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Who knows what horrors await Kenzie and Charlie Karp within Theatre Square's haunted house? Photo Ohlen Alexander, spooky eyes Amanda Griggs

The Haunting of Theatre Square

By Sophie Braccini

Beware, Orinda! Ghastly beasts and ghoulish creatures are moving into their new home at Theatre Square tonight, and they are waiting for you and your little ones. Dinner at the Square, anyone?

Conceived by Michael Karp and Victor Ivry (Table 24,

Barbacoa) and brought to you with plenty of help from the Orinda community and the support of Theatre Square owner GLL Real Estate Partners, Orinda's own haunted house is located on the ground floor at the northwest side of the Square.

The dark dwelling's design was informed by the experience of Orinda resident David Zimmerman, who used to build a haunted house at his home every year. Volunteers were also mobilized from different parts of the community.

... continued on page A14

Quote of the Week:

"Remember to vote on November 6..."
 Read Letters to the Editor, pages A8-A12

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LAMORINDA

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Moraga Farmers' Market Top 10 in the U.S.

By Sophie Braccini



Gail Hayden cuts the cake

Photos Andy Schreck

The Moraga Farmers' Market threw a party on a recent sunny Sunday. Gail and Doug Hayden of the California Farmers' Market Association, which manages the Moraga market, brought sparkling grape juice and very large cakes to share with patrons October 12. The occasion was the announcement of the American Farmland Trust's national contest results in which the Moraga Farmers' Market won 10th place in the nation in the mid-size market category, coming in second only to Aptos for all farmers' markets of any size in California.

Since 2004 the Moraga Farmers' Market has met with great success—residents come for fresh produce and much more, including a sense of community. As a result, many residents voted last August in support of their favorite market on

the American Farmland Trust website.

"We're celebrating this beautiful market," said Gail Hayden. "It's special in many ways; it's a year-round market, and the average distance food travels to reach Moraga is 91 miles. It is nice to buy local and support local agriculture."

The idea of the market came up during a discussion between Hayden and uncle Nick Aviani who lives in Moraga. The retired gentleman told Hayden that the town needed a farmers' market. Hayden got together with local community groups and the owner of the Moraga Center Shopping Center, Joan Bruzzone.

As she is on most Sundays, Bruzzone was at the Market that day as well. "I am so proud of this market and so glad it brings people

together," she said. "Cities that don't have them miss this element of community building, it's an opportunity to get together on Sunday and see friends."

Nick and June Aviani are also regulars at the Farmers' Market and they were there to celebrate and get their fresh fruits and vegetables along with hundreds of market-goers from Moraga and beyond.

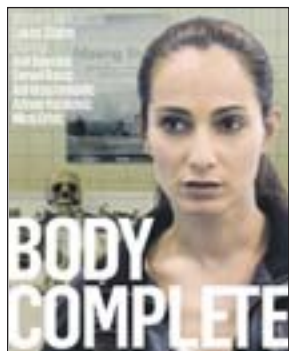


Nick Aviani

Life in Lamorinda B1-B12

Coming Soon: Film Fest!

CAIFF returns to Lamorinda Theatres. Laurie Snyder reports. Page B1



Sports C1-C3

Water Polo Rivals Face Off

Marissa Harnett has the story. Page C2



Our Homes D1-D8

Fire Pits and Fiery Tables: The New Hot Items for the Back Yard

Cathy Tyson stays warm on chilly autumn nights. Page D1



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"Thank you to the many people who have supported my campaign by posting signs, hosting campaign events, sending emails or making a financial contribution. I truly appreciate all your efforts.

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Please vote for Traci Reilly for Lafayette City Council on November 6th.



Paid for by Traci Reilly for Lafayette City Council 2012 - Christine Wang, Treasurer, P.O. Box 1744, Lafayette, CA 94549 - Campaign ID# 1349317



Public Meetings

City Council

Tuesday, November 13, 7:00 pm
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd

Planning Commission

Monday, November 5, 7:00 pm
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd

Design Review

Tuesday, November 13, 7:00 pm
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Arts & Science Discovery Center,
3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

School Board Meetings

Acalanes Union High School District

Wednesday, November 7, 7:30 pm
Board Room AUHSD Office
1212 Pleasant Hill Rd, Lafayette
www.acalanes.k12.ca.us

Lafayette School District

Wednesday, November 14, 7:00 pm
Regular Board Meeting
LAFSD Office
3477 School Street, Lafayette
www.lafsd.k12.ca.us

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

City of Lafayette:

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

Chamber of Commerce:

www.lafayettechamber.org

No on Roundabout, Yes on Intermittent Medians

By Cathy Tyson

A standing-room-only crowd filled the Community Hall to hear the Lafayette City Council discuss a controversial proposed roundabout for the intersection of Mt. Diablo Boulevard and Golden Gate Way. In a public hearing that ran until almost midnight, citizens made it loud and clear that they didn't like the idea of a large landscaped circle in the middle of Mt. Diablo that narrowed the existing two lanes in each direction to one, forcing drivers to slow down.

This topic has been examined in meetings with the Circulation Commission and Planning Commission. Although the proposed roundabout meets goals set forward by city staff, it was uniformly not popular with residents. Despite data indicating that traffic capacity is a non-issue, the perception was that it would cause congestion. Reid Middleton, Inc., an engineering and surveying firm, provided an analysis of the roundabout concluding that if installed, the roundabout would operate at an "A" level of service – the top tier of a six-level grading system. Tony Coe, City Engineering Services Manager summarized in his staff report: "Hard data and fact suggest that the roundabout

will have minimal impacts to the intersection's capacity to handle traffic well into the future. In this case, moderating vehicle speeds clearly does not translate to debilitating congestion."

City staff proposed the roundabout because it was determined to be the best solution to address three goals: restore pedestrian ability to cross Mt. Diablo safely, moderate traffic speeds, and transform the auto-dominant streetscape design to a pedestrian-scale that supports development in the area. With construction crews busy working on two nearby senior housing projects – Merrill Gardens and Eden Housing - in the very near future there will be a large increase in the number of elders in the immediate neighborhood. It's likely that many of those seniors will want to cross the street at some point to visit shops and the pathway on the south side of Mt. Diablo.

Negative reaction spilled onto the internet—an unspecified "coalition of neighborhood homeowner associations" in Lafayette even put up a website called NoRoundabout.org detailing their opposition. They felt a roundabout isn't necessary at the wide open straight-away section of Mt. Di-

ablo and would slow emergency response times and create traffic congestion.

"If it's not broke, don't fix it," said the initial speaker of a parade of citizens who felt compelled to comment. Don Good followed, calling the proposed roundabout an "albatross" and in his opinion, "senior citizens as pedestrians just doesn't make sense."

The alternative, intermittent medians between First Street and Brown Avenue are clearly more popular than the proposed roundabout - using landmarks that would be from the new Library to just past the Forge and Bo's Barbecue. There are existing landscaped medians, complete with twin-

kle lights for the holidays in the center of town; this proposal would just extend them farther on the east end.

The City Council ultimately voted unanimously against the roundabout, and city staff was directed to work on engineering and design that would combine two alternatives that reconfigure the intersection of Golden Gate Way and Mt. Diablo, along with intermittent medians as part of the East End Pedestrian Bike and Streetscape Improvement Project. Once an engineering and design report is complete, it will come back to the City Council for more discussion and possible approval.

Who's Watering the Plants?

In exploring medians – several property owners on the east end complained that the City no longer takes care of planting on their street frontage facing Mt. Diablo Boulevard. The City Council asked staff to analyze ownership of street front parcels from First Street to the Lafayette Park Hotel. The City used to water private landscaping, but a few years ago Public Works Services Manager Ron Lefler was directed to trim his budget, just like other city departments in collective belt-tightening, and he sent out letters to property owners stating that, going forward, the City will only be watering municipal landscaping. City staff will prepare an inventory of city owned right-of-way areas and present it to the Council at a later date with maintenance and beautification options.

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Saturday, Nov. 10
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Police Report



Week of October 7-13, 2012

Accidents:

- 10/7 Pleasant Hill/Springhill
- 10/8 Hwy 24/Oak Hill
- 10/9 Hampton Rd/Mt Diablo.
- 10/10 1200 block Pleasant Hill
- 10/13 Mt Diablo/Pleasant Hill

Burglary/Theft:

- 10/7 100 block Lafayette Cr. (bicycle)
- 3500 block Mt. Diablo Bl. (bicycle)
- 3300 block Mt. Diablo Bl.
- 10/9 3600 block Mt. Diablo Bl. (shoplift)
- 3600 block Mt. Diablo Bl.
- 10/10 800 block Acalanes Rd.
- 10/11 3400 block Mt. Diablo Bl. 100 block Fiesta Ln. (recovered stolen veh.)
- 10/12 600 block Sky Hy Cr. (ID theft)
- 3500 block Mt. Diablo Bl. (shoplift)
- 10/13 Olympic/Pleasant Hill (auto burglary)
- 3500 block Mt. Diablo Bl.
- 900 block Moraga Rd. (shoplift)
- 100 block Carolyn Ct. (forgery)

Drugs:

3300 block Mt. Diablo Bl.

Emergency Equipment Responding:

- 10/8 900 block Village Ctr.
- 10/9 1200 block Summit Rd. 3100 block Sweetbrier Cr. 3300 block Kincheloe Ct.
- 10/10 1100 block Vacation Dr. 4100 block Hidden Valley Rd. 900 block Dewing Ave. 3700 block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- 10/11 3400 block Shangri La Rd.
- 10/12 3400 block Shangri La Rd. 3300 block Mt. Diablo Bl.
- 10/13 100 block Camino Ct. 3200 block Stanley Bl.

Public nuisance:

- 10/11 Santa Maria Wy/St. Marys 3600 block Baker Ln. 3200 block Withers Av. 1000 block Windsor Dr.
- 10/12 Black hawk Rd/Springhill Rd.
- 10/13 700 block Glenside Cr (promiscuous shooting)

Suspicious

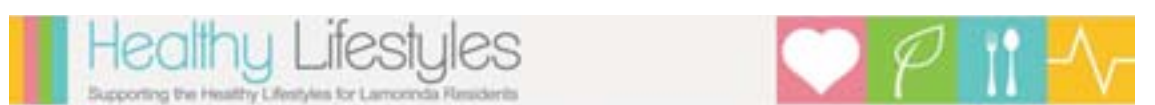
vehicle/circumstance/subject:
20 reports between 10/7/12 and 10/13/12

Traffic Stops

Over 26 traffic stops logged

Vandalism:

- 10/9 1000 block Orchard Rd
- 10/11 3900 block Franklin Ln 3600 block Walnut St. 1000 block 2nd St.



Health Fair
Monday, November 5, 2012
5:00pm – 7:00pm
Oakwood Athletic Club

Twenty health and wellness providers will assemble to meet and serve our community in a free public information and service health fair. This is a chance for community members to talk about their health concerns and meet providers that can assist them in their quest for a healthier life!

www.HealthyLamorinda.com

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Healthy Lifestyles is a partnership of the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce, LamorindaWeb and Behymer & Steel Family Chiropractic. For more information, contact Dr. Jeremy Steel at Behymer & Steel Family Chiropractic at (925) 284-5582 or visit www.HealthyLamorinda.com.



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Reservoir Run Welcomes Mascot

Come for the run, stay for the pancakes, look for the gator

By Cathy Tyson



Last year's 2K run

Photo Andy Scheck



solved mystery.”

Because it's not the Chamber's first run, although arguably its first 'gator hunt, Lifson, along with scores of volunteers, know just how to make the event run smoothly—with staggered start times to ensure there's not a crush of humanity surging forward from the starting line.

Participants from serious runners to families and their four-legged friends can choose the two mile Run for Fun at 8 a.m., the 5K certified race at 8:30 a.m. or the 10K certified run at 8:45 a.m. As always, this event is a fundraiser that benefits local schools and an opportunity to burn off some pre-Halloween candy calories before the actual holiday.

Look for thousands of participants and spectators, along with detours around Mt. Diablo Boulevard, and pancakes thanks to volunteer chefs from the Rotary Club. Registration is available online at www.active.com, in person at the Lafayette Chamber office or at Oakwood Athletic Club. Folks deciding at the last minute can just show up early on race day and find the registration desk. For more information, go to www.lafayettechamber.org.

Now in its 20th year, Lafayette's famous exercise-based moveable block party will be back in action this coming Sunday, October 28. This year's theme is all about the alleged alligator spotted more than three decades ago in the reservoir.

Although several visitors reported seeing the creature way back when, no stray alligator was ever found. Nevertheless, Lafayette Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Jay Lifson says, "We honor this large reptile by making him this year's mascot for the 20th Anniversary of the Reservoir Run. Alligators can live up to 75 years. It's about time we daylight this 'un-

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SOLD!

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Moraga Civic News

Public Meetings

Town Council

Wednesday, October 24, 7:00 pm
 Wednesday, November 13, 7:00 pm
 Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School,
 1010 Camino Pablo

Planning Commission

Monday, November 5, 7:00 pm
 Moraga Library, 1500 Saint Marys Rd

Design Review

Monday, October 29, 7:00 pm
 Moraga Library, 1500 Saint Marys Rd

School Board Meeting

Moraga School District

Tuesday, November 13, 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

Underage slightly drunk driving, 10/13/12 At just after midnight, a car with a broken license plate lamp was pulled over in front of the Rheem Shopping Center. Cops found that the 20-year-old driver smelled like alcohol. After some field sobriety tests, his blood alcohol content was found to be .013%, substantially under the .08% that defines drunk driving, but he was under twenty-one, so he was ticketed.

Bike theft, 10/13/12 Sometime between 4 p.m. and 5 p.m. a girl's Trek mountain bike was taken from a Ross Drive front porch. Estimated value is \$100.

Keyed front car door, 10/13/12 A brand new Infinity JX35 was parked on Walford Drive near Rimer Drive between 6:30 p.m. and 11 p.m. when someone keyed the front passenger door and spit at the door's glass window. Estimated damage roughly \$500. No witnesses or leads at this time, but it sounds like someone has anger issues.

Stolen campaign signs, 10/09/12 Nineteen of twenty negative political signs about a particular Town Council candidate were stolen from various locations around town. Value of the signs is approximately \$130. A police report was requested to document the theft.

Razor blade through window, 10/09/12 While the vehicle's owner was attending a Moraga School Board meeting at Joaquin Moraga School someone wedged a razor blade into the passenger window of the parked car. No damage was done to car, but the victim requested documentation.

Same night, same place, more vandalism, 10/09/12 Sometime after 5:55 p.m. a superficial, six-inch long scratch was etched in a School Board member's car while it was parked at Joaquin Moraga School. There was no evidence to suggest the damage was intentional or accidental.



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Cows Grazing on Our Hills: A Century-Old Affair

By Sophie Braccini



Photo Andy Scheck

Moraga is not India, but cows are sacred here; they herald the semi-rural character that the Town and most of its residents view with

pride. John Hoover and his family have raised cattle in Moraga for more than a century— his cows have grazed along Mulholland Ridge since the late '70s. "We've been raising cattle in the town of Moraga since 1910," said Hoover. "I've been here all my life."

On October 10, the Moraga Town Council renewed its contract with Hoover for two more years, allowing his cattle to continue grazing at the Mulholland Open Space Preserve.

The cows provide a way to keep the grass low on the hills. "We also provide fire breaks that we dig with our tractors, and we keep up the fences," said Hoover. He also added two new water sources for his animals that serve wildlife as well.

Hoover said that he and his crew are happy to educate children about the cows when they walk on the trails and ask questions. "We make sure that the cows are gentle," said Hoover during the meeting. Walnut Creek residents got their city to ban cattle grazing in town, arguing that the animals were dangerous. "If a cow shows signs of being mean, I remove it and put it in a pasture that is not a public agency," said Hoover.

Council Member Dave Trotter commented that he heard Moraga grass was the best in the area. "Moraga grass has a lot of late growth," confirmed Hoover, "and it can reach 24 inches high. We really appreciate being able to graze here."

Political Signs Politically Correct?

By Sophie Braccini



Photo Sophie Braccini

Getting a bit overwhelmed by signs?

They're everywhere. During election season they're like mushrooms after the rain; they seem to sprout spontaneously at night out of the most fertile electorate ground, especially at roadway intersections.

It may interest you to learn, though, that strictly speaking, these signs are not legal.

The Moraga sign ordinance indicates that political signs can be set at election time on public land; but California code specifies that, to be lawful, a sign ordinance has to be 'content neutral', not setting specific rules based on what the sign says, ruling just on its size, luminosity, location, etcetera.

However, it's likely that residents would be displeased if Town employees spent their time removing signs. So the Town looks the other way, at least for a month or so, as candidates freely redecorate the town. And sometimes, things get a bit rough.

Recently signs urging residents to remove Council Member Karen Mendonca from office appeared alongside her own campaign signs—they were swiftly removed by an unknown person or persons. The resident who put up the signs, Doug Home, came to a recent Town Council meeting to notify his elected representatives that his 20 signs had gone missing. "I strongly support your right to post any sign you want," said Mendonca.

Share your thoughts, insights and opinions with your community.

Send a letter to the editor:

letters@lamorinda weekly.com



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Saint Mary's College Appeals Ruling on Lights at Night

By Sophie Braccini

Regular readers may recall last issue's article headlined "College Must Shed Less Light on Neighbors" that discussed the Town's decision to require that Saint Mary's College (SMC) turn off the lights at its intramural sports field at 9 p.m. instead of 10 p.m. largely due to complaints from neighbors. As anticipated, on October 15 the Town of Moraga received a letter from Michael Beseda, SMC Vice President for College Communications, indicating that the College was appealing the October 1 decision.

In the letter, Beseda wrote that the reason for the appeal is, "The reduction in hours inhibits the College's ability to provide co-curricular opportunities vital to its educational programs and its mission of serving the mind, body and spirit of all students."

Planning Director Shawna Brekke Read confirmed that the Town Council will hold a public hearing regarding this issue during its November 14 meeting; the Council will not discuss or consider the appeal prior to that meeting.

Are You In?

By Sophie Braccini

It's a cute movie and with a running time of one minute and 42 seconds it's not long enough to even make a dent in your popcorn. It has a simple message: Moraga, Are You In?

The snappy production, which is the Moraga Education Foundation's (MEF) latest effort to reach out to the community, will be shown before every movie presented in the digitally-equipped auditorium of the New Rheem Theatre starting in November. Can't wait that long? Eager viewers can visit moragaeducation.org for a private screening on their own devices.

There are no movie stars in the lit-

tle film. "This was all intentional," says MEF President Kim Matranga. "We wanted a new look so people will watch. The graphic images, rather than people, are really popular and are even used in political campaigns. We also wanted it short, so people can watch to the end and get the call to action before they tune out." The animation is fresh and charming, and the sound track helps capture the viewer's attention.

MEF is looking to broaden its base in the hope that more businesses and residents who are not currently parents may be willing to help support Moraga's schools.

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- Financial stability**
- Minimum government**
- Moraga values**



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L to R: Anne Knight, Jaime Roder, Altie Schmitt & Shannon Conner



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Orinda Civic News

Public Meetings

City Council

Wednesday, November 7, 7:00 pm
Auditorium, Orinda Library,
26 Orinda Way

Planning Commission

Tuesday, November 13, at 7:00 pm
Auditorium, Orinda Library,
26 Orinda Way

Traffic Safety Advisory Committee (TSAC)

Monday, November 19 at 7:00 pm
Community Room, City Hall,
22 Orinda Way

School Board Meeting

Orinda Union School District

Monday, November 5, 6:00 pm
OUSD Office
25 Orinda Way, Suite 200
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:

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Orinda City Council Candidates Spar Over Downtown Development, MOFD

By Laurie Snyder



Current Mayor Steve Glazer and City Council Member Victoria Robinson Smith listen as challenger Linda Delehunt answers a question at the October 11 Orinda City Council candidate debate. Photo Ohlen Alexander

The small audience at the October 11 City Council candidate debate learned the basics of how Orinda's road repairs are prioritized and about the City's 10-year, four-phase plan to improve those thoroughfares. But it was the discussion between incumbents Steve Glazer and Victoria Smith and challenger Linda Delehunt regarding Moraga-Orinda Fire District (MOFD) op-

erations and potential changes to the character of the City's downtown that provided glimpses of what may be in store for Orindans in the future.

Delehunt, Glazer and Smith discussed the City's General Plan, and what would be appropriate for Orinda's commercial development.

When asked what might be added to the current business mix,

Glazer explained that Orinda's "General Plan says that retail should be resident-serving, not necessarily as regional attractions," but to "provide for things that our residents would like to shop for nearby." He likes Orinda's existing restaurants, but agreed that a specialty market, bakery, or other offerings might be well received.

"You know, I've been so envi-

ous of Lafayette's - their situation," said Delehunt, "growing and putting nice things here and there...I've lived here 32 years, and I'm just kind of demoralized, frankly. I feel that we really need to grow up and look like Danville.... And I think what we put in our City is dependent on what the community wants."

There are, said Smith, "a lot of things to admire in our neighboring communities ... but I think the important thing to remember ... is that Danville had a redevelopment agency. That's what built those streets and those shopping centers ... they were willing to say that they had blight in their downtown. They formed a redevelopment agency, which drew money away from their special districts and from their schools, which I don't think people in Orinda would ever have supported ... we need to look at what works for Orinda."

Smith noted that "all of our retail space together is less than one medium-sized Target store... We have what we have, which is a gem in a small city."

... continued on page A13

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ORINDA POLICE
Police Report

Joint effort yields successful warrant arrest, 9/6/12 Police Chief Jeffrey Jennings announced the

September 6 warrant arrest of an Orinda man for failure to comply with the terms of a domestic restraining order. Jennings said the subject allegedly brandished a weapon at a woman. Orinda police, with assistance from Lafayette and Moraga police, arrested him on the grounds of his residence, where they discovered he was in possession of multiple weapons, needles and illegal steroids. A \$500,000 bail was set; the subject posted bail and is no longer in custody. Jennings said the case is ongoing, and credits his staff with good police work and his Lafayette and Moraga

police counterparts with full cooperation.

Warrant arrest, 10/12/2012 A 22-year-old male was arrested in Orinda on an outstanding warrant filed with Contra Costa Superior Court. His vehicle was towed and stored, and he was transported to and booked at Martinez Detention Facility. Bail was set at \$15,000.

Gone in 75 minutes, 10/15/12 The owner of a '94 Civic probably didn't intend to walk as much when he parked his car along Bryant Way mid-day, but when he returned after

an hour or so, it was gone. There are no suspects or leads at this time.

Walking under the influence, 10/16/12 He may have had his thumb out, but he probably couldn't touch his fingertip to his nose. Police found a 35-year-old intoxicated male trying to hitch hike in traffic along Moraga Way near Glorietta Blvd. He was taken into custody, transported to Martinez Detention Facility and booked. His blood alcohol tested 0.198.

We're Voting to Re-elect Victoria Smith to Orinda City Council



"As a Council Member, Victoria works tirelessly to hear all sides and build consensus."
—Dean Orr, Orinda City Council

"I appreciate Victoria's work in support of small business and the Chamber of Commerce."
—Janet Boretta, Orinda Books

"Victoria and I have worked together to enhance safe routes to schools, new and improved playing fields and recreation for our students."
—Matt Moran, Chair, OUSD

"Victoria respects Orinda's small town community and history, while looking for ways to improve services and amenities."
—Bobbie Landers, Former Mayor

"I worked with Victoria on improving walkways and traffic safety around our schools, and I couldn't be happier to support her re-election to City Council!"
—Shannon Fuller, Former Parks and Recreation Commissioner

Elected Officials

Congressman George Miller, 7th District of California
Ellen Tauscher, Undersecretary of State, Former Congresswoman
Tom Torlakson, California State Superintendent of Public Instruction
Mark DeSaulnier, State Senator, 7th District
Nancy Skinner, Assembly Member 14th District
Joan Buchanan, Assembly Member 15th District
Steve Glazer, Orinda Mayor
Amy Worth, Orinda Vice Mayor
Dean Orr, Orinda City Council Member
Laura Abrams, Former Orinda Mayor
Joyce Hawkins, Former Orinda Mayor
Bill Judge, Former Orinda Mayor
Bobbie Landers, Former Orinda Mayor
Allan Tabor, Former Orinda Mayor
Gregg Wheatland, Former Orinda Mayor
Tyson Krumholz, Orinda Union School District Board Member
Matt Moran, Chair, Orinda Union School District Board Member
Julie Rossiter, Orinda Union School Board Member
Pat Rudebusch, Orinda Union School District Board Member
Jack Bontemps, Former Orinda Union School District Board Member
Linda Landau, Former Orinda Union School District Board Member
Jean T. Lyford, Former Orinda Union School District Board Member
Susie Epstein, Acalanes Union High School District Board Member
John Wyro, Moraga-Orinda Fire District Board Member
Steve Anderson, Moraga-Orinda Fire District Board Member-Elect
Alex Evans, Moraga-Orinda Fire District Board Member-Elect
Eugene Gottfried, Former Moraga-Orinda Fire District Board Member
Brook Mancinelli, Former Moraga-Orinda Fire District Board Member
Dick Olsen, Former Moraga-Orinda Fire District Board Member
Pete Wilson, Former Moraga-Orinda Fire District Board Member
Robert Campbell, Contra Costa County Auditor-Controller
Tomi Van de Brook, President-Contra Costa Community College District
Gail Murray, BART Board of Directors
Katy Foulkes, East Bay Municipal Utility District Board Member
David Livingston, Sheriff, Contra Costa County
Richard Rainey, Former Contra Costa County Sheriff/ State Senator
Sue Rainey, Former Mayor, City of Walnut Creek

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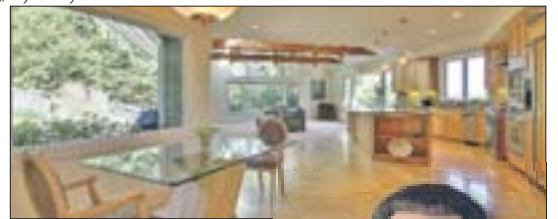
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Orinda School Board Candidates Discuss Key Issues

By Laurie Snyder



Jason Lurie, Sarah Genn Butler, and Matt Moran (left to right) engaged in thoughtful, civil debate at the October 15 school board candidate debate. Photo Ohlen Alexander

Three of the four candidates running for the Orinda Union School Board engaged in thoughtful dialogue October 15 before a crowd of parents, community members, and school district personnel. The fourth candidate, Bekki Gilbert, was unable to participate due to a family emergency. Ann Flynn of the League of Women Voters, Diablo Valley served as the moderator.

Each candidate identified school funding as the greatest challenge to be addressed by the school board over the next two years, and urged voters to pass both Propositions 30 and 38. All three demonstrated their understanding of the impact California's budget situation is likely to have on Orinda's schools if those ballot measures fail. (Read a related article on page B3.)

Sarah Genn Butler stated she is focusing on Proposition 30 because it is what was agreed upon when the State budget passed in June. The budget was, she pointed out, approved with a shortfall and is "dependent on the tax initiative, which is what we now have as Proposition 30. If Prop 30 doesn't pass, it's \$6 billion in cuts, and \$5 billion of that is from education.... If Prop 38 were to pass and Prop 30 failed... we'd still have trigger cuts."

Asked how to address any resulting million dollar cut to the District's budget, Jason Lurie said OUSD has made cuts all along the way since 2007-08. "The District runs pretty lean. I don't want to see us forfeit what makes our District so terrific... I'd like to look at revenue enhancement options, such as potentially another parcel tax. Nobody wants to pay more in taxes. I certainly don't, but I would support it for our kids." As for cuts, he said those should be a collaborative effort.

... continued on page A13

More Orinda Civic News on Page A13

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- AUHSD Sue Stauffer Friends of Education 2012 Award, Measure A Citizen's Oversight Committee

Note: Endorsed by the Chair of the CA Assembly Education Committee, Assemblymember Joan Buchanan

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Not pictured -
Atussa Valenti

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Ted Streeter | Michele McKay | Tom Stack | Nancy Stryker | Susan Schlicher | Elena & Larry Hood | Steve Stahle | Nancy Booth | Corey Wilson
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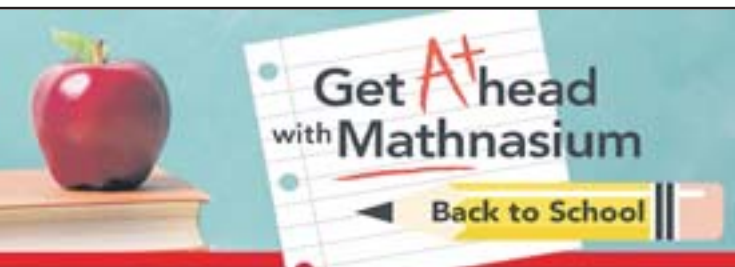


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Letters to the Editor

✉

Share your thoughts with our community! Opinions in Letters to the Editor are the express views of the writer and not necessarily those of the Lamorinda Weekly. All published letters will include the writer's name and city/town of residence -- we will only accept letters from those who live in, or own a business in, the communities comprising Lamorinda (please give us your phone number for verification purposes only). Letters should be 350 words or less; letters of up to 500 words will be accepted on a space-available basis.
email: letters@lamorindaweekly.com; Regular mail: Lamorinda Weekly, P.O.Box 6133, Moraga, CA 94570

Editor:
I commend Ryan Andresen for not hiding the fact that he was gay when applying for the rank of Eagle Scout. Although the Boy Scouts' twisted anti-gay policy is largely ignored and looked down upon by most involved, I look forward to the day when job applicants, athletes, and those deserving other honors will not feel they need to hide their sexual orientation before applying for what they deserve.

David Finger
Orinda

Editor:
Sunday we had the second traffic death in recent memory on Pleasant Hill Road. The stretch of road between Springhill Elementary School and Acalanes High School is often congested and now has become deadly. When not congested it is used as a high speed alternative to 680. A regional agency (like ABAG) declared Pleasant Hill Road a "Route of Regional Significance." There are street signs directing drivers to use Pleasant Hill Rd. as an alternative to the freeway.
Now the City Council wants to put over 300 units of affordable housing on this stretch of road. Town houses are already being built on the South side of Highway 24. An impact report is not necessary to realize the added traffic will make Pleasant Hill Road much worse and more dangerous for the children who use it daily getting to and from Springhill Elementary and Acalanes High School.
Think also about the people in the units. Low income renters would benefit greatly from access to public transportation and shopping. The site is isolated, at least two miles from BART and shops. A far more attractive location for affordable housing would be close to BART and walking distance to shopping along Mt Diablo in the downtown area. There are usable lots across from BART on Deer Hill Rd. With better planning we can reduce traffic, traffic fatalities and live lives with less environmental impact.

Sincerely,
Hercules Christofides
Lafayette

LAFAYETTE ELECTIONS

Editor:
The retirements of Carol Federighi and Carl Anduri from the Lafayette City Council will leave big holes to fill. Each has served for more than 12 years and left lasting and positive marks on Lafayette. I value them highly as colleagues. Please thank them for their service.
Five qualified candidates are pursuing three council seats available in November. I ask you to join me in supporting Traci Reilly and Mark Mitchell as new council members, and Vice Mayor Mike Anderson for election to his third term.
Traci has served on the Crime Prevention Commission for eight years, most of those as chair. I got to know Traci when she and I co-chaired the Measure P campaign several years ago and I attest that she never rests while pursuing a goal. She played a key role in creating Lafayette's solicitor ordinance, which requires solicitors trying to sell things by going door-to-door to register with the police. Her three children keep her very involved in the school community. In a city that relies on council members to work in addition to make decisions, Traci is more than up to the challenge.
Mark has been on the Planning Commission for 10 years including a year as chair. Having lived in Lafayette for 50 years, he has watched our community evolve, mostly for the best but sometimes not. He recognizes that changes, once implemented, are hard to reverse, and takes a cautious approach to many development proposals. That outlook, coupled with his financial background, helps ensure that Lafayette will remain the community that we all like.
Mike has served with distinction, helping to formulate the recently adopted Downtown Specific Plan, create the successful Hillside and Ridgeline Ordinance, and create annual budgets that are sustainable with current resources. Mike has an excellent understanding of, in his words, "What makes Lafayette, Lafayette." I feel privileged to have served with him during the past eight years.
Remember to vote on November 6 and please join me in supporting Mike Anderson, Mark Mitchell, and Traci Reilly for City Council.

Don Tatzin
Lafayette

Editor:
One of Lafayette's not so "hidden" treasures is the strong public-private partnership bolstering our local schools, as evidenced by the long-time involvement of Lafayette's leaders, businesses and

residents alike.
Our family believes this tradition will be continued with the addition of Jean Follmer and Quinlan Tom to the Lafayette School Board and Traci Reilly to the Lafayette City Council.
Jean has been a steadfast advocate for Lafayette public schools since she moved here in 2007. A staunch supporter and product of public schools herself, Jean has attended more school board meetings than most have or will in their lifetime. She has served tirelessly at the Springhill School, LPIE (formerly LASF) and District levels with a remarkable gift of leading by example. She asks tough questions and is a keen, analytical thinker. Jean works to help affect change at the state-wide level, in order to get to the root of the funding problems of public education in California.
Quinlan believes passionately in Lafayette's public schools. He, like many of us, moved to Lafayette for the outstanding education they provide and is committed to giving back on behalf of his two children. Quinlan has shown through his leadership at Lafayette Elementary, Stanley and LPIE that he is deeply committed to working on behalf of Lafayette's children.
Traci's commitment to thoughtful, smart growth and her understanding of the potential impacts of development on the community and schools will enable her to make prudent decisions on behalf of the entire community. Her term as legislative representative on the Lafayette PTA board highlighted her aptitude of the effects of state legislation at the school and community level. She, along with Quinlan and Jean, will only enhance the strong existing relationship between our town and schools, through continued dialogue and collaboration.
We have had the distinct pleasure of working alongside Jean, Quinlan and Traci through various school, district and city-related efforts over the years and wholeheartedly endorse all three of them. We hope you will join us by voting for Jean Follmer and Quinlan Tom for Lafayette School Board and Traci Reilly for Lafayette City Council in November.

Suzy Pak & Mark Gundacker
Lafayette

Editor:
I would like to convey my recommendation for Nancy Wallace for the Lafayette School Board. I met Nancy and her family 7 years ago. We have worked together doing grant writing for the education foundation she created for Lafayette children (SEED).
Nancy's passion for children and education is so apparent in the leadership and direction she has demonstrated in the roles she's played in the Lafayette community: At Diablo Valley Montessori where she was re-elected President of the School Board for five years when her children were young, at Springhill Elementary on the PFC Executive Committee for three years and most importantly, at the district level for the past seven years, where she served on the Parent Advisory Board to the Director of Students Services, co-created the District Grant Writing Committee and founded SEED. She is a regular attendee at School Board meetings and is familiar with issues facing our district from pre-school through 8th grade. Nancy's vision is a world class education for all our children. Nancy believes we need to remain technologically current, provide meaningful differentiation in the classroom, create consistency in curriculum across grade and develop a cohesive and fully coordinated curriculum from kindergarten through 8th grade.
California's education system used to be the envy of America. Now, California is ranked 47 out of the 50 states in educational funding. Our District has experienced severe budget cuts over the past few years. In order to keep our schools top rated and preserve our homes' property values, parents have been asked to increase the amount of money they contribute to our children's education through auctions, LPIE and PTA/PFC donations. We've also instituted parcel taxes to make up for the shortfalls. However, we need to look for alternative ways to raise money as well, and Nancy has proven experience finding creative funding resources. Her foundation has raised almost \$60K over two years, mainly through grants and has tapped into local resources such as Whole Foods' nickels for non-profits to help fund education in our District. Nancy's professional background as an attorney and actuary make her a perfect fit for managing our district's budget in these uncertain economic times.

Sincerely,
Carol Yee
Lafayette

... Letters to the Editor continued on page A9, A10, A11 and A12

Letters to the Editor
... continued

Editor,
I am writing in support of Nancy Wallace for Lafayette School Board. I met Nancy eight years ago on the Diablo Valley Montessori School Board. Nancy was President of the Board had previously co-chaired the auction. I was the current auction chair, so we worked closely together. Working alongside Nancy I saw her dedication to education and her skills as a fundraiser. As a board member, I also saw how thoughtful, responsible and intelligent Nancy was and how effective she was as a leader. Everyone on the board respected and trusted Nancy, which is why we elected her five times to be our President.

When Nancy's children started at Springhill, she quickly joined the PFC Executive Board. As PFC VP, Nancy raised money for Springhill through auctions, fundraisers and direct solicitation campaigns. More importantly, Nancy identified alternative funding sources and made them a reality. She helped form the District Grant Writing Committee (now a part of LPIE) and founded a non-profit that has raised almost \$60,000 in just its first two years – mostly from grants. Having been VP for the Happy Valley Parent's Club, I know there is a limit to how much we can ask our parents to continue to give, so I particularly appreciate Nancy's ideas for other funding sources.

But Nancy isn't just a fundraiser. She has been active throughout our District for almost a decade. As a member of Rapport, Nancy experienced the issues our individual schools face. As a member of the Grant Writing Committee, Nancy worked with our Assistant Superintendent and learned the District's curriculum priorities. As a member of the Director of Student Services' Parent Advisory Committee, she learned about budgets, the AIM program, special needs, disciplinary matters, and staff issues. She knows the issues affecting our District. Nancy has the skills to manage our District professionally. She was an attorney and an actuary. Her understanding of legal issues and complex financial matters is an invaluable asset to our District. She is the kind of professional we need on our governing board.

Respectfully,
Mayada Innenberg
Lafayette

Editor:
I urge Lafayette residents to vote for Traci Reilly for City Council and Jean Follmer for School Board. Both candidates have the experience, dedication, and passion to do an outstanding job.

Traci Reilly has served on the Crime Prevention Commission for the past six years and has been Chair since 2008. She worked steadfastly to help Lafayette pass the No Solicitors Ordinance that has been vital to protecting neighborhoods and providing our police with a mechanism to respond to calls about unlicensed solicitors knocking on doors. In addition, Traci has regularly attended city council and commission meetings. She understands the important issues facing our city, including the ongoing need for road and infrastructure maintenance and repairs, the concerns of residents regarding balancing growth, traffic, and public safety, and the need to continue a fiscally sound city budget. With two of the three incumbents stepping down from City Council this election cycle, Lafayette can count on Traci to hit the ground running. Traci will bring to the City Council not only her experience, but also her well-developed skills and her great personal rapport.

Jean Follmer is currently an Executive Board member of LPIE (formerly LASF) and served on the Springhill Parent Faculty Club for three years, including one year as President. In addition to working on Measure B, leading Springhill's efforts to secure a new track, and serving on the Site Council at Springhill, Jean co-founded Lafayette for Education, a

grassroots organizing seeking sustainable funding for California schools. Jean is passionate about ensuring the quality of our schools and providing our children with a well-rounded curriculum. Like many residents, Jean moved to Lafayette for the schools. Her children attend Springhill and Stanley, and Jean has been an active volunteer throughout their schooling. Jean understands that while we wait for Sacramento to come up with funding solutions at the state level, we need to act at the local level to maintain the quality of our Lafayette schools. There are two open seats on the School Board. Jean is the right choice for one of your votes.

Linda Murphy
Lafayette

Editor:
Lafayette is fortunate to have five members of the community running for the three open City Council positions on November 6th. Three of these residents have a strong record of supporting the City's General Plan, Mark Mitchell, Traci Reilly and Mike Anderson. Mr. Anderson, who has served on the City Council since 2004 and also served on the current 2002 General Plan Advisory Committee (GPAC), has consistently voted to uphold the City's General Plan on matters pertaining to such Plan. Mark Mitchell, who has served on the Planning Commission for ten years, has also consistently voted to uphold the General Plan on matters relating to its direction. Traci Reilly, who has served on the Lafayette Crime Prevention Commission since 2006 and worked tirelessly on the passage of the City's solicitor's ordinance to protect our residents, has supported the General Plan on many occasions before the Council and Planning Commission.

As chair of GPAC and someone that has worked for over forty years to preserve the City's General Plans and our wonderful community, I strongly recommend these three individuals for the Lafayette City Council. They are experienced, hard working and committed to preserving our City's small town character.

I urge you to vote for Mark Mitchell, Traci Reilly and Mike Anderson for City Council on November 6th.

Guy Atwood
Lafayette

... Letters to the Editor continued on page A10, A11 and A12

NANCY WALLACE



Lafayette School Board

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Paid for by the Committee to Elect Nancy Wallace for Lafayette School District Governing Board 2012

MARK MITCHELL

LAFAYETTE CITY COUNCIL

Dear Lafayette Voter,
Growing up in Lafayette and raising my family here has provided me opportunities to be involved in the community. I am committed to Lafayette and would like to use my ten years of experience on the Planning Commission to address the broader issues facing the City Council.
I ask for your vote on November 6.
Sincerely, Mark



Endorsers (Partial List)

- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Cathy and Mike Ahr | Sallie and Will Lovitt |
| Nancy and Dick Anderson | Karen Maggio |
| Sharon Anduri | Martha and Bill Marquand |
| Ann and Peter Appert | Byrne Mathisen |
| Diane and Guy Atwood | Oystein Mathisen |
| Linda Bailey Wurgley | Colleen and Pat McCarty |
| Lee Berg | Karla and Ken McCormick |
| Rick and Kathy Biro | Mary and Daryl McCosker |
| Lori and Dan Bosshart | Krista McGuire |
| Ken Bozzini and | Nancy Mills |
| Kit Lukins-Bozzini | Corby and Todd Mullins |
| Elizabeth and Lewis Bremer | Cheryl Noll |
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| James Huey | Susan and Bob Stabler |
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| Margaret and Craig Isaacs | Stephanie and Don Teichman |
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| Kristin and Ken Kisner | Allison and Jim Todhunter |
| KC and Matthew Kruchko | Cliff Tong and Nancy Lee |
| Anu and Eric Kuefner | Laura and David Waal |
| Lois Laine | Greg Wikler and |
| Betty and Todd LaPorte | Deborah Tellier |
| Tom Lee | Melody Howe Weintraub |
| Gwenn and John Lennox | George Wilson |
| Casey and Don Lively | Mary-Jane Wood |

PRIORITIES

Responsible Growth for Our Downtown

Lafayette must maintain our friendly small town feel. Responsible development creates a synergy with its neighboring properties but must protect our uniquely beautiful views and not create unreasonable traffic and parking impacts on our already constrained infrastructure.

Fiscal Responsibility

Carefully scrutinize our City's limited budget and expenditures to ensure that our residents receive good value for their tax dollars.

Services for Seniors and Youth

Programs for seniors and youth engage our community. The City has played an important role in the new senior housing that is being built. Grant money should be pursued to improve safe routes to schools. Self funding programs at the Community Center teach new skills and provide a feeling of community. We need to continue to support cost effective ways to provide and improve these and other important services.

Being Responsive to the People of Lafayette

My ten year voting record as a Planning Commissioner shows that I listen carefully to concerns of the Lafayette public and consistently enforce the General Plan and Ridgeline Ordinance.

Endorsed by the CONTRA COSTA TIMES and present and past City Council Members

- | | |
|------------------|--------------|
| Mike Anderson | Judy Garvens |
| Brandt Andersson | Anne Grodin |
| Carl Anduri | Erling Horn |
| Carol Federighi | Ivor Samson |
| Don Tatzin | Avon Wilson |

PERSONAL

UC Berkeley, B.S. Degree, Business Administration
Lafayette resident for 50 years (attended Lafayette schools); married to Anne; children Lauren (17) and Ryan (19)

Paid for by Mark Mitchell for City Council 2012 3461 South Silver Springs Road, Lafayette, CA 94549 (FPPC#1349578) Contact Mark at (925)284-2784 or email to mark-mitch@comcast.net
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How can more cars on Pleasant Hill Road actually provide traffic relief?

When we started planning The Terraces of Lafayette, we worried about the congestion on Pleasant Hill Road. So we asked a registered Traffic Engineering firm to weigh in, and learned:

- That the existing congestion along Pleasant Hill Road is a product of public policy. The City of Lafayette's Gateway Constraint Policy states that it "maintain(s) capacity constraints at selected gateways". One of those gateways is the southbound direction on Pleasant Hill Road-Taylor Boulevard.
- That The Terraces could actually RELIEVE existing traffic congestion at Acalanes High School with two road improvements:
 1. Construct a northbound turn lane on Pleasant Hill Road, enabling vehicles to turn left into the main project entrance, and
 2. Add a southbound through-lane on Pleasant Hill Road at the project frontage from north of Deer Hill Road to the Hwy 24 onramp.
- The Traffic Engineer concluded that the proposed northbound turn lane virtually eliminates the addition of traffic from The Terraces turning left at Deer Hill Road AND
- The proposed southbound through-lane on Pleasant Hill Road would significantly reduce delays and improve safety, especially during school hours.

The developer of The Terraces has proposed to fund both of these roadway improvements. Lafayette would gain a LEED silver apartment community and lessen its existing traffic congestion.

Isn't that a win for everyone?



TERRACES OF LAFAYETTE

terracesoflafayette.com

Letters to the Editor

... continued

MORAGA ELECTIONS

Editor:

In a recent article covering the highly attended "Candidates Forum" held at the Serbian Church, my position on new development of open space and ridge-lines was misunderstood and incorrectly reported. This note is intended to clarify my use of the words "conservative interpretation" of the Moraga General Plan and MOSO results in severely restricting any development that proposes to impact existing open space and ridge lines. This interpretation requires me to vote in favor of preserving existing open space and ridge lines and to argue against and to vote against projects that violate the intention of the General Plan and MOSO to prohibit such projects. My position is not a hollow promise. Residents can expect me not to wobble as Mrs. Mendonca has and to consistently vote to preserve open space and against ridge-line development. Candidate Philip Arth has also failed to articulate this conviction. In addition, I would never propose liquidating Town-owned open space to pay off a mortgage as the incumbents spent \$40,000 investigating this simply dumb idea. I have a published record and have made presentations in four countries in support of the UN Global Compact and the UN Principles of Responsible Investment (UN PRI). I have led an IFC chaired project designed to benchmark and improve environmental, social and governance (ESG) practices by the largest companies in the emerging markets, with my focus on India.

This work has resulted in the Home Minister proposing mandatory disclosure by Indian corporates on their sustainability and socially responsible practices. At the Candidates Forum I did say that there is a fine line between social policy and property rights. As a business man and fiduciary for investors, I confront this issue everyday. My published view is that incorporating ESG principles enhances long term returns and that returns can be quantitatively measured by more than near term dollars and cents. The Town Council with me on board will have a timely opportunity eliminate ambiguities and to incorporate language demonstrating Moraga's thought leadership commitment to sustainability and participation in the Cities Program of the UN Global Compact (UNglobalcompact.org).

Thank you,
Seth Freeman
Moraga

Editor:

Spending in Moraga

It finally occurred to me that I should figure out how much Measure K would cost me in dollars and cents. I discovered that this one percent sales tax would have cost me only \$1.18 last month because most of my spending in Moraga is not subject to sales taxes. Food at Safeway and pills at CVS are not taxed. Neither are services like drying cleaning. But the ongoing revenue from this little sales tax would permit us to keep our streets and storm drains from deteriorating to the point where restoring them would be prohibitively expensive. All of the revenue generated by Measure K would stay in Moraga, unlike the other taxes which leave town and come back to us in amounts too small to meet our needs. Please vote yes on K.

Dale Walwark
Moraga

Editor:

When people hear that I live in Moraga they say, "Oh! Great schools and it is so beautiful there!" The reason Moraga is beautiful is thanks to over 25 years of residents' hard work to preserve its remaining open space. The General Plan, crafted and informed by Moraga residents, specifies that the Town should "Protect ridgelines from development."

Last year, two members of the Moraga Town Council, Karen Mendonca and Howard Harpham, decided that the "protect" clause didn't really mean "protect" and proceeded to cast deciding votes in a 2-1 decision to allow a developer to cut 30 feet off the top of Rheem Ridge to put a road and homes there. Harpham never pretended to be pro-open-space, so his vote was somewhat predictable, and he is not running for re-election this November.

Karen Mendonca is a different story. Four years ago, she ran on a platform that stressed her commitment to ridge line and open space preservation, and was elected thanks largely to her strong stand on these issues and the many residents who campaigned for her on this principle.

Mendonca's about-face on ridgeline protection shows me that this politician does not have the consistency to represent the voters who put her in office and whom now she asks to re-elect her. In the coming years, after the development on Rheem Ridge is built and I look at the sad remains of its beautiful ridge line—reduced by 30 feet and topped with an asphalt road, cars and houses—I'll think of a politician who failed her office and her voters.

We need to elect Council people we can trust to maintain the integrity of their office and who understand what rules and values keep Moraga a beautiful and desirable place to raise our families.

Suzanne D'Arcy
Moraga

Editor:

I'm writing to ask my fellow Moragans who value our scenic hillsides and ridgelines to vote for Roger Wykle for Moraga Town Council. While every candidate is professing his/her concern about open space, Wykle is the only one with a track record that proves it.

In his years on the Moraga Planning Commission, Wykle has been an unwavering guardian of the Moraga Open Space Ordinance (MOSO). For example, when the Commission reviewed the Hetfield Estates development this year, he was the only Commissioner to vote against it, pointing out that its massive landslide grading was inconsistent with MOSO and the General Plan.

The Town Council incumbents running for re-election say they want to protect ridgelines, but the fact is that the Rancho Laguna II development was approved on their watch. That development will cut off part of Rheem Ridge and build 27 houses in the Rheem Blvd. scenic corridor.

A few months later this same Council tried to sell Town-owned open-space to developers to get money for a building remodel. Wykle was the first Planning Commissioner to object, insisting it was out of line with the General Plan's policy to "preserve open space to the maximum extent possible." His leadership on the Planning Commission helped eventually cause the Council to back down, for now at least.

With big development decisions coming in the next several years, we urgently need Wykle—the only candidate with a proven track record on protecting open space—on the Moraga Town Council.

Carol Haag
Moraga

... Letters to the Editor continued on page A11 and A12

Letters to the Editor
... continued

Editor:

We are endorsing Parker Colvin for a seat on the Moraga School Board. A major reason we moved to Moraga 45 years ago was the community's reputation for school excellence. We have seen our five children move through the system here and then, very ably, advance through higher levels. In these difficult economic times, Parker's skills would be very helpful in continuing programs deemed necessary for the educational well-being of Moraga children. His business background in public school financing is outstanding. Also, he is a caring person with great integrity.

Monte and Kay Hess
Moraga

Editor:

I am writing you to endorse the candidacy of my friend, Karen Mendonca, for reelection to the Town Council of Moraga! Karen has served our town with integrity and determination, bowing to no special interests in the pursuit of what is fair, and right, and just.

Recently however, she has been targeted by certain elements who have seen fit to cast aspersions on Councilwoman Mendonca's character merely because she refused to bow to their special interests.

Karen's leadership is a brand not seen too often -- the kind of leadership that produces results by building consensus, exemplifying a decency that has become an all too rare commodity nowadays. In a collegial body that is our Town Council, where individuals of varied political beliefs are united by their desire to serve our Town, this kind of leadership that Karen possesses is of singular value when it comes to reaching a decision on critical issues that come before the Council.

She will not shrink from conflict where her principles are involved. She will stand firm and that is what special interest groups do not like. By the same token, she will find common ground among her colleagues on the Council in an effort to achieve results for the people of Moraga. And she is good at it and that is why she has been attacked by those whose special interests are at odds with those of the people of Moraga.

Courage. Dedication. Integrity. That is what Karen Mendonca has given to Moraga in her first term that saw her become Vice-Mayor and later Mayor of our town. We need Karen on the Council!

I endorse Karen Mendonca for another term on the Town Council of Moraga! Please help her win a second term!

Best regards,

Sonny Ebarle
Moraga

Editor,

I want the next Moraga Town Council to govern from the middle, and to take a little heat when the greater good requires doing so. With this in mind, I've decided to vote for Karen Mendonca, Phil Arth, and Mike Metcalf. Three issues illustrate why.

The first is the Town's finances. I believe that budgets have been prudent. I think the incumbents have done a good job, and I like Mr. Arth's accounting background. We've all known for decades that a large bill for roads was going to come due. That it finally has is not any particular council member's fault. The second is development. Four years ago, I had a Measure K sign on our yard, I wrote a pro-Measure K piece, and I was pleased to be in touch with various supporters of the measure. I was sorry that Measure K did not pass. Today, I am concerned that some people want the Council to act as if Measure K did pass, such as by "interpreting" the General Plan to fill the holes that Measure K was supposed to fill. I want there to be meaningful land use review and for the Town not to hesitate to impose appropriate conditions on development, but I do not want the Council to take the perilous approach of "interpreting" the existing rules beyond what they truly cover. I think the three candidates that I am supporting recognize this.

The third is what to do at Rancho Laguna Park. The late afternoon hours, especially during the spring and summer, are classic hours for taking the kids to the park -- and not everyone thinks that is enjoyable with a lot of dogs running around. I'm disappointed that some candidates have ruled out any adjustments whatsoever, even something as modest as sharing the late afternoon hours on an alternating day schedule. In contrast, I think that Ms. Mendonca, Mr. Arth, and Mr. Metcalf have shown that they want to find a solution that serves the entire community.

For all these reasons, I think Mendonca, Arth, and Metcalf would be good stewards.

Tony Rodriguez
Moraga

Editor:

I am enthusiastically supporting Shari Simon for Moraga School Board. I have known Shari for close to ten years. She and I are friends, and our families are close. Together we've watched our daughters grow and thrive in this wonderful community. Over the years, I've worked with or observed Shari in a variety of settings, ranging from helping in the kindergarten classroom, to participating in PTA and school district site council meetings, to travelling to Sacramento to lobby for our public schools, to fundraising for MEF. Throughout, she has kept up a tireless commitment to our schools and their funding and has developed an impressive level of knowledge about the latest leading research on effective education. Shari has done these things for one fundamental reason -- because she cares to the core about our children's education. My experience of Shari is that few things evoke more passion in her than the success and well-being of the students in our schools. And the thing about Shari is that she is able effectively to direct that passion towards positive results -- overcoming challenges, solving complex problems, and -- something I've long admired in her -- making things happen. I am confident that, if elected to the school board, she will work her heart out for our children and for our schools. And she'll do it with the compassion of a loving mom and the cool efficiency of a seasoned Silicon Valley executive. She has my vote, and I urge you to give her yours.

Renata Sos
Moraga

... Letters to the Editor continued on page A12

Join our Public Forum

If you have significant knowledge about an issue facing Lamorinda or one of its cities that requires more than the 350 words to which we must limit Letters to the Editor, don't despair! You can submit your letter to our Public Forum section. Just send your letter to letters@lamorindaweekly.com and let us know you'd like to be considered for the Public Forum.

Phil
ARTH
Town Council



Moraga Wins with Phil Arth

He will work to:

- ✓ Provide a balanced budget and heightened fiscal discipline drawing on 40 years of experience as a CPA.
- ✓ Improve and maintain our roads.
- ✓ Protect our scenic ridgelines and open spaces.
- ✓ Promote our shopping centers with less red tape for tenants.
- ✓ Help the Hacienda de las Flores achieve its full potential.
- ✓ Forge a resolution to the dog park controversy.
- ✓ Foster the mutually beneficial relationship between Moraga and St. Mary's College.

Paid for by Arth for Town Council ID#1349614

Just a few of those who endorse Phil Arth:

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Contra Costa Times
Chinese American Political Assoc.

Mayors
Graig Crossley
Margaret DePriester
Cherie Grant

Citizens of the Year
Linda Borrelli
Margaret DePriester
George Fisher
Julie Fisher
John Haffner
Bob Merritt
Gordon Nathan
Edy Schwartz
Al Simonsen
Ken Tom

Businessman of the Year
Grant Stubblefield

Town Council Member
Howard Harpham

www.MoragansForArth.org

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Be Deliberative With Your Vote

In the last biweekly issue of this paper there is a letter to the editor signed by Tina Brier, Barry Behr, et al. The signatories of that piece include the non-compromising and very vocal segment of our residents who insist on having off-leash dog privileges at Rancho Laguna Park. And that is notwithstanding that the park, consisting of some 8 acres, is large enough to accommodate a suitable fenced area for dogs while reserving the balance for use by all the residents of our Town all day, every day.

A fenced park makes sense! Not only would it isolate the dogs from other users of the park, but it would also provide both groups with all-day use of the park. Dog owners, for example, would have available to them an off-leash area all day rather than being limited to the current morning and evening hours. Similarly, those residents wanting to use the park without encountering off-leash dogs would also be able to use the park all day.

But this small segment of our town, along with dog owners from Orinda and Lafayette, which two communities do not have any dog parks, is insisting that the current off-leash privilege be maintained. To that end representatives of this group interviewed Seth Freeman, Roger Wykle, and me to ascertain each candidate's support for an off-leash dog park. In my estimation the incentive to commit to an off-leash park was votes. I would not commit, as I felt (1) this was a safety issue and (2) the Town should take back the park from the off-leash coalition and make it available to all users all day, every day.

During that meeting I recalled that this past October one unleashed dog bit another leaving a 7-inch scar. The victim just as easily could have been a child running for a ball or Frisbee. Two years ago unleashed dogs felled a deer that was so badly injured the police had to take its life. Again, that incident might have been a child.

So now you know why that group recommend Freeman and Wykle in its letter to the editor. I suggest the other issues raised in that piece are red herrings so the signatories do not appear to have such a self-seeking agenda. For example, at Candidates' Night all the panelists committed to guarding the Town's open spaces and ridgelines, yet the letter links land development to the dog park topic.

And this group employed the same tactic months ago when soliciting signatures for a dog park referendum. There are reports that many people were assured that by signing the petition it would prevent the park from becoming a sports park. Those two matters are not linked, and I do not know of any serious intention to make the park a sports park.

When formulating your choices for Town Council I encourage you to be painstaking in your selection of candidates. If you make a mistake in the presidential election there are checks and balances that limit the President's power. Here, I am speaking of the Legislative and Judicial branches.

But the Town Council, by contrast, is a combination of all three of those branches. It manages the **executive** function through the Town Manager. It carries out its **legislative** role by passing or rejecting proposed ordinances. And, finally it acts as the **judiciary** by hearing appeals from the townspeople and granting or rejecting them. So it has a lot of power.

I suggest that when you select a candidate you might evaluate that person's thought processes and motivations. For example, if a candidate commits to an unleashed park do you respect his or her thought processes that put children at risk and takes the park away from residents who are not comfortable around unleashed dogs? I hope not! Please be very thoughtful and careful before casting your vote.

Phillip Arth, Candidate for Town Council - www.moragansforarth.org

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Letters to the Editor

... continued

Editor:

I am very pleased to support candidate Dexter Louie for Moraga School Board. Through the years I have had many opportunities to work with Dexter; both in school-related settings as a PTA President and MEF Board Member and through non-profit groups such as Habitat for Humanity. Dexter is an extremely valuable asset to both our schools and community. In spite of continued State cuts, Moraga continues to be one of the highest performing districts in the state. Our school district is in great shape due, in no small part, to the contributions of dedicated citizens like Dexter.

There are tough times ahead for our schools and we need Dexter's experience. He is a longtime resident of Moraga and understands the need to balance the interests of all stakeholders. During his tenure, he has worked hard to ensure the successful passage of two parcel taxes. I believe his leadership will be critical if state budget shortfalls require the District to seek additional local funding in the coming years. Dexter values and supports the efforts of our superintendent, Bruce Burns, and the Board has operated very collaboratively and effectively under his outstanding leadership. He fully understands where the district has been and has a clear vision for its future.

We are very fortunate that Dexter is willing to serve for another four years. I strongly believe we need his continued leadership to maintain high academic quality, fiscal soundness and effective governance that will keep our schools strong and responsive to the needs of all students. Please join me in casting your vote for Dexter Louie.

Stacy Ashby
Moraga

Editor:

As a parent of three children in the Moraga School District, I can think of no one more qualified to serve on the Moraga School Board than Shari Simon. I served on the Moraga Education Foundation board with Shari for several years and I've personally seen her leadership as MEF raised more than \$7 million in private funds for our schools. Through her experience as a volunteer, she has developed an understanding of public school finance that is second to none. Moreover, she is undaunted in her pursuit of the highest quality education for our children despite the limitations imposed by Sacramento. And she pursues her vision with passion and grace. That's why I'm voting for Shari Simon for Moraga School District Governing Board.

Eric Flett
Moraga

ORINDA ELECTIONS

Editor:

Save on car repairs: vote YES on L!

My neighbor spent over \$400 on new low-profile tires after an encounter with an Orinda pothole. Thanks to the deplorable condition of Orinda's roads, another Orinda resident paid over \$1,300 to have the front suspension replaced and the front end aligned. The owner of an auto repair shop in Concord said Orinda is his best source of customers.

Raise the topic of our roads at a neighborhood gathering, and build your very own collection of auto repair horror stories!

If you drive in Orinda, it's only a matter of time until your car will need expensive repairs – tires, struts, shock absorbers, alignment.

Yes, our roads really are that bad. It's far cheaper to pay a little more in sales tax than even one big auto repair bill. Vote YES on L.

Allan Prager
Orinda

Editor:

As a new resident of Orinda and parent of young children, I am enthusiastically supporting Jason Lurie for Orinda's school board. I have worked with Jason for the last six years and can attest to his work ethic, forward thinking, and deeply rooted concern for others and his commitment to his family, friends and community. While raising three wonderful girls with his wife and working as an attorney seems like a lot to me, I wasn't the least bit surprised when Jason announced his plan to run for school board. In my mind, Jason has always been able to find time for those things that are most important to him: his family, friends and community, all of which will be improved with the addition of Jason on the school board. Jason embodies the

reason that we moved to Orinda and the type of person that we want our kids to be able to look up to.

I also want to thank all of the existing school board members and those running for the school board as your time and energy are both needed and appreciated.

Sincerely,
Drew Mickel
Orinda

Editor:

I urge Orindans to vote yes on Measure L. This measure will make a down payment on fixing Orinda's residential roads. Some will tell you that this measure will not complete the job, and they are correct. But it is a start and is the first step of a ten-year plan by the City to bring our roads and drains to a good state of repair.

I hope you will agree with me that the City has done a good job of using its existing revenue to repair the most heavily traveled roads in Orinda. This is a deliberate strategy that is working, but it leaves little funding for residential roads. As chair of the Citizens Infrastructure Oversight Commission, I have confidence the City will use the new revenue from Measure L equally wisely to improve residential roads. Success breeds success, and I am hopeful once Orindans see the benefits of Measure L revenues, they will provide the City with the remaining funds necessary to complete repairing our roads and drains.

Who will argue that Orinda's roads are good! They are not. In fact, Orinda's roads are among the worst in the entire Bay Area. Delaying repair will only make the problem worse and more costly. Vote yes on Measure L to start fixing our residential roads.

Dennis Fay
Orinda

Editor:

Compared with other California cities of all sizes, Orinda is in excellent financial shape. Credit for this belongs to the current City Council in general, and Mayor Steve Glazer, in particular. Orindans live in only one of 3 cities in the County that do not have a defined benefit pension plan. Our unfunded retirement obligations are exactly zero, in sharp contrast to the bankrupt and nearly insolvent public safety agencies and cities that surround us.

Orinda has maintained a balanced budget through a multi-year downturn in property tax revenues by closely matching staffing, the main costs, with services. Staff has been reduced in response to changes in city services needed, such as in the Planning Department and the Dept. of Parks and Recreation.

For a city with just a ten million dollar budget, 40% of which goes to police, Orinda has been able to devote a surprising amount of money to try to maintain our awful roads, focusing on the ones most used. Mayor Glazer spearheaded a highly collaborative effort over the past 18 months to revisit a comprehensive plan for road repair and maintenance, and to gauge the public appetite for paying for this. The result was Measure L, on the ballot this fall, to begin to address our infrastructure issues. While not a complete solution, it is the best measure for these times, and Steve is to be applauded for pushing forward the first step of a solution.

So, please join me in voting for Steve Glazer. Let's build on his legacy: his deep knowledge of the community; the strong financial management; and the inclusive approaches to seemingly intractable problems. Let's move forward together to continue to keep our City enviably strong.

Carol Penskar
Orinda

Editor:

Victoria Smith possesses important qualities which have made her a superb Orinda City Councilmember. These qualities include good judgment, a judicious and even-handed approach, a strong work ethic, knowledge of issues facing Orinda and, most importantly, experience dealing with those issues. Victoria has spent almost ten years closely involved in Orinda's local government, first as a Planning Commissioner and then as a Councilmember and Mayor.

I know from first-hand experience that Victoria has done an excellent job in all these roles and urge my fellow Orindans to join me in voting for her this Fall.

Bill Judge
Orinda

Civic News Orinda

Orinda City Council Candidates Spar Over Downtown Development, MOFD

... continued from page A6

Delehunt, who noted that she has "spoken with Orinda Vision and other groups that have come up with some absolutely brilliant plans for downtown," said City leaders handle development via "ad hoc additions to the plan... And I think that's caused a lot of polarization. I think people feel they haven't been heard ... the deadlock is because there hasn't been a clear process where people have felt involvement."

While there are "certain elements of our downtown which people feel could certainly be better," Glazer said, "there is no community consensus on how to make that happen. There's some controversy about the height changes.... But I don't think it comes from great unhappiness that our downtown is a terrible place." A master plan, he said, "doesn't make anything happen. It still takes a property owner who's willing to look for investor capital to improve their property to match that master plan."

As for MOFD, Delehunt expressed her frustration that Orinda households are paying \$400 more annually for fire service than their counterparts in Moraga. "The citizenry came to City Council and asked that this be looked at, and the City Council refused.... Then the

citizens went out and got a 220-person petition, and requested that the City Council again look at the situation; the City Council then refused to. My feeling is the City Council should look at this whole situation, should intervene in it."

Smith stated there is "no question that we receive excellent service from the Fire District," and added that MOFD is "in the process of looking at response times which are low in some areas of Orinda." The City, she said, has also "been trying to work with them for over the past year to encourage them to come to Orinda City Hall, and become our tenant with their administrative space."

Glazer expressed his concerns regarding MOFD's ability to balance its budget, pay its pension costs and meet its retiree health care obligations. Regarding potential funding inequities between Moraga and Orinda, he said that "on two occasions, we've created task forces... We have held meetings ... and the Council as a whole decided that there was nothing further that needed to be done. We all recognize that they have an independently elected Board... and that they need to be held accountable for an open, transparent discussion and review of all these important matters."

Orinda School Board Candidates Discuss Key Issues

... continued from page A7

Incumbent Matt Moran reassured voters, "Our budget is set - we have a million dollars set aside if neither 30 or 38 pass for this year... You've got to do a lot of planning, and that's one thing I think we do great in our District - we have significant reserves through conservative budgeting processes, and we're able to ride out the storms coming from the State."

Asked about potential upcoming curriculum changes, and specifically the California Common Core Standards, Lurie explained, "It's a nationwide movement that a lot of states are adopting. California has modified it." It will narrow current standards that are "a mile wide and an inch deep," he said. "The kids are going to get a much better understanding of the core concepts. Along with that will come a more collaborative, interactive, application-based teaching methodology."

Butler clarified further, noting that there will be less emphasis placed on test scores. It's "so important to have the critical thinking skills and 21st century learning, project-based learning. It's been proven that kids really remember things when they have hands-on experiences and work on projects... The Common Core Standards is a huge step in that direction."

Moran confessed that he's not enamored of the "top-down, 'this is what you're going to teach' approach," but also said that "as a District, we're planning for it.... I trust that, as we get down to the teacher level, teachers will be able to work with it enough to be able to make it a workable curriculum for our kids." He also said that what those standards really come down to are "critical thinking ... group work, and it comes down to reading and writing. And maybe it's a new way to teach those things, maybe it's a new way to look at those things, but I think those are skills we've

been teaching kids for a long time in this District, and will continue to."

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Mayor Steve Glazer

Orinda City Council

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- Maintained a balanced city budget and prudent reserves
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- Expanded citizen participation in city decisions
- Prioritized repairs of roads most traveled
- Strengthened partnership with Orinda schools

Selfless Volunteer

"In a town with more than its fair share of talent, Steve Glazer stands out among the most capable, reliable, and selfless volunteers working on behalf of all Orindans."

- Sue Severson, Orinda City Council

School Champion

"For more than a decade, Steve has successfully led efforts to increase funding for Orinda schools. He has been a champion for our schools and our city."


- Pat Rudebusch
President, Orinda Union School District Board

Fiscal Watchdog

"Mayor Glazer has been an effective voice in spearheading greater transparency and fiscal accountability. He has been a staunch advocate for the Orinda schools. I unequivocally support Steve for Orinda City Council."

- Susie Epstein
Governing Board Member Acalanes Union High School District

<http://steveglazer4citycouncil.nationbuilder.com>



Jason Lurie

for Orinda School Board

Dear Fellow Orindans:

The latest Academic Performance Index scores were just released and again we have reason to be proud and excited. Our district performs among the best in the state.

Outstanding test scores are just one indicator of our ongoing excellence. We have kept many benefits and programs long forgone by most districts in the state. We are fortunate to live in a community committed to a top-notch public school system.

My three daughters have many years ahead in OUSD. If I am fortunate enough to have the opportunity, I will work side-by-side with my fellow trustees to ensure that all OUSD students, my daughters among them, receive the highest quality education. This will require an informed, pragmatic, collaborative approach to fiscal governance. That is the spirit I will bring if elected.

I ask for your vote for the Orinda School Board.

Very truly yours,
Jason

Jason has displayed a passion for service in our schools and a spirit of cooperation. He is fully committed to moving our Orinda children onward and upward in their education.

- Chris Severson, OUSD Trustee

Jason has quickly identified the fiscal challenges facing our district. His experience and collaborative nature will provide great leadership with the rest of the board to face them head on.

- Dean Orr, Orinda City Council

Jason is clearly bright, educated on the issues, and with young children, well vested in our schools. He brings an agenda-free "roll-up-your sleeves" approach to collaboration - a quality critical in these cost-cutting times.

- Riki Sorenson, Former OUSD Trustee

I am so impressed with Jason's "can do" attitude and his desire to work collaboratively with parents, teachers and community members to address our challenges and improve our schools.

- Victoria Smith, Orinda City Council

Jason's dedication and commitment to providing the best education for all students will be a great asset on the school board. I wholeheartedly support his candidacy.

- Julie Rossiter, OUSD Trustee

"I have no doubt that Jason Lurie will bring diligence, fairness, and a collaborative approach to the school board. Orinda students will benefit greatly from his leadership."

- Pat Rudebusch, OUSD Trustee

"Jason has a keen appreciation for Orinda's outstanding public schools. Jason is determined to build on this legacy of excellence to ensure that our students get the top notch education they deserve and our community expects."

- Sue Severson, Orinda City Council

Paid for by Jason Lurie for Orinda School Board 2012 • FPPC #1349913

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Community Service

Making All Things New

Submitted by Rev. Joshua Serrano



Holy Shepherd youth pray for those who will receive Beanie Babies.

Photo Joshua Serrano

Trying to repurpose collections once sold on eBay for up to \$1,000 like Beanie Babies – which and now fill boxes in attics and garage

shelves – might seem like an impossible task, but not for the youth of Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church in Orinda. The grade-school age children learned about a need at a clinic run by International Health Partners whose mission is to develop partnerships across the globe to improve healthcare in Tanzania. When children come to the clinic to receive care they are given a Beanie Baby to comfort them. When the Holy Shepherd Beanie Baby drive culminated, the children had collected 1,200 of these little stuffed animals and blessed the Beanie Babies on September 30. During Sunday school, the children played their hearts out with the Beanie Babies, boxed them up, and shipped them to Tanzania.

Father Runs Marathon in Son's Memory

Submitted by Jim Holt



Jim Holt smiles at the Half Moon Bay International Marathon

Photo Provided

The sign read "only 0.2 to go – Hail to the Queen." Moraga resident Jim Holt was nearing the end of his long journey and had been running for over five hours. On September 23, at age 56, Holt was almost

finished with his first marathon. "I started training for the Half Moon Bay International Marathon 10 months ago," he said. "Last November I decided to create a challenge for myself to honor my son Ryan. Ryan was killed in a motorcycle accident here in Moraga in 2007."

Holt has been running on and off since high school but most of the runs were just three to four miles. A marathon had always been an endeavor he wanted to accomplish but he never had a good reason to run one. "Now I had found my reason," he said. "I chose Half Moon Bay because of the location, cool weather and a relatively flat terrain. These are all important factors to consider when setting out to run 26.2 miles."

While training Holt found he had many hours to simply think. "I decided to make the run a personal fund raising event for the Contra Costa Crisis Center.

The Crisis Center is a non-profit

organization that provides free services to the county including 24/7 crisis lines, 211 and grief counseling," he said. "For a couple years I was in a grief support group for parents who had lost a child. The loss of a child changes how you view life and what you choose to do with your future."

Recently, Holt became a volunteer grief counselor with the Crisis Center.

Holt, along with his oldest son Kyle, created a website (www.marathon4ryan.com) that explains why he ran the marathon, shows pictures of Ryan, the family and provides a link to donate to the Crisis Center. The two have raised over \$5,400 in donations.

"Running that last 0.2 mile and crossing the finish line was a very emotional experience," Holt said. "It marked the culmination of many months of hard work and reflection on the loss of Ryan. This marathon is a memory I'll cherish the rest of my life."

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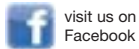
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Birthday Bash for Junior Giants

Submitted by Kelly Wood



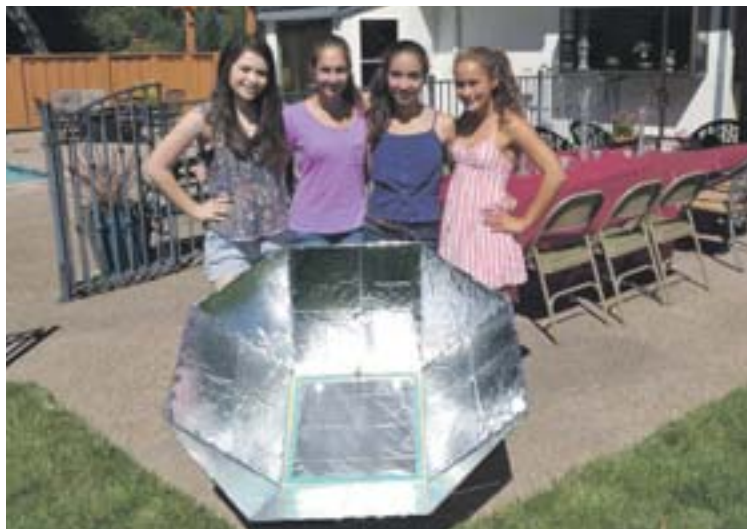
Photo Provided

Lafayette Elementary School Luke Souza, Luke Pearson, third-graders Jack Wood, Matthew Muren, Dylan Mandell,

Ryan Mandell, Warren Cooper, and Will Berrien celebrated their fall birthdays with 20 of their friends Sunday, October 14 with a fundraiser for the Junior Giants, a program of the Giants Community Fund that brings baseball to 20,000 at-risk children in California, Nevada and Oregon. They were able to raise \$1,001, enough to sponsor two Junior Giants teams, all while having a great day of baseball at Buckeye Field. The boys plan to deliver the check to the Junior Giants and take a tour of AT&T park.

Girl Scouts Create Solar Cookers

Submitted by Haley Seyranian



From left: Haley Seyranian, Mary Noal, Maddy Weinberg, Jenna Shafer

Photo provided

Four members of Moraga Girl Scout Troop 33206 recently completed a 50-hour service project, earning the Silver Award, the second highest award a Girl Scout can earn. They made five complete solar ovens that will help families in Afghanistan cook their food without the use of wood, which is expensive and produces smoke that can harm their health and the environment. The Solar Cookers can heat up to 350° F and can cook just about anything that can be made in a gas or electric oven. With the help of Trust in Education, a Lafayette-based organization, the cookers will be shipped and distributed to families in need.

The Haunting of Theatre Square

... continued from page A1

The construction crew included members of the Glorietta Dads' Club. Local artists such as Allison McCrady, Al Eames, Rob Becker, and Mer Hemming donated their time to decorate the interior.

Inside the house, volunteers from the Educational Foundation of Orinda and the Miramonte Drama Club, among others, will make the house come alive. "We will let in groups of kids of about the same age and will tailor the 'scariness' to the age group," says Karp.

The haunted house tour is free and fearless visitors who bring a can of food for the Contra Costa Food Bank will receive a 10 percent discount at participating Theatre Square business, according to Sophina Gallon of Theatre

Square manager Cushman and Wakefield.

The Orinda Haunted House, recommended for kids ages 5-13, is open from 5 to 9 p.m. (10 p.m. on Friday and Saturday) October 24 to October 30.

Haunted House at the Rheem

Seeking more screams? Don't miss the Dark Dreams Haunted House at the New Rheem Theatre from 7 to 11 p.m. October 26, 27, 28 and on Halloween, October 31. Tickets are \$9 at the door. This is a fundraiser for the California Independent Film Festival.

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Festival Party at Orinda Theatre: Friday Nov. 9th 10:00PM

Opening Night Reception and Movies:

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8TH 5:30PM
RHEEM THEATRE

Opening Night Movies **Body Complete** Austria, Best Picture Drama

Nicole, a journalist from Austria, travels to Bosnia to film a report about Edna, a young woman gone missing while attempting to bury her Muslim father, whose remains were discovered in a mass grave. Nicole's search takes her to a village in the east of Bosnia, where Edna was last seen.

One Small Hitch USA, Best Picture Comedy

On a flight home to Chicago for a family wedding, childhood friends Josh and Molly innocently agree to fake a wedding engagement to make Josh's dying father happy. Things quickly get out of hand with their two boisterous families...

The Procession Comedy Short

Lily Tomlin and Jesse Tyler Ferguson star in this amusing tale about a mother and son, reluctant attendees at her daughter's friend's funeral, who get stuck leading a funeral procession when they hop in their car attempting to make a quick getaway.



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Conversation with Connie Stevens

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10TH 3:00PM
RHEEM THEATRE

2012 Lifetime Achievement Award Tribute to Connie Stevens



It is rare that an actress can successfully transcend the entertainment gamut from Motion Picture Star, Television Star, Broadway Star, Recording Artist, to the concert stage and then on to develop a successful cosmetic empire. In a career that has spanned over 40 years, Connie Stevens has gained worldwide popularity and recognition as a multi-talented performer, producer, and as a major force in the business arena, all the while managing to remain a timeless classic beauty. Ever youthful, dynamic, vivacious, versatile and savvy are the words used to describe the actress who has truly earned the title of a "Woman for all Seasons."

Sponsored by: DOUGLASH DESIGNS INC.

Conversation with Dawn Wells

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10TH 11:00AM
RHEEM THEATRE

2012 Diamond Award Tribute to Dawn Wells



Dawn Wells is best known throughout the world as Mary Ann on *Gilligan's Island*. However there is much more to Dawn than coconut cream pie. She's an actress, producer, author, journalist, motivational speaker, adventurer, entrepreneur, spokesperson, teacher, and chairwoman of the Terry Lee Wells Foundation, helping women and children in northern Nevada.

Dawn Wells as Mary Ann on *Gilligan's Island*

Sponsored by: DOUGLASH DESIGNS INC.

Closing Night Reception and Movies:

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11TH 6:00PM
RHEEM THEATRE

Lore Best Picture Drama

The year is 1945. After their SS Nazi parents are taken into Allied custody, five German children undertake a harrowing journey that exposes them to the reality and consequences of their parents' actions. Led by the eldest sibling, Lore, they set out across a devastated country to reach their grandmother in the north.

Friend Request Pending Best Short

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Closing Night Wrap Party: 8:00PM

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Date	Location	Films and Events Schedule*			
Thursday, November 8th	Rheem Theatre - Main Theatre 1 (350 seats)	5:30PM - 7:00PM Opening Night Reception with Forsene Phillips	7:00PM - 7:15PM The Procession (11 min)	7:00PM - 8:45PM One Small Hitch (105 min)	
	Rheem Theatre - Theatre 3 (102 seats)		7:00PM - 7:15PM The Procession (11 min)	7:00PM - 8:45PM Body Complete (86 min)	
Friday, November 9th	Orinda Theatre	1:00PM - 2:45PM Shorts Program III (109 min)	3:30PM - 5:00PM Documentary Program C (89 min)	6:00PM - 7:30PM Opal (79 min)	8:00PM - 10:00PM Keep the Lights on (120 min) 10:00PM Festival Party
	Rheem Theatre - Main Theatre 1 (350 seats)		3:00PM - 5:00PM Shorts Program I (120 min)	5:30PM - 7:00PM Documentary Program A (97 min)	8:00PM - 9:30PM Ajintha - An Untold Love Story (85 min)
	Rheem Theatre - Theatre 3 (102 seats)		3:00PM - 4:45PM Documentary Program B (72 min)	5:30PM - 7:00PM Shorts Program II (95 min)	8:00PM - 9:30PM 3 Days of Normal (83 min)
Saturday, November 10th	Orinda Theatre	1:00PM - 2:45PM Shorts Program II (95 min)	3:30PM - 4:45PM Documentary Program B (72 min)	6:00PM - 7:30PM The Well Digger's Daughter (109 min)	8:30PM - 10:30PM All Together (120min)
	Rheem Theatre - Main Theatre 1 (350 seats)	9:00AM - 12:00PM Iron Filmmaker Contest	12:30PM - 2:30PM Shorts Program I (120 min)	3:00PM - 4:00PM Conversation with Connie Stevens (60 min)	6:00PM - 7:00PM VIP Slate Awards Reception (60 min)
	Rheem Theatre - Theatre 3 (102 seats)	11:00AM - 12:30PM Conversation with Dawn Wells (90 min)	12:30PM - 2:00PM Sapporo Short Fest Showcase	2:30PM - 4:30PM Things I Don't Understand (111 min)	5:00PM - 6:30PM Fuzz Track City (93 min)
	Michael's Ristorante	1:00PM - 2:30PM Lunch with the Stars at Michael's Ristorante Lunch with Connie Stevens and Dawn Wells			
Sunday, November 11th	Orinda Theatre	11:00AM - 12:45PM Bay Area Documentary Showcase (101 min)	1:15PM - 3:00PM Documentary Program A (97 min)	3:15PM - 5:15PM Kids Program (111 min)	
	Rheem Theatre - Main Theatre 1 (350 seats)	11:00AM - 1:00PM Kids Program (111 min)	1:30PM - 3:00PM Flat Daddy (82 min)	3:30PM - 5:00PM All Together (96 min)	6:00PM - 8:00PM Closing Night (120 min)
	Rheem Theatre - Theatre 3 (102 seats)	11:00AM - 1:00PM Bay Area Showcase of Shorts (120 min)	1:30PM - 3:00PM Documentary Program C (89 min)	4:00PM - 5:30PM Shorts Program III (109 min)	6:00PM - 8:00PM Friend Request Pending (12 min)
					6:00PM - 8:00PM Lore (109 min)
					8:00PM - 10:00PM Wrap Party (120 min)

* subject to change please check our web site www.caiff.org

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93 Moraga Way, Orinda

The New Old Age in Lamorinda: Aging In Place Safely and Independently

By Sophie Braccini



Ruth McCahan

Photo Craig Isaacs

Ruth McCahan opened her presentation at the "Aging Successfully in Our Community" symposium on October 13 with a question, "How many of you have lived here in Lafayette, Moraga, or Orinda for over 20 years?" To the large show of hands she added, "You must like it here and you'd probably like to stay. But how many of us as we reach our 60s, 70s and 80s begin to consider some sort of senior housing as the next logical step - in spite of our desire to stay put?" The answer, says McCahan, is a Village community, and it is one of the new ways seniors all over the country are living their retirement years in a friendlier, more autonomous and less expensive way.

McCahan immediately saw the potential of the Village concept when she first read about Village to Village four years ago. "The mission of a Village is to provide its members both the practical means and the confidence to remain in their own homes as they age," says McCahan. The concept was created in 2001 by two retired women from Boston who wanted to find a way to help people

stay in their homes and communities for the rest of their lives.

There are now about 90 Village communities all over the United States. "Many among us want to enjoy an active healthy life without moving away from our neighborhoods," says McCahan. "We are older, but we are also healthier than previous generations and poised to set new records for longevity. We cherish living near old friends and among younger families. We fully appreciate the pleasures of our neighborhoods, our downtowns, familiar streets, parks, favorite merchants, libraries, and churches, as well as all the professional and community-based connections on which we have come to rely."

The Lafayette resident has been involved with senior services in her city for years. She rallied a group of Lamorindans interested in the idea of harnessing seniors' creativity and power to support each other. George and Julie Fisher, active members of the Moraga Movers, are working on the project. "There are about 57,500 people living in Lamorinda, 10,532 of

them are 65 and older," says George Fisher. "That's 18 percent of the population and that number is growing. Many of us want to stay in our homes, but as we age, we have more needs and we want safe and reasonably priced solutions to stay independent."

"It's almost like an insurance program for people who want to age in place, stay where they are comfortable," adds Julie, who says the concept also appeals to the sandwich generation because it offers adult children who don't live near their aging parents some peace of mind.

The Lamorinda Village task force is seeking community input, in the form of a survey, to determine the level of interest in a Village and the types of services residents might seek. The survey lists different needs in six categories of service: health and wellness assistance; continuing education; daily living/home services; organized physical activities; organized social activities; and personal and financial services, and asks respondents to prioritize them. The survey also asks how much potential members would be willing to pay for the service. In the 90 existing villages, the annual cost varies between \$750 and \$1,200.

"Those interested in participating in the survey, whether in their 60s, 70s, 80s or older, or those who have parents in that age group, can send an email to lamorindavillage@gmail.com and they will automatically be sent the link to the on-line survey," says McCahan. To receive a survey by mail, send a note to P.O. Box 57, Lafayette, CA 94549. For more information about the concept itself, visit www.vtnetwork.org.

Cabinet Modifications

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As seen in Lafayette...




Happy Valley is gradually being transformed into "Slightly Scary Valley." With crime scene tape and scarecrows along the street and spooky seasonal decor by the front door - there's surely candy dying for distribution on Halloween. A nearby neighbor is also in the spirit.

Photos Cathy Tyson

Film Festival Returns to Lamorinda Theatres

By Laurie Snyder



Lore will screen on Sunday November 11 at the New Rheem Theatre

Twitter has been buzzing for weeks regarding plans to celebrate the 15th anniversary of the California Independent Film Festival. This year's lineup includes programs for children, as well as another dazzling array of touching and thought-provoking films for adults.

The Festival begins November 8 with an opening night reception at The New Rheem Theatre from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. and the premiere of *One Small Hitch*. What will happen when Josh and Molly – friends since childhood pretend to be engaged to make a terminally ill father happy? Get a Festival pass and find out (see review on page B6).

A veteran of 13 film festivals, *Body Complete* will draw viewers into the danger and intrigue of a television journalist hunting for a woman who disappeared while trying to ensure a proper burial for her Muslim father, murdered during ethnic cleansing in Bosnia.

This year's CAIFF closer, *Lore* is a film already humming with Oscar buzz. It is the tale of a young woman who leads her siblings on a journey to their grandmother's home and hope for safety in 1945-era Germany. En route, they learn about life as they uncover what their Nazi parents have done to the world around them.

Slate Awards to Honor Connie Stevens and Dawn Wells

Connie Stevens, the 1960s head turner appearing in such films as *Eighteen and Anxious* with Jim

Backus and *Back to the Beach* with Annette Funicello and Frankie Avalon, also kept fans glued to their television screens as Cricket Blake in *Hawaiian Eye*. A co-star with the biggest names in the entertainment industry, she also recorded memorable songs, headlined in Vegas, Atlantic City and New York, and performed for four American Presidents.

Touring with Bob Hope, she became a beloved favorite with active duty service members and veterans, and has become a champion for Native Americans across the United States through Windfeather, her project which awards scholarships and supports summer camp programs.

Stevens will receive CAIFF's Lifetime Achievement Award at 7 p.m. on Saturday, November 10. Fans will also want to be sure to catch her earlier in the day when she dishes about her life and work in her 3 p.m. "Actors Studio" format interview.

Dawn Wells, beloved by boomers for her role as Mary Ann on Gilligan's Island, will receive the 2012 Diamond Award that same evening for her outstanding contribution to the entertainment industry. An actress with more than 150 film, theatre, and television roles in her own right, Wells now heads her own production company, has a new book coming out in 2012 – *A Conversation Between Mary Ann and Dawn*, and also chairs the Terry Lee Wells Foundation which has awarded more than \$7 million in grants to organizations serving the underprivileged in Nevada.

Additional special events and

screenings will be held at the Orinda Theatre and at The New Rheem Theatre in Moraga from November 8 through 11. Check the CAIFF web site for profiles of each film and event, as well as times and venues: www.caiff.org.

Photo provided

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CAIFF Founder to be Honored with the Golden Halo Award

Submitted by Stephanie Kusinski



Derek Zemrak Photo provided

Derek Zemrak, founder and president of the California Independent Film Festival Association (CAIFFA) and owner operator of the Rheem and Orinda Theatres will be honored on October 31 at the Rheem Theatre in Moraga with the Golden Halo Award from the Southern California Motion Picture Council (SCMPC).

SCMPC, a non-profit organization founded in 1936, promotes civic-minded, educational and cultural programs of exceptional merit and presents awards for the best in movies, television, stage plays and the performing arts. The Golden Halo is the SCMPC's highest award. A partial list of past acting honorees includes Bette Davis, James Stewart, Grace

Kelly, Robert Mitchum, Doris Day and Charlton Heston, 2011 recipients were Mickey Rooney and Carol Channing.

The committee voted Zemrak as this year's honoree for his passion to save the beautiful art deco theatres at Rheem and Orinda, his contribution to independent filmmakers by giving them a venue to screen their films for over 15 years, and his production of independent films.

The evening will begin at 8 p.m. at the Rheem Theatre with a wine and food reception in the lobby, followed by a video tribute presentation to Zemrak. The Golden Halo Award will be presented to Zemrak by Hollywood legend and Oscar winner Margaret O'Brien who nominated Zemrak after meeting him at last year's 14th Annual California Independent Film Festival (CAIFF). She was moved by the CAIFF organization, and credited Zemrak for the kindness and passion of the people.

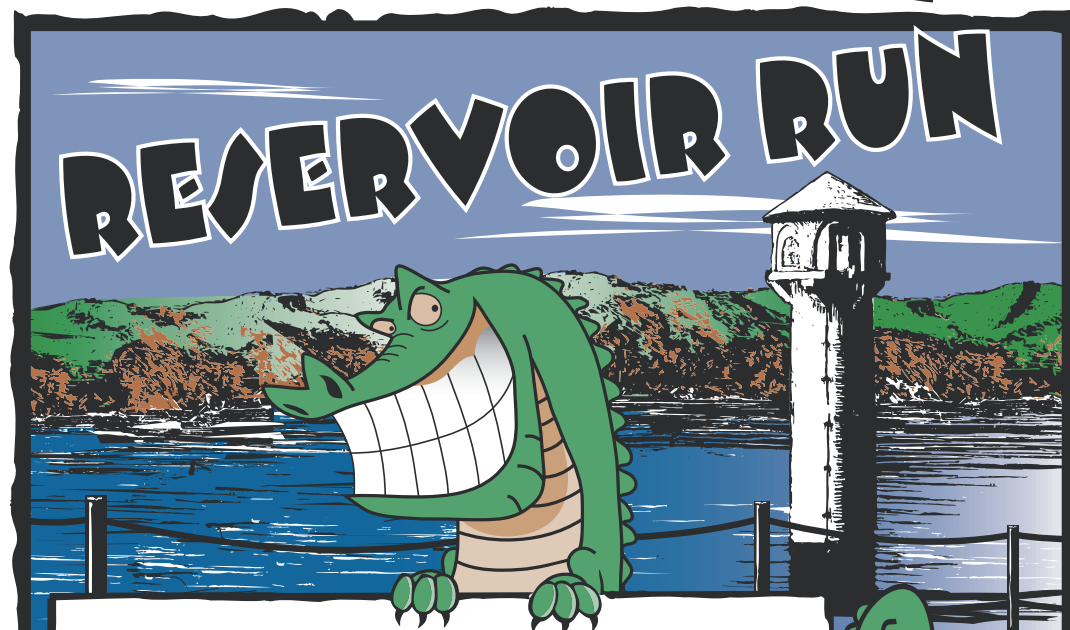
The West Coast Premiere of *Frankenstein Rising* starring O'Brien, Jerry Maren, the lollipop kid from *The Wizard of Oz*, Anita Page, the last great silent film actress in her final role and film star, and Randal Malone as Frankenstein will begin at 9 p.m. Tickets are \$20 and all proceeds will be donated to the Lamorinda Theatre Foundation Digital Fund.

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Finding Answers in the Uncertainty of Autism

By Jennifer Wake

When a child is diagnosed with a developmental disability such as autism, a parent's world can be turned on end. For many, questions about treatment options available and which approaches are the best

for their child.

Area clinical psychologist Jennifer Crossland, Ph.D., who works locally as a consultant with children on the autistic spectrum says navigating through the special education system is difficult even when you're trained in it. "It's emotionally draining," she says.

The biggest hurdle for kids with disabilities, says Crossland, is being effectively integrated into the schools and into a collaborative environment. "For most levels of autism, it's more beneficial if they can be integrated into a general education classroom with special education support versus a special day class. They need the social models and need to work on engagement."

Lafayette resident, counselor and director of Enhanced Learning & Growth Center in Walnut Creek, Sindy Wilkinson, M.Ed. LMFT, adds that social isolation, bullying and ridicule – subtle and overt – can cause significant pain for students with difficulties of attention and learning. "When difficulties in communication are an issue, social difficulties are exacerbated."

For young children on the spectrum, a combination of therapies such as Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) and Floor Time – a therapy that increases back-and-forth interaction and communication between child and adult – work well together. Additional support such as speech therapy, occupational therapy, sensory integration, physical therapy and behavioral therapy are used in tandem with these broader approaches to elicit the best outcomes.

However, Wilkinson notes the success of any therapy (and a combined approach is often most effective), is dependent a great deal upon listening to the student, working with him/her rather than forcing something. And limited funds, time and education for our teachers makes it hard for them to meet the needs of all their students and those with attention and learning challenges. "This becomes a challenge for everyone," she says.

Many parents seek additional services outside the school system. "Some are good," notes Crossland. "Some lack data. I encourage parents that if their gut tells them to do something, they should try it, if it's not too costly."

The most effective therapies in Wilkinson's opinion are those that address the issues from the inside out – therapies that "integrate neurodevelopmental systems, regulate nutritional deficiencies, work with the child from where they are (not where they are expected to be) and allow

for development and progress from there are the most sustainable."

It's also important to facilitate goals at home, says Crossland. "There's much more to a child's life than school."

Wilkinson says parents make two common mistakes: they do something for a child instead of allowing the child the extra time to complete a task; and they react to behavior rather than respond to the underlying cause of the behavior.

Parents also think the professionals they're working with are the experts, they know best, says Crossland. "Parents are the ones who know their child best. They really need to be an active part of the team – help the professionals set the goals. There should be a dialogue. It really is a team process."

And as children on the spectrum age, their needs will change.

Each year, one in 88 children are diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder and according to Autism Speaks vice president of family services, Lisa Goring, an estimated 500,000 teens and young adults will enter adulthood in the next decade.

Families and community members seeking answers about how to help their child or how to support these individuals in our community can attend the Lamorinda Family Center's first disabilities conference and resource fair, "Living with Disabilities," from 4 to 7 p.m. Saturday, October 28 at the Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church in Lafayette.

The resource fair will include booths with several social skills and life skills professionals, speech pathologists, respite care providers, and counselors as well as unique services such as a music therapy and a technology booth featuring programs available on the iPad. Following the fair, guest speaker Dr. Ricki Robinson, autism expert, pediatrician, and cofounder of Autism Speaks, will discuss how to understand behaviors in children with autism and other special needs, treatment approaches, how to best support children with special needs and the many adults coming of age with autism in the community.

"We're going to have a lot of kids out there who are going to need support as adults," says Crossland. "We need to be ready for that."

For more information about the conference, visit www.lopc.org. To learn more about The Enhanced Learning & Growth Center, visit www.learningandgrowth.com.

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ASK SAM



Samira Davi is a Nurse Liaison for ManorCare Health Services in Walnut Creek. Samira has over 10 years of experience working in health care in Contra Costa County, which has gained her a wide view of what is important to the health care consumer. She will be posting common questions and comments in each issue of the Lamorinda Weekly. You are welcome to contact Samira directly at 925.270.8766

Medicare Options

The most common question I answer for patients and families is related to benefits and coverage for post-acute rehab. In this election year, we hear about Medicare and insurance on a daily basis. Some of the things we hear can be kind of frightening, and at the very least perplexing. We don't know exactly how, or even if, Medicare will change. What we **do** know is that there are under-utilized programs within Medicare that, as far we know, will still be a part of the plan regardless of any health care reform.

There are some key points of the Medicare benefit as it relates to post-acute rehab. First and foremost, there is the "qualifying stay". In order to utilize the Medicare benefit in a post-acute center you must have an inpatient hospital stay lasting a minimum of three consecutive nights. Things have gotten a bit tricky: sometimes an overnight stay in the hospital is not considered "inpatient"; it is considered an

"observation" stay. In that case, you've not met the initial qualifying stay. ManorCare is able to validate this prior to admission to ensure you've meet the initial stay.

Once you are admitted to a post-acute center, Medicare allows for 100 days in a benefit period for post-acute rehab (or a "skilled nursing facility"). After you are admitted, ManorCare determines your eligibility for continued coverage on a weekly basis. If you continue to require this level of intensive rehab and/or complex medical care in order to return to your highest level of practical function, Medicare will continue to cover your stay (for up to that 100 days). When you no longer require such intensive rehab or complex care, you'll graduate and go home!

What if you graduate from the program, return home, and find yourself needing rehab again? I do get calls from patients who need to come back in for continued rehab—they are just not succeeding at home as they'd hoped. Most often this happens when someone goes home *before* they've met their goals and graduated. It's hard to be away from home, and sometimes our homesickness gets the best of us. Medicare allows for readmission in what we call the "30-Day Window". If you have been in a rehab center or have had a qualifying hospital stay in the last 30-days, you are eligible to return to the rehab center under Medicare without a new qualifying hospital stay. Sometimes I talk with patients who discharged from the hospital and never admitted to a rehab center—they went straight home and skipped rehab. The "Window" allows one to take advantage of post-acute rehab even if they declined it initially.

I've found that there are often more options with Medicare and other insurances than we think. If you feel you can benefit from intensive rehab services or complex medical care, please call me and I'm happy to find out if you qualify. They are your benefits—use them! For more questions regarding Medicare or insurance benefits for post-acute rehab, please call me or either of our Walnut Creek locations.

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Resources for Parents of Children with Autism

The Fabric of Autism by Judith Bluestone is a wonderful book that describes the many underlying causes involved in an individual with challenges as well as effective treatments. This book applies to all issues of learning and attention, not only autism.

Smart Moves by Carla Hannaford describes sensory irregularities that effect students with challenges and gives many suggestions on how to ease these sensitivities.

Transforming the Difficult Child by Dr. Howard Glasser is a step by step parenting program that helps parents focus on positive behaviors to improve attitude and behavior.

Autism Solutions: How to Create a Healthy and Meaningful Life for Your Child by Ricki Robinson, M.D., M.P.H.

Engaging Autism by Stanley Greenspan and Serena Weider

The Child with Special Needs by Stanley Greenspan and Serena Weider

Understanding Applied Behavioral Analysis by Albert Kearney

The Out of Sync Child-Coping with Sensory Processing by Carol Stock Kranowitz

The Out of Sync Child Has Fun by Carol Stock Kranowitz

<http://www.myautismteam.com/> is a Facebook-like website that connects parents with other parents who understand as well as local providers and venues that others have found helpful.

List compiled by Sindy Wilkinson, M.Ed. LMFT, and Jennifer Crossland, Ph.D.

EFO Town Hall Teaches Voters About 2012 Education Finance Ballot Measures

By Laurie Snyder



Education Funding Town Hall participants, from left: Orinda Union School District Dr. Joe Jaconette, NBC Bay Area News Anchor Diane Dwyer, Acalanes Union High School District Superintendent Dr. John Nickerson, League of Women Voters President Lee Lawrence, Assembly Member Joan Buchanan, Ken Coates, and Craig Cheslog, Principle Advisor to State Superintendent of Education Tom Torlakson.

Photo Ohlen Alexander

On November 6, voters will face a baffling array of ballot measures that have the potential to change everything from auto insurance in California to how government agencies protect public safety. But it is the two propositions regarding school funding statewide – Propositions 30 and 38 – which may have the longest lasting impact on its citizens.

The Educational Foundation of Orinda (EFO) strengthened Lamorindans' understanding of those initiatives at an Education Funding Town Hall October 18 moderated by NBC Bay Area News Anchor Diane Dwyer. Orinda's Library Auditorium was filled nearly to capacity with citizens of all ages trying to grasp how passage or failure of the propositions may impact local schools.

Dwyer was joined by Assembly Member Joan Buchanan (D-15th District), who was recently appointed as Chair of the California Assembly's Committee on Education; Craig Cheslog, Principal Advisor to State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson; League of Women Voters President Lee Lawrence and her colleague, Ken Coates; Orinda Union School District (OUSD) Superintendent Joe Jaconette; and Acalanes Union High School District (AUHSD) Superintendent John Nickerson.

"We have the fourth most volatile revenue stream in the nation," said Buchanan during her outline of how State General Fund revenues are allocated. Addressing the ways in which legislation, litigation and the lottery have shaped K-12 and higher education since Ronald Reagan's tenure as Governor, she explained where good intentions went wrong or were

dragged down by debt and California's struggling economy. California has dropped from its ranking as one of the finest school systems in the nation to its current status as Number 45 in K-12 funding per pupil.

"We have a record number of school districts that are facing financial jeopardy," observed Cheslog. Because roughly \$6 billion in program cuts will be triggered if Prop 30 fails, he said school districts will be given the option of eliminating 15 days of instruction from their academic year calendars to help offset the damage.

OUSD and AUHSD could lose \$1 million and \$2.3 million alone, observed Jaconette and Nickerson in their respective presentations. While OUSD would be able to weather the first year funding loss through reserves set aside, AUHSD would face mid-year cuts.

Prop 30's passage, presenters said, has become less of a sure thing than it was just a few months ago – due in large part to negative campaigns that have confused and frustrated voters. California's PTA supports Prop 38, but is neutral on Prop 30. The California School Board Association has asked voters to pass both measures, as have three of the four candidates running for OUSD's school board, and Buchanan, Cheslog, Nickerson, and Jaconette. Both measures, said Buchanan, will serve as "a bridge to recovery."

Dwyer confirmed with Cheslog that, if voters do pass both propositions, the measure receiving the highest number of votes – and only that measure – will take effect. Voters will not be taxed twice, as some ads have alleged.



Assembly Member Joan Buchanan (D-15th District and Chair of the California Assembly's Committee on Education) discusses how far California's education system has plummeted in nationwide statistics – and why – at an EFO-sponsored Town Hall meeting October 18.

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Neighborhood Earthquake Response

By Ellen Beans



Photo Sophie Braccini

Fifteen Moraga residents on Carr Drive, Inverleith Terrace, and Gloria Court were seen at 8 a.m. last Saturday walking into Gloria Court, some donning helmets and work gloves. Several had called in to the "command center" using their FRS radios. The reason? They were responding to a simulated earthquake and were practicing their training to assist their neighborhood in a major emergency. Sophie Braccini, coordinator, signed everyone in and proceeded to organize the neighbors into three teams with assignments to do a complete "search and rescue" of each home in the area, leaving Bill Wiegmann to do the in-take of information gathered.

Team Two found a posted tag on one garage door indicating that gas fumes were detected. The team then searched for the gas meter, found the attached wrench to turn off the gas, but before Brian Buick turned the knob, the homeowner on the team yelled out, "No! Not now!" Then ensued an engaging lesson in how and when to turn off the gas in a real emergency.

Another team found an "injured" man pinned down by fallen lumber and bleeding at the mouth and ear, and used an FRS radio to report this

to the command center.

Once all sections of the neighborhood were searched and reported on, all teams re-gathered at the command center. For the first time, there was a coordinating center for the whole town of Moraga to report the information gathered. Braccini, after several tries, reached Moraga Central Command using one of the four U.V. Dual Band Multifunctional Two-way radios recently purchased by the Moraga Police Department.

Each team reported on its findings, which in a real emergency would help the Town to know where to direct the minimal professional services available. Then the neighbors evaluated the 30-minute exercise. Gloria Court was a good gathering location, neighbors needed more practice using the FRS radios, and they needed answers to some important questions: Are all gas meters the same in our neighborhood? Where are they on each house? Exactly what are the conditions under which the gas meter should be shut off? Where can we get a wrench?

In the end, the residents felt that they were ready to practice more involved scenarios in the future.

(Read a related article on the next page.)



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CCTA Recognizes Contra Costa Caldecott Medallion Winners

By Cathy Dausman



Two of the three Contra Costa County Caldecott Fourth Bore Medallion Design Competition winners, from left: Acalanes High School sophomore Daniell McCann, 16, and Springhill Elementary School third-grader Chaya Tong, 8.
Photo Cathy Dausman

Family and friends of Caldecott Fourth Bore Medallion Design winners crowded the Contra Costa Transportation Authority meeting October 17, as the winning designers and many of the 37 additional Honorable Mention winners received formal recognition. The ceremony was emceed by CCTA chair Don Tatzin. Additional presenters include Caltrans District 4 Director Bijan Sartipi and Metropolitan Transportation Commission Vice Chair Amy Worth. Contra Costa County had representation from across the K-12 school system: winners were 16-year-old Daniell McCann, an Acalanes High School sophomore, 8-year-old Chaya Tong, a third-grade student from Springhill Ele-

mentary School, and Penelope Watson, 13, of Pleasant Hill Middle School. Each girl received a framed poster, certificate and t-shirt. McCann and Tong are also past winners in other art contests – McCann for design work done for the Walnut Creek Peace and Justice Center; Tong for bookmark designs for the Lafayette Library and Learning Center. When it opens to traffic in late 2013, the Caldecott Fourth Bore will have three concrete medallions on each side of the tunnel. The selected artwork will inform the molds that will create these medallions. Each mold will be hand crafted, and each will take about a month to make, said Caltrans Landscape Architect Jeanne Gorham.





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It's a (Planned) Disaster: Lamorinda Communities Test Emergency Response

By Cathy Dausman



Police Chief Bob Priebe, Operations Section Chief, confers with Jay Ingram, Logistics. Photos Cathy Dausman



St. Mary's College Police Chief Adan Tejada, left, confers with MOFD Division Chief Stephen Healy

By the time Californians were practicing their “drop, cover and hold on” skills during the Great California Shakeout, Lamorinda first responders, civic leaders, public servants and volunteers had gathered to assess their community’s needs and reach out to neighboring areas.

On October 18, Moraga and Orinda staged a mock activation of their Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs), under the guidance of Lamorinda Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Dennis Rein. Lafayette did not staff an actual meeting site, but dealt with specific scenarios such as the gymnasium collapse and fire at Acalanes High School and a gas main break at the Olympic Oaks Subdivision, and encouraged residents to participate via e-mail, sending in “faux reports” of damage and injuries to staff and emergency responders, according to Lafayette City Manager Steve Falk in a Friday Summary. “Members of the public were also asked to render aid to their neighbors,” said Falk, “something that we will certainly need to do in a large-scale disaster.”

The police department used its Nixle system and the internal systems that it has for notifying the public, said Police Chief Eric Christensen. “We also used contacts with the schools, the fire department, the county EOC, and the Lafayette business community.”

“The exercise was productive – not only for sharpening staff’s skills but – because it helped us identify some shortfalls in the City’s Emergency Operations Plan,” said Falk.

Rein called the Moraga and Orinda activations “discussion-based exercises, including equipment testing.” The half-day drill literally closed all non-essential services at Moraga Town Hall, as nearly 20 staff members reported to their EOC at

Moraga Orinda Fire District Station 42. Orinda staffers assembled in the Sarge Littlehale Community Room, which became Orinda’s EOC. EOC participants included representatives from local police and fire departments, public works, the American Red Cross, Orinda Union School District, Moraga School District, and members of K6ORI amateur radio group. MOFD Fire Chief Randy Bradley oversaw the Lamorinda exercise, acting as Agency Representative. Bradley shuttled between EOC sites at Moraga and Orinda, consulting with his counterparts in each location.

Orinda Police Chief Jeffrey Jennings said the October 18 Shakeout activation was an ideal time for the city staff to re-familiarize themselves with and get comfortable with emergency plans. Jennings recently converted the city’s “comprehensive but non-functional” Emergency Operations Plan to a more user-friendly “plug and play” format.

Moraga Police Chief Bob Priebe saw the EOC activation as a chance for town staff to gain exposure through incident training. He noted just how many good ideas come “when everyone is gathered together in the same room.”

Watching events unfold at the Moraga EOC was like watching a live drama.

The scenario was a 7.7 Bay Area earthquake, with accompanying loss of life, poor phone communications, collapsed buildings, impassable roads, gas and electric outages, food and water shortages, an area wildfire, evacuations and crowd control issues. To add to the excitement, participants learned a landslide had all but blocked access to the Caldecott Tunnel.

EOC players included Town Manager Jill Keimach as Incident Commander; Public Works Superin-

tendent Dan Bernie as Safety Officer; Parks and Recreation Director Jay Ingram, Logistics; Town Clerk Marty McInturf as Public Information Officer, and Chief Priebe as Operations Section Chief. Also on hand were Ken Tom, representing American Red Cross, and a member of K6ORI.

Event facilitators included MOFD’s Division Chief Stephen Healy and Battalion Chief Darrell Lee. Three observers from Saint Mary’s College – Police Chief Adan Tejada, Director of Media Relations Michael McAlpin, and Associate Director of Facilities Michael Viola – stayed through the entire exercise.

Maps, charts and lists soon covered the walls. For the next two hours, participants worked through their problems: what roads were open or closed; where was police help most needed; who had food and water; when was the next work crew coming in.

In the end, everyone had their say, vowing to make “next time” even more efficient.

“This is more than a drill; it happens on a daily basis,” said Keimach. Lee noted the initial “mass confusion”

was intended as a teachable moment.

Healy had high praise for the group. “I’m very impressed,” he said, adding that because of the ongoing danger of wildfire and earthquakes in California, the state is ahead of the curve in disaster preparedness. Tejada couldn’t believe the EOC setup was a

first, and vowed to develop more training for the Saint Mary’s College community.

No matter the outcome, Rein said, “there are 40 more [Lamorindans trained] than in the past.” Priebe agreed, saying in Moraga, “we’ll be okay.”

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Lamorinda Community Emergency Response Team also conducted an earthquake drill October 20 at Donald Rheem Elementary School. Participants worked with American Red Cross, Salvation Army, local first responders and public officials as they rescued and transported injured “victims,” established emergency shelter, and provided care.



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MOVIE REVIEW

One Small Hitch

By Derek Zemrak



Photo provided

The 15th Annual California Independent Film Festival (CAIFF) will kick off Thursday, November 8 with a VIP reception at 5:30 p.m. at the Rheem Theatre in Moraga. The CAIFF attendees will have a choice of feature films including the romantic comedy *One Small Hitch*.

CAIFF alumni, John Burgess, who previously directed the award winning short film *The Powder Puff Principle* directed *One Small Hitch*. This is Burgess' first feature film, which is a very funny comedy about a young man, Josh (Shane McRae, *Four Kings*) who returns home to Chicago to fake his engagement to please his dying Jewish father, Daniel J. Travanti (*Hill Street Blues*). The only problem arises because the plan was not thought out too well. The fake fiancée, played by Aubrey Dollar (*Women's Murder Club*, *Point Pleasant*) is Catholic. Plus Josh never imagined he would run into his old fling Giselle (Heidi Johanningmeir). What is a poor, young, single stud to do?

Everyone will enjoy the comedic timing of the cast in *One Small Hitch*, which received four California Independent Film Festival Slate Award Nominations, including Best Comedy, Best Actor (Shane McRae), Best Actress (Aubrey Dollar), and Best Music.

Under the direction of the new CAIFF Program Director, Joanne Foy, the 15th Annual festival has many choices, starting with Opening Night. The films start with the hilarious short film *The Procession* starring Lily Tomlin and Jesse Tyler Ferguson (*Modern Family*) that will be a definite audience pleaser.

If you want an entertaining night of laughter see *The Procession* and *One Small Hitch* at the California Independent Festival Opening Night.

Tickets are now on sale at www.caiff.org.

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.

It's So Cute It's Scary!

Submitted by Roslynn Stenzel



Photo Roslynn Stenzel

Lafayette Elementary School moms and students gather at the pumpkin patch getting ready for Westival, a fall family carnival tradition of over 50 years, which was held Saturday, October 13. Bottom row, from left:

Patrick Warburton, Grace Guthrie, Ellie Guthrie, Quinn Guthrie, Grant Gebhardt, Ella Easley, Will Berrien, Ryan Mandell and Colin Stenzel. Back row: Molly Guthrie, Lora Easley, Rene Trujillo and Sandy Berrien.

TEEN SCENE

Teens Reflect on Elections

By Caie Kelley

The past few months have been filled with discussions about our presidential candidates. Though most teens can't vote, deciding what party best fits our values is important because many of us will be voting in the next election. Political reform will affect us more as we begin to apply for college and transition to adulthood, and the next President's policies are important for teenagers as much as it is for our parents. So as we each work to establish our own political orientations, what do the teens in Lamorinda think about the election?

Between cramming for the SAT and after-school sports, a couple high school students voiced their opinions on politics. "More than anything else, I feel as though the election is more about hatred and opposing the party in power than actual policy," explained high school junior Simone Britto. "There have been so many commercials openly bashing every candidate. By using religion as a motivation for a public policy, the true meaning of an election is lost. Maybe I'm misinterpreting history, but our Founding Fathers were secular individuals, and representing the wishes of the American people shouldn't be so much about hating

the other side."

Another Lamorinda student agreed that presidents should focus less on religion and general philosophical statements and more on exact plans for reform. She said, "The issues I care most about are ones that will affect me as a student. I hope the government will continue to fund federal grants, student loans, and education in general."

It will still be a couple of years before most of us register to vote. As the new administration moves forward, let's hope they pay attention to teens' views, too.

A junior at Miramonte High School, Caie Kelley is co-host of Express Yourself™ and Secretary of Club BTSYA. In her free time, she enjoys swimming, piano, and volunteering.



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

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

Guess Who's Coming to Dinner?

By Cathy Tyson



Last year's Gala

Photo Doug Kohen

Sharing a meal with celebrity authors doesn't happen every day, but organizers behind this year's Lafayette Library and Learning Cen-

ter Foundation Gala have something new and entirely different planned for their upcoming fundraiser, "A Literary Feast" on November 3.

The evening is all about "celebrating the work of two dozen authors from the San Francisco Bay Area who have contributed so much to our

knowledge and enjoyment of the written word," explains Board President and Event Chair Michael Gilson.

"This dinner is our very first of what we hope will become an annual event to raise funds to support the ongoing work of the Lafayette Library and Learning Center." Unlike every other library in the county and the vast majority of libraries across the country, "more than 50 percent of the total annual cost of the hours and support for our library is provided through the generosity of our donors, so this upcoming Author Dinner is an important source of financial support," says Gilson.

The authors have been "absolutely wonderful and responsive," says Foundation Executive Director Kathy Merchant. Well known authors as well as first timers will be rubbing elbows with ticket holders at each table, from Annie Barrows who wrote *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* to mystery writer John Lescroart, author of *The Hunter and Damage* and Gail Tsukiyama author of *The Samurai's*

Garden along with other titles.

With a massive tent over the front plaza entrance of the Library – cocktails within the library and a sumptuous sit down dinner served in the Community Hall by local catering and event planning firm SpringLoaf, it will surely be a night to remember. Merchant adds with a grin, the evening will have library related themes, "It'll be black and white and read all over."

For those unable to make it to the dinner, but who would still like to support the Library, a silent auction will be available for online bidding from the Lafayette Library and Learning Center Foundation website, www.lllcf.org. Individual tickets and a few table sponsorships are still available for the event scheduled for November 3, starting at 6 p.m. Proceeds will benefit the programs, extended hours and building operations of the LLLC. Check the website for details and a complete listing of all 24 authors, or call (925) 283-6513 for information.

A Lamorinda Powerhouse: Mei Sun Li

By Sophie Braccini



Mei Sun Li during her music and rafting trip in Utah.

Photo provided

Mei Sun Li's life reads like a heroine's in a novel. Intertwined with some of the 20th century's most important historical events, her adventures and personal tragedies have shaped this unique Lafayette resident.

Mei Sun Li was born in America to Chinese parents in 1938. Her father, who was sent by his family to the U.S. for graduate school, was from the city of Tianjin, in northeast China. "My mother was allowed to come with him, contrary to the tradition, because she had just lost her seven-month-old baby," says Li. The objective was to come back after graduation. But history interfered with the plans.

First, the second Sino-Japanese war ravaged their province of origin and interrupted communication with

Li's grandparents; then World War II erupted. "After the war my father went to work in Japan with the bank that employed him. I think my father was still hoping to go back to China, but the progress of Chairman Mao and the Chinese revolution prevented this." Her grandparents and the rest of her Chinese relatives lost everything to the Communist Revolution.

Li has wonderful memories of her life in Tokyo, between ages 10 and 18, in post-war Japan. "It was a fantastic time," she said. Attending school at an army base, she met math teacher Helen Dewey, an important character in Li's life who encouraged her, believed in her, and convinced her to apply to college to study math.

Li graduated from Vassar College in Poughkeepsie with a degree in mathematics. She recalls how hard it

was to find a job commensurate with her skills. "Math? You're a girl!" was the usual reaction when she applied.

She eventually found a job as a statistician with the Public Health Department in Berkeley. "It was very gratifying," she remembers.

While in college, her path crossed that of an old childhood friend, Ted Rosenthal, after Li bumped into the young man's sister. "When we were in the fourth grade, we 'got married' at lunch time," remembers Li. They were engaged three months later.

It could have been a fairy tale, and for a while it was. Li had her children in 1963 and 1965, but in 1969 her 34-year-old husband was diagnosed with Leukemia. He was a very creative soul: he wrote poetry that was turned into a movie, "How Can I Not be Among You?" (The book is available on Amazon.) He eventually died, leaving Li with two young children.

"Life can have terrifying moments that drain you, but to live life fully and to recover and to be a survivor and to find joy is really what is important," says Li. "I've had a lot of trauma and drama in my life. We all die, and it is the decisions that we make moment to moment that are important. I would like my life to be an inspiration to my grandchildren."

After her husband died, Li reconstructed a very full and passionate life, with constant interest in learning new

things, meeting new people, and giving back in many ways.

A few years ago, Li learned that her former math teacher who had taught all over the world, now in her 90s, was living in Iowa. Li got in touch with her, and found out she had undergone cancer surgery and was impoverished. Li flew to see her. Li organized her whole alumni, about 100 people, and raised the money to pay the teacher's medical bills.

The group continues to send their former teacher a stipend every year. "She was such a wonderful, warm-spirited individual who changed my life," says Li.

Volunteerism was always a big part of Li's life. Even when she had a full time job with Bank of America, she started a diversity team. "My first husband was Jewish, I have a very non-conventional background and enjoyed living in very international communities," says Li.

Li has given back to the Lafayette community that became her home 35 years ago by managing Senior Services for the City, starting the Spirit Van program, bringing in a Happiness Club, music performances, and a writer's group. She resigned after seven years in 2011 because of what she calls inflexible job restrictions.

"Life is about joy," says Li. Passion is probably the thread of her rich life. Li enjoys travel, most recently taking a week-long white water rafting trip with musicians in the Moab Desert in Utah that combined physical adventure and music. Today Li is learning to write music, she swims, drums, organizes her neighborhood for emergencies, and has started writing a memoir about her life. Her 99-year-old father is still active in southern California.

Hopefully, Li has inherited his longevity and many more adventures await her.

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I am the primary caregiver for my mother and am starting to feel a bit overwhelmed. Is there anything out there that can help take some of the pressure off of me but at the same time, not take over completely? I still want to be there for my mother and I just need help. Thank you in advance. GRACE

DEAR GRACE,

Caregiving is a demanding, difficult job. If you try to do it all and do it alone, you will feel overwhelmed. Using respite care before you become exhausted, isolated, or physically ill is a necessity; it provides short-term breaks that can relieve stress, restore energy, and promote balance in your life.

Respite care can take many forms but it boils down to two basic ideas: sharing the responsibility for caregiving and getting support for yourself. Respite care can be scheduled for as little as a few hours a day or as much as 24 hours. It can be as simple as providing companionship and a meal or as comprehensive as assuming all the responsibilities of caregiving for several days or weeks. Many people use respite care on weekends when they take trips or spend quality time with their children. Others use it on a daily basis. It allows the primary caregiver to take the time for herself or himself and know that a caring professional is looking after her or his loved one. Family members and friends may be able to help out while you run an errand, take a break, or even go on vacation. However, just as the burden of caregiving is often more than one person can handle--it can also be a tough process for families to share.

I'm sure that you take great joy in caring for your mother so she can remain at home but the physical and emotional consequences can be exhausting without some support. You need to pay attention to your own needs and to who you are outside of your caregiving role. Your health and resilience are critical for your mother's welfare; it is essential for both of you that you get appropriate help when you need it. Decide on the dates and times you want to take off and a caregiver can come to fill in for you. In-home care is popular for obvious reasons. The temporary caregiver comes to the regular caregiver's home and gets to know the care recipient in his or her familiar environment. The temporary caregiver learns the family routine, where medicines are stored, and the care recipient is not inconvenienced by transportation and strange environments. Assess your needs to ensure you receive appropriate respite. As a caregiver, is support what you need most? Or is it some regular free time? Keep track of your daily activities then make a list of the areas and times when you most need help. Identifying your mother's requirements, abilities, and preferences will help you find the right match.

Asking for support and taking care of your own health are vital to managing your role as a caregiver. You are an important member of your mother's health care team. And the best way you can take care of her is by taking care of your own health. VANESSA

West Nile Virus

Mona Miller, DVM

West Nile virus (WNV) encephalitis is a neurologic disease causing inflammation of the brain that primarily affects humans, horses and birds. It is fairly new to North America, having been simultaneously diagnosed in these species in New York in 1999. It is now established throughout most of the United States. Transmission is by a mosquito bite. Some types of birds are reservoir hosts, which means that mosquitoes become infected when taking a blood meal from an infected bird. Then the mosquito transmits the virus to the next individual bitten. Mammals are “dead-end” carriers, which means that the amount of virus in the mammalian bloodstream is too low for a mosquito to acquire the virus during a bite.

WNV disease symptoms are related to the neurologic system, and include stumbling, circling around, hind leg weakness, inability to stand, tremors and death. Not all species and not all individuals are equally affected. In humans, less than one percent of those infected will develop serious neurologic disease. About 20 percent of infected people might experience flu-like symptoms, and the majority of people who are infected don't actually get sick.

Crows and other corvid birds (such as jays, ravens and magpies) are most sensitive to the effects of the virus. Other birds such as sparrows and finches can also develop disease and die. Interestingly, chickens and turkeys can become infected but quickly develop bloodstream antibodies to clear their viral load, so do not get sick. Due to this resistance to disease, these birds are often used as sentinels to ascertain the presence of WNV in a geographic location. In California, there are 200 chicken flocks throughout the state that are routinely tested with a blood test during mosquito season to determine if West Nile virus is in the area.

Pets are exposed to WNV in the same way as other species – through a mosquito bite. However, dogs and cats are very resistant and very rarely become ill. Cats might exhibit very mild signs such as slight fever or lethargy, and it is not likely that a pet owner would notice unusual symptoms or need to seek treatment for this. There is no specific treatment other than supportive care. Dogs and cats do not pose a risk of transmission to other animals. Likewise, because mammals are “dead-end” carriers, affected tree squirrels do not pose a threat of transmission to other mammals.

The best precautions against mosquito bites are to protect skin with an insect repellent, to avoid the higher level of exposure that usually occurs at dawn and dusk, and to eliminate sources of standing water on your property. If you find a dead bird or tree squirrel, you may file a report at www.westnile.ca.gov or call 1-877-WNV-BIRD. This can be important because these dead animals might be the first indication that the virus is active in your area.



Dr. Mona Miller lives in Lafayette with her young son, two cats and Luka a new puppy. She has worked at Four Seasons Animal Hospital in Lafayette since moving here in 2001. She attended Cal as an undergrad, and received her DVM from U.C. Davis. She can be reached at Four Seasons, 938-7700, or by email to MonaSDVM@aol.com.

St. Perpetua School's "Garden of Learning" Feeds a Café and Young Minds

Submitted by Margot Dunphy



Photo provided



St. Perpetua student Liv Drey smiles with Monette Meo.

Photo Kerry Armistead

The comforting scent of orange blossom and rosemary surrounds parents on a warm late summer morning as they sit listening to distant laughter of children. This hidden sanctuary is the “Garden of Learning” and has become a vital teaching tool at St. Perpetua School in Lafayette.

The garden is a labor of love for long-time Lafayette resident Monette Meo and her entourage of volunteers. Several years ago, Monette and a group of dedicated parents transformed this patch of dirt into a thriving bed of creativity and learning. “I

want to give them the experience of an outdoor classroom,” Monette says, “to teach the children that their food doesn't need to come from three thousand miles away.”

To maintain this special place, Monette needed a fundraising vehicle. So, 10 years ago, she launched Café St. Perpetua. The garden produces key ingredients for menu items at the café, and students help create them. Established as the sole support for the garden, the garden feeds the café and the café feeds the garden. “The café was a financial tool to build and support the garden,” Monette says, “Now it's a wonderful gathering place of different generations – and one supports the other.”

Café St Perpetua is open to the public from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. Friday mornings during the school year. On Friday, December 7 St. Perpetua School invites all incoming kindergarten-age children and their parents to get a taste of kindergarten, the Café and the Garden of Learning. Come for coffee at the Café between 8 and 9 a.m., followed by conversations with school staff and a visit to the Kindergarten classroom from 9 to 10 a.m. Space is limited. Pre-registration required: <http://stpsparenteducation.eventbrite.com/>. Contact school Development Director Natalie Deininger for more information: ndeininger@cndo.org.

Animals Blessed at SMC

By Cathy Dausman



Photo Cathy Dausman

A four-footed flurry of dogs, cats and rabbits gathered on the steps of the Saint Mary's College chapel during an annual Blessing of the Animals ceremony October 14. The event honors Francis of Assisi, known as

the patron saint of animals. It was organized by the Episcopal congregation of St. Giles, which holds its services at the chapel. “St. Francis is one of my favorite saints,” the Reverend Justin Cannon said. Cannon is priest-in-res-

idence at St. Giles. He also said it was important that participants remember all who work for the good of animals, for “less fortunate animals” and for working animals. No fur flew during the brief, outdoor service.

MOFD in the Pink for Cancer

By Cathy Dausman



Back row, from left: Jared Costanza, Sr., Matt Epperson, Mark DeWeese, Jacob Airola, and Mike Rattary. Front row: Angela Davison-Lee, Grace Santos, Nancy Amino-Lee, Kim Kennedy, and Isabella Kennedy. Photo Cathy Dausman

Moraga Orinda Fire District employees and their supporters are on fire this month . . . and

all for a good cause. The firefighters are promoting October's Breast Cancer Awareness month by wear-

ing pink t-shirts emblazoned with the district logo and selling them to the public. Proceeds from the sales benefit the Susan G. Komen foundation. MOFD firefighter Mike Marquardt brought 300 shirts through the International Association of Firefighters Local 1230 to sell at the Moraga Fire Station 41 open house October 13. Marquardt said shirts are available “until we run out,” during regular business hours at Fire Station 43, 20 Via Las Cruces, Orinda. “Last year we had only two [shirts] left over,” Marquardt said. “We get a lot of requests from the local hospitals for t-shirts. It's usually individuals in the ERs asking after seeing [emergency] personnel wearing them.”

In November MOFD turns its focus to prostate cancer awareness.

JM Gets a New Hydration Station

Submitted by Stacy Giglio



JM's ECO Club members in front of the new Hydration Station.

Photo Provided

Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School installed its first “Hydration Station” at the school last month, and paid for it from savings the school achieved by diverting food waste and turning it into electrical energy.

The new Hydration Station is an automatic water dispenser for water bottles that turns on when it senses a bottle under the tap. Not only does the Hydration Station provide water to thirsty students, it also counts the number of plastic water bottles that have been saved as the Hydration Station is used.

“It's great to have a way to fill up your water bottle easily between classes. Before the new Hydration Station, I sometimes went all day without getting a drink,” commented Kaveh Boostanpoor, a member of Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School's (JM) Environmental Conservation Organization (ECO) Club.

JM eighth grader Lev Garcia said, “I ride my bike to school so it's really helpful to have a place to fill up my water bottle on hot days.”

Last year, JM's ECO Club began collecting food waste, and sending it off to the waste water treatment plant

in Emeryville, where it was broken down by bacteria and turned into methane to produce electricity. The plant uses the electricity to operate, and sells excess power back to PG&E.

More than 300 pounds of food waste is diverted weekly at JM. It also improved its recycling collection and the two together were enough to reduce the number of trash pick-ups from twice a week to once a week, a savings of \$1,150 per month. In six months, the program saved JM and the Moraga School District over \$6,000, which was used to purchase the Hydration Station, pay for an ECO Club field trip, and some additional options on the club's wish list.

Last spring, JM custodian John Behr won the 2012 Contra Costa County Solid Waste Authority Custodian Award for his dedication to the new recycling program.

“I'm happy the money the ECO Club helped save by collecting food waste could come back to the students and our school. It's important for the kids to see that their hard work benefits their school,” said Kim Lockett, JM Science

Teacher and ECO Club Leader.

The Hydration Station idea isn't new; Orinda Intermediate School installed one over two years ago, and cut back on the number of bottled drinks provided with lunch. At their Green Summit meetings, OIS, JM and Stanley Intermediate School share ideas about how to make their schools more environmentally friendly. An average school child creates 67 pounds of trash a year, which provides opportunities on many levels to address the waste.

JM's ECO Club is comprised of about 30 students and seven teachers. They monitor the recycling and food waste disposal stations during lunchtime to make sure the waste is separated properly. JM previously had 30 trash cans on campus; these have been replaced with four recycling stations and only 7 trash cans. The ECO Club also sponsors Green Movies once a quarter, plans events for Earth Week, works with the hot lunch program to improve the containers used, and helps JM become a ‘greener’ school.

All In A Jar

By Susie Iventosch



Penny Porter in her kitchen
Photo Susie Iventosch

When I first learned of Penny Porter's teaching business, All In A Jar, my first thought went back to early childhood days of catching fireflies in jars with holes poked in the metal lids. This summed up my knowledge of canning and bottling things, because fireflies were just about the only thing I remember putting in a jar, other than maybe a centipede or two.

So, when Porter invited me over to see her bountiful collection of homemade preserves ... jams, chutneys, pasta toppings, pickled veggies, fruits, lime curd, tapenades, and even ready-to-go apple pie filling, I was not only amazed, but truly inspired. The art of preserving food is making a big comeback, along with the heightened interest in cultivating prolific vegetable gardens, and Porter is an enthusiastic professor of preserving.

"My passion is getting people in the kitchen doing this together," Porter proclaims. "Preserving is a really fun activity for family members and friends, alike. To me, food is love and family ... that's how I show them I love them ... and they tend to like it too!"

Whenever friends have an abundance of produce from their gardens, Porter hops in the car, gathers the goods, and races back to her kitchen

where her creativity goes into overdrive. As you can see from the picture, Porter laid out a beautiful spread of goodies for me to taste, as well as a perfect autumn apple pie made with her homemade pie filling.

"My favorite birthday dessert has always been strawberry rhubarb pie, but the problem is that my birthday is in November," Porter said. "So, my mom used to go out and buy frozen fruit for the pie. But, by preserving the fruit myself, I can have my favorite pie any time of the year!"

Porter got her start in canning at age six, when she went to Brentwood u-pick farms with her mom. They picked apricots and from the mushy fruit, they made jam while they put the pretty fruit straight into jars. She lost touch with the art of preserving during her 20s, but one day, in her 30s, she called her sister and sister-in-law to plan a "jam" fest. They all ventured to Brentwood and came back to jam--the boys on their musical instruments and the girls over the stove, actually making jam.

"We finally encouraged the boys to 'jam' with us in the kitchen and they love it," she said. "I think they are always hungry and love to get creative in the kitchen so they'll always have something good on hand to eat. They seem to especially enjoy making hot sauce and pickled veggies."

Porter likes to think outside the box, er, jar, and makes pickled tomatoes, jams with hot peppers or real vanilla bean, and also uses these products creatively in other recipes.

"Recently, I've been putting the cherry-jalapeno jam in brownies!"

Hands down, my favorite item from the gorgeous spread she prepared for me was her Eggplant-Bell Pepper Spread, which she uses as a filling for manicotti and lasagna, bread spread, or to top scrambled eggs.

"This item can be used for breakfast, lunch or dinner," she notes.

Her stepson, Jason Porter, is the executive chef at Seven Glaciers ski resort in Alaska and she is always open and interested in his critiques of her products. He has used some of her recipes at the restaurants, though he doesn't preserve them, but rather uses them right away.

Even though many people are frightened away from preserving food because they don't know how, or they fear contamination, Porter says that preserving food is really not difficult, but you must start with a very clean kitchen.

"I clean the kitchen thoroughly, including the vent above the stove, and you must scrub the produce, even if you plan to peel it," she said. "I also sterilize the jars and lids, and always label each jar with the product, date and batch number."

She also recommends following the recipes exactly, and never doubling them. You may get more or less yield due to the size and water content of the produce, but she says to stick to the recipe. That is not to say you cannot substitute ingredients, which is exactly what I did when I realized we only had limes on hand, yet her apple chutney called for an orange. But, I did stick to the measurements and still discovered that the yield was slightly different than expected.

Porter recommends purchasing the Ball Blue Book of Canning and Preserving Recipes, or taking a class to get started. She offers classes at Back To The Table cooking school in Lafayette, as well as home parties and demonstrations at select Navlet's Garden Center locations. She also says it is a great idea to purchase a jar lifter, a canning funnel and a good ladle before you try this at home.

I think this is a great idea, too, since I did not have a jar lifter when I made her delicious apple chutney, and found that my tongs did a poor job of removing the jar from the boiling water bath. Once I removed the jars, I eagerly anticipated the "ping" of the lid sealing. When mine did not ping, I consulted the Internet, which told me to be patient. Within two more minutes, "ping" went the jars!

Oh the joy of that unmistakable ping!

For more information on All In A Jar preserving classes, please visit: <http://www.allinajar.com/>, or email allinajar2012@gmail.com, or call (925) 299-0251. For more information on Back To The Table cooking school, please visit: <http://backtothetable-cookingschool.com/>.

Spice Pear or Apple Chutney

(Yields approximately 5 pints)

This chutney can be used in many ways. I used it for chicken curry, but Penny Porter uses it in oatmeal, over yogurt or in muffins. She uses pippin or Fuji apples, or Bosc pears if using pears. I used a combination of Fuji and Honeycrisp.

INGREDIENTS

- 10 large pears or apples*
- 1 1/2 star anise
- One 3-inch cinnamon stick
- 2 whole cloves
- 1 whole Thai chili
- 1/2 teaspoon ground ginger
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/4 teaspoon cardamom
- 1/2 teaspoon yellow curry powder
- 1/2 teaspoon cumin seed
- 1/4 teaspoon turmeric powder
- 1/4 teaspoon cayenne pepper
- 1 teaspoon fresh grated ginger
- 1 orange, zest and juice (this is where I used lime zest and juice ... delicious and a bit more tart)
- 1/2 cup apple cider vinegar
- 1 cup honey
- 1 cup golden raisins
- 1 cup walnuts, coarsely chopped (add just five minutes before placing jars in the water bath)

*To prevent browning of fruit, make a solution of 2 tablespoons kosher salt, 2 tablespoons white vinegar and one gallon cold water. Immerse cut fruit in this solution until ready to use.

DIRECTIONS

- 1) Use a spice bag or make a bag with cheese cloth to put star anise, cinnamon stick, Thai chili and whole cloves.
- 2) Wash pears or apples, peel, core and cut into 1 1/2 -inch pieces.
- 3) Wash orange, then zest and juice
- 4) Combine all ingredients in a large, nonreactive sauce pot. Simmer over medium-low heat for about 20 minutes, or until thick, stirring frequently to prevent sticking.
- 5) Remove spice bag and add nuts. (I did not use the nuts, but will try next time)
- 6) Ladle hot chutney into hot sterilized jars, leaving 1/2 inch head space. (Fill one jar at a time, leaving the remaining jars in the hot water to keep them sterile and also this helps pull the vacuum for a good seal.)
- 7) Remove air bubbles by tapping bottom of filled jar on a cutting board covered with a folded towel to prevent cracking.
- 8) Wipe rims of jars with clean, damp towel and seal with new lids and rings. Twist rings until secure, but not too terribly tight.
- 9) Process for 20 minutes in a boiling water canner, or large pot. Be sure water is about 2 inches above the top of the lids.
- 10) Remove jars to a cooling rack, check seal, label and store in pantry.
- 11) Refrigerate after opening.

** Note: Porter suggests removing the metal rings before storing, leaving just the sealed lid on top. The rings can get rusty after being in the water bath, and it is easier to tell if you have any problems with your preserved food if you do not have the ring on it. She says this way the jars can better "talk to you" to tell you if there are any spoilage problems.



Photo Susie Iventosch

Susie Iventosch is the author of Tax Bites and Tasty Morsels, which can be found at Across the Way in Moraga, www.amazon.com, and www.taxbites.net. Susie can be reached at suziventosch@gmail.com. **These recipe is available on our web site** www.lamorindaweekly.com. If you would like to share your favorite recipe with Susie please contact her by email or call our office at 925-377-0977.



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◆ Not to be missed

ART

The Orinda Library October Art Gallery Exhibit. The exhibit for October will include artists Judith Feins, Fred Lee, Ginny Ruble, Billie Jean Bertoli and Bill Carmel. The exhibit for November will feature the Kumbstank group. The Gallery is located adjacent to the library at 26 Orinda Way in Orinda. For more information go to www.orindaartscouncil.org/community_library.

Saint Mary's College Museum of Art Celebrating SMC's 150th Anniversary. New exhibitions on view at Saint Mary's College Museum of Art include The Art of the Cross; Nyame Brown: John Henry's Adventures in a Post-Black World; Missions of Will Sparks, and the William Keith collection. The exhibits will be on view through mid-December,

1928 Saint Mary's Road, Moraga. Regular admission: \$5; youth, military free. Regular hours are Wednesday through Sunday, 11am to 4:30pm. For more info, call (925) 631-4069.

Flora and Fauna. This art show will highlight artwork of the painter Leslie Swarts' expres-



sionist paintings of trees from around the world and jeweler Laura Paige's fine beadwork created with stone beads through Saturday, January 11 at Moraga Art Gallery, 522 Center Street, Moraga. There will be an opening reception on Saturday, Octo-

ber 27 from 3 to 5pm. For more info, call (925) 376-5407 or visit www.moragaartgallery.com.

MUSIC

Saint Mary's College Fall Music Recital Series: at 1pm Wednesday, October 24 and November 14 at the Soda Center. Enjoy opera arias, sonatas, duos, trios and other small ensemble works inspiring performed by Performing Arts' student musicians. Each concert in the series features different musical selections. Free.

Holden High School Cabaret. Music by The Heard, a Jazz ensemble and Joel Weber and his accordion from 7 to 9:30pm Friday, October 26, Orinda Community Church Fellowship Hall, 10 Irwin Way, Orinda. Enjoy a dessert buffet and learn more about Holden. Tickets: \$10 advanced; \$15 at the door. For more info, call (925) 254-0199.

The Acalanes Music Department presents its Fall Instrumental Concert. The concert will feature the award-winning Acalanes String Orchestra and the Symphonic Wind Ensemble October 30 at 7pm in the Acalanes Theater, 1200 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette. A brief reception will follow the performances. Free admission, with a suggested donation of \$5 per person.

Annual Holiday Concert. The concert presented by the Walnut Creek Concert Band will be at 7:30pm November 27 at Leshar Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek. Tickets: \$12-\$17. For more info, call (925) 943-7469 or visit www.lesharartscenter.org or www.walnutcreekband.org.

THEATER

DVC Drama 2012 - 2013 Season. The Grapes of Wrath by Frank Galati will be showing at Diablo Valley College November 11, Fridays and Saturdays at 8pm and Sundays at 2:30pm, 321 Golf Club Road, Pleasant Hill. Tickets: \$20 general admission; \$15 for faculty, staff, and seniors; \$10 for students. For more info, call (925) 687-4445.

Rumors a play by Neil Simon. A classic comedy! The Deputy Mayor of New York has just shot himself. Though only a flesh wound, four couples are about to experience a severe attack of farce. The play will be showing at 7pm October 26, 27, and November 1-3 at the Acalanes Performance Arts Little Theater, 1200 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette. Tickets: \$10, \$7 for students. For more info, visit www.ahsperformingarts.org.

Oakland Youth Orchestra. The concert program features Copland's "Fanfare for a Common Man," Barber's Overture to "School for Scandal," Ginastera's Suite from Estancia, and Dvorak's Suite no. 8. The concert is at 1pm November 3 at Rossmoor, Del Valle Club House in Walnut Creek, 1751 Tice Creek Drive. For more info, visit www.oyo.org.

Spring Awakening presented by Saint Mary's College Performing Arts Department from November 8-10 and November 15-18, LeFevre Theatre at Saint Mary's College, 1928 St. Mary's Rd., Moraga. Spring Awakening is a rock musical featuring live music, stunning design, and world-class choreography. Spring Awakening celebrates the unforgettable journey from youth to adulthood with power, poignancy, and passion that you will never forget. Tickets: \$15 for general admission; \$12 for seniors; \$8 for staff and students.

For more info, call (925) 631-4670 or visit www.brownpawpawtickets.com.

The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe. This upcoming fall play will be showing from November 7 through November 10 at Orinda Intermediate School located at 80 Ivy Drive in Orinda. Show times are at 4:30pm November 7 and 8, and 4:30pm and 7:30pm November 9 and 10. Tickets are \$6 for adults and \$3 for students (17 and under) on Wednesday; \$10 for premier seating, \$8 for standard seating on Friday and Saturday. For more info, call (925) 258-3090 or visit www.ShowTix4u.com.

15th Annual California Independent Film Festival. Films opening this year's festival include Body Complete, One Small Hitch, and Lore. The festival will run November 8-11 at The New Rheem Theatre, 350 Park Street, Moraga and at the Orinda Theatre, 4 Theatre Square, Orinda. (See article on page B1)

THREE QUARTER MOON. This is the November selection



for the International Film Showcase. Stubbornness has finally driven a permanent wedge between the man and his most important relationships. This film is showing at 1:30pm, 4pm, and 6:30pm with screenings at 8:45pm on Friday and Saturday November 16 - 20 at Orinda Theatre. For more info, visit www.lfef.org or www.lamorindatheatres.com.

FESTIVALS & SPECIAL EVENTS

City of Lafayette Emergency Preparedness Commission. This quick and easy session from 7 to 9pm Thursday, October 25 at the Lafayette Community Center, 500 St. Mary's Road in the Elderberry Room back parking lot, will help you prepare yourself and your family for the next earthquake whether you are at home, work, or out and about. Free. For more info, call (925) 284-2232.

Annual Spiral Dance. A Multi-Cultural Celebration of Our Beloved Ancestors and Crones by Daughters of the Goddess. On this cool fall evening we come together to honor our loved ones who have crossed over to the other side October 26, at 6:30pm at the Orinda Masonic Temple, 9 Altarinda Road, Orinda. Bring pictures of your loved ones that have passed to be placed on the Ancestor Altar. Tickets: \$23 if paid by October 22; \$29 at the door. For more info, call (925) 787-9247 or visit www.daughter-softhegodess.com.

SusieCakes, an all-American home style bakery is celebrating the opening of its new Lafayette location with an old-fashioned Sock Hop from 1 to 4pm October 27 at SusieCakes new location, 3590 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. This family friendly event features '50s music, vintage cars, and activities for the kids, and of course, SusieCakes signature dessert favorites. For more info, call (415) 392-2232. (See article on page B12)

Women and the Church: How did Christianity get hijacked by men and when have women risen up. The Women's Ministry at Our Savior's Lutheran Church is hosting an evening of conversation and fellowship at 7pm Satur-

day, October 27 at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette. Free. For more info, call (925) 283-3722 or visit www.oslc.net.

20th Annual Reservoir Run. The Lafayette Reservoir Run is the city's most popular "family affair," involving kids, parents, grandparents, and hundreds of serious runners from throughout the Bay Area. The event will be on Sunday, October 28 beginning at 6:30am in Downtown Lafayette starting at Mt. Diablo Blvd. between First St. and Moraga Road. The adult registration: \$30; race day fee \$35; elementary school fee \$22. For more info, visit [www.http://lafayettechamber.org/events/reservoir-run/](http://lafayettechamber.org/events/reservoir-run/).

Lafayette Physical Therapy will be having free community lectures. The Core: Stabilization vs. Strength and How Pilates Can Help lecture with Ashley Berry, Certified Pilates Instructor and Personal Trainer will be from 7pm to 8pm October 30, 3468 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Suite B110, Lafayette. For reservations, call (925) 284-6150 or visit www.LafayettePT.com.

The Kabbalah of You: A Guide to Unlocking Your Hidden Potential presented by The Jewish Learning Institute. Through the examination of the entire spectrum of what it means to be human, The Kabbalah of You offers recipes, tips, and techniques. The six-session course will be on Tuesday's beginning October 30 from 10 to 11:15am at Chabad of Contra Costa, 1671 Newell Ave., Walnut Creek, and from 7:30 to 8:45pm at the Contra Costa Jewish Day School, 3836 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. For more info, call (925) 265-9554 or visit www.myJLL.com.

Second Annual Contra Costa Philanthropy Awards breakfast. The awards program recognizes individuals, businesses and service organizations that have made significant contributions of time, leadership and financial support to benefit Contra Costa residents. Honorees will be recognized at the second annual breakfast celebration November 8 from 7:30am to 10am, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, 45 John Glenn Drive, Concord. For more info, call (925) 246-1880 or visit www.contracostacouncil.com.

Appraisal Event in Moraga. The Moraga Women's Society is sponsoring a second appraisal event presented by Michaan's Auctions from 4 to 7pm November 9 at Holy Trinity Cultural Center, 1700 School Street, Moraga. Cost: \$20 for up to three items in the same category. For more info, call Jean Glaser at (925) 376-7961.

HALLOWEEN AND HOLIDAY FUN



Haunted House! October 24 - 30 from 5 to 9pm (10 pm on Friday and Saturday) at Orinda Theatre Square. Free. Perfect for kids ages 5-13. Bring canned and dry goods to donate to the Food Bank of Contra Costa.

Please submit events to: calendar@lamorindaweekly.com

Lamorinda's Religious Services



ORINDA CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CENTER

24 Orinda Way (next to the Library) - 254-4212
 Sunday Service and Sunday School 10 - 11 am
 Informal Wednesday Meeting 7:30 - 8:30 pm
 Reading Room/Bookstore M - F 11 - 4; Sat 10 - 1
www.christianscienceorinda.org

Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church
433 Moraga Way, Orinda, 254-3422
www.holyshepherd.org

8:15 a.m. Traditions Worship Service
 9:40 a.m. Education for all ages
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HALLOWEEN AND HOLIDAY FUN ... continued

Halloween Mixer. Networking and Halloween fun with costumes, drinks, and prizes. This Halloween open mixer is costume mandatory with a contest to go with it! This event will be at Third Workplace from 6 to 8pm Thursday, October 25, 7000 Sunne Lane, Suite 112, Walnut Creek. For more info, call (925) 482-0910 or visit <http://thirdworkplacehalloween-eorg.eventbrite.com/>.

Dark Dreams Haunted House at Rheem Theatre from 7 to 11pm October 26, 27, 28 and on Halloween, October 31. Tickets: \$9 at the door. This is a fundraiser for the California Independent Film Festival.

Trick or Treat at Rheem Valley Shopping Center from 3 to 5pm on Halloween, October 31. Free bags and Halloween candy for children in costume from participating businesses.

Little Shop of Horrors. There will be a Halloween skit from 7

Little Shop of Horrors



to 9pm Halloween, October 31, at 12 Lynwood Place, Moraga. There will be tricks and treats.

Orinda Holiday Bazaar. Come and get a start on your holiday shopping! The Orinda Holiday Bazaar will feature art, crafts, gourmet food, clothing, specialty items, and entertainment and is designed for the entire family from 9:30am until 4:30pm Saturday, November 3 at the Orinda Community Center, 28 Orinda Way, Orinda.

A Harvest Fair and Luncheon. Take time to browse and purchase that distinctive gift for the special people on your shopping list from 10am to 3pm Thursday, November 8 at the Soda Center, Saint Mary's College, 1928 Saint Mary's Road. Enjoy a glass of wine, soda or juice while shopping for holiday decor, stocking stuffers, and hostess gifts. A Traditional Thanksgiving Menu will be served at noon. Cost: \$27. For more info, call (925) 820-8002.

Community Thanksgiving Breakfast. The Lafayette Chamber of Commerce invites you to join city leaders, residents and the business community for breakfast as we have done for 32 years. Breakfast will be graciously provided by Dave's Cuisine from 7 to 8:30am November 15 at Lafayette United Methodist Church, 955 Moraga Road, Lafayette. Cost: \$20. For more info, call (925) 284-7404 or visit www.lafayettechamber.org.

WORKSHOPS & ORGANIZATIONS

Shape Great Kids with Positive Parenting. Louise Hart, Ed.D., a recognized speaker, bestselling author and thought leader in positive parenting, will host an encouraging and uplifting parent education workshop from 6:30 to 8pm Thursday, October 25 at Bentley's School's Student Performing Arts Center, 1000 Happy Valley Road, Lafayette. This research-based approach decreases negative emotions and behaviors, and improves relationships. For more info, contact Melissa Hyde at (510) 843-2512 ext. 2402.

Living with Disabilities Conference Sunday, October 28 at 4pm (dinner and resource fair) and 5pm for the presentation by Dr. Ricki Robinson, pediatrician and autism expert, the Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church. (See article on page B2)

Come attend the Saint Monica Men's Club meeting for fellowship, refreshments and a delicious dinner prepared by Chef Bob Murtaugh and crew on November 5 at 6pm in the St. Monica Peace Center (1001 Canyon Road). Ivy Morrison, Caltrans Fourth Bore Public Information Officer, will speak about the status of the new Caldecott Tunnel. Cost for dinner: \$10 (members); \$15 (non-members).

Sons in Retirement Lamorinda Branch 171 meet the first Wednesday each month. Social hour is at 11am and lunch is at noon. The November 7 after-lunch speaker will be Dan Ashley, anchor of ABC News at 6 and 11. Ashley's presentations have been very interesting and informative. The branch meets at Holy Trinity Culture Center, 1700 School St., Moraga. For more info, call Larry at (925) 631-9528.

Lafayette Garden Club features guest speaker Laurel Ann Winzler, one of San Francisco and the Bay Area's outstanding floral and event designers, who will share her magical ideas for "Fabulous Holiday Décor" at 9:30am November 8, Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette. Contact: sa613and@aol.com.

Montelindo Garden Club Meeting. Janet Sluis traveled the world for 20 years to search for unusual plants. Hear how and why these plants made the cut to become 'Sunset Western Garden Collection' plants November 16 at 9am, Orinda Community Church, 10 Irwin Way, Orinda. For more info, call (925) 254-3906.

OTHER

The 2012 Iron Filmmaker Contest begins October 27. The contest is open to everyone and is free to enter. Contestants will have 24 hours to create a complete three-minute short film. The film must include the secret ingredients that all participants will be given at the kick-off at 9am Saturday, October 27 at The New Rheem Theatre, 350 Park St., Moraga. All films submitted will be shown at The New Rheem Theatre at 9am, Saturday, November 10. Enter your team online at www.caiff.org. The completed movie must be turned in by 10am Sunday, October 28 at www.caiff.org.

Widowed persons support group. The sessions are informal discussions for those in need of emotional support after the loss of a loved one. There will be counseling sessions that continue each Saturday from 10am to noon through November 17. The meetings are at St. Stephens Episcopal Church in the Oak Room, 66 St. Stephens Drive, Orinda.

The Liberal Arts and Educating Citizens for the Common Good. A Saint Mary's College of California symposium on the importance of the liberal arts in educating responsible democratic citizens will be held from 7 to 9pm Tuesday, October 30 at the Soda Center, Saint Mary's College, 1928 Saint Mary's Road, Moraga. For more info, call (925) 631-4222.

Prop 37: Your Right to Know. Sustainable Moraga will host a film "Genetic Roulette" and discussion to support this upcoming initiative from 6 to 8pm October

30 at the Moraga Library, 1500 Saint Mary's Road. Californians overwhelming support this proposition – requiring companies that use genetically modified organisms (GMOs) in their products to label them as such. For more info, call (925) 788-8394 or visit www.sustainablemoraga.org.

The Friends of Orinda Library Book Sale: Thursday, November 1, 10am to 1pm at the Sorting Room and Bookshop, Orinda Library, 26 Orinda Way, Orinda. For info, call (925)254-1358.

Lafayette Juniors 19th Annual Rummage Sale from 7am to 2pm Saturday, November 3 at Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Drive, Lafayette.

Healthy Lamorinda Fair from 5 to 7pm Monday, November 5 at the Oakwood Athletic Club, 4000 Mt. Diablo Boulevard, Lafayette. Free. For more info, visit www.healthylamorinda.com.

Artisan Faire. Offering unique, creative gifts, with complimentary wine tasting from 4 to 7pm Thursday, November 15 at the Orinda Country Club, 315 Camino Sobrante, Orinda.

Free Memory Screenings as part of National Memory Screening Day from 1 to 4pm Tuesday, November 15 at Aegis of Moraga, 950 Country Club Drive, Moraga. For more info, call (925) 376-9900 or visit www.alzfdn.org.

Holden High School presents the 2nd in its writer's series from 7 to 9pm Thursday, November 15 at the Orinda Community Church Fellowship Hall. This Meet the Writer event will feature Marine Ecologist Dr. Rod Fujita, author of Heal the Oceans and will include refreshments, a conversation with Rod, sales of his books and an autographing opportunity.

Lamorinda Moms' 15th Annual Preschool Fair. Attendees will receive a comparison of each of the participating preschools and have the opportunity to meet and talk with the directors and parents from each school from 6:30 to 8:30pm Thursday, November 15 at Oakwood Athletic Club, 4000 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. Free. For more info, visit www.lamorindamoms.org.

Celebrate the Joy of Remembrance at the 26th Annual Hospice of the East Bay Tree of Lights. Please join any of the commemorative ceremonies to enjoy music, poetry, remembrances by family members and friends of Hospice, and the special moment when the tree lights up. There will be a tree lighting ceremony Saturday, December 1 at 4:30pm at the Orinda Tree in Orinda Village, and at 5:30pm Sunday, December 9 at the Moraga & Lafayette Tree, Moraga Country Club, 1600 St. Andrews Drive, Moraga. There will be a reception following after the tree lighting.

Kindergarten Tour at St. Perpetua School. St. Perpetua School in Lafayette invites all incoming kindergarten-age children and their parents to get a taste of kindergarten and the school's very own Café St. Perpetua from 8 to 10pm Friday, December 7 at St. Perpetua School, 3445 Hamlin Road, Lafayette. For more info, visit www.stpsparenteducation.eventbrite.com.

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Layout/Graphics: Andy Scheck, Jonas Scheck,

Amanda Griggs. Printed in CA.

Lamorinda Weekly,

P.O. Box 6133, Moraga, CA 94570-6133

Phone: 925-377-0977; Fax: 1-800-690-8136;

email: info@lamorindaweekly.com

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Hop Sock Grand Opening Celebration at SusieCakes in Lafayette

By Sophie Braccini



Susan 'Susie' Sarich in front of her new SusieCakes in Lafayette

Photo Sophie Braccini

Once upon a time in Chicago, Grandma Madeline and Grandma Mildred had a granddaughter who spent most of her free time in both of their kitchens, baking with them. The little girl became so good at it that they nicknamed her 'Susie Cake.'

Fast forward 30 years. Susan (Susie) Sarich graduated from Cornell with a degree in hospitality, worked in that industry for 20 years, and then it hit her: She had carefully preserved her grandmothers' recipes; she wanted a business that would share the authentic American spirit of her

grandmothers, so she opened SusieCakes six years ago with bakeries in San Francisco and the Los Angeles area.

On October 27, Sarich invites Lamorinda to the opening of her eighth store, which is in Lafayette at 3598 Mt Diablo Boulevard, next to Pizza Antica.

When she opened her first store, Sarich had a precise idea of what her baking and business models were going to be. "I wanted to bake almost Betty Crocker-esque desserts," she said during a 'hard hat' visit of her new store, "what your grandmother

would have made, very mid-west, all-American cakes, where everything is straightforward and made from scratch."

Sarich looks for ingredients that are local and are of consistently high quality. Every month she gets 3,000 pounds of flour, 3,500 pounds of butter, 7,500 pounds of sugar (for batter and frosting), and 183,000 eggs from Chef's Warehouse in San Francisco and Los Angeles for the eight bakeries that prepare everything from scratch daily. What is not sold that day is given to local food banks.

"My other business objective was

to give women a place to work and blossom in hospitality," says Sarich. "I've seen a lot of great women leave the industry because of night and holiday work. That's why we're closed on Sundays and we're open only from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. That was intentional from the start to build our brand."

In the bakery, painted in her signature 'Susie-blue' that reminds her of her grandmother's mixing bowl, clients will see about 10 bakers working behind a large glass window with a choice of cakes, cookies, pies, and bars. Custom-made cakes are a specialty.

About 60 percent of SusieCakes' business comes from custom-made cakes for all occasions. "In each store, we employ a full-time Celebration Specialist who works with guests to plan their custom cake design for their wedding, anniversary, graduation, or any special event," says Sarich. There are examples of cakes online, but clients have to come into the store to create one. Prices start at \$33 for a 6-inch round. Cakes are

buttercream only.

"Our mission is 'Connecting Through Celebration,'" says Sarich. "If you're baking here for the people who live here, if you are also from the area, then you connect with the community." Giving back is also very important to Sarich. "Every year we give back \$150,000 of products to the community, school auctions, Girl Scouts, churches..." she says.

Sarich believes that people will come to experience the difference that 'back to basics' makes. "Life is so busy. What we offer is a simple place to just stop and relax with a friend or your child, sit down and have a cupcake, a cup of tea or coffee, and enjoy a simple moment of human interaction," she says.

The October 27 Sock Hop Grand Opening party will be from 1 to 4 p.m., with complimentary sweets. For information, visit SusieCakes.com.

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

10th Annual National Memory Screening Day

Aegis of Moraga, 950 Country Club Drive, Moraga, (925) 478-7327

Senior Helpers of Contra Costa in association with the Alzheimer's Foundation of America and Aegis of Moraga will hold free, confidential memory screenings from 1:30 to 4:00 p.m. Tuesday, November 13 at Aegis of Moraga to mark the Alzheimer's Foundation of America's 10th annual National Memory Screening Day. The event is part of the foundation's annual initiative to conduct memory screenings to promote proper detection of memory problems, especially among seniors. No appointment is necessary, a memory screening averages between five and 10 minutes and consists of questions and tasks to assess memory. Educational materials will be available to help those who may require some follow-up help. "We are organizing this event as a tool families can use in determining whether their loved ones are showing signs of memory problems and whether they should possibly have a follow-up appointment with their family doctor," said Kevin Reneau of Senior Helpers. "It also helps bring attention to a condition that affects almost all of us, whether it be a family member, a friend or somebody we know."

Juice Box Heroes Wins Best Picks, www.juiceboxheroes.com

Local Dads Craig and Scott Coane, founders of the local group Juice Box Heroes, announced that their 3-CD Juice "Box Set" has won a Dr. Toy Award for Best Picks of 2012. The set, which features all three of their CDs (No Sugar Added, Loose Tooth and Raise Your Snack), has been their best seller this year. Juice Box Heroes records kids' fun songs with '80s tunes that appeal to parents. The quality of their work has led to a constant growth since they started the group in 2009. The CDs can be purchased on their website.

Orthopedic Surgeon Expands in Lafayette, 3717 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, (925) 284 5300

Bay Area Development Company completed 504 funding for East Bay Shoulder Clinic and Sports Rehabilitation, Inc. in Lafayette. The financing allowed the medical practice of Kirk Jensen, MD, to purchase a 14,305 square foot commercial space on Mt. Diablo Boulevard. Jensen began his surgical career at UCSF Hospital in 1995. In 2005 he opened his private medical practice in Oakland, specializing in the treatment of shoulder and sports injuries. In 2008 and 2009, Jensen opened two separate locations in Lafayette to help meet patient demand for his services, focusing on shoulder injuries and care, a rare niche in the area. As a result, his practice has grown considerably over the years, largely because of referrals. For the sake of efficiency and quality of care, Jensen wanted to give up his two leased locations in Lafayette and consolidate into one larger space where he can offer on-site physical therapy and x-ray services.

Alain Pinel Realtors Adds to Orinda Team

2 Theatre Square, Orinda, (925) 258-1111

Alain Pinel Realtors (APR) announced the addition of Karen Richardson and the Karen Richardson Group to its team in the Orinda Office. Richardson joins APR from Coldwell Banker where she was named a member of their Diamond Society for the past eight years. Richardson has 10 years experience in real estate and specializes in the Lamorinda area and is a member of the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce, Contra Costa Association of Realtors, and California Department of Real Estate.

News from the three Chambers of Commerce

Lafayette

Ribbon Cutting for Kathleen Burke Design, Inc. from 5 to 5:30 p.m., 3449A Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Coffee with the Mayor from 8 to 9 a.m. October 26 at the Chamber.

20th Annual Reservoir Run from 6:30 to 10 a.m. October 28. More info at lafayettechamber.org/events/reservoir-run/. (See article page Ax)

Healthy Lifestyles Fair from 5 to 7 p.m. Monday, November 5 at Oakwood Athletic Club, 4000 Mt. Diablo Blvd. The Chamber is partnering with Healthwise Chiropractic Center, LamorindaWeb and Oakwood Athletic Club to bring the first fair of this kind in Lafayette.

Moraga

Chamber Mixer at the Moraga Art Gallery from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Octo-

ber 30, 518 Center St, Moraga (next to TJ Maxx).

Julia Hoang DDS, Lamorinda Dental Care hosts an Open House from 4:30 to 7 p.m. November 1 in her new office at 533 Moraga Rd, suite 240.

Orinda

Chamber Luncheon from noon to 1:30 p.m. November 2 at the Orinda Country Club, 315 Camino Sobrante, Orinda. Guest Speaker: Amer Bata: California Department of Transportation Supervisor & Bay Bridge Engineer. Cost: \$30, online at orindachamber.org/events.htm.

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

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LAMORINDA SPORTS

Miramonte Volleyball Drops Two in Rivalry Week

By Simon Tryzna



Mats' senior setter Ali Pietrykowski and sophomore middle blocker Lauren Foster. Photo Andy Scheck

The Miramonte Matadors' volleyball team had rivalry week in the true sense of the term, facing both Campolindo and Acalanes last week. The Mats played host to the Cougars on October 16 before traveling to face the Dons two days later. They were not able to achieve the results they were looking for though, dropping both games.

Wearing "Beat Campo" t-shirts during warm-ups, the Mats' expectations of an upset victory were quickly shattered as the Cougars got off to a 7-1 start that eventually became a 25-9 first set victory after an ace by senior Lauren Gaskin.

"First, there is a lot of history between these two teams," said Campolindo's head coach John Vuong. "We told our players to be poised and focused on the game and not what these fans are doing. In the first game we put a lot of pressure on Miramonte with our serve and when we got the free ball opportunity, we put it away."

Freshman Kirsten Sibley gave the Cougars a strong start in the second set, yet Miramonte hung close with good serves. They were able to cut the deficit to 15-16, after a controversial call gave the Mats a point. The call fired up both Campolindo fans and the team and the Cougars went on a 9-1 run to close out the set, winning 25-16.

The Cougars took their momentum into the third set and they opened up a 6-1 lead. But Campolindo faltered and after a series of miscues the Matadors stormed back into the set. Miramonte's ability to sustain long rallies allowed them to hang with Campo.

A shot into the net gave the Mats a 17-13 lead. The two teams traded points as the Mats, to the delight of the home crowd, were able to win the third set 25-19.

"We felt our team let down their guards and did not have the same intensity as the first and second games," said Vuong about dropping the third set.

However, Campolindo stormed right back in the fourth set. A kill by senior Annie Shurtz gave the Cougars a 6-3 lead, a kill by Sibley pushed the lead to 11-5. Behind strong serving by

Campolindo was happy to maintain their win streak.

"Being undefeated so far in league play is a blessing for our team," said Vuong. "All the winning is great and helps build our players confidence, but we told the girls that it is not how we start, it is how we finish at the end of the season that matters most."

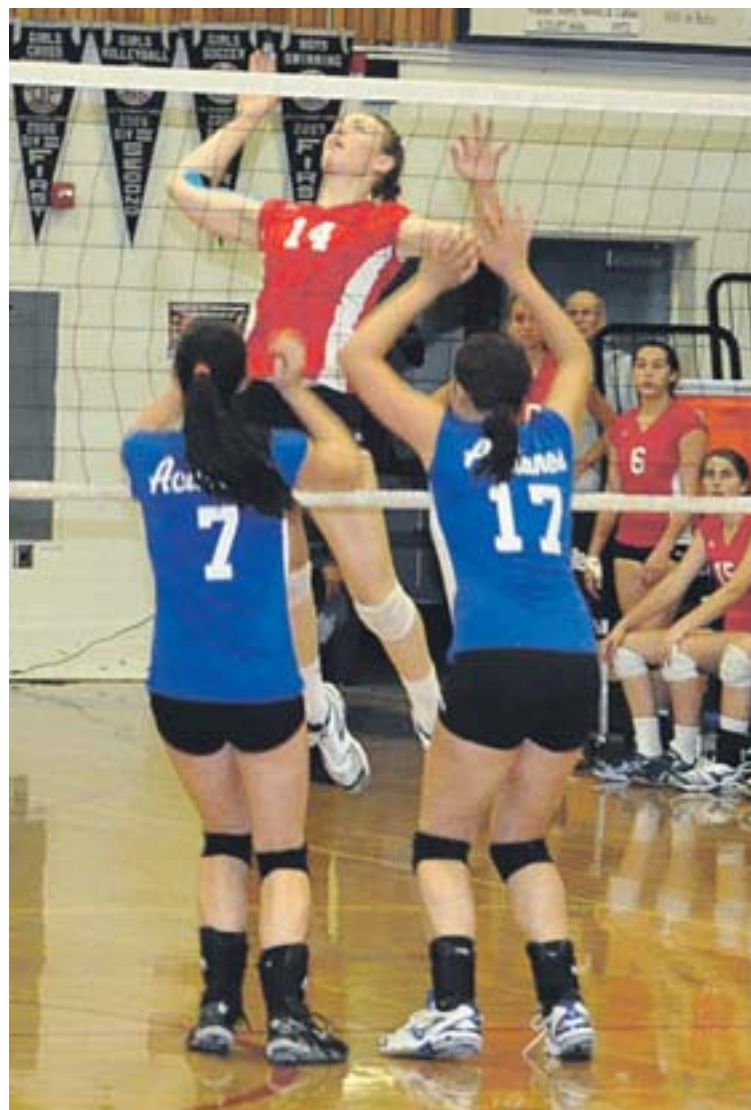
Things did not get much better for Miramonte as Acalanes defeated the Mats, 25-7, 25-23, 25-13. Amanda Jarquen and Brooke Aiello led the Dons with seven kills and Joanna Hamish had 36 assists. With the win the Dons improved to 4-5 in league play while the Mats dropped to 2-8.

Despite the two losses, Masedo is happy with where his team is now. "I think my team is playing well. I hope to finish strong (in league play) and hope that the girls keep playing to the best of their ability."

Acalanes, according to head coach Steve Siegman, has been inconsistent this year. After a couple of tough losses to Campolindo and Las Lomas, the team did a bit of "soul searching" in practice and responded with their best performance of the year against Miramonte. With a performance like that, Acalanes and its head coach have high hopes for the rest of the year. "I really would like to win our last three matches," said Siegman. "They are all winnable matches. Not easy, but winnable. If we play like we played last night, we should win."

Shurtz, the Cougars pushed their lead all the way to 17-8, before closing out the match with a 25-15 fourth set win to remain undefeated in league play.

"We started to lose focus a little bit [in the fourth set]," said Miramonte's coach Dave Masedo. "Once we started losing focus, we started to lose momentum and the match got away."



Annie Shurtz #14, Amanda Jarquen #17 Photo Andy Scheck



Brooke Aiello Photo Gint Federas

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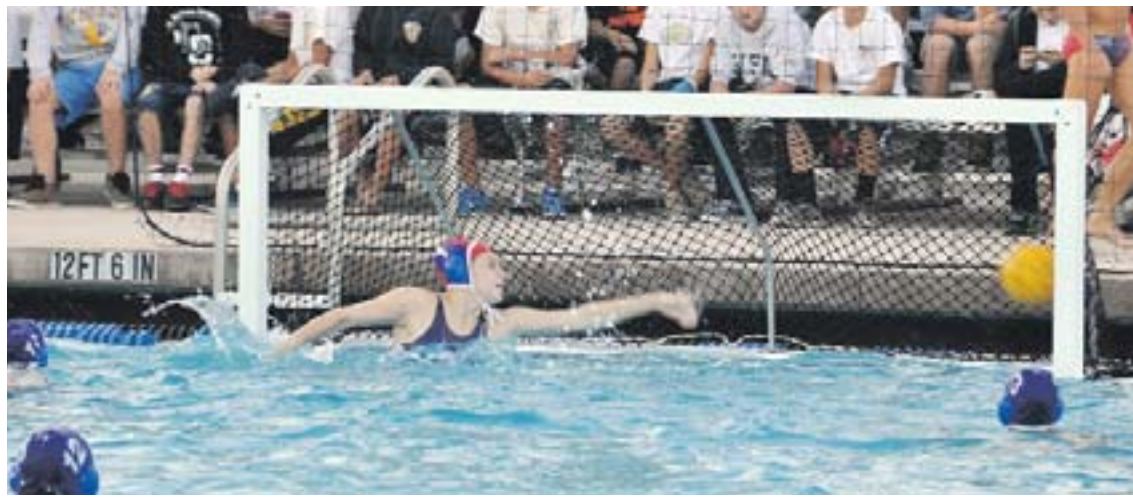
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Water Polo Rivals Face off

By Marissa Harnett



Campolindo girls defeated Acalanes 6-5.

As the high school water polo league season draws to a close and the NCS playoffs approach, rivalry match-ups book the calendar. Acalanes hosted Campolindo on October 17 in dramatic matches for both the boys and girls. Campo eeked out two wins by just one goal in each game. The girls earned a 6-5 win, while the boys notched the 13-12 victory.

In the pool first, the girls' teams faced off. The Lady Dons pulled out to an early lead scoring in the first minutes of the game and held the lead at 2-1 at the half.

Campo coach Kim Everist was proud of how her players kept fighting. "They did a great job of hanging in there, not losing their composure and worked through the challenge.

Adrenaline picked up in the second half for a far more energized game, as both teams found a way to score. Campo scored three goals in two minutes to even the score at 4-4 heading into the fourth quarter.

The teams went back and forth in the final quarter. Campo had the lead

and ball possession with less than 30 seconds remaining, and they ran out the clock to earn the 6-5 win.

"Acalanes is always a great competitor and our games with them are always physically and mentally challenging," Everist explained. "The team dug deep and were able to finish out the game."

Despite a disappointing loss, Acalanes coach Misha Bushel is happy with the progress his team has made over the season; the Dons lost by five the first time they played Campo. "I don't think I could have asked for more from our girls," Bushel said. "Everyone was focused and disciplined - much better than the first time we played [them]."

Jumping in the pool right after the girls, the boys' game started similarly to the girls' match. Acalanes jumped to a 2-0 lead in the first minutes of the game. Campo quickly squashed that momentum and came back to take a decisive lead by the end of the first half, 6-3.

"I told the boys that they need to continue to control the pace of the

match. We stuck to our game plan and our planned defensive match ups," said Campolindo head coach Anton Sapozhnikov.

Each team logged five goals in the third, bringing the score to 11-8. The fourth quarter saw Acalanes step up their game to close the gap on Campo. After two time-outs in the last minute, the Dons missed the tying skip shot, giving Campo the 13-12 win.

Acalanes coach Clarke Tamariki admits that his players struggle in pressure situations. "The biggest challenge has been getting leaders to take control in tough games," he explained. "My challenge is having guys prepared."

Campo coach Anton Sapozhnikov said he was getting nervous that the Dons were steadily closing the gap. To pull out the win, he said the team relied on maintaining high energy and a strong defense. "We continued to score on offense and our goalie was phenomenal, he played with high intensity throughout the whole game and never got discouraged."

Photo Andy Scheck

Miramonte takes on Campo today in Orinda. With both boys teams undefeated in DFAL, today's match will decide the league champion.

Miramonte coach James Lathrop's biggest challenge this season has been filling the shoes of last year's seniors who logged many minutes in the pool. Still playing, though, are key players such as goalie Drew Holland, Jack Fellner, and Charlie Wiser. "The younger guys have done a good job coming in and participating in taking their game up to the next level," he said.

He added that the Mats have played some top teams in the state this season and are looking to bring experience to today's matchup. "Hopefully the difficulty of our schedule will help prepare us for Campo and NCS," he explained.

The Lady Mats have their work cut out for them as they take on their undefeated rivals. Despite being a young team, head coach Trevor Rose feels confident that the younger players have stepped up well. "Our [junior] Dominique Clark has filled the gap in hole-set beautifully, and our complimentary set of sophomores makes up the core of our speed. Captain Laurie Simon is our 'rock' who provides leadership and great play constantly," he said.

Season records as of 10/18/12

	Boys	Girls
Acalanes	2-2 league 9-9 overall	3-1 league 12-5 overall
Campolindo	4-0 league 14-4 overall	4-0 league 16-1 overall
Miramonte	4-0 league 10-4 overall	3-1 league 17-6 overall



Connor Reid scored six goals for the Dons

Photo Gint Federas

Former-Mat Earns Academic All-League Honors

Submitted by Richard Pauletich



Ryan Higgins

Photo provided

Ryan Higgins, a Miramonte graduate and a junior at Pomona-Pitzer, achieved Southern California Athletic Conference Academic All-League honors and is the

leading scorer for the water polo club team. At Miramonte, he captained both the swim and water polo teams in his senior year and was named co-scholar athlete of the year.



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Divers Honored with NorCal Award

Submitted by Steve Sherman

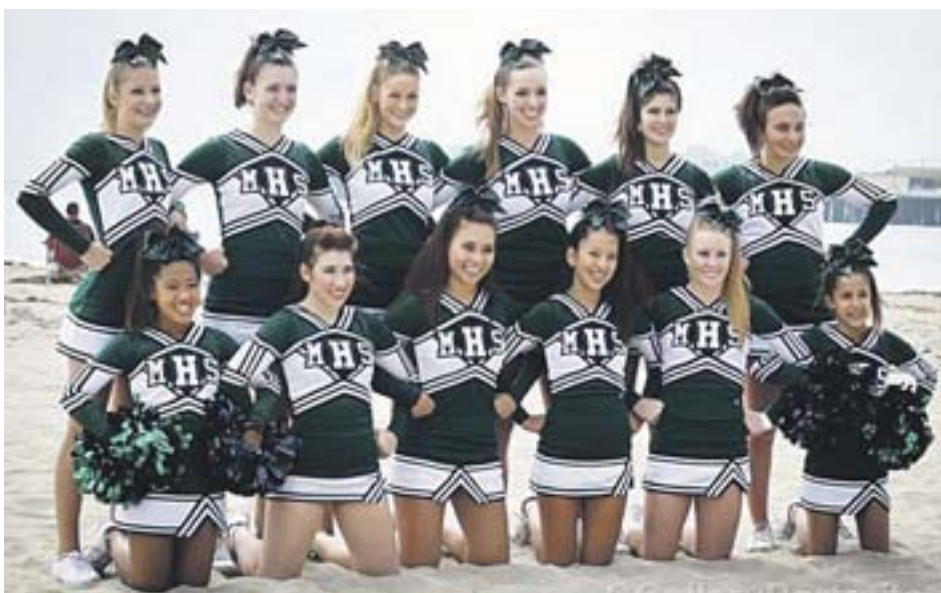


From left: Morgan Matranga (Moraga) 14-15 girls, Harrison Fisher (Alamo) 13 & under boys and Brenna Cetrone (Orinda) 13 & under girls.

All three divers placed second in total points for all NorCal diving meets during the past year in their prospective age groups. These points came from competitions on 1 meter, 3 meter, and occasionally platform as well.

Mats Cheer Earns Second Place

Submitted by Mary Requa



Bottom row, from left: Taylor Wong, Brianna Rieser, Cassidy waters, Stephanie Yau, Carrie Requa, Julia Gomes; top row: Vanessa West, Kelly Martin, Dominique Hoover, Taylor Nielson, Ariela A, Jamey Abeles

The 2012-2013 Miramonte High School competition cheer team placed second in the small novice division at the United Spirit Association Cheer competition this month. There were eight high schools that competed, and Miramonte brought home a second place trophy. Their success guarantees their ability to participate in the national competition.

Lafayette Swimmers Compete in Alcatraz Invitational Swim 2012

Submitted by Deb Barr



From left: Emily Collins (14), Chris Barr, T.J. Collins (12), Jamie Barr (12) and Matt Barr (14)

Over 1,000 swimmers competed in this year's Alcatraz Invitational Swim on Saturday, September 8th. Local dad, Chris Barr, trained and swam with sons, Matt & Jamie Barr and two of their friends, Emily & T.J. Collins, completing the event in just around the hour mark.

Bentley Athletics Report

Submitted by Clay Kallam



Junior Ru Smillie



Photos provided Kelly Finnegan



Kylie Han goes for the dig.

Boys' Soccer:

The North Coast Section playoffs are starting to become familiar territory for the Bentley men's soccer team, which is on track for its second straight appearance in post-season play.

The Phoenix are 12-5 going into the Bay Counties League-East playoffs, having built on their first-ever NCS win last season.

With Mitch Hemerling anchoring the back line, and Ger-

man exchange student Christoph Laubenthal and Louis Thibault up front, Bentley racked up double-digit wins and recorded its first win ever over BCL-East power Head-Royce.

And since the Phoenix will return many key players, head coach Sean Kwasnicki has high hopes for the future— and a continuing presence in the NCS playoffs.

Girls' Tennis:

The Bentley women's tennis team heads into postseason with justifiable high hopes, as the Phoenix are 11-2 on the year.

Barnett, Bar None

Warriors color commentator offers inside perspective on job, team

By Caitlin Graveson



Jim Barnett interviewing Lance Goulbourne Oracle Arena at the beginning of October
Photo courtesy Golden State Warriors

Playing professional basketball for 11 years and working as the color commentator for the Warriors for 27 years, Jim Barnett is no stranger to the NBA. His enthusiasm and excitement has not diminished over his tenure. In an interview at his home we asked Barnett, a resident of Orinda for 41 years, about his experiences. With the NBA season opener on October 30, Barnett has high expectations for the Warriors this season.

When did you move to Orinda? What made you stay?

I was traded from the Portland Trailblazers in 1971 and I moved down here. We bought a home in Orinda in June of 1972. It was really a small town then, beautiful. The weather was good. We just fell in love with it.

Did you always know you wanted to be a broadcaster when you stopped playing?

It had never even entered my brain and I fell into it. I was still playing in the NBA. I was back here in Orinda. Bill Russell was supposed to come down and cover the Warriors against the Phoenix Suns playoff game... He couldn't make it. So, someone called me.

How did you get the job with the Warriors?

I was playing for Philly and the president of Madison Square Garden called me. He offered me the TV job covering the Knicks. We had just had [my daughter], and so I said no. I went into regular business, sales and stuff. People kept calling me to do college games. The Warriors were sold and they were going to start broadcasting games on TV. So, they hired me and that was the first time I ever solicited for a job.

What do you have to know to be a broadcaster?

To be a broadcaster, the great ones take their ego out of it. You don't do it for yourself, you do it for your audience, someone who has taken the time to sit down and have an interest and watch the game. You want to enhance that experience.

Does it ever get tiring with the long seasons?

The toughest part is having a team that is underachieving. But, I just call the game like it is. Every game is a new game. I haven't lost my enthusiasm, and I think that is the most important thing to have.

Is it hard to call the game when the team or a player is struggling?

You have to be honest, but there is a way to do it. You can point things out without pointing the finger, and you give someone the benefit of the doubt. There is a way to say things without trying to embarrass someone.

What is the best part of your job?

The best part is talking about basketball, which has been such a huge part of my life. I am just inseparable from basketball. I love the NBA. These players are so good. It is great to be part of it, being around the game that defined my life in such a significant way.

Do you have a favorite memory of calling a game?

The Sleepy Floyd game, playing against the Lakers. [Sleepy Floyd] went off and scored 39 points in the second half, 29 in the fourth quarter. I remember a lot of shots he made. And, games from Run TMC. But, I don't really dwell on [specific games] that much.

What do you think of the plans to move the team to San Francisco?

I think it is a real positive step. It is major city, top 5 in the United States. And, to not have a downtown arena, is pretty unusual. And, frankly, when you go around and people ask, "Where is that [golden state]?" They have no idea. So, I think it is time.

The Warriors pride themselves on their fan base, does that affect you at all?

It is much easier to do a game when you have 18-19 thousand people yelling, going crazy like that. The fans help the players. They help the broadcasters as well.

The Warriors made a big trade last season, sending fan-favorite Monta Ellis to the Bucks for center Andrew Bogut. How do you think the Warriors will do this year?

We are finally going to be good, for the first time in a long time. You don't have an opportunity to trade someone who is 6'2 or 6'3 [Monta Ellis] for a big man. [Andrew] Bogut is a legitimate big man.

The Warriors open their season on October 31 against the Phoenix Suns. Their first home game is on November 2 against the Memphis Grizzlies.

**Submit stories to
sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com**

Coach Nathan Jackman's solid group of returners was bolstered by the arrival of transfers Samantha and Kelly Finnegan, who have stepped right into the top part of the singles' rotation.

In addition, seniors Jessica Wilcox and Elise Filter anchor a strong doubles' rotation.

The Phoenix have been a force in Bay Counties' League-East tennis since Jackman took over four years ago, but this might be their best team yet – and with only two seniors and a host of strong sophomores, expect more of the same in the coming seasons.

Volleyball:

It's been a rough year for Bentley women's volleyball in terms of wins and losses, but coach Kris Keller says it's not a reflection on his team, but rather the strength of the competition they've faced.

"We're playing the best volleyball we've ever played here," says the seventh-year coach, "but everyone else is better too." The Bay Counties' League-East competition is topped by Head-Royce, but almost every team in the league is stocked with club players.

Senior Emily Radler and junior Gabby Cirelli have been the most consistent players for the Phoenix. Sophomore Kylie Han and junior Tina Chapman have both done well at the net, and Cirelli, Han and Chapman will be the foundation for next year's team.

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Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 06 Issue 17 Wednesday, October 24, 2012



Fire Pits and Fiery Tables: The New Hot Items for the Back Yard

By Cathy Tyson



Jeannette and Jim Baird's dining patio with wood burning fireplace.

Photo provided

While Lamorindans enjoy the last of our glorious fall weather, what better way to enjoy a slightly cool evening than to gather around a fire with friends and family? Nothing says ambiance like flames, or a marshmallow roasted to golden gooey deliciousness. From a simple pit to elaborate fireplace patio installations to fiery tables, homeowners and one local Country Club have successfully played with fire – with amazing results.

This past Friday the Moraga Country Club (MCC) celebrated the grand opening of its newest

arrivals – a pair of substantial table-style fire pits with the second of two Fiery Friday Nights events. MCC Assistant General Manager Kathe Foster said they wanted another casual gathering place for the many members playing couples-tennis and golfers who have wrapped up 18 holes - ready for an adult beverage after a long week – or for families to enjoy the view. With a portable bar and food service available it's a lovely way to relax in the outdoor space. The sturdy tables each have a generous apron – wide enough to accommodate plates and

glasses. Foster calls the fire tables the Club's "new toys" complete with cozy chairs and the addition of portable heaters in case the fog rolls in.

Other locals have warmed to the idea of accessorizing their own outdoor spaces with fire pits and fireplaces. Homeowner Jeannette Baird grew up just a few blocks away from her and husband Jim Baird's current home on the edge of Lafayette. She describes their outdoor room as "Italian inspired." An artist herself, Baird found magazine pictures of exactly what she wanted, showed them to her contractor and – voila! – a dining patio was born. The family loves the wood burning fireplace and has hosted many parties, book club get-togethers and even a Christmas brunch in front of the dramatic wood burning fireplace. The only downside is the squirrels that enjoy the grape vines winding their way up a column and onto the pergola, managing to nibble their way through the original strings of lights. The charming fixtures have since been replaced with commercial grade, squirrel-proof illumination.

Tucked onto a ridge in Orinda is Ellen Osmondson and John Allenberg's contemporary gas fire pit designed in partnership with Richard Sullivan and Shari Bashin of Enchanting Planting in Orinda. Ample seating is provided by cleverly incorporating a small retaining wall to address the sloping yard around the square stone fire pit. A Jacuzzi and barbecue area complete the upper portion of hardscape, in addition a welcoming patio with lounge chairs anchors the lower level of the home.

... continued on page D4



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234 El Toyonal, Orinda Represented Buyer SOLD 	485 Woodminster Dr, Moraga Represented Tenant SOLD 	94 Devin Dr, Moraga Represented Buyer SOLD
255 La Espiral Dr, Orinda Represented Buyer SOLD 	20 Birch Ct, Orinda Represented Seller SOLD 	17 El Camino Moraga, Orinda Represented Buyer SOLD
136 Spring Rd, Orinda Represented Seller and Buyer SOLD 	9 Wanfleete Ct, Orinda Represented Buyer SOLD 	122 Lombardy Ln, Orinda Represented Buyer SOLD

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Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

City	Last reported:	LOWEST AMOUNT:	HIGHEST AMOUNT:
LAFAYETTE	12	\$556,000	\$1,175,000
MORAGA	3	\$365,000	\$1,026,000
ORINDA	19	\$230,000	\$2,350,000

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

- 3268 Ameno Drive, \$835,000, 3 Bdrms, 1952 SqFt, 1961 YrBl, 9-25-12;
Previous Sale: \$236,000, 12-01-83
- 1 Arbor Way, \$730,000, 3 Bdrms, 1513 SqFt, 1956 YrBl, 9-21-12;
Previous Sale: \$321,500, 08-30-96
- 682 Francis Drive, \$556,000, 3 Bdrms, 2025 SqFt, 1967 YrBl, 9-21-12
- 3322 Glenside Drive, \$750,000, 4 Bdrms, 2054 SqFt, 1938 YrBl, 9-26-12;
Previous Sale: \$650,000, 06-20-00
- 1029 Hampton Road, \$951,000, 5 Bdrms, 2985 SqFt, 1950 YrBl, 9-14-12;
Previous Sale: \$999,000, 09-08-05
- 3966 North Peardale Drive, \$1,357,000, 3 Bdrms, 3608 SqFt, 1951 YrBl, 9-19-12
- 1064 Oak Hill Road, \$745,000, 2 Bdrms, 1638 SqFt, 1953 YrBl, 9-14-12;
Previous Sale: \$349,000, 08-22-97
- 3224 Palomares Avenue, \$1,360,000, 3 Bdrms, 1109 SqFt, 1953 YrBl, 9-19-12;
Previous Sale: \$620,000, 10-14-11
- 1107 Silverhill Court, \$1,175,000, 3 Bdrms, 4828 SqFt, 1996 YrBl, 9-21-12;
Previous Sale: \$200,000, 06-30-89
- 51 Silverwood Drive, \$1,150,000, 4 Bdrms, 3376 SqFt, 1962 YrBl, 9-18-12;
Previous Sale: \$559,000, 03-23-98
- 3958 South Peardale Drive, \$1,550,000, 3 Bdrms, 3104 SqFt, 1947 YrBl, 9-20-12
- 3662 West Road, \$750,000, 9-14-12

MORAGA

- 264 Lakefield Place, \$1,026,000, 4 Bdrms, 2106 SqFt, 1968 YrBl, 9-14-12;
Previous Sale: \$695,000, 05-17-12
- 42 Miramonte Drive, \$365,000, 2 Bdrms, 1762 SqFt, 1964 YrBl, 9-21-12;
Previous Sale: \$510,000, 11-23-04
- 172 Miramonte Drive, \$449,000, 3 Bdrms, 1798 SqFt, 1965 YrBl, 9-20-12

ORINDA

- 14 Ardor Drive, \$1,200,000, 5 Bdrms, 3314 SqFt, 1961 YrBl, 9-13-12
- 73 Brookwood Road #32, \$230,000, 1 Bdrms, 673 SqFt, 1962 YrBl, 9-21-12;
Previous Sale: \$93,000, 07-16-84
- 595 Dalewood Drive, \$1,530,000, 5 Bdrms, 4710 SqFt, 1993 YrBl, 9-14-12
- 98 Diablo View Drive, \$1,650,000, 4 Bdrms, 3407 SqFt, 1954 YrBl, 9-21-12
- 193 Holly Lane, \$699,000, 4 Bdrms, 2141 SqFt, 1963 YrBl, 9-20-12;
Previous Sale: \$850,000, 05-18-09
- 6 La Bolsita Way, \$1,170,000, 4 Bdrms, 2953 SqFt, 1925 YrBl, 9-14-12;
Previous Sale: \$650,000, 07-17-97

... continued on page D7

Lamorinda Foreclosures recorded

LAFAYETTE

- Mcgraw Lane, 94549, Wachovia Bank, 09-27-12, \$1,616,151, 3734 sf, 4 bd

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Debbie has enjoyed an almost 20 year career in real estate, working throughout the East Bay, but concentrating on Selling the Lamorinda Lifestyle. Her strengths are in her relentless pursuit of getting her clients the absolute best results possible in every facet of the real estate transaction, using her well-honed negotiation and problem solving skills.

Debbie and her partner, Lisa Geary, have created a seamless approach to helping their buyers and sellers obtain their real estate goals, utilizing both their skill sets to minimize the disruptive nature of real estate in their clients daily lives. Debbie's marketing, negotiation, and problems solving skills are complimented by Lisa's interior design, project management, and technology experience. Together they deliver the most stress-free and financially positive home buying and selling experience in the East Bay.

Both Debbie and Lisa live in Lamorinda; Debbie has raised two children in the Moraga/Orinda schools, and Lisa currently has three children in the Orinda school system. They have a wealth of knowledge from their combined 30+ years of living in the Lamorinda area to help their clients easily assimilate into their new community. Debbie and Lisa love Living and Selling the Lamorinda Lifestyle - contact them to find out more about their unique approach to real estate.

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Easy Winter Home Prep

by Andi Peterson Brown

I know, I know—it's been 90 degrees out and I'm writing about prepping your home for winter. But if you are anything like me, once the holidays hit, getting up on the roof to clean the gutters is just not going to happen. Thus, there is no better time than a warm October weekend to spend a few hours preparing your home for the cold, wet weather that is just a couple short months away. These easy tips can prevent future costly repairs, lower your utility bills, and ultimately protect your largest investment.

- Clean your gutters. It's so easy and yet so hard. But failing to clean your gutters will cause long term water damage to your siding, roofing, and wood trim.
- Inspect your roof and flashing. Been some time since anyone's been up there? For minimal cost, a roofer can inspect, diagnose, and perform basic repairs.
- Inspect your heating system. For minimal cost, an HVAC technician can tune up, clean, and perform basic repairs to ensure your system is running at maximum efficiency.
- Reverse your ceiling fans to push warm air down.
- Extend downspouts. Water should drain a few feet away from your foundation, not flow right onto it.
- Caulk around windows and doors. And those foam and fabric front door draft stoppers—yes those, the ones on late night infomercials for twelve bucks—they work wonders.



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Fire Pits and Fiery Tables

... continued from page D1



Kids enjoy "Fiery Friday Night" event at the Moraga Country Club.

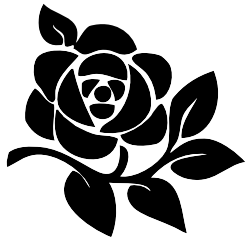
Photo Ohlen Alexander



Ellen Osmundson and John Allenberg's contemporary Orinda fire pit.

Photo Cathy Tyson

... continued on page D6



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79 Hardie Dr., Moraga	4 Bed, 2.1 Bath	2634 sq. ft.
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Fire Pits and Fiery Tables

... continued from page D4

Both the house and the fire pit area take full advantage of the spectacular view of rolling hills and highlight the privacy of the parcel.

Avid gardeners Jennifer and Allen Lescure had been shopping for a home with the potential for a multi-level back yard. They found it in a 1942 home that has been lovingly restored in Orinda with a sunny, usable, large rear space – a challenge considering Orinda's hilly terrain. The couple knew what kind of plants they wanted and enlisted the help of Garden Lights of Orinda to bring their vision to fruition. Mindfully including two Koi ponds, space for a compost area, a charming greenhouse along with bird cages and a friendly rabbit, their fireplace is nestled within the lush landscaping with welcoming green Adirondack chairs. "It's perfect for roasting marshmallows," said Jennifer Lescure, explaining the heat thrown out melts the marshmallows to perfection before they can burn.

A Rheem Valley Manor couple knew they wanted a fire pit area when their bluff-top yard was re-landscaped a number of years ago, and wisely had the contractor run a gas line out to the center of the flat lawn area. Fast forward a bit and these smart do-it-yourselfers visited a statuary shop in Half Moon Bay and purchased a large terra cotta urn that can also be used for a fountain. After maneuvering the cumbersome, ridiculously heavy piece into place, the rest was relatively easy. The lighting mechanism comes as a kit with installation instructions. The lady of the house vows that this is her last big project.



Fire with a view, a Rheem Valley Manor homemade fire pit.

Photos Cathy Tyson



Jennifer and Allen Lescure's intimate fireplace, tucked into lush landscaping.



Raleigh the wonder dog enjoying Moraga fire table.

Photo Cathy Tyson

Another Moraga couple close to this writer's heart was looking for a low maintenance, but inviting lounging area and opted for a gas fireplace table combination. "Everyone seems to end up out there when we have guests," said homeowner Tom Tyson. Given the mild weather, it's used year round – with a lap blanket and a glass of wine on a cool fall evening or reading the Sunday paper with the dog. Of course the pooch doesn't read the paper, but he does enjoy the sunshine and is in charge of securing the air space in case a hawk flies by.



Happy hour at the Moraga Country Club's new fire pit.

Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

... continued from page D2

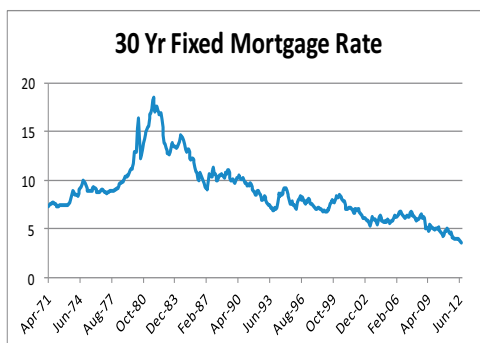
ORINDA ... continued

- 211 La Espiral, \$850,000, 4 Bdrms, 2020 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 9-14-12
 9 La Fond Lane, \$1,285,000, 4 Bdrms, 3010 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 9-18-12
 6 Linda Vista, \$305,000, 1 Bdrms, 1219 SqFt, 1939 YrBlt, 9-19-12
 7 Loma Vista Drive, \$530,000, 2 Bdrms, 1611 SqFt, 1940 YrBlt, 9-18-12
 80 Loma Vista Drive, \$1,900,000, 4 Bdrms, 3787 SqFt, 2002 YrBlt, 9-17-12;
 Previous Sale: \$460,000, 07-19-90
 38 Los Altos Road, \$1,330,000, 3 Bdrms, 3799 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 9-14-12
 44 Lucille Way, \$600,000, 3 Bdrms, 1877 SqFt, 1983 YrBlt, 9-18-12;
 Previous Sale: \$680,000, 12-03-02
 129 Meadow Lane, \$1,100,000, 3 Bdrms, 1769 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 9-19-12
 22 Moraga Via #A, \$500,000, 1 Bdrms, 1278 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 9-14-12;
 Previous Sale: \$97,500, 06-28-78
 39 Oak Drive, \$855,000, 5 Bdrms, 2534 SqFt, 1976 YrBlt, 9-18-12;
 Previous Sale: \$782,500, 06-25-03
 6 Rich Acres Road, \$1,715,000, 5 Bdrms, 5782 SqFt, 2011 YrBlt, 9-17-12;
 Previous Sale: \$7,000, 07-22-88
 488 Tahos Road, \$950,000, 4 Bdrms, 4035 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 9-18-12;
 Previous Sale: \$794,500, 11-26-97
 20 Zander Drive, \$2,350,000, 4 Bdrms, 3850 SqFt, 2007 YrBlt, 9-13-12;
 Previous Sale: \$1,201,000, 02-20-04

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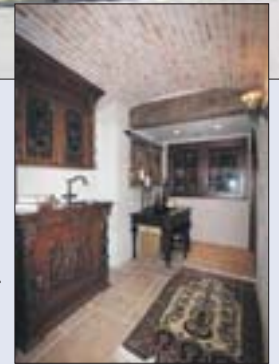
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ORINDA



50 Camino Don Miguel

Special Country Club location amidst expensive homes. Lush setting with building site knoll and towering oaks, filtered views & total privacy.

Offered at \$545,000

ORINDA



73 La Espiral

Well maint. 4bd/3ba hm for easy living. Vaulted ceilings & abundance of windows. Updated baths & mod. kit. This 2825 sf hm offers "Great Room" concept, stylish decor, & quality features.

Offered at \$1,060,000

ORINDA



81 Van Ripper Lane

Great rancher on one of the best Orinda streets. Great price too - move right in or remodel.

Offered at \$1,250,000

ORINDA



43 Canyon View Drive

One of a kind, secluded, Tahoe-like 4bd/3.5+ba hm on 1.25 ac w/views of hills & Mt. Diablo. Fruit trees abound. Stone fireplace. Updated kit/baths.

Offered at \$1,439,000

ORINDA



31 Parklane Drive

Glorietta Sngl Lvl Charmer updated w/exceptional finishes & design. 4bd/3ba, vaulted ceilings, hwdwd flrs, Fr. doors, priv. mstr retreat. Outdr kit/patio/ fipcl & lrg lvl lawn. Quiet street & ez commute

Offered at \$1,545,000

ORINDA



251 Monte Vista Ridge Road

Stunning gated custom estate hm w/pano views of Briones. Outdoor living at its best w/expansive terrace featuring fabulous kitchen. Romantic mstr retreat w/spa bath.

Offered at \$1,995,000

ORINDA



65 La Espiral

Updated w/beautiful custom features & amenities. Very well maintained. Majestic setting, lovely gardens, new pool + views/ privacy, fully fenced. Tuscany ambiance, European flair.

Offered at \$2,350,000

ORINDA



60 Coachwood Terrace

An Estate in prime location. 5bd/4.5ba, pool/spa, apx. 6000 sq ft on apx. 6.54 acres. Fabulous stone walled gardens, many fruit trees. Reflects Orinda living at its best.

Offered at \$2,495,000

MORAGA



8 Berkshire Street

Exquisitely remodeled single level, Plan 2 in Moraga Country Club. Chef's kitchen, spa-like master bath. Beautiful setting. Former MCC Home Tour Home.

Offered at \$895,000

LAFAYETTE



1690 Reliez Valley Road

Fab 1+ ac ridgeline ppty w/spectacular views of Mt. Diablo etc. Paved driveway to building site w/utilities & sewer at ppty. Incl preliminary plans for 4900+ sq ft home.

Offered at \$650,000

LAFAYETTE



3898 Happy Valley Road

Fab orig owner property in Happy Valley's "Golden Mile". Prime 1.5 ac w/lvl lawn, secluded patio, towering redwoods. Gorgeous vus. Restore 1948 farmhouse or build new dream hm.

Offered at \$1,295,000

LAFAYETTE



3471 Black Hawk Road

Original 2500+sq ft ranch style hm on gorgeous 1.46 ac. lot. Charming 4bd/2.25 ba. Gracious entry, formal LR/DR & kit. w/adjoining FR. Backyd incl. pool & abundant space w/unlimited potential.

Offered at \$1,375,000

ALAMO



34 Winding Glen

Classic ranch style 4bd/3ba home combines sophisticated elegance w/ charming ease. Huge park like yard features, 42 acre yard with grass play areas, covered patio, pool & spa.

Offered at \$1,395,000

DANVILLE



1130 Shady Creek Place

New Listing! Great location for affordable home with private large yard in great community. Close to schools, park, shopping & freeway.

Offered at \$449,000

WALNUT CREEK



1720 Orchard Lane

Original Orchard Lane Estate. 4bd/ 4.5ba + office. 4792 sq. ft. home on 1.32 acres. Updated and remodeled in 2004. Simply Fabulous! By appointment only.

Offered at \$2,350,000

THE VILLAGE ASSOCIATES:

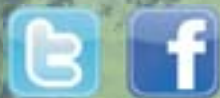
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