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The scaffold-enclosed Old Yellow House is off its foundations while being refurbished. Photos Cathy Dausman

## Greening the (Pink) Old Yellow House

By Cathy Dausman

A colorful Orinda home and its storied past is becoming environmentally green, thanks to a new owner. The Old Yellow House, as it was originally known, has actually been pink since 1991 and unoccupied since 1966. But new owner James Wright said he is excited to begin his restoration project, emphasizing that he plans to refurbish rather than replace. His enthusiasm for the work to be done and his affection for the Orinda landmark is quite contagious.

Wright consulted with Orinda's Historical Landmarks Committee (HLC) to insure that the house "should look as close as possible to its original form." He introduced himself to neighbor and former resident Ezra Nelson, tapped Nelson's memories of how the house once was, applied for a historic landmark designation for the house, and plans to refurbish the dwelling, inside and out.

Its exterior will be repainted close to its original yellow color

and the inside will be made environmentally green. Wright is a renewable energy architect who plans to live and work at that address, while using it as a model for a zero-energy environment. Four HLC members and Assistant City Planner Roscoe Mata recently toured the site. The group approved Wright's exterior color choice. "I am so glad it's being preserved," said HLC member Kay Norman. "The feeling up here [second story] is so nice," said another.

... continued on page A12



James Wright shows off the vintage newspapers nestled under the home's linoleum flooring.

### Quote of the Week:

"The right to marry is an acknowledgment of the equal rights of gays and lesbians to engage fully in the life of our nation."

Read Letters to the Editor, page A9

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**This Week Read About:**

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## Moraga School District Entangled in Decades-Old Scandal

By Sophie Braccini

The Moraga School District (MSD) has been confronted with an outcry from parents and local residents over the past two weeks, requesting the full investigation of whether then Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School (JM) Principal Bill Walters and possibly other school officials failed in their legal obligation as mandated reporters under the Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act during the 1990s sexual misconduct scandal involving JM science teacher Dan Witters.

California Penal Code section 11164, known as the Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act, states that individuals working in close proximity to children have the legal obligation to contact Social Services or the local law enforcement agency if they suspect or have reasons to believe that a child has been abused or neglected. The law was first written to include teachers in 1974.

All personnel working in the proximity of children are "mandated reporters." They include teachers, administrators, teachers' aids and assistants, but also employees of day camps, recreational facilities, and social workers, to name a few. According to Lauren Brosnan, community outreach coordinator with Contra Costa Children's Protective Services, pending amendments to the law will also include sports coaches as mandated reporters.

The mandated reporter must report suspected abuse as soon as he/she becomes aware of it. The law specifies the reporter has to call social services or police immediately, or as soon as feasible, and needs to follow up with a written report within 36 hours. Contacting the hierarchy instead is not an option.

Failure to report as defined by Penal Code 11166(c) is characterized as a misdemeanor pun-

ishable by up to six months in county jail, a fine of \$1,000, or both.

According to Moraga Police Chief Bob Priebe, the chief of police at that time discussed the case (non-reporting of suspected child abuse by Walters) with the then district attorney. "Since nothing was done at that time in regards to mandated reporting, child endangerment or any other issues, any prosecution at this time would be precluded due to the statute of limitations," said Priebe in an e-mail.

Moraga parent Sam Shapiro, dean of instruction and teacher at Athenian School, met with MSD Superintendent Bruce Burns June 1. He said the School District should take two steps: "First, the District should continue to look into ways to prosecute Mr. Walters for his failure to protect children.

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### Life in Lamorinda B1-B12

## Summer Reading, and More

Jennifer Wake has suggestions for summer reading fun! Page B1



### Sports C1-C3

## Acalanes, Campolindo Win NCS!

Simon Tryzna has the baseball success stories. Page C1



### Our Homes D1-D8

## At Home in Tuscany?

Sophie Braccini views an award-winning remodel with a distinctly Italian flair. Page D1



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# Lafayette

## Civic News

**Public Meetings**

**City Council**

Tuesday, June 11, 7:00 pm  
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,  
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd

**Planning Commission**

Monday, June 8, 7:00 pm  
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,  
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd

**Design Review**

Tuesday, June 11, 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, June 6, 7:30 pm  
Wednesday, June 20, 7:30 pm  
Board Room AUHSD Office  
1212 Pleasant Hill Rd, Lafayette  
www.acalanes.k12.ca.us

**Lafayette School District**

Thursday, June 21, 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  
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**Chamber of Commerce:**

www.lafayettechamber.org

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letters@lamorinda weekly.com

## Balanced Budget Includes Extra Funding for Road Repair

By Cathy Tyson

With very little fanfare, and no public comment, the City of Lafayette's \$11.9 million budget for fiscal year 2012-2013 passed unanimously at a recent City Council meeting. Boasting a balanced budget with \$4,500 to spare, frugal Administrative Services staff improved on the very modest \$223 extra from the last fiscal year while funding programs at current levels. The city's reserve, or savings account, is very healthy, the estimated total for fiscal year 2012-2013 is \$8.9 million, \$3 million over their target amount, allowing for a release of \$1.1 million for pavement projects.

"While we predict that the General Fund will grow less than one percent next year, we have seen encouraging signs of growth in the local economy, suggesting that things are slowly improving," said City Manager Steven Falk in a staff report. Falk also pointed out that the city has weathered the recent economic downturn without laying off employees and maintaining existing programs, a feat "many, if not most, California cities have been unable to do."

Police services are getting more expensive, going up five percent over the last fiscal year, at a cost of \$217,000. Even with one of the lowest staffing levels

per capita in the County, the City of Lafayette spends more than \$4 million annually on police services.

What about money for roads? The capital improvement budget includes \$1.1 million from the General Fund reserve, with an additional \$975,000 from the annual operating budget. What's more, two grants are expected in 2013 that would pay for pavement management work and streetlight installation along Mt. Diablo Boulevard. The city also receives money from gas taxes and Measure J sales taxes. In the wake of the recent failed tax measure, there was agreement that dipping into the city's substantial reserve account was appropriate to start to address the road repair backlog.

Other notable highlights include the approval of modern "smart" parking meters that will be popping up downtown at a budgeted cost of \$200,000; remember that when you conveniently use a debit or credit card to settle up. Due to savvy renegotiating, the lease on the City Offices in Desco Plaza has been reduced annually by \$59,000. City employees had their salaries frozen for the past two years, and are currently in negotiations for a salary increase.

### Massage Parlor Ordinance Approved

Also unanimously approved at the May 29 City Council meeting is an amendment to the Lafayette Municipal Code about massage parlors. There are currently 19 such establishments downtown. Chapter 4-501 establishes new standards that comply with California law and spells out certain minimum health and safety standards for those businesses and their employees. Simply put – all massage therapists and practitioners operating within the city must be state certified, and the businesses must be registered with the city. Ten pages outline who and what is covered, along with exemptions for other professionals like physicians, nurses, physical therapists, but also barbers, manicurists, nursing homes, health clubs and more. C. Tyson

## Historical Facelift for Plaza Park Shops

By Cathy Tyson



Proposed North Elevation

Graphic provided

Usually the goal of a facelift is to make the recipient look younger—in this case property owners want to bring back the historical charm of the heart of Lafayette. Starting with Squirrels and encompassing the four adjoining shops through what used to be A-1 Photo Lab and Handlebar Toys, the prominent, though aging establishments are in the preliminary stages of getting approval from the City for façade improvements.

"Due to the gradual deterioration of these historic buildings over the last few decades and the difficulties of current economic times, the shops around Plaza Park have lost their place as the economic and cultural heart of Lafayette," said architect Sudhish Mohindroo of SZFM Design Studio in a description of the project. Mohindroo is the design genius behind other notable local projects including the renovated La Fiesta Square, the Mercantile, and the currently-under-construction streetscape improvement project along Mt. Diablo Boulevard.

Looking to restore cultural significance, invigorate the area, add outdoor seating and retain small village scale is not easy. Throw in upgrading outdated utilities and making the buildings structurally stable, while bringing them up to modern retail standards is quite a challenge, so building owners are making careful strategic improvements.

The proposal before a recent Design Review meeting outlined a number of changes to the buildings. Enhancing the 1950s diner look of Squirrels Coffee Shop with new lighting, new doors, and new paint will emphasize the mid-century look of the building.

... continued on page A8



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# Sidewalk Beautification Continues



Photo Cathy Tyson

Although the project is a bit behind schedule, pedestrians are already enjoying the substantially complete streetscape project that is transforming downtown sidewalks. Starting from the Round Up Saloon, decorative brick pavers have been marching their way east along the south side of Mt. Diablo Boulevard and have made it to the corner of Mt. View Drive, home of Trader Joe's.

"Every construction project has its challenges, there've been quite a few rain days, but overall it's going well," said City Engineer Farzaneh Sanders. She commented that heavy equipment should disappear around early July, and that the entire project should be complete near the end of July.

Now the north side of the street is enjoying traffic barriers and heavy equipment. Between Pet Food Ex-

press and Wells Fargo Bank the base rock has been installed for the sidewalk and pavers are going down. Street lights are being installed between Dewing Avenue and Mountain View Drive.

Look for a variety of greenery including Scarlet Oak trees, Liquid Amber, Creeping Fig and Star Jasmine planted between Dewing Avenue and Mt. View Drive in strategically located cut-outs; the irrigation system is ready and waiting for plants. Planting will continue following paver placement throughout the project. Installation of a stone façade on the short solid wall in front of Diablo Foods will commence shortly.

Approximately 80 percent of the cost of the project is funded by a federal grant which is administered by CalTrans.

C. Tyson

# Last Chapter at Work for Lafayette Librarian Susan Weaver

By Cathy Tyson



Susan Weaver Photo provided

laments long time librarian and friend, Robbie Duncan. "She's the best boss I've ever had." All three made the transition from the cozy original shoebox library to the new and vastly expanded Lafayette Library and Learning Center. Duncan recalls the shift to the new facility as fun and lots of hard work – the trio had to wear hard hats as staff was getting organized setting up the new building.

There's a special day-long drop-in retirement event planned, "Susan Weaver Day" on June 6; just two days later, on June 8, will be her final farewell.

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# Last Chapter at Work for Lafayette Librarian Susan Weaver

By Cathy Tyson



Susan Weaver Photo provided

laments long time librarian and friend, Robbie Duncan. "She's the best boss I've ever had." All three made the transition from the cozy original shoebox library to the new and vastly expanded Lafayette Library and Learning Center. Duncan recalls the shift to the new facility as fun and lots of hard work – the trio had to wear hard hats as staff was getting organized setting up the new building.

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## Moraga Civic News

### Public Meetings

#### Town Council

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

#### Planning Commission

Monday, June 18, 7:00 pm  
Moraga Library, 1500 Saint Marys Rd

#### Design Review

Monday, June 11, 7:00 pm  
Moraga Library, 1500 Saint Marys Rd

#### School Board Meeting

##### Moraga School District

Tuesday, June 12, 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

#### Town of Moraga:

www.moraga.ca.us  
Phone: (925) 888-7022

#### Chamber of Commerce:

www.moragachamber.org

#### Moraga Citizens' Network:

www.moragacitizensnetwork.org



## Police Report

D.U.I. missed the line, 5/25/12 At just after midnight, police on patrol noticed a car swerving in and out of traffic, then attempting to stop at the signal at Rheem Boulevard and Moraga Road, but failing to stop at the limit line. Presumably the driver noticed the cops, because upon getting the green light, the car proceeded very slowly. The driver flunked field sobriety tests, with a blood alcohol level of 0.138%.

Broken fog light, D.U.I. 5/26/12 A Cadillac Escalade was on Miramonte Drive at 3 a.m. Cops noticed a broken fog light and pulled over the driver. The driver's red watery eyes, slurred speech and smell of alcohol was a heads up to police who placed the subject under arrest without incident and eventually took him/her to the Martinez Detention Facility.

Speeding & D.U.I. 5/27/12 Cruising along at 54 m.p.h. on Moraga Way near the Country Club, cops pulled over a 19-year-old at the bewitching hour – midnight. After flunking sobriety tests, and unable to locate a sober friend to drive him/her home, the driver was taken to Martinez Detention Facility. No glass slipper for this Cinderella.

False alarm, 5/28/12 Police responded to an audible alarm sounding at a Walford Drive home. Turns out the door leading to the garage was unlocked as well as the door leading into the house. Cops locked both doors, and checked the perimeter – all good. A neighbor mentioned the residents were out of town.

D.U.I., no slurpee for you, 5/28/12 A car drove into the 7-11 parking lot at 3:25 in the morning. Cops happened to be there and noticed his eau de alcohol cologne as he stepped out of the vehicle. With a blood alcohol level of 0.10%, just over the legal limit – and a records check that showed he was on probation for a prior D.U.I., he was arrested for probation violation along with drunk driving. Slow learner.

D.U.I. broken license plate light, 5/25/12 At 2:20 a.m. a Jeep was pulled over on Augusta Drive, for a broken license plate light – the officer noticed the smell of alcohol from the young driver. She eventually submitted to a breath test at the station which documented a 0.12% blood alcohol level. Dear old dad picked her up after she signed a notice to appear.

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## The One Percent?

Survey results indicate Moragans may be willing to pay a bit more sales tax to fix roads

By Sophie Braccini

A small crowd joined the Moraga Town Council on May 30 to hear the results of a survey that gauged residents' support for road taxes: a general one percent sales tax, with a 20-year sunset, is likely to pass on the November ballot; a parcel tax would probably fail.

The Council took the parcel tax idea off the table, and will continue to study a sales tax for inclusion on the November ballot.

Previous study sessions determined that bringing the town's "at risk" roads up to the Bay Area average would require a \$14 million investment. To bond that kind of money would require a parcel tax, coupled with a sales tax to pay for ongoing maintenance. That was the Council's intent, but the recent poll results do not line up with this strategy.

The polling consultant, Lew Ed-

wards Group/Godbe Research, called 5.5 percent of Moraga voters, or 302 residences, sampling 30 different categories of residents based on demographic criteria such as age, sex, and political party affiliation.

A 1.0 percent general sales tax received a 54 percent approval rate, with a margin of error of +/- 5.5 percent, while a specific parcel tax never got above 53.7 percent even at only \$58 a year. With just above 50 percent of residents supporting any form of taxation, the only type the Town can choose is a general purpose tax, meaning a tax that is not allocated *a priori* for a specific use; specific tax measures require a two-thirds majority in California.

"People rate street maintenance very high, higher than police services, which is quite rare," said consultant Bryan Godbe. "However, there is not

a two-thirds majority in Moraga that would support a road-only tax."

In attendance was Jerry Bradshaw, the City of El Cerrito engineer who has also been serving as a consultant for the Town of Moraga. El Cerrito passed a specific tax measure for its roads with a 71 percent majority. "How did you do it?" asked resident Dale Walwark. "Two-thirds of El Cerrito voters are Democrats," answered Godbe, who also worked with the City of El Cerrito. He added that in Moraga, women tend to support tax measures more than men do.

There is no guarantee that a general tax will be used only for road repairs, a wrinkle that worried some of the Council members. "Some people may hesitate to give us a blank check," said Mayor Mike Metcalf.

Town Manager Jill Keimach explained that the Town would bond as

large a part as possible of the revenue stream from the tax measure right after the election and allocate that money to road repairs. But it was not clear to any of the meeting's participants how much the Town would be able to borrow against a non-fixed revenue stream such as a sales tax and what collateral the Town could offer to secure the loan.

At an earlier meeting the Council determined that a sales tax alone would not suffice to fix Moraga's roads. "A sales tax would staunch the bleeding," said Metcalf. The Council agreed that once it has been able to prove to residents that their tax dollars are being put to good use, it would be possible to return to voters and ask for a second measure to raise additional funds.

In order to be on the November ballot, the tax measure needs to be formally approved by the Council in July.

## Moraga Reduces Capital Expenses

Plans for Town Offices at 329 Rheem scaled down

By Sophie Braccini

The Moraga Town Council has adopted a scaled-down plan for the Town Offices at 329 Rheem Boulevard. The retrofit of the building was originally scheduled to include an Emergency Operations Center and a Community Meeting Room in which meetings of the Council, the Town's various commissions, and the community could be held. Both were crossed off the list in view of newly discovered structural problems that would have increased the project's costs; less expensive alternatives have been found close by.

Since the Town is likely to ask voters to approve new taxes for infrastructure maintenance in November, the Council seemed eager to show re-

straint in its spending decisions. At the May 23 Council meeting, Town Manager Jill Keimach proposed alternatives to the original renovation plans for 329 Rheem that should save the Town about \$400,000: A partnership with the Moraga-Orinda Fire District (MOFD) to use one of its facilities as an Emergency Operations Center (EOC), and the utilization of existing Town-owned space at 331 Rheem as a new meeting room.

MOFD Fire Chief Randy Bradley spoke during the meeting. "In an emergency, we do not have an EOC. We support yours," he said. "Our station 42 (555 Moraga Road) is fully retrofitted. It has a kitchen, bedrooms, and is ready to become an

EOC."

The Town will contribute some equipment so it can access its emergency information network. The Council unanimously approved the partnership with MOFD.

The issue of the Community Meeting Room and its proposed alternative was a bit more contentious. The Town has been holding its meetings in the Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School auditorium for years. The rental cost amounts to about \$4,200 per year, and staff must set up and take down the audio equipment and podium, which adds to its workload. But the initial plan to build a meeting room at 339 Rheem was considered by many to be an unnecessary

luxury, so Keimach's suggestion to use existing vacant space in the Town's corporation yard at 331 Rheem was welcomed.

The Council was quick to dismiss diagonal street parking and landscaping that staff initially proposed for 331 Rheem and decided that sweeping and buying chairs would be enough. At first Mayor Mike Metcalf and Council Member Dave Trotter wanted to table this component of the project all together. "It is a perception issue," they said. The minimalist plan was eventually approved, with Trotter casting the lone dissenting vote.

Don't plan to attend meetings in the new space anytime soon – the project has yet to be put out to bid.

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## McInturf Honored by Peers

By Sophie Braccini



Marty McInturf Photo Sophie Braccini

When Moraga's Town Clerk, Marty McInturf, attended a recent dinner meeting of the Northern California chapter of the City Clerks Association of California she was not expecting anything special. Deep in conversation with her colleagues and their spouses, she wasn't paying particular attention to the speaker—but through the din of the background noise, she suddenly recognized her name. "I turned around to see what was going on, and everyone was looking at me," she said. McInturf was unaware that she had been nominated for the Association's Award of Distinction, so the announcement that she won came as a complete surprise. Had she known, she added with a smile,

"I would have brought a camera."

"We nominated her because she really stands out," said Moraga Town Manager Jill Keimach. "Marty holds two clerk positions, one full-time in Moraga, and one part-time as an elected clerk in Pleasant Hill. Both I and my Pleasant Hill counterpart nominated her. We both agree that she is very professional in all aspects of her positions, and I think that she has the strongest work ethic that I've ever seen."

McInturf said that she was already serving in Pleasant Hill when she was hired in Moraga. "I had a commitment with Pleasant Hill, I could not resign," she explained. The result is longer days and nights and double Council meeting duties. "Marty is very good at keeping both jobs separate," added Keimach. Among the other qualities that make McInturf special, according to Keimach, is her attention to detail, her sense of humor and her availability to interact with residents who call her with questions of all kinds.

McInturf, who was raised in Moraga and has a special fondness for the town, did not confirm whether or not she would run again for the Pleasant Hill position in November.

# Spirit Van Program Seeks Friends with Funds in Moraga

## Program coordinator asks Moraga Town Council for additional support

By Sophie Braccini

Mary Bruns gave a compelling presentation when she came to ask the Moraga Town Council for additional funds for the Lamorinda Spirit Van program on May 23. As she does every year Bruns, the coordinator of the program that take seniors to appointments and to run errands, came to the Council meeting to report on how the \$9,000 the Town contributed last year was spent, and to ask for \$12,500 this year due to the increasing costs of running the program.

Bruns was accompanied by one of the van's volunteer drivers and two Moraga passengers who testified to its usefulness. However, the Council refused to increase the Town's donation amount; instead, it encouraged Bruns to seek other sources of funding.

"When I lost my driver's license I stopped going out and became depressed," Yoshi Weber, a frail, senior Moraga resident told the Council. "Then my daughter told me about the Lamorinda Spirit Van and now I am going back to my art class." Weber was followed at the podium by Heather Bransbury, a wheelchair-bound Moragan who explained that

the Spirit Van was her only way to get to her appointments. "As the population gets older, this service will become even more valuable," she said.

During her presentation Bruns projected that by 2020, 25 percent of Moraga's population will be senior citizens.

The Spirit Van is funded by the three communities, Moraga, Orinda and Lafayette, and by the riders who pay \$5 per trip. Lafayette makes the largest contribution and Orinda the smallest. Bruns indicated that in 2011 the Spirit Van made 450 trips for Moraga residents. She also said that the program is trying to purchase a second vehicle, a mini-van, and that it would welcome more business from Moragans. She asked the Town to increase its contribution, mostly to cover mounting operating costs, a consequence of higher gas prices.

"If you look at what towns contribute per ride, Moraga pays the most," said Mayor Mike Metcalf as he looked at the facts provided by Bruns. "You need to make this presentation in Orinda."

No Council member was willing to add \$3,500 per year for the pro-

gram. Bruns was asked if she had approached local service groups such as Kiwanis and Rotary—she replied that she had applied to them but received no support.

Three members of the board of directors of the non-profit Lamorinda Dogs who came to the meeting hoping to encourage the Council to reconsider its decision regarding plans for an off-leash dog area at Rancho Laguna Park, to no avail, were impressed by the presentation and decided to make a \$500 donation.

"Jeanne Moreau, Blair Newell and I were touched as you discussed your mission," said Lamorinda Dogs' Bill Carman later. "We requested unanimous approval from our directors to donate the sum of \$500 to help you keep the people who built our community mobile." He also asked her if the Spirit Van could help transport seniors to the group's farewell barbecue party at Rancho Laguna Park on June 2.

For more information about the Lamorinda Spirit Van Program contact Mary Bruns at mbruns@ci.lafayette.ca.us or (925) 283-3534.

# Town Loses Another Staffer

## Public Works' John Sherbert retires

By Sophie Braccini

John Sherbert's last day as Staff Engineer in the Moraga Public Works Department was May 25. Sherbert retired after only five years in public service because his life has led him along many different paths. As he prepared to depart, he shared memories of achievement, of great camaraderie, of hard work, and a few concerns about the Town of Moraga.

He also proposed a somewhat unorthodox idea for how to reduce costs and overhead: consolidate all or part of the staff in Lamorinda.

Sherbert is the third person to leave Moraga's Public Works Department this year. Department head Jill Mercurio accepted a new job four months ago, and has not yet been replaced; inspector Dana Blatner left unexpectedly a few weeks ago.

"We are in the process of recruiting a replacement for Jill Mercurio," said Town Manager Jill Keimach. She added that she was expecting someone to start in that position this summer. In the interim, the Town is contracting with Contra Costa County for grading inspection (part of Blatner's job), Parks and Recreation Director Jay Ingram is picking up Public Works, and Rob Kalkbrenner has a contract as interim Town Engineer—he works two days a week.

Sherbert is witness to the conse-

quences of having a very small staff, especially in view of mounting federal and state requirements. "We are so thin on staff that if someone leaves, it is hard to find anybody to pick up the slack," he said. He also thinks that a very small staff has to deal with so many aspects of the job that it can be at the expense of becoming very competent in any one area.

His solution would be to consolidate some, if not all, of the three Lamorinda municipal administrations. "There is potential for economy of scale," he said, "and it would increase local expertise because people would have the opportunity to specialize more." He added that the downside could be the loss of some local control. "But the costs are such that I would trade off local control for reducing costs," he said. As examples, he cited the Acalanes Union High School District that manages four high schools, and the Moraga Orinda Fire District. "There are issues and discussions, but at least we do not have to pay for two Fire Chiefs or three Superintendents," he concluded.

None of the local governments have publicly discussed the creation of a "Lamorinda staff," but at the last Tri-City meeting on February 15, the three Councils discussed working together to put joint transportation bids out to increase their bargaining power.

... continued on page A8

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# Orinda Civic News

## Public Meetings

### City Council

Tuesday, June 19, 7:00 pm  
Auditorium, Orinda Library,  
26 Orinda Way

### Planning Commission

Tuesday, June 12, cancelled  
Tuesday, June 26, at 7:00 pm  
Auditorium, Orinda Library,  
26 Orinda Way

### Historical Landmark Committee

Special Meeting:  
Tuesday, June 12, 3:00 pm  
Regular Meeting:  
Tuesday, June 26, 3:00 pm  
Gallery Room, Library  
26 Orinda Way

### School Board Meeting

**Orinda Union School District**  
Monday, June 11, 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

Probably dazed and confused, 5/29/12 Police say a 50-year-old male showed objective signs of intoxication. His BAC level was 0.28, which confirmed their suspicions. He was also found to have a small bag of brown powder, which turned out to be heroin instead of brown sugar. He was arrested for being drunk in public, and taken to Martinez where he was booked into the detention facility.

Suspicious person, 5/22/12 A 22-year-old male walking along Orinda Way was found to have a trio of syringes on his person and a small metal spoon which was considered drug paraphernalia. As he was on probation in Alameda County, he was arrested and his "under the influence" souvenirs were retained as evidence.

Learned your lesson yet? 5/22/12 A 50-year-old male learned his lesson the hard way when police discovered him parked at Wagner Ranch Elementary School way after hours (12:45 a.m.) and in possession of an open bottle of port wine. His preliminary alcohol screening showed an intoxication level of 0.078 and 0.077. He was also on probation. He was arrested, transported to Martinez Detention Facility and his vehicle was towed.

Beating the bushes, 5/17/12 You can lie in the bushes, but you can't hide from a charge of Public Drunkenness. That's the lesson one 56-year-old male found when he was discovered near Rite Aid Pharmacy. Even with bloodshot eyes, slurred speech and a gait so wobbly he used the police cruiser to steady himself, the man still refused to take a preliminary alcohol screening. He was arrested for public drunkenness and probation violation, and transported to Martinez Detention Facility.



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## City Council and Staff Work to Close Projected Budget Gap

By Laurie Snyder

The latest in a series of budget workshops was held by the Orinda City Council at a special session May 22. Presented at the meeting that was open to, but only lightly attended by, members of the general public were documents not yet publicly available on the City's web site.

Staff recommended that Council members approve a "Most Likely" Revenue Scenario outlined in the Update of General Fund Adopted Budget: Fiscal Year 2013 (FY 2013). Working from a proposed revenue base of \$10,137,614 with expenditures of \$10,027,619, the City would have seen a small surplus of \$109,995 – were it not for shortfalls in Planning and Permit Review fees of \$45,000; Property Tax Projections, a one percent drop equaling \$182,773; In-lieu-of Vehicle License Fees, a one percent drop equaling \$73,642; and Pending Appeals, \$9,000 – a total hole for the Council to plug of \$200,420.

In contrast, staff also presented their "Pessimistic" Revenue Scenario, estimating the deficit at \$381,034. This would occur if the City takes in lower franchise fees, experiences drops by another percent each in property taxes and vehicle license fees, sees even lower revenue from planning and permit review, and has its Supplemental Law Enforcement Services (SLESF) grant of \$100,000 cut by the State of California.

"We remain hopeful that we will be made whole for this year," said City Manager Janet Keeter when asked if Orinda will lose its \$100,000 SLESF public safety grant. The City, she explained, just received \$78,000 of that grant on May 18, delayed because the State of California is behind in processing its payments.

### Options for balancing the FY 2013 budget included:

Organization restructuring and efficiencies	\$98,189
Eliminate Reserve Officer – Police	\$50,000
Eliminate Detective Sergeant	\$240,540
Eliminate Detective Officer	\$200,000
Eliminate Planner	\$93,468

Reduce FY 13 General Fund transfer to Internal Service Funds	\$97,345
Furlough Days @ \$11,000 per day	\$11,000

Council Member Sue Severson observed that the Planning Department has already cut one-and-a-half positions and faces "the unpredictability of new projects coming on," and voiced concerns that the Orinda Police Department (OPD) "is the one department that has not made any cuts to date." She asked whether or not there might be a way to reduce an officer's position to a half-time role, and also proposed that the City seek further efficiencies from its vehicle replacement program by lengthening the life of vehicles.

Council Member Victoria Smith asked Orinda Police Chief Jeffrey Jennings to assess the potential impact of each staff reduction scenario. Eliminating the Reserve Officer would not be possible, he explained, because it would impair the department's ability to operate safely while maintaining the City's current level of expected service. The Reserve Officer is brought on board when others are off duty for a variety of reasons, including training.

Jennings then informed Council members that if OPD is required to eliminate a position it will need to be that of the Detective Officer, but he cautioned that the loss of either detective would reduce OPD's ability to crack burglary and other criminal cases. "It's not a model that will catch the most criminals," he said, explaining that "the investigator would be so inundated" that he would not have time to devote to other programs residents have come to rely on, such as school policing and neighborhood watch programs.

Vice Mayor Amy Worth, pointing out that "conviction keeps up the deterrent factor" for criminals bent on victimizing Orinda residents, also observed that if the Police Department is forced to drop an officer, the City would still end up paying in two ways – by incurring increased overtime as other members of the force pick up the workload of the

departing officer and in a reduction in services to residents.

The Council next queried Planning Director Emmanuel Ursu regarding the impact of eliminating, or decreasing to half-time, a Planner and were advised that the department would likely need to cut its service hours back significantly – only offering counter operations half of each day.

Worrying over potentially decreased City revenues and aware that the department had worked hard to speed up its processing of applications, several Council members suggested that it might be more advisable for Ursu to give his staff more time to process paperwork in order to enable more flexible counter hours for the public. To which Keeter observed that staff "would have to manage expectations on turnaround time."

Smith asked, since the department is estimating reductions in Planning and Permit Review fees, whether or not there might be a corresponding reduction in the workload of staff. Ursu responded that staff could instead be directed to focus more on code enforcement and other duties.

Council Member Dean Orr suggested that a half-time position devoted to permitting and fee-servicing items would likely not work well due to the nature of those jobs, but that non-fee generating duties could be assigned to a half-time employee.

Worth wondered whether Planning Department programs such as the Mayor's Award for Architectural Excellence and funds expended for web site development were as important when weighed against the possible reduction to or elimination of police services.

Council members decided not to eliminate the OPD Reserve Officer, unanimously approved the organizational restructuring and efficiencies option proposed by staff, and elected to leave all other items on the table for discussion at the next budget workshop on June 5.



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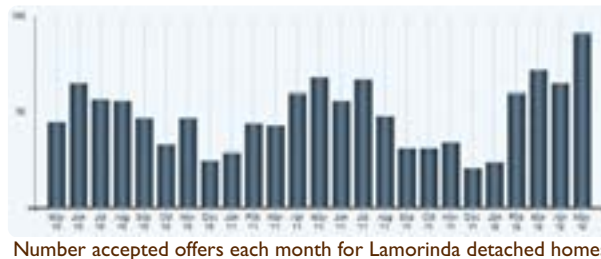
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**Celebrate America with Orinda Library's Summer Music Series**

By Laurie Snyder



Dare you not to dance! The Real Placebos will perform bluegrass, swing and blues from their CD, "American Roots," as the Summer Music Series kicks off at the Orinda Library June 20 at 6:30 p.m. Image provided

East Bay residents will be making new memories with friends, families, and neighbors while enjoying some of the best loved melodies from America's musical heritage as the Summer Music Series kicks off at the Orinda Library this month.

Ruth Boyer, the Adult Services Librarian at the Orinda Library, says that the programs – only just recently announced – are already attracting attention. "We decided to mix it up a bit this year," she explains, noting that the series will offer a blend of sophistication and fun for listeners of all ages.

Beginning at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, June 20, The Real Placebos will get Lamorindans channeling their inner air fiddlers with their homegrown, high energy acoustic renditions of Mississippi blues, swing, and traditional bluegrass straight off of their "American Roots" CD (www.therealplacebos.com/.) The Real Placebos have been known to draw curious kids and enthusiastic adult audiences to their jam sessions outside of Orinda's Caffè Teatro. So, arrive early enough at the Library to get a good seat.

The tensions of daily life will then melt away on Wednesday, July 18 as concert goers relax to the classics and the sinfully soulful standards of the "Great American Songbook" as performed by another series favorite, The Amethyst Trio (www.amethysttrio.com/.) A previous appearance by the trio in Orinda was described by an attendee as "pure delight" in "the right intimate setting for chamber music," and is sure to attract another crowd.

And on August 22, children and adults will savor those last few precious moments of summer sanity mellowing out to the music of Cole Porter, Charlie Parker, and Rodgers and Hart, as only Berkeley's Pocket Trio can deliver.

Performances are free, open to all, and will be held inside of the Orinda Library at 26 Orinda Way, located just a short walk from the Orinda BART station and within easy walking distance of several popular local restaurants. For more information on the music series as well as the Summer Reading Festival, visit the library website at ccclib.org or call (925) 254-2184.

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## Civic News Lafayette

### Last Chapter at Work for Lafayette Librarian

Susan Weaver

... continued from page A3

Rumor has it she won't be keeping busy playing golf, possibly catching up on her reading and about a thousand and one special projects that have been on the back burner.

Weaver started her career with the Contra Costa Library system in April of 1995, spending the last six years here in Lafayette, with prior postings at libraries in Crockett and San Ramon. Skills learned working at detention facilities, also known as jails, in Martinez, Marsh Creek and West County years ago may have come in handy with the occasional overly-enthusiastic library patron.

"Extraordinary is not sufficient praise to describe

Susan. Include visionary, innovative, collaborative, dedicated, smart," said Kathy Merchant, Executive Director of the Lafayette Library and Learning Center Foundation. "Of course she'll say NOW I say nice things...and this is what I will miss most. She is, to use her phrase, 'hecka fun!' I've known that every day I walk in to the library, Susan will be there and we will share instant laughter. Everyone knows that when I tease that Susan is so difficult, they all understand I mean the exact opposite and that this has become a treasured personal as well as professional relationship. A rare gift for which I will always be grateful."

## Historical Facelift for Plaza Park Shops

... continued from page A2

The Pioneer Store dating from 1860, which is now A-1 Photo Lab, will have its historic gabled roof line restored, a new wood front porch and new windows. The owner is working with the Lafayette Historical Society to keep renovations true to the original form.

The Handlebar Toy and Plaza Way Cleaners buildings will receive similar, yet distinct historic improvements.

Parking for the area has been the subject of lengthy discussions, not only for this row of businesses, but for the Park Theater, just a stone's throw down the block. Ad-

ressing a comprehensive solution for parking is crucial for the success of this renovation on Plaza Way, along with Fenton's coming to the now vacant Park Theater.

The City Council has expressed support for preliminary plans for a consolidated parking area in the rear of the shops, encompassing not only expanded parking, but a comprehensive parking solution with a number of components. A subcommittee of city representatives is actively working on a solution for the area, and they are expected to produce Plaza Way Overlay in the coming months.

## Restaurant Row Meets the Streets?

Asian street vendor-inspired restaurant proposes new location

Also on the May 29 Design Review agenda was a study session to get preliminary feedback on demolishing the existing building across the street from Chow on Lafayette Circle – home of the Art Room and the Lafayette Gallery, and build Boo Koo – a new restaurant that features fresh, healthy quickly-prepared southeast Asian street food. With a successful shop in Mill Valley, the owners are looking to expand in Lafayette and proposed a contemporary small café, with lots of outdoor seating to take advantage of the existing trees on the property. In general the Design Review Commissioners liked the project, but suggested additional fine tuning to integrate the indoor and outdoor spaces. Boo Koo is a spin on "beaucoup" meaning many, much, an abundance – referring to many sparkling flavors, as in their spicy ginger beef banh mi or pho ga. C. Tyson

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## Civic News Moraga

### Town Loses Another Staffer

Public Works' John Sherbert retires

... continued from page A5

Sherbert said he had 5 very interesting years working in Moraga. He was recruited by Town Engineer and Public Works Director Jill Mercurio. "When I met with her, I shared my concerns over not being familiar with all of the aspects of the job," Sherbert recalled. "She looked at my resume and said, 'you should be able to handle what we are doing here.'"

Sherbert is an electrical engineer by training. He worked in the computer hardware and software engineering industry, before starting his own general contracting practice. But doing it alone was not his thing, and as a Moraga resident, when he read about the opening, he thought he could contribute to the Town in which he had raised two children. "I've loved the challenge and I've loved to learn," said Sherbert. "With the flexibility and support of my manager (Mercurio), it's been a wonderful experience."

"We've had some great accom-

plishments," he reminisced. First he started looking at the energy consumption of the Town, something that had never been done before. "When I saw that the energy grants were available and could help us reduce our energy bills, I immediately brought it to Jill (Mercurio)," he said. The rest is history: installation of led lights, replacement of old equipment that was energy-guzzling and insulation in divers public buildings were all conducted successfully. All these modifications translate today in dollars saved.

Sherbert added some of the Town's capital projects to his list of accomplishments. "The lights at Ascot went very well, as well as some of our pavement projects," he said. He also remembered those that didn't go so well, such as the resurfacing of Moraga Road that started to fail. "I'm just finishing the last paperwork on this project," he noted.

## Speaking of State Regulations...

How one unfunded mandate is affecting this small town

The failure of the 2012 Community Clean Water Initiative doesn't mean that requirements for communities to clean up storm drains will disappear—it means that municipalities will have to find other funds to pay for the clean-up. "The mandate stays the same," said Moraga Staff Engineer John Sherbert, "and the new costs will have to be covered by (the Town's) General Fund."

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Bay Region, wants to improve the quality of the water in reservoirs and in the bay. Moraga's water run-off goes to the San Leandro Reservoir, which is a source of drinking water for a large part of the East Bay.

"Nobody would argue against clean water, but sometimes what we are asked to do is a little extreme," said Sherbert, who believes that it should not be "one rule fits all." For example, "We are required to have catchment devices in all of our storm drain entries, whether or not we have debris in our creeks," he explained.

Other requirements for clean water include holding three outreach events per year and sweeping the streets frequently. "We do it (sweeping) only twice a year because there is no trash in our streets," said Sherbert. "And the Water Board says that we should do it every week, every other week, or every day."

Sherbert said that a 2012 clean-up of the creek banks near the high school collected one cubic foot of trash. "And part of that was a paper banner that had blown from Campo," he added. Sherbert was hoping that the agency, after seeing these results, would loosen the mandate for Moraga. "We hoped that reasonable people would allow an exception, because we are burning up local agency resources for no real gain," said Sherbert.

The expected cost to the Town this year, to comply with storm water regulations, is \$324,239 – a 78 percent increase from previous years.

Sherbert acknowledged that Moraga does pollute its creeks, but said the source of the pollution is run-off from gardens that contains pesticides and fertilizers, and the new law has no way to measure or improve that type of pollution.

"This is one of the most outrageous examples of unfunded mandates that our towns and cities have to abide by," said Sherbert. Non-compliance can result in fines of \$10,000 per day. S.Braccini



# Letters to the Editor

Share your thoughts with our community!

Opinions in Letters to the Editor are the express views of the writer and not necessarily those of the Lamorinda Weekly. All published letters will include the writer's name and city/town of residence -- we will only accept letters from those who live in, or own a business in, the communities comprising Lamorinda (please give us your phone number for verification purposes only).

Letters should be 350 words or less; letters of up to 500 words will be accepted on a space-available basis. **email: [letters@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:letters@lamorindaweekly.com)**; Regular mail: Lamorinda Weekly, P.O.Box 6133, Moraga, CA 94570

Editor:

### Criminal Investigation in Moraga Needed

As a high school teacher with a son in his school, I am deeply dismayed to read of the evidence that came to light about Principal Walter's abject failure to protect students at Joaquin Moraga from a sexual predator teacher. (See Contra Costa Time's, "Moraga School District Secret: Principal Failed to Report Student Abuse Letter.") Educators learn right away that as "mandated reporters," we are required by law to report suspected or alleged abuse to Child Protective Services. Walter's criminal and ethical failures are manifold: He received a letter from a student detailing sexual abuse by her teacher, Dan Witters, and then waited an entire summer vacation before talking with Witters about the allegations. (Were Witter's Moraga students safe that summer?) When he finally did meet with Witters, Walter's actually gave him a copy of the letter with the accusing student's name on it. Most shocking, Walters failed to report the allegations, as required by law, to Child Protective Services. It gets worse: he later received a document from a different teacher in his school (who is now in jail for raping a different JM student; see articles on Julie Correa) documenting Witter's behaviors, including licking a female student's ear and patting another's rear end, and Walters not only failed to report these new allegations to the authorities, he doesn't even remember if he brought them up to Witters. Walter's failed to protect the children our town trusted him to protect: It appears that if he had intervened as he was supposed to, half-a-dozen other girls would not have been abused by Witters. With this new evidence of his failure to prevent the future victimizations, our town can brace itself for many expensive law suits. And who can blame the victims? We should have protected them. Walters is a nice man, and this is tragic, but if there's anything we've learned in the last decade it's that we can't sweep adult-to-child abuse under the rug. Walter's must be investigated for criminal negligence in his failure to meet his legal obligation to report sexual abuse by a teacher he supervised.

Sam Shapiro  
Moraga

Editor:

The recent decision to terminate the off-leash hours at Rancho Laguna Park has led some of us dog walkers to look for alternative places to exercise our dogs. We are now spending more time up on Donald Dr., exploring Gateway Valley, Briones, the Lafayette Reservoir, and the backside of Sibley. These are beautiful areas and great places to enjoy a rigorous hike, especially if you're with a friend. The new concern is that these places are isolated, we see coyotes and there are occasional mountain lion sightings. For women in particular, human predators cause a sense of insecurity. I feel safer in the park. There are

more people around, usually people I have come to know. Fewer wild animals venture close to the homes. And despite all my efforts to arrange for friends to walk with me, it is not always possible. It is important for our community to provide a safe environment for the large displaced population of dog owners who have enjoyed the off-leash hours at Rancho Laguna. I would like to see the cities of Orinda, Moraga and Lafayette pool their resources to provide dog owners a safe place to walk that provides for off-leash hours.

Diana Stephens  
Orinda

Editor:

A couple of months ago, while I was at church on a Sunday morning, my home was broken into by some burglars. I called the police, and "Orinda's Finest" responded in a few minutes. The two officers were very efficient and knowledgeable. Some jewelry was taken from a drawer in my bedroom and a laptop computer was taken from my home office. The worst problem was that my newly-installed kitchen door was destroyed, the way they broke into my house. The officers pointed out that I had left my garage door open a good sign to the "crooks" that I was not at home. In a couple of days, the officers found out who the culprits were, and an arrest was made. Most of my jewelry was returned to me. I can't thank the officers enough for how efficiently and thoroughly they ran this investigation. We Orinda residents can surely be grateful for how we are taken care of by our police services.

Johnette Perry  
Orinda

Editor:

An Open Letter to President Barak Obama  
Dear President Obama,  
Twelve years ago, by vote of our congregation, the Orinda Community Church took action supporting the movement for equality for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered community when we adopted our Open and Affirming Statement, welcoming "all to full participation in the life of our church." We therefore applaud your personal statement of faith in support of equal marriage rights for homosexual couples.

Too often religion is invoked to condemn homosexuality. We believe that the Gospel of Jesus is a gospel of inclusion and that we are called by our Christian faith to support the human dignity of all people. The right to marry is an acknowledgment of the equal rights of gays and lesbians to engage fully in the life of our nation. We look forward to the day when all people will be so welcomed and we thank you for taking an important step in that direction.

Very truly yours,  
Mary Winbigler (on behalf of the Church Council)  
Orinda



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## Community Service

We are pleased to make space available whenever possible for some of Lamorinda's dedicated community service organizations to submit news and information about their activities. Submissions can be sent to [storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com) with the subject header In Service to the Community.

## Digital Design Class Tapped for Senior Symposium Logo

Submitted by Dick Holt



Aaron Miller, LCF board member Dr. Anita Rama, Angelo Calitis and Susan Lane. Photo provided

In an effort to provide real world design challenges to the students in her digital design class, Acalanes Digital Design Teacher Susan Lane collaborated with Acalanes junior Aaron Miller in requesting her students create a logo for The Lafayette Community Foundation's (LCF) upcoming Annual Senior Symposium. Miller, a Lafayette Troop 243 Boy Scout and Eagle candidate is helping to organize the October 13 Symposium as his Eagle project. He suggested tapping the Acalanes Digital Design class for help creating a proprietary logo for the event; more than 30 student designs were submitted to the LCF's Liaison Committee for Seniors for a vote. Acalanes freshman Angelo Calitis' dynamic and cheerful design was selected and will be utilized in all materials used

to promote the event. On Wednesday May 23, Calitis received a certificate of appreciation and a gift card from LCF.



Calitis' winning design

## Orinda Rotary Shepherds Little Flock

Submitted by Frank and Rhonda Darling



Children near Chennai, India have future as bright as their smiles thanks to the collaboration between Little Flock orphanage and Lamorinda's Rotary and Interact clubs.

Photo Frank and Rhonda Darling

Rhonda Darling always wanted to do a project somewhere in the world that needed her skills. So in January 2011, after retiring from a 38-year nursing career, she teamed up with other medical professionals to care for the children of Little Flock, an orphanage in Southern India, 90 miles south of Chennai.

Little Flock was founded to care for 100 children ages 4 to 17, many of whom had been abandoned because of their status as members of the "Dalit" or "untouchable" caste. At Little Flock, they now have food, shelter, clothing, ed-

ucation, and limited medical and dental care.

For two weeks, the three dentists set up their own clinic while the five nurses examined the kids. Once they had completed treating the orphans, they opened the clinics up to neighboring villagers.

After Rhonda returned, she talked with her husband, Frank, about the hardships in the Indian jungle. She told him that rented vehicles were being used to get volunteers to and fro in difficult conditions, and that a more reliable means of transportation was needed for the volunteers - and to allow the kids to connect to their heritage on field trips similar to those taken by many U.S. kids.

Frank, named president of the Rotary Club of Orinda in July 2011, suggested raising funds to purchase a bus for Little Flock as part of the club's call for international projects. The Board liked the idea and "Wheels for Little Flock" was born with help from the Moraga, Lafayette, Lamorinda, Sunrise, and Rossmoor clubs, as well as the area's Interact Clubs (Rotary sponsored service clubs in high schools). "Little Flock" also reached out to their major donors with the goal of providing half of the total amount needed - \$50,000.

That goal was met, and planners are now working out the details for the bus purchase and delivery, proving that simple ideas can become reality. Acting locally and thinking globally to make life better for others no matter where they live need not be just a dream.

For more information about Little Flock, visit: [littleflockhomes.org](http://littleflockhomes.org).

## LOPC Members Help Joplin Victims Rebuild

Submitted by Bobbie Dodson

Thirty four members of the Adult Mission Team from Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church (LOPC) volunteered 1,440 hours of work during the week of May 5-12 helping build houses in Joplin, Missouri, the town which suffered extreme tornado damage in May of 2011.

The category E5 twister, struck at 5:32 p.m. leaving a path of destruction, nearly a mile wide and six miles long, through the town. Some 8,000 homes and 400 businesses were destroyed; 4,500 jobs affected; 1,550 residents injured; and 162 lives were lost in just 32 minutes. Nearly a year later the long scar remained. While some new homes graced the flat, rocky, green landscape it was mostly a wasteland of concrete foundations and still some debris of damaged homes, with the nine-story St. John's Hospital building standing tall, but unusable because it had been moved four inches off its foundation by the 200 mph wind.

The LOPC team, men and women, worked on four new homes accomplishing such tasks as installing house wrap and siding, finishing interiors with molding, sealing tile, sanding sheetrock, putting in Prego flooring, and painting. An older home was gutted, including tearing out a chimney, and the rebuilding began.

Listening to the stories of the owners, the

team learned some of the terror they endured. Amy and Larry Jump, with their three boys, barely made it into their basement where it sounded like a freight train was rumbling over them. When they emerged all that was left of their home was a pile of bricks and broken studs. They learned that a car which landed on their gas meter had been blown from the hospital parking lot, nearly a mile away.

Taking refuge in her laundry room because it had no windows, which made it safer than most rooms, Stevi Andron came out to find it was the only thing left standing. Betty and Mel Brownsberger sheltered 13 people in their basement while their home above was being blown away.

All the homeowners expressed their gratitude to the volunteers over and over again. Brownsberger said, "We didn't wait for help, and started working right away but having people like you come is a Godsend."

Volunteers continue to arrive from throughout the United States and foreign countries as well. Knowing there will still be much work to be done the LOPC team plans to return in 2013, Rev. John Weems, the group's leader, explained. Also, this summer he will accompany the high school group when they travel to Joplin to add their efforts to the rebuilding of the town.

## Record Number of Athletes Compete at Moraga Rotary's Annual Field Day

Submitted by Gary Irwin



Photo Ohlen Alexander

On May 30, the Rotary Club of Moraga held its 21st Annual Field Day, a track and field meet at Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School for third-, fourth-, and fifth-grade Moraga students in the three public elementary schools and Saklan School. There were 250 athletes this year, compared with 205 last year, competing in events such as sprints, relays, sack races, long jumps, and baseball throws. Gold, silver, and bronze medals were awarded to the top three contestants in each event.

Again this year, Donald Rheem Elementary School won plaques for the most winning points and the most participants, and these plaques will be displayed at the school. The 112 Rheem athletes accumulated 182 points out of the total 271.

There was a tie for High Point Girl between Caroline Coates, in Mrs. Cavallero's fifth-grade class, and Kendall Runckel, in Mrs. Berkman's third-grade class, both at Rheem. The High Point Boy was Will Grubbs, in Mrs. Noyes' fifth-grade class at Rheem School. These students along with the High Point Teacher, Mrs. Cavallero, and Principal Elaine Frank, will be presented with the plaques honoring their achievements at an upcoming Moraga Rotary meeting.

The Field Day is a community service project that was originated by Moraga Rotarian, and past president, Al Simonsen who has chaired the event since its inception. Simonsen is a retired captain for American Airlines who also substitute-teaches in intermediate and high schools in Lamorinda. "A big 'thank you' to all teachers who encouraged their students to attend Rotary Field Day," he said. "It was a fun event for the children, Rotarians, parents and teachers who were there. The students behaved beautifully and were enthusiastic in their support for each other and their schools."

Rotary also supports local schools by giving a dictionary to every third-grade student in the Moraga schools including Saklan and Canyon schools; this community service project has continued for more than a decade.

"It was a beautiful day," Simonsen added. "All who participated were winners in our eyes."

Moraga Rotary is a local service club within Rotary International that meets most Tuesdays at noon at Saint Mary's College. For information, please call Gary Irwin of Moraga Rotary at (925) 376-7688.

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## MOFD Board Discusses Potential Budget Deficit

By Lucy Amaral

Lower property values and higher pension obligations mean the Moraga-Orinda Fire District could face an almost \$900,000 deficit for the 2012-2013 budget year.

At the MOFD Board Meeting held May 30, Fire Chief Randy Bradley presented the preliminary projections for the General Fund and the Capital Projects Fund budgets. Typically, this presentation would have occurred during a separate Finance Committee meeting, then a draft budget would be brought back to the full Board for review and approval in June. Because the vacant Board seats leave only three sitting Board members, they also now serve as the Finance Committee.

According to Bradley's report, property tax revenue growth is predicted to be flat at best, while expenses continue to rise, especially pension charges. Bradley said that MOFD's pension costs will increase by more than \$500,000 this next year due to higher pension obligation bond payments, as well as de-pooling and loss recovery actions taken by Contra Costa County Employee Retirement

Association (CCCERA).

Last fiscal year, the Board approved pulling more than \$350,000 from reserves in order to balance the District's budget. Bradley also noted that because of the large volume of homes being reassessed this past year, property tax revenue decreased an additional \$200,000 from the original estimate. This carry-over, along with the increased expenses for next year, created an estimated deficit of \$862,208.

Bradley discussed the cost-cutting measures the District has taken over the last several years. Eliminating several full-time positions, restructuring salaries, and freezing positions were some of the actions taken by the District to balance the budget without cutting service levels.

"This year is going to be very difficult," said Bradley. "We are running out of program elements and staffing elements to cut in order to maintain the same service levels."

Bradley offered several options to try and make up the short fall including dipping into reserves again, cross-staffing one ambulance for a year, or

funding the reserves with revenue from the Fire Flow Tax.

The proposed budget does include hiring three firefighter/paramedics. Bradley noted that these hires would replace three firefighters who retired in 2012 and therefore not represent an increase in staffing. Currently, those man-hours are being covered by overtime charges. Former Board member Brook Mancinelli, who was in the audience that night, cautioned Bradley about hiring new firefighters. Mancinelli said that while it's not a long-term solution, paying overtime to firefighters is more cost effective as there is no increase in benefits or retirement charges.

Also in attendance was former Board member Dick Olsen, who expressed concern about CCCERA and the growing pension obligations. He cited a recent study where investment-interest claims by CCCERA were overestimated. Olsen advised the Board to act cautiously.

Bradley said that the Capital Projects fund preliminary draft shows that just over \$1 million of new rev-

enues are expected, with expenditures reaching just over \$2.5 million. The expenditures for the upcoming budget year include the reconstruction of Station 43 in Orinda and remodeling costs for Station 41 in Moraga.

The discussion from the Board primarily echoed Bradley's warnings of service cuts. Board members John Wyro, Frank Sperling and Fred Weil all expressed concern about changing the ambulance configuration and how that would affect response times. As well, any redirecting of funds, such as the Fire Flow Tax, would need to be a temporary fix only. Weil directed Bradley to look at where more cuts could be made without sacrificing service, and bring back a budget proposal to the June 20 meeting for review.



**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:**  
**Regular Board Meetings**  
 June 6, 2012  
 6:00 PM Closed Session only  
 June 20, 2012  
 7:00 PM Open Session  
 (go to [www.mofd.org](http://www.mofd.org) as the meeting date approaches for more information)

## MOFD Names Assistant Fire Marshal

Board also votes to keep the Fire Flow Tax rate at last year's level

By Lucy Amaral

Fire Protection Officer Kathy Leonard has been promoted to the position of Assistant Fire Marshal for the Moraga-Orinda Fire District (MOFD). The announcement was made at the MOFD Board of Directors Meeting held May 30.

The position was created after former MOFD Fire Marshal Mike Mentink announced his retirement. Bradley said that according to the health and safety code, the Fire Chief is technically the designated Fire Marshal for the District and at the last Board meeting, suggested that the Board eliminate the positions of Fire Marshal and Fire Prevention Officer and create a new position of Assistant

Fire Marshal. This new position, combined with Bradley as Fire Marshal, would help to produce a balanced financial plan with no impact on service levels.

Leonard was a firefighter with the Hayward Fire Department for 20 years before joining MOFD as Fire Protection Officer three years ago, and has recently been certified as a Fire Marshal in the State of California.

"Kathy has the training and can now develop her skills as the Assistant Fire Marshal," said Bradley.

Bradley noted that by not filling the Fire Marshal position and eliminating the Fire Prevention Officers position, MOFD will save approxi-

mately \$145,000 each year while still offering the same level of service.

"For now, we have eliminated the position of Fire Protection Officer, and frozen the position of Fire Marshal," said Bradley. "When the economy allows, we will reinstate the Fire Marshal position. Then, we will either hire or promote someone into that position and eliminate the Assistant position."

The Board also moved to keep the Fire Flow Tax rate for the 2012-2013 fiscal year the same as last year, \$0.06 for Moraga and \$0.06 for Orinda. The Fire Flow tax, assessed to District parcels, is collected for capital expenditures such as the upcoming rebuilding of Station 43 in Orinda.

## A Tearful Goodbye



Photo Andy Schreck

Police and Sheriff's officers salute the casket of Contra Costa County Supervisor Gayle Uilkema prior to her funeral service held Thursday, May 24 at St. Perpetua Church in Lafayette. More

than 600 mourners were in attendance including Lafayette City Council member Don Tatzin, and past District Attorney Gary Yancey who both cited Uilkema's professionalism, hard work, intelligence,

preparedness and ability to listen as some of the key attributes she demonstrated during her many years of public service. Uilkema lost her two-year battle with ovarian cancer on May 19. *W. Schreck*

## Moraga School District Entangled in Decades-Old Scandal

... continued from page A1

Second, the School Board should mandate a zero tolerance for teachers and administrators who fail to abide by the law and do not report suspected abuse to the authorities."

Burns said that there are several steps in place in the MSD to make sure that all employees are aware of their responsibilities for mandated reporting. "[Mandated reporting] is indicated in the staff handbook, we talk

about it during the first or second staff meeting," he said. While all MSD administrators were required to take the online training provided at [mandate-reporter.ca.com](http://mandate-reporter.ca.com) this year, and they did, Burns said teachers did not take the Mandated Reporting class this year, but added, "All teachers and administrators took an on-line sexual harassment class this year."

Parents asking for a continued in-

vestigation with the possibility of prosecution of Walters, however, may have an uphill battle. "I know there is a great public outcry for prosecution," Priebe said in his e-mail, "but I can find nothing prosecutable at this time from our records."

Parents have asked the Moraga School District to answer their questions at the next public Board meeting on June 12.



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93 Moraga Way, Orinda

## Greening the (Pink) Old Yellow House

... continued from page A1

Nelson approves of the makeover, too.

Work on the house is planned in two phases: Phase I, currently underway, included raising the house 24 inches above grade, constructing seismic shear walls in the basement, and building a new front entry landing. Raising the house was not difficult, said Wright, noting its weight was probably not much more than a truck-load of lumber. The original redwood shiplap siding will be removed and re-installed over an inward facing radiant barrier and three inches of rigid foam insulation. For now, Wright simply plans to maintain the existing plumbing, heating and knob and tube wiring.

During Phase II, Wright will focus on siding, windows and architectural features, and upgrade the electrical wiring. Double pane windows will hang inside restored original window casings. A second story bath will be built along the landing; a main floor bath will be cantilevered off the back. Wright is installing an energy recovery fresh air ventilation system plus a new integrated solar electrical skylight and entry canopies. All of this will bring the house up to Net Zero Passive House Institute US (PHIUS) standards.

Work on Phase I began in early May. Wright estimates the foundation work will take about a month and sid-

ing work should take another two months. He said the inside work will be "pretty easy," and expected the bulk of the project to be completed by September.

Muir Sorrick's 1970 *History of Orinda* stated ship captain Alexander Jenkins bought the home's 2.2-acre site in 1894. The local newspaper described the house he built as "a real commodious cottage." A goldenrod yellow paint, possibly the same color used by the California and Nevada Railroad, made it appear to be a railroad station house, but it was always a private residence.

It was said Jenkins liked the barn on his property, but not the house, which may explain why he sold it. Nelson said his father, Charles, bought the house from Felix Fazio in 1918. Back then it had no plumbing, gas or electricity. Charles raised his family there, and his widow remained until her death in 1966. Ezra Nelson lived in the house from 1924 until 1952, when he moved into the "cottage" next door.

Today the Old Yellow House sits on a half-acre lot, adjacent to the San Pablo Creek. Birch, cedar, oak and fig trees surround a single car garage.

A full basement was dug by hand in 1928; it later housed the home's only bath. Interior walls are pine; the second floor stair rail is redwood. The

second story is framed with 2 x 3 rough cut studs. The kitchen flooring is checkered linoleum; room-sized pieces of linoleum covered most other floors. Newspapers dating from the 1940s were layered underneath the linoleum to provide insulation. These were a bonus find for Wright, who said he will preserve and frame them to use as interior wall dividers.

Wright calls the original framework "optimized framing." The spacing between each piece of lumber allows for more added insulation, he said. Wright intends to keep the second story close to its original condition, while restoring the main level and upgrading the basement to a "high tech" environment. The basement will house his home office and a working kitchen. Wright also hopes to highlight a portion of the original basement stone wall behind glass. He said his deep energy retrofit will act as sound insulation so most Moraga Way traffic noise will disappear. He'll install twin energy recovery ventilation (ERV) systems in the basement using an on-site well as a water source.

The Old Yellow House restoration project is being documented at <http://www.facebook.com/home.php?ref=wizard#!/NetZeroHomes>. Its changes might even make Alexander Jenkins smile.

## Keeping an Eye on the Old Yellow House

### A Former Resident's Reflection

By Cathy Dausman



Ezra Nelson Photos Cathy Dausman

no indoor plumbing, no gas or electricity. The front room was where the Nelsons could entertain visitors, but the family "spent their life" in the kitchen, the only room heated by the warmth of an old Athens wood stove.

Nelson still marvels at the breads, pies and preserves his mother produced on it. He also remembers the winter his siblings brought snowballs into the kitchen for an indoor, and presumably warmer, fight. For a while, there was a party-line crank telephone in the front hall, phone number CLifford 4487. That disappeared during the Great Depression when money got scarce.

Nelson says depression times were good and bad, easy and hard, but mostly he remembers the good. He remembers a barn where the current garage is, with a steeply sloped roof on the north, and an ad for "Bull Durham tobacco" on its side. The barn had no stalls but his family kept a cow and horse. It was an Orinda family farm, with "horizon [visible] everywhere," he says, of then-bare hills.

Nelson's mother carried two redwood seedlings from Oakland eighty years ago; young Nelson and his mother walked until they got to Old Tunnel Road. Then Karen called another son and asked for a ride - it was too dangerous to walk through the tunnel, he says. Nelson estimates those trees are 140 feet tall today; he built a bench beneath them commemorating the occasion.

Ezra is the last of his generation, and he's still keeping an eye on the old yellow house from where he moved in 1952. It wasn't far - in fact it was only next door, into "the cabin," still on the two-plus acre plot his family originally bought. He still thinks the Old Yellow House "has a lot of charm to it," and is watching the work being done by new owner James Wright. "I'm glad [Wright] came," says Nelson, who wants to see the work completed. "I hope I live to that time."

You can read more about life in the Old Yellow House online at <https://www.lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue0607/Growing-up-in-The-Old-Yellow-House.html>



Sign by the redwood trees in Nelson's back yard

# Summer Reading Events and Activities Kick into High Gear

By Jennifer Wake



Avid readers Jefferson and Jonathan Wake

Photo Jennifer Wake

Summer heat getting you down? Crack a book, and disappear into another world. Kids and adults will also have ample opportunities this summer to get engaged in reading through great programs offered at Lamorinda libraries, as well as wonderful speaker events at local book stores.

Author Marty Brounstein will conduct a book talk Saturday, June 9 at 2 p.m. about "Two Among the Righteous: A Story of Courage in the Holocaust" at Orinda Books. Brounstein and his wife Leah Baars connected with the children of Frans and Mien Wijnakker during their visit to the Netherlands in 2009. Frans and Mien were Catholics living in the small town of Dieden who risked the safety of their own family to save the lives of two dozen Jewish people during World War II. Baars encouraged Brounstein to research the Wijnakkers' story in great detail. Inspired by the message of hope from Otto Frank, "Anne Frank: the Diary of a Young Girl," and Corrie Ten Boom, "The Hiding Place," Brounstein began to weave a new story of courage and triumph during mass devastation. "This is one of the few positive stories. No one was caught or harmed," Brounstein says.

Brounstein filled the gaps in records left behind by Frans with interviews and visits to Yad Vashem

museum in Jerusalem. His hope in sharing the story of a couple risking their lives to do the right thing is that the message of courage and interfaith compassion gains momentum. "It is like pushing a little snowball downhill and hoping it will grow."

Also on Saturday, June 9, the Moraga Library will kick off its Summer Reading Festival with a special hands-on arts and science Eco-Festival, featuring nature-related interactive exhibits facilitated by the Charles M. Shultz Museum and Research Center. The free 45-minute program is designed for school-age children. Younger children are welcome with an adult.

Tweens and teens can pick up their reading record and celebrate the beginning of the Summer Reading Program while making a dream catcher at 11 a.m. June 13 in the Lafayette Library and Learning Center's Teen Center.

Kids can also earn summer reading minutes with a dog certified for sociability on Saturday, June 30 at the Orinda Library or and kids ages 10 and up can participate in the much anticipated Z-Day: The Zombie Apocalypse at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center that day (and night), when Mitch Kocen, renowned Bay Area Zombie Expert, will lead an emergency Zombie Survival seminar and participants will eat brain food,

take a Zombie Apocalypse Survival Kit Challenge, try Zombie makeup, and then do battle with the Zombies in the library after it has closed.

For more information about the Summer Reading Program, prizes, book lists, and other events visit your local library or the Contra Costa County Library website at ccclib.org.

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# A Man for All Women

By Cathy Dausman



The first female club president (Rotary club of Duarte, 1987) and current District Governor-elect Sylvia Whitlock (left) smiles with Moraga Rotary member and past Rotary International President Clifford Dochterman, Jean Irwin Hatfield, Ambassadorial Scholar and teacher for the hearing impaired, and past District Governor Deepa Willingham.

Photo Cathy Dausman

If Clifford Dochterman seemed to stand out a bit during a May 18 Rotary gathering, at least he was pleased. Dochterman, a Moraga Rotary member and past Rotary International President, has made it part of his mission over the years to allow women to join Rotary International. The retired university administrator modestly admits having had "somewhat of an involvement" in the process. The gathering he attended—and spoke to—celebrated 25 years of women in Rotary.

Dochterman, the self-proclaimed "token male," shared the podium with keynote speaker Deepa Willingham, Past District Governor; Sylvia Whitlock, the first Female Club President, Rotary Club of Duarte; and Jean Irwin Hatfield, a teacher for the hearing impaired and a Rotary ambassador scholar. Dochterman said the vision of women in Rotary has been "one of the most influential factors in my entire Rotary experience."

Rotary was an all-male organization when it was established in 1905. It was still that way in 1981, the year the U.S. Supreme Court appointed its first woman (Sandra Day O'Connor) to the bench. That same year Dochterman chaired New Horizons Committee, an international Rotary group. Among some 30 recommendations, "was the proposal that the membership of Rotary be opened to women." Eight years later Dochterman attended the international Council on Legislation in Singapore, where as a voting member, he suggested the organization eliminate the word "male" from its documents.

The issue was strongly opposed, he said, partly because of cultural differences in South America, Asia and Europe.

When Dochterman became International Rotary President in 1992, there were still clubs that did not want to admit women. Single gender Rotary clubs, how-

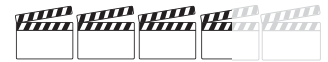
ever, were permitted. "Never in the world did the old guys realize that a one-gender club meant that the gender could be 'all women' clubs," said Dochterman.

A "difficult adjustment time" followed, he said, but by 1995 there were eight women Rotary District Governors. Today women serve as Rotary Foundation Trustees and sit on Rotary's International Board of Directors. Rotary estimates that 20 percent of its current 1.2 million worldwide members are female. Local numbers back that up: Jose Avelar, Secretary for Rotary Club of Orinda says 13 of its club's 69 members are women. Rotarian Rich Render says six of Moraga Rotary's 29 members are women, including its 2011-2012 president Nora Avelar (Jose's daughter).

"Rotary is alive and thriving because of the contributions of women Rotarians," Dochterman said. And he might know – his wife is a Rotarian, too!

# Snow White and the Huntsman

By Derek Zemrak



I promised myself I would not compare *Snow White and the Huntsman* to this year's earlier Snow White movie, *Mirror Mirror*, but I can't help myself. There is no comparison! *Snow White and the Huntsman* is a far superior film in all aspects from script to cinematography to acting; it is a joy to watch.

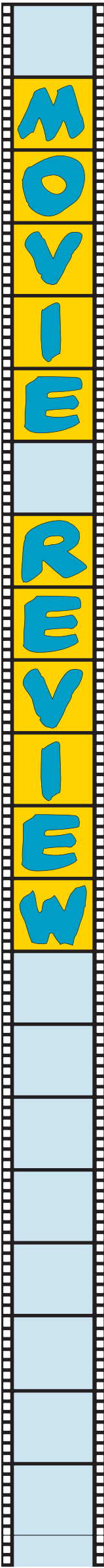
*Snow White and the Huntsman* is an updated script of the classic tale *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*, first written in 1812 by the Brothers Grimm. The opening five minutes of the film sets the tone by showing something new, creative and visually pleasing.

The movie stars Kristen Stewart (*Twilight Series*) as Snow White. Her performance is mediocre at best. If you want to see Kristen's acting ability rent the movie "The Cake Eaters." It is worth the rental and you will appreciate her performance. Oscar recipient Charlize Theron (*Monster*) plays the role of the Evil Queen, Ravenna, who killed Snow White's father. You will hate this queen as evil oozes through her pores, although in a few scenes she was a little exaggerated. Chris Hemsworth (*Thor; The Avengers*) plays The Huntsman. Sam Claflin (*Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides*) plays the prince.

In this version, we learn of Snow White and the prince's childhood friendship. The eight dwarfs (yes, eight) are excellent and deliver some of the comic relief. It was a pleasure to see veteran actor and Oscar nominee Bob Hoskins (*Mona Lisa, Who Framed Roger Rabbit*) light up the screen with his performance as Muir, the lead dwarf. I was disappointed that little people did not portray the dwarfs.

The cinematography is astonishing as it captures the breathtaking landscape of the United Kingdom. The castle is stunning and the dark forest is gloomy. First-time director Rupert Sanders created a great mix of fantasy, fairytale and action. *Snow White and the Huntsman* is grim with a PG13 rating due to the violent battle scenes and the graphic transformation of the Evil Queen. The little ones should stay at home and enjoy Disney's 1937 classic *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*.

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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## Questions with home care? Ask Vanessa

**Elders often deny they need assistance or that their abilities are diminishing.**

**Vanessa Valerio, RN**  
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DEAR VANESSA:

I am a 45-year old professional and my 78-year old mother's resistance to care and indifference to accept the process of aging have kept her from getting the support she needs for a better quality of life. She's been ignoring aids to make her life better, such as a hearing aid or a cane to prevent falls. She thinks that giving up driving will limit her mobility. She will not admit or recognize the fact that she cannot do things as well as she used to do. And she is not open to the idea of receiving in-home care to stay safely in her home.

This is an area of frustration; I'm afraid that her reluctance to make necessary adjustments can and will lead to danger to herself and compromise her health and well-being. I live in constant fear that my mother might do major damage to herself and others in a driving accident. REBA

DEAR REBA:

I empathize with you. You may also have difficulty admitting that times are changing, roles are reversing, and you need additional help for your mom. Have a heart-to-heart talk with your mother and explain to her that getting older is nothing to be ashamed of. Not preparing for old age and denying the aging process will often accelerate the symptoms. According to David Stephen, PhD, "Denial is a kind of self-imposed ignorance, a defense mechanism that helps block a feeling or intellectual realization because admitting the feeling as reality is painful. Elders often deny they need assistance or that their abilities are diminishing. It is difficult to admit that one needs help, because that may be perceived as indicating a loss of independence and a loss of self-worth."

Moving your mother into an assisted living facility piles feelings of guilt on top of denial. Depending on the level of assistance that she needs, hiring an experienced in-home caregiver may be a good option at this point. Patiently explain to her that having someone by her side would not mean losing her independence and privacy. The transition need not be as drastic as she fears it might be. Each person needs a period of adjustment to become accepting of care, to trust a caregiver, and to let down barriers of privacy. Let her know that having a caregiver does not have to be round-the-clock; she can pick certain times of the day when she prefers a caregiver to come in. The caregiver can start making her life easier by doing light housekeeping or running errands for her. As the rapport is gradually established, your mother will become more accustomed to the idea of accepting or paying for care; she will even welcome the support that she has resisted for some time now. Look at what home health care agencies in your area can offer; do a research on the type of services and flexibility in terms of hours required.

I hope that you find a suitable caregiver for your mother so she can embrace the concept of receiving services more easily, and remain comfortably in her own home. May she get the care that she needs, and you get the peace of mind that you deserve! VANESSA

Got Questions & Answers about Home Care is written by Vanessa Valerio, RN, VP and COO for Patient Care at Home Care Orinda. If you would like more information about senior care and how home care can help, please email Vanessa Valerio at vanessav@careindeed.com, call her at (925) 317-3080 or visit their website at www.homecareorinda.com/.

# Helping Loved Ones Age Gracefully

By Laurie Snyder

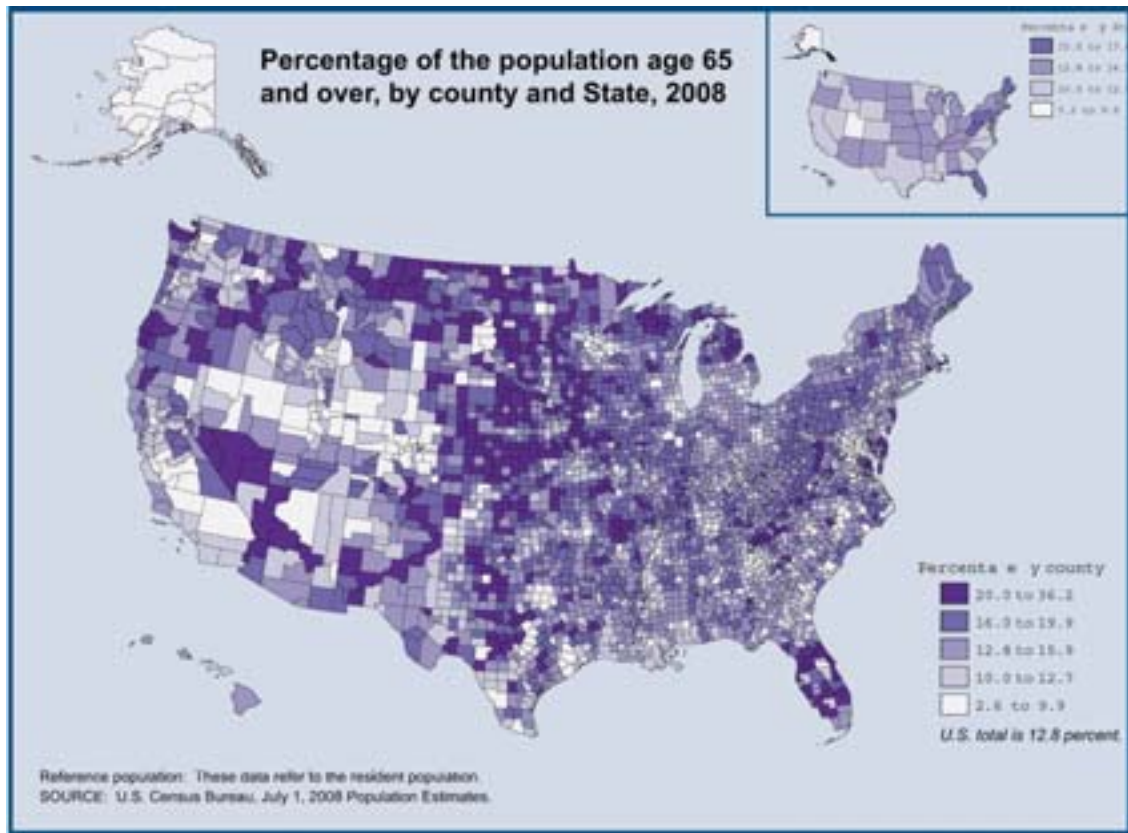
**B**roken bones. Double doses of blood pressure pills administered by homecare workers. A neighbor calling long distance about odd bruises she spotted on grandpa's arms. An aunt suffering from poorly managed pain. Grandparents telling Meals on Wheels to hit the road – and not come back.

As the senior population increases, providing proper care – especially long distance – can become more complicated.

In 2010, seniors made up 13 percent of America's population, having grown "from 3 million in 1900 to 39 million in 2008," according to "Older Americans: Key

Indicators of Well-Being," a report from The Federal Interagency Forum on Aging-Related Statistics.

By 2030, baby Boomers are expected to make that number rise even more dramatically "to 72 million ... representing nearly 20 percent of the total U.S. population."



As a result, more 40- and 50-something children of teachers, scientists, business leaders, and even healthcare professionals are exploring unfamiliar territory – the "parenting" of parents and other relatives.

How are Bay Area residents addressing the needs of their aging relatives? One method many Orindans have employed for years is the in-law apartment. Having Nana and Pop-Pop in a small cottage nearby provides peace of mind and often willing babysitters for occasional nights out while still ensuring that parents or grandparents retain their privacy. Another is to relocate parents to nearby senior housing programs or retirement communities, such as the Orinda Senior Village or Chateau Lafayette.

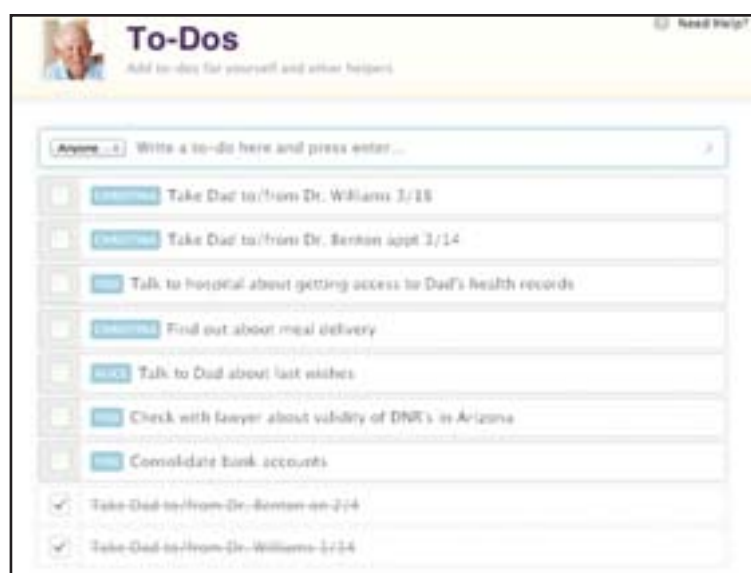
But what do adult children do when aging parents insist on staying at home – too far across the region or country to be reached quickly?

"If you live an hour or more away from a person who needs care, you can think of yourself as a long-distance caregiver," according to "So Far Away: Twenty Questions and Answers About Long-Distance Caregiving," a publication of the National Institute on Aging.

Activities may involve "arranging for professional caregivers, hiring home health and nursing aides, or locating care in an assisted living facility or nursing home. . . . Some long-distance caregivers find they can be helpful by researching health problems or medicines, paying bills, or keeping family and friends updated" online.

One way they are doing this is through San Francisco-based CareZone, co-founded in 2011 by Jonathan Schwartz, former CEO of Sun Microsystems. "Neither my brother nor I had a safe place to organize information about our families, store important documents or instructions, or a secure way to keep our extended families or helpers up to date. So, like everyone else, we reverted to paper files, phone trees, and lots of email," explains Schwartz. Because there were no web-based tools available to adequately meet caregivers' needs, he left his high tech career to develop a system that would.

CareZone serves as an online hub for nurses, therapists, family, and neighbors to "manage, coordinate and archive private family information in a single, secure place." The system's Profile and Contacts tools allow users to enter blood types, allergies and other important data for loved ones, as well as contact information for



Caregivers from across the country can keep track of their respective assigned tasks with CareZone's "To Do" tool. Image provided by CareZone

support staff including physicians, homecare workers, and clergy, while the Journal function helps users to share private diaries to document daily living, the progress being made with treatment, and other issues. The fee is \$48 per year for the person receiving care; access may then be shared by the registered member with as many people as needed without additional fees.

The Institute on Aging also recommends scheduling family meetings – before any emergency – to discuss what family members want as they age. Do they hope to remain in their New England homes, or would they prefer to become "snowbirds" and head for California?

What types of medical interventions do they want and for how long? Have they written advance directives and, if so, did they address how they want their pain managed and whether or not they want to be placed on ventilators, or fed through tubes if the worst happens? What kind of spiritual care do they want – if any? Will their physicians and nurses accommodate those requests?

Molly Jones, administrator of the Rheem Valley Convalescent Hospital, often counsels adults thrown into crisis by their parents' unexpected medical problems and agrees that starting a dialogue early is crucial. Some parents may not have much money, but may have great insurance; others may have savings that will be quickly depleted because their insurance covers extended care in a skilled nursing facility, but not out-patient care – or vice versa.

And while the goal is to help parents remain in their communities as long as possible, children need to become educated about the nuts and bolts of their parents lives in order to become effective advocates for them when help is required. Jones notes that this is particularly important whenever a loved one is diagnosed with a de-

bilitating condition such as Parkinson's Disease, and advises families to come together to develop plans to estimate what their lives will look like in two years, five, and beyond.

"The goal," says Jones, "is to really have quality time."

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# Congratulations 2012 Graduates!




Photo Cathy Dausman

Hundreds of Miramonte High School seniors crowd onto the gymnasium floor June 1 to say good-bye to teachers at the last rally of the year before graduation.

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## New Mural at JM

Submitted by Moose Wesler



Photo Moose Wesler

Community members, students, administrators, teachers and staff of the Moraga School District gathered recently at Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School for the dedication of the school's most recent mural. In memory of inspiring teachers like Carol Robak, the mural captures her love of social studies and physical education. From left: Assistant Principal Brad Carn, Fran Strykowski, Glenn Robak, student artist Annie Midthun, Hillary Hoppock, Principal Joan Danilson, and Moose Wesler, the designer of the mural.

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## Lynn's Top Five

# Providing Financial Help to Struggling Adult Children

By Lynn Ballou, CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™

A reporter recently called me to discuss my thoughts on how to help our young adult children if they are struggling financially. On the one hand as parents we want to do anything and everything we can to help our children succeed, but on the other hand we don't want to create an unhealthy financial co-dependency situation with no end in sight. After all, destroying our own financial stability to help them out with no end in sight won't end well. But are these stressful economic times so unusual that we are "allowed" to break all the rules of financial sanity to help them out? How do we draw some lines and some boundaries? Let's explore some practical ideas this month.

1) Don't berate, support! It's SO easy to slip back into the parent-child role. However, keep in mind that our young adult children are probably emotionally very vulnerable and embarrassed about their situation. If they are in financial straits due to the economic downturn and not foolhardy behavior, this is a time to step up to the plate and let the family values you have instilled and nurtured for many years guide the way. Talk with them as you would an adult friend. Ask them to explain their situation and what they think good solutions might be. Guide them with advice as you would a good friend. Don't tell them what to do. Don't just swoop in, write checks, and hope it will all magically be better.

2) One time behavior or the norm? If the adult child is in a mess financially because of irresponsible financial behavior, figure out if it's a one-time thing, or if this is becoming the "norm" for that child. For this child, it may be about more than pro-

viding support --- it may be very appropriate to insist that any financial support that is provided comes with the absolute condition that the adult child will meet with a financial counselor to work on personal financial behavioral reform.

3) Decide with your own planner what you can afford to do. For some, it may be a free place to stay - if so, create a realistic end date in advance. For others it might be financial support. Decide if it's a gift or a loan, again, based on what you can afford. Creating financial instability in your own life to help a child in the long run hurts everyone.

4) Loaning the money? Make it practical. If it's a loan in full or part, think realistically about how long you can afford to extend the loan, and what realistically they can be expected to pay back, and when. You might decide to waive interest to make it a partial "gift." For some of you it may be a better investment to charge your children 2 percent interest than keep the money in a CD!

5) Keeping it "fair" to siblings. This might be the toughest one of all for many. If one child is receiving a lot more financial support than others, this can create a lot of resentment and a long-time trend of family tension. If you are helping a child financially who may not be in the position to repay the debt anytime soon, to be fair to all siblings, you might think about putting a provision in your estate plan that would equalize things by deducting any imbalance from their share of your estate when you pass away. This will help with the "fairness" factor which is frequently important to take into account in these situations.

Many of us have kids coming

home from college who aren't launching financially as both they and we had envisioned. These young adults often feel like failures and are paralyzed with worried about their futures. We feel financially drained and spent just to get them through school, and are worried about them in different ways. Open up an honest, forthright conversation, just as you would with a close adult friend. They are, after all, adults now. Do what you can to be helpful, but as much as possible, let them "own" the solution. It will bring them not only great pride and satisfaction, but the ability to navigate stormy waters they may experience again later in life when you are no longer there with the lifeboat.



Lynn Ballou is a CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ professional and co-owner of Ballou Plum Wealth Advisors, LLC, a Registered Investment Advisory (RIA) firm in Lafayette. Lynn is also a Registered Principal and Branch Manager with LPL Financial (LPL). The opinions voiced in this material are for general information only and not intended to provide specific advice or recommendation for any individual. Financial Planning offered through Ballou Plum Wealth Advisors, A Registered Investment Advisor and a separate entity. Securities offered through LPL Financial, member FINRA/SIPC.

## As Seen in Lamorinda



Students from Mrs. Vann's third-grade class at Springhill Elementary got a close up look at the former Lafayette Grammar School during their Lafayette History tour. Students were dressed as residents of the 1800s, and got to ring the school (now church) bell.

Photo Cathy Dausman

Submit stories and story ideas to [storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com)



# Bernard Shaw's Pygmalion at Town Hall Theatre

By Sophie Braccini



Clive Worsley as Henry Higgins and Ginny Wehrmeister as Eliza Doolittle  
Photo Stu Selland

Town Hall Theatre (THT) is closing its 2011/2012 season with the 100-year-old play *Pygmalion* by George Bernard Shaw. The play is based on the classic Greek myth of a man who fell in love with the statue of a perfect woman he carved that came to life by the power of Aphrodite. The musical adaptation, *My Fair Lady*, and the film that followed, were based on Shaw's play. In 1912 Victorian England, Phonetics Professor Henry Higgins tutors the very Cockney Eliza Doolittle, not only in the refinement of speech, but also of her manners. The end result produces a very ladylike Miss Doolittle, without crushing the spirit of the young woman, who regains her independence in the end.

The first thing to like about *Pygmalion* is that it is not *My Fair Lady*. Nobody breaks into song, and the ending is what Shaw always intended. On stage, the irony of Shaw's style comes alive. It is raw, unlike the Hollywood film version, and more efficient as a social critique of the time.

The second good thing is that THT's team does a wonderful job recreating this charming comedy. It is pleasant and engaging from start to finish, with some scenes that are downright excellent.

Eliza's transformation from common flower-girl to Duchess-like is set in two phases. At the end of the first phase, she's already mastered the mannerism of a lady, but the old wild spirit still comes out. That's one of the most hilarious scenes of the play. Ginny Wehrmeister, as Eliza Doolittle, is at her best. You'll never say, "How do you do?" the same after seeing that scene.

Clive Worsley, otherwise Artistic Director at THT, plays Professor Higgins. He obviously had fun playing this insufferable jerk, a "Dr. House" like character, self-centered and very sharp. "He (Higgins) can come off as an egotistical blowhard," said Worsley. "I wanted to allow myself to be such a jerk. But also find more multi-dimensional aspects of the character. I believe that he comes to love and respect someone like Eliza, which is not ordinary for a man of his time." At times Worsley makes a caricature of Higgins, accentuating his fidgeting and mannerisms.

Director Dennis Markam and his team of actors definitely chose a more feminist vision for the play. While Eliza is molded into upper class behavior by Higgins, she retains her independence and her fighting spirit resurges in the end. "Eliza realizes at the end of the play that she is an independent person, even if she was dependent on Higgins for a while," said Markam. "One core theme of the play is that you can change your appearance, but in the end the humanity is unchangeable."

The rest of the cast is also very solid. Chris Parnell-Hayes, who plays Eliza's father, Alfred Doolittle, has a wonderful comic presence. Don Wood is a charming Col. Pickering and Ann Kendrick renders Higgins' mother with poise and great elegance.

Kudos as well to Martin Flynn for the scene design and Maggi Yule for the costumes. The rendition of early 20th century England is very believable and the change of sets between three different places is made effectively.

# Weekend Leadership Seminar for Sophomores Inspires Hundreds

Submitted by Amy Harmer



Elliot Alper, Miramonte



Mitchell Carlson, Campolindo  
Photos provided

More than 100 sophomores from various high schools throughout Northern California were invited to attend the annual Northern California Youth Leadership Seminar (NCYLS) program May 25-27 at Menlo College in Atherton, California, including Mitchell Carlson from Campolindo High School and Elliot Alper from Miramonte.

NCYLS is a non-profit 501(c)3 volunteer-run organization that hosts a free three-day seminar for students who have demonstrated leadership potential in their high school. The seminar focuses on developing critical thinking, communication, and responsibility, while cultivating leadership.

Annually, each Northern California high school nominates and sends

one student to the seminar. During the weekend, the students stayed at Menlo College and interacted with like-minded sophomore leaders and learned from community leaders in politics, business, media, education, high-tech, and other industries.

After the seminar, the sophomores are challenged to participate in the President's Volunteer Service Award, by completing 100 hours of community service the following year. To date, NCYLS alumni have logged more than 10,000 hours of service throughout California. Alumni have also initiated civic organizations, such as Students Against Violence, Key Clubs, Juniors, Peer Counseling Groups, and Students Against Drunk Driving.

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# Merriewood Children's Center Founder Retires



Merriewood Children's Center founder Diane Kisner  
Photo Kristin Kisner

After 31 years as one of the pioneers of school-aged child care in the local community, Lafayette's Merriewood Children's Center founder Diane Kisner retired today,

June 6. Kisner founded Merriewood with partner Gretchen Johnsonbaugh in 1981, opening its doors to children ages 2 to 12. Kisner began by teaching and directing, but as time went on she spent more time doing administrative duties, said long-time Merriewood teacher and school-age director Bonnie Sivesind, who has worked with Kisner since the Center opened. "She's done a great service to the community. She's a very forward-thinking person and likes change," she said. "She has always looked to see what will work better."

Located near Burton Valley Elementary School, Merriewood Children's Center has seen thousands of

children walk through its doors over the years – whether in its nursery school or its before- and after-school program. "We're now servicing the second generation of graduates," said Sivesind, who noted that several of her 10 grandchildren attended the Center. "Kids that went here are sending their kids here, and some even work here. Many of Diane's grandchildren went through the Center as well."

Kisner sold Merriewood to long-time teachers Kevin Meany and Mim Bazzell, but continued to work at the Center alongside the children afterward. "She has such a heart for kids," Sivesind said. "That's what we'll miss most." *J. Wake*

# St. Perpetua Students in "Music Man Jr."

Submitted by Monica Chappell



Photo Liz Haggerty

Charismatic con-man Harold Hill and his boy's band hit the stage May 10 and 12 at The Del Valle Theatre in Walnut Creek,

with more than 20 students from St. Perpetua School in Lafayette serving as cast and crew in Meredith Willson's *The Music Man Junior*. The production was directed and choreographed by Renee DeWeese and Rena Wilson of the Lamorinda Theatre Academy. The *Music Man* is one of the world's best-loved and most often produced shows. It featured a dazzling All American score with a handful of the best known songs of all time. With its wonderful humor and darling costumes, this small-scale production was performed to a full house and concluded to thunderous applause from the audience.

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# TEEN SCENE

## Change Those Bittersweet Memories

By Youngjoo Ahn

High school is hard enough without moving the summer before freshman year. Getting used to the rushed pace of passing periods, lugging back-breaking textbooks, and rigorous life-or-death tests, like the AP and the cursed SAT, is difficult any time, even when surrounded by people you've known since elementary school. Being plunged into a new community right before high school makes this transition even more challenging.

High school is notorious for cliques, bullying upperclassmen, and judgmental teens. To survive and thrive the four years of study requires the solace of true friends. But how do you make friends in a new location when people don't even know your name, and really don't care to?

"Moving in general sucks, but leaving friends is the worst part," said Miramonte sophomore Hanna Abruzzo. "Outgoing people definitely have an advantage when it comes to adjusting to new surroundings."

Some teenagers deal with the upheaval with a positive outlook. Sophomore Yurika Kazama has moved to three different countries because of her father's job. Despite the difficulties of moving frequently, often without warning, Kazama tries to make the best out of her situation. "Once you move you realize what you truly miss and love about a place. You learn a lot of things about yourself when you adapt to a new place. Moving to Lamorinda as a sophomore was incredibly demanding but the community has been really welcoming," said Kazama.

After attending private school for eight years, Izzy Fasheh transitioned to Miramonte High School. "I felt nervous, and a little worried about coming to a new school," said Fasheh, currently a sophomore. "I'm finding that public school is more diverse and less strict. There are fewer rules and you can wear what you want. I didn't know what the people were like or how they'd react to me. The good thing about moving schools was meeting new people and learning about the Lamorinda community."

Adjusting to a foreign neighborhood with radically different people is usually overwhelming, especially combined with the additional burdens of freshman year. Adopting a positive, outgoing attitude to change seems to be the cure for the bittersweet memories left behind. By reaching out, getting involved, and nurturing friendships, social skills are developed and broadened. Plus, adapting to a new environment at an early age is good practice for that giant leap after senior year called "college."

*Youngjoo Ahn is a sophomore at Miramonte High School. In her spare time, she enjoys experimenting in the kitchen, skiing, and taking pictures with her Polaroid camera.*

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](mailto:Cynthia@CynthiaBrian.com).

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

# A Very Special Flag Comes from Afghanistan to Moraga

By Sophie Braccini



Al Archangel and Tom Westernoff holding the framed flag at the karate studio in Moraga  
Photo provided

Flag Day commemorates the adoption of the United States flag on June 14, 1777. For Al Archangel, June 14 has a special significance; it reminds him of July 4, 2011 when, as a reserve Lieutenant Colonel deployed for six months in Afghanistan as a mission commander, he flew an American flag during combat operations in honor of his karate 'sensei' and friend, Tom Westernoff. "I wanted to honor Tom because he is such a great role model and has brought so much into my life as well

as the lives of many others in Moraga," said Archangel, who presented the flag to Westernoff this spring.

Archangel, a Moraga dad who's raising two teenagers with his wife Carol Shenon, started his professional life in the military. After several years serving as an active duty officer, he went back to civilian life as a software engineer. But he didn't want to end the service to his country. "As a young man, I looked up to my older brother who had made this career choice," said Archangel. "I thought it was a privilege and loved serving. Going into the reserves afterward was a natural thing for me."

Being an Air Force Reservist, Archangel trains with his unit every month and could be called upon to serve if needed. But the monthly commitment was not enough for him. "I wanted to serve again in active duty," he said. So he signed up for six months in Afghanistan.

Abroad, he was stationed at a

large military base in southern Afghanistan and his missions had to do with "finding bad guys" and providing over-watch of transport routes. Without adding too many details about his deployment, he shared some thoughts and memories: "Most of the men and women over there were very young. Being a father of teenage kids, I was definitely one of the oldest," he said. "The climate and conditions were pretty harsh, and there were a few times when the situation became quite dangerous."

While Archangel enjoyed doing his duty, he said it was no picnic. "The military made things as comfortable as possible for us," he added. "We could call our families every day, there was some recreation on the base, and we had a few special privileges."

One of these privileges was the opportunity to fly an American flag on an actual mission in honor of someone. "I went to Tom's karate

dojo out of curiosity," said Archangel. "I learned a great deal there and love the values and practices that are taught to adults and children alike." Archangel said the discipline and rigors that characterize the martial arts coincide with his philosophy of life and honor.

For Westernoff, it was a great honor to receive such a meaningful gift. "I will hang it in the front of the dojo so that we always remember," he said. He too believes that the hard work and dedication of all service men (and women) mirror the principles of karate-do. He encourages everyone to stop by The Karate & Fitness Place karate dojo in the Moraga Shopping Center to check out the framed American flag.

"A sincere thank you goes out to Lt. Col. Al Archangel and his team for their role in protecting our freedom," Westernoff said, "and for acknowledging the personal benefits gained through martial arts training."

# 2012 Orinda Idol Finalists Announced

Submitted by Britta Glade

After approximately 200 students from 26 schools auditioned in May, the 2012 Orinda Idol finalists for the Lamorinda community were finally announced. "The level of talent was very high, so we look forward to an extremely high quality show on September 9 at the Orinda Theatre," said Britta Glade of Orinda Idol. The community will also be treated to two performances from the Orinda Idol finalists and runners up before the final competition, with a performance July 17 at the Orinda Community Park (as part of the Tuesday evening Summer Concert in the Park series) and again on August 25 at Orinda Theatre Square.

Timing for the September 9 finals event is available at: [www.orindaartscouncil.org/orinda\\_idol\\_finals.php](http://www.orindaartscouncil.org/orinda_idol_finals.php).

## 2012 Orinda Idol Finalists and Runners Up

<b>K-2 Soloists Finalists</b> Callie Barber Lucy Berkman Amelia Chen Bridget Mills Claire O'Connor <b>Runners-Up</b> Olivia Uzuncan Lila Hill	<b>3-5 Soloists Finalists</b> Malia Akazawa Elizabeth Becker Isabel Fine Malin Glade Taylor Johnson Jennifer McFarlane Grace Mesenbring Jackie Patton Nicole Prozan Lindsey Wallace <b>Runners-Up</b> Bella Craddock Samantha Martin	<b>6-8 Soloists Finalists</b> Grace Baer Poppy Bovoso Lucy Clearwater Nathan Correll Mia Lineweaver Jocelyn Purcell Kendall Roberts Eleanor Roeder Michaela Sasner Leah Woodcox <b>Runners-Up</b> Kate Marvin Avery Hansen	<b>9-12 Soloists Finalists</b> Sophie Belinn Sarah Cain Mariette Clarisse Ebarle Julia Elliott Maritza Grillo Tosca Maltzman Carolyn Moore Amrita Newton Paige Powell Hannah Witbeck <b>Runners-Up</b> Georgia Jansky Anna Finnell	<b>K-5 Groups Finalists</b> <i>Monday Blues</i> Kaylin Ishizu Wesley Ishizu Jules Kuramoto <i>Rising Starz</i> Leah Douglas Hannah Hoffman Nicole Prozan <i>Simply Sisters</i> Niamh Akazawa Malia Akazawa Fiona Akazawa <i>Sweet Harmony</i> Arriana Glenn Kiera Glenn <b>Runners-Up</b> <i>Nick and Jacob</i> Jacob van Steyn Nick Karr	<b>6-12 Groups Finalists</b> <i>Frank and Annie</i> Nathan Correll Jennifer McFarlane <i>Applause Theatre Company</i> Andrew Alcaraz Francesca Blake Gabriel Blake Alaina Campbell Laura Jinparn Jonathan Miller Amrita Newton Emma & Sophie Sophie Belinn Emma Patton <i>Fine &amp; Sassy</i> Isabel Fine Michaela Sasner	<i>JnJ</i> Jacob Woll Jocelyn Purcell <i>Urban Flare</i> Sabrina Chaco Bella Johannessen Isaac Taylor <b>Runners-Up</b> <i>Baby J's</i> Emily Barlow Jordan Ben-Shmuel Melissa Elliott Riley Felt Greta Kohls Deirdre Nelis Erin Nolan Melissa Nolan Hannah Rosen Jenna Sposato <i>Maggie and Liv</i> Liv Lagomarsino Maggie McCulloch
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# Technology Upgrade at Happy Valley Elementary School



Happy Valley Elementary School teachers show off new iPads. Photo Cathy Tyson

It was like Christmas in June at Happy Valley Elementary School last week. Parents at Happy Valley Elementary took a survey and decided to spend money from the school's existing individual parent fund reserve account on refreshing the library and upgrading technology. With a significant discount from Apple, a set of iPads for the library were

purchased along with one for each teacher. Teachers were given a handy adaptor to allow projection of images on a classroom screen. District technology coordinator Angie Corritone helped familiarize the teachers with this new tool, she explained: "The goal is student engagement and to bring out the best in our teachers." C. Tyson

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# Think Inside the (Theatre) Square

By Sophie Braccini



Photo Andy Scheck

Someone new to Lamorinda strolling through Theatre Square might not believe that just five years ago the occupancy rate on the first floor was desperately low, restaurants located where Table 24 is now had been failing one after the other, and, in spite of half a dozen steady healthy businesses, the Square was falling into disuse. Today that first floor is vibrant, consolidating existing retailers and restaurants, some new, very successful businesses, and a few promising ones that could change the Lamorinda entertainment balance in favor of Orinda.

To support this growth, GLL Real Estate Partners, owner of the Square, has hired Marcom Group to launch an all-out marketing campaign with the tag line: "Think Inside the Square."

"We are launching a multi-media

marketing campaign in Lamorinda and the Berkeley-Rockridge area," says Marcom Creative Director Heather McAllister. Live entertainment is scheduled to come to the Square this summer and, for the first time, GLL partnered with the California Shakespeare Theater to create "dine and play" packages, as well as live happenings in the Square with actors and/or directors.

The launch of the campaign coincides with the opening of the most recent brainchild of Table 24 owners Victor Ivry and Michael Karp in partnership with GLL, the Mexican grill Barbacoa, scheduled to open this week.

The creation of that restaurant illustrates the active role the property owner is taking, seeking and supporting businesses that fit the space and

Orinda's lifestyle.

"When we presented the Table 24 concept to GLL, we asked them to co-invest in the project," remembers Ivry, "and they supported us when we made the investment to transform the place." The success of Table 24, a great family restaurant with high quality, innovative food, reinforced GLL's confidence in the Square, and showed that the right project could thrive there.

"Then there was the inside corner of the center, opposite to the elevator

access," remembers GLL's Peter Wenzel. "Our first idea was to have a wine bar there, and I talked to Victor (Ivry) and Michael (Karp) about it."

"That was the starting point for Barbacoa," says Ivry with a smile, "but a wine bar was not really what we are about. We wanted something alive and fun, something that would attract families and lift the energy inside the Square."

Ivry and Karp say that they have always dreamed of a restaurant that would remind them of Cabo San Lucas, a real live authentic Mexican restaurant. They met their match for the kitchen with young star chef Jason Moniz who says he learned the lost art of Mexican cuisine in Mexico. "We will grind our own spices, take the time needed to do our own chili sauces, we will grill on the wood fire," says a passionate Moniz. "We will give our customers textures and big flavors."

Beyond the menu, the impact of the new restaurant will definitely be in balance with the energy inside the building. The restaurant will take over part of the inside plaza with an outdoor seating area; the inside will have a separate bar and dining space; the kitchen will be open and visible. The materials chosen blend rustic modern with authentic Mexican tiling and art for a colorful but clean and modern look.

Wenzel confirms that the strat-

egy's working and that the occupancy rate of the property is now 95 percent. "The change of zoning that the City allowed in the Square helped," says Wenzel, referring to the rule that permitted retail only on the ground floor of Theatre Square. "The inside of the center had struggled historically; allowing financial or real estate businesses to occupy some of the empty space made sense."

Shelby's restaurant has been in the Square for seven years. "We've been here through the worst, but we've survived," says Shelby's Carlos Rangel. "We've managed to make it through and now people are coming down even more." Rangel believes that the Square is becoming a destination for food. "There is such a wide variety of options to choose from," he says, "from pizza, to modern Californian, Japanese, Middle-Eastern, Hawaiian, soon Mexican, and also dessert with Republic of Cake."

This change in dynamic is also welcomed by Anahid Raad who opened a new florist shop, Anahid Design and Flowers, across from Barbacoa in the beginning of May. "This is a very dynamic business environment," she says. Definitely a new kind of comment for Theatre Square!

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

## business briefs

### Kabab.Burger Mediterranean Grill Opens in Lafayette

3647 Mount Diablo Boulevard, Lafayette (next to Trader Joe's)

This is Lafayette resident and former printing business owner Avi Ben-Ari's first restaurant. But Ben-Ari has the best partner to support him in this career change: his wife, Michaela, who's been managing a catering business in Walnut Creek for years. "We are cooking the food of our roots. This is what we love and want to share with the community," he says. Ben-Ari has lived in this country for more than 30 years. Originally from Israel, he brought in his suitcases the longing for the spices and tastes of the Mediterranean Sea. Kabab.Burger will



Avi Ben-Ari with daughter Leeron in the new family restaurant Kabab.Burger in Lafayette

Photo Sophie Braccini

recreate that taste, "all from scratch in our kitchen," promises Ben-Ari. But why add 'burger' to the 'kabab'? "Kabab is ground beef and lamb meat mixed with spices and grilled, not very far from a burger," says the restaurant owner. "We want to adapt to our clientele, so if some people just want a good beef burger, we can do it. If they want to try the real kabab, we will do that also." As we were talking with Ben-Ari at the beginning of the afternoon, several potential customers came by to check out the menu and enquire about take-out. The set-up is very informal; customers order and pick-up at the back counter and can sit at one of the inside tables. The menu offers a classic Middle-Eastern choice of dishes, with baba ganoush, hummus, salads, and a nice variety of grilled meats, including kababs and burgers, served as a sandwich, a wrap, or on skewers.

### New Sales Associate at Coldwell Banker

5 Moraga Way, Orinda

Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage announced today that Tricia Young has joined the company as a sales associate in its Orinda office. In her new position, Young will specialize in residential sales in the East Bay. Young, a 40-year resident of the Lamorinda area, has extensive knowledge of local schools and neighborhoods, as well as a familiarity with the entire East Bay region. Prior to joining Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage, she served as director of a Lafayette preschool.

### News from the three Chambers of Commerce Lafayette

The Summer Series begins every Friday night from June 15 through August 24 with free dancing, movies and rock & roll in downtown Lafayette at the Lafayette Plaza Park (Mt. Diablo Blvd. and Moraga Road). Every Friday is different and fun for all ages. On June 15, enjoy a '50s Sock Hop with a live band, then on June 22, square dance with a professional caller. For a complete event listing, visit [www.trylafayettefirst.org/summer-2012-events/](http://www.trylafayettefirst.org/summer-2012-events/).

### Moraga

Moraga Chamber Of Commerce Golf Tournament all day Saturday, June 23. For more info, visit [Moragachamber.org](http://Moragachamber.org).

### Orinda

4th of July Events - Help Needed! Orinda Chamber's legendary Hot Dog Booth will start this year at 10 a.m. on July 4. The Orinda Chamber sells between 700 and 1,000 hot dogs in about three hours that day, so it takes a lot of volunteers to make it happen. "We have always been grateful for the help from Scouts, who have again volunteered to help this year," says Chamber Executive Director Candy Kattenburg. "Scouts will be wrapping up hot dogs, and will be grabbing sodas, chips, and candy and passing them off to the adult volunteers who are manning the cash boxes." This project requires older Scouts (eighth-grade and older). If you know a Scout who might be interested, please contact Steve Sernett at [sernetmail@gmail.com](mailto:sernetmail@gmail.com).

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[sophie@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:sophie@lamorindaweekly.com)

# Tropical Treat

By Susie Iventosch

It was in April that I was first introduced to this fabulous dessert. My husband works for a very large company, which held its annual incentive trip in the Bahamas. That was a really nice place for a business trip, but there were some 2,000 people in our quaint little group. This usually means buffet style meals, which have never been my favorite. So, one night I convinced him to go out to a nearby restaurant, where we were able to order off a real menu. The meal was good, but the dessert was sensational!

Guava Duff, a dish I had never even heard of before this trip, is a dessert that tastes sort of like a cobbler, but instead of fruit on the bottom with dough on top, the dough is rolled out with the fruit tucked inside and then rolled up like a jelly roll cake. It is then steamed and topped off with a delicious butter-brandy sauce!

My mission for the remainder of the trip was to discover how to make this delightful dish. So, I asked nearly every waitress and hotel personnel I encountered, to see how they make their version. And, trust me, every Bahamian family has its own version of this popular dessert!

I felt very well informed on how to make my own rendition of Guava Duff, and planned to make it at my dinner party the next weekend. But as I quickly discovered, guavas are not to be found in northern California until sometime in mid-summer. Rats! Undeterred, I decided to make "Mango" Guava Duff, minus the guavas! Guava juice afforded the guava flavor, and it turned out beautifully!

Since then, we have made "Mango-Papaya" Guava Duff, and I plan to make peach and nectarine versions when the crops are ripe. If I ever find fresh guavas this summer, well, I will definitely make a real Guava Duff!

## Guava Duff

(Serves 8)

### INGREDIENTS

- 3-4 cups of fruit, pitted, peeled and diced (guava, papaya, mango, peaches, nectarines) reserve 1/2 cup for topping
- 1/2 cup butter
- 1/3 cup sugar
- 2 egg yolks
- 2 teaspoons vanilla
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 3 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/3+ cup guava juice

### DIRECTIONS

In a large bowl, beat butter and sugar until integrated. Add egg yolks and vanilla and stir well. Sift flour with baking powder and salt and stir into butter mixture. Add enough guava juice until dough can be gathered into a large ball.

On a floured surface, roll dough out into a large rectangle, approximately 12x 15 inches or so. It is not necessary to be exact on this measurement. Beginning at the close end of the rectangle, spread a row of chopped fruit and roll dough over fruit. Repeat this process until you have a large jelly roll shape and you've used up all but 1/2 cup of the fruit.

Cut the roll into two shorter rolls and seal each very tightly in foil. Double wrapping is even better, to keep dough in place while steaming.

In a large pot, fitted with a French steamer, (or in a pasta pot with the mesh liner) place the two wrapped rolls of dough and steam for about one hour, or until dough is cooked. You may need to add more water to the bottom of the pot while steaming.

Cool thoroughly. When ready to serve, remove foil and cut into 1-2 inch slices. Heat in microwave and drizzle warm brandy sauce over the top. Can serve with a scoop of vanilla ice cream or a dollop of whipped cream and a spoonful of reserved diced fruit.



Photo Susie Iventosch

## Brandy Sauce

### INGREDIENTS

- 1/4 cup unsalted butter
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 2 teaspoons vanilla
- 1/3 cup guava juice
- 1/4 cup brandy

### DIRECTIONS

In a saucepan, melt butter over medium heat. Add sugar and stir well with a wire whisk. Continue to cook over medium heat, stirring all the while, until sugar dissolves. Stir in vanilla, guava juice and brandy and continue to cook until well integrated, slightly reduced and thick enough to coat a spoon. Can be made ahead of time and reheated to serve over warm guava duff.

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.



**This 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.

# Business Service Directory

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## Lamorinda's Religious Services



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Programs for children & youth

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



**St Stephen's Episcopal Church**

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

Sunday 8am & 10am.

## The Orinda Community Church

10 Irwin Way, Orinda | 925.254.4906 | www.orindachurch.org

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

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www.christianscienceorinda.org

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www.holyshepherd.org

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

9:30 a.m. Worship Service  
Coffee Fellowship at 10:30 a.m.  
Childcare available for ages 5 and younger



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

### ART

**Keep it Simple.** The new exhibition at the Lafayette Gallery reflects the warmth and relaxation that summer brings June 5 until August 4, 50 Lafayette Circle, Lafayette. The Lafayette Sculpture Garden is now open for the summer. The Gallery is open Tuesday-Saturday, 11am to 5pm, and Sunday, 11am to 2pm. Free. For more info, call (925)284-2788 or visit www.lafayettegallery.net.

**Moraga Art Gallery's new show, "Shades of Brilliance,"** will feature the work of gallery member and pho-



tographer Lucy Beck, as well as guest artist David Lindsay. The show opens Wednesday, June 6 and runs through August 18. An opening reception will take place from 3 to 5pm, Saturday, June 16, 522 Center St, Moraga (between TJ Maxx and The Dollar Tree in the Rheem Center). Meet the featured artists as well as fellow gallery members. For info, call (925) 376-5407.

### MUSIC

**WomenSing's June Concerts.** WomenSing will delight choral and classical music fans with their Full Circle concert from 8 to 9:30pm Wednesday, June 6 at Lafayette/Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Drive, Lafayette. For more information please visit www.womensing.org or call (925) 974-9169. Tickets are \$25 for premium, \$20 for general, \$18 for seniors, \$10 student/youth.

**Dancing in the Plaza, Friday evenings, 7pm, Lafayette's Plaza Park:** June 15, '50s Sock Hop with Hot Rod Jukebox, June 22, Square Dance with world class "caller" Eric Henerlau; June 29, '70s Disco with DJ-JT Productions. Free. For information contact the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce: (925) 284-7404 or lafayettechamber.org.

**Orinda Summer Concerts in the Park.** Orinda Community Center is having free concerts on Tuesday nights from 6:30 to 8:30pm, 28 Orinda Way, Orinda. The schedule is: June 12 TBD; June 19, The Crisis, Blues-Rock; June 26, Bay Bridge Beat, Funk, Rhythm, and Blues; July 3, Cal Alumni Big Band, Big Band Jazz.

**Orinda's Summer Music Series.** Make new memories with friends, families, and neighbors while enjoying some of the best loved melodies from America's musical heritage as the Summer Music Series kicks off this month inside the Orinda Library, 26 Orinda Way, Orinda. The Real Placebos will be playing starting at 6:30 pm Wednesday, June 20. Free. For more info, call (925) 254-2184 or visit www.ccclib.org.

**Piano Concert by the Contra Costa Performing Arts Society.** The pianist members will perform mainly classical selections June 10 at 2 pm, the Grace Presbyterian Church, 2100 Tice Valley Blvd., Walnut Creek. Free. For more info, visit www.ccpas.org or call (925) 939-7465.

**Audition now for the award-winning WomenSing,** one of the East Bay's premier ensembles. WomenSing is holding auditions June 11 by appointment for experienced singers. For more info, visit www.womensing.org or call (925) 974-9169.

**The CCPAS Composers Group will present a free concert** at 7:30pm Friday, June 15 at Grace Presbyterian Church, Walnut Creek. This is a diverse, local group of pianists who will be playing their original music. Their styles represent classical, ragtime, blues, modern/contemporary, new-age, jazz-inspired, and more. For more info, visit www.ccpas.org.

**2012 Summer Concert Series at the Moraga Commons.** Free Concerts are on Thursday evenings, 6:30pm - 8:30pm. Bring your picnic blanket or lawn chairs to the grassy hillside in front of the band shell. Enjoy the music while your children enjoy the park: June 21, Moonalice, early SF rock band; June 28, Pladdogh, Celtic; July 4 Livin' in the USA Rock (7:00 pm concert & show. The Moraga Commons Park is located at the intersection of Moraga Rd. and St. Mary's Rd. Bring a picnic or purchase delicious grilled dinners at the concession stand.

### THEATER

**Shaw's Classic, Pygmalion.** Town Hall Theatre closes out their 2011-2012 Main Stage season with George Bernard Shaw's classic comedy about class and gender, Pygmalion. Pygmalion runs through June 23. It is rated PG and is approximately two hours long. Contact Town Hall Theatre Box Office at (925) 283-1557, or purchase tickets online at www.TownHallTheatre.com.

**Orinda Starlight Village Players presents Agatha Christie's And Then There Were None** Fridays and Saturdays, June 1-23 at 8:30 pm, Sunday, June 10 at 4 pm and Thursday, June 21 at 8 pm at the Outdoor Amphitheater, Orinda Community Center Park, 28 Orinda Way, Orinda. Tickets: \$16 regular admission and \$8 discounted admission. Season Tickets for all three shows are \$35 regular and \$21 for discounted tickets. For tickets or more info, call (925) 528-9225 or visit www.orsvp.org.

**Cal Shakes presents "The Tempest" through June 24.** Please call (510) 548-9666 or go to www.calshakes.org for tickets and details.

**Free Family Movie Night.** Join the Moraga Youth Involvement committee as we show Toy Story under the stars at the Moraga Commons Park. Bundle up with blankets and friends, enter the raffle, and enjoy delicious concessions sold by the M.Y.I.C. The event is at 8:30 or 8:40pm (depending upon darkness) Saturday, June 16, 1149 Moraga Rd, Moraga.

### SENIORS

**BART Senior Clipper Card Distribution from noon to 3pm June 5** at the Lafayette Community Center, Manzanita Room, 500 St. Mary's Road. The green Senior BART ticket has been replaced by the Senior Clipper Card, (minimum age 65). You must apply for the Senior Clipper Card in person with a valid form of ID. The card will be issued immediately. For more info, call (925) 284-5050.

**Lamorinda Dance Social.** Enjoy afternoon dancing every Wednesday and learn some great new dance

moves. Professional dancers Karen and Michael will provide a dance lesson and live DJ services, playing your favorites and taking requests. The social is every Wednesday, (except June 27) from 12:30pm until 3pm, the Lafayette Community Center Live Oak Room, 500 St. Mary's Road. Cost: \$2 for members and \$4 for non-members. For more info, call (925) 284-5050.

**Self-Discovery and Aging, Creative Writing Workshop.** This workshop is facilitated by creative writing and English instructor Judith Rathbone June 11 and June 25 from noon to 2pm, the Lafayette Community Center Alder Room, 500 St. Mary's Road. Workshop sessions include writing prompts, feedback and encouragement, and information about the world of writers, writing, and publishing. Cost: \$1 for members and \$3 for non-members. For more info, call (925) 284-5050.

**The Stroke Support Group of Contra Costa County will hold its June meeting** from 7 to 9pm June 11 in the Concord Room at John Muir Medical Center, 2540 East Avenue, Concord. The speakers will be Alison Bonds Shapiro and Rita Martin who will discuss "Healing into Possibility: Sharing the Journey of Recovery." For more info, contact Ann Dzuna at (925) 376-6218. Meetings are free and open to the public.

**Hearing Loss: What to do about it? Join us to learn about** your ears and gain a better understanding of hearing loss and your hearing test. Four 20-minute hearing screenings (by appointment only) are available at no charge following this lecture on Wednesday, June 13 from 10:30am to noon, Lafayette Community Center Toyon Room, 500 St. Mary's Road. Cost: \$1 for members and \$3 for non-members. Please let us know you're coming to the lecture by calling (925) 284-5050.

**Senior Nature Walk and Bird-Watching led by Ben Pettersson.** Experience nature at its finest along our trails. Delight in the beauty that unfolds around each bend and learn to identify birds. Trail maps will be distributed. Bring a water bottle; binoculars will be helpful if you have them. The walks are every Wednesday starting June 20 (except July 4) from 10am to noon, Lafayette Senior Services Room outside the Alder Room, Lafayette Community Center, 500 St. Mary's Road. Free. For more info, call (925) 284-5050.

### OTHER

**Positive Living Forum.** Brighten your day and take part in this interactive gathering which features speakers on a wide range of topics that encourage and guide participants towards a more ideal and positive life experience. Drop-ins are welcome. The workshop is from 10:30am to noon June 14, Lafayette Community Center, Elderberry Room. Cost: \$1 for members and \$3 for non-members

**Synchronized Swimming.** Walnut Creek Aquanauts will be performing Celebration of Champions Saturday, June 16 from 5 to 8pm at Heather Farm Park, Clarke Memorial Swim Center. Tickets are available at the door for \$15. For more info, visit www.aquanauts.org.

... continued on next page

Please submit events to:  
calendar@lamorinda  
weekly.com

# Impressive Productions at 6th Annual Lamorinda Acalanes Unified Film Festival



LAUFF6 winners, from left: Scott Call, Lauren Carr, Zachary Beck, Christina Beck, Julia Anderson, Colter Harris, John Cornell, Tucker O'Neil, Laura Gustafson, Paul Sarconi, Victor Thresh, Aja Adair, Conor MacKinnon, Andrew Christian, Justin Seligman, Bill Tawfall, Taylor Hunt, Jeff Sawdon Photo Justin Seligman

The Lamorinda Acalanes Unified Film Festival (LAUFF6), held last month at the Campolindo Performing Arts Center (CPAC), included screenings of 26 exciting short films, each written, directed, and produced by students from Acalanes, Campolindo, Los Lomas, Miramonte, and JM Intermediate schools, and the celebration of winners in 11 categories.

"The Campo video program offers four levels, and some students go on to top film schools," said Campolindo Film Arts teacher and LAUFF founder and coordinator Justin Seligman. "Senior Jeff Sawdon received a President's Scholarship to Dodge School of Film at Chapman University (an \$80,000 scholarship). Julia Anderson also won the Young Filmmakers Scholarship

(\$500) sponsored by Orinda Arts Council. She was also awarded the Underclassmen award for Video Production." Leigh Scanlon won the Senior Video Production Award and Sam Crossley won a special CPAC award for four years of service to the school theater, Seligman added. "We had a fun show. Also in attendance was Vince DeQuattro of 32 Ten studios who said a few kind words from the stage."

Special acknowledgement was given to The Orinda Arts Council for sponsoring the \$500 OAC Young Filmmakers Scholarship Fund to supplement summer filmmaking educational opportunities for LAUFF6 award winners. Other sponsors included New York Film Academy at Universal Studios, Lamorinda Theaters, East Bay Media Center, San Francisco School of

Digital Filmmaking, Academy of Art University: Pre-College Art Experience, Interlochen Center for the Arts, 32 Ten Studios and AVID, which pledged thousands of dollars in tuition reductions for winners of the film festival to attend Film/Video/Acting summer programs for teens.

"The festival showcases the talent of our community's students: as actors, as screenwriters, as cinematographers, and as digital artists. It gives them a forum to tell their own stories, in their own voices," Seligman said. "If there was one message I wish to impart to these students, it's that they have an historically unprecedented ability to deliver a message to the world. My role is to give them the tools to discover the talent they have lying within." *J. Wake*

## And the LAUFF6 winners are:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| Best Actor: <b>Conor MacKinnon</b><br>Acalanes<br><i>Mystery Product</i><br>Sponsored by New York Film Academy  | Best Cinematography: <b>Tucker O'Neil</b><br>Acalanes<br><i>Haazard</i><br>Sponsored by Bay Area Video Coalition                |
| Best Actress: <b>Aja Adair</b><br>Campolindo<br><i>A Life Deferred</i><br>Sponsored by East Bay Media Center  | Best Use of Audio: <b>Chessa Mehlman</b><br>Las Lomas<br><i>Palos Verdes Blue</i><br>Sponsored by the Academy of Art University |
| Best Screenplay: <b>Heidi Roodvoets</b><br>Miramonte<br><i>Man's Best Friend</i><br>Sponsored by Interlochen School of the Arts   | Best Comedy: <b>Colter Harris</b><br>Campolindo<br><i>The Tutor</i><br>Sponsored by Lamorinda Theaters                          |
| Best Special Effects/Title Sequence/Motion Graphics: <b>Cameron Bagley, Julia Anderson, Laura Gufstafson, Keith Geiger</b><br>Campolindo<br><i>Pokeworld</i><br>Sponsored by Lamorinda Theatres | Best Editor: <b>Leigh Scanlon</b><br>Campolindo<br><i>Intro to Campo</i><br>Sponsored by New York Film Academy                  |
| Best Director: <b>Cameron Bagley, Julia Anderson, Laura Gufstafson, Keith Geiger</b><br>Campolindo<br><i>High School Survival Guide to Sports Safety</i><br>Sponsored by New York Film Academy  | Best Lighting: <b>Jeff Sawdon</b><br>Campolindo<br><i>It Gets Better</i><br>Sponsored by Lamorinda Theaters                     |
|   | 32 Ten Award: <b>Taylor Hunt, Sam Crossley, Jeff Sawdon</b><br>Campolindo<br><i>Halfway</i><br>Sponsored by 32 Ten Studios      |

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

### OTHER continued

**Contra Costa Master Gardeners 2013 class. In order to apply** to the training program attendance at one of the following free orientation sessions is required: Monday, June 25 from 1 to 3pm, 151 Linus Pauling Drive, Hercules; Wednesday, June 27 from 10am to noon at 75 Santa Barbara Road, 2nd Floor, Pleasant Hill; Tuesday, July 17 from 1 to 3pm at 75 Santa Barbara Rd, 2nd Floor, Pleasant Hill; Thursday, July 19 from 10am to noon at 151 Linus Pauling Drive, Hercules. To register for Orientation visit the Contra Costa Master Gardener website at ccmg.ucdavis.edu and click "join us."

**Lazarex Cancer Foundation presents Info Meeting for Hike for Life, A Grand Canyon Adventure.** This four-day journey culminates in a one-day guided hike of the Grand Canyon along the trail you choose (in the canyon or along the rim). The Grand Canyon hiking adventure is a fundraiser that helps cancer patients. The info meeting is at 9:30am Saturday, June 2 and at 7pm Tuesday, June 19 at Sports Basement, 1881 Ygnacio Valley Road, Walnut Creek. Free. For more info, call (925)323-2993 or visit [www.conquerthecanyon.com/LAZAREX\\_index.htm](http://www.conquerthecanyon.com/LAZAREX_index.htm).

**Find Your Perfect Match at Maddie's® Matchmaker Adoptathon.** Visit ARF on June 9 and 10 when puppies, kittens, dogs and cats all go home with no adoption fees, and ARF receives a grant of at least \$500 from Maddie's Fund® for each qualifying adoption - helping us rescue even more! Limit of two adoptions per household; standard adoption criteria apply. Tony La Russa's Animal Rescue Foundation, 2890 Mitchell Drive, Walnut Creek. (925) 256-1273

**Making Strides Against Breast Cancer 5k Walk Saturday,** June 16 (registration begins at 8am; walk begins at 9am), Heather Farm Park, Walnut Creek. How Far is 5K? (About three miles.) For more info, or to register, visit [makingstrides.acsevents.org/walnutcreek](http://makingstrides.acsevents.org/walnutcreek).

**Theater View Veterinary Clinic is having an open house** June 16, 3 to 5pm, 1 Bates Blvd., Orinda. Receive free heartworm tests (for the first 90 visitors), free nail trims for dogs and cats, and treats for pets and their people.

**eWaste & Documents for Shredding Fundraiser for Loaves and Fishes** of Contra Costa County. This is an event for recycling and shredding from 9am to 10pm June 16 at the Lafayette Christian Church, 584 Glenside Drive, Lafayette. Cost: \$5 fee for certain items and \$8 for shredding per Bankers Box. For more info, visit [www.ctrecycling.net](http://www.ctrecycling.net) or call (510) 352-2665.

**Motorama World of Wheels. Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary** is presenting Lafayette's premiere auto show. See classic cars, bikes, and motorcycles Sunday, June 17 from 9am to 4pm at the Clock Tower and Bank of the West parking lots on Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. There will be food, beverages, raffles, car swag, live entertainment, and more. For more info, visit [www.motorama.us](http://www.motorama.us). Free.

**Girls Night Out Networking presents It's your Health, Your Choice!** Learn why so many women experience hormone problems, sleep disturbances, fibromyalgia and weight gain. Dr. Leslie Hewitt will be educating you to make an informed choice during the seminar from 5:30 to 6:30pm June 18 at the Anatomy Power Wellness Studio, 3470 Camino Tassajara, Danville. Free for GNON members, \$10 for non-members. For more info, visit [www.gnontrivalley.com](http://www.gnontrivalley.com).

**Why Meditation? Meditation has long been known to promote improved health and well-being, increased self-awareness, growth, and a deeper spiritual connection.** The seminar is presented by Mary Bruns June 19 from 11am to noon in the Sequoia Room at the Lafayette Community Center, 500 St. Mary's Road. Cost: \$1 for members and \$3 for non-members. For more info, call (925) 284-5050.

**Understanding Public Employee Pensions – a presentation** by Dan Borenstein about the problems of public-employee pension funding at 7pm Thursday, June 21 at the Orinda Library Auditorium, 26 Orinda Way, Orinda. Borenstein will explain the inner-workings of these retirement plans, delving into how they are financed and why they are leaving billions of dollars of debt for our children to pay. Free.

**Celebrate the Summer Solstice with a walk on a sacred labyrinth** in the early evening hour. Music will be playing as participants walk the Chartres-style labyrinth. The Chapel will be open for prayers and there will be ongoing readings. Join us for a quiet evening walk on June 22 in preparation of summer at the Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Drive, Lafayette, (925)283-8722.

**Loaves and Fishes first Annual Event "Food for Thought"** summer garden party Sunday, June 24 from 2-5pm, Hacienda de las Flores, 2100 Donald Drive, Moraga. Food prepared and served by renowned East Bay chefs as well as live and silent auctions. All proceeds from this event will benefit Loaves and Fishes of Contra Costa County, a local agency that has been providing hot nutritious meals for those in need since 1983. Cost: \$50 per person. To purchase tickets, visit [www.loavesfishescc.org](http://www.loavesfishescc.org) and click on Register-Food for Thought or call (925) 687-6760.

**The annual Lamorinda Fourth of July parade will take place** in Orinda at 10am Wednesday, July 4. In keeping with this year's theme of Saluting All Veterans, veterans from all conflicts, from World War II through the Iraq/Afghanistan conflict, are invited to march or ride in the parade. Title sponsor Orinda Motors is providing a large number of convertibles for veterans but more are needed. For more information, veterans are asked to contact Terry Murphy of the local VFW post at (925)285-1510 or [terry.murphy2@comcast.net](mailto:terry.murphy2@comcast.net). For general information about the parade and celebration, please contact the Orinda Association at (925)254-0800 or [oa@orindaassociation.org](mailto:oa@orindaassociation.org).

### POLITICAL GATHERINGS

**The League of Women Voters of Diablo Valley** will hold its Annual Meeting at the Lafayette Public Library Community Room on Saturday, June 16. Their business meeting starts at 8:45am. At 10:45am, Lisa Vorderbrueggen, reporter and political columnist for the Contra Costa Times will speak on "The State of the County, the State, the Nation, and the Press." Cost: \$5. Contact the League at (925)283-2235 for more information.

### Upcoming Special Events at:



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# LAMORINDA SPORTS

## Acalanes, Campolindo Win NCS Tournament

By Simon Tryzna



Andrew Merken #15



Denis Karas #18

Photos Kevin Nguyen

For the second straight year, Campolindo and Acalanes High School baseball teams left the North Coast Section tournament as champions. The victories come as no surprise since both teams were seeded number one in their respective divisions. As the defending champions with the top spot, after a two week tournament, the Cougars and the Dons proved they are the top teams on Saturday, June 2nd at O.Co Coliseum.

As the number one seed in the Division III bracket, Acalanes got a much needed bye in the first round before hosting San Marin High (MCAL), a rematch of last year's championship game. Acalanes' Johnny York pitched six scoreless innings in relief of Andrew Merken and short-shop A.J. Welsh drove in the winning run in the bottom of the eleventh, giving the Dons a 3-2 win.

The Dons then defeated Sonoma Valley (SCL) 9-4 to advance to the championship game in Oakland. After a surprise 11-7 win on the road at two-seeded Miramonte, the sixth-seeded Tamalpais Red Tailed Hawks were the surprise opponent in the championship.

The Dons scored two runs in each of the first two innings, enough to back up starter Merken, who no-hit Tamalpais. Following a walk and an error, Merken gave way to York who quickly got out of the sixth. After walking two in the seventh and giving up the only hit of the game, York closed the door on Tamalpais giving Acalanes the 4-0 win and securing the second straight title.

At the end of it all, Dons coach Justin Santich-Hughes was thrilled. Santich-Hughes noted that the program made a decision two years ago to get to a team to this place by cutting seniors in favor of sophomores. "Those sophomores are seniors now and we knew we'd have the team this year. We built this, and it's so gratifying to see that pay off," he said.



A.J. Welsh #9

Playing right after their Lamorinda rivals on Saturday at the A's home field, the Cougars were able to reach the championship game by blowing out their first three opponents, winning by ten runs in each game.

The Cougars won 10-0 over Pinole Valley in five innings, and 13-3 over Cardinal Newman in six innings before facing upstart College Park in front of a full crowd in Moraga. Much like their first two games, the Cougars were able to pounce on the Falcons early, scoring four runs in the first before notching one run in both the second and the third innings. Brett Stephens hit two home runs and drove in four runs while Trent Shelton pitched a complete game shutout, giving Campolindo a 10-0 win.

The Cougars advanced to take on second-seeded conference rival, Dougherty Valley, for the championship. They became the three-time defending champions after a 6-3 win.

Campolindo got on the board early as Josh Cushing hit an RBI single to give the Cougars an early 1-0 lead against DVHS. The lead would hold until a throwing error by Campolindo allowed the Wild Cats to tie up the game in the bottom of the fourth. The Cougars were quick to respond as James Marvel drove in Stephens to give Campolindo a 2-1 lead. Later in the frame, Denis Karas hit a double to left field that plated two and gave the Cougars a four run cushion.

Dougherty Valley would not go down quietly and they scored two to cut Campolindo's lead to 5-3. However, Campolindo added one more in the top of the sixth and Tyler Luckhurst threw two scoreless innings to pick up the save 6-3, giving the Cougars their third DII title in as many years.

After the game, head coach Max Luckhurst noted that their success came from getting younger guys more experience. "We were in the quarterfinals and semifinals for years and years and years. I think the adjustment came when we gave the opportunity to some of the more physical freshmen coming in. It was this class to start off."

### Miramonte:

The Mats defeated Encinal, 7-5, to match-up against the Tamalpais Red-Tailed Hawks. After two innings, the Matadors were comfortably ahead 6-0. However, the Hawks stormed back with a three-run fourth inning and finished the comeback by blowing the game open with an eight-run fifth inning that saw three Matador pitchers walk six batters, give up three hits, and hit one more batter. Combined with two errors in the inning, Miramonte found itself trailing 11-7.

After the game, Miramonte coach Vince Dellaquila gave credit where credit was due. "[Tamalpais] did a great job of hanging with it. They never stopped playing. I'm not saying we stopped, but ... that one inning just blew up on us."

## Lamorinda Lax Wins Nor Cal Championship

Submitted by Stacy Giglio



Coaches, from left: Peter Rack and Pat Doyle. Top row: Ryan Doyle, Matty Rinquist, Will Rack, Ryan McCormick, Nate Welcomer, Payson Newman, Mathew LoPresti and Josh Baginski. Middle Row: Fynn Chorak, Huma Dadachanji, Jake Landry, Drew Cirelli, Adam Shafer (above), Adam Wong (below), Collin Jeffries and T.J. Collins; bottom row: Kannah Cruickshank and Spencer Giglio

Photo provided

The Lamorinda Lacrosse U13A team won the NCJLA championship on Sunday, May 20 on Treasure Island. The team defeated Santa Cruz 14-0 and the Diablo Scorpions 8-2 to reach the final game. They beat the West Valley Red Hawks from Saratoga 5-4 in the championship game. Team Charge finished the season at 15-2, outscoring their opponents 153-39 during the course of the season.

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# SMC Rugby Honored

Submitted by Tony Samaniego



Andrew Cook

Photo Michael Geib

While the Saint Mary's College rugby team was recognized by USA National Collegiate Rugby as the fourth team in the nation, individual players were also honored. Five players were named to the first team All-America squad: Andrew Cook (captain), Matt Crawford, Tim Maupin and Kinsley Mc-

Gowen. Nick Wallace and Kelly Harris were named Honorable Mention. The recognition is also an invitation to take part in the All American Camp in Houston in June. Twenty-five players from the camp will be chosen to play on a traveling team, which will tour Ireland in August.



Tim Maupin

Photo Michael Geib

# Moraga Baseball Association Box Scores

Submitted by Jin Meng

Mustang Division

May 23

Red Sox: 13 Cubs: 9

**Red Sox Highlights:** Daniel Wheeler 2-for-3, 2RS, 3 RBIs, 2-1B; Joe Arth 2-for-3, 2 RS, 3RBIs, 2B, 3B; Max Duff 2-for-3, 1RS, 1RBI, 1B

**Cubs Highlights:** Joey Schmidt 2-for-3, 2RS, 1RBI, 2-1B; Billy Woolsey 2-for-3, 1RS, 1HR, 1RBI; Sam Ouzounian 2-for-3, 1RS, 2RBIs, 2B

May 22

Giants 16, Pirates 4

**Giants Highlights:** Jake Crumbaugh 1D, 2 RBIs, 2 RS; Michael Holloway 1D, 1RBI, 2RS; Corey Goldman 2S,

3 RBI, 2RS; Charlie Craig 3RS

**Pirates Highlights:** Michael Evans 1S, 1R; Ryan Fritch 1D, 1RBI, 1RS; Tarek Antonios-McCrea 1D, 1RS; Luke Aheam 1S, 1D, 1RBI

Pinto Division

Giants 15, Yankees 12

**Giants Highlights:** Logan Robeson 3-for-3, Run 3 RBI, 3 2B; Brendan O'Donnell 1-for-2, 2 RBI; Zyon Gangwer 2-for-3, Run, RBI; Michael Coane 3-for-3, 3 Runs, 2 RBI

**Yankees Highlights:** Ben Jules 3-for-3, 2 Runs, 4 RBI, 2B; Dash Weaver 2-for-3, 3 RBI; Jules Frippiat 1-for-3, run

# Lafayette Little League

Submitted by Todd Bequette

Majors Division

AAA Division

White Sox 4 Cardinals 1

The White Sox rode the stellar pitching of Jake Finegold, Daniel Flaherty and Michael Bone to a 4-1 victory over the Cardinals in a second-round playoff game at Buckeye Field. Finegold also provided most of the offense, slamming a three-run homer. Mason Larrick starred in the field, making several key defensive plays to help the White Sox secure the victory.

Phillies 2 Yankees 0

In a winner's bracket battle between two top teams, the Phillies stayed unbeaten. Stylish lefty Matty Vicensio and

flame-throwing righty, Tyler Ewing, silenced the powerful Yankee bats with three innings each of shutout ball.

Indians 4 Cardinals 2

In an elimination game at Buckeye Field, the Indians came from behind with a furious fifth inning rally. Down 0-2, Simon Oh led off with a booming double to left center. Ethan Frigon then put the Tribe on the board with a double. After Josh Thuma singled, Ben Bequette smashed a double to right center. Tyler Schenone, Frigon and Nick Schirmer starred for the Indians on the mound. For the Cards, lefty Brian Merkin stifled the Indian bats, throwing three shutout innings. Ben Ross and Justin Pratt had run scoring hits for the Redbirds.

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- The Dog Days are Over Town Council votes to end off-leash hours at Rancho Laguna Park approves a reconfiguration plan
- Security Systems for the Home
- Public Forum off-leash dogs at Rancho Laguna Park
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# Miramonte Track and Field at State Finals

Submitted by Susie Romak



The girls' 1600 Meter Relay Team pictured from left: Devon McDonald, Rebekah Ent, Tina Romak and Kera Deakins. Photo Dave Blomgren

The North Coast Section (NCS) 2012 Track & Field "Meet of Champions" was held May 25-26 at UC Berkeley's Edwards Stadium. Five Miramonte High School athletes qualified at this meet to advance to the CIF State Finals in Clovis on June 1-2.

Senior Jamie Fehrstrom finished the boys' 1600 meter run in fifth place with a time of 4:15.65, automatically qualifying for State under the CIF At-Large mark of 4:15.79. In the

girls' Long Jump, senior Devon McDonald set a new record for MHS placing fourth with 17-09. The girls' 4x400 Meter Relay placed second with a time of 3:56.03.

At the State Finals, the girls' 4x400 finished third in their heat and 11th overall, recording another personal best at 3:54.86. Fehrstrom finished in 14th overall and McDonald jumped 17-3.25 to finish 20th.

# Lamorinda Baseball Academy Teams Record Strong Performances

Submitted by Jon Ewing



LBA Legends 14U Photos provided

Lamorinda Baseball Academy had three teams earn top finishes on May 19-20.

The U14 team took their fifth consecutive USSSA Tournament in an exciting finish. Tommy Henderson hit a solo home run and teammate Andrew Deaver followed suit with his own solo home run to give the Legends a 2-0 win.

The U13 Bucks earned first place in the All-World Baseball Tournament at the Martinez

Waterfront Ball Park. The Bucks played five games to earn the title. They went 2-1 on Saturday and 2-0 on Sunday, including a 7-6 win in the championship game.

The U12 Generals also played in the All-World Baseball Tournament. They won two games on Saturday, but dropped the first game on Sunday, 7-5. In their second game of the day, they battled back to beat the Orinda Desperados 11-1 to win the silver game.



LBA Bucks 13U



LBA Generals 12U

# Blue Ribbons for a Good Cause

Submitted by Kasey Byrne



From left: Eavan Bronfman, Anna Moellenhoff Photo provided

Eavan Bronfman and Anna Moellenhoff, fourth-graders at Glorietta Elementary School, competed in a horse show at Leap of Faith Farms in Walnut Creek on Saturday, May 12. The show was a benefit for the Leaps & Bounds Equine Assisted Therapy Center. The show featured more than 30 individual events, both Western and English, and 80 participants ranging in age from seven to 72.

Moellenhoff rode her own horse, Zebebel, and won four ribbons, including a blue ribbon (first place) in 11-and-under Walk, Trot, Canter English Equitation. Bronfman rode Sweet Pea, a pony owned by Leap of Faith Farms, and won six ribbons, including a blue ribbon for High Point scorer of the day. The girls teamed up and won second place in a fun event called "Drag Bag," which included two riders, one horse, and a dress-up bag of clothes.

This was the first Leaps & Bounds horse show, and it raised over \$10,000 for the program.

# Lamorinda Rugby No.1 in State, No.2 in Nation

Submitted by Doug McKinley



Lamorinda players celebrate winning the state rugby championship Photo Doug McKinley

Lamorinda varsity gold went undefeated in regular season and post season play. Their incredible run was recognized by *Rugby Magazine* and they were named No. 1 in California and No. 2 in the nation by the publication.

In the state cup game on May 19, Lamorinda took a 15-0 lead into halftime and then

scored quickly in the second period for a commanding 22-0 lead against Oceanside of southern California. The final score was 27-17.

As a result of playing rugby, a number of the players received special consideration in being accepted to universities such as Cal, St. Mary's, University of British Columbia, UCLA, Oregon State and Central Washington.

# Lamorinda CYO Track Team

Submitted by Jeanne Balczewski



From left: Bryson Lew, Vishal Lashkari, Niyi Olabode and Cole Jeter. Photo provided The Saint Monica third grade boys won the 4x100m relay at the Diocesan track meet on May 12th.

## Lamorinda Weekly

is an independent publication, produced by and for the residents of Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda, CA

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# Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 06 Issue 7 Wednesday, June 6, 2012

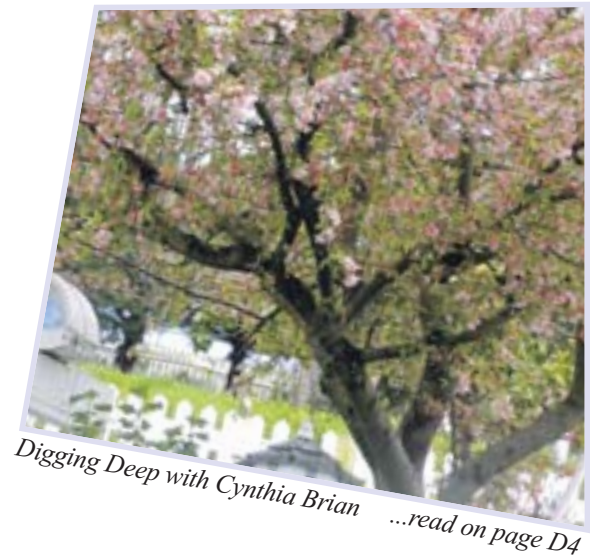
## Tuscan Modern Design Receives Excellence Award

By Sophie Braccini



Studio with emblazed wood on wall behind

Photos Kevin Nguyen



Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian ...read on page D4

On a trip to Tuscany with his wife, Hazel, Lafayette resident John Clendenning was inspired by the local ancient homes renovated with modernized interiors. So when the couple wanted to create a living space above their new garage, they looked for someone who could understand and materialize their vision.

“Interior designer Kelly Hetherwick Woods turned our ideas into an inspiring creation,” Clendenning says. “If you didn’t know it, you’d think you’re in Italy.” Hetherwick Woods enjoyed the project and its outcome so much that she submitted it to the American Society of Interior Designers (ASID). Last month ASID awarded her the 2012 Excellence Award for the North California Chapter.

The new studio is designed to be an independent living unit. It can serve as a guest house, with a full kitchen and bathroom, or a perfect hangout for the Clendenings’ teenage children when they have sleepovers. “It could also become useful in the future as a ‘boomerang’ unit,” adds Hazel Clendenning with a smile.

The space mixes distressed wood exposed beams, some rough stone in place of tiling in the kitchen, farm style sink and faucet, zinc center isle, with modern white clean shelving and minimalist dark wood cabinetry. The rustic materials soften the straight modern lines, while the modern look adds elegance to the distressed appearance of the stone and wood. The harmony of subdued colors, from the beige wash of the floor to the stone color of the counter and dark wood of the beams and cabinets, create a subtle and calming harmony.

The large room incorporates a beautiful open view of the hills and includes a Murphy bed, a sofa bed and relatively light armchairs to easily modify the configuration of the room. Fabrics were selected that can be easily cleaned.

The small but well-designed bathroom is covered in stone aged with a deep brown patina that combines ancient charm with modern amenities.

The Clendenings have also been collecting wines from all over the world for years and they wanted to find a way to use the tens of emblazed wood crates they’ve collected. Contractor Creg Muyskens found the perfect use for them: the staircase leading to the new unit has been entirely tiled with wood squares of different sizes cut from the crates – an interesting puzzle to fit together.

The other “wine feature” that is not part of the studio, but was part of the project that Hetherwick Woods submitted to ASID, is an 1,800-bottle wine cellar where the Clendenings store their wines.

... continued on page D5

## Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

City	Last reported:	LOWEST AMOUNT:	HIGHEST AMOUNT:
LAFAYETTE	11	\$331,000	\$1,400,000
MORAGA	10	\$382,000	\$1,245,000
ORINDA	11	\$640,000	\$1,650,000

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**

- 1037 Cavallero Lane, \$500,000, 4 Bdrms, 2144 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt, 5-8-12  
20 Grove Creek Court, \$1,164,000, 4 Bdrms, 2902 SqFt, 1989 YrBlt, 5-3-12;  
Previous Sale: \$1,210,000, 04-07-06  
3252 Marlene Drive, \$360,000, 3 Bdrms, 1160 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 5-7-12  
3282 Marlene Drive, \$331,000, 3 Bdrms, 1160 SqFt, 1981 YrBlt, 5-8-12;  
Previous Sale: \$514,000, 11-23-05  
3134 Maryola Court, \$839,000, 3 Bdrms, 1692 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 5-1-12;  
Previous Sale: \$665,000, 07-25-08  
3766 Mosswood Drive, \$695,000, 4 Bdrms, 2039 SqFt, 1947 YrBlt, 5-1-12;  
Previous Sale: \$135,000, 01-25-79  
3333 Springhill Road, \$775,000, 3 Bdrms, 2598 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 4-27-12  
3329 Stage Coach Drive, \$1,400,000, 5 Bdrms, 3346 SqFt, 1982 YrBlt, 5-1-12;  
Previous Sale: \$716,000, 06-27-96  
1258 Panorama Drive, \$1,089,000, 2 Bdrms, 1583 SqFt, 1953 YrBlt, 5-8-12;  
Previous Sale: \$685,000, 10-08-99  
3277 Theresa Lane, \$736,000, 4 Bdrms, 2102 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 5-7-12  
1042 Via Media, \$865,000, 3 Bdrms, 2893 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 5-4-12;  
Previous Sale: \$1,111,000, 06-10-05

**MORAGA**

- 87 Ashbrook Place, \$817,000, 4 Bdrms, 2273 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 5-7-12;  
Previous Sale: \$63,000, 08-20-71  
1487 Camino Peral, \$382,000, 2 Bdrms, 1265 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 5-4-12;  
Previous Sale: \$413,000, 04-11-08  
767 Camino Ricardo, \$888,500, 5 Bdrms, 2199 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 5-1-12  
5 Carey Court, \$802,500, 3 Bdrms, 1922 SqFt, 1987 YrBlt, 4-27-12;  
Previous Sale: \$699,000, 12-08-00  
440 Deerfield Drive, \$1,245,000, 5 Bdrms, 2969 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 4-30-12;  
Previous Sale: \$1,445,000, 01-10-06  
10 Dickenson Drive, \$1,069,000, 4 Bdrms, 2583 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 5-1-12;  
Previous Sale: \$275,000, 05-13-88  
21 Hardie Drive, \$1,100,000, 4 Bdrms, 2121 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 5-4-12;  
Previous Sale: \$975,500, 11-24-04  
2 Peralta Court, \$868,000, 4 Bdrms, 2825 SqFt, 1987 YrBlt, 5-3-12;  
Previous Sale: \$835,000, 10-11-02  
216 Tharp Drive, \$775,000, 3 Bdrms, 1749 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 5-8-12  
8 Via Barcelona, \$629,000, 3 Bdrms, 2417 SqFt, 1985 YrBlt, 4-27-12;  
Previous Sale: \$601,000, 05-30-03

**ORINDA**

- 37 Calvin Drive, \$850,000, 3 Bdrms, 1812 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 5-1-12  
17 El Camino Moraga, \$640,000, 2 Bdrms, 1404 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 5-1-12  
46 El Gavilan Road, \$1,100,000, 5 Bdrms, 2859 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 5-1-12;  
Previous Sale: \$945,000, 08-13-09  
99 El Toyonal, \$825,000, 4 Bdrms, 2654 SqFt, 1933 YrBlt, 4-27-12;  
Previous Sale: \$68,000, 07-01-76  
7 El Verano, \$875,000, 3 Bdrms, 1616 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 4-27-12  
25 La Campana Road, \$828,000, 2 Bdrms, 1418 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 5-1-12;  
Previous Sale: \$400,000, 11-08-96  
18 Las Cascadas Road, \$1,560,000, 5 Bdrms, 4072 SqFt, 1926 YrBlt, 5-4-12;  
Previous Sale: \$845,000, 08-18-89  
1 Lost Valley Court, \$1,210,000, 3 Bdrms, 3109 SqFt, 1988 YrBlt, 5-2-12  
22 Meadow Park Court, \$1,650,000, 5 Bdrms, 2943 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 5-1-12;  
Previous Sale: \$1,900,000, 06-20-06  
19 Northwood Drive, \$685,000, 3 Bdrms, 1672 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 4-27-12;  
Previous Sale: \$820,000, 08-10-05  
19 Tarabrook Drive, \$784,000, 4 Bdrms, 1693 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 5-1-12;  
Previous Sale: \$212,500, 07-08-85

## Lamorinda Foreclosures recorded

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Woodview Drive, 94549, Wells Fargo Bank, 05-09-12, \$959,592, 2477 sf, 4 bd



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**SALE PENDING, 1002 Santa Monica Ct,  
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**SOLD, 255 La Espiral Dr, Orinda  
Represented Buyer**



**SOLD, 94 Devin Dr, Moraga  
Represented Buyer**



**SOLD, 20 Birch Ct, Orinda  
Represented Seller**



**SOLD, 17 El Camino Moraga, Orinda  
Represented Buyer**



**SOLD, 136 Spring Rd, Orinda  
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## Nothing Short About It

by Andi Peterson Brown

**S**hort sales: don't let the term fool you—there's nothing short about them. And despite the term's prevalence in the lexicon of modern America, many homeowners are embarrassed to admit that they don't quite understand what it really means.

So what is a short sale? It's when a property sells for less than the balance owed on the mortgage. To do so requires the written consent from the seller's lender. The term underwater refers to existing homeowners who owe more on their mortgage than their property's value but who aren't necessarily selling their home.

Just because a homeowner is underwater does not mean that their lender must agree to a short sale. Homeowners are almost always required to show financial and/or personal hardship in order for a lender to agree to take the loss. Because lenders are not conventional sellers, when a buyer is procured it can take weeks, possibly months, for the lender to make all the necessary decisions. And after all that time, the lender might still come back and say no.

Short sales are not that common in Lamorinda, although they are trending slightly up. They made up less than ten percent of all closings in 2011, but the numbers are on pace to potentially double this year.

Short sales can have legal and tax implications. This column is intended as informational only and is not a substitute for legal or tax advice.



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## Tree Love Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian

*"Trees are poems the earth writes upon the sky." Kahlil Gibran*

By Cynthia Brian

**W**ith summer upon us, is there anything better than reading, dreaming, and swinging in a hammock under the canopy of a beautiful tree? We all have trees we adore—those that remind us of forts, childhood climbing adventures, romances in far away paradises, cooling shade on a blistering hot afternoon, or days of picking juicy, mouth-watering fruit.

Before you write a poem in your garden, you need to know before you grow. It's important to plant the right tree in the right place. Total height, root depth, spread, lifespan, disease control, power line and neighborhood compatibility, water and food needs, rapid or slow growth, maintenance needs are just a few of the considerations in planning the perfect tree for your environment.

Redwoods, pines, eucalyptus, oaks, elms, and large conifers are magnificent in the wild, on hillsides, in forests, along roadways, shopping centers, parks, creeks, and open spaces yet should be avoided or limited in developments. A single specimen may be appropriate, but before planting, study the growing habits of any tree and question the impact of your choices on your neighbor's happiness.

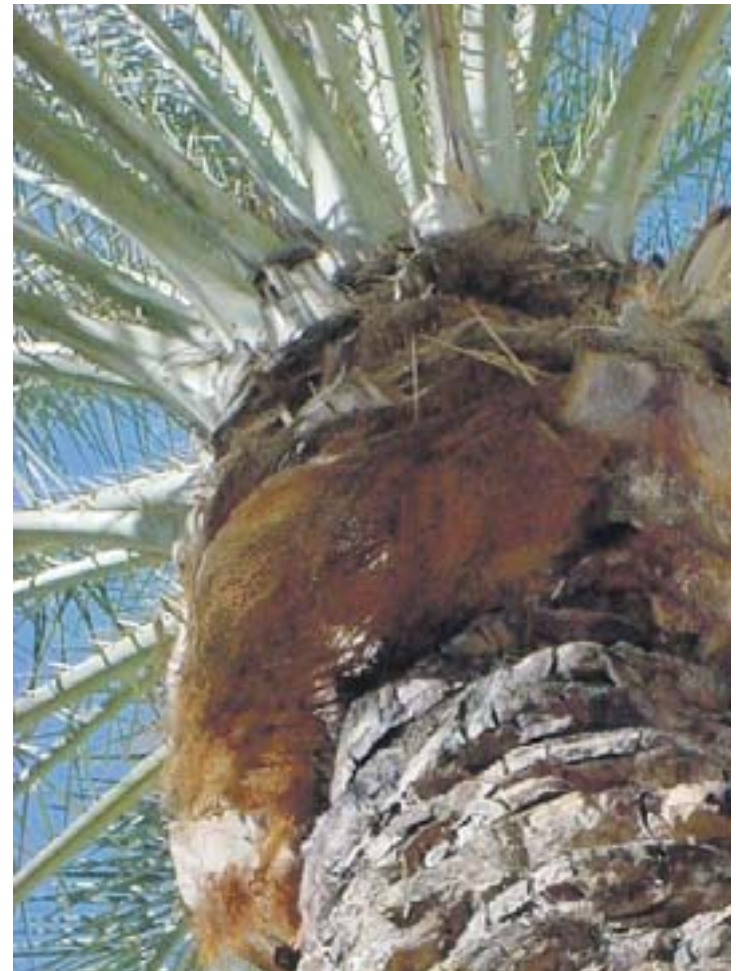
Evergreens and deciduous trees that boast beauty in every season with flowers, fruit, interesting bark, and colorful autumn foliage top my list of favorites. These trees don't block vistas. They rustle in the wind, allow sunshine through their fronds, and are complemented by a variety of undergrowth plantings. If you are looking to plant a tree you'll enjoy in every season, check out these choices:

Birch	Flowering Peach	Palm
Crab Apple	Japanese Maple	Pistache
Crepe Myrtle	Lilac	Redbud
Chestnut	Liquid Amber	Silk Tree
Dogwood	Magnolia	Tulip Tree
Flowering Cherry	Olive	Weeping Willow

A home is not complete without fruit trees. Lamorinda flourishes include pomegranate, persimmon, apple, peach, Asian pear, pear, Santa Rosa and wild plum, tangerine, Meyer and Eureka lemon, Washington orange, loquat, cherry, walnut, chestnut, fig, tangelo, mulberry, apricot, and guava.

Branch out. Be an arborist poet. Plan your planting then embrace the summer of tree love!

CYNTHIA BRIAN'S GARDENING GUIDE  
FOR JUNE on page D6



### Trees

*I think that I shall never see  
A poem lovely as a tree.  
A tree whose hungry mouth is prest  
Against the sweet earth's flowing breast;  
A tree that looks at God all day,  
And lifts her leafy arms to pray;  
A tree that may in summer wear  
A nest of robins in her hair;  
Upon whose bosom snow has lain;  
Who intimately lives with rain.  
Poems are made by fools like me,  
But only God can make a tree.  
Joyce Kilmer (1888-1918)*

*Palm trees have fascinating bark, don't block vistas, and recall paradise vacations.*

*Photos Cynthia Brian*



## Tuscan Modern Design Receives Excellence Award

... continued from page D1



According to Hetherwick Woods, the project was not an easy process. "They live in a part of Lafayette that has a lot of restrictions," she says. "From start to finish, it took close to two years." She adds that carving into a hill is never an easy task. It took a full local team to make it happen, Hetherwick Woods' husband Phillip Woods was the architect for the project, the structural engineer was Dave Murphy from Orinda, and Howard Martin from Schell Martin/Lafayette did the geotechnical work.

Hetherwick Woods has been an interior designer for approximately 20 years. She started as a partner for a San Francisco interior design company and, specializing in hotels interior design, she traveled all over the world. When her twins were born, the Orinda resident decided to change her lifestyle and started her own company, Hetherwick-Hutcheson Design, eight years ago, focusing on private residences. She partners with Carolyn Hutcheson Bried.

For more information about Hetherwick-Hutcheson Design, visit the company's website: [h-hdesign.com](http://h-hdesign.com).



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## Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for June

*"I value my garden more for being full of blackbirds than of cherries, and very frankly give them fruit for their songs."*  
Joseph Addison, essayist and poet (1672-1719)

When I arrived home to find my garden gate open and my cherry tree stripped of the bountiful almost-ripe Queen Anne's, I wasn't singing a tune. It wasn't the birds that had eaten the fruit, but a family of deer who had welcomed themselves into my back yard to dine on all my roses, fruit, and lilies. When I whined to my favorite city dwelling book editor, she emailed, "I always thought that if I ever had a garden, it would be dedicated to the dining delights of butterflies, birds, snails, rabbits, gophers, etc. Maybe a few favorite flowers guarded in glass enclosures for my visual diet." The butterflies, birds, and bunnies are welcome in my secret gardens, while the snails, gophers, etc. are invited to invade another planet. Even though I appreciate the manure the deer left behind, outside my backyard they are invited to feast. This year local intruders are in abundance so make sure to tighten the locks and be vigilant about protecting your summer harvest. The bird song is more melodious in a well-protected garden.

- FENCE areas visited by marauding deer. Although fuzzy and poisonous plants tend to be deer resistant, nothing is deer proof except a fence! (Yes, they bit off the floral spikes of my foxglove!)
- INSERT three to four, eight-foot bamboo poles straight into the ground then pull together and tie at the top to make a teepee for cucumbers, beans, melons, and other climbers.
- REPOT your crowded cymbidium orchids. Divide and share with friends and family.
- ADD a snake plant, broad sword fern, Peace lily, or rubber plant to your indoor living space for the maximum amount of natural air purifying.
- CELEBRATE the summer solstice on June 21 by including neighbors in a midweek cook out.
- REFRESH your wooden patio furniture with a splash of colorful paint or if it's teak, give it a good cleaning.
- SWING in a hammock while reading a good book.
- FREEZE cherries or blueberries to add to your iced tea.
- SURPRISE dad with a new garden tool. (Keep the receipt in case he wants to exchange it!) Happy Father's Day to all great dads!
- RESEARCH the growing habits of trees you like.
- STAKE your gladiolas before they topple.
- APPLY a final dose of high nitrogen fertilizer to everything: lawns, perennials, trees, and annuals before the heat begins.
- POUR your coffee grinds and tea leaves on acid loving plants like azaleas, rhododendrons, camellias, and fuchsias.
- CUT out dead wood from privets, boxwoods, holly, and other hedges.
- PUT on your overalls to work in your vegetable garden. Take it from the farmer in me—the more seeds you sow, the more food you'll grow.
- THIN fruits when they are the size of a penny on your overly populated trees.
- THROW your graduates a garden party and serve homemade Meyer Lemonade.

Congratulations to all the Lamorinda teens who are graduating this June and kudos to the parents and teachers who have done such an amazing job of cultivating blossoming individuals. It has been an honor and a pleasure to work with many of our community's youth through *Be the Star You Are!* charity, *Express Yourself!* radio show, *Starstyle Coaching*, and the *Teen Scene* column here in the Lamorinda Weekly. May the gardens of your life continue to fertilize and grow YOU.

Happy Gardening to You!

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*Cynthia Brian repots cymbidiums and stands under a redwood with climbing ivy.*

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### KEEPING TREES HEALTHY

Generally speaking, trees don't need us to grow. But they need our help to stay healthy and safe. Having your trees checked by an ISA arborist on a regular basis is a wise choice. As a professional we may be able to see the dangers that lurk ahead and can solve them before they can become a bigger problem or even dangerous.

So don't wait until it's too late, have a complete inspection by your local ISA Certified Arborist at Advance Tree Service and Landscaping for all your tree care needs.

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## ASK CYNTHIA: Reader Requests

Dear Cynthia:

Your column gives me great ideas and new ways to think about gardening. Thanks! I have a problem and hope you will shed some light. I read the story on the front page of the April 25th Lamorinda Weekly edition about "Moraga's Johnny Redwood Seed" with trepidation. When we moved to our Orinda house we had beautiful sunset views until a neighbor below us planted redwoods. Our view is now gone, we have little sunshine, and our landscaping has died in the shade. We are very unhappy but they refuse to cut them down. What can we do? AJ

Hello Orinda AJ:

While I admire Kevin Bernie's love of trees in the April 25th article, I don't blame you for being discouraged. I agree with you that those trees must be topped or removed. Most CC & R's, design review boards, and city ordinances provide provisions for maintaining views. Check with your city offices about the local tree regulations. If they can't help you, unfortunately, you'll probably need a lawyer and not a gardening guide.

With that said, here's a tree lesson for locals.

At the time Moraga was known as Rancho Laguna de Los Palos Colorados (Ranch of the Lake of Redwoods), Lamorinda was not a developed area. As ancient and majestic as redwoods are, and despite the fact that they are sold in most garden centers, they are not viable choices to plant in neighborhoods, unless one doesn't care about being neighborly.

Redwoods are rapid growers, adding five to seven feet per year until they eventually reach a height of 300-375 feet with a girth of twenty to thirty feet. They will outlive us, our children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, and beyond.

Redwoods block vistas and sunshine. As evergreens, they provide year round shade, limiting what will grow underneath. About a third of their limbs drop yearly and the foliage will block drains and clog drain-pipes. With shallow roots, they tend to suck nutrients out of the soil and if too near homes can destroy foundations, pathways, patios, and drive-ways. Being expensive to move, remove, or prune, redwoods were not intended for suburban yards.

Unless you live at the top of the hill with no one around and you plan on being in that location forever, think thrice before planting a redwood. In advance of digging that hole for that precious small tree that will quickly sprout to its reputation of being the tallest tree on earth, get the permission of those who live in front, behind, and next to you. They may have purchased their home for the amount of sunshine or pictorial views and paid a hefty price for that bonus. Your beloved redwoods will surely destroy everything, including the friendship, within a few short years. Landscapers tend to plant in multiples of three to five meaning that your trees have the potential to create a thirty story hedge over 150 feet wide. That is one giant fence.

With the abundance of beautiful trees available, visit redwoods where they thrive... in a redwood grove. A drive through the beautiful, yet dark dense redwood forests of Canyon provides plenty of warning of what will transpire when we plant the tallest living specimen on this planet in our lots.

I wish you and your redwood neighbors peace and good fortune.

Cynthia Brian  
The Goddess Gardener

Cynthia will answer one or two questions per issue as space allows. Email your comments or questions to [Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com](mailto:Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com)

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**31 Tarabrook Drive**  
Nature lovers paradise nr town & Bart. Wood panelling, raised beam ceilings, skylights & walls of glass. Lg fam rm. 5bd, updated kitchen, shaded patio & decks, lovely gardens.

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**50 Donna Maria Way**  
Super remodel of all rms incl dlx new kitchen w/adj fam rm + butler's pantry. Lg master suite. All high end finishes & fixtures. 1-lvl EZ access to flat lot/lawns. Walk to 12 yrs. schools.

**Offered at \$1,259,000**



**38 Mira Loma**  
Ideal 5bd/4ba 4200 sf lg fam hm w/newly remod baths & kitchen w/adj fam rm. Fun game rm, kids floor & tons of space! EZ access outdoors to new decks & lush gardens, views & privacy.

**Offered at \$1,395,000**



**83 El Gavilan Road**  
Eastern charm in spectacular setting. Lvl yd & magnificent vus. Blt in 1998, superb materials, grt natural light, hdwd flrs, gourmet kitchen, butler's pantry. Flagstone patios.

**Offered at \$1,725,000**



**6 Rich Acres Road**  
NEW, NEW, New construction on almost 1 acre amidst towering oaks, lvl lawn & lg stone patio. 5bd/5ba. Pvt gated road close to town, chefs kitchen w/adj fam rm. In-law w/LR, bd/ba.

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**65 La Espiral**  
Villa Romantica! One of OCC's finest homes. 4349 sf, 4bd/4ba on .69 acre knoll setting w/lvl lawn, saltwater pool, patios/terraces. Incredible attn to detail, numerous upper-end amenities.

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**312 Corte Gabriel**  
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**3500 Moraga Blvd.**  
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**3645 Boyer Circle**  
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**2 Wellesley Drive**  
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**1225 Monticello Road**  
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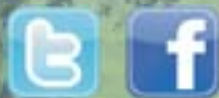
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