

# LAMORINDA WEEKLY

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Monday, December 24  
**Christmas Eve**  
 3:30 & 5:00 p.m. Families  
 7:00 & 8:30 p.m. Blended / Traditional  
 11:00 p.m. Communion / Contemporary  
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Visitors to Lafayette Reservoir annually decorate this plum tree found on the eastern side of the nearly three-mile paved trail.

Photo Steve Hobbs

## Local Photographer Captures the Magic of the Reservoir

By Cathy Tyson

“I’m awestruck and amazed at its beauty and at the wonderful variety of wildlife there,” says photographer and Lafayette resident Steve Hobbs in describing his fascination with the Lafayette Reservoir. Even after hundreds of hikes on the rim trail and on the popular

paved path closer to the water’s edge, Hobbs finds something new with each journey. His love affair with the Reservoir began about three years ago when a friend mentioned that the rim trail was accessible on foot from Mountain View drive.

Enchanted by the quiet solitude of the back country trail that loops around the upper ridge of the reservoir property, Hobbs wandered and observed and began to take photographs of the scenery on the rim.

... continued on page A12

Advertising

### Quote of the Week:

“I completely forgot about the pending end of the world, but it doesn’t really matter to me because I’ve always planned on working until the end of time anyway.” Read *Apocalypse Now? You Decide!* on page B2.



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*With gratitude for wonderful clients and another successful year. Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy 2013 to you and yours!*

### DFAL Soccer Kicks Off

Dons take an early lead in DFAL play - see Sports, pages C1-C3



Acalanes senior Ben Croze (#19) leads the Dons, currently ranked 10th in the state, in goals and assists. Photo David Lee

### A Note About Our Distributor

Blackhawk Enterprise (email – mailblackhawk@gmail.com) has been delivering the Lamorinda Weekly to all homes in Orinda, Lafayette and Moraga since January 2011. The team of eight drivers works hard to make sure you get your newspaper every other Wednesday. Blackhawk Enterprise and its team members would like to wish our readers a joyous holiday season and a very happy new year. You will also see a flyer from them in this week’s issue.

Thank you,

Lamorinda Weekly



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### Life in Lamorinda

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#### Christmas Collections

Cathy Dausman looks at some of Lamorinda's favorite things. Page B1



### Our Homes

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#### A Warm Fire on a Cold Night

Cathy Tyson enjoys some delightful Lamorinda fireplaces. Page D1





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# Lafayette

## Civic News

**Public Meetings**

**City Council**

Not available at press time  
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,  
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

**Planning Commission**

Monday, Jan. 7, 7 p.m.  
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,  
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

**Design Review**

Monday, Jan. 14, 7 p.m.  
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,  
Arts & Science Discovery Center,  
3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

**School Board Meetings**

**Acalanes Union High School District**  
Wednesday, Jan. 16, 7:30 p.m.  
Board Room AUHSD Office  
1212 Pleasant Hill Rd., Lafayette  
www.acalanes.k12.ca.us

**Lafayette School District**

Wednesday, Jan. 9, 4:30 p.m.  
Special Board Meeting  
Tuesday, Jan. 15, 7 p.m.  
Regular Board Meeting  
Stanley Library  
3477 School St., 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

# Thanks and Praise at City Council Reorganization

By Cathy Tyson



New council members Mark Mitchell and Traci Reilly Photo Cathy Tyson

It was the end of an era last Monday night, as two longtime City Council members retired after a combined 37 years of volunteer service on Lafayette's Planning Commission and City Council. Former Mayor Carol Federighi sat on the council for 13 years, serving three times as mayor, and prior to that spent eight years on the planning commission. Carl Anduri had been on the council for 10 years and planning commission for six. All told, that's countless Monday nights, listening to potential ordinances, proposed projects, budget dilemmas and task force reports that

keep the city running. With heartfelt comments all around, it was obvious the two council members stepping down from the dais will be missed. Having won seats in the November election, newcomers Traci Reilly and Mark Mitchell change up the membership of the city council for the first time since December 2006 when Brandt Andersson joined the team. The "Fab five" – Federighi, Anduri, Andersson, Don Tatzin, and Mike Anderson – had a good working relationship; while they didn't always agree with each other at city council meetings, their

tenure was marked by civility and respect.

Former vice mayor, and now mayor, recently re-elected Mike Anderson joked, "You're going to miss us, but when you come back you only get three minutes," referring to the allotted time for members of the public to comment on issues.

"It's been a pleasure to serve with you," Federighi told her fellow council members. "It's truly been a privilege and honor. This has been a wonderful community to live and work in." She reflected on the changes that have happened downtown during her volunteer service to the community, including new businesses and restaurants, a new affordable senior housing project in the works, passing the downtown specific plan, creating a downtown historic district, and the soon to be authorized wireless facilities ordinance.

Thanking his wife, city staff, and election volunteers, Anduri went on to praise the creation of the environmental and senior housing task forces. He said his biggest regret was the timely repair of all the residential roads in the city; Anduri had worked diligently on the Fix our Roads campaign. In his opinion, the hardest part

of serving on the city council was making decisions based on what is in the best interest of Lafayette and all residents.

Longtime council member Tatzin told Anduri, "I look up to your contributions and your powerful vision for the city. We're very fortunate to have had your exceedingly sound judgment." He also thanked Federighi as the best advocate for the three-minute rule, "A true velvet gavel."

"It's been an absolute pleasure," said City Manager Steven Falk, complimenting the pair for their incisive analysis and probing questions, civility and for their "fair and respectful treatment of staff." Both Federighi and Anduri received gifts of Lafayette-opoly from city staff and a framed small reproduction of the banners with signatures of city staffers on the back.

Council freshmen Mitchell and Reilly graciously thanked family and friends who made their election to the city council possible. Reilly called the transition "pretty amazing," and commented that she is surrounded by four men at home, her husband and three boys, and now on the dais, once again surrounded by four men.

# Lafayette Sinkhole on the Mend

By Cathy Tyson



Photo Cathy Tyson

A deluge of rain on Dec. 2 caused a torrent of water that when coupled with upstream debris blocked a Mt. View Drive storm drain. All that water swirling around eventually chipped away at soil above the drain and under the roadway and – voila! A 15-foot sinkhole was born.

When the roadway collapsed, utilities pipelines also took a hit: PG&E, EBMUD and the sanitary sewer lines needed an immediate fix. Utility crews rallied to restore service and city engineering staff had to hustle to complete plans in order to get a permit from the Army Corps of Engineers. Working late into the night, Engineering Services Manager Tony Coe, Senior Engineer Farzaneh Sanders and Associate Engineer Matt Luttrupp produced the detailed plans necessary for repair work and managed to get the critical paperwork in by a 6 a.m. deadline the next morning in San Francisco. ... continued on page A10

please...

...thanks!

LAFAYETTE POLICE	
<b>Police Report</b>	
<b>Nov. 24 - Dec. 8</b>	
<b>Accident</b>	12/4 3300 block Mt Diablo Bl
11/26 1600 block Reliez Valley Rd (accident/injuries)	<b>Burglary/Theft</b>
11/28 900 block Dewing (hit & run)	11/26 900 block Acalanes Rd (ID)
11/29 Mt Diablo Bl @ Oak Hill Rd (accident/injuries)	3100 block Bradena Ln (auto)
Happy Valley Rd @ Hwy 24 (reckless driving)	1200 block Monticello Rd (petty theft)
12/1 900 block Moraga Rd (hit & run)	11/27 3500 block Mt Diablo Bl (petty theft)
Pleasant hill Rd @ Rancho View Dr (accident/injuries)	Read Dr @ Rohrer Dr (auto)
1st St @ Mt Diablo Bl (reckless driving)	400 block Los Arabis Dr (residential)
12/3 Hwy 24 @ Central Lafayette exit (accident/property damage)	12/1 100 block Lafayette Cr (auto)
2nd St @ Mt Diablo Bl (accident/property damage)	12/3 3600 block chestnut St (petty theft)
3500 block Mt Diablo Bl (accident/property damage)	3400 block School St (auto)
12/4 First St @ Deer Hill Rd	12/4 1100 block Glen Rd (access card)
12/5 100 block Springhill Ln (hit & run)	12/5 4100 block Hidden Valley Rd (credit card fraud)
12/6 Hwy 24 @ Central Lafayette exit (reckless driving)	12/6 4000 block Los Arabis (grand theft)
Mt Diablo @ Oak Hill Rd (reckless driving)	1800 block Reliez Valley Rd (credit card fraud)
<b>Alcohol</b>	1100 block Upper Happy Valley Rd (ID theft)
11/28 Reliez Valley Rd @ Withers (drunk in public)	Glenside Dr @ St Mary's Rd (auto)
11/30 200 block Lafayette Cr (intoxicated)	12/7 3500 block Boyer Cr (auto)
<b>Animal Control</b>	3600 block Happy Valley Glen Rd (petty theft)
11/27 Deer Hill Rd @ Sierra Vista Wy	12/8 1100 block Garden Ln (ID theft)
12/5 700 block St Mary's Rd	<b>Drugs</b>
<b>Battery</b>	12/1 900 block Hough
11/30 3500 block Mt Diablo Bl	<b>Promiscuous Shooting</b>
	12/7 800 block Rosedale Av
	Brook St @ Dewing Av
	<b>Vandalism</b>
	11/26 900 block Dewing Av
	1000 block Brown Av
	12/4 3600 block Mt Diablo Bl
	12/8 200 block Lafayette Cr (two calls)
	<b>Traffic Stops</b>
	Week ending 12/01/12 111
	Week ending 12/08/12 66

## HOLIDAY SALE

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# Los Arabis Station Set to Close in January

By Cathy Tyson



Off-duty firefighters packed the County Board of Supervisors auditorium to hear the final decision on station closures. Photo C. Tyson

The Board of Supervisors knew this moment would come when Proposition Q failed to garner the necessary 66 percent of votes to pass a seven-year, \$75 per parcel tax to help fund Contra Costa Fire Protection District (Con Fire). The board voted Dec. 11 to close four fire stations—the Los Arabis station in Lafayette, along with stations in Walnut Creek, Clayton and Martinez. Closing these facilities in January will save approximately \$3 million, according to Fire Chief Daryl Louder.

In a nutshell, Louder said that reserve funds have been tapped out and there is not enough money to keep all of Con Fire's stations open for business. Prior to the November election, he warned that this would be the consequence if measure Q wasn't passed. Part of Con Fire's troubling financial picture stems from its primary funding source—property tax revenue has declined by \$32 million dollars over the past four years. Add in rising pension and health insurance costs, and the situation becomes untenable. Personnel costs account for 85 percent of the \$102 million budget for fiscal year 2012-2013.

Steps have been taken to trim expenses where possible, employees took a 10 percent salary reduction, and some positions have been eliminated. "We already have a very lean system," said Louder, "and we've continued to work on structural reform." The Fire Chief's Budget Narrative in the official 2012-2013 budget paints a dire picture: "We currently project a \$16 million deficit for FY 2013-2014 and \$19 million deficit in FY 2014-2015 and FY 2015-2016. It would require closing a third of our fire stations to offset the deficit."

Lamorinda residents are particularly concerned about the Los Arabis station in Happy Valley. Firefighters moved out in June, due to mold and rodent intrusion. Those firefighters are now housed at another station about a mile away. Addressing the supervisors, Louder explained in a very businesslike manner why these stations were selected, based on a range of cri-

teria including call volume and the ability of adjoining fire stations to "absorb" the call volume and work load. "Obviously this is a very difficult time, we've worked hard to avoid coming to this point," said Louder. Lafayette is left with two fire stations—Station 15 on Mt. Diablo Boulevard, and Station 17 in Burton Valley.

Members of the public along with city officials from the affected areas were present to convey how unhappy their constituents are. Rob Schroder, the mayor of Martinez said, "This is not going to solve the problem in the long run." Calling Measure Q a "seven year band-aid," Clayton mayor Howard Geller pointed out that he hasn't heard how the funding issue will be fixed, and called the Clayton station closure "an inequitable hit;" he hinted at possible litigation. Closing Fire Station 11 would leave Clayton without a fire station within city limits.

In one possible adjustment to service, since the vast majority of calls are medical in nature, Louder said he would consider staffing stations with less expensive paramedics or emergency medical technicians. Firefighter Union President Vince Wells wasn't thrilled, saying EMT costs shouldn't come out of the fire district budget, rather from American Medical Response — the county's ambulance provider.

Public speakers from Lafayette suggested reducing personnel down to two for each of the city's three stations. Mayor Mike Anderson called the downsizing "an opportunity to try this innovative approach on a limited basis," and pointed out that of the many communities within Contra Costa County that Con Fire serves, Lafayette's property tax contribution injects approximately \$1.2 million more than it actually costs to run the three stations here. Citing safety concerns for firefighters and the public, Wells was not supportive of the suggestion. After many long hours of passionate commentary, all five supervisors said they had no other option and voted unanimously to close the four fire stations.



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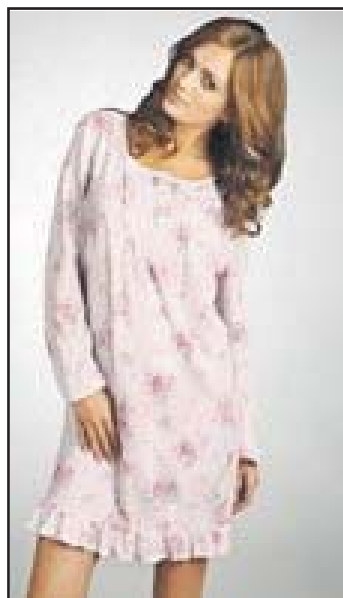
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## Moraga Civic News

### Public Meetings

#### Town Council

Wednesday, Jan. 9, 7 p.m.  
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School,  
1010 Camino Pablo

#### Planning Commission

Monday, Jan. 7, 7 p.m.  
Moraga Library, 1500 Saint Marys Rd.

#### Design Review

Monday, Jan. 14, 7 p.m.  
Moraga Library, 1500 Saint Marys Rd.

#### School Board Meeting

**Moraga School District**  
Tuesday, Jan. 8, 7:30 p.m.  
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

**Carport storage break-in, 12/10/12** An Ascot Drive resident wasn't sure of the time or date, as much as a week earlier when an unknown subject broke into the storage unit located in the carport. No ideas on a possible suspect. Estimated loss \$1,200.

**Shed break-in, 12/10/12** Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School staff reported a burglary to a custodial storage shed on the northeast corner of the property. Forcible entry was made using a pry tool of some sort. Maintenance equipment valued at \$2,500 was taken. Who would steal a used lawnmower?

**Counterfeit cash, 12/09/12** An adult male attempted to pass a counterfeit \$100 bill to buy \$6 worth of items at Moraga Hardware. Smart clerk checked the bill and determined it wasn't real - returning it to the would-be shopper. Fellow left the area in a large SUV, clerk was able to write down the car's California license plate number. Police checked DMV records and found that the license was not on file.

**Bike theft, 12/06/12** An Ascot Drive resident left a locked bike underneath the stairs of the apartment complex. Sometime between 12/06 and 12/08 the bike disappeared. Estimated loss \$200.

**Cat fight, 12/07/12** Two female Ascot Drive roommates had a dispute over a mutual love interest. One of the girls lashed out at the other, punching her in the face. Roommate confessed to the battery and apologized for losing control of her emotions. Roommate agreed with the cop's suggestion to spend the night somewhere else. The victim declined to press charges.

**D.U.I., 12/05/12** A white Chrysler was pulled over in front of 7-11 around 11 p.m. for numerous vehicle code violations. As usual, field sobriety tests were performed, and the driver flunked. Officers escorted the subject into the Moraga P.D. booking room where he became physically combative and fought with cops. Now in addition to D.U.I. charges comes obstructing police duties and assaulting a police officer. Way to make a bad situation worse. Finally, the fellow's car was towed away.

Lamorinda Weekly also received a report of a gasoline theft Dec. 12. Two Donald Drive homeowners were shocked to find that the extra car they park on their property adjacent to their house was out of gas, when it was just filled up the day before. Apparently sometime during the night an unknown suspect siphoned out an entire tank of gas.



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## Council Bids Farewell to Mendonca and Harpham

*Elects Dave Trotter and Ken Chew as mayor and vice mayor, respectively*

By Sophie Braccini



Council members Roger Wykle, Mike Metcalf and Phil Arth are sworn in. Photo Andy Schreck

Moraga Town Council members Karen Mendonca and Howard Harpham participated in their last council meeting Dec. 12. Mendonca lost her seat in the last election and Harpham opted not to run for a second term. Lamorinda's only all-male council unanimously elected Dave Trotter as mayor for 2013 and Ken Chew as vice mayor.

During their last council meeting Mendonca and Harpham were praised by the people who worked with them.

Contra Costa County Supervisor Candace Andersen praised her good friend Mendonca as a woman of integrity and character who is always well prepared. Town Manager Jill Keimach thanked Mendonca for having had the strength to

make tough decisions. Resident Ellen Beans, of Moraga Citizens Network, praised her enthusiasm, her accessibility and her support of events such as the California Independent Film Festival.

Beans described Harpham as the heart of the team that worked on the Revenue Enhancement Committee task force, where he manifested his conviction of the council's moral obligation to inform residents about the reality of situations. Many speakers pointed to Harpham as the moral compass of the council. His wit, vast culture, intellectual honesty and deep voice will be missed.

Mike Metcalf, who won re-election, and new council members Roger Wykle and Phil Arth were sworn in. The reconstituted council then turned its attention to the election of the mayor and vice mayor. In a slightly cautious tone, Keimach indicated that the tradition had been to rotate the mayor's position according to who received the highest number of votes in the general election. Last year there was there a break from that tradition, but this time around it was upheld as a unanimous vote by the council sent Trotter to the mayor's seat and installed Ken Chew as vice mayor.

Read more about Mayor Trotter and his goals for the town in our first issue of 2013, which will be delivered Jan. 2.

## New Moraga Road Development Inches Forward

By Sophie Braccini

Developer Signature Properties received support from the Moraga Planning Commission on Dec. 3 for its latest design of 18 single-family, high-density homes at 489 Moraga Road—the land across from Rheem Shopping Center that once featured a bowling alley.

Under the plan, three single-family residences would face the busy thoroughfare, while 15 more homes would be staggered across the property. The proposed two-story homes would be built along a U-shaped road, offering two access points to the development. Each home would have a two-car garage and range in size from 1,900 to 2,700 square feet. There

would be 12 visitor parking spots.

The developer felt that the Town has been sending mixed messages about this project, first asking for more density, then for less. "We encourage higher density housing options here," said Planning Director Shawna Brekke-Read. But Signature Properties, with 20-plus years experience in development in the Bay Area, said that higher density options such as condominiums would not sell in Moraga.

"We want a project that would be economically sound," agreed commission chair Stacia Levenfeld.

The commissioners indicated that 2,700 square feet was probably exces-

sive for the location. Because the project is located along a scenic corridor, they discussed at length ways to shield views of driveways where it is likely that people will leave their cars; as garages tend to be used, at least partially, for storage. They also emphasized the need for pedestrian sidewalks and visitor parking in the development because parking is not allowed on Moraga Road.

Some traffic-related concerns remain unresolved. The entrance to the development would be located a few yards north of the shopping center's main entrance. There are two types of traffic issues: ingress and egress of the property, and pedestrian crossing. Re-

garding the latter issue, Signature Homes' John Bayless suggested that the solution was not to add a pedestrian crossing at the site, which would mean adding a median landing for safety and could have a big impact on the flow of traffic on Moraga Road, but rather to allow residents of the development to cross the street only at the existing crosswalks to the north and south.

The commission decided to wait for a traffic study before making recommendations on design and rules for access to and from the development. It is likely that this will come with the final design the developer will submit for approval in the coming months.

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# School Board May Appoint New Member Tomorrow

By Sophie Braccini

The resignation of Dexter Louie shortly after his re-election to the Moraga School Board in November left a vacant seat at the table. On Dec. 11 the board decided to select a provisional appointee to serve until voters return to the polls in November 2014. The deadline for interested residents to apply for the seat was noon today. The selection process will be held during an open board meeting the evening of Dec. 20.

A few residents asked the board to appoint Parker Colvin, who was one of the candidates for a seat in November. Superintendent Bruce Burns said that the district could not have simply decided to appoint Colvin because the Education Code establishes

procedures that must be followed when a resignation occurs. The county superintendent or the board can call a special election, or the board can develop a process to make a provisional appointment.

At tomorrow night's meeting, applicants will be asked to give two-minute statements introducing themselves and suggesting strategies to address the important issues facing the Moraga School District. The Board will ask applicants a set of prepared questions and they will have two minutes to answer each question. The board president will then ask for nominations of candidates and the board will vote. If a candidate receives a majority of votes he or she

will be immediately sworn in.

If a clear majority cannot be found, the board can call an additional meeting and request a forum of finalists at a subsequent meeting. In the event a majority of the board still can't agree on an applicant, the board may call for an election.

The Education Code also provides for the community to petition the board's appointment if it doesn't agree with the appointment. If enough signatures of registered voters are collected and approved by the county superintendent, the appointment is ended and an election is called.

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## Town Trivia

Many were surprised at the Dec. 12 meeting of the Moraga Town Council to read county documents in which Moraga is listed as the City of Moraga and not the Town of Moraga. Town (or City) Manager Jill Keimach confirmed: "The legal status of Moraga is that of a city, not a town, however it has retained the 'Town' name, like Danville did, to emphasize its rural nature." So when

she and her staff need to refer to Moraga as a legal entity, it's a city; the rest of the time, it's a town. Council member Mike Metcalf wondered aloud if he should refer to it as "the city of the Town of Moraga."

Your *Lamorinda Weekly* staff wonders if it should now refer to "Lamorinda's three cities" rather than the slightly less graceful "two cities and a town..." *S. Braccini*

**Please submit Letters and Opinions:**  
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# Orinda Civic News

## Public Meetings

### City Council

Tuesday, Jan. 15, 7 p.m.  
Auditorium, Orinda Library,  
26 Orinda Way

### Planning Commission

Tuesday, Jan. 8, 7 p.m.  
Auditorium, Orinda Library,  
26 Orinda Way

### Finance Advisory Committee

Wednesday, Jan. 23, 6 p.m.  
Community Room, City Hall,  
22 Orinda Way

### School Board Meeting

**Orinda Union School District**  
Monday, Jan. 14, 6 p.m.  
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:

www.orindaassociation.org

## ORINDA POLICE

### Police Report

Warrant Arrest bumper crop, 12/7/12, 12/11/12, 12/12/12 Orinda Police made three warrant arrests within a week. Dec. 7, a 21-year-old male pulled over for a traffic stop was found to be driving on a suspended license. He was arrested when it was discovered he also had an outstanding warrant. Police allowed a licensed driver to retrieve the vehicle and the subject was released after signing a promise to appear in court. A 50-year-old male was arrested Dec.11 on Rheem Blvd. on an outstanding warrant. Dec.12, Orinda Police arrested a third subject, a 48-year-old female who was found to have an outstanding warrant.

Caught with his pants down, 12/11/12 A 60-year-old male with his pants down was found staggering along Camino Pablo. He was carrying a large piece of wood, and apparently, a chip on his shoulder, because he refused to drop the wood when ordered to do so by police. Eventually man and wood were separated. What remained was his unsteady gait, red, watery eyes, slurred speech and eau de alcohol, to the tune of 0.298 blood alcohol content. The subject was arrested for being drunk in public, taken to Orinda Police department and later transported to Martinez Detention Facility.



Maureen Wilbur

Direct: (925)253-6311 Maureen@MaureenWilbur.com www.MaureenWilbur.com

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Happy Holidays to all and a Healthy and Prosperous 2013!  
Maureen

## The Changing of the Guard

Steve Glazer reflects on the end of his term as mayor; Worth and Severson named mayor and vice mayor

By Laurie Snyder



Vice Mayor Amy Worth thanks Council Member Steve Glazer for his 2012 service as mayor while council members Smith and Dean Orr look on. Worth was unanimously named mayor of Orinda for the third time later that same evening. Photo Ohlen Alexander

Orinda's Dec. 4 City Council meeting was well attended and fun for many in an audience that included longtime and new-to-town Orindans, leaders from Orinda's business and non-profit communities, state and regional government officials, and former Orinda mayors Bill Judge and Bobbie Landers. All were on hand to thank outgoing mayor Steve Glazer for his service, and witness an annual ritual which takes place in early December each year –

the transfer of the gavel from one mayor to another.

Following "For the Good of the City" community service recognitions (see photo spread page A7) and the review of basic city business matters, Glazer and his colleague, Victoria Robinson Smith, were sworn in for new four-year terms by City Clerk Michele Olsen. Council members Amy Worth and Sue Severson were elected later in the evening as mayor and vice mayor, respectively. Then,

Worth praised outgoing mayor Glazer for his leadership before Dean Orr and his fellow council members took turns reading from a joint resolution honoring Glazer.

Expressing his thanks to the community, Glazer gave high marks to city staff for the job they have done during challenging economic times.

Later, he reflected further for the Lamorinda Weekly on all that has transpired during his year at the helm of the Orinda City Council.

"Thanks to the strong public support of Measure L, we are now implementing phase one of the 10-year Road and Drain Improvement Plan. This plan, adopted by the council this year, creates four separate funding stages for improving most of our public streets and storm drains," said Glazer. "This is the first new contribution of funds from our residents for road and drain repair since our city's incorporation 27 years ago."

The 10-year road and drain improvement plan, he said, "will require additional public funding stages in the coming years"; therefore, "it will be important for the city to "fairly and efficiently implement our road plan so public confidence remains strong in the council's leadership."

Adding that he and his colleagues "made the hard choices to reduce our budget and staffing and live within our means" this past year, Glazer also noted that this "was done while minimizing the impact on services to our residents. We appreciate the work of our staff these past few years to work longer and harder with less pay."

Glazer also cited the opening of new city-owned playfields at Wilder and the senior housing program groundbreaking likely to occur this month as highlights in a year that also saw Orinda replacing the Manzanita Drive Bridge and completing its Glorietta and North Lane storm drain projects.

"In addition," said Glazer, "our police department continues to provide outstanding public safety services to our schools, businesses and community. Orinda is the fifth safest city in California as ranked by the FBI and first for communities our size. Our department has provided life-saving help, attended school and neighborhood watch meetings, caught and assisted in the prosecution of many bad people, conducted emergency preparedness exercises and undertaken 86 home safety audits." ... continued on page A11

## Mailbox Thievery in Orinda

Mail thieves are passing by unlocked mailboxes and instead are breaking into locked residential Orinda mailboxes, said Sergeant Neil Rafanan of the Orinda Police Department. At least 12 boxes have been hit in the last four to six weeks. Police suspect the break-ins are taking place between 10 p.m. and 4 a.m. Rafanan said the secluded nature of Orinda streets means mailboxes can be located some distance from the house itself, which may leave the site unattended. A locked mailbox presents "a target-rich environment," he said, perhaps because those residents may not retrieve their mail for days at a time. To prevent becoming the next victim, Rafanan suggests residents collect their mail on the day it is delivered, and illuminate both the front of their house and the area around their mailbox.

Anyone with information about these crimes is urged to call Orinda Police at (925) 254-6820 or the Sheriff's office dispatch, (925) 646-2441. C.Dausman

## For the Good of the City

Recognition of Police Officer of the Year, New OPD Officers, and Mayor's Architectural Award Winners

Photos Ohlen Alexander



The City of Orinda welcomes its newest police officers. From left: Chief Jennings; new Officers Ken Rosenbaum and Paul Schwind; Officer Maynard Patacsil; new Reserve Officer Bryan Walley; Officer Mike Gray; Sergeant Mohammed Dajakusuma; new Officers Dustin Gregory and Lisa Cook (front).



"Mike is very talented; he's one of the people I can always rely on," said Orinda Police Department Chief Jeffrey Jennings as he presented Mike Gray with the 2012 Orinda Police Officer of the Year Award at the Dec. 4 Orinda City Council meeting.

... continued on next page

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## For the Good of the City

... continued



Mayor Glazer congratulates Cathy and Derek Stein, owners of the property recognized Dec. 4 with the 2012 Mayor's Award for Architecture - New Residence. The new home has also been honored with a merit award from the American Society of Landscape Architects.



Karp and Ivry score again. Their latest restaurant, Theatre Square's popular Barba-coa, received the 2012 Mayor's Architectural Award for Downtown Improvement Projects.



Spring Verity and her family were presented with the 2012 Mayor's Award for Architecture - Environmental Sustainability Dec. 4. Their rear yard cottage restoration made something old quite new and exciting again by combining energy efficient features with repurposed roof tiles, wood doors, and redwood siding.



"Among Orinda's many blessings are its tireless garden club volunteers," said Orinda Planning Director Emmanuel Ursu in announcing the Community Beautification Award to the Orinda Garden Club. Members undertook restoration of Lake Cascade to honor the Garden Club of America's 100th anniversary. Project coordinators Diana Kennedy and Joan Andrews were on hand to receive the award from Mayor Steve Glazer.

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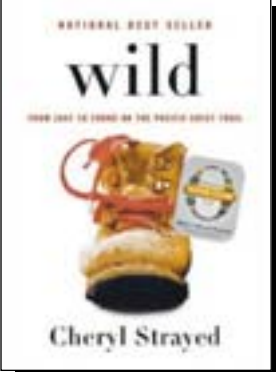
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## Community Service

### Moraga Resident Takes Top Spot at American Heart Association's Western States Affiliate Board

Submitted by Katherine Conrad



Janice Murphy Photo provided

Moraga resident Janice Murphy, vice president of finance at Kaiser Permanente, has been named chairman of the board of directors for the American Heart Association Western States Affiliate (WSA). The Affiliate serves the states of Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah and Washington. "Thousands of lives are saved every year because of the organization's work on research, prevention and awareness," Murphy said. The American Heart Association commits more than \$500 million to research each year to fight the No. 1 and No. 4 killers of Americans, cardiovascular disease and stroke. As Chairman of the Affiliate Board, Murphy will help steer the regional activities of the non-profit organization. "The American Heart Association is second only to the federal government in terms of funding heart disease and stroke research; countless lives are saved every day because of this work," said Murphy. "You would be hard pressed to meet someone who has not been affected by heart disease or stroke—either directly or through a loved one."

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## Kiwanis, Flowers and Chocolates



Kiwanians plant bulbs along Moraga Road, from left: Kirpal Khanna, Supervisor Dale Walwark, Tom Westhoff, Karen Reed, Tim Freeman, Francis Wong, Rich Holden and his grandchildren, and Sam Sperry. Photo Sophie Braccini

About 50 happy Kiwanians were spotted on the streets of Moraga Dec. 8 with a mission to plant 1,000 daffodil bulbs along Moraga Road, between St. Mary's Road and Moraga Way. Approximately 17 members spent two and a half hours digging holes and setting bulbs that Saturday morning. This was all after manning the Kiwanis' chocolate store in the Rheem Valley Shopping Center, which is projected to sell more than two tons of the candy this year.

"As of Dec. 7 we sold over 2,200 pounds of See's Candies in our Rheem Center shop," said Kiwanian Tim Freeman. "With the usual flurry of activity as we approach Dec. 25 we should finish somewhere around last year's total that exceeded 2.7 tons, which was a substantial increase over the 1.7 tons of candy sold in 2010."

All of the proceeds from the candy sales go back to the community, benefiting organizations including the Moraga Education Foundation, Education Foundation of Orinda, Lafayette Partners in Education, Hacienda Foundation, Contra Costa Food Bank, AAUW Sister to Sister, Lindsay Wildlife Museum, and Center for Early Intervention in Treating Deafness. S. Braccini

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## East Bay Eclipse Soccer Club Helps Kids Half a World Away

Submitted by Diane Sharp



Kids near Nairobi play with the "virtually indestructible" soccer ball. Photos provided

Through the month of December, the East Bay Eclipse Soccer Club (EBESC) players and their families will be raising money to help donate the only soccer balls in the world said to be virtually indestructible to several villages in Kenya.

"Although Lamorinda is a fantastic place to live, it is very easy to get lost in the bubble and forget what else is happening out in the world," said Shane Carney, director of East Bay Eclipse. "This fundraiser will hopefully serve as a reminder to everyone that there are kids around the world from ours playing and loving the same game of soccer who we can easily help. Something as simple as providing them with a ball can have a huge positive impact on the lives of these children."

There are approximately 425 kids in the Eclipse Soccer Club in Lamorinda, and Carney is hoping they all get involved in this first major, club-wide donation drive.

"The indestructible soccer ball (One World Futbol) is important because in places like Africa the fields are often dirt, with glass or rock, so the balls pop very easily," said Blake Sharp, the 13-year-old campaign coordinator.

"Kids playing on the streets or in the fields of Africa typically make balls out of anything they can - rolled up paper, rolled up yam and even animal bladders," added Carney. "An indestructible ball ensures that they always have something to play with and can spend their time playing instead of having to piece together another makeshift ball."

The One World Futbol can survive the harshest conditions, and never needs a pump, never goes flat, even when punctured. Sharp has played with the balls, and said they look and feel like a regular soccer ball - same weight and dimensions. "They are super fun to play with in my room (though my mom doesn't like that much) and outside," she said.

The Eclipse Soccer Club's goal is to donate 420 soccer balls by the end of this holiday season to children in Kenya. "The ultimate goal of the donation drive is to show that the game of soccer is something that transcends geographical, social, cultural and class lines," said Carney. "One ball can serve as a reason for joy and positivity for a large number of kids halfway around the world. As people who are blessed to live where we do, this is something we can all easily do to help bring joy."

The One World Futbols will be distributed to the Hilde Back Education Fund based in Nairobi ([www.hildebackeducationfund.com](http://www.hildebackeducationfund.com)). For more information about the project, visit [www.oneworldfutbol.com/campaigns/eclipse/](http://www.oneworldfutbol.com/campaigns/eclipse/).



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# Volunteers Adorn Downtown Orinda Buildings with Holiday Cheer

Submitted by Janet Pease



Sam Sernett Michael Kreutzelman and Max Kreutzelman from Boy Scout Troop 237 Photos provided



Event co-chairman Jane Wisner (top row) and bottom row, from left: volunteers John Cinderey, Ann Cinderey and event co-chairman Cathleen Sodos.

Undaunted by rainy weather and warmed with coffee, hot chocolate and doughnuts, approximately 30 volunteers, including Orinda Garden Club members and their husbands and Boy Scouts from Troop 237 and their families, gathered in the Bank of America parking lot Dec. 1 before setting out to hang 100 brightly colored Christmas wreaths all over downtown Orinda as part of the second annual "Wreaths Around Orinda" project. The evergreen wreaths, purchased by the Orinda Garden Club from Boy Scout Troop 237 and Miramonte's senior class, were decorated by members and friends of the Orinda Garden Club at a holiday workshop. Senior

class treasurer, Grace Barosky, organized the Miramonte students involved in the fund raising project, and several local Boy Scouts from Troop 237 led by Scout Jack O'Melveny, and members of their families hung the 100 wreaths on downtown buildings. "This event warms the hearts of many, especially since it brings together several volunteer groups," said Carole Wolfman, garden club president. The Orinda Garden Club, along with other local garden clubs, provide volunteer workers and resources for many of the city's beautification efforts. Orinda residents Cathleen Sodos and Jane Wisner co-chaired the event.

# New Eagle Scout

Submitted by Ron Graydon



Photo provided

Congratulations to Jackson Hu, student, who recently earned his an Orinda Academy straight-A Eagle Scout award.

# Delivering Good Cheer

Submitted by Rosylyn Stenzel



From left: Helen Clifford, Betsey Young, Ruth Purcell, Frances Perry, and Barbara Riggio. Not pictured, Turi Riksheim. Photo Rosylyn Stenzel

Members of the Suburban Women's Club of Lafayette are continuing an over 15-year tradition of making and delivering Christmas favors to skilled nursing facilities in Lafayette. Though the club has folded, the ladies continue to be philanthropic. The tray favors are filled with candies and delivered just in time for the holidays.

# One-of-a-kind Stockings Help Youth Homes

Submitted by Susan Goldie



Photo provided

Bells were jingling and sewing machines were humming as 17 generous volunteers came into the Sewnow studio to sew and embellish stockings for Youth Homes during two free sewing workshops

in November. Sewnow provided instructors, pre-cut stocking kits, felt appliques, buttons, and heat set crystals, as well as a custom monogram for each stocking cuff. Finished designs were entered into a design contest, and the community was invited to vote on Facebook and in the studio for their favorite design. After a flurry of voting and tallying over 100 votes, number 14 was declared the winner and the designer, Mary Bridget Gallagher, was presented with a \$75 Sewnow gift card. The stockings will be presented to the young adults who are part of Youth Homes Aftercare program at a Christmas party Dec. 19.



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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:

Thank you so much for Laurie Snyder's article highlighting the Orinda Library.

In my enthusiasm I overstated the library's hours of operation - we are actually open 60 hours/week, not 65. I also meant to say the library is an ideal third place (from the concept of community building in social spaces separate from home and workplace). Much gratitude to the City of Orinda for funding the library's evening and weekend hours. Due to these dedicated funds the Orinda Library is open every single day of the week, including Sundays and until 8 pm Monday-Thursday. We are a great destination thanks to the generosity of the residents of Orinda and City government support.

Thank you,  
Beth Girshman, Orinda Library

Editor:

I was just reading the article by Laurie Snyder regarding the Orinda Library; a very nice article. However, I feel she was remiss by the omission of the art gallery as an important part of the Library.

A great deal of time, effort and work goes into the choices made by The Orinda Art Council and presentation of the many artists providing us with

a new show each month.

I make it a point to go there on a monthly basis to see the art and without doubt, purchase several -many books from the Friends of the Library book store as well as just hanging out for awhile in our lovely library. I also noticed in the section on "What's happening at the Orinda Library" there is no mention of the Orinda Library Art Gallery. I'm proud to have the gallery on my guest tour, which recently included guest from Norway, France, Los Angeles as well as many from the bay area.

Jimmie Beardsley  
Orinda

Editor:

You have probably received many letters regarding Mr. Colman's assumptions regarding tax deductions. Using his hypothetical example, the \$41,000 would not be owed as taxes, but taxed at the individual's tax rate. If the individual's tax rate were 15%, then the taxes owed would be \$6150, not \$41,000.

Also, only the Ad Valorem portion of a property tax bill is deductible. The other items for special taxes and assessments are not tax deductible.

Elaine Samson  
Lafayette

### 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](mailto:letters@lamorindaweekly.com) and let us know you'd like to be considered for the Public Forum.

## Civic News Lafayette

### Lafayette Sinkhole on the Mend

... continued from page A2

With potentially more rain on the way, it was clear that expediting this repair project is the best option for residents and to curb potential added expense.

Contractor C.C. Myers, known for its experience in completing infrastructure jobs quickly, is slated to finish the work before Christmas Day. How much is all this going to cost? There's a time and materials contract with a cap of \$600,000, barring unforeseen circumstances. Any surprise work will be renegotiated to the mutual satisfaction of both parties.

While the City of Lafayette has a sizable fund for emergencies, according to City Manager Steven Falk, "It's not clear, yet, where the funding will come from." He explained, "The City, last Friday, submitted a request to the State for relief from the California Disaster Assistance program; we've not heard any response from

the Cal EMA office yet. We're also looking closely at our insurance policies to see if there is any opportunity for coverage. Finally, of course, as a last resort, we can use funds from the City's General Fund reserve, which has about \$6 million."

Just last week, crews were re-routing power lines and working to get utilities out of the way to accommodate the massive equipment necessary to bring in the 10-foot diameter pipe sections, that weigh 42,000 pounds each, and installing a temporary upstream diversion dam to re-route the creek.

A big part of the problem was the amount of debris, according to Luttrupp, that caused "unintended consequences." Branches, leaves and more get washed down the creek and get hung up causing these blockages. He suggests homeowner's creek frontage property is not a recycling bin.

### Got creek debris? Clean it up.

The City sends periodic reminders to creek-front property owners reminding them of creek maintenance. The most recent letter, dated June 5, 2012, states, "Residents are responsible for inspecting and maintaining their portion of the drainage channel/creek, to ensure it remains free of all debris such as grass clippings, tree limbs, leaves and waste vegetation, trash, and other objects that could obstruct the full flow of water." The letter goes on to caution homeowners about storing firewood or having a compost pile on the creek bank. Unfortunately, while the property owner gets the reminder, Luttrupp speculates that the information doesn't necessarily trickle down to tenants who may be renting.

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## Evans Brings FAIR Perspective to MOFD Board

By Nick Marnell

Drawing attention to a massive binder filled with Moraga Orinda Fire District charts, data and reports, Alex Evans said, "I've done (data analysis) all of my life. But I do not understand what is in there."

Evans, one of two newly appointed members of the MOFD Board of Directors, has been involved with the public for most of his adult life. His MBA from the University of Michigan is in Public Policy. He founded EMC Research in 1989, a company specializing in market and opinion research, and has served in the past as a member of the Richmond City Council and Orinda's Citizens for Infrastructure Oversight Committee. Evans was also a founding member of FAIR (Fire And Infrastructure Renewal), a group of Orinda citizens who believe that MOFD is not being equitably funded by both Orinda and Moraga, and wonder if efficiencies can be found that might somehow free up Orinda property tax dollars to fix roads and infrastructure.

"It is unacceptable that some of the people in Orinda think that they are overpaying for their services," Evans stated. When asked if he is one of those people, he responded, "Fire service is typically 15 percent of a municipality's budget. The amount of Orinda property taxes allocated to

MOFD is equal to the budget of the City of Orinda."

Evans made it clear that he joined the MOFD board because he wants the entity to thrive, to continue to be supported by the public, and to emerge financially sound. "I want the MOFD to be sustainable, and to exist into perpetuity," he said.

Nothing appears to be off the table, though. Evans indicated that if it is confirmed that the firefighting costs borne by Orinda are too high relative to other agencies, if Orinda is paying more than it should for its fire service, and if it's shown that Orinda could provide its own service more cheaply, the dissolution of the MOFD could happen. "But that is not my goal," he said.

He believes the most immediate pressing issue facing MOFD is the labor situation. "The labor contract is our number one priority," he explained.

Evans is a complex man, dealing with complex issues. He appears ready to take on all the challenges, and ready to challenge all assumptions. Having spent his career churning data, it will be interesting to see what recommendations he comes up with after he parses all of the data that is in that binder. "It's going to take time," he said.

## Anderson Focuses on MOFD Finances

By Nick Marnell

Steve Anderson, newly sworn in as a member of the Moraga Orinda Fire District Board of Directors, is not one to mince words. "Details! You have to know and understand what is going on. You need to learn exactly how a business operates."

Anderson was born in Florida and is a Florida Gator through and through. He earned both his bachelor's degree and his MBA in Gainesville. He began his career in Texas, at EDS, working for Ross Perot. His wife, whom he met while he was in the service, is from California and 30 years ago they moved to Orinda. Anderson has formed and sold tech companies over the years, and continues to act as a consultant for four of them. "I'm their adult presence," he said.

"My first interaction with the MOFD was a positive one," Anderson recalled. He needed insurance work done for one of the properties he owned, and he was happy with the knowledge and professionalism of the department.

Why did he decide to seek a seat on the board? "I want my tax dollars managed frugally," Anderson replied. He remembers watching a

presentation that was made to the Orinda City Council by a citizens' group claiming that if MOFD funds were properly assessed and allocated there might be money that could be used to fix Orinda roads. This idea made him curious about MOFD and motivated him to throw his hat in the ring. Like many in Orinda, "I want to fix our roads," he stated vehemently.

"I intend to find out exactly how this entity operates," Anderson continued. "I want to know how the first dollar is spent. I will insist on an explanation for every expenditure in the financial plan." He also intends to demand an explanation for every assumption used in formulating that financial plan. Including the actual amount of pension liability, which he said has been puzzlingly unavailable from Contra Costa County Employees' Retirement Association. "I don't know" is not an acceptable answer," he said.

Anderson represents MOFD District Three, the seat vacated by Dick Olsen who resigned in February. Stepping down is not on his agenda. "I was a Ranger in the service, Nick. We're the first ones in. And we finish the job."

## Civic News Orinda

### The Changing of the Guard

... continued from page A6

What pleases him most, though, is that "the conduct of city affairs was undertaken in an open and transparent fashion with civility to all."

The past year, Glazer said, has been exhilarating and productive in other ways as well. "We saw our youngest child off to college. I have faced difficult decisions in ensuring an affordable and accessible higher education [for California's children] as a Trustee of the California State Universities. I have enjoyed working with Governor Brown to stabilize state funding for schools and public safety through the passage of Proposition 30." And his campaign for reelection to the city council was also successful.

When asked what Orinda will look like five years from now - particularly in light of the community's current divisiveness over downtown development - he said he doesn't "expect the downtown to change significantly in the years ahead. The city would benefit from efforts by

downtown property owners to improve their buildings. More residential housing in our central core can be a positive if done in the right way. Any proposed project will undergo intense public scrutiny and will only be approved if there is a broad consensus that it meets our standards and values."

Glazer's life in the political arena will continue via his service on the CSU Board of Trustees. He will also "work with Governor Brown on ways to stimulate economic development and job creation," as well as "with community groups to protect and improve our environment in Orinda and throughout the Bay Area."

In closing Glazer said, "Our council's collegiality has made this year's accomplishments all the better. I am lucky to have such a wonderful group of council members in which to work on city matters. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve as mayor of this city I love so much."

## New MOFD Board Hits the Ground Running Approves sending Station 43 project out to bid

By Nick Marnell

Alex Evans and Steve Anderson were sworn in last week as the two newest members of the Moraga Orinda Fire District Board of Directors. Since they ran unopposed, Evans and Anderson were appointed in lieu of election. Anderson represents District 3, which includes sections of Orinda, Canyon and Moraga. Evans is from District 5 in Orinda. Board president Fred Weil, who also ran unchallenged, was sworn in as well.

After a brief celebration with family and friends the new board started working through a very long agenda that included, among other things, incident reports, the 2011-12 financial audit and Station 43.

"This was my most challenging day as fire chief," stated a visibly shaken Randall Bradley, referring to Dec. 2 when a multi-vehicle accident on Highway 24 resulted in serious injuries to three of his firefighters. Bradley told the board that all procedures were properly followed during the incident, but he also vowed that he was going to look again at everything, all of the policies and procedures, to be sure that something like this does not happen again. The firefighters will return to work. "Two of them, it may take a while. But they'll be back," said Bradley.

A representative of the Cropper Accountancy Corporation gave a presentation on the audit of the district's 2011-2012 financials. Evans and Anderson appeared frustrated by the findings, specifically, that the true liabilities of the pension and other post-employment benefit obligations were not stated. The auditor explained that government standards do not require that and quickly wrapped things up by calling it a "clean audit."

A debate about seeking bids for the construction of a new and improved Station 43 turned out to be the most interesting feature of the evening. In 2011 the board determined that Station 43 needs to be replaced because it does not meet seismic standards, modern fire equipment does not fit in the apparatus bays, and the living area does not adequately accommodate mixed gender staffing.

Weil opened the discussion by ex-

pressing the need to start the formal bidding process. Anderson wanted to know if the board could even authorize the work before they read the finalized financials. What if they discovered that they couldn't afford it? Evans agreed. Other members wanted to secure the bids and see how things fell into place.

Steve Meyers, MOFD attorney, cautioned that responding to bid requests is a time consuming process and companies expect that the request is made in good faith. "It's not to be a fishing expedition," he said.

Bradley was in favor of putting out the bids. "We need this structure to be safe for our employees," he said. "It must be redone, and brought to earthquake standards. It's one of the costs of doing business for a fire department."

Board member John Wyro said that due to all of the construction now going on in Walnut Creek costs are only going to go up because of demand, which would result in this project becoming even more expensive if delayed. Board member Frank Sperling countered that all of that new construction should mean more revenue down the road, so they could afford to wait.

Finally, Weil stated that the request for bids was a top priority and they ought to approve the request. "If the number doesn't come in, we're

going to have to do something else," said Weil who then called for a vote.

On a 3-2 vote the board agreed to request bids, with Anderson and Evans dissenting.

The board broke for a closed session on labor negotiations. "No action was taken," said Weil. "It was simply an update on the status of negotiations for the new board members." Vince Wells, president of Local 1230, added, "We're scheduled to get back to negotiations in February."

The next regular meeting of the board was rescheduled from Jan. 2 to Jan. 9, 2013.



**Moraga Orinda Fire District Board of Directors Meetings**  
Meetings of the MOFD Board of Directors are open to the public and take place on the third Wednesday of each month. Please note new meeting location: Orinda Community Center, Founders Auditorium, 28 Orinda Way

**Next meeting:**  
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## Local Photographer Captures the Magic of the Reservoir

... continued from page A1



Great Egret

Photos Steve Hobbs

Eventually he brought his camera to the lower trail, which offered a completely different experience – one which was less solitary, more lively and energized – an ideal locale for his style of photography. There he has observed and photographed dogs of all sizes and species, children in strollers, people of all ages and cultures, fishermen and boaters, hikers and joggers, picnickers and painters, and captured what's become an annual tradition: a plum tree donned with sparkly ornaments placed by walkers and joggers on the eastern side of the almost three-mile paved path, beyond the children's play area.

As for wildlife, Hobbs has now photographed over 60 species of birds. "Every bird has its own story and personality," says Hobbs, from the solitary and cranky Great Blue Heron to the extroverted, playful, and team-oriented American White Pelican, two of his personal favorites. The challenge of combining aspects of landscape photography, bird and wildlife photography, and street photography (of people in action) draws him in and results in what he calls "lifescapes." With the best light in the early morning or late afternoon and evening hours, Hobbs gets out as often as he can. His familiarity with the habits of the birds allows him often to be poised to be in the right place at the right time to capture the magic. He notes that the skills honed in his photographic outings – careful observation, curiosity, and patience – translate well to his day job as a psychologist.

Clearly passionate about all of the aspects of the Lafayette Reservoir, Hobbs wants to share this amazing place with the community. He would like to take individuals or groups interested in nature photography on tours, and he has selected some of his favorite photographs of the birds and the landscapes of the reservoir to create two different 2013 calendars – one featuring birds, the other focusing on landscapes. The calendars are available at Diablo Foods, Orchard Nursery, Diablo Print, Elmwood Stationers, and the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce.

He is currently at work on a Lafayette Reservoir photography book. To see his reservoir images (and other work from further afield) visit his website: [stevehobbsphotography.smugmug.com](http://stevehobbsphotography.smugmug.com).



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Season's Greetings and Best Wishes for 2013!



Lamorinda Weekly



# Lamorindans Love Christmas Collections

By Cathy Dausman



Dana Windatt and her beloved dollhouse.

Photos Cathy Dausman

When it comes to Christmas collections, Lamorindans, as the song suggests, do have a few of their favorite things.

Erla Boren of Moraga says her Eskimo collection has "outgrown the mirrors" on which they rest. The round and smiling ornament characters are a happy reminder of her native Iceland. There are now decades of the "Frosty Friends" series, which Hallmark began in 1980.

Boren's tables show Eskimos on icebergs and riding Polar bears. She has mostly kept up with the annual new ornament release, but doesn't have the 1983 and 1984 issues. The ornaments she bought long ago, paying \$2.50 each, today fetch \$200 on eBay, Boren says with a smile. She keeps her Eskimo collection now for the enjoyment of her grandchildren, who don't seem to notice the lack of snow in Lamorinda.

As for Peg Hoffman and her room-sized Snow Village display in Moraga, she says, "People should never start these things." Its assembly normally requires four days, although Hoffman managed a two-day rush job

this year to accommodate her party schedule.

The family Christmas tree must first be lighted and decorated before the village takes shape at its base. Snow Village City boasts lighted shops, a mill, a church, a dry goods store, a windmill, plenty of cars and foot traffic and an abundance of miniature Christmas trees – all lighted, of course. Rudolph with his nose so bright prances atop one city roof. Skiers share the outdoors with fox and deer near a countryside log cabin. A man carves pond ice next to Maple Creek covered bridge, and children build a snowman.

Hoffman says the village design is different every year. It seems the only thing missing is an HO scale train. While Hoffman would love to include that, she may be too busy shoeing her cats away from the diorama. They tend to use the roads as their own thoroughfare anyway, examining the village like giants from another world.

Hoffman intentionally left out the operating ice skating rink this year, too. "It makes the cats go bonkers,"

she says.

Dana Windatt bought her white three-story Victorian dollhouse with her own money as a child. "This is my scrapbook," she says, explaining that decorating it has brought her back to her youth. Originally Windatt only draped the outside with lights for Christmas, but has since completely decorated the interior. The dollhouse has nine rooms, including the two-story hallway, and attic. Having only sons, ages 10 to 18, Windatt sought decorating help from friends' daughters.

The Moraga resident wallpapered everything, and then decorated a 'girly girl' bathroom, complete with pearl-bubbles in the tub. There's an

## Life in LAMORINDA



Peg Hoffman's Snow Village.

Eloise in Paris themed pink bedroom, where a portrait of Jackie O. hangs over the bed.

has a table set with tiny Starbuck's coffee mugs and a jar of cookies. Boxes of miniature Twinkies adorn the counter.

The kitchen, with its subway tile flooring and white cabinetry,

... continued on page B4

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# Apocalypse Now? You Decide!

By Cathy Dausman

Everyone remembers the dire predictions of Y2K. Or Oakland Christian radio broadcaster Harold Camping who first predicted the world would end in 1994, then changed his calculation – twice. Would it be May or Oct. 21, 2011? If you haven't yet completed your holiday shopping, this may be the perfect excuse not to.

Those with dystopian tendencies predict Friday, Dec. 21 is the end of the world. Again. While it definitely signals the end of a cycle in the Mesoamerican Long Count calendar, more commonly known as the Mayan calendar, we'll leave it up to you to decide whether another page takes its place.

Now, what to do with those last precious 48 hours?

Asked about her End of Time bucket list, one Campolindo High School recreational swimmer volunteered she'd want to have an affair with Denzel Washington; another vowed to eat an entire Susie Cakes cake on her own. They wish to remain anonymous unless the world really does end Friday.

Some take a more laid-back approach to unnerving doomsday predictions. "I completely forgot about the pending end of the world, but it doesn't really matter to me because I've always planned on working until the end of time anyway," says Moraga Chief of Police Robert Priebe. Perhaps we could ask him to dismiss

a speeding ticket or two.

If travel to far-off places strikes your fancy, there are many aptly named destinations. You can even save time and go straight to Hell – in Texas, Michigan, Norway or the Cayman Islands. Travel writer Nancy D. Brown says if the world ends on Dec. 21 "we'd [first] visit Norway, eat gelato in Italy, float the Rhine River in Germany and hike the Alps of Switzerland." And, she adds: "You can bet I'd quit worrying about funding the kid's college education!"

New Lafayette author Robert Anke pondered what he would do with his last 48 hours: "Probably nothing too exciting. But I'd hug my wife a little tighter, and I sure as heck wouldn't be too busy to play with my son."

Care to curl up with a good book and fritter away your final 48?

Lafayette Library and Learning Center's Vickie Sciacca suggests Gabriel Marquez's *One Hundred Years of Solitude*, Phillip Dick's *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep*, Madeleine L'Engle's *A Wrinkle in Time* or the classic *Tarzan by Edgar Rice Burroughs*.

"I'll definitely be reading *Officer Buckle and Gloria* by Peggy Rathmann," writes LLLC's Ann Miller.

"If I'm still around after the 21st," Miller continues, "I'll read Suzanne Collin's *The Hunger Games* and get in a little bow and arrow practice." Let's hear it for suspended library



finer, too!

Seasoned travelers must carry a good music playlist. There's still time to update your iPod songs, so be sure to include *Party at the End of the World* by Jimmy Buffett, *The End by the Doors*, or the Blue Oyster Cult classic *Don't Fear the Reaper*. If you intend to nest in place, rent a couple good movies—say 2012, or *Seeking a Friend for the End of the World*—and avoid late fees forever. Sure hope you

saw Lafayette Town Center's live theater production of *It's a Wonderful Life* before it closed Sunday.

Like to see what all the fuss is about? LLLC's Orlando Guzman has a Mayan calendar on display along with pre-Columbian ceramic replicas.

For more information about the doomsday prediction and the resulting hysteria, visit [www.december212012.com](http://www.december212012.com). The website features articles about Americans stockpiling guns and machetes for doomsday, or purchasing one-way airline tickets to Bugarach or to the South of France.

Or visit the more comforting, downright optimistic National Aeronautics and Space Administration website ([www.nasa.gov/topics/earth/features/2012.html](http://www.nasa.gov/topics/earth/features/2012.html)) which answers questions such as if the Mayan calendar actually ends, and what was the origin of this doomsday prediction.

It's been said we should all "party like there's no to-Maya." In fact, if you are planning an end of the world extravaganza, you can find multiple "No To-Maya" party supplies online.

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### Books to Read (if you have time):

*The Stand* by Stephen King

*How to Survive 2012 in Two Weeks* by Robert Y Haddad and Jacob I Abujaber

*End World* by David Peters

*The Survivors: Book One* by Angela White

### Swan Songs:

As Time Goes By (*Casablanca* theme)

Party at the End of the World (Jimmy Buffett)

The End (Doors)

Doomsday Clock (Smashing Pumpkins)

End of the World (Herman's Hermits)

Don't Fear the Reaper (Blue Oyster Cult)

It's the End of the World as We Know it (R.E.M.)

### Movies to Watch the World go by:

2012

2012 Ice Age

2012 Supernova

Seeking a Friend for the End of the World

Earth's Final Hours

Nostradamus 2012 (TV documentary)

Apocalypse

Vampire Apocalypse

Apocalypse Now

Resident Evil: Apocalypse

Zombie Apocalypse

Quantum Apocalypse

Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End

### Places to Visit:

Iceland

Tierra del Fuego

Hell (choose from Texas, Michigan, Norway, or Cayman Islands)

Hell's Kitchen

Death Valley

Devil's Jump

Ghost Town

Nowhere Else (Tasmania)

Zap

## Youngsters Spread Good Cheer in Moraga

Submitted by Jeffrey Whitehead



Photo provided

Pre-kindergartners and junior kindergartners, ages 4-5, from The Child Day Schools, Moraga, sang carols and gave bells as gifts to residents at the

Rheem Valley Convalescent Hospital Dec. 13 as part of a program to bring good cheer and spread the warm spirit of the winter holidays.



# Enjoy Your Own Olive Oil

By Sophie Braccini



Graham Parkinson-Morgan with his first harvest.

Photos Jude Parkinson-Morgan

The color is emerald green, the fragrance intense, and the fruity, peppery taste unique. Cold press, extra-virgin olive oil made from local fruit is nothing like you have ever tasted before, unless you had your own olive farm. Yet anyone in Lamorinda with a healthy olive tree can get their own freshly-pressed olive oil simply by bringing their harvest to a local mill. That is, if they harvest before heavy rains ruin the crop.

"I had always thought of all the olives on trees around town going to waste and what a loss that was," says Lafayette resident and natural food expert Kim Curiel, "but the question was how to turn them into olive oil. The process is a little more involved than making sauce from your own apples; you need an olive milling facility."

Curiel heard about a yearly community day at Olivina in Livermore and she decided to go with some interested friends. "We came back with three gallons of premium olive oil from the 200 pounds of olives we gleaned from trees that would never have been harvested," said Curiel, who does not have olive trees on her own land.

Jude and Graham Parkinson-Morgan went with Curiel, bringing olives from their own and others' trees, and came back with one and a half gallons of oil.

"Eighteen months ago we planted a Spanish arbequina olive tree that doubled in size, and we picked 28 pounds of olives from it this year," says Jude Parkinson-Morgan. "The whole olive oil idea came from a visit to my sister's olive estate in Lucca, Italy. We came back determined to plant olive trees in Lafayette."

With the help of Siamack Sioshansi and the Urban Farmers, Parkinson-Morgan identified a Burton Valley property that had trees in need of picking. "It took us three and a half hours to pick our trees and hers and we got a total of 109 pounds of olives on Nov. 10," she says. She remembers the date because the olives had to be picked the day before the milling and Olivina's community day was Nov. 11.

The Lamorinda residents car-pooled on that Monday morning to get their harvest to Livermore. A very long line of cars started forming at Olivina even before the door opened. "They weighed our harvest," explained Parkinson-Morgan. "The cost

is a minimum of \$25 and covers the first 100 pounds. Then, at the end of the day, you get your oil back; for us, one and a half gallons."

Curiel's olive oil is nothing like any commercial oil: the pungency is unadulterated, making it a great companion to salads, appetizers or a simple piece of bread. The savor of the fruit reveals itself as the oil coats the palate, a tinge of bitterness is also present, but it quickly subsides leaving only the long-lasting fresh green flavor of the olive.

"We have used it mostly for dipping so far," says Parkinson-Morgan. Curiel also uses it in salads and gives it as gifts in cute bottles.

"The popularity of the community day in Livermore is growing," says Curiel, "but it's only one day a year, and there is such a potential with all the olive trees in the area." Curiel found another community resource, Andy Dale of the Dale Family Farm in Berkeley, who has a small press where people can book time whenever they want and press their olives.

Curiel was one of Dale's first customers with a different batch of olives and she introduced Dale to Lafayette resident Steve Richard, who was planning to harvest his olives Dec. 10. Unfortunately, the heavy rains of the previous week sent all the olives to the ground.

Parkinson-Morgan plans to start an informal database of people who have olive trees in the area to get organized for next year. If you would like to join, contact Parkinson-Morgan at j.parkinson-morgan@comcast.net. For more information about the Dale Family Farm, visit www.dalefamilyfarm.com.



Pouring olive oil in glass bottles for conservation.



Charles Crohare Jr., son of Charles Crohare Sr., who has been running the Livermore ranch since the 1950s shows the process of milling.



Kim Curiel in her kitchen ready for olive oil tasting. Photo Sophie Braccini

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**Samira Says**

**Don't Rush the Recovery Process!**

I am often asked "How long do I need to stay at ManorCare?" Or I hear statements like "I want to stay for a few days and go home" or "My family will help me to get around at home; I do not need to go to a post-acute rehabilitation center because I can do my recovery on an out-patient basis."

My response to these questions and comments is: Rehabilitation is the process of helping an individual to achieve the highest level of independence and quality of life possible-- physically, emotionally, socially, and spiritually. Rehabilitation helps to restore a patient to optimal health, functioning, and well-being. Rehabilitate (from the Latin "habilitas") means "to make able again." Recovering from orthopedic, cardiac, or neurologic conditions, surgical procedures, or illness or injury, can mean a long journey of inpatient rehabilitation to re-learn how to function independently. At ManorCare, patients receive rehabilitation services as well as the education they need for their care prior to returning home. We understand that each patient is unique and we tailor our services to meet specific needs.

Our interdisciplinary team of providers coordinates care among all services to help each patient reach his or her discharge goals, and to "graduate" and go home safely and happily. At ManorCare, patients receive five days of therapy in a skilled facility, compared to two or three days as an outpatient or home health patient. An inpatient stay provides daily care from the nursing staff and close monitoring of a patient's condition --important in such areas as -insulin management, pain management, wound care, and administration of intravenous medications and fluids.

**Rushing the recovery process before a patient's goals have been reached may lead to:**

- Re-injury- and a return trip to the hospital
- Inadequate and/or improper care at home
- A quality of care at home that may not be intense enough for a complete recovery and healing

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## Poisonous Mushrooms

By Mona Miller, DVM



will be performed to monitor kidney and liver organs, as well as blood sugar and electrolytes.

If you suspect your dog has eaten wild mushrooms, bring samples of these fungi to your veterinarian when you bring your dog in. Identification of the specific type of mushroom ingested can be very helpful in developing a treatment plan.

Useful websites for mushroom identification and photos can be found at <http://bayareamushrooms.org/poisonings> and <http://namyco.org/toxicology> (North American Mycological Association).

In light of the recent warning issued by the California Department of Public Health to discourage collection and consumption of wild mushrooms, I thought I would discuss the danger of wild mushrooms to pets, especially dogs. Some dogs are attracted to mushrooms with a fishy odor, while other dogs are non-discriminating and will eat anything of interest in the backyard or on the trail. Mushrooms can be classified according to their type of toxin; of these eight categories, six are important as potential pet toxicities. Some cause liver failure, some cause gastrointestinal irritation, and others cause neurologic disease. As an aside, most edible, store-bought mushrooms are non-toxic to dogs, although a change from regular diet may contribute to indigestion and stomach upset.

The most common poisonous mushrooms in the Bay Area are *Amanita* and *Galerina* species. These are found almost year-round, but especially from fall through spring. *Amanita* species are the most common mushrooms involved in both dog and human fatal poisonings, with *Amanita phalloides* (commonly called the Death Cap Mushroom) at the top of the list. The toxins in

*Amanita* sp. are quickly absorbed from the intestines, and then cause both liver and kidney disease. There can be up to 12 hours between ingestion of the mushroom and illness. Initial symptoms are related to the gastrointestinal tract and include nausea, vomiting, diarrhea and abdominal pain. Further symptoms in the first 24-36 hours are fever, rapid heart rate, changes in serum electrolytes and glucose. Then liver and kidney systems become affected and will start to fail. Without treatment, death can occur in three to seven days.

When early and aggressive treatment is instituted, the overall prognosis is good. If a dog has just ingested mushrooms and not yet shown signs, he may be made to vomit. Additionally, a binding substance called activated charcoal will be introduced into his stomach to capture any toxin not yet absorbed into the bloodstream. This can be repeated several times over the next 48 hours in order to continue to bind active toxin. Further supportive care includes hospitalization, intravenous fluids, gastrointestinal medications for nausea and vomiting. Anti-oxidant medication can be given to further reduce damage to liver and kidney cells. Blood tests



Death cap Photo Michael Wood www.mykoweb.com



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.

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## Lamorindans Love Christmas Collections

... continued from page B1

The bunk beds in the boys' room are covered with material from her own sons' beds. It has a pool table, fishing gear and motorcycle posters.

"Mason's room" doubles as the game room, and is dedicated to her oldest son, a Campolindo High School senior. The guitar on the couch is ready to be played, and the walls are covered with pictures of Windatt's three boys in their football gear. The hall has a grand piano and Christmas tree, and the attic holds an art studio. "I've been obsessed about it [the dollhouse]," Windatt admits. She'll store it in their dining room on a revolving base after the holidays.

Orindan Wendy Jacobs' Christmas sweaters are decorated with trees, snowmen, penguins, dogs, nutcrackers and reindeer. She didn't start collecting them for herself; she did it as a favor for her father, who enlisted her help to buy sweaters as presents for her mother. That shopping trip piqued Jacobs' interest, and she learned to prowl boutiques for fresh samples of seasonal stitchery.

Jacobs rotates the sweaters she wears, especially those which belonged to her mother. A soft blue zippered sweater embroidered with snowmen may be her favorite. Her pink snowman sweater is made entirely of crocheted circles. A Christmas dog sweater features Santa-hatted dogs and beribboned bones. Jacobs' nutcracker sweater has been worn to the Nutcracker ballet. It was also worn to church, where it quietly occupied her son throughout the service when he was little.

A caroling reindeer sweater used to light up, until Jacobs accidentally washed the battery pack. That one she bought at a discount. "I paid \$4.95 for that - the price of a Starbucks [coffee]," Jacobs says.

Her mother's sweaters weren't usually on sale when they were purchased in December. Now, the entire sweater collection hangs in Jacobs' closet, ready for the next holiday event.

What wonderful conversation starters!



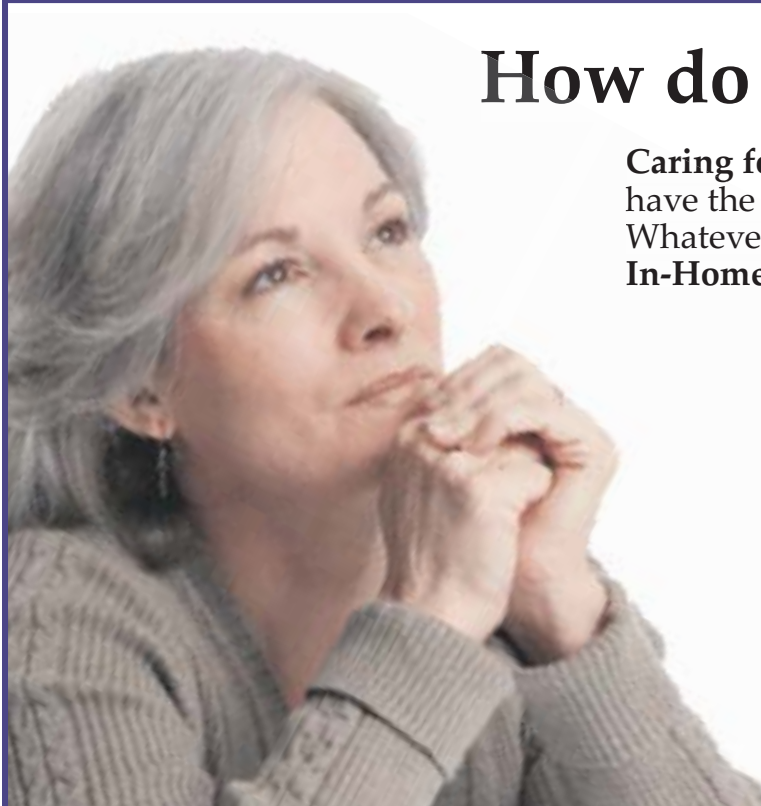
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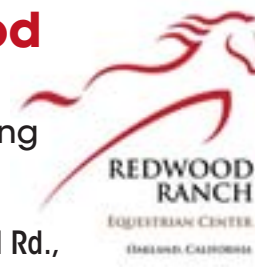


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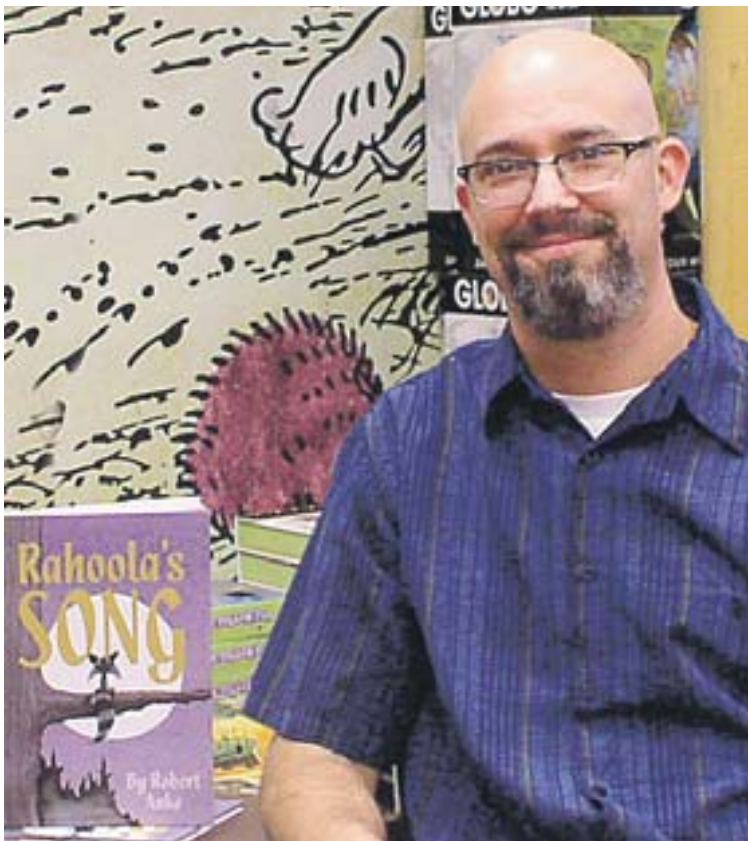
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# Author, Illustrator, Teacher

By Cathy Dausman

*In a forest with trees pointing up to the moon, there lived and there sang an uncommon raccoon. Listening closely, you could hear him each night, his voice softly weaving its way through the heights. High in his perch at the top of a tree, Rahooola sang simply to set a song free.* — *Rahooola's Song* (Cupola Press, 2012)



Robert Anke

Photo Gail Perry Johnston

With the debut of *Rahooola's Song*, first year Stanley Middle School art teacher Robert Anke can now add another title to his name: published author. Anke, whose *Running in the Halls* comic ran in a local paper for one year, illustrated the 32-page hardback children's book. The story left at least one critic likening it to having "the fun and heart of a Dr. Seuss [book]." It even has the rhyme.

Anke, who loves to draw, began the project 12 years ago in college as a way to teach children a simple lesson: that we are enough. "True, lasting happiness and contentment is not found outside of us," he said. He wrote the story first, following up with illustrations. Start to finish, the second go-around took over two years to complete, as he "forced the rhyme to get better by employing an economy of words."

The story features Rahooola, a happy, singing raccoon, who receives an unexpected inheritance which changes his life.

Anke liked the alliterative sound of Rahooola Raccoon, and the "larger, spiritual tradition" of the

name, which is drawn from the name given to Buddha's only child (usually spelled Rahula). He used his 6-year-old son as a "beta reader" for the story.

The busy middle school art teacher, and former Springhill Elementary school teacher, is the son and grandson of a teacher.

"If I won the lottery I'd still teach half-time," he said. Yet he continues his work as an author while immersed in learning two new art curriculums and advising the Stanley yearbook class. Anke, who said it feels good to have met his publishing goal, appreciates the support his students and their parents have shown by attending his area book store readings.

He has finished the writing portion of a second book, designed for a toddler audience and is also midway through the development of a fall-themed book of prose for elementary students. Anke the author. Anke the teacher. Perhaps an unexpected inheritance for us all.

*Rahooola's Song* is published by Cupola Press (www.cupolapress.com/RahooolasSong.html) and is available online.

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## Triple Golden Birthday for Miss Sydney

By Sophie Braccini



Sydney Bagley arrives in her class at Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School. Photo Sophie Braccini

Since she was very young, Sydney Bagley knew that her golden birthday would come and that her parents would make it special for her. Bagley was born Dec. 12, 2000, and last Wednesday she turned 12.

The day started early with her best friends coming to her home for a traditional 'Shanghai' wake-up call. First period for Bagley was Lisa Gruen's sixth grade core class. There, the Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School student was totally surprised by what awaited her: balloons, whistles, and a lot of excitement before the class broke into a joyous Happy Birthday song.

"This is a very well-behaved class," said Gruen, "so it made sense to give them a little party time. This triple golden birthday is a rarity, the next time someone will be able to celebrate his or her 12th birthday on 12/12/12 will be in 2112."

The teacher sat everyone down and took the opportunity to quiz the class about the different meanings and symbols of the number depicting a dozen. "What element has the atomic number 12?" she asked. "Magnesium," answered a young girl - pretty good for a sixth grader! "What is 12 dozen called?" "One hundred and forty-four," answered a boy.

"Yes," added Gruen, "but it has a specific noun associated with it; do you know what it is?" The answer is a 'gross.'

Bagley's parents were there as well because, after the core class period, the family headed to the airport. Destination: New York City. "We had been talking about this for a long time," said Bagley's mother, Renée. "Sydney is a real theater buff so we decided on New York."

"I will never forget this day," Bagley said.

## 12-year-old Singer Inspired to Make a Difference

By Jennifer Wake



Samantha Anne Martin sits at the piano in the video *Ricochet*. Photo provided

One simple act can affect the world. It's one of the lessons Samantha Anne Martin learned in her sixth grade class at Stanley Middle School in Lafayette.

Martin was taking a course on adversity, learning about homelessness and bullying, when her teacher had the class read an article and showed them a video about Malala Yousafzai, the 15-year-old Pakistani activist who was shot in October by Taliban gunmen on her way home from school for promoting girls' rights.

Inspired by the teen's courage and plight, Martin decided to write a song about Malala. She and her father, Dan, wrote the lyrics, a friend of her father's wrote the music, all of them collaborating on the harmonies

and melodies. The group produced a video of the song, *Ricochet* (Malala's Song), which was posted on the Change.org website.

The video includes clips from news reports about the Pakistani teen. "I have a right to sing, I have the right to talk, I have the right to go to market, I have the right to speak," the activist is shown saying.

In the video, Martin, who is a three-time group competition winner of Orinda Idol and who performed in the lead role of Annie at Berkeley Playhouse last year, sings of the little girl like her who lived under siege. The final lyrics of the song ask for the world for support and to help

Malala make a stand.

When word about the video reached Malala's family, Malala's father watched it together with his daughter who is still recovering from her injuries in England. In an email to Martin Dec. 8, Malala's father said they could not control their tears when watching the piece.

"When my dad told me that Malala's dad had emailed us I was beyond excited," Martin said. "What touched me the most was how grateful he was for what we did. Reading that he cried while watching the video brought tears - joyful ones - to my eyes."

Knowing that her video had such an effect on Malala and her dad made Martin want to help her even more, she said. "It's a great feeling to know that my video made it halfway around the world and 'ricocheted' back to California in such a strong way."

The video ends with a plea to nominate Malala for the Nobel Peace Prize due to her efforts to speak out for girls' rights everywhere, risking her life in the process. *Ricochet* (Malala's Song), which has already been played on the radio, is available on iTunes and all proceeds go to MalalaFund.org. The video can be viewed at [www.change.org/malala](http://www.change.org/malala) or on YouTube.

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## TEEN SCENE

### Recent Storm Affects Teens

By Konnie Guo

While all residents of Lamorinda were hit hard by the storm of a few weeks ago, teens were especially affected by the heavy rain and strong wind. Widespread power outages left many unable to complete their schoolwork.

Samuel Shain, a student at Miramonte High School, experienced unfortunate consequences from the rain. He says, "Our house sprung about four different leaks. The walls were peeling, and mud was coming in. The damage is enormous and is going to be very expensive."

Rain also created low visibility, slowing down traffic and covering the area in muddy puddles. As a result, many teens had to rise earlier in the morning to go to school despite the dark weather - not the normal routine for most adolescents.

A sinkhole occurred in Orinda near Tarabrook Drive, restricting cars to one lane of traffic. The road collapsed after a storm drain failed, leaving a large 15 by 20 foot gap. In Lafayette, a similar, but more serious sinkhole opened up on Mountain View Drive, measuring 15 feet deep and 40 feet wide. The street was seriously damaged, requiring drivers to seek a detour.

The slippery state of the roads required careful navigation when driving, and some students couldn't make it to class because of the incessant downpour and flooding. Many students on their way to school were

required to don protective coats and other accessories to keep themselves dry. Becoming soaked with rain was extremely inconvenient, leaving teens with no choice but to shiver in the unrelenting cold for the rest of the school day.

However, there were some who actually enjoyed the rain. Fifteen-year-old Alexa Clark says, "I got to curl up in a blanket and watch Christmas movies. It was fun!" Clark was glad that staying indoors gave her more time to connect and bond with her family.

Now that we have a break in the weather, it's a good time to repair the damages, take stock of what we need to do to prepare for other storms, and make arrangements for food, warmth, and light so that we can continue our studies despite a power outage during the winter months.



Konnie Guo, a Club BSYA, is currently a sophomore at Miramonte High School in Orinda. She is an avid reader, and during her spare time, enjoys playing the piano and doing volunteer work.

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



# Is Mistletoe Romantic? Not on a Tree!

By Cathy Dausman



A grove of trees in Moraga sport mistletoe in their branches.

Photos Cathy Dausman

Kissing couples seek it out at Christmas, but pity the poor Lamorinda tree playing host to mistletoe. Nat King Cole may have waxed poetic about enjoying turkey and some mistletoe, and Justin Bieber sings about being under the mistletoe, but mistletoe, like the local wild turkey, is actually a pest—a parasite.

Okay, it's technically only hemiparasitic, which means that it actually can exist on its own, although like an unwanted holiday guest it probably prefers to mooch off the nearest host-tree.

Tumbleweed-sized mistletoe clumps are common in local tree groves, and are easily visible when deciduous trees shed their leaves. The Anglo-Saxon roots, "mistel" and "tan," literally meaning dung and twig, explain just how unromantically the shiny green parasite transfers from bird food to droppings to tree branch.

Once established, mistletoe saps

water from the tree, either stunting its growth or eventually killing it. A.U.C. Davis pest management website describes several kinds of common broadleaf mistletoe in California. One affects trees including alder, flowering pear, ash, birch, walnut and cottonwood; another variety infests only oaks. A third variety is endemic to Sonoma County. There are even mistletoe varieties which infest fir trees and conifers in the Sierra Nevada Mountains and foothills.

Just how did the kissing ritual associated with mistletoe begin? In ancient times, mistletoe signified life, fertility and forgiveness. The Greeks believed it protected them from evil spirits, and armies or angry spouses in Scandinavia could declare a truce underneath what they considered a plant of peace. In 18th century England, a young woman found beneath a mistletoe ball could not refuse to be kissed; if she rebuffed a suitor, she'd

remain unmarried throughout the New Year.

Mistletoe has also been used since ancient times to treat illness. Even today its mystical powers persist. The National Cancer Institute says mistletoe is used to treat cancer, most commonly in Europe. So whether it makes you feel good or just makes you feel romantic, we bet you'll never look at mistletoe the same next year!



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## Safety by Design

Submitted by H. Wheeler



First-place Digital Design poster by Acalanes High School student William Audley. Image provided

William Audley, a sophomore at Acalanes High School, submitted two posters and waited nervously. He was excited about this contest because there was prize money on the table and he felt good about his designs. William's confidence could be counted on. A design by William last year was chosen by Acalanes school faculty to cover the academic school planner for 2012-2013.

Interested in computers and art when he started Acalanes, Audley chose Digital Design 1 as an elective his freshman year. His interest and passion grew swiftly. "I really like using graphic design tools and I really like the class. It's fun!" says Audley of Digital Design. His enjoyment of the class is shored up daily by Digital Design teacher Susan Lane who instructs students in Adobe Illustrator and Photoshop. Beyond software, Lane works to improve her students' understanding of the field of graphic design. And with each new element taught, she lets the artists go to work.

"She lets us work independently," says Audley. "It's great!" Challenging her students with projects such as the CCCIG contest, Lane seizes opportunities to teach a real life skill: designing under pressure. Audley is catching on. His safety poster will be posted in offices of over 20 school districts.

Second place in the high school category also went to an Acalanes High School Student. Kyle McQuain, a freshman and a student in Lane's Digital Design 1 class helped make it "A sweep!" according to Lane, who will also receive \$100 from CCCIG to help with classroom supplies.

Teachers go to great lengths to educate our kids and to help them make good choices. But who reminds teachers to make safe choices for themselves each day at work? Apparently, students do.

For the past four years, the Contra Costa County Schools Insurance Group (CCCIG) has turned to students throughout over 20 school districts they insure to portray anew their message of classroom safety. A \$100 cash prize motivates students from Antioch Elementary schools to the Contra Costa Community Colleges to design a winning poster. CCCIG hopes fresh designs each year will capture the eye of teachers in staff rooms, reminding them to stay safe at work. In the Fourth Annual "Slip Trip Fall Prevention Student Poster Contest" the winning design in the high school category came from the Acalanes School District.

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# "The 13 Days of Christmas" Holiday Production Benefits Children's Hospital

Submitted by Marian Rule



From left, Peter Pan Foundation cast members Robyn Stephenson and Andrew Cope during the Dec. 16 performance of "The 13 Days of Christmas."

More than 100 local performers, ages 5 to 50, from Lamorinda and other local areas performed in the Peter Pan Foundation's (PPF) holiday musical, "The 13 Days of Christmas," last Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 15 and 16. The show was created and written by Campolindo High School senior Jayne Skinner and Acalanes High School junior Andrew Cope.

For Cope, the exciting part was the opportunity to see the show they wrote 'come to life' and to see the enthusiasm in the younger performers as they gained confidence on stage. "As our high school and college performers worked with the younger kids, we all learned something," he said. "The Peter Pan Foundation gave us huge opportunities while giving us the chance to benefit the kids at Children's Hospital Oakland who need our help."

"The foundation produces three shows each year," said Skinner, who also serves this year as the president of the Peter Pan Foundation's teen council. "Last year, Andrew and I had the idea that we could write the show set in the small town of Evergreen. The people of Evergreen are looking forward to the holidays, but something is amiss in town and it evolves into a mystery. Our 2012 version of the show was all new: still a mystery, but re-written to keep this

year's audience guessing."

This year's third show, "Franc D'Ambrosio's Christmas in New York," will feature Franc D'Ambrosio, best known for his impressive portrayal of the title character in Broadway's Phantom of the Opera. D'Ambrosio holds the distinction of being the world's longest-running Phantom. He will be joined onstage by PPF founder Leslie Noel, and 90 young members of the foundation Friday, Dec. 21 at the New Rheem Theatre in Moraga. Doors open at 6 p.m. for a silent auction and appetizers. The concert begins at 7:30 p.m.

The Peter Pan Foundation (PPF) is a non-profit organization founded by Noel, who has led the efforts of hundreds of local youth in philanthropic activities; kids help kids, and use their musical talents and the arts to entertain and raise money for local charities. Celebrating its fifth anniversary, PPF hopes to raise \$50,000 for Children's Hospital and Research Center Oakland and for other local charities, all from the three musical production proceeds. For more information about the organization, visit [www.peterpanfoundation.org](http://www.peterpanfoundation.org).

## Two Campo Grads Featured on Yahoo's Ultimate Surprises

By Cynthia Brian



Photos provided

The story of how two people meet and fall in love is always fascinating. Is it destiny, chemistry, or just being in the right place at the right time? For two Campolindo High School graduates, it was love and serendipity.

This fall the engagement of the two Moraga natives was the feature of Yahoo's *Ultimate Surprises*, an internet reality show with a positive spin.

Former Moragan and current Los Angeles firefighter, Brian Rankin, surprised his radio personality girlfriend, Heather Sheaff, with a sparkly ring in Huntington Beach amidst the blaring sirens of fire trucks and a film crew with hidden cameras.

Rankin and Sheaff's mom secretly worked with the casting director and production company for three months behind the scenes before the elaborate clandestine pro-

posal transpired in November.

Under the ruse of a business meeting, Sheaff waited on a restaurant balcony for the supposed "client" to arrive when the waitress informed her that the fire department had been called to check an electrical issue in the kitchen. Sirens and horns blared. As the ladder reached the top of the balcony, the firefighter dressed in full turn out gear, jumped out of the bucket with the ultimate romantic surprise. Although they had known one another since they were six, it took 20 years to fall in love.

Congratulations to these Moraga natives for starring in their own love story - Proposal to the Rescue! Watch it: <http://screen.yahoo.com/episode-7-proposal-to-the-rescue-31030474.html>.

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# Mayor Days Be Merry

By Susie Iventosch

The holidays are the perfect time to bring out treasured family recipes, but also a fun occasion to experiment with new dishes

to add to the repertoire. Our Lamorinda mayors have come up with some of their favorite holiday dishes for you to enjoy at home!



From left: Steven Glazer, Carol Federighi and Mike Metcalf  
Photo Andy Scheck

## Moraga Mayor Michael Metcalf

Mayor Metcalf's Christmas culinary masterpiece was inspired by Julia Child many years ago, when he decided to braise a goose.

"This is not just any stuff-in-the-oven goose," reported the mayor. "This is a full-on 'meat and chestnut' stuffed bird, braised in turkey stock made from the Thanksgiving turkey."

He says the key is a "properly prepared and carefully installed" veal and pork stuffing, or farce in French. His wife, Sharon, works by his side preparing braised red cabbage with chestnuts and Brussels sprout-potato mash.

"This meal is best served with a robust pinotage, and, of course, excellent company," added the mayor.

Metcalf said that his guidance for this dish was and remains Julia Child's Mastering the Art of French Cooking, which is still available for purchase, and, in fact, can be downloaded right onto your iPad! That is where mine resides, so it is always accessible ... even while travelling.

"Julia never made anything simple, and this is no exception, but she nailed it with this recipe," Metcalf remarked. "When I first did it, the entire operation took well over six hours. Now, 30 years later, I knock it out in about three ... and at a much more leisurely pace."

Because Mayor Metcalf's menu is extensive, we invite you to visit the Lamorinda Weekly website for a full accounting of his recipes for the holidays.

Now that you are equipped with a few more holiday recipes, I wish all of you a delightful and delectable holiday season!

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.



## Orinda Mayor Steven Glazer



Photo Susie Iventosch

He was a picky eater as a youngster, preferring cereal with no milk for breakfast and peanut butter and jelly sandwiches – hold the peanut butter – for lunch. But, there is one special dish Orinda Mayor Steven Glazer remembers especially fondly.

"I grew up with my mother's kugel being a favorite holiday treat," Glazer said.

While Glazer does not have his mom's exact recipe, he said that his neighbor, Dvora Citron, passed hers along and it closely matches his mom's.

Kugel literally means "ball" in Yiddish and German, but also refers to a custard-style side dish or dessert, made with milk, eggs, sour cream and cottage cheese. Originally made from bread and flour, kugel was a savory rather than sweet dish. Some 800 years ago, bread was replaced by noodles, and in the 17th century the addition of raisins, cinnamon and sugar allowed the dish to also be served as dessert.

Mayor Glazer said it was used more as a side dish in his family, but with the sugar and spice, we opted for the dessert route!

### Sweet Noodle Pudding (Kugel)

#### INGREDIENTS

- 12 ounces extra wide egg noodles
- 3 eggs
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 8 ounces low-fat sour cream (I used plain non-fat yogurt)
- 16 ounces low-fat cottage cheese
- 1/2 cup low-fat milk
- 1 stick butter
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/2 cup raisins
- 1/2 cup brown sugar

#### DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 325 degrees F. Cook noodles as directed on package, drain and set aside. In a large bowl, beat eggs until foamy. Add sugar gradually and continue beating. Add sour cream, cottage cheese, milk and melted butter. Add vanilla, cinnamon and raisins. Toss in cooked noodles and mix well. Put in greased 9x13 ovenproof casserole. Sprinkle brown sugar over top. Bake 1 hour.

## Lafayette Mayor Carol Federighi



Photo Susie Iventosch

Lafayette Mayor Carol Federighi prepares a very special soup for her holiday fare.

"My Christmas Eve selection involves a lot of chopping, but the result is well worth the effort," Federighi noted. "It is a curried carrot-apple soup with ginger crème fraîche, but I must credit Bay Cafe who ran this recipe from Chef Gloria Ciccarone of The Big Four in 1998."

And, I must credit Mayor Federighi for passing this fabulous recipe along to me. I have never tasted a soup so bursting with flavor! The spicy flavors lend themselves festively to any holiday occasion.

### Curried Carrot-Apple Soup with Ginger Crème Fraîche

(Serves 12-16)

#### INGREDIENTS

- 1/2 cup olive oil
- 3 onions, chopped
- 6 shallots, chopped
- 6 garlic cloves, chopped
- 1 teaspoon fresh thyme, minced
- 1 tablespoon fresh ginger, minced
- 8 carrots, peeled and chopped
- 3 parsnips, peeled and chopped
- 4 green apples, peeled, cored and chopped
- 1 1/2 tablespoons curry powder
- 1/2 teaspoon ground coriander
- 1/2 teaspoon ground ginger
- 1 tablespoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon white pepper
- 1 gallon chicken stock (I used 3 quarts for a thicker soup)

#### DIRECTIONS

Saute first five ingredients until fragrant. Add carrots, parsnips and apples and continue to saute for another five minutes. Add spices, salt and pepper. Saute until veggies are tender. Add chicken stock to cover and boil for one hour or until everything is soft and smells fantastic! Cool to room temperature. Once cooled, puree in batches until silken in texture. Reheat and serve hot with a dollop of crème fraîche.

#### Ginger Crème Fraîche

Mix together: 1 cup crème fraîche, 1/4 teaspoon ground ginger and pinch of salt.

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Monday, December 24th at 4:00pm  
**Christmas Pageant and First Eucharist of Christmas**  
Start the festivities with Family Carol Singing at 3:30pm

Monday, December 24th at 8:00pm  
**Christmas Eve Candlelight Eucharist**  
The service is preceded by music for organ and trumpet at 7:40pm

Monday, December 24th at 11:00pm  
**Christmas Eve Candlelight Eucharist**  
Beginning with a concert of Christmas music for choir and instruments at 10:30pm

Tuesday, December 25th at 10:00am  
**Christmas Day Eucharist**

Sunday, December 30 at 8:00am and 10:00am  
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10:00 p.m. "Silent Night" - a traditional candlelight communion celebration  
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### St. Giles Episcopal Church Christmas Eve Candlelight Service December 24th at 9:00pm

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Sunday Eucharist at 9:00am - Inclusive & Affirming

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### ART

**The Orinda Library Art Gallery Exhibit.** The exhibit for December will include George Wahbeh's oil paintings, Roland Nunn's hooked rugs, Alexander Walcheck's drawings, and Alex Meckes' Origami. The Gallery is located adjacent to the library at 26 Orinda Way in Orinda. For more info, visit [www.orindaartscouncil.org/community\\_library](http://www.orindaartscouncil.org/community_library).

**Valley Art Gallery's 47th annual Holiday Crafts show** and sale featuring many well known Bay Area craftspeople runs through Dec. 22 at 1662 Botelho Drive, Walnut Creek. The fine crafts available include decorative as well as functional ceramics, glass, jewelry, wood, and fabric items. In addition, there are over 300 paintings available for sale and for rent. Valley Art is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the promotion and support of visual and tactile artists of the greater Bay Area. For info, contact Julie Armstrong, (925) 935-4311.

### MUSIC

**The Acalanes Music Department presents the 2012 Winter Choral Concerts:** "Old and New" on Dec. 20 at 7 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center, 1200 Pleasant Hill Rd. These two programs will feature Chorale, Concert Choir, Bella Voce, Chamber Singers, Contemporary A Cappella Project, The Innuendos, Women's Octet and on the 18th, special guests, the Chanticleer LAB 7 Choir. Please join us for one or both concerts that will showcase older repertoire, newer takes on old repertoire and completely new songs. Suggested Donation: \$5 for adults; \$3 for seniors; students 18 and under free.

**WCSA Lafayette Songwriters' Competition.** Come join the Lauras for the inaugural Lafayette WCSA Songwriters' Competition! You do not have to be a songwriter to attend this event. The meetings are at 7 p.m. the second Wednesday of each month at Lamorinda Music, 81 Lafayette Circle, Lafayette. Cost: \$5. For more info, email Laura Zucker at [zuckers@aol.com](mailto:zuckers@aol.com) or visit [www.westcoastsongwriters.org/become-a-member](http://www.westcoastsongwriters.org/become-a-member).

### THEATER

**Join host Tony La Russa and featured performers Mark Pitta and Friends** for a memorable start to 2013. Comedy Night is on Friday, Jan. 4 at the Leshner Center for the Arts in Walnut Creek. Tickets available early December at (925) 943-SHOW; all proceeds benefit ARF.

**The Princess and The Pea, fairytale by Hans Christian Andersen.** The



Princess and The Pea is a much adored traditional fairy tale of honesty and love. The show is at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 30 and at 4 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 31 at the LeFevre Theatre, Saint Mary's College, 1928 St. Mary's Road, Moraga. Cost: \$8. For more info, call (925) 631-4670 or visit [www.brownpapertickets.com](http://www.brownpapertickets.com).

**Nicki Bluhm and The Gramblers make their return** to Town Hall Theatre, 3535 School St., Lafayette this holiday season at 8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 20. For info, visit [www.townhalltheatre.com/music-comedy-series](http://www.townhalltheatre.com/music-comedy-series). Tickets are available through Ticket Master.

### KIDS, PARENTS & TEENS

**Science Quest. Children ages 6-9 can explore and experiment** through the different branches of science from 10 a.m. to noon, Thursday through Saturday, Dec. 26-28 at Lindsay Wildlife Museum, 1931 First Ave., Walnut Creek. Teacher's helpers positions are available for ages 11-14. Cost: \$30; \$20 for members. For more info, call (925) 627-2930 or visit

[www.wildlife-museum.org/education/kids](http://www.wildlife-museum.org/education/kids).

**The annual HO Scale model train exhibition, featuring** a unique, modular display of model trains traveling through an "Old World" countryside, will be open at the Blackhawk Museum through Jan. 6. Exhibition is included with regular museum admission: \$10 for adults; \$7 for students and seniors; and free for children under 6 (must be accompanied by a paid adult). Open Wednesday to Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and special holiday hours on Monday, Dec. 24 and 31. For more info, visit [www.blackhawk-museum.org](http://www.blackhawk-museum.org) or call (925) 736-2277.

**Fairy Tales. Children ages 4-6 can have fun exploring** the roles animals play in the classic fairy tales and fables and meet some of the live animals in these stories from 10 a.m. to noon Wednesday, Jan. 2 at the Lindsay Wildlife Museum, 1931 First Ave., Walnut Creek. Teacher's helpers positions are available for ages 9-14. Cost: \$20; \$10 for members. For more info, call (925) 627-2930 or visit [www.wildlife-museum.org/education/kids](http://www.wildlife-museum.org/education/kids).

**Circuit Cities. It's electrifying! Children ages 7-10** experiment with circuits, learn how electricity works and explore alternative forms of generating energy in this hands-on class from 1 to 3 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 3 at the Lindsay Wildlife Museum, 1931 First Ave., Walnut Creek. Teacher's helpers positions are for ages 12-15. Cost: \$30; \$20 for members. For more info, call (925) 627-2930 or visit [www.wildlife-museum.org/education/kids](http://www.wildlife-museum.org/education/kids).

### OTHER

**Common Threads Stitching Group. Whether you are** a seasoned cross-stitcher or newbie beginner, join this ongoing, drop-in group for instruction, guidance, or simply a relaxing afternoon spent with fellow stitchers. The group meets from 2 to 3 p.m. every Wednesday at the Lafayette Community Center Elderberry Room, 500 St. Mary's Road, Lafayette. There is no meeting Dec. 19 and Dec. 26. For more info, call (925) 284-5050.

**Self-Discovery and Aging, Creative Writing Workshop.** Workshop sessions include writing prompts, feedback and encouragement, and information about the world of writers, writing, and publishing and meet from 10 a.m. to noon the second and fourth Thursday each month in the Cedar Room at the Lafayette Community Center, 500 St. Mary's Road, Lafayette. Cost: \$1 for members; \$3 for non-members. For more info, call (925) 284-5050.

**Come Play MahJongg! MahJongg is a game of skill, strategy,** and certain degree of chance. Bring your card, a mahjongg set and a snack to share (optional) every Tuesday from 1 to 3:30 p.m. in the Sequoia Room, Lafayette Community Center, 500 St. Mary's Road, Lafayette. Cost: \$1 for members; \$3 for non-members. For more info, call (925)284-5050.

**Nature Walk and Bird-Watching. Delight in the beauty** that unfolds around each bend, all the while learning to identify a variety of birds. Bring a water bottle; binoculars will be helpful if you have them. The nature walks are every Wednesday from 9 to

11 a.m. except Dec. 19 and Dec. 26. Please call Lafayette Senior Services at (925) 284-5050 to find out weekly meeting location.

**Lamorinda Dance Social. Enjoy afternoon dancing every** Wednesday and learn some great new dance moves from 12:30 to 3 p.m. every Wednesday at the Lafayette Community Center Live Oak Room, 500 St. Mary's Road, Lafayette. Cost: \$2 for members; \$4 for non-members. For more info, call (925) 284-5050.

**Hospice of the East Bay Support Groups for Adults.** Drop-In Bereavement Support Group meets on the first and third Wednesday of the month from 4:30 to 6 p.m. at the Pleasant Hill Campus, 3470 Buskirk Ave. For more info, call (925) 887-5681 or visit [www.hospiceeastbay.org](http://www.hospiceeastbay.org).

**Hospice of the East Bay Support Group for Adults.** The Pet Loss Support Group meets on the first Tuesday of the month from noon to 1:30 p.m. at the Tony LaRussa's Animal Rescue Foundation, 2890 Mitchell Drive, Walnut Creek. Pre-registration is required. For more information or to pre-register please call (925) 887-5681 or visit [www.hospiceeastbay.org](http://www.hospiceeastbay.org).

**Lafayette Orinda Presbyterian Church Taize Service.** Come for a respite from the holiday rush to refresh your spirit at 7 p.m. the last Thursday of the month, 49 Knox Dr., Lafayette. For more info, email [Nancy@lopc.org](mailto:Nancy@lopc.org).

**Hospice of the East Bay Support Groups for Adults.** The Widow and Widowers' Support group meets on Thursdays from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Jan. 3 through Feb. 21 at the Pleasant Hill campus, 3470 Buskirk Ave., Pleasant Hill. Pre-registration is required. For more info, or to pre-register please call (925) 887-5681 or visit [www.hospiceeastbay.org](http://www.hospiceeastbay.org).

**SEED (Special Education Enrichment Development) Foundation of Lafayette** is co-funding a 12-week Behavior Management course for Lafayette parents Wednesday nights, 6:30 to 9 p.m. starting Jan. 9 through Mar. 27 in Lafayette. By teaching positive behavioral strategies, parents will gain tools and strategies to support their child in home and community settings. For more info, or to register please call (925) 788-0451 or email [robinhaugeclinic@gmail.com](mailto:robinhaugeclinic@gmail.com).

**Lamorinda Dogs is looking for your support.** Lamorinda Dogs is building a pet recovery network in Lamorinda and helping pet owners document and prepare for disasters. To donate: send your check to Lamorinda Dogs, 101 Alta Mesa Court, Moraga, CA 94556 or go to [www.lamorindadogs.org](http://www.lamorindadogs.org).

**Community Christmas Celebration. During the candlelight** celebration, hear the Christmas story anew and songs of the season at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 20 at the Refuge Community Church, 155 Moraga Road, Moraga. Free. For more info, call (925) 942-1000 or visit [www.refugecommunity.org](http://www.refugecommunity.org).

... continued on next page

Please submit events to:  
[calendar@lamorinda-weekly.com](mailto:calendar@lamorinda-weekly.com)

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## Not to be missed

### OTHER ... continued

**4th Annual Sweaty Eddy & Santa Pub Crawl** presented by Norm's Place. Come dressed in your Ugliest Holiday Sweaters, Holiday Costume or as the big guy himself, Santa! Most fun to have right before Xmas! This event is on Saturday, Dec. 22 from 7 to 11 p.m. at Norm's Place, 356 Hartz Ave., Danville. Cost: \$30. For more info, call (925) 552-6676 or visit [www.normsgrill.com](http://www.normsgrill.com).

**Jan Term Speaker Series. Changing the World 101.** Jason Connell, the executive director of Ignited Leadership, a dynamic Washington, D.C.-based human service organization that is dedicated to building a better world, will speak at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 8 at the Saint Mary's College Soda Activity Center, 1928 St. Mary's Road, Moraga. Free. For more info, call (925) 631-4771 or visit [www.stmarys-ca.edu](http://www.stmarys-ca.edu).

**DAR Orientation and Genealogy Workshop.** A workshop and orientation will be held from 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 12 for women over 18 interested in joining the Daughters of the American Revolution and learning more about genealogy at the Montego Heights Lodge, 1400 Montego Way, Walnut Creek. Suggested donation: \$5. For more info, call Brenna Shafizadeh at (925) 287-0438.

**Jan Term Speaker Series. Soulful and Sacred: Celebrating the Black Catholic Experience.** Father Edward Branch will speak about the distinctive experience and journey of Black Catholics in America from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 15 at the Saint Mary's College Soda Activity Center, 1928 St. Mary's Road, Moraga. Free. For more info, call (925) 631-4771 or visit [www.stmarys-ca.edu](http://www.stmarys-ca.edu).

**Montelindo Garden Club. The club will meet at 9 a.m. Jan. 18** at the Orinda Community Church, 10 Irwin Way. The speaker, Don Dillon, Jr. from Four Winds Growers, will discuss growing citrus in the Bay Area. For more info, call (925) 254-3906.

**Jan Term Speaker Series. Unlikely Inspiration.** Kaya Oakes, author of *Slanted and Enchanted: The Evolution of Indie Culture* will speak at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 22 at the Saint Mary's College Soda Activity Center, 1928 St. Mary's Road, Moraga. Free. For more info, call (925) 631-4771 or visit [www.stmarys-ca.edu](http://www.stmarys-ca.edu).

**Jan Term Speaker Series. Shining a Light on Modern-Day Slavery.** Lisa Kristine, an acclaimed humanitarian photographer who specializes in images of remote indigenous cultures in more than 100 countries on six continents, will speak at 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 31 at the Saint Mary's College Soda Activity Center, 1928 St. Mary's Road, Moraga. Free. For

more info, call (925) 631-4771 or visit [www.stmarys-ca.edu](http://www.stmarys-ca.edu).

**Stars to the rescue presented by ARF. Adopt two kitten** kindergartners for the price of one, or a 'purrfect' cat two years or older for half-off the adoption fee! Standard adoption criteria apply. Join Tony La Russa and ARF on Saturday, Jan. 5 at the Leshner Center for the Arts, 2890 Mitchell Drive, Walnut Creek. For more info, call (925) 296-3153 or visit [www.arf.net](http://www.arf.net).

### POLITICAL GATHERINGS

**Inauguration Celebration Breakfast and Watch Party.** The breakfast, which will be held Monday, Jan. 21 from 8 to 8:45 a.m. at the Lafayette Library's Community Room, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd., will be hosted by the Lamorinda Democratic Club to honor President Barack Obama as he is inaugurated for his second term in office. You must RSVP to guarantee a seat by contacting John Hall at [jd-hall@mac.com](mailto:jd-hall@mac.com).

**Main Street meets Wall Street. Make Wall Street pay.** These actions mold public opinion which is the ultimate determining factor in a democracy. This event is from 4 p.m. until dark Wednesdays at Main Street and Mt. Diablo Blvd. in Walnut Creek. For more info, contact [KathyRKlein@hotmail.com](mailto:KathyRKlein@hotmail.com) or visit <http://www.trivalleydems.com/>.

# MOVIE REVIEW

## Last Year Marilyn, This Year Hitchcock!

By Derek Zemrak



Photo Fox Searchlight Pictures

**H**itchcock, starring Oscar Winner Anthony Hopkins (The Silence of the Lambs) as Alfred Hitchcock, is a movie that will surprise you. It is more about The Master of Suspense's relationship with his wife, Alma Reville, portrayed by Oscar winner Helen Mirren (The Queen), than his movie making magic. Mirren recently received a well-deserved Golden Globe Nomination in her role as Alma and I am sure an Oscar nod will be forthcoming for her. I had the opportunity to interview the director, Sacha Gervasi, who gives *Lamorinda Weekly* readers an inside look at this outstanding independent film.

**DZ:** How does it feel to have directed a film that is already getting Oscar buzz?

**SG:** I am happy to have made a film that I am really proud of in the Hitchcock style. We made it for an audience of people who are going to enjoy the experience.

**DZ:** As a director, how do you pull off a performance from the actors so you don't see Anthony Hopkins or Helen Mirren on the screen; you see their characters on the screen?

**SG:** It's all about casting, through the crew and actors. If you are lucky enough to get great actors to agree to work with you, honestly 90 percent of the job is done. You hire them for the reason that they are good. They are clearly connected to the material and they bring their intelligence, insight and experience to the role. You allow them to do their job. It's working with them on the material and allowing them to explore things, and letting them find their comfort zone and physical position. It's very much "actor centric" the way I work, which is to allow the actors to find the space and record it.

**DZ:** The audience is going to learn a lot about not only Hitchcock but also his wife Alma and her involvement in his career. Can you elaborate on that?

**SG:** It is a fascinating story that not a lot of people know about. She was instrumental in his career. She was the one who demanded the music in the famous Psycho shower scene. Alfred Hitchcock was determined that there should be no music. She absolutely insisted and because of their 36-year marriage and the fact that he ultimately trusted her, and against his will, he went with the music. And god was she right because when you think of Hitchcock the first thing you think about is the shower scene and the second thing you think about is the music.

**DZ:** When the end credits roll what do you want the audience to leave with after seeing *Hitchcock*?

**SG:** Hopefully they walk away with a better understanding of Hitchcock and partially his wife's role in the creative genius. But also a connection to someone who is this iconic figure and an understanding that we are all the same, we all struggle with relationships; we all struggle with ourselves and within relationships. It may not be what they were expecting and they all tell their friends to go see it!

*Hitchcock* opens at the Orinda Theatre on Friday, Dec. 21. Do not miss this interesting and informative film.

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.



## 'Tis the Season of Giving

**Operation Hurricane Sandy Disaster Relief.** This program is organized by local teen volunteers of Club Be the Star You Are. The club needs monetary donations to ship books and resources to families on the East Coast who suffered the devastation of Hurricane Sandy. \$25 ships five new books; \$50 ships a dozen new books; \$100 ships a full case. Checks may be sent to Be the Star You Are!® 501c3, PO Box 376, Moraga, Ca. 94556 or make a contribution on line via Paypal. For more information please visit [www.bethestaryouare.org/donate.htm](http://www.bethestaryouare.org/donate.htm). and [www.btsya.com/hurricane\\_sandy\\_relief.html](http://www.btsya.com/hurricane_sandy_relief.html).

**Moraga-Orinda Fire District and the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program.** The mission of the U. S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program is to collect new, unwrapped toys during December each year, and distribute those toys as Christmas gifts to needy children in Contra Costa County. Please join us in donating to the Toys for Tots Program at your local Moraga, Orinda or nearest fire station. This program will be running through Dec. 21.

**Roughing It Day Camp - Collecting Donations for One Warm Coat, Toys for Tots, and Food Drive.** Please donate coats of any size, new/unwrapped toys and non-perishable food items Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. through Dec. 27 to Roughing It Camp Office, 1010 Oak Hill Road, Lafayette.

**Stuffed Animal Collection.** The Moraga Police Officers Association along with S.A.F.E. (Stuffed Animals For Emergencies) is collecting new or gently used stuffed animals to help children through traumatic experiences. The stuffed animals are given to local police and fire departments to distribute to children they encounter who have been affected by traumatic events. S.A.F.E also facilitates the distribution of donated stuffed animals for a variety of charitable purposes to help children. This year's annual holiday collection drive ends Dec. 28. New or gently used stuffed animals can be dropped off at the collection area located in the lobby of the Moraga Police Department, 329 Rheem Blvd. Thank you for your support!

### Four Holiday Specials from Entourage!

**Gift Certificate #1:**  
80 minute Massage  
SPA Manicure  
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**\$115**

**Gift Certificate #2:**  
Winter Protection  
Facial, Seasonal  
Body Treatment  
Shampoo + Blow Dry  
Lunch & Champagne  
**\$160**

**Gift Certificate #3:**  
60 minute massage,  
SPA Pedicure,  
Shampoo + Blow Dry,  
SPA cuisine  
& Champagne  
**\$125**

**Gift Certificate #4:**  
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massage every  
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# Life after the Massage Parlors

By Sophie Braccini



Carlos Gomez, Marilyn Chalmers and Nancy Katz in front of the renovated storefront. Photo Sophie Braccini

It was a sad sight along Mt. Diablo Boulevard, where Carlos Gomez' tailoring business, Moises Gomez and Associates, was withering, surrounded by massage parlors of ill repute. Now driving to the corner of Mt. Diablo and Willow Drive, one might not recognize the place. The trees have been trimmed and the Spanish-style gate that marks the entrance to the Willow neighborhood is visible.

look completely different: neon signs and dark windows have been replaced with bright, large windows exposing the new private gym, Chalmers Fitness; and less prominent, but equally important, the back massage location has also been completely remodeled and is now home to the French school, French for Fun.

Last February, after Willow neighbors took matters into their own hands and the Lafayette Police Department cracked down on the illegal activity,

the massage parlors that surrounded Gomez's business vanished. The area revitalized, Carlos Gomez is happy to introduce his new neighbors, Marilyn Chalmers and Catherine Jolivet.

Jolivet, owner of French for Fun for 15 years, had been looking for a new place for her school for a long time. "Finding this little cottage is a miracle," says the energetic business woman. "I had been looking for a year and all the commercial real estate brokers I worked with told me to give up and move my business to Walnut Creek. But for me, it was either Lafayette or retirement." The husband of one of her teachers saw a Craigslist posting for the space and Jolivet made an offer. "The location was perfect. Of course, it looked awful inside, but we are creative and not afraid of work; we knew we could make something charming of it."

Marilyn Chalmers said exactly the same thing. She had been operating a small gym nearby where she of-

fered private lessons and was looking for something bigger. When she saw the space along Mt. Diablo Boulevard she immediately loved it. "My husband thought it was awful, but I saw what it could become," she said. Her husband Don Chalmers also teaches at the new studio.

Now the three business owners work together. "Carlos (Gomez) and I used to be neighbors when I first opened my French school," remembers Jolivet, "and Marilyn is so professional and charming. Every time I come to the new place (where she plans to move at the beginning of January), I see people I know going to Carlos' business."

Gomez already has flyers from Chalmers' practice on the desk of his tailoring business. "I want everyone here to be successful," says Gomez, who has already seen a change in his business since the massage parlors vanished in July. "My customers are coming back," he says looking at the

chart of his increasing sales.

Chalmers is also experiencing increased activity in her bright new studio. "Now I can offer group classes, on top of my individual training practice," she says. "I love coming to this place," adds Nancy Katz, one of Chalmers' clients. "It feels like Marilyn (Chalmers): energetic, fun and inspiring." Chalmers, who says that she works with clients at any level of fitness, offers Functional Fitness training classes, TRX, stretch classes and boot camp.

Grand openings of the new businesses should happen soon. You can find more information about Chalmers Fitness at [www.chalmers-fitnessusa.com](http://www.chalmers-fitnessusa.com) and French for Fun at [www.frenchforfun.com](http://www.frenchforfun.com). For information about Moises Gomez and Associates, call (925) 283-6755.

*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



Michael from Doorstep Farmers delivers to Joe and Shirley Towbis' home in Orinda. Photo Sophie Braccini

### Doorstep Farmers Now Delivers to Lafayette and Orinda

(925) 349-4568, [www.doorstepfarmers.com](http://www.doorstepfarmers.com)  
The organic fruit and vegetable delivery service started two and a half years ago by Michael Wedgley has expanded delivery service from Lafayette to Orinda, and promises to include Moraga soon. Wedgley became interested in the distribution of local organic products at age 26, and decided to create Doorstep Farmers to allow anyone to have access to great produce, whatever their income level or their mobility. "I'm working with a network of farmers all located in Contra Costa County," he says. "The purpose is to get people a great variety of fresh fruits and vegetables when they are in season and at their peak of nutritional value and taste, while supporting local farmers." The service is flexible, allowing clients to customize their weekly basket online, prior to delivery. Orinda resident Shirley Towbis discovered Doorstep Farmers at the Lafayette Health Fair, and immediately came on board. Towbis says they've eaten all of the persimmons, kale, pears, salads, oranges, etc. they've received – and enjoy having it delivered to their doorstep. "It's like Christmas once a week," says Towbis' husband, Joe. "And since we've started, I have lost weight." The Orinda resident attributes this outcome to cooking soups more often. There are four box sizes, which include enough produce to feed one to five people; delivery can be scheduled every week or every other week.

### Les Trois Bisous – Joan Edelson Goes Online

(510) 409-6141  
[www.lestroisbisous.com](http://www.lestroisbisous.com)  
Moraga lawyer Joan Edelson, whose passion for cooking drove her to compete in the California State Fair and who won numerous prizes for her jams and desserts, finally gave in to her friends who wanted to get more of her delicious treats and started an online patisserie – a bakery specializing in French pastry. She recently launched the

website Les Trois Bisous – the three kisses – where she sells what she makes. "Everything is homemade by me in small batches," she says. "I buy only the best ingredients, experiment to get the taste we love and cook for my clients like I do for my family and friends." She adds that anyone in need of any pies, tarts, cookies or other treats for the holidays, or for their own personal dinners, may get in touch with her. Visit [www.lestroisbisous.com](http://www.lestroisbisous.com) for more information about her products.

### Care Indeed 61 Moraga Way #9, Orinda (925) 402-4411, [www.careindeed.com](http://www.careindeed.com)

Care Indeed, a well-known provider of home care services, recently received its CAHSAH Certification as a Home Care Aide Organization. The certification was awarded in recognition of Care Indeed's efforts in providing the highest quality services. CAHSAH was established in 1966 with a mission to promote quality home care and enhance the effectiveness of its members.

### Cloud 9 Organic Salon Re-Opens, Correction 1 Orinda Way, #3, Orinda (925) 258-9811, [www.cloud9organictherapy.com](http://www.cloud9organictherapy.com)

In our Dec. 5 issue we printed that Cloud 9's owner was Cindy Nguyen. The rightful owners are Alyssa Renteria and Leah Crane Kao. "We offer the finest non-toxic polishes (there is no true organic nail polish designation), organic soaks/scrubs/moisturizers and clients do indeed leave feeling relaxed and revived," wrote Cloud 9 co-owner Crane Kao. "Furthermore, we exceed the sanitation guidelines set forth by the California Board of Barbering and Cosmetology regarding our instrumentation. We offer waxing services and are excited to announce that we are now a full service hair salon."

### News from the three Chambers of Commerce Lafayette

Entrepreneur's Club at 8:30 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 20 in the Lafayette Chamber Conference Room.

### Moraga

The Chamber is accepting nominations for Business Person of the Year. Names can be emailed to [kathe@moragachamber.org](mailto:kathe@moragachamber.org). A vote to select among the nominees is scheduled for January and the awards dinner will be in February.

### Orinda

Mark your calendar for this luncheon tribute to Dick Heggie, first mayor of Orinda, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 16 at the Orinda Country Club. Cost: \$25 per person, reservations online at [www.orindachamber.org](http://www.orindachamber.org).

If you have a business brief to share, please contact **Sophie Braccini** at [sophie@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:sophie@lamorindaweekly.com)

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Head Frog Mo Williams

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# LAMORINDA SPORTS

## First One There

### Campo's Goltra Secures First Male XC State Title

By Rebecca Eckland



Aidan Goltra #578

Photo provided

Running cross country requires personal integrity and endurance. It "takes a great deal of character," said Campolindo cross country coach Chuck Woodrich, "and Aidan [Goltra] is a fine example of this."

Though only a junior at Campo, Goltra took the Division III state title in cross country on the Woodward

Park 5k course Nov. 24. His finished with a time of 15:18, a Campolindo record on the state meet course. He is the first Campo male runner to take the State Title.

Goltra remembers the race starting with a first fast mile. "By the second mile, a lead pack had broken away from the field, and with about

1000 meters to go I made my move," he explained.

And though Goltra held his position in the lead pack, he admitted he was nervous. "[It was] daunting at first. I believed that I belonged there, and that I could win," he said.

The win moved him onto the Regional meet in LA the following week. He decided at the last minute to compete and finished 20th overall and was the 10th best non-senior in the race.

The finish was humbling. "Although I had won state a few weeks ago, there is still another tier of competition to master," he said.

Goltra has been running for most of his life. "[But] it wasn't until the sixth grade that I actually began to take running seriously," he said. That was the year Goltra, as a member of team Pleasanton Heat, competed in a cross country race for the Junior Olympics in Raleigh. He place fourth in the 3 km race.

Afterward, even though his junior high didn't offer cross country or track, he kept running on his own.

He joined the cross country team at Los Lomas for his freshman and sophomore years before transferring to Campolindo. "Campo has a different atmosphere. They have a great team and I wanted to be the best I could be at this time in my life," he said.

Woodrich noted the program has a different approach to practice. "We do a lot more than just run, and our practice sessions take up considerable time," he explained, "[yet] he did not miss a single practice session over the course of the entire season. He truly identifies himself as a runner and has completely embraced the lifestyle."

Due to CIF rules, Goltra had to sit out the first half of the season, a decision that contributed to his success at the state meet by saving his strongest race efforts for later in the season.

Looking ahead, Goltra plans to compete in track and field this spring and looks forward to his senior season. He's thought about running in college, but hasn't made any definite plans.

## Boys' Fall DFAL Awards

Cross Country	Miramonte	First Team	Tyler Hanson
			Mark Tamminga
		Second Team	Charlie Zamanian
			Ariel Thomas
	Acalanes	First Team	Michael Wang
			Keenan Byrne
		Second Team	Scott Lindsay
			Cameron Gaskell
	Campolindo	First Team	Aidan Goltra
			Adam Hathaway
		Second Team	Walter Brennan
			Michael Peterson
			Cameron Sun
Football	Miramonte	First Team	Zati Williams
			Evan Epstein
			Marshall Deutz (offense/defense)
			Jamie Howells
			Conor Bruen
		Second Team	Griffin Schram
			Ray Clark
		Honorable Mention	Drew Anderson
			Bennett Stehr
			Phil Hoxie
			Jon McDonald
			Jamie Howells
	Campolindo	First Team	Brett Stephens
			Mason Windatt (offense/defense)
			Justin Dunn (defense)
		Second Team	C.J. Toohey (offense/defense)
			Greg Wiessler
			Ilya Lopez
			Wesley Brumbaugh
			Issac Christian
			Christian Antezana
			Patrick Kalvass
			Jack Davis
			Tyler Luckhurst
		Honorable Mention	Justin Dunn (offense)
			Nicky Aikawa
			Andrew Zolintakis (offense/defense)
			Peter Golesorkhi
			Ryan Hooper
	Acalanes	First Team	Gabe Newman
			Tyler Supple
		Second Team	Steve Main
			De Sean Johnson
			Buster Souza
			Peter Mitchell
			John Lauth
		Honorable Mention	Kevin Camporeale
			Jack Burford
			Aaron Edwards
Water Polo	Miramonte	Most Valuable Player	Jack Fellner
		Outstanding Goalie	Drew Holland
		First Team	Tyler Kirchberg
			Charlie Wiser
		Second Team	Clay Smudsky
			Nick Solit
		Honorable Mention	Amin Anjedani
	Campolindo	First Team	Grant Sivesind
		Second Team	Dylan Fara
			Spencer Tagg
		Honorable Mention	Bradley Rochlin
	Acalanes	First Team	Tommy Bush
			Connor Reid
		Second Team	Jacob Welcomer
		Honorable Mention	Wyatt Goertler



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# Pac 12 MOL Champions

Submitted by Paul Griessel



Top row, from left: Joe Foster, Drew Davidson, Sean Lee, Jacob Griessel, Scott Ruegg, Jack Lewis, Zachery Yu; bottom row: Kai Brothers, Marcus Erickson, Hayden Simon, Jack Brun, Owen Lewis, Fletcher Simon Photo provided

The 3rd/4th grade Michigan Wolverines are the Moraga Orinda Lafayette (MOL) flag football champions for the Pac 12 division. They won both a tough playoff game and the Super Bowl on

the same the weekend in November to earn the title. Eighteen teams competed in the division this season. The Wolverines were coached by Dwight Foster and Steve Ruegg.

# Bentley Basketball Starts Strong

Submitted by Clay Kallam



Nate Ellis Photo provided

The Phoenix is on the rise: the Bentley men's basketball team is coming off its best year ever, and started the 2012-13 season with 10 straight victories, two tournament titles, and a signature win.

The Phoenix faced a perennial Division V power in the finals of the Redwood Classic in

Boonville, and stared down the Branson Bulls in a 54-51 thriller.

Senior guard Nate Ellis was MVP of the tournament, and Rob Rafeh was named the top coach, but Bentley got solid performances up and down the lineup.

"We're much deeper than last year," said Rafeh about his group, which lost just one starter to graduation.

Ellis, a senior guard, is joined on the perimeter by sophomore Blake Kami, who steadily improved as a freshman starter last season. Sophomore Josh Ross has "really improved defensively," said Rafeh, "especially when it comes to team defense."

Malcolm DeFrantz started last year but the senior has yet to play this season due to a knee injury; he is expected back in January.

A trio of juniors, Ian Kirby, Vaughn Arterberry and Jack Coburn, will assume bigger roles this season.

DeFrantz, who played on the varsity team as a freshman, has seen the changes in the program since Rafeh took over last year. "Before, basketball was not taken too seriously," he said.

Now, however, Bentley is looking to build on success. "We set a precedent for Bentley basketball," said DeFrantz, "and we've established that even though we may not be the most talented, we work the hardest."

# Magic U13 Girls Win Tourney

Submitted by Greg Davis



Front row, from left: Mia Grillo, Lauren Van Stralen, Emily Smith, Samantha DeVecchi, Molly Ikeya, Keely Murphy; back row: Molly Davis, Annie Midthun, Jackie Nichols, Vanessa Vaisnor, Kate Minden, Holland McDonald, Kierra Krawec, Anya Li, Kaitlin DeVries, Coach Haris Obic Photo provided

The California Magic U13 girls were crowned champions of another soccer tournament. The team finished first at the 5th Annual Juventus Coppa d'Oro tournament Dec. 8-9. The girls went undefeated over the two day tournament, outscoring their opponents 16-3.

At the tournament's end, head coach Haris Obic said he was pleased with the results. "Our kids love playing soccer and they train hard, continue to learn and grow, and always play with heart, so I'm never disappointed with any result," he explained.

# U13 Magic Boys Earn Second Place Finish

Submitted by Greg Davis



Back row, from left: Nathan Laman-Oshiro, Alex Topping, Devon Martinez, Lucas Rodriguez, Parent Coach Jim Jenkins, Aidan Jenkins, Oliver Feigin, Zach Flagg; front row: Cole Kelez, Mason Larrick, Reider Martinsen, Danny Nelson, Tai Fox, David Lacayo Photo provided

The California Magic U13 Boys placed second at the 5th annual Juventus Coppa d'Oro tournament on December 8-9.

The boys started the tournament with an exciting game against Orchard Valley YSC Pumas, coming from behind to win 2-1. They then went on to play the San Carlos United Rip-tide, winning 3-0.

These first two wins set them up with a match up against the only other U13 boys undefeated team, Burlingame SC Blue. They lost 2-0, but brought home a runner's up trophy and a great tournament experience.

Coach Jasko Begovic was very proud of the results, particularly considering he could not attend the tournament due to being ill.

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# Wrestling Season Begins with Wins

Submitted by Heather O'Donnell



From left: Trevor Martinho, Candie Del Valle, Jacqueline Guelfi, Cooper Swanson, Referee, Keai Lucasey, Jeremy Dunbar, Sam Gelmis, Fine Gumpert, Sam O'Donnell, Cameron Patara.

The Campolindo JV Wrestling team kicked off the 2012 season, attending the Valley Christian Tournament Dec. 1 in Dublin. Competing against over 15 area teams, Campo earned several fourth place finishes, along with top finishes from Cooper Swanson and Keai Lucasey in their respective weight classes.

# Rock Climber Earns International Distinction

Submitted by Debbie Everton



Connor Everton Photo provided

Connor Everton, a sophomore at Acalanes High School, competed in his first international competition. He participated in the Youth Pan American Championships for Rock Climbing in Santiago, Chile, Nov. 21-25. He received a gold medal for his age group for sport climbing, a bronze medal for bouldering, and a bronze medal for Overall Champion. Everton began climbing competitively on a team called Zero Gravity in the fall of 2010. Becoming the Pan American Champion gives Everton an automatic berth to the Youth World Championship, which is currently the highest level of competition for youth climbing, for the next two years. He recently finished first place in the Male Youth A category earning the title of Northern California/Nevada Regional Champion.

# SMC Sevens Finishes Fourth in Nation

Submitted by Tony Samaniego



Photo provided

USA Rugby hosted the Collegiate National Championship of Seven's Rugby in College Station, Texas the first weekend in December. Last year, the Gaels finished fifth out of the top 24 schools in the country and this year's team looked to improve on that record. SMC started their pool play Nov. 30, beating Western Washington, Bowling Green, and ending the day with a win over Texas A&M. Finishing the day 3-0 automatically put the Gaels into the quarterfinals against Navy. The Gaels used finesse to out-score Navy 22-10 on Dec. 1. Saint Mary's then advanced to the semifinals against Life College of Atlanta. Life College won the National Championships last year. Despite a tough effort, SMC fell 33-0. They lost the consolation game against Delaware, earning them the fourth place finish. Saint Mary's finished their Sevens season with a record of 22-5 overall.

# DFAL Soccer Kicks Off

By Marissa Harnett



Max Mirner (#10)

High school soccer tryouts had barely concluded when league play began at the beginning of December. Lamorinda teams faced off against their rivals in the first week of DFAL competition. In boys' play, Acalanes came out on top over both Lamorinda rivals, defeating Campolindo and Miramonte 4-0 and 5-1 respectively. Campo outplayed Miramonte 4-2 in their Dec. 7 match-up.

The first game on Dec. 5 pitted reigning DFAL champion Acalanes against 2011 NCS champion Campolindo. The first half was slow with both teams alternating possession, with a few shots on goal that neither team could convert. The game headed into halftime scoreless.

Following the break, both teams came back to the field newly energized. Within five minutes Acalanes scored twice. Junior Max Mimer nabbed the first goal, scoring off a corner kick two minutes in. After a breakaway run down the right line senior Dan Glascock netted the ball low into the left corner to make the score 2-0. Senior Ben Croze logged assists in both goals.

With momentum in their favor, Croze scored off of a pass from junior Mark Helfrich after a breakaway run by senior Graham Lindgren.

Campo's head coach Shane Carney noted the significance of the rapid-fire scoring. "(The) game was really decided by a six-minute span in the second half where we gave up three goals and lost one of our top performers due to injury," he said. "It was a very unfortunate span of time."

The Don domination did not let up until the fourth and final goal was netted with a kick to the upper right corner by Helfrich. The last 20 minutes remained scoreless with the game ending at 4-0.

This was the second win for Acalanes against Campo in a week. The two teams played in a neutral non-conference tournament just four days prior. Carney admits the losses affected his team's morale. "Losing twice right out of the gate is definitely tough for us to take," he explained, "but we really have to take things into perspective in that we lost both games to Acalanes who is likely the

NCS favorite at this point."

Acalanes' strength is undeniable. They have been at the top of the standings for six of the last seven years. Their ability to field and coach three teams is a distinct advantage. Because of this depth, Acalanes can easily fill in gaps left by graduating seniors.

While the Dons graduated 13 out of 22 players last season, head coach Paul Curtis rejects the idea of rebuilding.

"We are able to alleviate rebuilding through a three team program that utilizes qualified and dedicated coaches [which] enables us to refill the roster with experienced, mature and dedicated players who are simply moving from one of our teams to a different one," he said.

Miramonte hasn't enjoyed the same luxury as Acalanes. The team has faced challenges with coaching consistency, rotating through three coaches in three years. New head coach Javier Ayala-hil is optimistic about their season.

Although the record doesn't reflect it, Ayala-hil feels the team has been doing well and keeping games close. "At the end of the day you have to put the ball in the back of the net. We have missed clear chances to come away with wins, but the team is progressing tremendously," he said.

The Mats showed their potential in their Dec. 12 match-up against the tough, undefeated Dons. Miramonte managed to hold the game even at 1-1 going into halftime, but in the end, Acalanes' Croze again led the team in goals and assists to log a 5-1 win.

Ayala-hil hopes his team will improve enough for the playoffs. "We have a clear goal to play as a unit and enjoy ourselves out on the field," he said.

The teams play one more league game on Dec. 21 before the season resumes Jan. 9.



Michael Samaniego Photos David Lee

To date, Acalanes enjoys the top spot in the DFAL standings with a 4-0 record (8-0-0 overall). Campolindo stands at 2-1-0 (6-2-0 overall) and Miramonte follows with 1-2-0 (2-4-1 overall).

## Lamorinda Weekly

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

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# Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 06 Issue 21 Wednesday, December 19, 2012



The Home Designer with Brandon Neff

...read on page D6

## Cozy Fireplaces Bring Warmth to Chilly Winter Nights

*Oh, the weather outside is frightful, but these fireplaces are so delightful ...*

By Cathy Tyson



Copper fireplace at the Kangeter home.

Photos Cathy Tyson



Kiva style, Kangeter family.

From a senior apartment to stately hillside estate to an historic ranch home, and beyond, it's not unusual to own a fireplace – or two – in this neck of the woods. In a completely random sampling of fireplace styles, Lamorinda residents opened their doors to share their unique fireplaces from kiva style, to a pellet stove, to a see-through model that truly brings the outdoors in.

About six years ago, Ed and Amie Kangeter purchased an historic 1930s home in Orinda. Kangeter was smitten when she saw the home's massive fireplace with its distinctive copper hood. Bringing back the shine was a major workout after years of oxidation; the copper had been seen better days, sporting a weathered patina when they bought the house. Rolls of paper towels and some elbow grease brought back the original youthful, but now 80-year-old sheen. The new owners replaced the terra cotta tile mantel and brick along the sides with opalescent tile, giving it a more contemporary look.

"It's kind of ironic, since we are in the scrap metal business, we know how valuable copper is," says Kangeter. "We tried to respect the continuity of the home, but have done some major updates."

Along with the copper fireplace, there's a kiva or "bee hive" round fireplace in a corner of what they call the Spanish room. This one gets a fair amount of use, since that room can be a little chilly. Son Louie Kangeter, 13, proudly reports, "I'm the official fire guy. My parents trust me." Regardless of who lights it, Louie, his little brother and sister, mom, dad and especially the dog really enjoy a warm fire on winter evenings.

Moraga homeowners Curtis and Shannon Hamm are thrilled with the Whitfield pellet stove in their family room, installed as part of a remodel in 1993. Standing in front of it is like being near a hair dryer blowing out warm air. They estimate they use up to 1.25 tons of pellets per year, the equivalent of burning one 40-pound bag every two days. The pellets are made of leftover wood residue from furniture manufacturing and sawdust from lumber production that is dried and compressed into small pellet-sized bits.

...continued on page D4



## Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

City	Last reported:	LOWEST AMOUNT:	HIGHEST AMOUNT:
LAFAYETTE	17	\$167,000	\$2,000,500
MORAGA	9	\$165,000	\$1,136,500
ORINDA	6	\$795,000	\$1,455,000

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**

- 1051 Aileen Street, \$167,000, 1584 SqFt, 1938 YrBlt, 11-15-12  
 1059 Aileen Street, \$333,500, 2451 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 11-15-12  
 634 Augustine Lane, \$946,000, 4 Bdrms, 2380 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 11-9-12  
 3347 Beechwood Drive, \$1,060,000, 3 Bdrms, 1422 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 11-7-12;  
 Previous Sale: \$1,065,000, 07-31-07  
 3471 Black Hawk Road, \$1,510,000, 4 Bdrms, 2548 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 11-15-12  
 3 Butler Drive, \$1,544,000, 4 Bdrms, 3121 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 11-9-12;  
 Previous Sale: \$1,725,000, 03-20-08  
 19 Del Rio Court, \$650,000, 4 Bdrms, 1900 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 11-19-12;  
 Previous Sale: \$278,000, 05-18-93  
 609 Murray Lane, \$1,500,000, 4 Bdrms, 3067 SqFt, 1990 YrBlt, 11-9-12;  
 Previous Sale: \$1,500,000, 11-09-12  
 3646 Robertson Road, \$500,000, 3 Bdrms, 1655 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 11-16-12  
 24 Ruth Court, \$2,000,500, 4 Bdrms, 3857 SqFt, 2006 YrBlt, 11-13-12;  
 Previous Sale: \$320,000, 02-18-05  
 3195 Stanley Boulevard, \$899,000, 4 Bdrms, 2435 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 11-16-12;  
 Previous Sale: \$345,000, 03-10-00  
 1044 Stuart Street, \$333,500, 1753 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 11-15-12  
 1303 Summit Road, \$1,550,000, 4 Bdrms, 3723 SqFt, 1980 YrBlt, 11-16-12;  
 Previous Sale: \$1,410,000, 07-23-04  
 1321 Sunset Loop, \$569,000, 3 Bdrms, 1377 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt, 11-9-12;  
 Previous Sale: \$550,000, 03-05-10  
 1061 Via Alta, \$975,000, 4 Bdrms, 2760 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 11-9-12;  
 Previous Sale: \$107,500, 08-15-74  
 1063 Via Roble, \$1,150,000, 4 Bdrms, 3217 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 11-6-12;  
 Previous Sale: \$789,000, 03-24-98  
 2940 Windtree Court, \$1,100,000, 4 Bdrms, 3014 SqFt, 1982 YrBlt, 11-9-12;  
 Previous Sale: \$269,000, 12-01-82

**MORAGA**

- 2079 Ascot Drive #140, \$165,000, 1 Bdrms, 713 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 11-16-12;  
 Previous Sale: \$331,000, 05-27-05  
 1631 Camino Pablo, \$885,000, 5 Bdrms, 2817 SqFt, 1968 YrBlt, 11-6-12  
 115 Cypress Point Way, \$549,000, 2 Bdrms, 1262 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 11-16-12;  
 Previous Sale: \$480,000, 03-09-10  
 373 Donald Drive, \$965,000, 4 Bdrms, 2050 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 11-15-12  
 4 El Paraiso Court, \$1,099,000, 5 Bdrms, 3108 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 11-8-12  
 15 Inverleith Terrace, \$820,000, 3 Bdrms, 1863 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 11-15-12;  
 Previous Sale: \$13,000, 09-27-72  
 160 Sandringham Drive #S, \$1,160,000, 5 Bdrms, 2435 SqFt, 1977 YrBlt, 11-6-12;  
 Previous Sale: \$890,000, 08-31-01  
 15 Silvia Court, \$1,136,500, 5 Bdrms, 3095 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 11-15-12;  
 Previous Sale: \$350,000, 08-09-88  
 491 Woodminster Drive, \$485,000, 3 Bdrms, 1572 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 11-14-12;  
 Previous Sale: \$625,000, 04-28-06

... continued on page D7

## Lamorinda Foreclosures recorded

**LAFAYETTE**

- Woodview Drive, 94549, Woodview Drive Trust, 11-19-12, \$1,055,000, 3163 sf, 4 bd



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*Happy  
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## Winter Pruning

Winter is the best time to start pruning deciduous plants and trees, such as maples, shrubs, roses, most fruit trees and most of all your Monterey pines. They go dormant in the winter and some lose their leaves. Deciduous plants are best pruned in the winter because that's when they're dormant and less prone to disease.

Before you start hacking away at your yard, you may want to call in a professional Arborist from Advance Tree Service to give you their advice on what should be done, the proper handling during pruning is essential to ensure a healthy future for your trees and shrubs.

So don't wait until it's too late, call your local Arborist at Advance Tree Service and Landscaping to help make your yard its very best.

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# Happy Holidays!

*Here's to a season filled with warmth, comfort and good cheer*



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# Cozy Fireplaces

...continued from page D1



*Very efficient pellet stove at the Hamm's house.*

Pellets burn cleaner and more efficiently than conventional logs, and leave less ash to clean up. Their model has a handy automatic pellet feeder and adjustable blower to control the temperature, and on top sits a whale-shaped container that, when filled with water and heated, pushes steam out of its blowhole – an instant humidifier. With a large comfy couch, big screen TV and built-in bookcases, their family room couldn't be more inviting.

Perched on a hilltop off of Reliez Road in Lafayette is the spacious dramatic home of Meggin and Bill Schlinkert. The couple and their four grown children love to travel, and Schlinkert calls her family room "Ode to Africa" in homage to the hand-carved wooden animals the kids brought back from their



*Sailfish atop the Schlinkert's family room fireplace.*



*Dramatic window wall surrounding the Schlinkert's living room fireplace.*

African adventures. In 1982, the prior owner installed the striking black granite fireplace as well as the built-in TV and audio niche in rich dark stained cherry.

The see-through fireplace, also clad in black granite in the airy living room, is surrounded by windows that lead to the generous dining room. Schlinkert, who teaches art, added an array of plants along with colorful paint and furnishings to enliven the space. "The cool part is, when you look outside and the azaleas and rhododendrons are blooming, it's magnificent," she says.

Semi-empty nesters, Jill and Jim Larsen have lived in Orinda for years, oldest kids Molly and Sam are in college with just their youngest child, Hank, at home. When they decided to remodel about six years ago, the one detail they were sure about was what kind of fireplace they wanted. They were inspired by the substantial rustic fireplace with stone hearth at their favorite Gualala restaurant, St. Orres, and recreated it as a focal point in their remodeled living room.

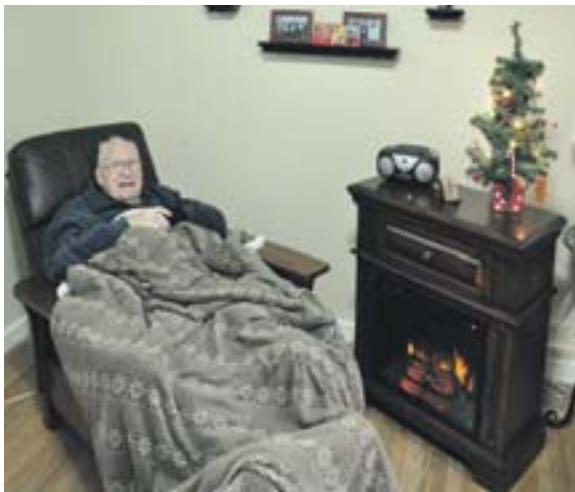


*Classic stone fireplace at the Larsen home.*



Finally, a Moraga couple was looking for added warmth at their senior care facility. Their daughter was able to purchase an electric fireplace heater that reminded her of an old TV set, similar to a piece of furniture. They come in three sizes to accommodate a variety of rooms. The pair loves to stretch out in comfortable chairs and listen to audio-books on a CD player and not have the bother of wood, smoke, bringing in a gas line or cleaning out ashes. They just plug it in and go, with zero emissions or pollutants – and since it's portable, they can create a cozy spot wherever it's needed.

What better way to take the chill off a cold winter night than cozying up to a crackling fire?



Jack Wuerth enjoys his electric fireplace.



Fireplace in the Schlinkert's breakfast room.

# HAPPY HOLIDAYS



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*Top 100 Realtor*

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It has been my pleasure to  
work with you this year.

I am grateful for your support  
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*A Happy, Healthy and Prosperous 2013 To All*

## Lana's sales in 2012

- 159 Lombardy, Orinda** 1,555,000 (buyer)
- 62 Moraga Via, Orinda** 920,000 (buyer)
- 8 Beaconsfield Ct., Orinda** 910,000 (buyer)
- 193 Holly, Orinda** 699,000 (listing)
- 57 Corte Del Sol, Moraga** 1,250,000 (listing sold off market, over list)
- 131 Walford, Moraga** 1,135,000 (buyer)
- 101 Brookline, Moraga** 625,000 (buyer)
- 114 Brookline, Moraga** (lease)
- 1903 Lakeshire, Walnut Creek,** 975,000 (buyer)
- 2307 Chesterton, Walnut Creek** 860,000 (buyer)
- 1871 Lamplight Ct., Walnut Creek** 525,000 (buyer)
- 1400 Ptarmigan #9, Walnut Creek** 115,000
- 1367 Silverwood, Danville** 757,000 (buyer)
- 527 Silver Oak, Danville** (lease)

## Lana Fitzpatrick

Mobile: (925) 872-4660

Email: [lane.fitzpatrick@camoves.com](mailto:lane.fitzpatrick@camoves.com)

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

DRE # 01805218





## The Home Designer

# Inviting Guest Rooms

By Brandon Neff

It's the holidays, and chances are your home may be the outpost for a traveler, or two. Hopes are high for a joyful and peaceful time had by all, so take my advice and get that guest room ready. Creating a five star experience for your guests doesn't take a lot of money, but rather, it takes creativity, effort and some imagination.

What do all great guest rooms have in common? Comfort. Style. Luxury. Yes, and a few touches that make your guests feel spoiled.

What makes a guest room great are the thoughtful items that show your friends and family who stay there just how much you care about them and the time they spend in your home. To paraphrase the eccentric and flinty Diana Vreeland, it takes just as much energy to create an ugly space as it does to create something wonderful. Which do you prefer?

**Bedtime Stories.** When I have guests I always try and bring something spe-

cial to their stay, and I start with the bed. Nothing pampers your guests more than freshly washed sheets and fluffy down pillows. The simplicity of good bedding goes a long way toward saying, "Welcome home."

Add a touch of lavender to the sheets either in the wash, or by using scented dryer sheets - try Mrs. Meyers - a seductively simple, aromatherapy sleep inducer. Always keep an extra blanket handy, and a change of sheets available and at the ready. Extra points for a feather bed to pad the mattress. Heaven.

**Hit List.** Stocking the nightstand with the essentials is essential. Making your guests feel comfortable is the key, and anticipating a few of their needs will make everyone's visit (theirs and yours), more enjoyable. There's nothing worse than being woken up in the middle of the night by a voyager in search of a box of Kleenex, or an extra outlet to plug in

their ipad - am I right?

In addition to orienting your lodger with the lay of the room, I have a few items I always place by the bed for my guests - these are my preference, and I encourage you to come up with a few of your own. For starters, keep a glass handy and drinking water in an interesting flask or bottle, a vase with fresh flowers in one color (mandatory!), a pad of paper and a pen, an unscented candle (no one likes that Strawberry Shortcake variety) and a proper reading light.

Trust me, even the most modest accommodations will shine when accompanied by a few luxury touches.

Step up the pampering with a couple of good reads (a juicy paperback or travel book), a deck of cards and a local map or guide outlining a few sites you recommend in the area. If this all sounds a bit too Martha, get over it. This is your chance to open your home to the people you care about in a gesture of solemn generosity. I promise that in return you'll receive not only high praise from your guests, but the joy that comes from providing a taste of gracious living - it may even soothe a few savage beasts around the holidays! Can I get an Amen?

**Design Is In The Details.** In addition to the bedroom, take a look around the bathroom they'll be using - a close look around. Now is the time swap out that moldy shower curtain and polish up those dingy tiles - you're not running the Bates Motel, so step it up, people.

Keep an extra toothbrush, razor and hair dryer within reach - travelers tend to forget the simple things, and your thoughtfulness will not go unnoticed. Place your guest's shower and hand towels out - I suggest a different



*Just a few amenities make your friends and family feel pampered*

*Photo courtesy A. Nisbet*

color than your own if sharing the bathroom - in their room to avoid confusion.

Lastly, maybe most importantly, put out extra toilet paper - enough said about that.

I often say that life is short - fleeting and ignored by most. Sharing beautiful moments and providing comfort to those that you care about is your legacy. You have a choice to either go through your life like the masses, or to create your own experience for yourself and those you love - choose wisely.



*Fresh sheets and an extra blanket make for a welcoming guest room.*

*Photo courtesy Brandon Neff Design*



*Brandon Neff is a Bay Area based Interior Designer. He can be reached at [BrandonNeffDesign.com](http://BrandonNeffDesign.com) or at [brandonneffdesign@yahoo.com](mailto:brandonneffdesign@yahoo.com).*



## ASK CYNTHIA: Reader Requests

### Mushrooms

Hey Cynthia!

What do you know about collecting wild mushrooms? With the recent rains, we have 'shrooms springing up everywhere and we are wondering if they are edible?

Appreciate your knowledge.

Matthew

Hey Mathew:

Up until about 15 years ago I would have regaled readers with my fungi foraging forte since I regularly plucked Portobello's, pinkies, shaggy manes, shitake, puffballs, horn of plenty, and chicken mushrooms from pastures, trees, and grassy knolls. I salivate at the memory of these sublime delicacies gently sautéed in garlic, wine, and parsley smothering our Sunday supper entrees! Then a knowledgeable ol'timer near our ranch died from eating a poisonous champignon gathered on his property. My identification confidence disappeared and I now limit my mushroom stalking to farmer's markets.

If you are considering becoming a forager, remember to never eat any plant, berry, leaf, or seed without being 100 percent certain that it is edible. Even safe mushrooms may cause an allergic reaction in some individuals and there are many "look a likes" that are toxic and/or deadly. I call the poisonous fungi toadstools. In France, we used to bring suspect champignons to the nearest pharmacy for positive identification. I wish pharmacists in the U.S. possessed this training!

There are several good books on wild mushrooms, however, your better bet would be to study mycology, and the best bet would be to join a Mycological Society. There is one in San Francisco with a myriad of mushroom activities during the September through May growing season. Visit <http://www.mssf.org/>.

Be Safe! Happy Hunting and Bon Appetite!

Cynthia

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Cynthia Brian

The Goddess Gardener

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

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

## Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

...continued from Page D2

### ORINDA

50 Donna Maria Way, \$1,250,000, 4 Bdrms, 2790 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 11-8-12;

Previous Sale: \$407,000, 08-29-96

3 Owl Hill Court, \$795,000, 3 Bdrms, 1519 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 11-7-12;

Previous Sale: \$44,500, 08-25-71

31 Parklane Drive, \$1,566,000, 4 Bdrms, 2594 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 11-6-12;

Previous Sale: \$1,400,000, 10-05-07

70 Rheem Boulevard, \$958,000, 3 Bdrms, 1909 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 11-9-12;

Previous Sale: \$730,000, 06-02-04

29 Van Ripper Lane, \$830,000, 3 Bdrms, 1428 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 11-9-12

120 Via Floreado, \$1,455,000, 5 Bdrms, 3482 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 11-14-12;

Previous Sale: \$900,000, 05-05-99

# Happy Holidays!



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Build your dream home on this gorgeous oak studded lot with views of the hills. Terrific neighborhood of impressive homes close to town. Utilities/sewer at street.

**Offered at \$219,000**

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



## 40 Dos Osos

Incredible Orinda, San Pablo Dam, Mt. Diablo views + abundance of nature surrounds this supersized parcel bordering EBMUD land. Exceptional beauty. Once in a lifetime opportunity raw land sale.

**Offered at \$545,000**

ORINDA



## 270 Camino Sobrante

Chic, mid-century modern in best OCC location. Beautifully remodeled 3bd/2ba features vaulted ceilings, gourmet kit. w/built in ofc level out to private patio & play area; spacious flat yard w/terraced flower beds & view deck.

**Offered at \$999,000**

ORINDA



## 81 Van Ripper Lane

Great 4bd/ 3.5ba rancher on one of the best Orinda streets. Great price too - move right in or remodel.

**Offered at \$1,250,000**

ORINDA



## 71 Camino Don Miguel

Beautifully renovated trad. charmer on priv. lane in heart of OCC. Custom detail throughout - fabulous redone kitchen, gorgeous mstr ste, formal LR & inviting FR. Lovely lvl garden w/ expansive brick patio + outdoor fireplace.

**Offered at \$1,285,000**

ORINDA



## 65 La Espiral

Updated 4bd/4ba w/beautiful custom features & amenities. Very well maintained. Majestic setting, lovely gardens, new pool + views/ privacy, fully fenced. Tuscany ambiance, European flair.

**Offered at \$2,195,000**

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**

LAFAYETTE



## 1690 Reliez Valley Rd.

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

**Offered at \$650,000**

OAKLAND



## 4226 Terrace Street

Adorable remodeled 2bd/1.5ba bungalow walking distance to Piedmont Ave. w/ hardwood floors, open kitchen/ family room, formal living/dining rooms, great storage, & level grassy backyard. Walkscore of 94!

**Offered at \$579,000**

PLEASANT HILL



## 220 Gregory Lane

2bd/1ba major fixer on .21 acre lot that needs lots of TLC but real possibilities. Bring your contractor and investor. Good floor plan and hardwood floors. Price includes separate .23 acre lot.

**Offered at \$475,000**

WALNUT CREEK



## 3706 Waterford Lane

Gorgeous Traditional 4bd/3.5ba Northgate home. Many upgrades! New carpet, paint, re-finished hdwd flrs. Huge eat-in kit/FR. Formal dining & LR. Professionally landscaped back yard. Grand master w/adjoining den.

**Offered at \$1,370,000**

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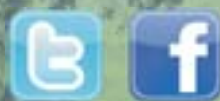
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