

# Lamorinda Moms Celebrate Life with Babies

By Cathy Dausman



Lamorinda Moms members, from left: Alexander Bartoli, Reed Lusch, Angel Johnson, Samantha Johnson and Nadine Lusch. Photo Cathy Dausman

The "class" of mid-2011 is changing faster than you can change a baby's diaper. That's because this class is actually composed of babies born last year and their dotting mothers. Lamorinda, meet Lamorinda Moms, supporting mothers and parents of children age five and younger.

A recent gathering hosted by Laura Bartoli and her one-year-old son, Alexander, had a small turnout; their group sometimes swells to 15 mothers with children, said Bartoli, who joined Lamorinda Moms last August after moving to Orinda. Tiny walkers happily roamed from mother to mother while the younger ones sat or crawled from toy to toy. Adult conversation came in spurts between caring for the children, and touched on changes in a child's routines, naps, reference books and comfort food.

Each mother, a first-time parent, was asked about her plans this Mother's Day. The question elicited a quick laugh from Kate Yrueta, mother of seven-month-old daughter Ava. New dads take note: these

mothers' wish list was for a bit of pampering, like a picnic, a massage, a spa or facial. The group says they love to watch each other's babies grow and that the group benefits both children and parents.

In 1995, 15 Lamorinda mothers met at Moraga Commons to establish what was then known as Lamorinda Mom's Club. According to the Lamorinda Moms' website, the mothers envisioned "a group of women who could help each other out, make active friendships, and get to know others in the community." Today, Lamorinda Moms has a membership of nearly 700. Each member pays \$55 annual dues (\$30 for "alumni" status—those with children over 5) and volunteers for at least two hours a year. The organization serves local charities like Families First, the Bay Area Crisis Nursery, and the Contra Costa County Food Bank.

Lamorinda Moms takes care of its own with "Mom Dins," a gift of four to six meals delivered to new mothers. Members can be involved

in Lamorinda Moms' monthly meeting, an online community, a play group (including special groups for mothers of multiple births and working moms), neighborhood activities, annual seasonal events, and sub-groups like Mom's Night Out, and gardening. But it's not all about the big picture. Small weekly playgroups may be the organization's heart and soul.

The recent gathering included Angel Johnson with Samantha (nine months old), Nadine and Reed Lush (one year) and Yrueta and daughter Ava. Bartoli said her group has met since their children were just "little blobs." The mothers collectively decided which day and time worked best for them. Each had learned about Lamorinda Moms either online (<http://www.lamorindamoms.org/>), or by meeting members at local fairs or talking to friends and neighbors.

As the two-hour session ended, and moms and babies packed up to leave, some were already planning their next meeting – a stroller walk – for that same afternoon.

*Happy Mother's Day!*  
*May 13th*

## FREE MOTHER'S DAY CONCERT

Orinda's Theatre Square

Join us on Mother's Day May 13th between 1:00 and 3:00pm for an afternoon of Vintage Jazz with

**Tara Linda & the Rumor Mill Trio**



Allison McCrady Fine Art, Anahid Flowers & Designs, Bonfire Pizzeria, Entourage Day Spa, Kasper's Hot Dogs, Living Lean, Orinda Theatre, Petra Café, Republic of Cake, Serika Japanese, Shelby's, Starbucks Coffee, Sweet Dreams, Subway, Table 24, Tiny Feet Shoes, and Visual Entrée



[orindatheatresquare.com](http://orindatheatresquare.com)  
[taralinda.com](http://taralinda.com)

**ROYA'S GARLIC GARDEN**

**Mothers Day from 12pm on**

Celebrate Mothers Day at Royas Garden! Let her enjoy a home cooked meal from our kitchen, relax with our complimentary salad bar and a glass of Brut Champagne! Special offers available - Call for reservations. (925) 283-3007 3576 MT.Diablo Blvd. Lafayette WWW.ROYASGARLICGARDEN.COM

**Petar's Restaurant and Pub**  
Serving the area since 1959.  
Available for banquets and large parties.

- Lunch • Dinner • Early Bird  
Homemade Soups, Sandwiches, Salads, Steaks, Seafood, Pasta & Lamb every day.
- Live Entertainment  
Join us after 9pm Thursday & Friday evenings for our headliner "Diamond" Dave Hosley, Saturday evenings D.J. Dave Gwynn and enjoy the blues every Sunday with Jimmy's Allstars.

**Open Mother's Day May 13**  
Champagne Brunch 10:30 - 3:00  
Dinner 4:00 - 9:00  
Traditional brunch favorites with fresh fruit, croissants and champagne. Regular menu served for dinner.

925-284-7117  
32 Lafayette Cir. Lafayette

See complete menu on our website [www.petars.com/menus](http://www.petars.com/menus)  
Like us [www.facebook.com/Petars.Lafayette](http://www.facebook.com/Petars.Lafayette)  
\*\*\*\* New for spring \*\*\* \$8.00 lunch menu, check it out!

**RISTORANTE VINO**  
TAPAS • SEAFOOD

- Pasta with fresh tomatoes & basil \$12
- Linguini with prawns, artichokes & basil \$15
- Roasted chicken parmigiana \$14
- Niman flat iron steak & potato gratin \$17
- Roasted scallops in Spanish chorizo sauce \$16
- Fresh seafood cioppino \$18
- Roasted wild salmon with potato gratin \$15

3531 Plaza Way, Lafayette (near the Lafayette theatre)  
Reservations recommended  
**(925) 284-1330**

Food low in fat....since 1963

**ENTOURAGE INC.**  
Day NIGHT Spa, Salon & Café

Serving the Community & Giving to Local Schools since 2003

**A Mother's Day Special Event at ENTOURAGE Sunday - May 13th**

**Includes:**

- ~ Full Body Massage ~
- ~ Entourage Spa Pedicure ~
- ~ Champagne ~
- ~ Mother's Day Gift ~

\$90 includes a 60 minute massage  
\$100 includes an 80 minute massage  
Other services available-Gift certificates  
Book early-one day only  
Theatre Square • Orinda  
**925-254-9721**

[www.entouragespa.com](http://www.entouragespa.com)