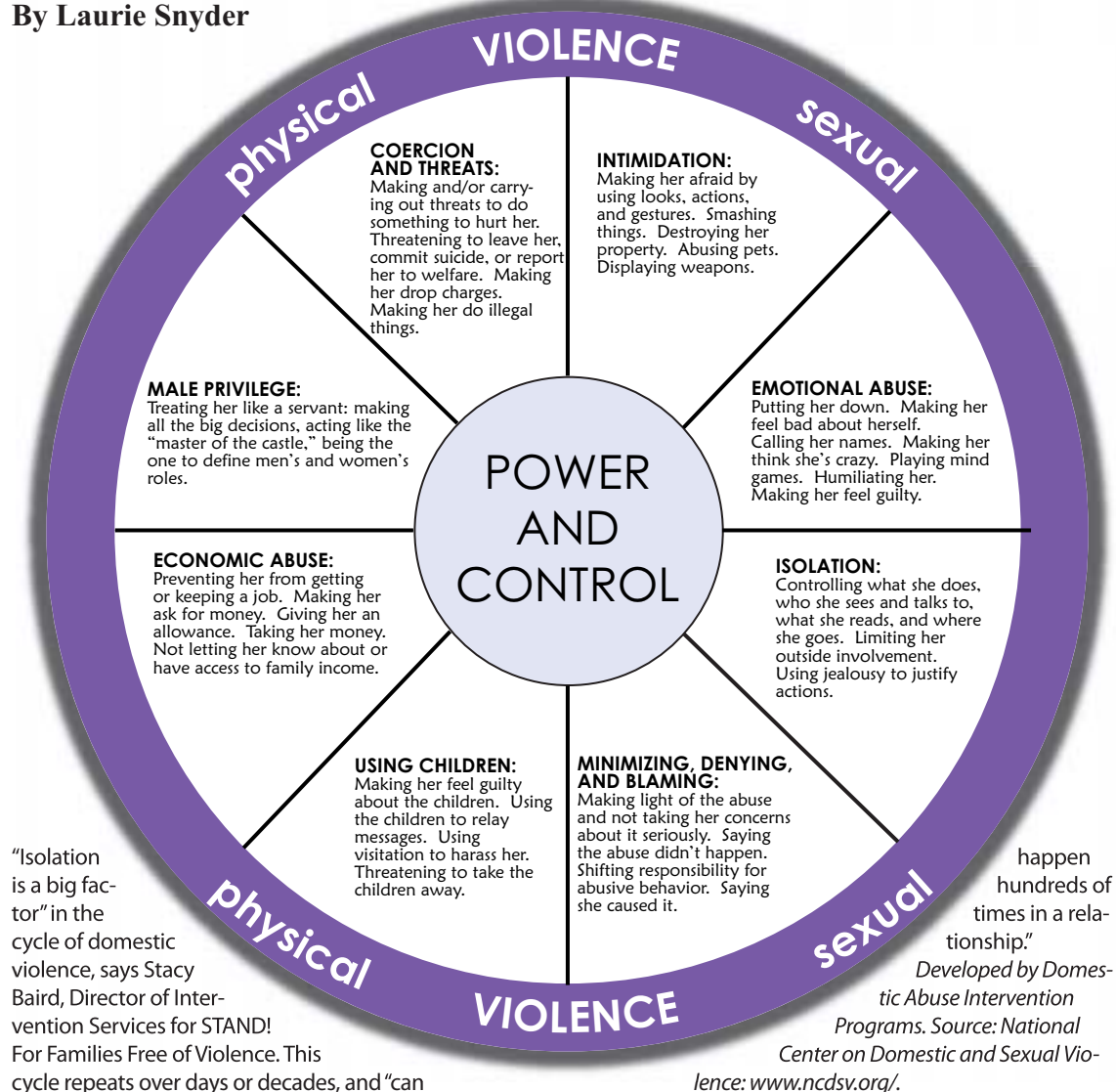


# It Doesn't Have to Be This Way - Taking a Stand Against Domestic Violence

By Laurie Snyder



An unwelcome media spotlight was turned on Lamorinda yet again this summer as news broke regarding back-to-back domestic violence incidents. Arrested for allegedly injuring his wife at their Moraga home June 25, Joseph Sienkiewicz then made a grab, during his booking, for a police officer's gun.

On June 26, Evangeline Cumbe Devera was allegedly murdered by James Collin, the Miramonte High School graduate with whom she had lived on Moraga Way for roughly 10 years. In 2006, Collin pled no contest to charges for battering Devera's head with a telephone. In 2012, his weapon was a machete.

According to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, nearly "one-third of female homicide victims ... are killed by an intimate partner" annually; a significant percentage of their batterers also physically and mentally harm children. Boys witnessing domestic violence are "twice as likely to abuse their own partners and children when they become adults."

"Even the less extreme violence ... takes its toll," says Gloria Sandoval, CEO for STAND! For Families Free of Violence. "Victims of domestic violence and children grow-

ing up in violent homes may turn to drugs or alcohol to help deal with their emotional and physical pain ... violent partners and those who are abused may neglect or behave abusively toward their children. Victims may miss work to hide injuries."

Moraga had 17 cases of domestic violence from January 2011 to June 2012, according to Moraga Police Chief Robert Priebe; partial figures for 2010 and 2009 show five and seven cases, respectively.

Lafayette has recorded 63 calls for service this year alone, and had 59 in 2011, 86 in 2010, and 85 in 2009, but it should be noted that these Contra Costa Sheriff's Office numbers combine data for domestic battery, domestic disturbances, and domestic violence.

In Orinda, 16 cases of domestic violence were reported to police in 2010, 14 in 2009, and 17 in 2008. Each call, says Orinda Vice Mayor Amy Worth, represents the impact of violence on our neighbors.

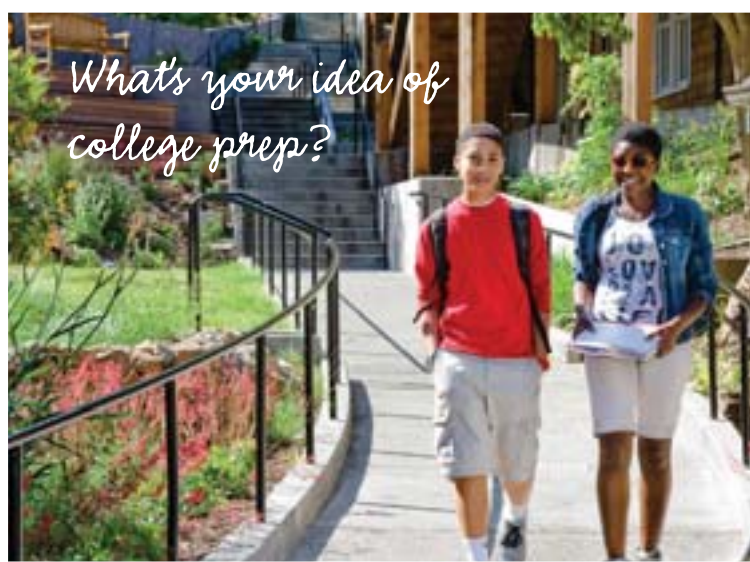
Citing national figures that one in four women and one in 13 men will experience domestic violence in their lifetimes, and young women are the most likely targets, Orinda City Council Member Victoria Smith says, "Too often we are told that because

women have, undeniably, made great progress in our society in recent decades, that we don't need to focus on issues that primarily affect women; but these statistics prove that that is just not true."

### So Why Don't Victims Just Leave?

The primary reason victims fail to seek help is fear, says Stacy Baird, STAND's Director of Intervention Services. They doubt police will believe them, and feel ashamed. "Calling the police means other people are going to know." Socioeconomic concerns are major factors - even in affluent areas like Lamorinda.

... continued on page B2



What's your idea of college prep?

### open house

Sunday, October 21  
Sunday, November 11  
Saturday, December 1

Please reserve your space by calling 510.652.4364 or visiting college-prep.org/openhouse.

We look forward to meeting you  
The College Preparatory School  
6100 Broadway Oakland CA 94618 510.652.4364 college-prep.org

### NEED HELP AT HOME?

for yourself or a loved one?  
Errands . Driving . Appointments . Shopping . Cooking  
Technology . Finances . Holiday . Pet Care . Organizing

925-285-6272

Lamorinda Comforts of Home  
LOCAL - BONDED - INSURED  
www.lamorindacomfortsofhome.com



### Providing Insurance and Financial Services

It's no accident more people trust State Farm.



Mike Rosa, Agent  
Insurance Lic. #: OF45583  
1042 Country Club Drive, Moraga  
925-376-2244



P040036 02/04 State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company (Not in NJ), Bloomington, IL



## BIG BAND

### BALL ROOM DANCE / SHOW

Veterans Memorial Building  
3780 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette

Come swing with your friends and neighbors or just watch the show!



Friday, October 19th

Dance Lessons - optional from 7 PM to 8 PM  
The dance will start at 8:00 PM  
Cocktail bar opens at 7:30 PM.  
Please join our 31 member band ages 14 to 92 and enjoy the show.

Tickets \$10 at the door  
or at the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce  
Call 284-7404

DANCE PERFORMANCES  
KIDS ACTIVITIES  
LIVE MUSIC  
LEARNING  
FOOD TRUCKS

11 A.M. - 6 P.M. SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6  
SAINT MARY'S COLLEGE OF CALIFORNIA  
1928 SAINT MARY'S ROAD, MORAGA  
yearofthegael.com



150! YEAR OF THE GAEL  
SESQUICENTENNIAL | 1863-2013

LIMITED ON-SITE PARKING. SATELLITE PARKING AND CONTINUOUS SHUTTLE SERVICES WILL BE AVAILABLE AT LAFAYETTE BART, RHEEM CENTER AND MORAGA COMMONS. LOOK FOR THE GAELERATION TENTS AT EACH OF THESE LOCATIONS. HANDICAPPED PARKING AVAILABLE ON-SITE.