

# Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 06 Issue 22 Wednesday, January 2, 2013



## Digging Deep-Gardening with Cynthia Brian A New Leaf

By Cynthia Brian

*"The object of a new year is not that we should have a new year. It is that we should have a new soul."*  
G. K. Chesterton



*Meyer lemons are ripe and juicy.*

The world didn't end Dec. 21, 2012 as prophesied and there are new seeds sprouting as we birth the year of 2013. With a rosy pink zinnia, the cover of the January issue of Reader's Digest shouts, "Cheer Up! 17 Reasons It's a Great Time to Be Alive." This year will be a time of optimism, a time for channeling our inner gardener. In the

Chinese tradition, this will be the year of the water snake. I have renamed our next 365 days "A New Leaf" as we dig deeper to add beauty and wellness to our lives through gardening.

...continued on page D4



*Cymbidium orchids start blooming outdoors and are great in or out.*



*Violas and pansies perk up a dreary landscape.*

# POP, CLINK, FIZZ! THE BEAUBELLE GROUP

would like to wish you good health, happiness and a prosperous New Year!

We would also like to say thank you to our family, friends and clients for their continued support and trust over the years. It is because of you that we continue to be leaders in the Lamorinda residential real estate market.

*We look forward to assisting you with your real estate needs in 2013.*



Glenn W. Beaubelle



Kellie Beaubelle



Finola Fellner



Nancy Stryker



Lynn Molloy



Lauren Woolsey

**COLDWELL BANKER, THE BEAUBELLE GROUP**

2 Theatre Square ~ Suite 211 ~ Orinda ~ 925.254.1212

TheBeaubelleGroup.com

©2013 Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. All Rights Reserved. Coldwell Banker® is a registered trademark licensed to Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. An Equal Opportunity Company. Equal Housing Opportunity. Each Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage office is owned by a subsidiary of NRT LLC. DRE License # 01908304



## Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

City	Last reported:	LOWEST AMOUNT:	HIGHEST AMOUNT:
LAFAYETTE	8	\$410,000	\$2,150,000
MORAGA	6	\$663,000	\$1,950,000
ORINDA	5	\$610,000	\$1,550,000

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

3272 Ameno Drive, \$1,095,000, 4 Bdrms, 2102 SqFt, 1960 YrBlT, 11-21-12;

Previous Sale: \$1,190,000, 03-08-07

3349 Carlyle Terrace, \$630,000, 3 Bdrms, 1269 SqFt, 1955 YrBlT, 11-30-12

222 Camelia Lane, \$2,150,000, 4 Bdrms, 4045 SqFt, 1989 YrBlT, 11-20-12;

Previous Sale: \$1,290,000, 06-10-99

1668 Foothill Park Circle, \$832,500, 4 Bdrms, 2041 SqFt, 1957 YrBlT, 11-21-12;

Previous Sale: \$676,000, 12-09-02

976 Hawthorne Drive, \$775,000, 3 Bdrms, 2020 SqFt, 1950 YrBlT, 11-21-12;

Previous Sale: \$272,000, 04-08-88

1440 Huston Road, \$410,000, 2 Bdrms, 1318 SqFt, 1946 YrBlT, 11-29-12;

Previous Sale: \$530,000, 09-22-06

3274 La Canada, \$1,950,000, 3 Bdrms, 2754 SqFt, 1979 YrBlT, 11-21-12;

Previous Sale: \$1,150,000, 12-28-06

611 Laird Lane, \$600,000, 3 Bdrms, 2599 SqFt, 1968 YrBlT, 11-21-12;

Previous Sale: \$310,500, 03-22-95

### MORAGA

353 Birchwood Drive, \$755,000, 4 Bdrms, 2072 SqFt, 1971 YrBlT, 11-21-12

354 Birchwood Drive, \$910,000, 4 Bdrms, 2591 SqFt, 1970 YrBlT, 11-21-12

899 Camino Ricardo, \$1,021,000, 4 Bdrms, 2256 SqFt, 1968 YrBlT, 11-28-12;

Previous Sale: \$1,050,000, 06-17-05

12 Kimberly Drive, \$1,950,000, 4 Bdrms, 4261 SqFt, 2003 YrBlT, 11-28-12;

Previous Sale: \$2,215,000, 02-25-05

117 Natalie Drive, \$663,000, 3 Bdrms, 1942 SqFt, 1968 YrBlT, 11-20-12

13 Teodora Court, \$1,240,000, 3 Bdrms, 2879 SqFt, 1988 YrBlT, 11-27-12;

Previous Sale: \$1,125,000, 06-11-10

### ORINDA

43 Canyon View Drive, \$1,445,000, 3 Bdrms, 1862 SqFt, 1971 YrBlT, 11-30-12;

Previous Sale: \$1,349,000, 09-25-08

50 Las Cascadas Road, \$610,000, 2 Bdrms, 1480 SqFt, 1928 YrBlT, 11-26-12;

Previous Sale: \$175,000

55 Via Floreado, \$1,329,000, 4 Bdrms, 2825 SqFt, 1958 YrBlT, 11-21-12

1 Meadow Park Court, \$960,000, 4 Bdrms, 2549 SqFt, 1951 YrBlT, 11-29-12;

Previous Sale: \$192,000, 11-26-85

424 Ridge Gate Road, \$1,550,000, 3 Bdrms, 2584 SqFt, 1980 YrBlT, 11-30-12;

Previous Sale: \$1,600,000, 10-11-07

Reach 60,000+ in Lamorinda  
Advertise in Lamorinda Weekly

Call 925-377-0977 today

We print and deliver 26,000 copies every other week.

# The RE/MAX Collection

925.838.4100



**Alamo** ~ European-inspired 6Bed, 5.5Bath, 5400 sf, move-in ready hm featuring views! Interior by J. Hettinger Interiors. \*Times Featured Home; \*SFGate Featured Home; \*"Artful Living Tour Home".

**\$2,288,000**

**Michael Hatfield**

[Michael@alamoluxuryhomes.com](mailto:Michael@alamoluxuryhomes.com)



**Alamo** ~ Gorgeous, private-gated, Westside Alamo. 4 bdrms, 3.5 baths, 4000 sf home on 1.27 acres. Featuring an Italian-style gourmet kitchen, wine cellar, cul-de-sac & fantastic Alamo Schools. Potential Short Sale.

**\$1,299,000**

**925.984.1339**



**Lafayette** ~ This is a special house with charm & character sitting on 1.2 acre's of nearly level land. 4 bed 4 baths plus 1 bed 1 bath cottage with kitchen. Large patio and pool, close to town. This is a wonderful opportunity!

**\$1,490,000**

**Paddy Kehoe**

**925.878.5869**



**Orinda** ~ 3 Bedroom, 2 Full Baths w/sky light. Master suite with walk-in closet covered with cedar wood and has sky light. Central Air, Wet Bar, Beautiful View. Great Balcony with overlook to Lake and Greenbelt of Orinda. Hillside covered with Flowers & Herbal Garden and much more!

**\$800,000**

**Mimi Khalili**

**925.899.5400**



## RE/MAX<sup>®</sup> ACCORD

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

With over 400 Associates in 9 offices throughout the East Bay, RE/MAX Accord is your first choice for home buying and selling. And with connections to more than 87,000 RE/MAX Associates in over 80 countries, nobody in the world sells more real estate than RE/MAX. Outstanding Agents. Outstanding Results.



*"Your trusted Agent with the right tools for smarter decisions"*



**Chad Morrison**

Direct:  
(925) 253-4650  
Mobile:  
(925) 330-1416  
DRE# 01905614



**Happy New Year!**  
*Wishing you the joy of family,  
the gift of friends, and the best  
of everything in 2013*

chad.morrison@cbtnorcal.com • www.sellnglamorinda.com

©2012 Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. All Rights Reserved. Coldwell Banker® is a registered trademark licensed to Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. An Equal Opportunity Company. Equal Housing Opportunity. Each Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage office is owned by a subsidiary of NRT LLC. DRE License # 01908304

## Digging Deep

...continued from page D1

As you look around, you'll notice that everyone is "wired" with smart phones, apps, texting, Skyping, and the latest gadgets that supposedly make our lives easier, faster, stress-free. But according to reports from the Garden Media Group, what people are really searching for is a connection with Mother Nature. People want to be happy and the joy of gardening offers satisfaction. Being in nature, whether it is walking the paths at the Lafayette Reservoir or digging a hole in your yard to plant your redbud offers a bliss that is not found on Facebook, Tumblr, or Twitter. Fashion and furnishing designers are taking their cues from nature with brighter, bolder colors and textures that trees, flowers, birds, bees, rocks, streams, and anything from the natural world uniquely provide. We have the opportunity to enhance our lives, increase our positivity, and boost our immune systems through our horticultural endeavors.

From eco-scaping to native plants, living green walls to houseplants, herbs to edibles, together we will energize our lifestyles, lower our blood pressures, and freshen our indoor and outdoor spaces. In casual conversations, people often tell me they want to know and not wonder where their food comes from. My response is if you want to know for certain, grow your own! You and only you know what is in your soil. By going organic and being a conscientious steward of our earth, we will not only be sustainable, we'll be healthier and subsequently happier.

...continued on page D6



*Spider orchids are beautiful indoors in January.*



**MANZONE**  
REAL ESTATE TEAM

The Manzone Team is in the business  
of making dreams a reality.

If you are thinking of selling or finding the perfect home  
contact The Manzone Team today!

We will provide a Free Market Analysis along with a list of 29 Essential  
Tips to getting your home Sold Fast (And For Top Dollar).

Michele Manzone 925.253.7028  
Leslie Dopp-Manzone 925.253.7027  
CA DRE # 01028002/ 01120753



## DON'T JUST TAKE OUR WORD FOR IT...

"My wife and I couldn't have been more happy working with Ron & Susan Rothenberg. I could go on and on about their level of experience and professionalism, but what really mattered to me is that I knew I could trust them. It's so much more to them than just closing a business deal, they really care about all parties involved and have their clients best interests at heart. I have no hesitation in recommending them."

**Lance Swanson**  
Managing Partner & Fund Manager  
Diablo Vista Capital Partners



**Ron and Susan Rothenberg**  
**Lisa Quiros**

925.286.5530

info@teamrothenberg.com

www.TeamRothenberg.com

DRE# 01309986 | 00857547 | 01420876



**Real estate with a difference.**



*A Member Of Real Living*

## COMING SOON IN ORINDA!



51 BERKELEY AVENUE

**OPEN SUNDAY, JANUARY 6 FROM 1-4!**

Charming traditional 3BR/2BA home located in a wooded setting, yet minutes to downtown, freeway & BART. Warm and inviting with hardwood floors, crown molding and French doors. Additional features include 1-car attached garage plus separate building for storage, workshop and home office. Level yard with patio, deck and hot tub.

OFFERED AT \$675,000



**PAUL & VIRGINIA RATTO**

925.998.9501

vvarni@pacunion.com

www.Varni-Ratto.com



*A Member Of Real Living*

# Digging Deep

...continued from page D4

Plant thornless and dwarf raspberries and beautiful blueberries as landscape shrubs for a double whammy of attractiveness and wellbeing. Want to give yourself the gift of super nutrients in a bush? Instead of paying high prices for the juices or dried fruit of goji berries, plant The Vitamin Berries™ Collection from Proven Winners. The company has introduced Sweet Lifeberry and Big Lifeberry which boast a plethora of purple flowers followed by juicy red berries gracing long branched shrubs. The bushes are showy, easy to grow with the fruit ripening in autumn. Fresh or frozen, this exotic super fruit will reap health benefits all season.

Herbs are the gateway drug of gardening. If you think you have a black thumb, plant rosemary, oregano, or Russian sage and you'll soon be singing the praises of green while enjoying the flavors of savory dishes. For cleaner indoor air, buy orchids, palms, and peace lilies to scrub away the toxins. Do you love the exotic flavors of Thai food? Plant a kaffir lime with hourglass-looking double leaves, or take a cutting of a green lemongrass stalk from an Asian grocer to root in water. Heirloom seeds including tomatoes, eggplants, and squash, Canterbury bells, delphinium, foxglove, and many other fruits and vegetables may be from old-fashioned gardens, but they are the future of gardens today. Check out [www.rareseeds.com](http://www.rareseeds.com) from Baker Creek Heirloom Seed Company offering over 1,400 seed varieties from 70 countries.

Shatter the limits, blow up the barriers, and multiply the possibilities with soulful mindfulness. Hurray, it's a brand new year and we're planting a new leaf!



*Swiss chard is an excellent green for winter sautes.*



*A pale pink amaryllis is an elegant choice to spruce up interiors.*

# Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for January

*"Here's to the bright new year,  
and a fond farewell to the old;  
here's to the things that are yet to come,  
and to the memories that we hold..."*

Winston Churchill said, "The optimist sees opportunities in every danger, while the pessimist sees danger in every opportunity!" As gardeners we'll look at life from a positive perspective. Failure is fertilizer. If something doesn't grow, we pull it out and dump it in the compost pile to start a new garden. Winter rains water our yards but won't dampen our spirits. We may not be able to choose exactly what happens to us, but we can decide how we respond to any occurrence. We'll turn our lemons into lemonade to enrich our souls. Here's to a bright new year with plenty of cheer. Welcome to 2013.

- **RECYCLE** your Christmas tree. Make sure to remove all decorations, stands, lights, and tinsel. Check your local curbside service for pick up dates.
- **CONTINUE** composting. Yes, it's January, but composting is necessary every day in every way to suppress weeds and add active organic matter to the soil.
- **PACK** in the phytonutrients with a green winter soup. Pick fresh kale, spinach, parsley, Swiss chard, broccoli, and beet tops, saute with onions, garlic, vegetable stock, white wine, blend and enjoy. Yummy!
- **COZY** up your interiors with a magnificent, colorful amaryllis from South Africa or the Netherlands.
- **COOK** quince in a simple syrup and add rose hips for a healthy boost.
- **PRUNE** roses, geraniums, vines, and crepe myrtle trees heavily before the end of the month. This is the time to cut back wisteria and passion vines to discourage overgrowth and accumulation of decaying layers.
- **PICK** up all fallen camellia blooms to avoid disease.
- **ENHANCE** the longevity of your holiday plants like poinsettias and Christmas cactus by fertilizing every two weeks. You can keep them colorful and beautiful through May or longer.
- **WATER** indoor plants more frequently if you have central heat. Test soil moisture by plunging a pencil in the pot. If muddy when retracted, don't water. If pencil comes out dry, it's time for a drink.
- **MIST** plants when they seem droopy. Heaters zap moisture out of plants just like it dries your skin. Misting in the morning and evening provides relief.
- **PERUSE** seed catalogues in the dark dreary days: [www.rareseeds.com](http://www.rareseeds.com), [www.kitchengardenseeds.com](http://www.kitchengardenseeds.com), and [www.bountifulgardens.org](http://www.bountifulgardens.org) are a great start!
- **PLANT** Chinese cabbage, bok choy, asparagus, eggplant, dill, celery, borage, kohlrabi, lettuce, arugula, snow peas, and indoor flower seeds to germinate for spring sowing.
- **REDUCE** erosion with three inches of wood chips or other mulches.
- **BUY** your bare root roses locally for a better selection. Your nursery will be able to advise you on the latest best buys.
- **SOAK** bare-root fruit trees, roses, and vines in a bucket of water for a full day before planting. Anything in a cardboard box must be removed to spread out the roots. Cut off any damaged or broken roots.
- **WARM** someone you love all winter long with dream-inspiring spearmint tea from your herb planter.
- **PROVIDE** food for our feathered friends throughout winter to keep them happy living in your garden.
- **PICK** tangerines and Washington navel oranges at their sweetest in January and February.
- **TRANSPLANT** azaleas, camellias, and rhododendrons now as this is the safest time to move them without inhibiting growth.
- **PROTECT** your precious plants from Jack Frost by covering them with cloth or plastic at night or moving containers closer to the house or overhangs.
- **PLUCK** snails and slugs or trap with plates of beer to keep the damage at a minimum.

The leafless trees signal that winter is in full swing as we begin to prepare for the birth of spring. Admire the bare bark. What are we waiting for? Put a smile on your face and spring in your step. Happy New Year! Let's get growing!

Happy Gardening to You!

©2013  
Cynthia Brian  
The Goddess Gardener  
[Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com](mailto:Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com)  
[www.GoddessGardener.com](http://www.GoddessGardener.com)  
925-377-7827

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



Lic.: #611120

**& Landscaping**

Family owned in Moraga since 1987



*Your friendly neighborhood arborists Darren and Lew Edwards*

## WINTER TREE TIPS

Winter brings cold and rainy weather. "While many trees will be dormant in the winter, exposure to the tough conditions can cause them major stress," says Darren Edwards, Certified Arborist with Advance Tree Service. "Minimize that stress by helping your trees through the cold months. If you take care of your trees in the winter, you will be rewarded in the spring."

Winter can be a good time for pruning most trees, while they are dormant, and pines should only be pruned in the winter months. Removal of large, dead, broken, poorly positioned limbs and corrective pruning can minimize winter storm damage, and maximize optimal spring growth.

So don't wait until it's too late, call your local Arborist at Advance Tree Service and Landscaping to help you with your winter pruning.

*Advance Tree Service*

*Your Authority on Trees and Landscape.*



**925-376-6528**

**[advancetree@sbcglobal.net](mailto:advancetree@sbcglobal.net) [www.advancetree.com](http://www.advancetree.com)**

*Follow us on Twitter ([advancetree](https://twitter.com/advancetree)) and like us on Face Book  
([ADVANCETREESERVICEANDLANDSCAPINGINC.](http://ADVANCETREESERVICEANDLANDSCAPINGINC.))*

# Lamorinda's Leading Independent Real Estate Firm.

ORINDA



## 55 Oak Road

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



## 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



## 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



Pending

## 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



By Appointment Only

## 251 Monte Vista Ridge Rd.

Stunning gated 5bd/4ba custom estate! Panoramic views of Briones! Outdoor living at its best with expansive terrace featuring fabulous kitchen. Romantic master retreat with spa bath.

**Offered at \$1,995,000**

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



Coming Soon

## 121 La Espiral

Gated Mediterranean 4bd/3.5ba villa w/pano views features chef's kitchen/fam rm w/old world charm & opens to covered tiled verand. Hwd & marble tiled flrs, formal Lr & Dr, 2nd fam. rm, ofc & spacious mstr suite w/flpc.

**Price Upon Request**

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**

LAFAYETTE



By Appointment Only

## 3767 Happy Valley Rd.

Fabulous updated 4bd/3ba Happy Valley Traditional. Dream kitchen, spacious master suite. Hardwood floors, custom detail French doors open to private deck. Lush setting w/ level lawn. Top neighborhood, walk to town.

**Offered at \$1,349,000**

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, refinished hdwd flrs. Huge eat-in kit/FR. Formal dining & LR. Professionally landscaped back yard. Grand master w/adjoining den.

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

WALNUT CREEK



Coming Soon

## Northgate Estate

Spectacular gated estate includes vineyard, saltwater pool, 8-person theater, 2-story living room, 1950's style diner, and a car lovers' garage just to name a few. Newer outdoor kitchen, excellent views. Over an acre with salt water pool and large guest house.

**Offered at \$2,400,000**

THE VILLAGE ASSOCIATES:

Ashley Battersby  
Patricia Battersby  
Joan Cleveland  
Shannon Conner

Joan Eggers

Linda Ehrlich

Joan Evans

Linda S Friedman

Marianne Greene

Dexter Honens II

Anne Knight

Susan Zeh Layng

Art Lehman

Charles Levine

April Matthews

Karen Murphy

Ben Olsen

Sue Olsen

Tara Rochlin

Jaime Roder

Altie Schmitt

Judy Schoenrock

Ann Sharf

Molly Smith

Jeff Snell

Lynda Snell

Clark Thompson

Angie Evans Traxinger

Ignacio Vega

Terri Bates Walker

Ann Ward

Dan Weil

Margaret Zucker

Visit [www.villageassociates.com](http://www.villageassociates.com)

to see our weekly online previews.

Click on **Sunday Open House**

Friday after 5 PM for Open House listings



93 Moraga Way, Suite 103 Orinda, CA 94563  
(925) 254-0505 or 1-866-856-VARE

