in your student's name, you can cash out and transfer the money to a different type of account. For example, if you saved money in a Uniform Gifts to Minors Account (UGMA) you can cash out and transfer to a 529 educational account in your child's name but over which you have supervision. If you want to avoid capital gains tax, have your child spend the money in the account that is in his name on items necessary for college life.
- Pay off debt before applying for financial aid. The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) requires that you report income from the prior year, however, you may report assets as of the day you submit your application. That gives you leeway to consider any major expenses and decide which ones you can use

assets to pay down or pay off. This strategy results in fewer assets for you to report. However, bear in mind that income counts more than assets in the federal formula. And moving assets around can cost you money, perhaps more than you will save in college costs.

- Apply for financial aid early. The earlier you apply for aid, the better your chances to receive aid. Grant money is scarce and the old adage 'the early bird catches the worm' applies doubly to financial aid.
- Don't fudge the numbers but don't make yourself richer than you are. Since you want to file your FAFSA as soon as possible after January 1st (the earliest date you can apply), you are not likely to have all your tax-related documents on hand to report exact income. Instead, you must estimate your income; take care not to overstate the amount. Don't rely on your last pay stub from the prior year, for example. This is likely to be one of your largest pay checks because all your social security contributions and other reductions to taxable income may not be accounted for. Income matters more than assets so make conservative estimates. You will need to adjust the numbers and update your forms once you file your current year returns.
- Special circumstances. Use the space on special circumstances and/or attach an additional letter spelling out any unusual circumstances. Your income from last year is not as relevant if you have recently lost your job. If you help to support an elderly member of the family, that individual may count as a dependent even if they do not live with you under certain cir-

cumstances (ask your trusted financial planner or tax specialist).

- Use Net Price Calculators. As of October 2011 colleges that receive federal funding must post a Net Price Calculator on their websites. While there are valid criticisms of this tool, the NPC can be useful to help you determine what kind of award families in your circumstances may expect to receive. Net price reflects grants, not loans so be sure to focus on net price. Net cost which is what you get when you subtract the entire aid package, including loans, from the cost of attendance, and loans need to be paid back.

Perhaps the most important piece of advice is to avoid an exclusive focus on getting the most aid from a college. This strategy ignores the criticality of finding good college matches for your student. A well-developed college list will include colleges that fit your student's interests and needs as well as your pocketbook. Pick colleges where your child will be an asset as well as where your child will thrive. Colleges will award more merit aid to a student they want on their campuses. The list should be balanced by probability of admission and each college should have certain factors in common, such as strong academics in your child's area of interest. That is the real secret to balancing more than your checkbook. Ultimately, you want to spend money wisely on college and that means selecting a college where you child can spend four happy and productive years without you going broke.



Elizabeth LaScala Ph.D. guides college, transfer and graduate school applicants through the complex world of admissions. She develops best match college lists, offers personalized interview and 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 to maximize merit and financial aid awards. Visit www.doingcollege.com; call (925) 891-4491 or email at elizabeth@doingcollege.com

The Pirates! Band of Misfits

By Derek Zemrak



Let's set things straight up front – this is a pirate movie without Johnny Depp.

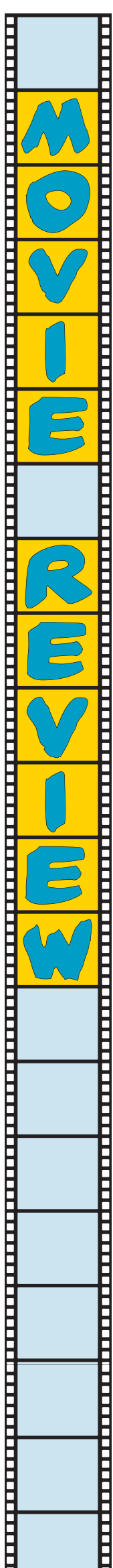
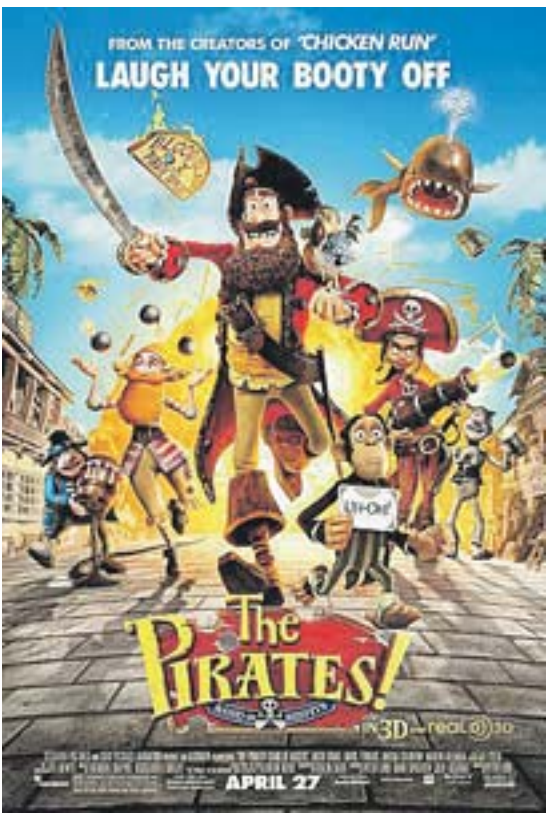
The Pirates! Band of Misfits, is a stop motion animated film from the talented studio, Aardman Animations (*Wallace & Gromit, Chicken Run*). It is the tale of Captain Pirate (Hugh Grant), the bumbling pirate who is determined to win the Pirate of the Year award after years of a "Susan Lucci" losing streak. How does one become the Pirate of the Year? Well, by getting the most booty (no, not that) - loot - money! So Captain Pirate sets out to steal his way to the honor, only to discover that one ship he pillaged has no gold, but it does have Charles Darwin (David Tennant). As the pirates are forcing Darwin to walk the plank, Darwin informs Captain Pirate that the real treasure is with his parrot, Pauly, who is not a parrot but an extinct Dodo bird that has not been seen for over 100 years. The tide shifts and it is off to London for the annual Scientist of the Year convention, where their hilarious journey begins.

Gideon Defoe wrote the screenplay that he adapted from his series of pirate books. The movie is very clever and filled with history and sophisticated British humor.

Other voice talents include: Salma Hayek (Cutlass Liz), Jeremy Piven (Black Bellamy), and Imelda Staunton (Queen Victoria), who won best actress at the California Independent Film Festival in 2009 for her role in *A Deal is a Deal*.

Set sail to see this well crafted, well-written, clever film, *The Pirates! Band of Misfits*. As an added bonus, you will fall in love with Darwin's sidekick, a flash card using monkey!

Derek Zemrak is a Film Critic, Film Producer and Founder of the California Independent Film Festival. You can follow Derek on Twitter @zemrak for the latest Hollywood news.



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JM and OIS Debate Teams Compete in Claremont Championship Tournament

Submitted by Mark Moore



The Joaquin Moraga Intermediate Debate Team from left: Coordinator/Teacher Don Read, students Peter Moore, Conor Hanvey, and Shea Danforth
Photos Mark Moore



The Orinda Intermediate Debate Team from left: Coordinator/Teacher Terry Eubanks, students Daniel Ginsburg, Jonathan Zhou and Aaron Baum

The Joaquin Moraga Intermediate and Orinda Intermediate School debate teams represented their schools Saturday, April 21 at the 10th Annual Championship Tournament of the Middle School Public Debate Program sponsored by Claremont McKenna College in Claremont, Calif. The program began 10 years ago and has gotten more popular each year, having expanded as far as Louisiana, New York, New Jersey and Washington D.C. with 90 teams and 270 students participating in this year's tournament.

As Professor John Meany, CMC Director of Forensics, said, "Debate is having an opinion which is informed

and defensible. All I have to do is bring educators to see one debate, saying nothing, and they want to join. Everyone is a winner in debate because it is about acquiring a skill, no matter how a team scores. This skill is useful in terms of public speaking and classroom participation. It is the hardest of the forensic sciences because no matter how elegant and thorough your argument, your opponent will always tell you you are wrong!" The co-creator of these debates, Professor Kate Shuster, said parents everywhere curse her under their breath for teaching teenagers to argue better, but she believes strongly in "creating a better democracy one 11-

to 14-year-old at a time."

The Lamorinda teams punched their ticket to the Championship Tournament by performing well at the local level in the league championship held March 24 in Fremont. The East Bay Debate League was started five years ago by a group of local teachers including Don Read and Patti Forster from JM and Terry Eubanks from OIS. "The first couple years were a steep learning curve for participants in the new league," said Mr. Read, "but it is now a more mature league" and continues to expand. After splitting two times into Sacramento and South Bay leagues, the East Bay League now features eight teams, including an Oregon team that participates in the league's season of five debates. At some schools debate is an after-school club, but at JM and OIS it is offered as an elective class for seventh- and eighth-grade students.

At the Championship on April 21, each team of three students competed in five debates during the day. Topics included "Tax Increases are good for America;" "The U.S. should establish a national DNA database of all residents;" "States should require drug tests to receive welfare benefits;" and "Students should be allowed to carry registered guns on a college campus." Most of the debates were very close and the Joaquin Moraga Intermediate team was fortunate to go 3-2 on the day; the Orinda Intermediate team had an identical record. Individual speaker honors went to Aaron Baum and Daniel Ginsburg (30th and 24th places) from OIS. The OIS team also finished as the 22nd best team of the tournament. The day concluded with a final, public debate between the top two teams, a raucous affair with the spirited participation of the audience.

The debate season ends Saturday, May 12 on the JM campus with the NorCal Championship, which has a similar format. Make plans to attend and prepare to see what middle school students are capable of!

Headhunters

By Sophie Braccini



Image provided

The Orinda International Film Showcase is offering a rarity this month: *Headhunters*, a fast-paced perfectly mastered thriller with a brilliant scenario that will surprise viewers until its end (and don't count on me to tell you what that will be!) This new Swedish movie leaves *Millenium* far behind.

Roger Brown (Aksel Hennie) is a successful headhunter who works for a large corporation, has money and is married to a beauty, Diana (Synnove Macody Lund). A bit insecure because of his relatively small size, he feels that she will stay with him as long as he can provide for her, yet at the beginning of the movie, his financial situation starts to dwindle. Brown, who is cynical and manipulative, begins to steal paintings to keep up his lifestyle. When he meets Clas Greve (Nikolaj Coster-Waldau), an executive who collects artwork, he thinks he's found

the perfect victim.

Director Morten Tyldum builds his story around Brown's and Greve's rivalry. The scenario is extremely well constructed and it does not insult the viewer's intelligence – not so common for a thriller. There are even some very funny moments, like a chase scene on farm tractors. The main character takes a lot of punches, certain scenes keep the spectator riveted, and the storyline is quite unpredictable. The movie also portrays a series of truculent characters such as the accomplice who loves arms and Russian prostitutes, the charismatic bad guy, and the very sexy woman.

A very well-cast and directed action thriller, Tyldum's film will surprise and delight viewers. The movie will show from May 18-24 at the Orinda Theatre. For tickets and show times, visit www.lfef.org or Lamorindatheaters.com.

Walk-Around at Lake Cascade Promotes Beautification Project

Submitted by Diana Kennedy



Participants learn about Lake Cascade, the Orinda Historic Landmark that has been a long-time haunt of area walkers and bird watchers.
Photos Joan Andrews

Orinda Garden Club hosted a Community Awareness/A Walk-Around Lake Cascade Saturday, April 21 to build support for its Lake Cascade beautification project. Orinda Garden Club began the beautification project in the 1940s when it planted the Cork Oak trees and in the 1960s, the Club initiated another project to regenerate native shrubs around the shoreline. They began the new project in 2010 and finished

clearing the north side of Lake Cascade in 2011 where the Cork Oak trees were restored, weeds and invasive plants removed. The committee plans on finishing the two remaining segments around the lake in 2012/2013, with an estimated cost of \$13,000 to complete the work. The Club is certain that this project will provide a better experience of Lake Cascade and its wooded landscape for the community to enjoy.



Friends of the Orinda Garden Club walk to raise financial support for the beautification of Lake Cascade.



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Lamorinda Teens Perform at Junior Bach Festival

Submitted by Jin-Young Heo



The whole group

Photos provided

Four Lamorinda teens competed with their group against more than 390 participants in the 59th Annual Junior Bach Festival auditions on Feb. 5 before going on to perform the Concerto for Oboe and Violin (1060), Allegro, on March 31 at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Kensington. Jin-Young Heo played the violin solo and Daniel Gurevich of Pleasanton took the oboe solo with orchestral accompaniment under the direction of their teacher Heghine Boloyan. Less than one third of the total festival audition participants were invited to perform. The group (which includes Stanley Middle School seventh-graders Heo and Katherine Chen, Stanley eighth-grader Dana Zhu, and Acalanes High School eleventh-grader Erin Chen) plans to compete again in two years. The Junior Bach Festival was founded in 1953 by Berkeley music director Tirzah Maillkoff after one of her students attended the Carmel Bach Festival,



From left: Jin-Young Heo (Stanley Middle School, grade 7), Erin Chen (Acalanes High School, grade 11), Katherine Chen (Stanley Middle School, grade 7), Heghine Boloyan (Teacher), Not pictured: Dana Zhu (Stanley Middle School, grade 8)

which inspired her to create a festival for children to audition and perform in the San Francisco Bay Area. This festival calls for kids through the age of 21 with exceptional talent in music to compete against others from throughout California by performing

any piece by Johann Sebastian Bach. The festival takes place around the time of Bach's birth date: March 21. Congratulations to these talented musicians!

Fishlow Twins Tagged as Top Two in Orinda Junior Women's Club's Youth Ink 2012

Submitted by Lisa Rodriguez

The Orinda Junior Women's Club (OJWC) announced 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. Hanna Fishlow (OIS, grade 7) won first place for "A Starless Night,"

Olivia Fishlow (OIS, grade 7) took second place for "A Knock on the Door," and third place, went to Kate Dunn (OIS, grade 7) for "The Package." Winners will be honored at an awards ceremony and reading at 6 p.m. Thursday, April 26 at the Orinda Library Auditorium.

"We were impressed with the high-quality creative writing we observed in this year's Youth Ink competition," said Cathy Opdyke, president of the OJWC. "The turnout included a good mix of boys and girls and a solid representation of Orinda residents who attend Bentley School, OIS, Seven Hills School, Stanley Middle School, St. Perpetua, as well as El Sobrante and Moraga residents who attend an Orinda school."

Contest organizers prepared each Youth Ink submission into a completely anonymous format that provided no information about the writer's name, age, sex or school and provided them to an esteemed panel of local professional writers. The panel, which included Cynthia Leslie-

Bole, Ann Manheimer, Melissa Manlove, and Scott Ostler, read and critiqued each submission and met at an in-person conference to determine the winners. Generous co-sponsors of Youth Ink included Lamorinda Web, John Orgo, D.D.S., Orthodontics, The Orinda Association, Orinda Community Foundation and Smart Lounge.

The following individuals were selected by the judges to receive an honorable mention:

Martha Castro, OIS, Grade 7, "A Christmas to Remember"
Julia Dureault, OIS, Grade 7, "This Means Everything"
Steve Ginsburg, OIS, Grade 7, "Jamie li"
Will Knox, OIS, Grade 7, "There's a Knock at the Door"
Samira Maboudian, OIS, Grade 8, "The Nightmare"
Vivian McGowan, OIS, Grade 7, "There She Is"
Gabriel Moran, OIS, Grade 8, "The Man On The Moon"
Kate Nerone, OIS, Grade 7, "Beyond the Threshold"
Kendall Reid Martin, OIS, Grade 6, "Lily Jane"
McKenna Williams, Seven Hills School, Grade 6, "Black Magic"

THE APP RAP

By Eric Pawlakos

Draw Something

Developer: OMGPOP

Cost: Free or \$0.99

For: iPhone, iTouch, and Android

If you haven't heard of *Draw Something* then you are missing out on an app that's attracted over 50 million users.

Draw Something's appeal is that it can be enjoyed by all ages. Part game, part art, plus social networking, this entertaining app allows users to select a word, draw an image for it, and challenge a friend to guess what word is drawn.

If you are willing to put up with advertisements, *Draw Something* is free, otherwise you can purchase it without the ads for only 99 cents. After downloading, the first prompt is to sign in via your Facebook or email account and create a user name. You then design your game and invite friends on Facebook to play. Your opponent is

found via username, email, or by random searching.

Draw Something supplies you with three words to start. If you don't like your choices you have the option of selecting new words by tapping the "to draw" screen. When you are finished, send the picture to your friend to start "game on." When your friend guesses what you have drawn correctly, you are both rewarded with coins. These coins can be used to purchase new market colors or bombs (bombs are used to delete letters, making it easier to guess new words).

Draw Something is a simple and creative game to enjoy with family and friends.

Eric Pawlakos is a senior at Miramonte High School and on-air reporter for the teen radio program, *Express Yourself!*

Tile Wall of Character Installed at Burton Valley

Submitted by Merilee McCormick



Photos provided

Girl Scout Troop #32149 along with the Burton Valley PTA installed more than 500 tiles over the past couple of weekends as part of the Tile Wall of Character project at Burton Valley Elementary School. This wall is more than an artistic symbol of various students' work; every student who painted a tile demonstrated one of the six pillars of character (trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, caring, citizenship, and fairness) on their piece. They each filled out an order form with a story and/or drawing of how they demonstrated one or more of the pillars. Kids were very creative in coming up with ideas. Many students asked "new friends" to play or invited a student eating or playing alone to join them. This project built awareness about how these

kids can make a difference with small deeds that are very meaningful. The tiles came out beautifully and the kids did an amazing job coming up with ideas to artistically communicate the six pillars. As part of this project, fifth-graders assisted preschoolers with their handprints and then added the big buddy thumb print (which was designed into an animal of choice). Each classroom designed its own tile (each grade given a pillar) then every student added their thumb print as a signature of the character pledge. The Wall unveiling will be at 2:45 p.m. Thursday, April 26.

To learn more about the project, visit:

<http://www.burtonvalleypta.org/burton-valley-wall-of-character>.



Three Moraga School Principals Moving On

By Cathy Dausman



Carol Kitchens, retiring Campolindo High School Principal

Photos Cathy Dausman



Bill Walters, retiring Los Perales Elementary School Principal

Moraga students at three area schools will have new leadership for the 2012-2013 school year as the principals move to new positions or to retirement. Campolindo High School Principal Carol Kitchens and Los Perales Elementary Principal Bill Walters are both retiring; Principal Deborah Roden is leaving Camino Pablo Elementary to become director of curriculum and instruction for Las Lomitas Elementary School District in Menlo Park.

Moraga School District Superintendent Bruce Burns says Roden's "expertise in curriculum and instruction has been an asset to Camino Pablo and to the district." Roden loves the "bookends" of greeting students

both mornings and afternoons and says she has felt "truly blessed" working within her school community. She says she has made personal friends in her three-year tenure at Camino Pablo. "This [new] job found me," she explains, but the Santa Cruz area native also admits the tie-breaker in deciding was relocating near her young grandson.

Carol Kitchens has worked for 39 years as an educator, 19 of them as an administrator. Becoming principal at Campolindo High School was a job she says she dreamed of. Although the job is "24/7" intensive, requiring evening commitments several nights a week, "it always felt so good [to be here]," she says. Some of her fondest memories have been of bringing former students back as Campolindo teachers. Kitchens plans to spend time visiting her grown daughters in Arizona and the Dutch West Indies after her June 30 retirement.

Bill Walters retires as Principal at Los Perales Elementary after 47 years in education. Except for a short "retirement" earlier and a few years at Antioch Middle School, Walters has been in Moraga since 1988, first as a teacher, then as assistant principal and later as principal of Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School. "It's time for me to start taking care of myself," he says simply.

Burns says bringing in new principals to Camino Pablo and Los Perales allows those schools "an opportunity to reevaluate desired qualities and future challenges." He says the hiring process "is an exciting opportunity to meet candidates" and learn what they can offer to students, staff and parents.

No changes are slated for either Orinda or Lafayette School District principals at this time.

Submit stories and story ideas to storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com

Burton Valley Book Sale Proceeds Benefit Library

By Cathy Tyson



Students surround teacher Carroll Martin as she holds their donation check at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center. Photo courtesy of Suzanne Everly

After working hard to organize, collect, and re-sell donated books at the Bargain Book Bonanza, Carroll Martin's combined fourth- and fifth-grade class at Burton Valley Elementary School visited the Lafayette Library and Learning Center to donate their proceeds to Senior Community Library Manager Susan Weaver. The class sold gently used books to their fellow students, raising \$1,000 that will be used to buy an early literacy station for kids two to 10 years old with 56 top-rated educational software programs and touch screen capability. Last year the students made enough from the event to purchase a telescope for the Library.

"Thank you from the bottom of my heart; we've wanted this for many, many years. We've just never been able to afford it," said Weaver, explaining that their gift will be especially useful for younger kids with special needs or learning disabilities.

Everyone pitched in to make it a very special field trip for the students: Mona Amanat of the Bookmark Cafe generously donated snacks for all, and Friends of the Library gave each student a gift certificate for their Friends Corner Book Shop.

Mike Gilson, President of the Foundation Trustees had some words of wisdom for the students: "This is more than just a big library with won-

derful books; it's a place where lots and lots of people come to learn. We hope all of you come here often."

Thanking the kids for their hard work, Kathy Merchant, Executive Director of the Foundation, nudged them to come for a very special event on June 5 where they can put their telescope to good use. "It's incredible—the Transit of Venus." Experts from the Mt. Diablo Astronomical Society will be in attendance with extra telescopes. The students and anyone who's interested should consider attending since the next time this astronomical event happens will be in 800 years.

TEEN SCENE

Social Stereotypes—Don't Judge the Book by Its Cover

By Arianna Tong

Cheerleaders, jocks, nerds, you name the label. High school has a reputation for stereotypes. Social stereotypes impact the collective atmosphere creating an unjust social system. An individual's reputation is created before we ever meet them.

By "judging the book by its cover," we miss opportunities to encounter very interesting and influential individuals who could be different from ourselves. Stereotyping ignites a chain reaction, similar to fireworks. The net effect is an assumption based on the label plus a judgment with limited knowledge without personal interaction.

Why do we teenagers have the need to misjudge and misinterpret one another simply based on reputation or looks?

"I would define social stereotypes as a mental organization of people that I use to determine who I might or might not be comfortable with," said Miramonte senior Arjang Asadi. "Social stereotypes define the hierarchy at our school, at any school in fact. It's like how economic indicators define an economic hierarchy." Campolindo sophomore Hannah Grubs added her thoughts. "I think social stereotypes are the way people frame other people by who they hang out with or how they act. It's not just teenagers who do it. I did when I was five and I will probably do it when I'm older. It's a bad habit I have and need to work on," commented Grubs.

Christina Cisneros, a soccer player and sophomore at Acalanes feels there are cliques at her high school. "People with similar interests spend time together. For example, students on teams tend to eat together. If you are on the baseball team, you sit with you're your players. Drama club members seek out their fellow actors. People have opinions about who is cool and who is not. Those choices don't affect me. I don't have lunch with my soccer team. I eat with my friends who are on the lacrosse team."

In the end, no matter where we go, or whom we encounter, social stereotypes play a large role in our lives as high school students. Whether it is "the jock" that sits next to you in physics, or that "band geek" in your PE class, instead of judging by first glance, open the book to get to know the person. Stereotyping stigmatizes. Cliques exclude. Anyone can be cool when given a chance.

Arianna Tong is a sophomore at Miramonte high school. She is an avid water polo player, future journalist for the Mirador, and is part of the Miramonte public speaking program

Teen Scene is YOUR voice. If you have something to say or have writing skills and want to be part of our Teen Scene team, email our Teen Coach, Cynthia Brian, Cynthia@CynthiaBrian.com.

The opinions expressed in Teen Scene are those of the writer and not necessarily those of the Lamorinda Weekly.

Four Odyssey Teams Head to World Finals

Submitted by Gerard van Steyn



Photo provided

Four teams from the Lamorinda area took first or second place at the recent State Odyssey of the Mind tournament, and have

qualified for the World finals, which will be held in Ames, Iowa the end of May. This is a wonderful showing for Lamorinda teams and is reflective of the great educational programs at our schools. Winning local teams were: Happy Valley Elementary (1st Place); Moraga Rotary, High School Team (1st Place); Orinda Intermediate School (2nd Place); and Stanley Middle School (1st Place).

The Happy Valley Elementary team from left, bottom row: Bradley Sides, Hayden van Steyn, Madeline Smith, Elena Mountin. Top row: Tyler Smith, Coach Gerard van Steyn, Jacob van Steyn.

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Two Independent Lafayette Retailers Plan to Close Doors

By Sophie Braccini



Louis Richard with a customer from Alamo



Photos Sophie Braccini Regina Craig who worked at Handlebar since 1991

When Handlebar Toys finally closes its doors at the end of April, more than 40 years of Lafayette history will come to an end. Not too far away along Mt. Diablo Boulevard, another independent business in Lafayette will soon disappear: Sandy's Unique Boutique.

"My sons were sad when they heard Handlebar was closing," said Rosylyn Stenzel, mother of a second- and fourth-grader in Lafayette. "Last night we took a walk to the shopping center to see if it had closed yet."

The toy store, established in 1970 by Freda Challis, was first located along the Plaza and moved in 2007 further west on Mt. Diablo

Boulevard to the shopping center housing Diablo Foods, CVS and Trader Joe's. Lance Ghulam, who started working at the store in 1997 and bought it in 2008, has seen consumer behavior change a lot over the past 15 years. "With the economy being tough, people are watching the money they spend and going for better deals."

Stenzel's kids are into Legos and always want the latest sets. She said she buys toys at Target, Toys 'R' Us and on the Internet. "My kids even compare prices themselves online," she said.

Ghulam is convinced, however, that there is a place for stores that offer a different experience to young customers. "We were so proud to

offer something magical here," he said. "We had music, themes, different areas. Coming here was nothing like going to a big box store."

According to Ghulam, stores that purchase large volumes of merchandise get better pricing and priority when new merchandise is released. Handlebar continued to have many faithful customers over the years who would rather shop locally, just not quite enough to make ends meet. "Last summer it was so slow that we didn't have any cash to buy new inventory," he said.

"We used to go there to buy birthday presents and little gifts," Stenzel said. "We are sad to see it go."

Sandy's Unique Boutique's cus-

tomers are also unhappy to see their store close. A few months ago, Sandy's – which sells a unique mix of dress-up and party dresses, and accessories – moved from the prime location along Mt. Diablo Boulevard next to Postino where it had been for years to a side store in that same building while the sidewalks were re-done and the owner remodeled. But when the main store was ready to be re-occupied, owners Sandy and Louis Richard had second thoughts.

"There would be a lot of work to install the new store," he said. "I think it is time for us to retire." The store was created by the couple 34 years ago. Unfortunately, Sandy was diagnosed with Lupus and has

been through a lot. "If it was not for the pain, she would be here working," said Richard. "Sandy has been known to all for her courage and determination over the years. The store was an embodiment of her feminine and creative personality."

One Alamo shopper said she will miss the unique boutique experience. "I used to come here once a month to check out what was new and interesting." Sandy's is scheduled to close the end of May. Until then, there are many treasures still available to find.

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

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business briefs

ECOlunchbox and Clocks, Etc. Recognized in Lafayette, www.ecolunchboxes.com, clocksetc.net

Sustainable Lafayette announced the 2011 City of Lafayette Green Awards April 22 at Earth Day. In the Business Category, Clocks, Etc. and ECOLunchbox (which was featured in Lamorinda Weekly's November 2008 issue) received the Green Award. Sandra Ann Harris, a Lafayette mom who was confronted by the endless waste of plastics in her children's lunch box, developed a 100 percent machine-washable lunch bag with matching napkins, an alternative to the less environmentally-friendly options. "Our hard work has paid off," said the very proud ECOLunchbox president. Steve Richards of the City of Lafayette Environmental Task Force told Harris, "Your efforts impressed the Task Force and met the criteria of reducing your environmental footprint, helping the city achieve its environmental goals, and being an inspiring example that can be emulated by others in the community." ECOLunchbox was also recognized at the City Council meeting on Monday, April 23. Clocks, Etc. was recognized by Sustainable Lafayette for being "an active example of what businesses can do to reduce waste and adopt green practices to help Lafayette reach its waste reduction and environmental goals."

Mike Hamiche Named April's Moraga Employee of the Month



Safeway checker Mike Hamiche (center left) is pictured with Safeway manager Bonita Vigil, Rotary president Nora Avelar and Chamber Vice President Kevin Reneau. Photo by Ryan Koss

Mike Hamiche, who has been charming Safeway patrons for the past seven years as a checker, has been named April's Moraga Employee of the Month. Hamiche is the second recipient of the new monthly award, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Moraga and the Chamber of Commerce. His friendly manner and excellent customer service as a checker at Safeway has consistently drawn favorable comments from the store's customers. He scored a rating of 98.76 percent in an internal Safeway customer service rating system. "Mike provides world-class customer service to all of our patrons," said Safeway manager Bonita Vigil. "He is universally liked by both our customers and our fellow employees." Hamiche speaks many foreign languages and often greets customers in their native tongue. In addition to his work time at Safeway, Hamiche also attends DiabloValley College with plans to earn an engineering degree. In winning the award, the Rotary and Chamber presented Hamiche with a \$50 gift card to Orchard Supply Hardware as well as a \$50 gift certificate to Michael's Ristorante in Moraga. Hamiche was presented with his award and gift cards at the Moraga Rotary luncheon Tuesday, April 24.

Owner of Very Nice Pools returns to Korea for Pool Maintenance, 3379 Mt Diablo Blvd., Lafayette

This April, Paul Barendregt celebrated the 35th anniversary of Very Nice Pools, the business he founded in Lafayette, and at the same time was called to return to Suwon, South Korea to maintain two school pools he built almost 20 years ago. "The construction of a new school was awarded to Oakland Contractor Branagh," said Annie Barendregt, Paul's wife. "There were not that many private pool specialists at the time [in South Korea], so they hired my husband to build two swimming pools at the school." While everything had been working well since he built the pools, he was asked to replace some of the equipment. This Korean construction site is not Barendregt's only international experience; he also was hired 11 years ago to repair a pool in the Seychelles Islands, in the Indian Ocean. Although Barendregt has an international reputation, most of this local company's work is done in the East Bay. "He does everything," said his wife, "from building, to remodeling, to servicing pools."

News from the three Chambers of Commerce

Lafayette

Ribbon Cutting for Mike Rose Auto Body, April 26, 5 to 5:30 p.m., 3430 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette.

Monthly Mixer, May 9, 5:30 to 7 p.m., Round Table Pizza, 3637 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette.

Save the date for the 10th annual Taste of Lafayette, 5:30 to 9 p.m., Tuesday, May 15. Tour Lafayette's finest dining establishments and sample the signature cuisine of each restaurant. The tour begins at Elam and Margaret Brown Plaza (corner of Moraga Road and Mt. Diablo Blvd.) From there, ticket holders will go at their own pace to any or all of the participating restaurants. The evening wraps up back at the Plaza with dessert and coffee, more music, raffles, and a silent and live auction. The Taste benefits the Lafayette Community Foundation and the programs and services of the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce. Cost is \$45 per person, reserve by mail to Chamber Office or register online at Lafayettechamber.org

Moraga

The 6th annual Moraga Community Faire is scheduled from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, May 12 in the Rheem Valley Shopping Center. Attractions will include a classic car show, wine tasting from local vineyards, cool music from our schools' bands on stage, and oodles of activities for the kids (crafts, bounce houses, carnival games, dunk tank, chalk art, and more). This event is planned and organized by the Moraga Chamber of Commerce, in cooperation with the Town of Moraga. The purpose of this community gathering is for businesses to come out to meet and greet the public.

Orinda

No news this week.

If you have a business brief to share, please contact **Sophie Braccini** at sophie@lamorindaweekly.com

Salad Days

By Susie Iventosch

Have you ever tasted something that is so delicious you wish you could eat it every, single day? Well, I discovered this fabulous salad one day at the La Brea Bakery Café at the Reno airport. It was made with some of my favorite ingredients: Napa cabbage, radicchio, Kalamata olives and roasted chicken all tossed with lemon vinaigrette. I just love the bitter greens and combined with those amazing olives, well, let's just say it was out of this world ... and healthy too!

On the return trip, I inquired as to where La Brea had other cafés out in the real world, and sadly, they are only inside security at the airport, Disneyland or in Los Angeles, where the company is headquartered. You can find their bakery products such as baguettes and other breads in local grocery stores, but so far I have not found this wonderful salad anywhere else, except LAX (yet another airport) and once again, past the security gauntlet. You cannot even stop by to pick it up while out running er-

rands unless you happen to have a boarding pass to somewhere, anywhere.

So, I decided to make it myself, including the lemon vinaigrette, and it turned out quite well. La Brea uses Guittard's Lemon Vinaigrette, which I also tried to find on the grocery shelves, but came up empty. I suppose it comes only in the institutional size, because I scoured the bottled dressing section in several grocery stores and found many flavors, but not lemon vinaigrette!

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Napa-Radicchio Chicken Salad with Kalamata Olives and Lemon Vinaigrette

(Serves 4 for a main lunch salad)



Photo Susie Iventosch

Salad

INGREDIENTS

- 1 head Napa cabbage, finely sliced
- 1 head radicchio, cut into bite-sized pieces
- 2 boneless, skinless chicken breasts, seasoned with salt and pepper, roasted, cooled, then cut into long strips, or shredded (you can use leftover chicken for this, too)
- ½ cup pitted Kalamata olives, cut in half
- 1 recipe lemon vinaigrette (recipe below)

DIRECTIONS

Place all ingredients in a large salad bowl and toss with lemon vinaigrette. Serve at once with your favorite bread.

Dressing

INGREDIENTS

- 1 teaspoon Dijon mustard
- ½ teaspoon finely grated lemon zest (optional)
- ¼ cup freshly squeezed lemon juice
- Sea salt and freshly ground pepper, to taste
- ½ cup extra-virgin olive oil

DIRECTIONS

Combine mustard, lemon zest, salt, pepper and juice in a jar or glass measuring cup and shake or whisk. Add the oil, then cover and shake well until oil is incorporated and the mixture is slightly thickened.

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 suziventosch@gmail.com.



These recipe is available on our web site www.lamorindaweekly.com

If you would like to share your favorite recipe with Susie please contact her by email or call our office at 925-377-0977.

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Lamorinda's Religious Services



See also Easter Service advertisements on page B11

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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.

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, 254-3422
www.holyshepherd.org



8:15 a.m. Traditions Worship Service
9:40 a.m. Education for all ages
10:45 a.m. Contemporary Worship Service
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St. Stephen's Preschool
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ART

Saint Mary's College Museum of Art Exhibits: Master Artist Tribute IX: Richard McLean; River of Words Art & Poetry Exhibition; William Keith and the California Oak, 11am - 4:30pm, Wednesday - Sunday through June 10 at the Museum of Art, Saint Mary's College of California, 1928 St. Mary's Road, Moraga. Cost: Adults \$5, Free for K-12 students and Saint Mary's students and faculty.

Moraga Art Gallery's new show, "Beautiful America," features the oil paintings of gallery member & local Moraga artist Ginny Ruble, as well as guest artist Linda Hanford whose work reflects her love of the nature, landscapes, and seascapes of California. The show runs through June 2.

The Lafayette Gallery's spring show "Imagine" will run through May 5 and features fresh and inspiring new work: paintings, prints, collages, ceramics, jewelry, and photography. The Gallery is open 11am-5pm, Tuesday - Saturday, 50 Lafayette Circle, Lafayette (across from Chow). For more information, visit www.lafayette-gallery.net or call (925) 284-2788.

McCue Gallery 83 is excited to announce the new show for May-July at Gallery 83 (Orinda) featuring the work of Zachary Roberts. There will be an artists' reception Wednesday, May 2, 5-8 pm. For more information please call (925) 253-1719 or mccuephoto83@gmail.com.

The Valerie Colvin Group will be on exhibit in the Orinda Library Art Gallery in May. There will be an artists' reception on Sunday, May 6, 2-4:30pm.

Exclusive showing for Northern California of Israeli Art from the Safrai Gallery of Jerusalem, a collection of over 1,500 works by more than 100 Israeli artists, May 10-13, Congregation B'nai Shalom, 74 Eckerly Lane, Walnut Creek. A special Lag B'Omer celebration will be held on Thursday, May 10, 5:30-8pm. Art viewing begins 6-10pm Saturday, May 12, and will feature a special evening with Havdalah, appetizers, music, desserts, wine, and art exhibition from 7:30-11pm. Cost (Saturday): \$10/person, which includes raffle tickets for a piece of art as well as other prizes.

MUSIC

WomenSing presents Choral Composers Symposium and Workshop: Words into Music Symposium Friday, April 27, 10am-1pm, Saint Mary's College (The Hagerty Lounge), Moraga, and the Youth Inspiring Youth Composers Workshop, Saturday, April 28, 9am-12:30pm, Lafayette Events Center, Lafayette. The choral composition panel features composers Libby Larsen and Sandra Milliken, poet Francisco Alarcon and conductor Martin Benvenuto. Cost: Free, reservations required. RSVP by email to info@womensing.org in order to reserve a place at the Symposiums luncheon and/or conversation time with the panel no later than Wednesday, April 25. For more info, visit www.womensing.org or call (925) 974-9169 or email info@womensing.org.



Maestro David Morales and The Cantare Con Vivo Chamber Ensemble join with the renowned Bay Area instrumental ensemble Quijeremá in presenting Music of Latin America May 6, Lafayette Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Drive, Lafayette. The audience will be treated to a concert filled with stirring selections from various South and Central American countries, the Caribbean Islands and Mexico. The history of a great people that dominate our hemisphere will come alive through their music, narration and pictures. Tickets: \$25 General, \$20 Senior, \$10 Youth. For tickets visit www.cantareconvivo.org or call the CCV office at (510) 836-0789.

The Lafayette Rotary Club's Annual Concert at the Res will be held on the new permanent Stage at the Lafayette Reservoir Saturday, May 12, 11am-2pm. The FREE event showcases and raises money for our local school music programs. Performing will be the Stanley Symphonic Band, the Acalanes Wind Ensemble, the Big Band of Rossmoor, the Bentley School Jazz combo and a special guest band from Oakland Westlake Middle School. You can pack a picnic and don't forget your beach chairs and blankets. Once you have parked, walk east (to your left) towards the reservoir trail. The Stage is about 150 feet from the parking lot.



Music ranging from Rachmaninoff to Godzilla will be performed by Maestro Duane Carroll and the Contra Costa Wind Symphony in a concert billed as "Sublime to Silly" May 12, 8pm, Leshar Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek. Tickets (\$10-\$25) are on sale at the Leshar Center, 943-7469 (www.lesharartscenter.org).

THEATER

The world famous Guys & Dolls musical is being featured by over 70 Orinda Intermediate School students (biggest casts ever), replete with New York accents and dazzling dance numbers all set in the 1920s. OIS' Bulldog Theatre Company has a wonderful new choreographer, Karen Kovac, who has worked with the Oakland Raiderettes and composed large-scale dances for halftime shows with Carlos Santana! Cast Preview Performance, April 25 and 26, 4:30pm. Performances: Friday, April 27, 5pm & 8pm and Saturday, April 28, 3pm & 7pm at Orinda Intermediate School (OIS), Multi Purpose Room, 80 Ivy Drive, Orinda. (925) 258-3090.

The Acalanes High School DramaDons theater group presents Hamlet, William Shakespeare's greatest tragedy! This fast-paced adaptation by Bay Area playwright/director Jon Tracy explores the bonds of youth and the influence that their elders exert on them, May 2-5, 7:30pm. Tickets: \$10 General, \$7 students/seniors; tickets may be purchased online at www.dramadons.org or at the door.

LECTURE & LITERATURE

The Contra Costa Tale Spinners Swap meets at the Orinda Library, 26 Orinda Way in the Gallery Room from 7-9pm every fourth Thursday. Travel on a delightful journey along "Route 66" in 1952 with featured storyteller Susan Goldstein April 26. Goldstein's telling will tap the audience's memory of trips taken and often like Goldstein of lessons learned. Goldstein is a retired instructor of Women's studies at Diablo Valley College. She took up storytelling as a way to have an audience without having to give grades.

The Center for Environmental Literacy at Saint Mary's Kalmanovitz School of Education will host the 17th annual West Coast River of Words International Creativity Awards for young eco-artists and poets on Saturday, April 28, 2-4pm, at the College's Soda Center. Guests are invited to come early to view the children's art on display at the Museum. The River of Words (ROW) International Youth Creativity Awards features award-winning children's poetry and art from around the world and recognizes educational leadership in environmental literacy. The event will be emceed by former U.S. Poet Laureate Robert Hass.

The Rise and Fall of California: The Commonwealth Club presents Larry Gerston, professor of political science, San Jose State University, and author of Not So Golden After All: The Rise

and Fall of California, Wednesday, May 2, 5:45pm (check-in), 6:30pm (program), Lafayette Library and Learning Center, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. Cost: \$22 standard, \$12 members, students free (with valid ID).

Friends of the Orinda Library Book Sale Thursday, May 3, 10am-1pm. Sorting Room and Book Shop (Book Shop is open until 6pm). Monthly sales offer quality books for all interests and ages. Funds raised are used for books, computers, other library materials and programs. Orinda Library, 26 Orinda Way, Orinda (925)254-1358).

KIDS, PARENTS & TEENS

Roughing it Day Camp open house and family activity day Saturday, May 5, 10am-noon (drop in anytime), Lafayette Reservoir. This is a great opportunity for new families to see our site and try some camp activities. Kids can try out fishing, crafts, nature and field games. Families can take a tour of the beautiful Lafayette Reservoir. Meet our directors, Ann and Hobie, and some of our great staff. View a Camp Show and see what a typical day of camp is like. Friends and family members of all ages are welcome.

Celebrate Mama presents The Hipwaders Celebrate Mama Sunday, May 6, 11am-3pm, at Sports Basement at Ygnacio Plaza, 1881 Ygnacio Valley Rd., Walnut Creek. Award-winning rockers, the Bay Area-based Hipwaders will perform their quirky, jangle-pop for kids and families. www.hipwaders.net. Free.

OTHER

The Moraga Women's Society is presenting an appointment-only appraisal event by Michaan's Auctions April 27, 4-7pm, Holy Trinity Cultural Center, 1700 School St., Moraga. Certified appraisers are donating their time as a public service. Discover what your heirlooms or garage sale treasures are worth! Six certified appraisers will give verbal appraisals for items from the following categories: Fine Art, Furniture and Decorative Art, Jewelry, Stamps and Coins, Asian Art, and Miscellaneous. Proceeds go to Moraga Schools. Call Tammie Chambless at (510)740-0220 for an appointment. For information call Jean, (925) 376-7961.

Volunteer a few hours on the weekend of April 28- 29 to learn about Sudden Oak Death, and assist in the survey for infected trees in areas of your choice. Training: Saturday, April 28, 10am-noon, in the Garden Room of the Orinda Community Center. For training space and material planning, please notify Mr. Hudson if you will come to the Orinda training at willh@ymail.com.

Vintage fashion show and a "little taste of the South" in honor of Kentucky Derby Week, Saturday, April 28, 2-4pm, Collector's Choice Antiques, 3574 Mt. Diablo Boulevard, Lafayette. Cost: \$20 per person. RSVP (925) 299-9400. (There will be vintage cars, too.) Proceeds to benefit "Christmas on Mt. Diablo Blvd." for the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce.

Cinco de Mayo Festival at the Hacienda le las Flores, 2100 Donald Drive, Moraga, Sunday, May 6, 3pm-7pm. Admission is \$2 per person or \$5 per family. See article page A4.

Area residents who own classic cars are invited to participate in the 4th annual Moraga Classic Car Show, May 12, 11am-4pm, as part of the Moraga Community Faire. \$25 registration fee includes lunch for two. Prizes will be awarded. The registration deadline is May 5. To register, go to www.moragachamber.org or call (925) 247-4629.

Moraga Junior Women's Club presents Through the Garden Gate Saturday, May 5, 10am-3pm, at six gardens in the Lamorinda area. The Garden Tour will be held rain or shine. Tickets are currently on sale with all proceeds going to benefit STAND! For Families Free of Violence. Cost: \$30 (\$25 tax deductible). For more info see www.moragajuniors.org.

Please submit events to:
calendar@lamorinda weekly.com

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OTHER ... continued

Enjoy the first days of spring by walking in the footsteps of John Muir. Join a National Park Service ranger for a free early-morning wildflower walk Saturday, May 5, at John Muir National Historic Site. The two-hour walk will begin at 9am with an easy saunter up Mt. Wanda to look for wildflowers. Over 82 species of native plants have been identified on Mt. Wanda. Meet at the CalTrans Park and Ride lot at the corner of Alhambra Avenue and Franklin Canyon Road, in Martinez (at the Alhambra Ave. exit off Hwy 4). Bring water and wear good walking shoes because the trail is steep. If it rains heavily, the walk will be cancelled. For more information, call the John Muir National Historic Site at (925) 228-8860.

Hawaiian Day at Assistance League Way Side Inn Thrift Shop, Tuesday, May 8, includes men's aloha shirts and "Hawaiiana" decorator items such as tikis, leis, pictures, shells, linens, and dishes, 3521 Golden Gate Way, Lafayette.

Please join Trust in Education for a FUN RAISING evening Friday, May 11, including wine & appetizers, silent auction and comedy. Proceeds go towards funding education in Afghanistan. Founder Budd MacKenzie will give an update and acclaimed comedian Mark Lundholm will perform. Event starts at 6:30pm. Veteran's Memorial Building at 3780 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. Adults \$60/Students \$30. For tickets, call (925) 299-2010 or visit www.trustededucation.org.

12th Annual AAUW Garden Tour Danville-Alamo-Walnut Creek Branch, Friday, May 11 and Saturday, May 12, 10am-4pm. Six delightful gardens located in Alamo and Danville. Various landscape designers as well as expert gardeners will be on hand to share their knowledge. All proceeds go to AAUW Funds, the educational heart and soul of AAUW, supporting aspiring female scholars. Tickets: \$30 (if postmarked by May 4), \$35 thereafter; \$25 for seniors 65+ (by May 4), \$30 thereafter. For tickets with garden locations, mail check by May 4 payable to "AAUW Funds" with a self-addressed business-sized (#10) stamped envelope to: AAUW Garden Tour, PO Box 996, Alamo, CA 94507. For info, visit www.aauw-daw.org/garden.

The Moraga Community Faire will take place Saturday, May 12, 11am-4pm, at the Rheem Valley Shopping Center, 570 Center St., Moraga. The event will include a classic car show, music performances, wine tasting from Lamorinda wineries, food trucks and vendors, art and jewelry for sale, local merchants, and a dunk tank with local celebrities. For kids there will be carnival games, a sidewalk chalk art contest, bounce house, fire truck, County Connection bus, speed baseball throwing booth, face painting and

fingerprinting. For more info, visit www.moragachamber.org/faire.

There are still a few seats available for the 5th annual Campolindo Hall of Fame Dinner May 12. This year Coach Macy is honoring the 2011 NCS Championship Team and the 1986 NCS Championship Team. This event is a tribute to the honor and tradition of Campolindo Football and is always very entertaining. Come and enjoy an evening of memorable professional films recounting these two historic seasons. Catered by Back Forty Texas BBQ, Pleasant Hill. Doors open at 6pm. Reservations recommended. Students \$45. Contact Val Durantini at v.durantini@sbcglobal.net or (925) 283-8662.

Be the Star You Are's booth at the Moraga Faire May 12 features two live broadcasts of Express Yourself™ Teen Radio. For a small donation of \$20, businesses and the general public are invited to record a short promo for their company, products, service, etc. In addition, teen bands are invited to record a song. For sign up info, email btsyateenradio@gmail.com. Visit www.BTSYA.com, go to EVENTS.

10th Annual "Taste of Lafayette" 5:30-9pm, Tuesday, May 15. 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.

Capoeira Equilibrio is hosting a Batizado, a traditional Capoeira promotion ceremony where young students play capoeira with an instructor or master to earn their first cordao (belt), May 19, 10am, Walnut Creek's Civic Park Assembly Room. Following the ceremony at 12:45pm, participants and masters will march to the Lesher Center for the Arts for a street roda from 1-1:45pm —Capoeira in the streets, just like one might see in Brazil! The street roda is sure to be exhilarating entertainment for all. \$10 requested donation, all proceeds benefit the non-profit California Against Slavery.

Divorce Options Workshop, an informational seminar open to those who want to learn more about the process of divorce Saturday, May 12 (and repeated the second Saturday of every month), 9:15am -12:30 pm, Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church (LOPC), 49 Knox Drive, Room 201, Lafayette. Hear how mediation, collaboration and other alternatives to litigation from a local divorce lawyer, financial specialist and a mental health specialist. Understand the legal, financial, psychological and social issues of divorce. Learn how to talk about divorce with your children. Cost: \$45 (cash or check only). Collaborative Practice of the East Bay, a non-profit organization www.cpeastbay.org. Contact: (925) 943-7456 or divorceoptions.eastbay@gmail.com.

Hospice of the East Bay is pleased to offer a variety of support groups and workshops for adults, children and teens experiencing grief after the death of a loved one. Classes are offered at Hospice's administrative offices, 3470 Buskirk Avenue, Pleasant Hill. Support Groups for Adults include: Adults Who Have Lost a Parent, Widow and Widowers and Drop-In Bereavement Support Group, Grief Class for Adults, and Understanding Grief. Bereavement Services are provided free of charge to all community members in need; however, donations are greatly appreciated. To register, please call Hospice of the East Bay: (925) 887-5681. Pre-registration is required. You can also find the most current Bereavement Services calendar at www.hospiceeastbay.org.

CLUBS

Sons in Retirement Lamorinda Branch 171 meets the first Wednesday monthly (social hour 11am, lunch at noon), Holy Trinity Culture Center 1700 School St., Moraga. The next after-lunch speaker will be LtCol. Thomas B. Savage, an active duty Marine Corps Officer. LtCol Savage was commissioned in 1991 and has been

deployed to many overseas operations including Somalia, Kuwait, Iraq and Afghanistan. LtCol Savage's personal decorations include the Bronze Star Medal with one gold star and the combat Action Ribbon with one gold star. LtCol Savage's topic will be "An Afghanistan Update." For details and Sirs membership information, call Larry at (925) 631-9528.

Lafayette Garden Club's annual plant sale, Thursday, May 10, 10am, Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette. Fabulous and unique plants, great prices, fun event!

The Montelindo Garden Club will host Barry Hoffer as their speaker on the topic of Japanese maples Friday, May 18, 10:30am, Orinda Community Church, 10 Irwin Way, Orinda. Barry and Sue Hoffer are arborists and owners of Maples for All Seasons in Pleasanton. The Hoffers have been involved in the growing, care and pruning of Japanese maples for over 15 years. Barry Hoffer regularly teaches classes on Japanese maples and both Barry and Sue Hoffer are officers in the Northern California Japanese Maple Society. The program is preceded by a plant sale and social hour at 9am.

Royal Doulton Collectors' Club Meeting and Sale Saturday, May 19, 10am-2pm, Lafayette Orinda Presbyterian Church, Davies Room. Everyone who enjoys Royal Doulton collectibles is welcome; admission is free. Guest speaker Anita Venezia will share estate sales selling tips. Club members offer a large selection of Doulton collectibles for sale at great prices. Contact Gayle at (925) 686-6974 or royaldoulton-west@yahoo.com.

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LAMORINDA SPORTS

Girls' Lacrosse Fights for Post-Season Bid

By Brandon Duran



Lauren Dougherty (14) had a hat trick for the Mats. Photos Andy Scheck

As we near the end of the girls' lacrosse season, the Lamorinda schools are making their final push for the playoffs. As of Sunday, the Acalanes Dons led the DFAL with an unblemished 5-0-0 record in league, 6-6 overall. Cross-town rivals Miramonte (4-1-0, 7-3-0) and Campolindo (4-3-0, 7-5-0) fall to third and fourth places behind Las Lomas in the standings.

On Wednesday, April 18 Miramonte hosted Campolindo for the teams' first match against each other. Miramonte fought off the Cougars, 15-7, to remain solidly in third place.

The first 25 minutes the Mats executed offensively while Campo struggled. Still, the game was close mid-way through the first, with Campo tying it up at 3-3 at one point.

The Mats pulled away just before half time. Miramonte reeled off four unanswered goals, including one with eight second left in the first half, to extend their lead to 7-3.

Miramonte used the second half to build on their lead. The Mats struck quickly coming out of halftime going up 8-3.

Campo answered and gained some momentum but could not capi-

talize on scoring opportunities. The Mats avoided a late surge by the Cougars to record the 15-7 finish.

"We really came together today, everyone was contributing. It was a great team effort, I'm happy with the performance and I think the girls should be proud of themselves," said coach Alexandra Tickner.

Miramonte's offense was lead by four players, who each had hat tricks: Lauren Dougherty, Hannah Friel, Rachel Pursell and Mary Doyle.

In comparison, Campo had a balanced attack with seven different players scoring their seven goals.

"We don't get the chance to practice on a full field so it really hurts us in our transition game, and at this level you can't make mistakes," said coach Mike Shumate said of his team's struggles.

The Cougars will get a rematch on May 11, the last game of the season. Campo bounced back from the loss and defeated Alhambra 19-1 on Friday. They played Acalanes yesterday after the press deadline.

Miramonte played Dublin yesterday and takes on Acalanes on April 27.

After a slow 0-6 start, Acalanes has bounced back to win their last six games. This is the Dons' first season in Division I.

Miramonte is in position to grab at least a share of the lead if they continue their success and Acalanes slips up. Campolindo has some work to do with only six games left in the season. Only the top finisher will earn the automatic bid to the post season.



Mary Doyle #15 scores to extend the Mats' lead to 10-4.

The Rivalry Continues for Lamorinda Lax Players

Submitted by Brad Ertola



Photo provided

The University of Nevada, Reno (4-1, 4-5) men's lacrosse team features senior mid-fielder Andrew Ertola, a 2008 graduate of Campolindo. Ertola played football and lacrosse while at Campo. After graduation, he played two years of lacrosse at Diablo Valley College.

The University of Nevada Wolf Pack played Saint Mary's College (5-0, 13-2) on Sunday in Moraga. Both teams were defeated in the West Coast Lacrosse League. Saint Mary's players Christian Skuce and Alex Starr both played at Acalanes. The Gaels maintained their perfect record, beating UNR, 20-5. Skuce had 10 goals in the win.



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SPORTS LAMORINDA'S LOCAL SPORTS



SMC Golf Records First-Ever WCC Title

By Rebecca Eckland



Joining the team as a walk-on, junior Ben Geyer finished first at the West Coast Conference tournament last week. Photo Kyle Terada

At the 18th hole of the West Coast Conference Golf Championships, Saint Mary's junior Ben Geyer, a walk-on, found himself fighting for a top finish.

He had two choices to end his three-day campaign: he could angle his putt for a par finish that would place him in second or third place; or, he could go for a long shot—an extremely difficult putt—to make a

birdie that would give him the conference title and that would contribute to the first-ever WCC title for the team.

"I knew the situation, other golfers with 8-under were already in the clubhouse, and I was 8-under on the last hole. The safe shot would be to finish with a par. I asked Coach Hardy what he wanted me to do. He said he wanted me to hit it and make the shot," Geyer said.

"I was pretty nervous on the putt, [that I] wasn't going to leave myself more than a foot...but when it went in, I went crazy," Geyer said. In addition to earning the title, Geyer was recently named First-Team All-WCC.

Teammate, senior Andres Engell, who finished sixth overall and was also named to First Team, was still in shock by Geyer's putt two days later.

"Ben made his last hole to win by one. I'm still not over that... made the birdie to win by one point."

The Gaels had a strong showing the first day of the three-day tournament with freshman Jonathan De Los Reyes, who placed ninth, leading the way to a 14-under par, 274 performance. De Los Reyes was named honorable mention All-WCC.

The second day the Gaels finished just one under par. On the third day, they hit their stride to outpace second place San Francisco by nine strokes (853, -11). BYU finished third (866).

"We didn't have it handed to us. USF played really well the last two rounds. That shows how strong we are as a team," said Geyer. "All year long, we knew we had a good chance

to win. But you still have to go out and get it done."

Head coach Scott Hardy once an SMC golfer himself, walked on the team in 1994. He has watched the program grow under his 12-year tenure as coach. "They are great accomplishments-- the team title was one of our goals for the year," said Hardy of capturing both titles. Hardy was named WCC Coach of the Year.

Now, the Gaels are focusing on NCAA Regionals which will take place May 17-19. They will need to finish in the top five teams in order to advance to the National Competition. The last time the Gaels competed at NCAA Regionals was in 2008.

"I know if we play well, we can beat them," said Engell.

Team Standings:

Team	Scores	Total
1. Saint Mary's (CA)	274 287 283	844
2. San Francisco	289 278 286	853
3. BYU	290 286 290	866

Individual Scores:

Place	Player	Scores	Total	Par
1	Ben Geyer	67 72 66	207	-9
t-6	Anders Engell	71 70 71	212	-4
9	Jonathon De Los Reyes	65 73 76	217	-2
t-12	Eric Grimberg	69 78 70	217	+1
t-28	Mac McClung (First Team)	77 72 76	225	+9

SMC Women's Tennis Vies for Spot in NCAA Tournament

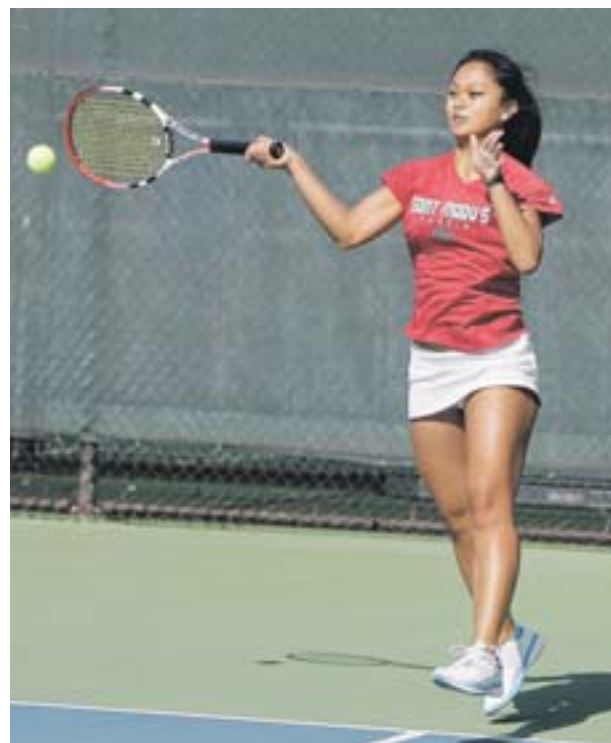
By Marissa Harnett



Elizabeth Searl



Photos Tod Fierner Jenny Jullien



Catherine Isip

Saint Mary's women's tennis team concluded the regular season with two decisive wins to earn the #2 seed in the upcoming WCC tournament. The #42 Gaels finished with a 14-6 record, going 7-1 in WCC play.

They played their final regular season match in San Diego on April 21 against the #68 Toreros. After losing all three doubles matches, the Gaels managed a 4-3 win with solid singles play.

The Gaels, whose only league loss came late in the season against Pepperdine, returned to their winning ways against south bay rival Santa Clara University, finishing 6-1 on April 15.

In their final home match, the Gaels doubles opened up a quick lead over the Broncos. Senior Molly Aloia and freshman Elizabeth Searl made quick work of their opponents, finishing 8-3. On court two senior Anna Chkhikvishvili and junior Catherine Isip crushed their opponents, 8-2.

The play on court one was a battle. Jade Frampton and Jenny Jullien struggled, trading the lead with SCU throughout the eight game pro-set. SMC gained solid footing at 7-5, but couldn't seal the deal, and SCU tied it up at 7-7 and then 8-8.

The tiebreaker mirrored the match, the teams exchanging the lead, but SMC took control and fin-

ished the match with a dramatic final point. Jullien hit a reflexive winner to clinch the match, 9-8 (7-3).

Going into singles play, the Gaels were up 3-0. SMC won the next five out of six matches to solidly secure their overall win.

In Isip's second match of the day, she faced off with SCU's top player and highest ranking singles player in the conference, Katie Le, in the #1 singles match. Isip easily won the first set, 6-2.

The second set saw a shift. Le gained confidence and Isip struggled. The pair battled and Isip dropped the set, 5-7. Isip eventually won the tiebreaker, 4-0.

Isip beamed with the win. "I lost

to her the last time – the only time – we've played singles. I came in there and really wanted to win it."

The SMC tennis program has improved under the fourteen-year tenure of head coach Lisa Alipaz. "I scrapped together a few girls early on that were super ambitious and each team has built off what the team before has left us."

Alipaz tries not to create hard set goals. "We're just trying to get better every single match and play to our potential. We know that if we do that then we're definitely a contender for a conference title and we definitely want to be in the NCAA tournament because we're capable."

SMC won the WCC championship in 2010 and has earned a spot in the NCAA for the past two years. If they win the WCC, they will automatically enter the NCAA tournament.

If not, the Gaels must secure a ranking of 42 or better to receive an at-large bid to qualify for the tournament. With the rankings constantly fluctuating, Alipaz knows it is hard to predict. "It's going to come down to the wire. We've got to play and practice as if every point, every match, every hour we spend out there is crucial."

The WCC championships begin today, April 25 in San Diego with SMC as the #2 seed.

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SPORTS LAMORINDA'S LOCAL SPORTS

Diver Competes in Nationals

Submitted by Steve Sherman



Brenna Cetrone, of Orinda, placed 20th in the West Nationals in the girls' 12-13 3m competition, scoring 201.30 points. She competed against the 31 best divers in the western half of the U.S. The highlight for Cetrone had to be her newest dive, with her highest degree of difficulty, an inward double somersault in the tuck position.

Photo provided

Miramonte Girls Compete at Arcadia Invitational

Submitted by Carol McDonald



From left: Kera Deakins, Devon McDonald, Rebekah Ent and Hannah Li Photo provided

Miramonte High School competed in the 2012 Arcadia Invitational, the largest high school outdoor meet, on April 6-7. The girls who ran the 4x400 finished 10th in the open division with a season best of 4:02.40. They dropped two seconds off their previous time and beat their time from last year at this meet by two seconds as well. They finished 3rd in their heat.

CLAM Dive Meet Results

Submitted by Marie Estorge



Asher Lichtig, Acalanes, senior. Photos provided



Maren Kjell, Campolindo, senior.

CLAM competed in the De La Salle/Carondelet Invitational Dive meet on April 21.

In the boys' event, Asher Lichtig, of Acalanes, took first place with a whopping 422.35 points. His beautiful Inward 1.5 SS Pike earned 7's and 8.

In the girls' varsity event, Maren Kjell, of Campolindo, earned third place with a strong 404.70 and Morgan Mantranga of Campolindo placed fourth with 384.20.

Results for Lamorinda:

Athlete	School	Total Points	Place
Girls - Varsity Event			
Maren Kjell	Campolindo	404.70	3
Morgan Mantranga	Campolindo	384.20	4
Alyssa Parsons	Campolindo	280.15	10
Carley Roberts	Miramonte	261.00	15
Boys - Varsity Event			
Asher Lichtig	Acalanes High	422.35	1

Lafayette Little League

Submitted by Todd Bequette

Majors Division

Giants 6 Mets 5

The Giants and Mets opened the regular season with a bar burner. The New Yorkers erased an early 2-0 deficit when Seppi Ortman's crushed a three-run homer in the third inning. Then, in the top of the fifth, after Dylan DeCool led off with a triple, Kyle Mizell's slammed a towering three-run blast to put the Giants ahead to stay. In the field for the Mets, Connor Schultz made several clutch plays on defense, while Carter Lom and Cole Christensen each had strong outings on the mound. The Giants pulled it out with eight hits by six different players, including pivotal base knocks by Joshua Matz, Michael Williams, and Julian O'Donnell.

Giants 11 Cardinals 4

The Giant bats were awake from the start as they tallied eight runs in the first two innings of the game, led by key hits from Ross Ney and Jack Wickline. On the mound, Decool held the Cards to a single run in the early innings, before Nicholas Broback and Justin Bocks came in to pitch in relief. Kevin Tuholski and Brian Merken starred at the plate for the Redbirds, and Ben Ross notched a scoreless inning of relief. Jared Kolsut's double in the alley gave the Cardinals late hope, but Giants preserved the win.

Phillies 5 Indians 0

Matty Vicensio and Tyler Ewing pitched and hit the Phils to victory at Buckeye Field. Each pitched three shutout innings and had run-scoring hits for the winners. With a slim 1-0 lead in

the fifth, Robby Goldman gave his fellow Phillies some breathing room with a two-run double. For the Indians, Tyler Schenone pitched two shutout innings and Matt Burns went two-for-two against the flame throwing Philly pitchers.

White Sox 5 Giants 3

The White Sox cooled off the Giants' hot bats behind the clutch pitching of Jake Finegold and Nicki Wixom. Wixsom also drove in two runs at the plate. Ryan Dougerty and Colin Kirbach had run-scoring hits for the winners.

Indians 6 Cubs 0

Nicholas Shirmer, Simon Oh and Schenone combined to shutout the Cubbies in both teams' opener at Buckeye Field. Henry Rogers, Josh Thuma, Ethan Frigon and Aidan Allagappan all had key hits for the Indians, who scored in every inning. William Grace and Jordan Goodfriend pitched well for the Cubs, keeping their team in the game.

AAA Division

Orioles 11 Red Sox 2

The Orioles rode the strong arms of David Sniderman, Cole Murgia and Sam Heyman to victory. Drew Campillo and Heyman provided the offense for the O's, slamming two hits apiece. Spencer Tompkins and Sam Hagel also had hits for the Orioles. For the Red Sox, Tyler Smith pitched two scoreless innings, and Thomas Hunt and Brendan Tyholski rapped out key hits in a losing effort.

Moraga Baseball Association Box Scores

Submitted by Jin Meng

April 21, 2012

Mustang Division

A's 6, Cubs 4

Cubs Highlights: Drew Isola 2-for-3, 2 SB, RS; Joey Schmidt 1-for-3, SB, RS; Ryan Lenahan 3 IP, 6 K's, 3 ERs, 1-for-2, SB, RS; Sam Ouzunian 1-for-1, 3 SB, RS; Casey Linden 2 IP, 5 K's, 2 ER, 2 BB.

A's Highlights: Easton Means 1-for-2, 2B, SB, 2 RBIs; Dylan Cronin 1-for-1, 3B, 2 RBIs; CJ Rago 1-for-2, SB, RS, 3 IP, 1ER, 8 K's, 2BB, 1H; Grant Harper 1-for-2, 2B, RBI, 2 IP, 3 K's, 1H.

Pinto Division

Red Sox 13, Pirates 12

Red Sox Highlights: Lucas Concepcion 3-for-3, 2 RBI, RS; Charlie Burke 2-for-2, 2 RS; Ryan Sintchak 2-for-2, RS.

Pirates Highlights: Julia Ortega 3-for-3, 2B, 3 RS, 2 RBI; Jack Williams 3-for-3, 3 RS, RBI; Nolan Flanagan 3-for-3, RS, RBI.

April 20, 2012

Pinto Division

Redsox 20, Giants 16

Giants Highlights: Luke McCurdy, 3-for-3, Run, 2 RBI; Shan Brinton, 1-for-3, 2 Runs, 2B; Michael Coane 1-for-3, Run, 3 RBI, 2B; Evan Louis, 1-for-3, 2 Runs

Red Sox Highlights: James Murray, 2-for-3, 2 Runs, RBI; Niko Mossotti 2-for-3, 2 Runs, 3 RBI, 2B; Zack Donovan 3-for-3, 3 Runs, RBI; Robby Nikodym 2-for-3, 2 Runs, RBI

April 18, 2012

Mustang Division

Red Sox 14, Giants 2

Red Sox highlights: M McCurdy, 4-for-4, 3 HRs, 2B, 4 RS, 5 RBIs; Hunter 2-for-3, 2B, 2RS; T McGuire 2-for-3, HR, 4 RBIs; Joe Arth 2 1/3 IP, 5Ks

Giants Highlights: Michael Holloway 1-for-3, 1 RS, 2 SB; Jake Crumbaugh, 1-for-2, 1 RBI, 1 RS; Brandon Gentry, 1-for-1, 2B, 1 RBI

April 15, 2012

Mustang Division

A's 7, Red Sox 1

Red Sox Highlights: Joe Arth 1-for-2; Daniel Wheeler 1-for-2, 1 RBI; Grant Johnson 2 1/3 IP, 6 K's, 0 ER, 1 BB, 2H.

A's Highlights: Cayden Hein 1-for-3, 1 RS, 1 RBI; Grant Harper 2-for-3, 1 RS; CJ Rago 2-for-3, 2B, 2 RBI, 1 RS; Conor Cronin 1-for-2, 1 RS; Alex Clare 2-for-2; Brandon Hein 1-for-2, 1 RBI, 1 RS; Grant Harper 3 IP, 8 K's, 1 ER, 0 BB, 1H; CJ Rago 2 IP, 3 K's, 0 ER, 0 BB, 0 H.

April 14, 2012

Mustang Division

Giants 10, Pirates 7

Giants Highlights: Jake Crumbaugh 1-for-2, 1B, 2RS; Brandon Gentry 1RBI; Corey Goldman 1RS.

Pirates Highlights: Tarek Antonios-McCrea 2-for-3, 2RBI; Michael Cunningham 1-for-3 1RS; Ryan Fritch 1-for-3.

Saint Mary's Rugby Beats Cal

Tony Samaniego



Photo Mike Geib

SMC rugby earned a win 33 years in the making. After five years of close matches but no wins, the Gaels downed East Bay rival Cal, 20-18, on April 15. It was the first time since 1980 that the match-up did not have any bearing on post-season play, but neither team let that lessen the intensity.

Saint Mary's scored a penalty kick with three minutes left in the game to come from behind to capture a 20-18 lead and take the win.

The Gaels host the University of Utah on May 5 for the first round of the playoffs.

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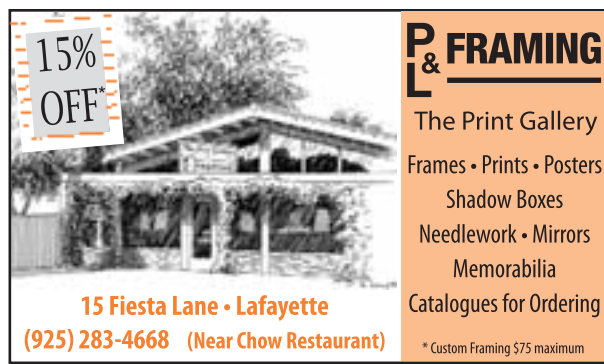


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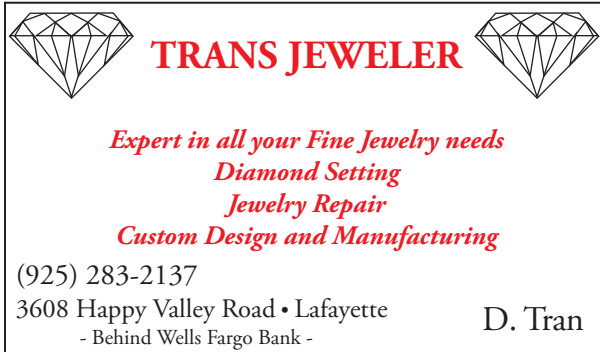


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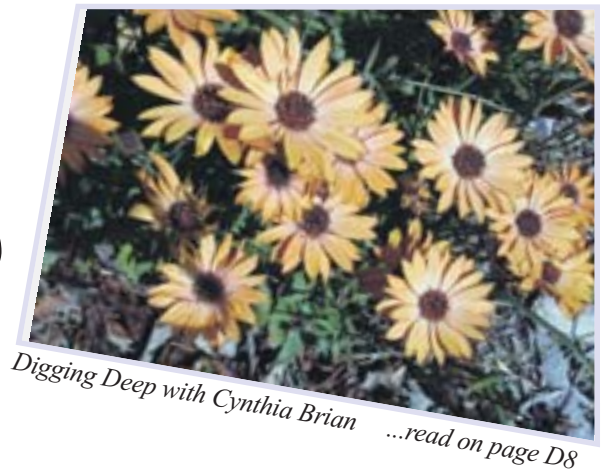
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Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 06 Issue 4 Wednesday, April 25, 2012



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

Lafayette Juniors' Kitchen Tour Returns with Six Unique and Stylish Kitchens

By Rosylyn Aragonés Stenzel



Big windows to bring the outside inside

Photo Andy Scheck

This year's 13th Annual Lafayette Juniors' Kitchen Tour scheduled Saturday, May 19 features six newly-constructed or recently-re-modeled kitchens in a variety of house styles including a green/sustainable mid-century modern, Cape Cod classic, Tahoe style and a Hampton's style rancher. Each kitchen is unique and individually stamped with the homeowner's personal taste, yet all offer the very latest in concept and design.

Here's a sneak peak at two of the homes on the tour:

Bringing the outside inside is what immediately comes to mind when walking into John and Gwenn Lennox's kitchen. Located at the north end of the house to make the most of the views and the quietness of the backyard, the kitchen is bright and open with high ceilings, a wall of windows, and lots of natural light. The large windows highlight the vistas of the

trees with the outside view seamlessly blending with the inside. Designed with the view in mind, corner windows complete the panorama.

To the Lennox family, being green was paramount to the process of rebuilding their home. Originally a 1950s ranch house, the new home is a mid-century modern designed by architect Greg Faulkner. Throughout the whole house and in the kitchen, they chose materials with the least impact on the environment and without product ending up in a landfill.

They used granite remnants for the countertops, employed cross ventilation rather than mechanical fans or air conditioning, chose concrete radiant heat floors made with fly ash, and selected plywood cabinets with a maple veneer finish (with no chemical off gassing) rather than using all hardwood.

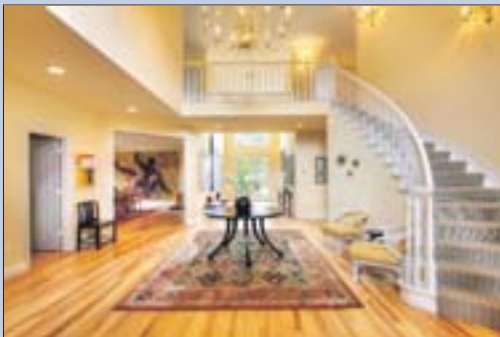
In keeping with the non-symmetry of nature, none of the cabinet doors are the same or symmetrical. Faulkner echoed this theme with different elements throughout the home. During the design process, they were very thoughtful in deciding storage options, Gwenn Lennox says, as fewer overhead cabinets meant putting plates and other kitchen items in drawers that normally might be stored above.

Being green is natural for Lennox who spent 17 years working in energy conservation at PG&E. "When going green, it's not just any one thing," she says, "it's more of a thoughtful, overall approach on the materials and in the design on the home."

... continued on page D4

Nancy Stryker

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Located in the prestigious Lafayette community, this approx. 4961 sq. ft. home sits atop .83 acres. Built in 1991, this trad. home, with 4 bedrms, +an office and 3 1/2 ba., boasts large open spaces, vaulted ceilings, custom millwork, beau. hardwood floors, new carpet, sunlight galore and a wonderful flr. plan. This home has very private outdoor living spaces featuring mature gardens, patios, gazebo, level lawn area and a play structure. The views of the surrounding hills are breathtaking! This is an ideal setting for indoor/ outdoor living at its best!

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Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

City	Last reported:	LOWEST AMOUNT:	HIGHEST AMOUNT:
LAFAYETTE	4	\$711,000	\$1,795,000
MORAGA	5	\$472,000	\$1,275,000
ORINDA	5	\$335,000	\$1,545,000

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 Almaden Court, \$711,000, 4 Bdrms, 1785 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 3-28-12
- 3222 Apache Court, \$800,000, 4 Bdrm
- 1840 Del Rio Drive, \$744,000, 4 Bdrms, 1706 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 3-23-12;
Previous Sale: \$480,000, 11-03-11s, 1701 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 3-27-12
- 10 Monticello Court, \$1,795,000, 4 Bdrms, 3746 SqFt, 1998 YrBlt, 3-28-12;
Previous Sale: \$1,650,000, 10-13-10

MORAGA

- 773 Augusta Drive, \$1,275,000, 4 Bdrms, 3439 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 3-26-12;
Previous Sale: \$1,175,000, 09-07-05
- 311 Calle La Mesa, \$695,500, 4 Bdrms, 2192 SqFt, 1968 YrBlt, 3-27-12
- 63 Miramonte Drive, \$472,000, 2 Bdrms, 1762 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 3-23-12
- 288 Tharp Drive, \$629,000, 3 Bdrms, 1524 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 3-20-12;
Previous Sale: \$900,000, 04-01-05
- 125 Whitethorne Drive, \$760,000, 3 Bdrms, 1915 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 3-28-12;
Previous Sale: \$245,000, 09-18-85

ORINDA

- 105 Amber Valley Drive, \$1,545,000, 4 Bdrms, 2964 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 3-27-12;
Previous Sale: \$18,000, 05-22-70
- 33 Bates Boulevard, \$1,525,000, 4 Bdrms, 2870 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 3-22-12;
Previous Sale: \$1,700,000, 08-10-06
- 209 Moraga Way, \$335,000, 6 Bdrms, 1280 SqFt, 1890 YrBlt, 3-22-12
- 62 Via Moraga, \$920,000, 5 Bdrms, 2619 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 3-27-12;
Previous Sale: \$241,090, 08-07-87
- 9 Wanfleete Court, \$777,000, 3 Bdrms, 1771 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 3-27-12;
Previous Sale: \$208,000, 06-16-86

Lamorinda Foreclosures recorded

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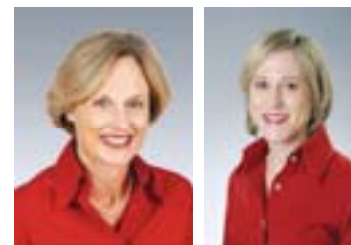
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LAFAYETTE - \$1,850,000

Extensively remodeled in 2009, this home has it all! Enjoy an amazing park-like yard with pool, expansive patio, amphitheater, lawns, meandering creek, and an amazing grove. 5 Bdrm, 3 1/2 bath, gourmet kitchen, french doors, limestone, over-sized dining room, grand living room, built-ins, vaulted ceilings and a detached guest house.



MORAGA - \$1,025,000

This remodeled 4 bdrm, 2 1/2 bath home offers superb curb appeal and luxurious modern living in 2,505 sq. ft. on a beautiful half acre lot on a quiet cul-de-sac. Gardens and two lawn areas in addition to a patio and outdoor dining area create an inviting venue for outdoor entertaining. A newly refinished sports court and separate play and sitting area complete the outdoor living space.



MORAGA - \$795,000

This charming ranch style home is ideally located within minutes to shopping, schools, and trails. One will enjoy 4 bdrms, 2 1/2 baths, hardwood floors, country kitchen, oversized dining room, dual pane windows, indoor laundry and designer colors throughout. The outdoor amenities include an amazing flat yard with lush lawn, colorful gardens, vegetable garden, patio, and charming brick accents.



MORAGA - \$988,000

Gorgeous inside and out. This ranch style home has been beautifully updated throughout. One will enjoy 3 bdrms., 2 baths, hardwood floors, custom mill work, plantation shutters, new lighting, new appliances, granite counters, vaulting ceiling, large master suite with walk-in closet, charming yard with used brick patio, waterfall, raised veggie beds and lush lawn.

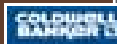


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Lafayette Juniors Kitchen Tour Returns with Six Unique and Stylish Kitchens

... continued from page D1



Sink in island

Photo A. Scheck



Diamond pattern backsplash inset

Photo K. Drinkwater

Besides being green, it was important for the Lennox's to have a home that was low maintenance and functioned well for their family.

For Timberly Scott, designing a home around her daughter's needs was the main motivation. Lafayette homeowners Scott and husband Dr. Jerry Mattka partnered with contractor Ray Post and Charlotte Kyle of Lincoln Creek Builders, Inc. (LCB) to remodel and renovate a home that would be comfortable and accessible for 26-year-old Ashley who uses a wheelchair.

The kitchen was really the start of the remodel with Scott wishing for room to have Ashley beside her while cooking. LCB designed and built a mobile island that easily moves in and out of the kitchen, as well as into the adjoining dining room. The island, with a Blue Celestial quartz countertop, sits atop cabinetry where cookware is stored. If an appliance on the island needs to be plugged in, there's an electrical outlet cleverly hidden in the porcelain floor.

The entire home is wheelchair accessible with thoughtful features including porcelain tile floors throughout that are durable and easy to maintain, and pocket doors for easy access.

Blue is prominent throughout the kitchen, from the Blue Bahia granite countertops with matching diamond pattern backsplash insets to the blue armoire adjacent to the kitchen. "My colors are very earthy," the homeowner explains, "so when I get around blues, it balances me. I immediately feel good when I walk into a room that has blue."

Their home is known to friends as the Tahoe house in Lafayette. With the vaulted ceilings and wood beams to the cobblestone fireplaces and warm, soothing decor, it's easy to pretend one is in a vacation home in the mountains. Outside, the ranch-style home echoes the Tahoe theme with stained cedar siding and cobblestone.



Mobile island in Timberly Scott's kitchen

Photo Karen Drinkwater

The home has green, energy-saving features, too. From LED canned lighting throughout, solar tiles on the roof generating electricity for the whole home, to a radiant barrier installed within the roofing system, which Post explains, "reflects the heat from the sun, and also holds the heat in the winter time, so it keeps the house more at a constant temperature."

Scott loves her walk-in pantry and the view to the front yard from the kitchen garden window, which she says will all change once her daughter moves in this fall. "But when Ashley gets here, having her beside me while I'm in the kitchen will make it the best thing ever for me."

Four other distinctive kitchens are also on the tour with the option of having lunch in a beautiful terraced garden at one of the homes. Tour tickets are \$40 and \$12 to reserve a gourmet boxed lunch from Lafayette's Huckleberry Cafe. Tickets may be purchased at Douglah Designs and Premier Kitchens, both in Lafayette or online at www.lafayettejuniors.org.

Proceeds from the tour will benefit major beneficiary Shelter, Inc. and minor beneficiaries: CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates), SEED (Special Education Enrichment Development Foundation), Lafayette Library and Learning Foundation and New Day for Children.



Walk-in pantry

Photo K. Drinkwater



13th Annual Lafayette Juniors Kitchen Tour

Saturday, May 19, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
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Know, Sow, Grow! Heirlooms, Organics, and GE's

Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian

"As is the garden such is the gardener." Francis Bacon

By Cynthia Brian



Azaleas in many colors with red camellia trees highlight this serene shade garden. Photos Cynthia Brian

During my freshman and sophomore years at UCLA, one of my jobs was managing a popular health food store, Nature's Health Cove, at the time a brand new concept in healthy eating. I vividly remember customers paying as much as ten times the price for small, worm-eaten apples, and limp, shriveled greens that had traveled hundreds of miles to be ingested by wealthy Beverly Hills residents on their new "organic" kick. I'm not sure anyone understood what 'organic' really meant as I repeated my script of "grown without synthetic pesticides, insecticides, fertilizers, colorants, or sewage sludge." Genetically engineered had not yet been invented. But one thing was for sure... these early adopters had climbed onto the bandwagon to nutritious sowing and growing.

It wasn't until the 1960s that agriculture turned into agri-business with large corporations buying farms and science genetically modifying the seeds we plant. Before that time, farmers saved, exchanged, traded, and sold seeds that had been in their families for generations. (I still plant, harvest, save, gift, and sell heirloom Hollyhock seeds that are

over 100 years old brought over on "the boat" by my grandparents from Italy.) Varieties that have been cultivated and passed down through the ages via human and natural selection are termed "heirlooms." Most people believe that tomatoes are the only heirlooms when actually there are thousands of varieties of produce that are heirlooms including beets, cauliflower, squash, melons, beans, eggplants, peppers, lettuces, and flower specimens. (You've heard of heirloom roses, right?)

As a gardener, if you want to save seed from year to year, you need a glossary of understandable terms. To help you sow and grow, I have created a simple guide help you make informed decisions for buying, planting, and consuming.

Organic: "Certified organic" is a legal term that may be used only by growers who are in strict compliance with all the detailed rules and regulations of the USDA's National Organic Program. In the United States, this means that the soil in which the crops are grown must not have had any prohibited substances in it for the three years prior to harvest. The operation must be managed according to an approved Organic System Plan and the parcel must be inspected by a USDA accredited certifier. The words I used in my college script to describe the meaning of "organic" while working at the health food store are still true today for anything deemed to be organic with the addition of "not genetically engineered."

GMO: Genetically modified organisms are any plants produced through genetic modification either by engineering or long time plant breeding methods that could happen naturally. Even an organically grown plant that has been manipulated to improve production, quality, color, or performance, may be considered genetically modified because these changes could occur in nature. A great example of a popular GMO is the seedless watermelon.

GE: Although the terms GE and GMO are frequently used interchangeably in the media, their meanings are very different. GE refers to genetic engineering using high-tech methods that change the DNA of the plant in a way that would never occur without human intervention. GE plants are not found growing naturally. Big agri-business farms use corn, cotton, soybeans, and other crops that have been genetically engineered. The issues of GE food sources are controversial as the benefits or harm to our health have not been accurately quantified.

Cultivar: This is a variety of a plant that has been selected through cultivation. It maintains its characteristics through propagation. A cultivar can be either a hybrid or open-pollinated variety. In catalogs, when you see the genus and species listed with a Latin name and a common name, the cultivar is usually the common name. For example, *Alstroemeria's* common name is Peruvian Lily.

... continued on next page



The cotton ball puffs of the Queen Anne - cheery bode for a bountiful crop.



Blue and yellow Dutch iris sprout up beneath the first buds of Angel Face roses.

Open-Pollinated: An open-pollinated plant breeds true from seed from the parent plant with the offspring having the exact characteristics. By allowing the natural flow of pollen between the same variety of different plants production happens. If your desire is to save pure seed, plant only one variety to prevent cross-pollination between different varieties.

Hybrids: Like a car that uses both gas and electricity, when you cross different varieties of plants, you get a hybrid. Because of population density, it is more difficult than ever to grow a garden with seed purity. Wind, insects, neighbors, dogs all contribute to occasional contamination. If you want heirlooms, buy seeds from a reputable source and grow them in a greenhouse.

Heirlooms: Generally defined, heirlooms are the result of natural selection in open-pollinated varieties. Depending on the source, an arbitrary age marker for an heirloom is fifty years or developed prior to the 1950s. Before the population explosion, heirlooms did pass down from family to family, farmer to farmer. Today, the majority of heirloom seeds and plants are propagated by commercial companies who are dedicated to the preservation of plant purity.

Personally, I am nervous about GE experimentation. My land is a sacred temple for my family and it's my responsibility to protect and nurture it. A non-profit organization, The Council for Responsible Genetics, has a mission to educate the general public about advocating for socially responsible use of new genetic technologies. Growers who wish to not indulge in GE sowing sign a Safe Seed Pledge to not buy or sell genetically engineered seeds.

With all the seed choices in the marketplace, it behooves every gardener to take a few minutes to understand the terminology of modern growing practices. If we are what we eat, we definitely want to make sure that we cultivate the healthiest choices for our human homes. Know, sow, grow!



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Your friendly neighborhood arborists Darren and Lew Edwards

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR

Time to Prune - Proper pruning is essential in developing a tree with a strong structure and desirable form. Trees that receive the appropriate pruning measures while they are young will require little corrective pruning when they mature.

Proper technique is essential. Each cut has the potential to change the growth of the tree. Poor pruning can cause damage that lasts for the life of the tree.

So don't wait until it's too late, have a complete inspection by a Certified Arborist at Advance Tree Service and Landscaping.

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Some of the home's amenities include: luxurious master retreat, five fireplaces, central vacuum, built in speakers, three additional bedrooms with en suite baths in the main house, Brazilian cherry hardwood floors, and gourmet kitchen adjacent to family room.



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For additional information and photos, please go to www.20ZanderDr.com.
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Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for May

"In every walk with nature, one receives far more than he seeks." John Muir

April showers did indeed bring May flowers. Our lush landscapes are blanketed with blooming bushes, trees, bulbs, annuals, and perennials. Blossoming black currants, wood hyacinths, forget-me-nots, bearded iris, tulip magnolias, azaleas, roses, osteospermum, and alpine strawberries are the panoramic backdrop for nature's artisanal display. A walk in the woods is a "must do" activity this time of year when wild flowers furnish a rainbow-colored kaleidoscope, creeks are filled with frogs croaking their alluring mating calls, and wild turkeys double gobble on their hillside sortie. Inhale the fragrance of the cherry and crabapple blossoms, forage for watercress, and delight your family with sweet anise licorice-flavored fennel snips in your next salad. With Mother's Day around the corner, it's time to prepare our plots and get our summer gardens readied. Grab your gloves, hat, and trowel, get out into the sunshine, and start digging deep!

- **THINK** bulk when buying compost. Twenty-seven bags of compost equal one cubic yard covering 192 square feet (10' x 16'). More information at www.compostingcouncil.org.
- **PLANT** beans, squash, cucumbers, corn, gourds, melons, and pumpkins directly into the garden now. Because of their tender taproots, they do not transplant well.
- **PACK** in the pretty with boughs of cherry blossoms arranged in a wide mouthed vase. This year of 2012 is the 100th Anniversary of the Cherry Blossom Festival in Washington, D. C. commemorating the 3,000 cherry trees given to our nation's capital by the people of Tokyo.
- **PROTECT** your seedlings from the hungry birds by netting your newly planted area. If you wish to protect individual plants, use upside down berry crates until fully leafed.
- **DINE** alfresco on Mother's Day with a picnic on your lawn. Spring flowering beds lend a painter's palette of color.
- **PLAN** your potager for practicality, production, and pretty.
- **GRAVEL** paths as an inexpensive and attractive way to dress up a walkway.
- **PINCH** the tips of fall bloomers such as asters and mums for a bushier performance.
- **DIVIDE** and transplant overgrown fall blooming perennials.
- **STAKE** tall flowers such as digitalis to prevent toppling.
- **DEADHEAD** spent blooms on calendula, pansy, cyclamen, and calla lily to encourage more blooming.
- **ATTRACT** the ladybugs, bees, and other beneficial insects with plantings of lavender, rosemary, cosmos, salvia, sunflowers, sedum, and butterfly bush.
- **WELCOME** wildlife to your backyard by providing food, shelter, water, and nesting opportunities. Turn your area into a wildlife habitat.
- **CLEAN** greener this spring by using friendlier ingredients found in your garden such as lemon juice to remove grease, mildew, and stains.
- **VISIT** the Be the Star You Are! and Express Yourself! Teen Radio booth at the Moraga Faire to pick up a FREE bag of home-grown potpourri and heirloom Hollyhock seeds. I'll be there to answer your gardening questions and encourage you to be interviewed LIVE on our international award-winning radio program.
- **USE** biodegradable 100% coconut husk fiber pots planted directly in the ground in place of plastic. They are a renewable resource and promote rapid, robust root growth.
- **EDUCATE** yourself about the origin of your favorite blooms. Did you know that tulips were wildflowers that originated in the 1500s in Persia?
- **BUY** fresh organic, free-range eggs packed with Vitamin D, iron, folic acid, high quality protein, and only 70 calories a pop. Studies indicate that people who eat at least one egg a day have LOWER rates of heart attack and stroke. Aged chicken manure is the best fertilizer for your garden.
- **BREATHE** easier indoors by filling your home and office with toxin-eating houseplants such as philodendron, peace lily, or spider plants. One potted plant per 100 square feet of space will clean the air of common indoor chemicals like formaldehyde, benzene, and trichloroethylene.
- **ALLOW** your daffodils, Dutch iris, and tulips to wilt naturally, giving the bulbs the extra nutrients they need for next season's spectacle.
- **WALK** a nature trail for exercise, beauty, and curiosity satisfaction.
- **PAMPER** the Mother in your life with a fragrant freesia posie bouquet plucked from your vernal flowerings.

Let your creativity blossom this spring while you indulge in strolling in secret gardens and sampling exotic specimens. It's May, the season of play.

Happy Gardening to You!

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Cynthia Brian
The Goddess Gardener
Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com
www.GoddessGardener.com
925-377-7827

I am available as a speaker, designer, and consultant.



Bearded iris in velvety royal purple can be divided and shared after blooming.



Tulip magnolia - one of the most elegant of flowering small trees.



Purple and yellow freesias flanked by lambs ear and blue wood hyacinths make a long lasting cut bouquet.

ASK CYNTHIA: Reader Requests

"Your column inspires me. Where would I find those beautiful varieties of daffodils featured in Digging Deep early this year?" Allison M



Check for rare varieties at your favorite local nursery or garden center. If you can't find something you like, I have recommendations for companies from whom I purchase special species. Read the catalogues carefully as bulbs go by different names. Look at the photos and read the descriptions to purchase plants suitable to your micro-climate that will be beautiful, long flowering, and fun.

Here are three of my favorite resources:

- Antique Flower Bulbs for Every Garden:
<http://www.oldhousegardens.com>
- Other bulbs:
<http://www.johnscheepers.com>
<http://parkseed.com/bulbs/c/bulbs/>

If you have a garden question, email Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com and I'll print as many answers as time and space allow. I regret I can't personally answer individual concerns.

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50 Las Cascadas
Swiss Family Robinson! Rustic 80 year old 5bd/4.5ba retreat nestled on gorgeous wooded one+ acre. End of cul de sac in prime Country Club location. Contractor special.

Offered at \$799,000



71 Ardilla Road
Country cottage charm of exceptional character. Enjoy a beautiful tranquil wooded pvt setting. Truly special 3bd/2.5ba w/updated kitchen, sunroom, formal LR & DR. A real gem!

Offered at \$869,000



9 Lavenida
Curb appeal! Classic 3+bd/2.5ba rancher on premium corner lot. Granite counter kit w/ss appls. Fam rm off kitchen. Ideal floorplan, gardener's delight. One blk to elem & high school.

Offered at \$995,000



109 Bear Ridge Trail
Beaut updated 4bd/2.5ba 3863 sf custom contemp on 1.24 ac lot in pvt setting. Chef's kitchen, fam rm, lux mstr retreat w/spa bath, ofc, pool, spa, tennis courts.

Offered at \$1,850,000



136 Manzanita Court
Spectacular newly blt 4000 sf custom Santa Barbara style home seldom found in the area. 4bd/3.5ba of incredible design & custom appointments. A world of charm.

Call agent for price



502 Miner Road
Beaut remodeled 5bd/3.5ba trad hm in one of Orinda's finest neighborhoods. Park-like 1 ac lot w/fruit trees, roses, lawns, rock garden, gazebo, blt-in BBQ, sports court. Modern chef's kitchen.

Offered at \$2,389,000



1 Tappan Way
Simply exquisite custom blt 5bd/3.5 ba home with hardwood floors, 10 ft ceilings, chef's kitchen, French doors, many upgrades all in a private setting.

Offered at \$2,795,000



544 Woodminster
Enjoy a super location & access to top-rated schools w/this spacious, light-filled 2bd/1.5ba updated condo. Laminate hdwd flrs, crown molding. Open flrpln.

Offered at \$499,000



1725 St. Andrews Drive
Sought-after single level 2bd/2ba home in MORaga Country Club. Open floor plan, grt location close to new clubhouse, tennis, golf and pool.

Offered at \$569,000



284 Rheem Blvd.
Tranquil setting - fabulous landscape & beautiful gardens. Charming 4bd/2ba trad hm w/vaulted wood ceilings, remod kitchen & baths, great home & value!

Offered at \$829,000



4 Middle Road
Classic Frank Lloyd Wright inspired mid-century classic of 2900+sq ft! Total 5/4 w/4 bd/3ba, updated kitchen, LR, DR, FR + ofc & den on main lvl AND a 1 bd/1ba w/ kitchenette upstairs.

Offered at \$1,150,000



614 Huntleigh Drive
Burton Valley 4bd/3ba charmer. Open floor plan w/remodeled kitchen, vaulted ceilings, maple hdwd flrs, remodeled baths, new roof, level yard with great views. Very private & quiet.

Offered at \$1,179,000



914 Kelley Court
Wonderful 4+bd/3ba traditional home thoughtfully remodeled to perfection! State-of-the-art gourmet kitchen, lux master suite w/adj office/sitting area. Fab park-like yard.

Offered at \$1,550,000



110 Camelia
Serene country retreat in Happy Valley. Stunning 5+bd/4ba contemp w/expansive windows, glass flrs, numerous decks w/natural outlook. Cook's kitchen, lg 2nd fam rm, hi ceilings, hdwd flrs.

Offered at \$1,395,000



1225 Monticello Road
Desirable Happy Vly Glen contemp 5bd/3.5ba on pvt 1.31 ac. Entertainer's delight, Tuscan style kitchen/fam rm, 3 view decks, gorgeous pool. Tastefully remodeled thruout. Ofc w/sep ent.

Offered at \$1,795,000

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