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**MAUNDY THURSDAY**  
March 28 7:00 pm

**GOOD FRIDAY**  
March 29 7:00 pm

**EASTER SUNDAY**  
March 31  
6:00, 8:00,  
9:30 & 11:00 am

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Photo Tod Fierner

## Del Rey Hoops for Guinness World Record

By Cathy Dausman

Orinda's Del Rey Elementary School student body attempted to set a Guinness World Record Monday for the largest hula hoop workout. Given the 418 student body enrollment, the kindergarten through fifth grade Dolphins could easily topple the pre-

vious record held by Allen Elementary School, of Hutchinson, Kan. That record was set May 21, 2012 with 290 participants.

The challenge originated when school parent and event organizer Eric Menke and his daughter read the

Guinness book at Christmas. Menke realized the current hula hoop record holders were elementary school students, and thought it would be a perfect fit for Del Rey School, allowing students to dream big and be part of something special. ... continued on page A12

### Quote of the Week:

"All of Orinda can respond to action and challenge people who are trying to break into homes."

Read Letters to the Editor, page A8

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### LAMORINDA WEEKLY

Town News	A2 - A12
Life in Lamorinda	B1 - B12
<b>HOW TO CONTACT US</b>	B5
Classified	B8
Service Directory	B9
Food	B9
Not to be Missed	B10-B11
Business	B12
Sports	C1 - C3
Love Lafayette	C4
Our Homes	D1 - D12
<b>This Week Read About:</b>	
Planning a Fire Station	A2
Free Enterprise at Rheem	A4
State of the City	A6
A Pair of Plant Sales	B1
Young Author	B2
Building a Life	B3
Easter Activities	B6
Glass Art	B12
SMC Sweet at WNIT	C2

## Spring into Sand Volleyball

By Rebecca Eckland



Saint Mary's is 3-1 in its inaugural season.  
Photo Tod Fierner

There's a new team in town, and they've taken over Moraga Commons. On sunny—and the occasional rainy—days, the Saint Mary's sand volleyball team is hosting its home games at the park. Beginning its inaugural season in February, players were offered something they hadn't had before: a chance to play outside.

"Sand volleyball allows us to be complete volleyball players. Indoors, you can hide if you can't pass. But here, you get picked on," said junior Natalie Loos, "so you have to develop your skills."

Sophomore Sam Tinsley and junior Kristina Gravin echoed the sentiment.

Unlike indoor volleyball with six players on the court, sand volleyball is its minimalist cousin. There are only two players on the sandy court, and they play without shoes. A game consists of five best-of-three doubles matches.

Tinsley, who started playing volleyball when she was 15, added that playing outdoors is also more physically demanding.

"I like the physical challenge of it," she said. "I never played in sand before, and moving, jumping, in sand is a challenge."

The NCAA only approved the addition of sand volleyball last year and, so far, less than 30 schools have added programs. Although sand volleyball is not yet a WCC sport or a Pac-12 sport, the new team offers players opportunities to learn other positions and try out new skills.

For sophomore Rachel Gillcrist, a native of Denver, playing in the sand is something new, but she enjoys playing the game in a new way.

"[For the indoor season], I'm a middle and end—and I'm never in the front row," she explained, "It's exciting to have a different role in the game."

Her goal echoes those of her teammates: to improve. "I'm just learning how it all works," Gillcrist noted.

Coach Brent Crouch has noticed a shift in his athletes since the new sport was added.

... continued on page A12

### Life in Lamorinda

B1-B12

### Table of Tears

Division must be countered with active voices, suggests artist Donna Fado Ivery. Page B4



### Sports

C1-C3

### Cougars Post-Season

Campo boys' basketball got a second chance and played their way to the Nor Cal Finals. Page C1



### Our Homes

D1-D12

### Weed, Seed, Feed!

It's planting season! Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian, page D1





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## Lafayette Civic News

### Public Meetings

#### City Council

Monday, April 8, 7 p.m.  
 Lafayette Library & Learning Center,  
 Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

#### Planning Commission

Monday, April 1, 7 p.m.  
 Lafayette Library & Learning Center,  
 Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

#### Design Review

Monday, April 8, 7 p.m.  
 Lafayette Library & Learning Center,  
 Arts & Science Discovery Center,  
 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

#### School Board Meetings

**Acalanes Union High School District**  
 Wednesday, April 17, 7:30 p.m.  
 Del Valle Education Center, 1963  
 Tice Valley Blvd., Walnut Creek.  
 www.acalanes.k12.ca.us

#### Lafayette School District

Wednesday, April 10, 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

**Please submit Letters and Opinions:**  
 letters@lamorinda weekly.com



## Planning Commission Looks at Shared Fire Station

By Cathy Tyson



View of proposed location of shared fire station, Lorinda Lane at El Nido Ranch Road, on the far western edge of Lafayette. The home on the left is in Orinda. Photo Cathy Tyson

Very basic potential plans for a joint Orinda/Lafayette fire station on El Nido Road were presented to the Lafayette Planning Commission last week in a study session. Looking for constructive feedback prior to submitting a building application is a productive way to test the waters of the planning commissioners who may ultimately approve or deny the project.

Located literally on the border of Lafayette and Orinda—one edge of the property line is on the city limit—this potential 2.5-acre site could not be more centralized to serve both communities, however there is a large hill on the property that would limit available construction locations. The Moraga-Orinda Fire Department (MOFD) and Contra Costa Fire Protection District (Con Fire) are interested in sharing the station, although they haven't formally agreed on all the details.

MOFD's chief Randall Bradley, along with architect Alan Kawasaki, presented a bare bones pre-

liminary drawing of what a station at this site might look like. ConFire's chief Daryl Louder was unable to attend the meeting. One key element of the design is the drive-through apparatus bay or fire truck garage with openings on either end. Also on site would be housing and adequate parking to accommodate fire personnel.

"We'll do everything we can to address concerns of the adjacent neighbors," said Bradley. He estimates a station here would receive about three calls per day and most of those, 80-85 percent, would be medical calls. The chief addressed noise concerns, noting they only use the siren as necessary to get through traffic and that late at night "we don't use sirens."

If MOFD and Con Fire officially agree to work together, they would need to file an application for a land use permit, then go through the rigorous design review process and finally be approved by the planning commission.

Some neighbors who live in the immediate vicinity weren't convinced that a station in the El Nido area is a good thing, citing privacy, traffic and noise concerns. "I don't want a two-story fire station looking down on my backyard," said one neighbor; another, who lives on El Castillo, said he'll be "greatly impacted." However Anna Beck, who lives on the Lafayette side, was fully in support of a new station. "We love it, love the security," and she added, "Lamorinda should work together on this."

George Burt of the Acalanes Valley Homeowners Association has sympathy for neighbors but said, "We're in trouble right now," referring to the unexpected closure of the Lafayette Los Arabis station in Happy Valley, leaving residents on the west side of town with no fire station close by.

Planning commissioners had mixed feedback for the potential applicants. Commissioner Jeanne Ateljevich encouraged the fire departments to go forward with making a more detailed plan, commissioner Patricia Curtin-Tinley shared neighbors' concerns of location and privacy, questioning the large parcel, and commission chair Karen Maggio mentioned that she used to live near the now-closed Los Arabis station and appreciated the sense of security, describing the station and staff as good neighbors. She suggested, "It's important to look at the greater good," and "this is an ideal location, good street access." She also expressed confidence that the design review process would address privacy concerns.

*(Editor's note: MOFD's board of directors was scheduled to vote March 26, after our press deadline, on whether to allow the \$15,000 deposit for purchase of the property at 1035 Lorinda Lane to become nonrefundable. Check our website for updates.)*

## Unusual Thanks for Road Repair

By Cathy Tyson

Usually when the Capital Project Assessments Committee gives its annual update on the capital improvement program, it can be a little dry. Highlights include how many streets got paved in the last year—obviously big news if you happen to live on a crumbling street. Contributing to the recent uptick in

asphalt repairs is the addition of \$3 million to help address the backlog of failed roads in Lafayette. The Lafayette City Council decided to allocate this money, originally promised as matching funds, even though the recent Measure G "Fix Our Roads" campaign narrowly failed.

Resident Ann Burns was so moved that the city kicked in additional revenue, she wanted to thank city council members with a very special token of her appreciation: a gift-wrapped chunk of asphalt from the road in front of her house. Admitting she was initially "angry and frustrated" at the pace of road re-

pairs; finding out about the \$3 million addition, spread out over a few years, helped clarify the commitment of the council to deal with the road repair backlog. Ten roads will be paved this season with \$1.1 million—that figure will jump to \$1.8 million for 2014, said Tony Coe, engineering services manager.



## Police Report

March 3-16, 2013

#### Alcohol:

3/15 DUI Deer Hill/Stanley Bl  
 3/16 DUI 1st St/Deer Hill  
 DUI Reliez Valley/Withers

#### Auto:

3/5 hit & run 3400 block Hamlin Rd  
 3/7 reckless driving 1200 block Pleasant Hill  
 3/8 theft from vehicle 900 block Moon Ct  
 burglary 200 block Lafayette Cr  
 reckless driving Mt Diablo/Pleasant Hill  
 reckless driving Reliez Valley/Silver Dell  
 burglary 1000 block Rahara Dr  
 3/9 reckless driving 1st St/Mt Diablo  
 stolen vehicle 100 block Pidgeon Ct  
 burglary (2) 3300 block Betty Ln  
 reckless driving Camino Diablo/Stanley Bl  
 3/10 object thrown at veh. Olympic/Pleasant Hill  
 3/11 accident 3600 block Mt Diablo  
 3/12 reckless driving Glenside/St. Mary's  
 auto burglary 3300 block Deer Hill Rd

3/13 auto burglary Brown/Mt Diablo  
 reckless driving Central Lafayette exit/Hwy 24  
 felony hit & run Dewing/Mt Diablo  
 3/14 hit & run 400 block Mt Diablo  
 3/15 auto burglary 1700 block Reliez Valley  
 auto burglary 1800 block Reliez Valley  
 theft from veh. 1800 block Reliez Valley  
 reckless driving Deer Hill/Pleasant Hill  
 auto burglary 1700 block Reliez Valley  
 reckless driving 100 block Camino Ct

#### Burglary/Theft/Robbery/Forgery:

3/4 ID theft 3600 block Mt Diablo  
 petty theft 3600 block Mosswood Dr  
 3/5 petty theft 100 block Greenbank Dr  
 grand theft 3000 block Bradbury Dr  
 3/6 grand theft 3300 block Walnut Ln  
 auto burglary 1000 block 2nd St  
 3/7 petty theft 3600 block Mosswood Dr  
 3/8 felony embezzlement (2) 3700 block Mt Diablo Bl  
 petty theft 3600 block Crescent Dr  
 prowler 300 block Castello Rd  
 petty theft 3500 block Mt Diablo  
 3/9 petty theft 3300 block Betty Ln  
 3/11 petty theft 200 block Lafayette Cr  
 Residential burglary 1300 block Martino Rd

3/12 ID theft 100 block Hidden Valley Rd  
 3/13 ID theft 3100 block Sandalwood Ct  
 forgery 3400 block Lana Ln  
 petty theft 1000 block Oak Hill  
 3/14 commercial burglary 3300 block Mt Diablo  
 petty theft 1300 block Sunset Lp  
 3/15 residential burglary 3600 block Lincoln Wy  
 commercial burglary 1000 block Blackwood Ln  
 3/16 petty theft 3500 block Mt Diablo  
 residential burglary 1100 block Glen Rd  
 residential burglary 3200 block Marlene Dr

#### Miscellaneous:

3/3 mentally ill 3400 block Monroe Av  
 3/4 battery 900 block Hough Av  
 missing adult 3200 block Lucas Cr  
 3/7 missing adult 3200 block Judith Ln  
 3/10 trespassing 1200 block Monticello Rd  
 harassment 1000 block Windsor Dr  
 3/11 battery 3500 block Mt Diablo  
 3/13 missing juvenile 500 block Merriewood Dr  
 3/15 uncontrollable juvenile 1200 block Pleasant Hill  
 3/16 missing juvenile 3300 block Ridge Rd

Traffic Stops over the two week period: 250

# Baby Steps for Potential Path Connector

By Cathy Tyson



Photo Cathy Tyson

The dilemma: how to connect two well-used trails so that bicyclists and pedestrians can enjoy both safely? If linked, a new portion generally near Olympic Boulevard would complete a trail network that connects most of Lamorinda, Central Contra Costa County and the San Ramon Valley that's safer and more convenient for everyone.

Currently the Lafayette Moraga Trail (LMT) runs for over seven miles on a path that was once used by mule trains to carry redwood from Oakland to Sacramento, later converted to steam trains. Then it became a utility easement, and now a paved multi-use recreational trail, according to the East Bay Regional Park District that maintains and operates it. Some residents enjoy it from start, at Pleasant Hill Road and Olympic Boulevard, to finish at Valle Vista staging area on Canyon

Road – about 7.5 miles. Families, dog walkers, and kids on bikes are frequent users of this popular trail.

The Iron Horse Regional Trail was once a busy railroad route; it now runs between Concord and Dublin following the Southern Pacific Railroad right-of-way established in 1891 and abandoned in 1977. It's still not fully complete – ultimately it will be 33 miles long going all the way from Livermore to Suisun Bay. It's also managed by the East Bay Regional Park District.

In 2012 the Contra Costa County Department of Conservation and Development applied for and received a \$195,000 grant from Transportation for Livable Communities that will fund a study to identify feasible alignments for a pedestrian and bicycle facility connecting the two trails, explained a staff report from October 15, 2012. ... continued on page A11

# Stanley Student Wins Community Service Project Contest

By Cathy Tyson



The Walner family, from left: Theresa, Matt, Kate and Dan Photo Cathy Tyson

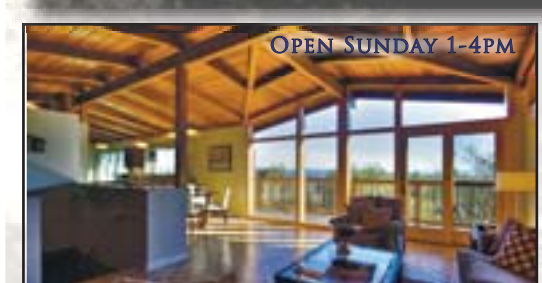
Kate Walner of Lafayette had a great idea. She wanted to work on a community service project that she could enter into the Julie Foudy Sports Leadership Academy's "Choose to Matter" contest, but she didn't want to ask people for money. With soccer teammate Han-

nah Wells, the pair of dedicated readers came up with the "Boxes, bags and bins of books" project that benefited three elementary schools in the Oakland Unified School District with loads of books for their libraries. ... continued on page A11

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# Moraga Civic News

## Public Meetings

### Town Council

Wednesday, March 27, 7 p.m.  
 Wednesday, April 10, 7 p.m.  
 Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School,  
 1010 Camino Pablo

### Planning Commission

Monday, April 1, 7 p.m.  
 Moraga Library, 1500 Saint Marys Rd.

### Design Review

Monday, April 8, 7 p.m.  
 Moraga Library, 1500 Saint Marys Rd.

### School Board Meeting

**Moraga School District**  
 Tuesday, April 9, 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

**False alarm, 3/18/13** It was the house cleaning crew who set off the alarm on a Paseo Linares residence. Cops check out the crew, who happened to be waiting on the driveway, along with the exterior perimeter of the house. Actual burglars wouldn't have waited for the police to arrive, looks like they were "clean."

**Somebody's watching me, 3/17/13** A woman parked near Starbucks was upset that someone was parked in front of her car and watching her. The reporting person did not know the eye-baller, but was afraid to get in her car to go home in case the watchful individual followed her. Turns out she was a 47-year-old from Danville who had been shopping at T.J. Maxx. With a police escort the reporting person was able get in her car and safely get out of the parking lot. Crisis averted.

**Turkey versus window, 3/17/13** A Devin Drive homeowner called police to report that something had just shattered her front window. Upon arrival, police located a dead turkey vulture that appeared to have had an unfortunate collision with the glass. The deceased bird was not ticketed.

**Noise violation, 3/16/13** A home on Wandel Drive received a noise violation for having a loud party at 11 p.m. on St. Patrick's weekend. It's unclear how much ruckus the 20 guests and music caused, but police politely suggested the neighbors would prefer the sound of silence.

**Harassing the party people, 3/16/13** Chalk it up to St. Patrick's day mischief, an intoxicated subject on Ascot Drive was yelling at people through a megaphone. The fellow was upset with a large group of college students at an adjacent complex who were having a loud party. Megaphone man was persuaded by police to stop harassing the students and stay inside his place for the balance of the evening.

**Domestic Violence, 3/16/13** A 27-year-old male broke a window to enter a Donald Drive apartment and assault his girlfriend. He was arrested for domestic violence and residential burglary. The victim was taken by the fire department to John Muir Hospital in Walnut Creek.

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# Town Seeks Ways to Help Theater

By Sophie Braccini

Over the past seven years the Rheem Theatre has changed operators numerous times as one business owner after another threw in the towel. Every time, the community rallied in support; but in the words of the current operator, an independent movie theater in a small town cannot be a for-profit business. There are many people who want the historic building to be preserved and operated as a theater; they view it as a community building and 'defining place' for Moraga. The support is so widespread that the Moraga Town Council included looking for ways to support the private business, within the confine of its limited abilities, among its goals for 2013. The council began its discussion March 13. Council members agreed on small first steps, but more significant town engagement may follow.

"We have to ask two questions," said Parks and Recreation Director Jay Ingram as he presented the staff report to the council. "Is the building worth saving? Is its use as a movie theater important enough to the community?" He suggested possible ways the town could support the theater, including waiving planning fees, giving it historical landmark status, signing a sub-lease agreement with the parks and recreation department for classes and camps that could be

held there when movies aren't playing, and financing some of the theater's equipment needs with low interest loans.

Residents came to testify about the importance of the Rheem Theatre to the cultural and recreational life of Moraga—many community events are held at the theater.

"People have asked why the chamber of commerce has been supporting the movie theater more than it does any other business," said past chamber president Edy Schwartz. "The Rheem Theatre is a foundation of our community and of our business community and needs to be supported in a very different way." Schwartz demonstrated the level of community support by pointing out that it took only six weeks to raise money for a new elevator, and offered information about growing attendance at the theater at a time when general attendance nationwide is decreasing.

The theater's importance was not challenged by the council. The four members present agreed with the residents and answered yes to Ingram's two questions. However, they had reservations stemming from the fuzzi-ness of the figures and a process of using public money to support a private venture.

The theater has major needs—in addition to the new elevator, second

bathrooms must be made accessible to disabled patrons and expensive digital projectors have to be purchased; it's unclear what the life span of these projectors would be.

Another major hurdle is that the current lease between property owner Mahesh Puri and the theater's operator, the California Annual Independent Film Festival Association, is expiring within a year.

"This is mostly a problem between a tenant and a property owner," said resident Maureen Freeman, who added that she supports the theater but believes that the town should not mingle in a private business venture.

Puri and his wife, Minoo, attended the meeting. They confirmed their support for their tenant but explained this piece of property, that comprises five other adjacent businesses, was not a profitable investment and had not been for years.

CAIFFA's Leonard Pirkle substantiated that support by explaining that Puri had reduced the rent, but he added that the Rheem Theatre would never make a profit. "Why not just put a stake through it then? Because it's a work of passion," he said.

CAIFFA also operates the Orinda Theatre. "Things are easier there because the movie theater is part of a larger business pool to draw from and the property owner was able to invest

and buy all the digital projectors," said Pirkle.

The council decided that all it can do for now is to waive fees for the theater when it applies for permits and encourage discussions about designating the theater a historical landmark. "That would help with some of the state requirements," explained the town's planning director, Shawna Brekke-Read. "We did it for the Pavilion (at the Hacienda de las Flores) and were authorized to build only one unisex ADA bathroom instead of two in order to preserve the interior." A historic landmark designation protects the physical features of a building, not its usage.

The council felt it could not use public funds to support the theater at this time. Town Manager Jill Keimach indicated that in order for a public entity to support a private venture, it had to demonstrate public benefits beyond its primary business function, and have a complete financial picture.

Staff was directed by the council to work on those findings. CAIFFA and Puri are starting their negotiations for a long term lease and working to clarify the financial elements. Planning staff will also meet with Puri to discuss possible historical landmark status.

# Planning Commission Favors Free Enterprise Approach for Rheem Zoning

By Sophie Braccini

The Moraga Planning Commission convened March 18 to start making decisions about potential new zoning for the Rheem Center area, with the ultimate goal of making it easier for desirable businesses to set up shop. Its first decisions indicate that a majority of commissioners do not want the town to interfere with the free market.

According to commercial real estate broker Dave Schnayer, this discussion has been ongoing for 15 years and has included many meetings, town-funded studies and community outreach.

Despite the fact that several of the planning commissioners are newly appointed, only a handful of residents came to share their thoughts with the

commission; although many citizens participated in previous public meetings regarding the commercial zoning and revitalization of the Rheem area.

Planning Director Shawna Brekke-Read had prepared questions for the commissioners to answer so she could draft an ordinance that she will bring back for the commission's review.

The ordinance will spell out what commercial uses should be approved over-the-counter (permitted use) in order to provide a fluid and business-friendly process to prospective owners, and what types of uses would continue to need to go through a formal review process (conditional use), a longer and costly system that gives more control to the town but is a source of uncer-

tainty for business owners.

"What is your position on 'formula' businesses?" asked Brekke-Read. "Should they go through a review process in order to favor locally-owned ventures?" Most commissioners declared their support for free enterprise and refused to give preferred treatment to locally-owned businesses, although commissioners Tom Marnane and Jim Kline noted that the lack of charm of the current commercial scene could be attributed to chain or formula-based businesses.

The commissioners were also not inclined to set a limit on the concentration of similar businesses in close proximity.

They agreed that restaurants should be a permitted use, that out-

door sitting should be encouraged, and that outdoor display of merchandise was fine.

The commission decided that size could trigger a conditional use process, but wondered if the 2,000-square-foot limit proposed by the Economic Development and Action Committee was too constraining. It agreed that banks and other financial services should be permitted on the second floor of the center, but be conditional on the ground floor.

The only type of business the commission agreed to prohibit was manufacturing.

The discussion will continue when the planning director presents a draft zoning ordinance to the commission.

Share your thoughts, insights and opinions with your community. **Send a letter to the editor:** letters@lamorindaweekly.com

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Average Electric Bill in 20 years	\$119	\$306	\$599	\$910	\$1,221	\$1,532	\$1,843	\$2,154	\$2,465
Bill with Comerford Solar <sup>2</sup>	\$83	\$214	\$420	\$637	\$855	\$1,073	\$1,290	\$1,508	\$1,726

**\*Savings over 20 years with Solar**

\$4,953.27	\$12,736.00	\$24,971.34	\$37,926.04	\$50,880.75	\$63,835.45	\$76,790.16	\$89,744.86	\$102,699.56
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<sup>1</sup>Based on 6.7% inflation from the utility company. <sup>2</sup>Includes all necessary expenses <sup>3</sup>Combination of Utility Company and PPA

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## Share Your Thoughts about Moraga Commons Park

By Sophie Braccini



The new skatepark parking lot recently opened on Moraga Road.

Photo Andy Scheck

Moraga Parks and Recreation Director Jay Ingram just announced that a survey about the future of Moraga Commons Park is now online. Ingram expects about 1,000 residents to participate and provide direction in the development of the park's three key areas: the "back forty," the bocce ball courts and the sand volleyball courts. The survey will be available until April 12.

"We should be able, as a community, to maximize the use of our park acreage for as many residents as possible," said Ingram. In general the park is widely used; except for the zone dubbed the "back forty"—the easterly part of the park that's home to the disc golf course—and the sand volleyball courts. The director believes that residents should have a say on what the future use of these two

areas should be; he also wants to know what they think about increasing the area dedicated to the bocce ball courts.

"We wanted to design an open survey so people can dream of what the ideal use should be; about what they think is most needed in Moraga," said Ingram. Chris Chamberlain, an assistant professor of hospitality, recreation and tourism at Cal State East Bay, and his students, designed the survey pro bono. Chamberlain and his team are experienced in providing such services to area cities, and after the survey closes students will come to community events and parks to collect additional input from residents.

The survey is composed of about 20 questions with a series of choices and additional space for comments.

"For example, the back forty people can choose between leaving the area as is, transforming it into a sports field, a dog park, a meditation trail, tennis courts, and more," said Ingram. "There is also a field where people can suggest a different use or indicate what they do not want to see happen there." All user groups are invited to participate: youth, sports groups, adults, seniors, service groups and schools. "We also invite Saint Mary's students to fill out the survey," added Ingram.

Ingram will present the survey results and a plan, with financing options, to the parks and recreation commission this summer. A final plan should be presented to the town council in the fall.

The survey can be found on the town's website, www.moraga.ca.us.

## Fire Chief Presents Plan to Town Council

By Sophie Braccini

Moraga-Orinda Fire District Chief Randall Bradley gave a presentation to the Moraga Town Council March 13 regarding the possible merger of MOFD fire station 43 in Orinda and Contra Costa Fire Protection District station 16 in Lafayette (read the related articles on pages A2 and A11).

The council did not express a definitive opinion about the consolidation plan, which Bradley estimates would save the fire district about \$1 million per year, but it appeared to be

favorable to the idea.

During the meeting's public comment period, Moraga resident and former MOFD board member Dick Olsen said he believes the merger would have negative consequences for the town. "ConFire chief (Daryl) Louder indicated at the board of supervisors' meeting that one way to find funding for the new joint station would be to convert station 17 into an EMS-only station (no fire engine)," he told the council. Station 17 is on St. Mary's Road in Lafayette.

This idea not only alarms residents of Lafayette's Burton Valley neighborhood, but could have an impact in Moraga as well: "That station is the third responder for Saint Mary's," noted Olsen, who also pointed to financial concerns. "We here in Moraga will suffer the consequences if ConFire defaults on its payments," he stated.

The Moraga and Orinda councils are scheduled to meet with the MOFD board on April 29.

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# Orinda Civic News

## Public Meetings

### City Council

Tuesday, April 9, 7 p.m.  
Auditorium, Orinda Library,  
26 Orinda Way

### Planning Commission

Tuesday, April 23, 7 p.m.  
*April 9 canceled*  
Auditorium, Orinda Library,  
26 Orinda Way

### Citizens' Infrastructure Oversight Commission

Wednesday, April 10, 6:30 p.m.  
Sarge Littlehale Community Room,  
22 Orinda Way

### School Board Meeting

**Orinda Union School District**  
Monday, April 8, 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

**Kaufman Released on Bail**  
According to Contra Costa County Sheriff's spokesperson Jimmy Lee, Bay Area baseball coach and Orinda resident Joel Kaufman, age 52, was released on \$325,000 bail the afternoon of March 22, hours after turning himself in at the Martinez Detention Facility and being booked for two counts of lewd and lascivious acts on a child, sexual penetration, annoying or molesting a child and invasion of privacy.

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## Mayor Recalls Orinda's History and Spirit during State of the City Address

By Laurie Snyder



"Families move to Orinda to raise their children because of our excellent schools, quality of life, and wonderful sense of community," said Mayor Amy Worth during her recent 2013 State of the City address at the Orinda Country Club. Photo Andy Schreck

The first week of her latest term as mayor, said Amy Worth, was unforgettable – from the happy highs when Forbes Magazine declared Orinda to be America's second friendliest city to the frustration and worry, a few days later, as torrential rains triggered a state of emergency.

And yet, in spite of these roller-coaster moments, it was Orinda's history that was on her mind as she delivered her State of the City Address to a crowd of roughly 100 at the Orinda Country Club March 20. Worth began by recounting the community's Spanish beginnings – a

carve-out from four land grants from the Alta California area of Mexico – before paying tribute to Orinda's women. The city, in fact, owes its name to Alice Marsh Camron, a poetry-loving pioneer who persuaded her spouse to name their home "Orinda Park" in 1876 – in homage to Katherine Fowler Philips' poem, "The Matchless Orinda."

"I often think of that literary and intellectual heritage when I think of our Orinda library which will be 100 years old in 2015, and the tremendous role that women played in the intellectual and volunteer life of our community and schools." Families have relocated here, since that time, for "excellent schools, quality of life, and [Orinda's] wonderful sense of community."

Reflecting on the city's 1985 incorporation, she recalled how officials "focused on the four 'Ps' – public safety, planning, public works, and parks and recreation" – and still do. "Our current city mission states our goal succinctly, 'Orinda strives to provide excellent services in a fiscally responsible manner and to promote a safe, healthy and vibrant commu-

nity.'" Paid staff and volunteer commissioners strive for transparent governance via publicly announced meetings and report postings on the city's website.

"We have lived within our means, and have been able to provide excellent services to our residents on a limited budget." City revenues come "from property and sales tax, along with fees which support our planning and parks and rec activities. Our paving budget comes from our franchise fees and our local share of the Measure J transportation sales tax." Major capital projects, however, "require setting aside funds over several years as well as securing local, state and federal grants to fund them."

Incorporation also gave Orinda local zoning control for land use. "Through our zoning ordinances and the thoughtful work of our Planning Commission, development projects throughout Orinda reflect the community character that our residents cherish." The city's library and parks and recreation programs "serve all ages," further enhancing life. ... continued on page A11

## Orinda CIOC Recaps Road Repairs

By Laurie Snyder

"I'm happy to report that we've made significant progress," stated Dennis Fay as he began his March 19 presentation before the Orinda City Council. The chair of the Citizens' Infrastructure Oversight Commission was on hand to update city leaders and residents on the latest efforts to improve Orinda's roads and drains. Since April 2009, the number of arterial and collector streets in very poor or poor condition has been reduced from 43 to 19.

Rehabilitated in 2012 were some of the city's most heavily traveled streets known as collectors – Rheem Boulevard from Hall to Zander Drive, Orinda Way from the library to Irwin Way, Camino Sobrante from Orinda Way to El Ribero, Overhill Road from Tara to Glorietta Boulevard, and Valley View Drive from Crestview to

Don Gabriel Way. "Our projections continue to show that Orinda will be able to complete the repair of the arterials and collectors that currently are in poor or very poor condition ... by 2018 without using the new Measure L funding," reads CIOC's report. A test of new technology, "which recycle[d] existing asphalt pavement rather than replacing it" on Camino Sobrante, Valley View and Overhill, was successful enough that CIOC members hope that it can be used again in the future to save the city money. Staff will conduct ongoing monitoring to ensure the test work "is at least as durable as the traditional technology." The city also began tackling a drainage failure-induced sink hole on Tarabrook Drive, ponied up \$170,000 for drainage improvements to a 24-

inch storm drain between Coral Drive and Fiesta Circle and three large El Toyonal culverts, and used \$38,355 for urgent road repairs to Camino Pablo south of Orinda Way, El Camino Moraga at Moraga Way, and Spring Road. But other neighborhood thoroughfares still need work. "As of the current date, the number of residential road segments that are considered very poor (PCIs less than 25) was 130." The estimated price tag is \$22.2 million. The \$600,000 from the Measure L sales tax will help somewhat; however, those increased revenues will not be available to the city until September. In the interim, the CIOC asked the city council to "advance monies to the Public Works Department to undertake the needed design

and construction documents ... to allow construction to begin as soon as tax dollars are available." Additionally, city leaders were urged "to proceed vigorously with the 10-year plan which ... envisions raising \$39.6 million for the roads through bonds issues [sic] in 2016 and 2020." The CIOC also asked the council to consider authorizing a real estate transfer tax, divert some of the increased property tax revenues which will be produced as older homes are sold, and apply part of the \$2.3 million in one-time funds generated by the Eden affordable housing program. CIOC commissioners contributing to the report included Fay, vice chair Darlene Gee, Gordon Bizieff, Jeffrey Smyly, Joan Dahl, and Richard Nelson.

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**“P” Is for Pat – Orinda’s Citizen of the Year**

By Laurie Snyder



“We are extremely blessed,” said Mayor Amy Worth of contributions to the community made by Pat Rudebusch, who was named Orinda’s 2013 Citizen of the Year March 15. Photo Ohlen Alexander

“It’s all about the schools,” said Mayor Amy Worth as she presented a proclamation honoring Patricia “Pat” Rudebusch March 15. Worth took turns reciting the declaration with Vice

Mayor Sue Severson and Orinda City Council member Steve Glazer as part of the celebration honoring Rudebusch – Orinda’s Citizen of the Year for 2013. Glazer, a frequent collaborator

with Rudebusch on K-12 education ballot initiatives, emceed the event, which was co-sponsored by the Rotary Club of Orinda and the Contra Costa Times’ Lamorinda Sun. Past citizen of the year honorees, Orinda Union School District (OUSD) parents, administrators and teachers, neighbors, and Rudebusch’s family and Orinda News colleagues were also on hand.

The tuxedoed Glazer, who frequently roasted his longtime friend throughout the evening, began by welcoming attendees “to the friendliest city in California.” Severson and Moraga-Orinda Fire District board member Alex Evans presented resolutions from U.S. Congressman George Miller and California legislators Mark DeSaulnier and Joan Buchanan. Contra Costa County Supervisor Candace Andersen rushed in from an emergency board meeting in Martinez to commend Rudebusch for keeping Orinda’s schools strong.

... continued on page A11

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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](mailto:letters@lamorindaweekly.com); Regular mail: Lamorinda Weekly, P.O.Box 6133, Moraga, CA 94570

Editor:

I write in response to "The War of the Barres," published on March 13th.

I love The Dailey Method (TDM). I love its unique physical and mental practice. I'm not an instructor or studio owner. I'm a client.

For a year and a half, I took three to five TDM classes a week at the Lafayette studio. In mid-November, The Dailey Method Lafayette disappeared overnight, replaced with a new name and a new workout. I did not choose this switch; it switched on me. Without a TDM home, I attended the "old studio" but this was not the same product that I loved.

Thankfully by mid-December, Christine Olson and Kerry Corcoran brought The Dailey Method back in a temporary space where clients like me took classes until the permanent home opened in Lafayette at 3344C Mt. Diablo Blvd. While the temporary space had a back to basics feel, Christine and Kerry preserved two core aspects of TDM: (1) The Dailey Method mental and physical regimen and (2) The Dailey Method instructors.

The statement, "The war of the barres started when some of Pecci La Brecque's instructors left her studio," misses a crucial point. The TDM instructors left the old studio because they chose to stay TDM instructors.

The Dailey Method is grounded in hard science, credentialed leadership, and continued research and training. The Dailey Method's rigorous training program requires a significant investment by the future instructor. Once trained, a TDM instructor may teach at any The Dailey Method studio. She also receives advanced training and is connected to the growing TDM community worldwide. Should life require a TDM instructor leave the East Bay, she will find The Dailey Method studio in her new home and if not, she can open one.

As a smart business practice, The Dailey Method requests its instructors promise not to teach a barre class at a "competitor" studio. When it severed its ties with The Dailey Method, the old studio became a competitor thus forcing the instructors into a decision. To teach at the old studio meant abandoning The Dailey Method practice, its core values, its continuing education, and its broader community. Had they remained, they would have lost forever the opportunity to teach at any The Dailey Method studio, anywhere, ever again.

I am proud to support the half-dozen TDM instructors -- all local area moms -- who honored their commitments to The Dailey Method, to their training, and to clients like me, by keeping The Dailey Method open in Lamorinda. And I am thrilled to support local East Bay - business owner - moms, like Christine Olson and Kerry Corcoran. Because of The Dailey Method practice, I'm stronger, leaner, and more physically fit. But most important, my life is enriched daily through the friendships I've found in the women making up The Dailey Method Lamorinda community and for that I am forever grateful.

Warmly,  
Wendy McGuire Coats  
Lafayette

Editor:

Sophie Braccini's The War of the Barres article published Wednesday, March 13 well represents both fitness methods, The Dailey Method & NextBarre, though the title of the article is a bit sensationalistic. I am a professional dance teacher and I've enjoyed being a longtime client of The Dailey Method (TDM) and now NextBarre. Not every body can do the exact same workout with equal success. For my body, NextBarre is a more efficient 1-hour workout. At TDM I took 2 back-to-back classes a day, 4 days a week to get the results I wanted. With NextBarre I only need to take 1 class a day, 4 days a week. But that's my body. I agree that there is room for two barre-based studios in Lamorinda. Both classes are very good and all

the instructors are rock-star caliber teachers. Certainly I miss TDM teachers who decided to leave the studio when it changed to NextBarre but I know they are helping others just as they helped me. For many women TDM was a social outlet as well as a workout so I understand their emotional responses to the changeover. For me, it's just about the workout and, at this time, NextBarre is the better fit.

Jennifer Davis  
Lafayette

Editor:

An Open Letter to Chief Bradley and the MOFD Board, We applaud your effort to obtain community opinion on the proposed consolidation of Station 43 with Lafayette Station 16. Unfortunately, we cannot attend your scheduled workshop on Wednesday, March 20th. Therefore, by this letter, we wish to state publicly our strong support for your continued investigation of the feasibility of this consolidation option, for the following reasons:

1. Improved Protection from a major woodland fire coming from Lafayette: We live in the Charles Hill Road area near the border of Lafayette, north of Highway 24. You have stated that studies predict that a major woodland fire during the fire season is likely to start east of Orinda aided by "Santa Ana - like" winds. With Lafayette Station 16 closed and no prospect of it reopening, we feel more exposed to this very real threat. Locating proposed Station 46 on El Nido Ranch Road would provide improved protection for us in the Charles Hill area as well as the residents of Lafayette north of Highway 24. Fires know no city boundaries.
2. Improved District Finances: MOFD cannot walk away from the opportunity of receiving \$1 million annually from ConFire to operate Station 46 for the benefit of Lafayette as well as Orinda. Those residents who contend that considering the consolidation option is "pennywise and pound foolish" have their facts backwards! As you well know, MOFD is faced with a major challenge to fund pension obligations which threaten to reduce future service levels. This added cash flow can most certainly help!
3. No Net Increase in Orinda Response Times: We understand that the relocation of Station 43 to 46 would result in no net increase in Orinda's community wide response times. Yes, some Orinda residents will see their response times increased, but the community as a whole will benefit. In fact, our own response time will increase with the move, but we believe the two positive reasons stated above outweigh this negative for us - and, indeed for all Orinda residents!

Please continue to investigate the consolidation option!

Sincerely,  
Kristi & Art Haigh  
Orinda

Editor:

Here is an example of a good neighbor:  
We live in Orinda and we were away. The sharks were circling. One morning a truck pulled into our driveway. Two men started to find the best way in to our house. Our neighbor Melanie saw what was happening and immediately went out to ask what they were doing. Their answer? The response didn't jive and our neighbor promptly took their license number and went inside to call the police. The two robbers realized they were challenged and drove off. The police were here quickly and praised Melanie Flum for her quick response. All of Orinda can respond to action and challenge people who are trying to break in to homes.  
Thank you Melanie for immediately getting involved.

Brian and Ingrid Miller  
Orinda

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# Orindans Speak Out Against MOFD-ConFire Plan

By Nick Marnell

At a March 20 public workshop, Orinda residents lambasted the Moraga-Orinda Fire District's proposal to merge its fire station 43 with Contra Costa County Fire Protection District station 16. In addition, a second MOFD board member and the firefighters' union withdrew their support for the consolidation plan.

Fire Chief Randall Bradley outlined the plan to an involved Orinda audience, focusing on the location of the new combined station, the financial benefits to the district and the consequent service level impacts. He also cited major concerns about the partnership, including the ability of ConFire to uphold its end of the bargain through the county's uncertain financial times, and the fact that the union has backed off its support of the merger.

In a phone interview Vince Wells, president of United Professional Firefighters of Contra Costa County Local 1230, explained the union's position. "The plan is far too much in favor of the MOFD, and it is not fair to the ConFire employees and the communities they serve," he said. Wells, who represents firefighters in both ConFire and MOFD, does not think it is right that the new station will be paid for in part by ConFire but will be staffed exclusively by MOFD employees.

Comments from the Orinda audience were overwhelmingly negative: "I have concerns for noise and for my privacy." "Why not just rebuild 43 right where it is? Serve Orinda!" "I have no confidence in ConFire." "Too many unanswered questions. This is crazy. You're playing with fire!"

"What we have, works! I see how this works well for Lafayette. I don't see how this works for us!"

Only one of the more than 20 public comments was favorable to the proposal. "The minimal service impact for a \$60 million savings is worth it," said Orinda resident Steve Cohn, referring to the 30-year projected operational savings to both fire districts that may result from the merger.

The board members' opinions were mixed. Directors Alex Evans and Steve Anderson spoke in favor of the merger, because they believe that the cost savings will sustain the long-term viability of MOFD. Board vice president John Wyo wished to continue dialogue with ConFire, but he expressed concern over its financial stability. Frank Sperling, board president, again refused to support the consolidation. And director Fred Weil, who was previously in favor of the idea, delivered an eloquent speech on the failings of the proposed merger.

"My decision is 'No,'" he said. "Let's get on with our own business, and stop this discussion tonight."

The audience cheered after Weil's presentation.

Despite time and public pressure bearing down on the district, the board voted 3-2 to continue the negotiations with ConFire. A special board meeting was scheduled for March 26, after our press deadline, to decide whether to approve a \$15,000 non-refundable deposit to the seller of the property on which MOFD plans to build the new fire station—read the related article, "Planning Commission Looks at Shared Fire Station" on page A2, and check our website for updates, www.lamorindaweekly.com.

## Lamorinda Fire News Briefs

By Nick Marnell

### Supervisors Ask CCCERA for Change of Plan

The Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors voted to issue a notice to the Contra Costa County Employees' Retirement Association board. The notice requested that CCCERA reduce its investment rate of return to 7.25 percent on July 1, 2014, rather than phase-in the reduction from 7.75 percent over a number of years. The recommendation was made by County Administrator David Twa.

Rollie Katz, Local One representative, argued that, as a result of the lower assumed rate of return, employees will have to pay more into their pension funds. Supervisor John Gioia countered that the new rate was a fair compromise, since if an assumed rate of investment return is not met, the result is a greater unfunded pension liability, which is the total responsibility of the employer.

The pension plans of both the Moraga-Orinda Fire District and the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District are managed by CCCERA.

### Highway 24 Accident Investigation

The Moraga-Orinda Fire District hired Sharry and Associates to investigate the Dec. 2 Highway 24 accident in which three MOFD firefighters—Kelly Morris, Mike Rattary and Steve Rogness—were seriously injured. The investigation began March 14, and the report is due in mid-May.

"John Sharry was the lead investigator for one of the most famous life-loss fires in the country - the Beverly Hills Supper Club," said MOFD fire chief Randall Bradley. Sharry has also chaired the National Fire Protection Association's Technical Committee on Firefighter Health and Safety. He will be paid \$125 per hour, up to a maximum district expenditure of \$10,000. This cost was anticipated and included in the

MOFD's mid-year budget review according to Sue Casey, administrative services director.

The scope of the investigation will run from a determination of the district's safety culture to a thorough analysis of MOFD policies and procedures, according to Division Chief Stephen Healy, who is the district's liaison to Sharry.

Morris said recently that her knees are feeling much better, but that her ankle is still bothering her and may require surgery. Healy confirmed that Rattary returned to work in March, and Rogness continues to recover at home from his injuries.

### Pension Obligation Bonds

When the Moraga-Orinda Fire District issued its Pension Obligation Bonds in 2005, the bonds were purchased by Lehman Brothers. The district then entered into a Debt Service Deposit Agreement in which Lehman paid the district a \$450,000 fee in lieu of future investment earnings; the fee in reality being an advance against future revenue—that is, the interest on property tax payments. In 2009, Lehman Brothers declared bankruptcy.

A representative of Legacy Asset Management Company, a subsidiary of Lehman Brothers Holdings, contacted MOFD and explained that, since the DSDA represents an asset to the Lehman estate, it would like to bring the contract to a mutually beneficial conclusion to both parties after a termination payment is made by MOFD. The matter was forwarded to MOFD's legal counsel, Steve Meyers.

Meyers recommended that the district work with Craig Bettencourt, of Prager & Co., LLC, to negotiate a settlement and termination of the DSDA. Bettencourt agreed to negotiate the settlement pro bono.

At its March 20 meeting, the MOFD board unanimously approved staff's recommendation to engage Bettencourt's services.



**Moraga-Orinda Fire District Board of Directors Meetings**  
The Moraga-Orinda Fire District holds Board Meetings on the first and third Wednesday of every month at 7 p.m. Any exceptions will be posted in advance.

**Next meeting:** Regular Board Meeting, April 3, 2013, 7 p.m.  
(Go to www.mofd.org as the meeting date approaches for location and more information)

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# Community Service

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

## Girl Scout Luau Benefits Children's Hospital

Submitted by Lori Langley



Photo Provided

It was a rocking good time for a terrific cause at the Father-Daughter Luau Dance held recently at the Lafayette Community Center. Local fifth-grade Girl Scouts of Troops 32787 and 32788 joined together to organize, promote, and host the event which included dancing, crafts and a photo booth. Proceeds from the event benefited Children's Hospital Oakland,

supporting its mission to care for children in need. In addition to the much-needed funds, participants brought donations including clothing, books, rattles, and teething devices. These girls, many whom have been together since kindergarten, worked all fall to make this dance a success and have earned their bronze merit badge.

## Lafayette Juniors Oscar Night Helps Local Non-Profits

Submitted by Christy Mack



Photo provided

The Lafayette Juniors held A Night at the Oscars benefit in late February to raise money for New Day for Children, CoachArt, Contra Costa Interfaith Housing, the Lafayette

Library, and We Care. From left, Anna Eppinger, Sylvia Ames, Colleen Miller, Heidi Keely, Michelle Muller, Lisa McCauley, and Daniele Upp.

## LLLCF Foundation Executive Director Announces Retirement

Submitted by Caitlin Meaney Burrows



Kathy Merchant Photo Provided

The Lafayette Library and Learning Center Foundation announced March 18 that Kathy Merchant, executive director of the foundation since November 2010, will retire from her position.

As a founding trustee, the first president of the LLLCF and a major donor, Merchant became the LLLCF's first executive director. Her leadership in the decade leading up to the opening of the Lafayette Library and Learning Center was instrumental in raising community awareness of the benefits af-

forded by this unique library and consortium partner model. In addition, Merchant helped secure the necessary funding to launch initial construction and the library's annual funding campaign.

Despite an economic downturn following the successful "Imagine a Place" capital campaign that allowed the library to open its doors, Merchant helped the board of trustees successfully reach its \$4 million goal for LLLCF's "Open Doors, Open Minds" campaign to establish a sustainability fund in 2011. LLLCF provides over 50 percent of the library's total operating costs which supports longer open hours, enriching programs and the sustainability of the building.

Vickie Sciacca, senior community library manager said, "Kathy Merchant's dedication to the Lafayette Library has been a tremendous gift to the community. Her passion for libraries, her commitment to excellence, and her understanding of literature, art, and education have been instrumental in shaping the direction of the Lafayette Library for years to come. We are absolutely grateful to Kathy for helping the Lafayette Community realize, and not just imagine, such a place."

The LLLCF board of trustees has started a formal search process to find a new executive director, expected to be in place this summer; it will celebrate Merchant's contributions to the Lafayette community at a reception to be held in early summer.

## National Charity League Class of 2013

Submitted by Sherry Henderson



Front row, seated from left: Claire Svedberg, Victoria Perrella, Bailey Finegold, Kathryn MacNulty, Allison Baymiller, Rebecca Frazier. Second row: Jessica Wilcox, Kendal Taylor, Victoria Cimino, Madeline Yzurdiaga, Rachel Sears, Hayley Wilcox, Amanda Lemelin, Madison Yeack, Hadley Swanson. Back row: Tela Zembsch, Cassidy Waters, Madison Hossfeld, Katherine O'Keefe, Katherine Catton. Photo Studio Fotografica

The Acalanes Area Chapter of National Charity League—a mother-daughter non-profit organization dedicated to serving local communities—once again celebrated their graduating seniors during the 2013 Senior Celebration Program Feb. 23 at the Claremont Hotel.

Nationally, there are over 175 chapters committed to fostering the mother-daughter relationship through philanthropic, leadership and cultural activities. Membership in the Acalanes Area Chapter is drawn from the Lamorinda communities of Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda. Participation begins in seventh grade and continues through the senior year of high school. The girls are honored for their many hours of

philanthropic work volunteering at Foster-A-Dream, Lafayette Library, California Shakespeare, Juvenile Diabetes, Bay Area Rescue Mission, and Special Olympics, among others. The Class of 2013 put in over 2,700 volunteer hours during their years in our Chapter.

These volunteer activities combined with activities focused on leadership development and cultural awareness, form the three pillars of National Charity League, and help to initiate a lifelong commitment to community service and deepen the bond between mother and daughter. For membership information, please visit [www.nationalcharityleague.org](http://www.nationalcharityleague.org).

## New Eagle Scouts



Luther Kuefner, Aaron Miller, Justin Nathan, Nicholas Villanueva and Reece Yamamoto; Lafayette Boy Scout Troop 243.

Photo Amy Baba



Serge Balian, Chris Greenfield and C.J. Novogradac; Orinda Boy Scout Troop 237.

Photo provided

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**Civic News Orinda**

**Orinda in Action**

Show your civic pride April 20

By Laurie Snyder

Whether you care about creeks, loathe litter, have been itching to exercise that green garden thumb, or have simply spotted a corner of your community which needs a little tender loving care, April 20 is your day to join hands with fellow Orindans to show your civic pride. Organizers of the fifth annual Orinda Action Day are looking for volunteers of all ages, and have a list of ways that residents may pitch in.

The community clean-up event which annually draws hundreds of helpers has become a popular way

for seniors to get out and mingle, moms to teach tots about caring for their world, and Lamorinda area students to fulfill required volunteer hours for school. Scout troops are particularly urged to participate this year, say event co-chairs Jessica Smith and Holly Henkel.

Registration check-in will begin at 9 a.m. at the Orinda Library Plaza. Volunteers will be given free T-shirts while supplies last, and treated to fresh fruit, bagels, and coffee to fuel up before getting busy. Drop-in reg-

istrants are also welcome the day of the event.

Volunteers will reassemble at the plaza between 11:30 a.m. and noon for a round of high fives and pizza.

To learn how you can help and pre-register, click on "Orinda Action Day" on the Orinda Community Foundation's website (www.orindafoundation.org), and follow the instructions. Or send an e-mail with volunteer name(s) and preferred project to: orindafoundation@gmail.com.

**Mayor Recalls Orinda's History and Spirit during State of the City Address**

... continued from page A6

Worth then added a "fifth P" for partnerships – between the city and various county, state and federal agencies – and between the city and its residents. She thanked Orindans for supporting Measure L "to significantly increase our investment in road and drain repair," and urged everyone to continue working together with police to preserve Orinda's designation by the FBI as "one of the top five safest cities in California."

As to whom Orindans are in 2013: "Our population under 65 has gone down by 10 percent while our population of residents over 65 has increased by 10 percent." Just over 1,000 are now between ages 20 to 34 with the bulk – 8,169 – aged 35 to 65. "I think that affirms what we all know. That young people move here to raise their children and then stay through their retirement years."

Moving forward, she announced,

"We are going to celebrate and honor individuals and groups who contribute to make Orinda the wonderful community and the friendliest city that it is."

Mayor Worth will deliver her State of the City Address again in a free presentation at 7 pm on April 15 in the Orinda Library Auditorium.

**"P" Is for Pat – Orinda's Citizen of the Year**

... continued from page A7

"It's all about the ABC's and cheering on your team," said Jan Coe, Orinda Union School District Finance Advisory Committee member, as she used the letters of her colleague's name to spell out accomplishments. Susie Epstein and Linda Landau recalled how Rudebusch always put children first – whether volunteering for the schools or on behalf of Orinda's Friends of the Library.

"We certainly know it takes a

village to raise a child," mused OUSD superintendent Dr. Joe Jaconette. "The corollary is that it takes a village to educate a child." Sporting a baby seal-adorned tie to remind all of Rudebusch's passion for rescuing marine mammals, Jaconette described how OUSD benefitted from her service on "a very, very productive governing team" during both flush and lean times. Wading through stacks of documents on weekends, she gave up

many evenings and prized vacation time as "a skilled problem solver" without any hidden agenda. "She moderated with diplomacy, courtesy, and poise" as she shepherded support for math and literacy programs. Her interactions with others always began with, "How can I help?"

Four simple words sum up one woman's life. Four words which also personify the spirit of Orinda.

**Civic News Lafayette**

**Baby Steps for Potential Path Connector**

... continued from page A3

Because any proposed improvements would involve three entities, the cities of Lafayette and Walnut Creek, along with part of unincorporated Contra Costa County, it became clear that spelling out specifics would help clarify the responsibilities of each party.

At a recent city council meeting a memorandum of understanding

was approved to cooperate with the study, which will identify challenges and help with long range plans for all involved. The Olympic Corridor Trail Connector Study will ultimately recommend a range of improvements to be implemented in phases, according to John Cunningham, senior transportation planner with the Contra Costa County Department of

Conservation and Development.

On a sunny afternoon last Friday Pat Rudebusch of Orinda, who happened to be walking with her daughter's dog Maggie on the Lafayette Moraga Trail, commented that any future trail improvement that will keep people healthy, walking and enjoying the outdoors is "a good thing."

**Stanley Student Wins Community Service Project Contest**

... continued from page A3

The girls figured it was a win-win; parents of fellow soccer players got to clean shelves at home of gently used books that they had already enjoyed and then pass the books along to underserved kids who could enjoy them too, recycling and sharing community resources.

Walner received a special proclamation from the mayor at a recent city council meeting; she hobbled up to the podium to accept the award with a cast on one leg from, oddly enough, a soccer injury. She and Wells did it all on their own, explained proud dad Dan Walner, motivating their team and the entire soccer club to donate children's

books. All told, the girls collected 1,149 kids' books. "The Oakland librarians were thrilled," said 14-year-old Walner. The books were divided between Oakland's Allendale, Brookfield and Lafayette elementary schools. The Stanley Middle School eighth grader is a member of the Montclair Soccer Club; Wells, a resident of Berkeley, is on her team.

The girls are among a total of five Grand Prize winners from across the country, beating out 65 other service project submissions. The young winners and a parent or guardian—Kate is going with her mom—will receive an all-expense-paid trip in May to Walt Disney

World in Florida and a role as a youth leader at Special Olympics Florida Summer Games.

Foudy is a pioneer in the world of women's soccer: she is the former captain of the USA Women's Soccer team, two-time Olympic gold medalist and two-time World Cup Champion. The philosophy of the leadership academy is simple – sports and leadership. In her many public speaking events, Foudy credits Title IX, the landmark civil rights ruling that required gender equality for education and athletic programs that receive federal funding, hence the Stanford soccer scholarship that put her on a path to soccer greatness.


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**From Front Page**

**Del Rey Hoops for Guinness World Record**

... continued from page A1



Photo Tod Fierner

Menke purchased the hoops himself and donated them to the school, pitched the idea to Principal Kirsten Theurer, and followed up with a visit to each of Del Rey's 20 classrooms.

"Raise your hand if you thought you'd ever be a world record holder," he challenged.

Not one hand went up. Theurer said the application process "went like a roller coaster," with rules and regulations to follow, affidavits to complete and officials to

recruit to oversee the event.

The students practiced their routine for a month with PE teacher Cheryl Collins, who choreographed a five-minute workout set to the song "Let's Go." Collins even donated time during her days off to include the kindergarten classes, and Theurer said one family re-booked a flight to Japan so their student could participate. Both Collins and Theurer were pleased with a dress rehearsal held on site March 22.

After the event, the hula hoops were donated to a Bay Area charity. Now the students must wait for official word from Guinness that they're the new record holders. "It usually takes a few weeks, after we submit all of the paperwork and video footage," Menke said.

The online link for the current largest hula hoop workout is available at [www.guinnessworldrecords.com/world-records/7000/largest-hula-hoop-workout](http://www.guinnessworldrecords.com/world-records/7000/largest-hula-hoop-workout).

**Spring into Sand Volleyball**

... continued from page A1

"The girls are eager to play, to practice and work on their game in ways I haven't seen before," he explained. "The new surface and the warm sun, the opportunity to play often and touch the ball more and the venue at Moraga Commons have all seemed to contribute to a new level of enthusiasm for volleyball."

Sand volleyball is, without a doubt, about fun. There's no coaching allowed from the sidelines, but there's plenty of cheering from teammates and the community that has enthusiastically embraced this sport.

On April 18, Saint Mary's (3-1)

takes on Pacific on their home court the first match-up earlier this season.



Photo Tod Fierner

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- Marian Nichols, Moraga

# Grow Your Own Gourmet Veggies

By Sophie Braccini



2012 plant sale at the Moraga Gardens Farm

Last year Rhiannon Herpolsheimer, a Lafayette acupuncturist and amateur gardener, bought all her tomato plants at the Moraga Gardens Farm, but this year, she will have to wait a few additional weeks to get her favorite heirlooms.

Plant sales at local community gardens are perfect for those who are looking for organic plants adapted to the local soil and weather. But buying local can be a problem when weather is challenging—the Moraga Gardens Farm had to postpone its annual sale by a few weeks until March 30. To compensate for the tardiness, new varieties of vegetables and herbs have been added, all tried and approved by those who work the garden.

“Our plant sale will be slightly later this spring than in past years, primarily because of the unusually cold weather we’ve experienced recently,” says Gardens member Bobbie Preston. “By patiently awaiting our plants, though, there are always huge rewards for the buyer in that we not only offer a diverse selection, but we’ve chosen them precisely because they do well in the Lamorinda area.” Over 3,200 organic plants grown without the use of chemicals and pesticides will be offered.

All the plants offered for sale are grown in the garden’s greenhouses; the members are organized in teams of transplanters, water crew, and venting, and take turns caring for the tender plants as they emerge in the flats and are transfer in their individual pots.

In the greenhouses, the temperature is kept at around 80 degrees by opening and closing vents. The Moraga farm is known to local restaurants

and markets for its wide range of tomatoes. “The San Marzano is the best tomato for making paste and sauce,” notes Preston. “Our selection of cherry tomatoes includes two different reds, a bluish red/yellow, a yellow and a green variety.”

Claire Curtin bought cherry tomatoes there last year. “I planted the tomatoes in a pot on the sunny deck at my Walnut Creek office,” she says. “As the tomatoes became ripe I would harvest and leave them on the desks of my co-workers who loved to have a small tomato snack during the day.” She says she will add herbs to her selection this year.

As for Herpolsheimer, she is partial to the Brandywine. “This is the hardiest variety producing well late into the season... I was still making salsa from the green ones that ripened indoors in December!” she says.

Twenty different types of tomatoes of all sizes, colors and tastes will be offered, including rare heirlooms.

If you want to make your own ratatouille from your garden, take a look at the eggplants and peppers. “Our eggplants were chosen to provide a choice of plants that do well in Lamorinda and are used for different cooking needs,” says Preston. “For example, the Black Beauty and Rotunda Bianca are great for casseroles and eggplant parmesan, the Ping Ting and the Japanese Long are perfect for stir fry.”

The peppers will be ordered by heat index, from the sweetest, like the Green California Wonder all the way to the knock-your-socks-off Thai, and many in between. This year the farm will include culinary herbs and catnip – as a kitty treat. Sales tables will not

only have pictures of the vegetables but suggestions for use and recipes. Growing instructions will also be provided, such as spacing the plants, pruning, watering and ‘hardening’ the plants so they transfer well from the warm greenhouses to your garden.

Moraga Gardens Farm is located at 1370 Moraga Way, between the Moraga Fire Station and School Street. The sale will run from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. March 30, and continue on Saturdays and Sundays from April 6-21 at the same time. For more information, visit [www.Moragagardensfarm.com](http://www.Moragagardensfarm.com).

Photo Provided

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## School Garden Cultivates Learning from the Ground Up

Springhill Elementary School to host plant sale

By Cathy Tyson

At times there seems to be a disconnect with the parents that this is just a fun add-on, “but there are lessons on chemistry, math, history that you just can’t get in a classroom,” said Nanette Hefernan, master gardener and passionate volunteer at the Springhill Elementary School garden. She points out the multiple raised beds, where the kids calculate yield, and get a lesson in fractions by dividing up the space, kicking it up a notch for the older students – they can do the same thing with the colonial circular planting area.

The colonial garden is designed to dovetail with the students’ curriculum unit on early settlers, using heirloom seedlings that were part of the Native American diet. Got food scraps? After lunch every school day, Green Team kids take recyclable food waste like banana peels and sandwich crusts up to the composting pile, which ultimately will go back to feed the plants.

Because the spacious garden backs up to Briones open space, volunteer Kathy Hemmenway

comments, “We have a definite gopher problem,” along with birds and squirrels that love to nibble. Their solution: wire mesh framing the base of the raised beds – and strawberry plants in recycle cinder block. With clustered picnic tables and a curved presentation area, along with a shed for tools and equipment, and of course lots of planting areas, the sunny, well-drained site is an ideal outdoor classroom.

The garden boasts a cornucopia of plants from young kiwi trees growing up a homemade rebar teepee, sweet peas, tulips, herbs and a unique edible retaining wall composed of espaliered apple trees featuring red delicious, fuji and gala apples on different branches of the same tree, along with a number of raised beds waiting for seedlings. An amazing feat considering the garden is only a few years old – originally part of the school property, but only recently through a herculean parent effort transformed into its current state.

... continued on page B2

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## Young Author on a Writing Roll

By Lian Walden



Featured author Madeleine Singh, 12, speaks to students at Burton Valley Elementary School during a recent book fair. Photo provided

At age 12 (yes, 12!) with two novels under her belt, aspiring author Madeleine Singh is a young literary force to be reckoned with. She wrote her first novel, “Snowflakes in Paradise,” when she was 11 years old. Writing in between swim practice and camp, Singh says the book took her “the entire summer.”

“Snowflakes in Paradise” is about a girl who goes to Mexico, where it snows on her golden birthday, that extra special day when someone turns the age of her birth date. In the novel, the protagonist turns 11 on the 11th.

Singh wrote her second novel, “Solarman” over the course of a few

months. This story, inspired by her swim team’s mascot, is about the legend of Solarman, who falls from the sun to the earth and makes a hole upon impact, thus creating a swimming pool. Singh found the legend intriguing, particularly because of what it leaves out. She developed the short legend into a full-length novel.

Writing “Solarman” was easier than writing her first novel, she says, because the story was already laid out for her. However, what Singh finds most exciting about writing is getting to control the events. Reading is her favorite hobby, but sometimes she reads and wishes the plot would turn

out differently. “As an author, I get to influence the story,” she says.

A former Burton Valley Elementary student, the Stanley Middle School sixth-grader gave copies of her books to her former teachers, and was asked by the teachers and the PTA to be a featured author at the Burton Valley Elementary Book Fair. She recently spoke at an assembly and read a couple chapters from “Snowflakes in Paradise” to all the third- and fourth-grade classes.

Singh started writing in the fourth grade, after a teacher gave her a creative writing assignment; when asked to write only a few pages, she would write over 20. Interestingly, writing is one of her least favorite subjects, even though she loves to write outside of the classroom.

“In school they make us write the same thing over and over, rewriting rough drafts, instead of writing how we want,” she says. Singh prefers her physical education and art classes. In addition to being a burgeoning author, she is an athlete and an artist. She designed the covers for both her books, which were self-published, and even designed and created her own website.

Singh and her parents are currently editing her third novel, “Pals with Paws,” about a make believe city where unwanted stray dogs are put up for adoption.

To learn more about Singh and her books, visit [www.madeleinesingh.com](http://www.madeleinesingh.com).

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**WHERE:** Moraga Country Club (1600 St. Andrews Dr)

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Questions/comments please contact Kristen Curry at [special.events@campkesemberkeley.org](mailto:special.events@campkesemberkeley.org).

## School Garden Cultivates Learning from the Ground Up

... continued from page B1



Some of the Green Team volunteer moms pictured at the Springhill Garden, from left: Julie Roberts, Mandy Hughes, Nanette Heffernan, Kathy Hemmenway, Meg McAdam and Kendra Loveless

Photo Cathy Tyson

It took a village to get the garden off the ground, and continues to take an army of volunteers to keep it running. Friend of a friend Kelly Bradley helped with the installation of the Burton Valley school garden, and was brought in to assist the staff and parent volunteers with the garden set up, projects and maintenance. Credit parent volunteers who donate time on upkeep and organization, along with supportive school administration and teachers who have embraced the many learning opportunities the garden presents for helping this garden grow.

Green Team volunteers complimented Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and a number of Eagle Scout projects for additions like the very sturdy composting bins, butterfly garden and hand washing station. The garden keeps on giving even after the regular school year; over the summer, families can adopt one of the raised

beds to water and manage.

Springhill Principal Heather Duncan credits the Parent Faculty Club, and adult Green Team volunteers who are dedicated to getting the garden off the ground. “They’ve been incredibly supportive.” That, coupled with hiring a professional outdoor classroom aide to coordinate with teachers and volunteers to bring rigor and excitement, delivers an important lesson of sustainability to the community, said Duncan. The garden has been so successful, that it was chosen by the Contra Costa County Master Gardeners as one of a handful of teaching gardens for other schools that would like to start a similar project.

To raise awareness and money for the garden, Springhill Elementary School’s Green Team will hold a plant sale from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, April 14 on the lower playground of campus at 3301 Springhill

Road, Lafayette. Spring starter plants will be on sale to raise money to benefit the garden. Tomatoes, eggplant, squash, melons, herbs, peppers and more – some planted as seeds by Springhill students – will be supplemented with plants and gardening supplies from Mt. Diablo Nursery.

Parent volunteer Kendra Loveless put together a website for online ordering, which will accept orders through April 1 at [greenteamplantsale.gostorego.com](http://greenteamplantsale.gostorego.com). Plants that are pre-purchased can be picked up at the plant sale. There are a limited number of “Springhill grown” plants, so early orders are encouraged. In addition to plants for sale, there will be gardening activities and tips from master gardeners and refreshments provided by Pancoast Pizza. All proceeds will support the school garden learning center and Springhill’s Green Team program.

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# Building a Life While Helping to Rebuild the World

By Laurie Snyder



Bob and Avis Holt of Lamorinda – nearly 70 years of love and adventure, and still counting. Photo Ohlen Alexander

From the time they set their boots on the ground in France through the wingtips they wore out from the 1950s onward, America's greatest generation helped save the world. They somehow found the strength, even after witnessing the worst of World War II, to put aside their differences for the greater good.

Robert Holt of Lamorinda is a member of that generation. An honest-to-god hero with a Bronze Star and Purple Heart, his is the story of the Americans who came home, and then helped to rebuild shattered and still developing nations. His achievements are so numerous that any chapter from his autobiography would merit its own full newspaper article.

Born in Ellsworth, Iowa to a successful farmer, he attended Iowa State University. While there he met his future wife Avis – at a football game. “We were in love,” she says. “At that time, you felt like you had to grab happiness.”

Participation in ISU's Reserve Officers' Training Corps eventually led to Holt's appointment as the non-commissioned officer over seven other Army recruits. He and Avis married in the fall of 1943; their first child, Renee, was born in 1944 after Holt shipped overseas. “We were assigned to G-2, which is military tactics.... We operated at nighttime; we kept our tanks hidden.”

And then, just before the Battle of the Bulge, their luck ran out. As Germans shelled their tank, Holt was blown free – outside onto what was left of the vehicle. His buddies were killed; he spent months moving from infirmary to bomb-besieged Paris to Cheltenham Spa's hospital, recovering from facial burns and shrapnel wounds to the head, foot and leg. He finished his tour in Ireland, and headed home on Thanksgiving, 1945. He arrived at the same time as Avis' brother who had survived his own hell – as a German prisoner of war. Over the next 10 years, Holt and Avis added son, Rand, and daughters, Robin and Michele, to their family.

Holt returned to Iowa State in 1946, and switched majors to chemical engineering. After graduation, he became a process engineer for Westvaco Chemical Company in Newark, Calif., at a salary of \$271 per month. Like many other veterans, he worked hard, changing jobs and even founding companies as better opportunities opened up.

And then in 1956, he made an even bolder move which changed the Holt family's lives for good. He landed a job with Permanente Cement which, he explains, “was the springboard for the enterprises that Henry J. Kaiser

founded” – aluminum, steel and other companies, including Kaiser Permanente. Kaiser was “a sparkplug and leader,” says Holt.

In 1959, that sparkplug put Holt in charge of finding raw materials to build a cement plant in Hawaii. From there, Holt went on to become the chief chemist for Kaiser's Cushenbury plant. After helping that facility expand, he was promoted to plant manager.

But it was in 1968 when life really took off. Appointed as the Far East production manager for Kaiser's International Division, Holt headed for Okinawa. Avis, Renee and Robin made the move later. “I was managing director of Jalapathan Company and Ryukyu Cement,” says Holt. Oversight of additional plants would follow as Kaiser extended its reach.

Indonesia. Guam. Hong Kong. New Guinea. Khartoum. China. Holt hunted best practices and oversaw operations and services related to the manufacture of materials for the bricks used to line the equipment that made the steel – which helped drive the post-World War II economy. Several facilities were so critical to developing economies that they were dedicated by heads of state.

For the Jalapathan Company of Bangkok, Holt visited an old plant in Takli. “At that time they had quarry workers using hand drills and hanging from the side of the mountain to drill and shoot the limestone,” he says. He modernized procedures with explosives to “increase their production rapidly and be cost efficient.” He also troubleshooted for the 1971 Cha-Am plant opening near the King of Thailand's summer palace. Both Holt and his wife have vivid memories of that facility's dedication.

“The King and his entourage arrived in the afternoon,” says Holt. “The staff and I escorted the King to the control room. I had the starting switches festooned with flowers. I asked the King to press each switch in sequence which started the huge ball mills and the rest of the plant.” Later, the King personally checked out silos at the plant's shipping canal and housing near the seashore.

With success, Holt marched up the executive ladder, as did the Holt children. Grandchildren are now blazing trails, too.

And yet, Bob and Avis Holt are still just a couple of farm kids at heart – wide-eyed and sincerely grateful for their good fortune. “I owe 90 percent to my wife – because she is so good to me,” he smiles.

Having recently turned 90, Holt will mark another milestone with Avis this October as they celebrate their 70th wedding anniversary. One has the sense that they have only just begun.

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**Samira Says**

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

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## “Table of Tears” Mosaic Brings the Marginalized into Focus

By Lou Fancher



One of seven teardrops that together form the “Table of Tears.”

Photo Donna Fado Ivery

If there’s an icon representing the storied life of visual artist Donna Fado Ivery, it would be made of glass.

In 1994, the former United Methodist minister was seated with her family in front of a 200-pound window affording a spectacular view of Lake Tahoe. Ivery and her husband, Hubert, were treating his parents, visiting from the deep South, to a \$5.99 prime rib dinner and their first-ever sighting of snow. Their two children, Aisha and Imani, both under the age of five, were at the table, where water glasses had been filled while they prepared to order.

“I can still see the scattered ice cubes and shards of glass,” Ivery says, remembering in an interview the moment after the too-small screws at the top of the window frame sprung free, releasing the window.

Ivery’s head was crushed, pinned to the table, until her husband managed to haul the massive, injurious panel away. But the devastating contrecoup (multiple) concussion was less easily removed.

Almost 20 years later, she is transforming the shattered pieces of her existence with art.

And in a four year project, inspired by watching mosaicist Jim Wright lead a glass-cutting workshop with children, Ivery has crafted a light-filled, love-laden vessel where the broken become whole.

Her “Table of Tears,” a six-foot diameter stained glass mosaic art piece, is on display through Easter at Orinda’s St. Mark’s United Methodist Church. A stunning, organic, and profound frontispiece, the table is serving as the cornerstone for a series of sermons titled, “Healing the Tears that Bind Us.”

There are no sharp corners on the table, where a central sculpture lifts curved, wave-like shards of orange, red and yellow glass vertically, resembling flames. Instead, the seven lobes—shaped like tears,

vision, chronic head pain, balance issues, uncontrollable tremors, and the inability to read more than one magazine article per week, it’s miraculous.

“Painting saved me. I couldn’t speak, but I could paint my pain,” she says. “I could say ‘Here is what is in my way’ with color. In every painting, I expressed honesty.”

And after each encounter with oil and canvas, Ivery moved one step closer to healing. Not healing for her brain—which remains wracked with pain and a fatigue that, by afternoon, often leaves her incoherent—but reparation of her soul leading her to a gracious, compassionate outlook.

“I can appear completely normal...for about two hours,” she laughs. “But seriously, I had a dramatic healing two years ago and could finally get off pharmaceuticals and walk without a cane. I did brain surgery with the angels. It was amazing.”

She recognizes the humor in her description, but speaks sincerely.

Because she can no longer stand in front of a congregation and preach messages of grace for the marginalized, Ivery has established Spirit Brush Arts, a home business. Her one-of-a-kind, hand-painted scarves and note cards offer tangible objects for gift-giving aimed at recovery.

“I’ve had moments when I have thought, ‘Where is the handle of hope?’ I know that when everything is cleaved, Jesus is the one that walks that lonesome valley of suffering with me,” she says.

It’s impossible to separate Ivery from the sturdy, faith-filled foundation she shares with her husband of 27 years, who became St. Mark’s pastor on July 1, 2012.

And it’s impossible for her to accept the judgment and condemnation loaded on the backs of the people depicted in the “Table of Tears.”

Admitting that she is a “rare bird,” Ivery says she plans to continue relying on “the touchstones of truth” to tell her story—and on painting, to carry her beyond pain to prayer and praise.



Artist Donna Fado Ivery sits in front of the “Table of Tears” with husband Hubert Ivery, pastor at St. Mark’s United Methodist Church in Orinda.

Photo Jennifer Wake

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## Two Local Students Head to National Geographic Bee State Finals



Samuel SooHoo, Orinda Intermediate School's geography bee winner  
Photos provided



Adriana Derksen, Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School's geography bee winner

Orinda Intermediate School seventh-grader Samuel SooHoo and Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School sixth-grader Adriana Derksen qualified to represent their schools and participate at the state level of the National Geographic Bee, sponsored by Google and Plum Creek, to be held April 5 in Sacramento.

this year, with only the top 109 students in California advancing to the state level. The top 10 students overall will advance to the final rounds.

The state winner will receive \$100, the "Complete National Geographic" on DVD, and a trip to Washington, D.C. where he/she will represent California in the national finals at National Geographic headquarters May 20-22. The first-place national winner will receive a \$25,000 college scholarship and lifetime membership in the society.

After winning their individual school bee, the students took a qualifying test, which they submitted to the National Geographic Society. More than 2,000 schools competed

J. Wake

## National Honors for Three Oakland Strokes Rowers

Submitted by Steve Johnson



From left, Elizabeth Pate, Caroline Carper and Matthew Coupin. Photo Provided

USRowing recently announced its Scholastic Honor Roll and three Oakland Strokes Rowers made the list. The US Rowing Scholastic Honor Roll recognizes high school seniors who have excelled in both academics and rowing. Applicants must be USRowing members, have rowed or coxed at least one year, and successfully competed at or above the league or regional level. Elizabeth

Pate and Matthew Coupin, both of Miramonte High School in Orinda were among the 55 student athletes designated. Caroline Carper who attends Alameda High School was one of 73 named in the Honorable Mention category. This fall, Pate will row on the women's lightweight team at Harvard University, Coupin will row men's heavyweight at MIT, and Carper will cox at Brown University.



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**Editor:** Lee Borrowman; lee@lamorindaweekly.com  
**Associate Editor:** Jennifer Wake; jennifer@lamorindaweekly.com  
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Wendy Scheck; wendy@lamorindaweekly.com  
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**Staff Writers:**  
Sophie Braccini; sophie@lamorindaweekly.com  
Cathy Tyson; cathy@lamorindaweekly.com  
Laurie Snyder; laurie@lamorindaweekly.com  
Cathy Dausman; cathy.d@lamorindaweekly.com  
Sports Editor: Caitlin Graveson sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com  
Teen Coach: Cynthia Brian; cynthia@lamorindaweekly.com  
Food: Susie Iventosch; suziventosch@gmail.com  
**Contributing Writers:** Andrea A. Firth, Conrad Bassett, Moya Stone, Roslyn Aragon Stenzel, Michael Sakoda, Symon Tryzna, Rebecca Eckland, Marissa Harnett, Lou Fancher, Nick Marnell, Lian Walden, Barry Hunau (cartoonist)  
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# Easter Activities for Everyone

## Lafayette Rotary's Annual Spring Egg Roll



Photo Doug Kohen

The Lafayette Rotary Club's annual egg hunt, open to all children ages 2-9, will start promptly at 10 a.m. Saturday, March 30 at Lafayette Plaza (corner of Mt. Diablo Boulevard and Moraga Road) in Lafayette. The park lawn will be covered with candy for the kids to put in their baskets – the youngest are always given extra time to get their share! The Bunny will be there to take pictures with the kids.

## Orinda Rotary Annual Spring Egg Hunt



"Big Bunny" at last year's event

Orinda Rotary's Annual Spring Egg Hunt will take place at 10:45 a.m. Saturday, March 30 in the Orinda Community Center Park. This free event – a favorite for parents of toddlers, kindergartners and young children up to age 7 only – will feature over 1,000 eggs, 40-plus prizes and photos with "Big Bunny." Light refreshments will be available for the kids, along with coffee and pastries for the grown-ups. Plan to arrive early and be sure to bring a basket!

Photo provided

## Last Supper Drama



Photo provided

Cast members Paul Renno, Jacob White, Don Keeble and Dale Newcomb practice for a reenactment of the Last Supper with Jesus and the 12 disciples scheduled at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 28 at the Lafayette United

Methodist Church, 955 Moraga Rd., Lafayette. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, call (925) 284-4765 or email office@thelumc.org.

## Easter Bunny Pics in Moraga

Come take a photo with the Easter Bunny from noon to 3 p.m. Saturday, March 30 at Rheem Valley Shopping Center in Moraga – next to Starbucks Coffee. There will be Easter clowns, an Easter Fairy and balloon art, too. The photo session is free with your Rheem Valley Shopping Center receipts totaling \$25 or with a coupon available to print at [www.rheemvalley.net](http://www.rheemvalley.net).

## Bunny Brunch

Lafayette Community Center Foundation's annual Bunny Brunch and show will be held from 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Saturday, March 30 in the Live Oak Room of the Lafayette Community Center, 500 St. Mary's Rd., Lafayette. The pancake breakfast runs from 11 to 11:30 a.m. and the egg hunt begins at noon. Tickets are available online for \$7 each through March 29 at [www.lafayetterec.org](http://www.lafayetterec.org), or \$9 at the event.

## Family Fun Day at Theatre Square

Enjoy a day of free family fun from 2 to 5 p.m. Saturday, March 30 at Orinda Theatre Square. Activities include: a bouncy house, rock climbing wall, face painting and even a photo booth to capture the magic of the day! The bouncy house fun kicks off at noon.

# You're Invited To Take a Photo\* with the Easter Bunny

So Bring Your Camera!

Saturday, March 30<sup>th</sup> ☼ 12:00 Noon to 3:00 p.m.

Look for the event in the suite next door to Starbucks Coffee.

Easter Clowns ☼ Easter Fairy ☼ Balloon Art

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## As Seen in Lamorinda...

### Tortoises Take Trek for Grassy Treat

Although these good looking African Spurred Tortoises usually call the Sahara desert home, Lorenzo Ruiz of Moraga brought 14-year-old Leo and 8-year-old Donny to the Moraga Commons so they could stretch their legs and nibble some grass. Along with girlfriend Courtney Daum, the two posed with the pets. Ruiz mentioned his parents like these tortoises – a good thing since they'll be taking care of the pair when the Campolindo junior presumably heads off to college next year. The species can live up to about 50 years in captivity. The shelled boys were tooling around at a surprisingly quick pace; Ruiz and Daum had to constantly wrangle them back to the grass. C. Tyson



Photo Cathy Tyson

# “A Royal Affair”

By Sophie Braccini



Photo provided

Something is glamorous in the Kingdom of Denmark. From that country comes to Orinda April 5 a story of intrigue and love on a backdrop of factual 18th century history in the film “A Royal Affair.”

Few Americans know the importance German doctor Johann Friedrich Struensee had in the battle between enlightenment and obscurity in 18th century Europe. Struensee (played by Mads Mikkelsen, “The Hunt,” “Casino Royale”) was recruited by progressive members of the Danish Court to take care of King Christian VII (Mikkel Boe Følsgaard) in 1770. The immature, libertine and manic-depressive king was neither the embodiment of a great monarch nor a decent husband to the young British princess Caroline Mathilda (Alicia Vikander), who was married to him at age 16.

Thanks to the trust he placed in Struensee, a reader of Rousseau and Voltaire who had himself written a few pamphlets on freedom, the monarch transformed into a progressive king, infuriating the more conservative amongst his court. Then, an attraction between the queen and the doctor materialized into a romance that precipitated their demise.

The friendship between the king and his doctor, with trust and manipulation intertwined, adds spice to the story. Danish star Mikkelsen is almost overshadowed by much less known Følsgaard as the weak but touching king.

Følsgaard’s portrayal is at times frightening, at times charming, and often unsettling. The movie is proba-

bly on its way to become an international success; it was very well received at the Berlin International Film Festival, where Følsgaard won for Best Actor (Nikolaj Arcel and Rasmus Heisterberg won for Best Script). The young Swedish actress Alicia Vikander gives a contemporary interpretation of the life of the very young queen – most of the story happens before she even turns 20 – who was ready to embrace progressive ideas and passionate love.

The historical element of the movie should not be overlooked. The list of reforms engaged by Struensee during his short years at the top of the Danish state is incredible, including the abolition of torture, un-free labor (corvée), the censorship of the press, noble privileges, the slave trade in the Danish colonies, the etiquette rules at the Royal Court, and state funding of unproductive manufacturers.

There was also an introduction of a tax on gambling and luxury horses to fund nursing, criminalization and punishment of bribery, reorganization of the judicial institutions to minimize corruption, introduction of state-owned grain storages to balance out the grain price, assignment of farmland to peasants, reorganization and reduction of the army, university reforms, reform of the state-owned medical institutions. And all this was done peacefully, without war or revolution.

After Struensee’s demise, queen dowager Juliana Maria and her conservative supporters who seized power repelled most of these reforms, but Frederick’s son re-enacted most

of them years later.

Director Nikolaj Arcel offers a rendition of this true story, giving it the shape and appeal of a romantic drama.

“A Royal Affair” will be shown for one week starting April 5 at the Orinda Theatre as part of the International Film Showcase. For more information, visit lamorindatheatres.com.

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# THE APP RAP

By Alex Pawlakos

**App:** Google Goggles, by Google Inc.  
**For:** All smartphones  
**Price:** \$1.99

Google Goggles is a clever vision recognition app that can analyze pictures taken with your phone to give you some very useful information. For example, travelers use Google Goggles to take pictures of anything written in a foreign language and have it instantly translated. This is very useful if you are in a foreign country trying to decipher a menu, read a street sign, or understand information in a museum or store. Just take a picture and read the translation. You can also take pictures of any landmarks that interest you. This app will not only identify the landmark, it will give you details and historical facts. This feature is terrific for art lovers because Google Goggles will identify the piece of art and tell you all about the piece. Of course, you don’t have to be an art lover or a traveler to find a use for this app. For example, if you take a picture of someone’s business card, a contact

profile will be automatically created in your phone’s database. You can then add the information on the card to your contacts. When shopping, you can take a picture of a bar code and instantly access a product search on the web. Google’s vision recognition technology makes this app very useful for a wide variety of users and innumerable circumstances.



Alex Pawlakos enjoys biking, weightlifting, and tutoring in his spare time. He is a reporter on Express Yourself!™ Teen Radio.

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# Odyssey of the Mind State Champions Advance to the World Tournament

Submitted by Beverley Sopak



Photo provided

Glorietta Elementary School's fifth-grade Odyssey of the Mind team - Sarah Inouye, Sullivan Jordan, Caroline Kim, Leah Sopak and Stephanie Wu, Coach Michael Kim and Amy Inouye - took first place last Saturday at the Odyssey of the Mind State tournament. This follows their first place finish at the regional competition. Their 15-gram, 8-inch tall balsa wood structure supported 530 pounds,

traveled down a ramp and then moved to the weight tester without being touched - all of this incorporated and presented in a creative 8-minute commercial. The team was judged on weight held, creativity and ability to solve a separate spontaneous problem. The team will be representing the state of California, Orinda and Glorietta at the World Finals May 22-25 in Michigan.

# Moraga Rotary Team C Advances to Odyssey of the Mind World Finals

Submitted by Zhan Li



Photo provided

Moraga Rotary Club Team C members and coach, from left: Navid Boozarpour, Anshula Srivastava, Omid Boozarpour (coach), Meera Ramesh, Jake Oxendine, Maya Ramesh, Ming Qian, and Austen Li.

Every year the Moraga Rotary Club sponsors teams of all ages from local schools to compete in Odyssey of the Mind, which is designed to test creativity and intuition by giving teams open ended problems and challenging them to create unconventional solutions.

ple problem on the spot without any preparation. They took first place in the spontaneous portion of the regional competition by a large margin, boosting the team to second place overall.

The Moraga Rotary Club Team C, a team of eighth-graders from Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School, successfully competed against 15 other teams and took second place in their division for their problem, "ARTchitecture: The Musical," March 2 at the San Francisco Bay Regional Tournament in Concord.

Reflecting on the competition, the team coach, Omid Boozarpour, a junior at Campolindo High School, stated: "Over the course of the season we had some struggles, at one point I wasn't even sure that they [the kids] were going to finish. But in the end they pulled together and got the win."

The competition consisted of two parts: spontaneous and long-term. For a team to win it must be fairly strong in both aspects. Teams decided on a long-term problem in last October and worked on their solutions, in this case an eight-minute skit, until early March. The Spontaneous section requires the team to solve a sim-

The second-place win qualified them for the state tournament held last Saturday in Brentwood where the team won a top slot, and a chance to compete at the World Finals held at Michigan State University in May.

The team would like to thank the Moraga Rotary Club for sponsoring them for many years.

# TEEN SCENE

## Technology Crosses the Line with Lulu App

By Youngjoo Ahn

With the recent boom of technology, the way we buy products has changed. Instead of going to a physical location, we now have the option of ordering everything from clothes to computer products to home furniture online. Websites such as Yelp.com offer invaluable services to compare different restaurants and other businesses for optimal quality. Applications like RedLaser and Price Check from Amazon allow users to compare prices for the cheapest buy.

of a first and last name, the opportunity for a first impression is erased.

"Although I wouldn't base my opinion of an individual on a rating, Lulu takes away the power of the first impression," junior Arianna Tong said. "Because even though we're taught not to judge people we've never talked to or met, we can't help but base our opinions off general opinions. It's human nature."

The prevalent use of social media has increased the potential for success and flop for businesses, museums, and even movies. Technology has enabled us to find the best product in the least amount of time at the lowest price. Why waste time in a terrible restaurant when Yelp.com is telling you that there's a fantastic Italian restaurant down the street? There are websites or apps for book suggestions, clothing and style suggestions, and even dating suggestions.

On blog.onlulu.com, the makers of this app state that finding love is complicated and time consuming. This app would allow women to narrow down their choices quickly and efficiently, like scouring Amazon.com for the best camera case. Love and relationships should be built on personal connections that have nothing to do with ratings. Relationships should take time and effort. This app and apps like this will cause nothing but idle speculation, gossip, and the loss of personal connections.

These websites may be incredibly helpful in everyday life, but when is technology going a step too far? There have been online dating websites like eHarmony or Match.com, where one can create an online persona and meet people through the web. However, the app Lulu goes one alarming step further by labeling men as one would label and rate a business or a movie. The categories for ratings include attractiveness, intelligence, manners, and more - all accompanied by a picture and basic information, like relationship status gathered from Facebook. Scarily enough, any guy who has a Facebook account has automatically been downloaded onto this program without any prior permission.

The Lulu App takes away the element of surprise and the excitement of a first meeting with a male. How far will we allow technology to invade our private spaces before saying no? Humans are not simple products that come with a bar code and a list of features. How reliable is an app that chooses our friends and lovers?

I rarely say this, but to me technology has crossed the line.

Miramonte High junior, Youngjoo Ahn is the Co-President of Club Be the Star You Are!® and Host of the international teen radio show, Express Yourself™

"I didn't even know my information was a part of this app. I don't understand how they could just access my Facebook profile like this," one male student commented.



This app has disregarded the fact that people deserve to be treated like people and not objects that can be bought and sold. I understand the usefulness of comparing restaurants and different types of rugs, but comparing people is a form of bullying. Whatever happened to the connection that people get from meeting face to face? This app is creating rumors about people and could possibly ruin relationships and reputations based on statements that may or may not be true.

First impressions are very important and have always been important, until now. Lulu introduces a person based on what other people think about them. With the simple search

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

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

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# Easter Ideas

By Susie Iventosch



Cooking eggs in the oven to a hard boiled stage  
Photos Susie Iventosch

Easter Sunday is a great day for brunch and this savory bread pudding can be used as the main dish along with fresh fruit and bacon or sausage on the side, or as a side dish to accompany a roast, chicken, turkey or ham. The idea for this recipe is the combination of two different dishes I have enjoyed in recent years.

Though I had always thought of bread pudding as a sweet dish with raisins, cinnamon and maybe a little

maple syrup, my friend, Carol, introduced me to a savory mushroom bread pudding she served as a dinner side dish. It was marvelous! Then, I discovered a spinach-artichoke bread pudding from Preservation Bread & Wine in Geneva, Illinois. This one was topped with browned feta cheese on top, and it, too, was divine.

So, I thought, why not combine these two ideas and that's how this spinach-mushroom-Gruyere bread pudding came to be! I would suggest that you could use your favorite cheese in this recipe. Gruyere happens to be one of my favorites, but sharp white cheddar, smoked gouda or even feta would be delicious! Also, bite-sized pieces of canned or frozen artichoke heart would be a great addition, and I would suggest roasting them with the mushrooms, or even instead of mushrooms, if you prefer.

On another Easter note, a friend of mine sent me an email indicating eggs could be hard-cooked by baking them in the oven. I was skeptical, since we have always boiled them, but decided to give it a try. Voila! It worked. You simply place the raw eggs in your muffin tin, one egg in each cup, and bake at 325 degrees for 25 to 30 minutes. None of them cracked either, as they often do when boiling them in a pot! This might be a good idea for Easter egg coloring this year!

## Lynn's Top Five

# All About the New Tax Law Provisions

By Lynn Ballou, CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™

If you are like me, every day you come across something about the newest tax laws. Between our federal and state governments, on one level or another, most of us got hit with a few whammies. One or two alone may not feel like such a big deal, but when you add them all up, it can be a bit overwhelming!

As you work with your tax advisors this year, a big part of your work together won't be "just" preparing your 2012 tax returns, but also thinking through how your 2013 tax return might look very different and what you need to do about changing your withholding or estimated taxes so you aren't caught short next year. Here are five points that deserve your attention now:

1) It's back to the future with payroll taxes: say good-bye to the 2 percent relief you saw for FICA reductions. For employees, welcome back to the full 6.2 percent FICA cost. You know because you've already seen the haircut hit your paycheck. If you are self employed, be prepared to pony up the extra when your first estimated taxes are due on April 15.

2) Whether you are an employee or self-employed, your wages are also going to be hit with an extra 0.09 percent Medicare tax if you earn more than \$200,000 (single) and \$250,000 (married filing jointly). IMPORTANT: Be particularly alert if you work two or more jobs because your employers might not withhold enough and you'll need to pay the extra when you file your return next year. And if you are married, this is really going to sneak up on you because as a married couple who may individually not hit the threshold, filing jointly you easily can. Local well-known CPA, Linda LaHonta, points out, "There are two issues to note on this tax. One, the tax applies to all wages subject to the Medicare tax so this is gross compensation before 401(k) contributions or other pre-tax deductions. Two, for self-employed people that normally get a deduction for one-half of their self-employment tax, they will not be allowed a deduction for any of this additional Medicare tax."

3) More tax fun comes at us with the 3.8 percent investment income surtax. Not a simple calculation --- the IRS rules on how to calculate this tax are already 159 pages long! Grossly simplified, you need to know that if your income is greater than \$200,000 if you are single and \$250,000 if you are married, and some of that is from investments, you will most likely be subject to the surtax. Collaborate with your tax accountant and your CFP® professional to figure out steps you might be able to take to help minimize your exposure.

4) For Californians, Proposition 30 just passed in November and was retroactive to January 2012 (I bet a lot of voters missed that!) and increases tax rates dramatically. The top rate used to be 9.3 percent and now has increased to 12.3 percent. If you are making over one million per year, then you get to pay another surtax of 1 percent, called the mental health

surcharge, making the top rate in California 13.3 percent. I guess that's both the good and the bad news, right?

5) Any good news? If you own a business, your firm can write off up to \$500,000 of depreciable assets in one year under section 179 for 2012 and 2013 (the max was \$125,000 in 2011). Congress's intent? Stimulate the economy by encouraging business spending. And along similar lines, The Research Tax Credit and Work Opportunities Tax Credit were both resurrected. The Work Opportunities Tax Credit provides helpful tax credits to those businesses who hire veterans and those coming off government assistance.

6) Okay, I'm cheating and tossing in an extra bonus point! Phase outs! I cannot skip this because it's like a sneaker wave and will affect many of you because it's not a surtax or outright rate increase--- instead it's a potential and possibly significant reduction to your personal exemptions and your itemized deductions. Personal exemption phase outs and itemized deduction phase outs start at \$250,000 for singles and \$300,000 for married couples. A few itemized deduction categories are exempt, but you could lose as much as 80 percent of those that aren't. Yikes! Linda, whose practice is in Lafayette says, "Be careful if you are asked what your marginal tax rate is. The phase outs of the personal exemptions and itemized deductions can increase the actual tax rate that you are paying along with all the new taxes. Your tax bracket could be much higher than you think."

I can only sympathize with how super busy you are. But I encourage you to take the time to really familiarize yourselves with these new laws and discuss with your tax advisors how they will affect you in your unique individual situation, as this is just a very tiny peek at a few provisions. In future columns I'll cover more about the new tax laws and also the new medical insurance exchange in California and what it means to us individually and as business owners. Are we having fun yet?



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

## Easter Spinach-Gruyere Bread Pudding

### INGREDIENTS

- 8-10 medium sized cremini (or baby bella) mushrooms, sliced or quartered
- 1-2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1/2 teaspoon sea salt
- 3-4 ounces fresh spinach, chopped in food processor to about 1 1/4 cups, packed
- 1 large shallot, chopped
- 4 large eggs
- 1 1/2 cups milk (or half & half)
- 1 1/2 cups grated Gruyere cheese (1 cup inside and 1/2 cup for sprinkling on top)
- Salt & pepper to taste
- Dash Worcestershire sauce
- Dash nutmeg
- 4 cups bite-sized cubes of French bread



Easter Brunch Spinach-Mushroom-Gruyere Savory Bread Pudding

### DIRECTIONS

Cut or slice mushrooms and toss in just a little bit of olive oil and sea salt. Place on greased baking sheet and roast at 400 degrees for about 10-12 minutes, or until beginning to brown and liquid is evaporated.

Meanwhile, chop about half of a 6-ounce bag of fresh spinach in your little food processor until finely chopped. Place spinach in a bowl along with eggs, shallots, mushrooms, milk, 1 cup of the grated Gruyere, S&P, nutmeg and Worcestershire. Mix well.

Toss bread cubes into mixture and stir so that all of the bread is moistened by the egg mixture. Let sit for about 15 minutes for bread to start to absorb egg mixture. Pour into a greased 8x8 inch baking dish (or a dish of comparable volume) and sprinkle remaining cheese evenly over top.

Bake at 350 degrees for 40-45 minutes, and cheese is browned and bubbly on top. Serve warm.

Susie Iventosch is the author of Tax Bites and Tasty Morsels, which can be found at Across the Way in Moraga, www.amazon.com, and www.taxbites.net. Susie can be reached at suziventosch@gmail.com.

This recipe can be found on our website: www.lamorindaweekly.com. If you would like to share your favorite recipe with Susie please contact her by email or call our office at (925) 377-0977.



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## ART

The Moraga Art Gallery's new show, "Divine Inspiration," includes

paintings of Saint Mary's College by resident artist Barbara Hudler Cella, and stone and glass crochet beadwork by guest artist Mona Bourell. The

show, which runs through June 1, will include works by the gallery's 14 resident artists and several guest artists. The gallery is located in the Rheem Shopping Center, 522 Center Street, Moraga. An opening reception will take place from 3 to 5 p.m. Saturday, March 30. The show and reception are free and open to the public. For more information, visit [www.moragaart-gallery.com](http://www.moragaart-gallery.com) or call (925) 376-5407.

**Saint Mary's College Museum of Art exhibition – Carnival!** Exhibits include *In Search of the Source: the Nile and Beyond* by Lockwood de Forest; Ryan Reynolds: *Landscape Assembled*; Keith and the California Alps: paintings from the 1870s, '80s, and '90s — through April 14, Wednesday through Sunday from 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Saint Mary's College, 1928 Saint Mary's Rd., Moraga. Cost: \$5 for adults; free for kids K-12. For more info, call (925) 631-4379 or visit [www.stmarys-ca.edu/museum](http://www.stmarys-ca.edu/museum).

**Join Valley Stitchers and Fiber Arts Guild, "No Foolin',"** to hear Susan Heller discuss her various outstanding quilted masks, and show how they are an integral part of the spiritual lives of the peoples she studies. Her inspiration comes from the original masks of various ethnic groups of Africa and New Guinea at 10 a.m. Monday, April 1 at the Faith Lutheran Church, 50 Woodsworth Ln., Pleasant Hill. For questions or info, please call Sheila Rogstad at (925) 945-1338 or visit [quiltedbysusanheller.com](http://quiltedbysusanheller.com).

**Four members of the Lafayette Gallery currently** have their art works on display in the conference room at the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce in downtown Lafayette, 100 Lafayette Circle. The artists are: Susan Erickson, acrylics and mixed-media collages, Warren Rice, photographs, Debby Koonce, oil paintings and Marsha Ramp, oil paintings. For info, call (925) 284-7404. This is an ongoing, free exhibit, open to the public, with no reservations needed. The artwork is updated on a regular basis.

**High school student artists in the 11th District are invited** to submit an original painting, drawing or other art form for the Annual Congressional Art Competition. One student's work will be selected by a judging panel of local artists to hang in the U.S. Capitol Building for one year along with student artwork from across the country. The winning student will also be flown to Washington, D.C. in June for the Annual Congressional Art Competition reception. Artwork is due the week of April 15. Artwork must be accompanied by a Student Release Form. For more information, please contact Adrienne Ursino at (925) 602-1880.

## MUSIC

**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 81 Lafayette Circle, Lafayette. Cost: \$5. For more info, contact Laura Zucker by email at [zuckers@aol.com](mailto:zuckers@aol.com) or visit [www.westcoastsongwriters.org/become-a-member](http://www.westcoastsongwriters.org/become-a-member).

**A free concert performed by the members of the Contra Costa Performing Arts Society** opens with the sextet for piano and woodwinds by Czech composer Bohuslav Martinu, followed by his Three Madrigals for Violin and Viola. The program concludes with Beethoven's String Quartet in C Major at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 9 at Mt. Diablo Unitarian Universalist Church, 55 Eckley Lane, Walnut Creek. Classical instrumental music. Free. For info, visit [www.ccpas.org](http://www.ccpas.org)

**Bentley School will host its first annual Jazz Festival** in Lafayette at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, April 20. The show will open with performances from the Bentley Jazz Master Class and the Stanley School Jazz Messengers. The festival also includes performances from Bentley's Director of Jazz Studies, Brian Pardo, who will be accompanied by his wife Lynn Ray, an accomplished musician in the R&B

and Gospel communities. Well-known Smooth Jazz artist and producer Ray Obiedo will also take the stage. Special guests and members of Santana, including Pete Escovedo, Maceo Parker, and Sheila E. will be backing the musicians during the show. Tickets will be sold at the door.

**Embark on a musical journey through Paris in the Walnut Creek Library** with versatile and popular vocalist Lorna K and her talented band of accordion, bass, and guitar musicians at 7 p.m. Sunday, April 24, courtesy of the Walnut Creek Foundation. Enjoy an evening of French music in the style of Edith Piaf. Lorna has an elaborate repertoire of French standards and with her combo she has enjoyed extensive engagements in many San Francisco night spots including Enrico's, Café de la Presse, House of Shields and Shanghai 1930. Come to listen to Lorna and you will regret nothing. Free. Due to space limitations, pre-registration is required at: <http://tinyurl.com/chanson-realiste-2013>.

## THEATER

**The Performing Arts Department at Saint Mary's College** will present "A Lie of the Mind" by Sam Shepard as their spring production April 24-27 at 7 p.m. and April 28 at 2 p.m. in LeFevre Theatre, Saint Mary's College, 1928 St. Mary's Rd. Tickets: general \$15; Seniors (65+) \$12; non-SMC students \$12; Saint Mary's College community of faculty, staff and students \$8. For more info and reservations call the Saint Mary's College Theatre Box Office at (925) 631-4670. Tickets are also available online at [www.brownpapertickets.com](http://www.brownpapertickets.com).

**DVC Drama presents Shakespeare's Classic Richard III**, directed by Beth McBrien through April, 7321 Golf Club Rd, Pleasant Hill. For show times and tickets call the Box Office at (925) 687-4445 or visit [www.dvc-drama.net](http://www.dvc-drama.net). Free parking for all performances.

**Last Supper Re-enactment. The public is invited** to a dramatic re-enactment of the Last Supper at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 28 at the Lafayette United Methodist Church, 955 Moraga Rd. (See Easter Events listing page B6)

## LECTURE &amp; LITERATURE

**Holden High School presents the third in its Meet the Writer series** featuring poet, playwright and essayist Alison Luterman from 7 to 9 p.m. Thursday, April 4 at the Orinda Community Church Fellowship Hall and will include refreshments and an opportunity to talk with Luterman about her poetry as well as her other literary and performance work. Tickets: \$10. For reservations, call the school at (925) 254-0199 or email [office@holden-high.org](mailto:office@holden-high.org). Mail checks to Holden High School, 10 Irwin Way, Orinda, CA 94563. Tickets also available at the door.

## KIDS, PARENTS &amp; TEENS

**The 2013 LPIE Science Expo is coming to Stanley Middle School** from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 27. Lafayette Partners in Education (LPIE) will be sponsoring the 2013 Science Expo at Stanley Middle School. The Expo, held bi-annually, offers community members, parents, and students of all ages the opportunity to learn about the wonders of science, engineering, and technology through interactive exhibits from both exhibitors and students. For an updated list of exhibits, visit [www.stanleypta.org/lpie-science-expo](http://www.stanleypta.org/lpie-science-expo).

**Orinda Rotary's Free Annual Spring Egg Hunt** will take place at 10:45 a.m. Saturday, March 30 in the Orinda Community Center Park. (See Easter Events listing page B6)

**The Lafayette Rotary Club's "Annual Egg Hunt"** for children ages 2-9 starting will start promptly at 10 a.m. Saturday, March 30 at Lafayette Plaza (corner of Mt. Diablo Boulevard and Moraga Road). (See Easter Events listing page B6)

**Easter Bunny Pics in Moraga. Come take a photo** with the Easter Bunny from noon to 3 p.m. Saturday,

March 30 at Rheem Valley Shopping Center in Moraga – next to Starbucks Coffee. (See Easter Events listing page B6)

**Bunny Brunch. Lafayette Community Center Foundation's** annual Bunny Brunch and show will be held from 11 a.m. to 12:15 on Saturday, March 30 in the Live Oak Room of the Lafayette Community Center, 500 St. Mary's Rd in Lafayette. (See Easter Events listing page B6)

**Enjoy a day of free family fun at Orinda Theatre Square** from 2 to 5 p.m. Saturday, March 30 with the bouncy house fun kicking off at noon. Activities also include: a rock climbing wall, face painting, live music, pony rides with a petting zoo, and even a photo booth! (See Easter Events listing page B6)

**The 8th Annual Lamorinda Idol auditions are coming!** Created and sponsored by the Orinda Arts Council, Lamorinda Idol is a singing competition open to kids K-12th grade as of spring 2013 who either attend school or reside in Orinda, Moraga and Lafayette. Entries may be made by soloists or groups. Auditions will be held May 16 - 18, when finalists and runners-up will be selected by a panel of three judges. Registration for auditions will be from April 1 - 30 at [www.orindaartscouncil.org](http://www.orindaartscouncil.org). Finalists will perform at Orinda Theatre Sunday, Sept. 8. Category winners will receive cash prizes, the Audience Award winner will receive a special prize and all finalists will receive gift certificates.

**Springhill Elementary School's Green Team announces** their second annual Plant Sale from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, April 14 on the Springhill campus, 3301 Springhill Rd. on the lower playground. A perfect outing for the whole family! Online orders are available through April 1 by visiting [greenteamplantsale.gostorego.com](http://greenteamplantsale.gostorego.com). Pre-purchased plants will be available for pickup during the sale. Proceeds from the sale will benefit Springhill's Green Team & Outdoor Classroom. (See story page B2)

**The Friends of the Orinda Library is excited to announce** the commencement of 2013's Poul Anderson Creative Writing Contest, open to all students who reside and/or attend high school in Orinda. Entry categories are: Science Fiction, Essay/Memoir, Poetry and Short Story. Students may submit one entry in any of the four categories for a total of not more than three entries. Submission deadline is at noon Friday, April 18. Up to four winners will each be awarded \$250 prizes. Entries should be submitted to individual school representatives. For additional info, visit [www.friendsoftheorindalibrary.org](http://www.friendsoftheorindalibrary.org) or email Julie Rossiter, at [jjrossiter@me.com](mailto:jjrossiter@me.com).

**Seedling's Preschool 15th Annual Wheel Day!** For kids who love anything to do with wheels! The event promises numerous vehicles including construction, public safety, and public transport vehicles for your viewing, climbing and a horn honking good time from 10 a.m. - noon Saturday, April 20 at the Lafayette Orinda Presbyterian Church 49 Knox Dr, Lafayette. Free. Please consider bringing a non-perishable food item to be donated to Monument Crisis Center.

## OTHER

**Hospice of the East Bay is seeking volunteers to assist Hospice patients** and their caregivers. Opportunities include: Licensed Hair Stylists to offer haircuts and styling, Certified Massage Therapists to provide massage therapy, mobile notaries to witness the signing of important documents, bereavement support volunteers to provide support to family members after their loved one has died, and patient support volunteers to provide companionship and practical assistance. To apply for free training call Hospice of the East Bay at (925) 887-5678, and ask for the volunteer department, or email [volunteers@hospiceeastbay.org](mailto:volunteers@hospiceeastbay.org).

... continued on next page

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

## Lamorinda's Religious Services



### The Orinda Community Church

10 Irwin Way, Orinda | 925.254.4906 | [www.orindachurch.org](http://www.orindachurch.org)

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

Join us Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

### St. Anselm's Episcopal Church

A Loving Community

Sunday Services: 8 and 10 AM

In-church Youth Zone, 10 AM Nursery Childcare  
682 Michael Lane, Lafayette, 284-7420, [www.stanselms.ws](http://www.stanselms.ws)



### Lafayette United Methodist Church

955 Moraga Rd., Lafayette,  
284-4765, [office@thelumc.org](mailto:office@thelumc.org)

Informal Worship	Friday	6 pm	Mar 15, 22
Worship	Sunday	10 am	Mar 17, 22
Last Supper Drama (a re-enactment)	Thursday	7 pm	Mar 28
Stations of the Cross (self-meditations)	Friday	11:30 am & 5 pm	Mar 29
Easter Worship	Sunday	8:30 & 10:30 am	Mar 31

Get connected.

Grow in your faith.  
Serve others.



Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church  
Sunday Worship 9 & 11:00 a.m.  
Programs for children & youth

49 Knox Drive | Lafayette | [www.LOPC.org](http://www.LOPC.org) | 925-283-8722

## ORINDA CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH

24 Orinda Way (next to the Library) - 254-4212

Sunday Service and Sunday School 10 - 11 am  
Informal Wednesday Meeting 7:30 - 8:30 pm  
Reading Room/Bookstore M - F 11 - 4; Sat 10 - 1  
[www.christianscienceorinda.org](http://www.christianscienceorinda.org)

### Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church

433 Moraga Way, Orinda, 254-3422  
[www.holyshepherd.org](http://www.holyshepherd.org)



8:15 a.m. Traditions Worship Service  
9:40 a.m. Education for all ages  
10:45 a.m. Contemporary Worship Service  
Coffee Fellowship at 9:15 and 11:45 a.m.  
Childcare available for ages 5 and younger



### St. Giles Episcopal Church

An Inclusive & Affirming Community

Sunday School & Eucharist at 9am  
St. Mary's College Chapel  
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Good Friday  
Meal & brief service  
March 29th @ 6:30pm

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Easter Sunday

Refuge Community Church March 31st @ 10:00am  
155 Moraga Rd. Moraga 925.942.1000 [refugecommunity.org](http://refugecommunity.org)



### St Stephen's Episcopal Church

66 St. Stephen's Drive, Orinda  
254-3770. [www.ststephensorinda.org](http://www.ststephensorinda.org)  
Sunday 8am, 10am &  
5:30p.m. Casual Eucharist

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

**OTHER ... continued**

**Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church will hold a candle lit Taize' style Maundy service at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 28.** Communion will be offered to those who desire it and the opportunity for healing prayers will be provided. Music will be in the Taize' style. Child care is provided in the two-story building immediately to the left of the Sanctuary. All are welcome.

**First Friday Forum "Update on the New Oakland/San Francisco Bay Bridge"** at 1:30 p.m. Friday, April 5 in the Sanctuary of the Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Drive, Lafayette. Victor Gauthier, communications associate and tour program manager will provide information on the current construction site, which is the largest infrastructure project in California history, as well as on the history of the Bay Bridge. Refreshments are served at 1 p.m. For more info, call (925) 283-8722 or click on LOPC.org.

**The community of Canyon will host a multi-agency wildfire meeting** from 7 to 9 p.m. Wednesday, April 10 at the Canyon Elementary School, 187 Pinehurst Road. The evening will be an exploration of the challenges a major wildfire would present to both the fire agencies and the community. The event will culminate with a discussion of ways all parties can work together to create effective policies and procedures to deal with the vagaries of notification, evacuation, cars and fire engines meeting on narrow roads and so forth. For more info, call Canyon Fire Council Coordinator Jonathan Goodwin, (925) 376-4668 or email CanyonFire@Vfemail.net; MOFD Fire Chief Randy Bradley, (925) 258-4599 or RBradley@mofd.org.

**Wildlife Expert Gary Bogue will discuss "Creatures of the Urban Wilderness (your backyard)"** at 9:30 a.m. Monday, April 15 at Lindsay Wildlife Museum, 1931 First Avenue, Walnut Creek. Bogue will discuss the wild animals that live in and prowl, fly, and slither around your backyard, day and night—the coyotes, raccoons, skunks, opossums, owls, hawks, hummingbirds, snakes, lizards and other creatures that interact with you and have become a part of your life, often without you even knowing they are there. Brunch event tickets: \$25. To purchase tickets, contact Penny Adams at (925) 837-4046, P.O. Box 562, Diablo, CA 94528, or call the museum at (925) 935-1978.

**Join Spring Leadership Summit in an interactive presentation "A Whole New Way: Leadership and Engagement in the 21st Century"** from 4:30 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 16 at the Claeys Lounge, Saint Mary's College Soda Center, 1928 St. Mary's Rd., Moraga. The summit will examine how society thinks about leadership and what is needed to bring about the changes you care about most, focusing on particular challenges within the educational system. This session will deal with "a whole new way of leadership and engagement" from a variety of vantage points in a collaborative effort by the graduate programs of Saint Mary's College- Graduate Leadership, Graduate Education, Graduate Business, and Graduate Kinesiology.

**Orinda Action Day begins at 9 a.m. April 20** at the Library Plaza. This is a time to lend a hand to help beautify our city! Visit Orinda Action Day at www.orindafoundation.org. (See article page A11)

**Run, Walk, Jog...Eat, Dance, Play...Help support children and families affected by AIDS in Zimbabwe!** Get your family and friends together for the 10th Annual JF Kapnek Trust Family Fun 5k/1k Run at 9 a.m. Sunday, April 21 at Miramonte High School. There will be an African band, face painting, prizes for kids, goodie bags for kids, crafts, brunch, and a super cool T-shirt!

Visit Active.Com to register. Key-word is: KAPNEK.

**Lamorinda Adult Respite Center (LARC) is looking for** caring, fun, enthusiastic volunteers to assist once or twice a month. Activities include: games, crafts, daily live musical entertainment, lunch and exercise. Come join the fun and help enhance the lives of our local seniors. For more info, or to schedule a visit, please call Beth Montgomery at (925) 254-3465.

**Stations of the Cross. The public is invited to self-guided tours** of "Jesus' Journey to the Cross", a time of reflection and meditation for Easter, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and 5 to 7 p.m. March 29 at the Lafayette United Methodist Church, 955 Moraga Rd., Lafayette. Children are welcome. Free. For more info, call (925) 284-4765 or email office@thelumc.org.

**Spend a day with friends celebrating the Heart of the Home** at the Miramonte Kitchen & Garden Tour from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday, April 18. Six unique and gorgeous kitchens and gardens will be open for a self-guided tour. Tickets: \$35. Space is limited so sign up early! Proceeds from the events will have an immediate impact on the quality of programs available to all Miramonte students. Tickets are available at Orinda Books, Orinda Florist, McDonnell's Nursery and Lazy K at Orchard Nursery.

**Step into nature and history and enjoy the 12th Annual Wildlife/Earth Day Festival** in support of the unique outdoor environmental education programs for Orinda children from 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday, April 21. Delightful adventures include: pond explorations, live raptors shown by Jenny Papka, electric Volt and Leaf car test drives, delicious food, music, crafts, games, nature walks, and much more. There will be an Earth Day tribute by Chester Miner, Elder of the Cherokee Nation and the Guest of the Day will be Gary Bogue. The Friends of the Wagner Ranch will conduct this free festive program to celebrate and support environmental education and biodiversity programs in the Nature Area. For more info, visit www.fvma.org.

**Area residents who own classic cars are invited to participate** in the 5th Annual Moraga Classic Car Show from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. May 11 (as part of the 2013 Moraga Community Faire). The \$30 registration fee includes an entry ribbon, lunch for two, a commemorative photo, and a chance for owners to display their restoration work to the public. Prizes will be awarded. The registration deadline is May 1. The car show is sponsored by 5A Rent a Space and CVS Pharmacy. To register, visit www.moragachamber.org/faire or call (925) 247-4629.

**Tony La Russa's Animal Rescue Foundation's, Animals** on Broadway will be Sunday, May 19, at the Broadway Plaza in Walnut Creek. Kick off the event by joining the one-mile fundraising Pet Walk. Pet Walk begins at 10:30 a.m. sharp (registration is from 8:30 to 10 a.m.) After, stay and enjoy an array of booths, mobile adoptions, face painting, a Pet Wellness Fair, Walnut Creek Police K9 Unit demonstrations, live music, and crafts for kids from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more info, visit www.arf.net.

**CLUBS**

**Sons in Retirement Lamorinda Branch 171 meets** at 11 a.m. on the first Wednesday monthly at Holy Trinity Culture Center 1700 School St. Moraga. Lunch at noon. The April 3 after-lunch speaker will be Leigh Kjeldsen, Au.D. – a doctor of Audiology with practices in Walnut Creek and Concord. Leigh enjoys seeing patients of all ages. The youngest person she has fit with hearing aids was 3 months old and the oldest was 101 years old. She will be speaking about "Hearing Loss: Causes and Remedies." For details and membership information, call Larry at (925)

631-9528 or Tom at (925) 376-7724.

**Lafayette Garden Club will feature "Tantalize Your Taste Buds"**—learn to grow and cook delectable heirloom vegetables and herbs" with Randall Barnes of Orchard Nursery at 9:30 a.m. Thursday, April 11 at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette. Barnes has a bachelor's degree in horticultural science from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and loves to cook his garden's bounty. For more info, email sa613and@aol.com.

**SENIORS**

**Join Lafayette Senior Services for one of this upcoming event!** Enjoy afternoon dancing every Wednesday and learn some great new dance moves at the Lamorinda Dance Social on the first Wednesday monthly. Professional dancers Karen and Michael will provide a dance lesson and live DJ services, playing your favorites and taking requests from 12:30 to 3 p.m. every Wednesday at the Live Oak Room, Lafayette Community Center. Cost: \$2 members; \$4 non-members. For info, call (925) 284-5050 to reserve a spot.

**The Stroke Support Group of Contra Costa County** will hold its April meeting in the Ball Auditorium at from 7 to 9 p.m. Monday, April 8 at John Muir Medical Center- Walnut Creek Campus, 1601 Ygnacio Valley Road, Walnut Creek. The speaker will be Richard Burns, stroke survivor, author and spokesperson for the National Stroke Association who will discuss "Hope—the Choice is Yours." After the program, attendees will break up into three coping groups: stroke survivors without aphasia, stroke survivors with aphasia, and caregivers and families of stroke survivors -- each group led by a trained professional. For more info about the

Stroke Support Group, contact Ann Dzuna at (925) 376-6218. Meetings are free and open to the public.

**GARDEN**

**Once again, The City of Walnut Creek and The Gardens** at Heather Farm are teaming up to present a free workshop for our community. Discovering a Sense of Place (Part II) with Patrice Hanlon, GHF garden manager and Susan Handjian, garden consultant and coach builds on a successful session in 2012. April 27 Explore Walnut Creek's "Creek Walk." Each session includes activities or walks to explore watersheds, plants, animals and insects that live in our area. Workshops can be taken individually or as a series. Pre-registration required. The Gardens at Heather Farm is located at 1540 Marchbanks Dr., Walnut Creek.

**The Ninth Annual Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour** will take place from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, May 5. This free, award-winning tour features 40 Alameda and Contra Costa county gardens that are pesticide-free, conserve water, provide habitat for wildlife, and contain 60 percent or more native plants. This self-drive tour showcases a variety of gardens, from large parcels in the hills to small lots in the flats. Native plant sales and talks are offered at select gardens. Space is limited and registration is required. This tour will fill; register early to ensure a place. Volunteers are needed. Please register

or volunteer at www.bringingbackthenatives.net. For more info, contact Kathy@KathyKramerConsulting.net or call (510) 236-9558 between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m.

**SCHOOLS**

**Need money for college? The Contra Costa Association of Realtors Scholarship Foundation** is offering scholarships to residents of Central Contra Costa County that have completed one year of full-time college, completed courses with emphasis on real estate, finance and/or business and have a GPA of 3.0 or higher. If you qualify, scholarship awards can range from \$1,500 to \$2,500. For info and applications visit www.ccarscholarship.com. Deadline is April 15.

**POLITICAL GATHERINGS**

**Lamorinda Republican Women Federated welcomes luncheon** speaker Lynne C. Leach businesswoman, former State Legislator, community activist and leader. For info contact Elsie Euing at (925) 254-8617

**Lafayette Chamber of Commerce invites you to join** your District II County Supervisor Candace Andersen for a Brown Bag Lunch at noon, Wednesday, April 3 at the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce, 100 Lafayette Circle, Conference Room. For reservations, email lauri.byers@bos.cccounty.us or call (925) 957-8860.

**Please submit events to:**  
[calendar@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:calendar@lamorindaweekly.com)

**MOVIE REVIEW**

**"Olympus Has Fallen"**

By Derek Zemrak



Photo courtesy FilmDistrict

Political thrillers are always fun to watch but in these times they can be a bit too realistic. "Olympus Has Fallen" stars Gerald Butler ("300," "The Phantom of the Opera") as Mike Banning, a fallen, dishonored presidential security guard who failed to save the first lady, portrayed by Ashley Judd. Jump forward 18 months and the White House is under attack by a Korean terrorist organization. Mike realizes he is the only one who can save the president (Aaron Eckhart)

and his son Connor, played by Finley Jacobsen, from this terrorist group lead by Kang, the very talented actor Rick Yune ("Snow Falling on Cedars," "The Man with the Iron Fists"). Yune delivers a great performance and moviegoers will hate him from his first scene in the movie.

The cast is amazing and also includes Oscar winner Morgan Freeman ("Million Dollar Baby") as Speaker Trumbull; Indie favorite and Oscar winner Melissa Leo ("The Fighter") as Secretary of Defense Ruth McMillan; and Oscar nominee Angela Bassett ("What's Love Got to Do with It") as Secret Service Director Lynn Jacobs.

The best way to describe "Olympus Has Fallen" is that it is an enjoyable Hollywood blockbuster, but it should have been a lot more. The script, co-written by newcomers Creighton Rothenberger and Katrin Benedikt, has too many off the wall one liners for me. What could have been an intense, suspenseful thriller quickly turned into an unsophisticated "Die Hard" film. Director Antoine Fuqua ("Training Day") should have focused on the suspense. All in all, if you want to see an action-packed film made without much thought, then "Olympus Has Fallen" is for you.

*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. Derek is the host of Real to Reel on TRadioV.com live at 6 p.m. every Tuesday.*

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# Glass Art for the Home

By Sophie Braccini



Functional glass art by Vivien Hart

Photos Sophie Braccini

When thinking of glass art, the first images that come to mind are often vases, stained glass or glass sculpture. What Orinda resident Vivien Hart does is a bit different: she makes home accents, or functional glass art, created in her garage-workshop.

In her home, the mirror frames, the accent tiles in her kitchen and baths, the bathroom sinks, the backsplash, the cabinets and drawer knobs, even the range hood, are made of artistically created glass. Hart recently joined the Association of Clay and Glass Artists of California, and was accepted to the Palo Alto Clay and

Glass Festival where she will be presenting her work to interior decorators and homeowners in July.

Hart was trained as a social worker and practiced for some years before having her children. Then, like many Lamorinda women, she looked for a creative outlet; in her case, something that would incorporate her fascination for light and colors. "I spent 10 years in Norway when I was a child," she remembers. "In the eighth grade we were sent for a week to a business and my choice was a glass making plant. I was fascinated by the material, how heat changes the nature of glass

and how it can be transformed." This love of glass gave Hart the idea for her new career.

In her garage workshop, Hart recently worked on a series of cabinet knobs. "You start with a plain sheet of glass that is colored by using powders that are fused into the glass," explains Hart. She installed two different kilns in her workshop where pieces are processed, sometimes for hours. "The knobs are then cut from the sheet and the decorative/creative process continues with layering and fusion of different colors and shapes to create the look I want."

The knobs require five differ-

ent layers. Each color melts at a different rate, so the pieces often have to be fired multiple times. "When I want to create three-dimensional pieces I fire the base at a high temperature. I create the structure that will go on top; then fire the two together at low temperature." For the little knobs that display a 3D cluster of grapes, she fired each grape separately then fused the clusters onto the bases.

Hart can inlay motives or etch shapes into tiles, as she did with some green ginkgo tiles – the shape of a leaf has been etched so it looks like leaves have been fused into the glass. She uses a mold to create rounded shapes such as soap holders or decorative bowls. "If someone has a theme for the decoration of their home, I can create knobs, accent tiles for the floor, backsplash, etched cabinet glass and decorative bowls that will all be a variation of their theme," she says.

Hart is now expending her production by creating glass powder-room sinks, using a crackling technique she learned from Bob



Glass knob with grapes

Leatherbarrow in Canada. She is also starting to experiment with lighting fixtures.

"The investment to start was quite significant," she says, "but the goal is to make this a sustainable business."

One of Hart's challenges is to find the right venues to showcase her work, since art galleries are not the exact fit, and she is considering joining the 2014 Lamorinda Home Expo in January.

For more information, visit [www.glasshart.com](http://www.glasshart.com).

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



Bathroom sinks

## Flying A Named Orinda Small Business of the Year

By Laurie Snyder



Allen Pennebaker

Photo Andy Scheck

"I need to start timing my gas purchases to when I'm here in Orinda," said Contra Costa County Supervisor Candace Andersen before a packed house at the Orinda Country Club March 20. Andersen, one of several dignitaries present for Orinda's State of the City Address, was also on hand to honor Flying A Gas Station, recipient of the 2013 Best Small Business Award.

Founded by Allen Pennebaker and his wife, owner-operators of Orinda Motors since 1996, Flying A has achieved a devoted following by offering low gas prices, hand car wash and detailing, and "old time customer service" – fuel pumped by attendants who also squeegee windshields ([www.orindaautodetail.com/flying-a-gasoline](http://www.orindaautodetail.com/flying-a-gasoline)).

In their nearly two decades of

civic engagement, the Pennebakers have also spearheaded or sponsored numerous community events, including Orinda's annual Fourth of July celebration, the Orinda Classic Car Show, and the Orinda Baseball Association's annual Opening Day.

"This is a great community to do business in," observed the Orinda native and Miramonte High School graduate in accepting the award. Pennebaker acknowledged his management staff individually in front of roughly 100 business professionals, city officials, and representatives of the offices of Congressman George Miller and state legislators Joan Buchanan and Mark DeSaulnier.

The event was presented by the Orinda Chamber of Commerce and the Rotary Club of Orinda.

## business briefs

**Hello Tiara Opens in Theatre Square**  
Orinda Theatre Square, Ste. 138  
(925) 253-5050  
[hellotiara.com](http://hellotiara.com)



Sue Kim styles young Annabelle's hair with a comb and hair pins, while Kate and Hunter Welch observe.

Photo Mina Lucacher

Want your hair to be styled with unique accessories for your next big event or party? The new Hello Tiara store that opened this month in Theatre Square offers just that. The jewelry and accessory boutique offers a complementary styling when you purchase merchandise. "We carry a whole line of hair clips, brooches and other accessories," explains owner Sue Kim, "and we want to show people different ways to wear and use them." Kim is an Acalanes graduate who studies fine arts at the San Francisco Academy of Arts. "I always loved artistic expression," says the young owner. She opened her first boutique with long time friend Steve Kim in San Francisco. "We had a lot of foot traffic there. People from all over the world helped us gauge what they were really looking for," she says, "but I missed the family and happy vibe of Lamorinda, so we looked for an opportunity to come back." Kim says she's very happy to have found the space in Theatre Square, between Barbacoa and Living Lean. "We can really build relationships with our customers here." The partners immediately joined the Chamber of Commerce and reached out to schools to start supporting them. They are also offering events for different age groups, such as birthday parties and 'girls-night-out' parties where everyone leaves with adorned hair or other styled jewelry. The jewelry and accessories that contain crystals have a lifetime guarantee. "If you lose a stone," says Kim, "we'll replace it." She says she shops in Europe and Korea for her merchandise and that most of her pieces are hand-made by people she visited.

**Storyteller Finds a New Home**  
3506 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Ste. E, Lafayette  
(925) 284-3480

The place for children's books in Lafayette will now be at 3506 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Suite E, the new location of Storyteller beginning the first part of April. "The space is very well located for a lot of foot traffic and it is the right

size for us," says Storyteller's owner Linda Higham. "We plan to continue our business as usual there." Higham indicated that the owner of the building on Lafayette Circle had asked the bookstore to leave, but that she is happy to have found a similarly sized space in a good location. Suite E is located on the courtyard behind McCaulou's and Whole Foods in a busy shopping center. Higham did not know yet when the grand-opening celebration would be scheduled. "It will take us one or two weeks to move," she says. Her current lease ends at the end of March.

**Si Si Caffè Celebrates 15 years**  
910 Country Club Drive, Moraga  
(925) 377-1908

Cathy Corsi, her daughter Cynthia Corsi and granddaughter Cara created a bright display at the beginning of the month to celebrate the 15th anniversary of the beloved independent coffee shop in Moraga. The café, which opened next to Cathy Corsi's salon, was a natural extension. Over the years, Corsi has trained generations of local high school kids as bartenders, she has expanded the range of quality drinks and pastries offered and the café gradually became a ritual stop for many local groups and residents. One of the first spots for nearby elementary and middle school kids to safely hang out, it is also a gathering place for cyclists and senior groups. In spite of its tiny size, Si Si Caffè has become one of Moraga's iconic businesses, now managed by three generations of Corsi women.

**News from the three Chambers of Commerce**  
Lafayette

Chamber mixer at YogaWorks at 5:30 p.m. April 10, 1131 Locust Ave., 2nd Floor, in Walnut Creek.

Ribbon cutting at 5 p.m. April 11 for Gomez and Associates, French for Fun, and Chalmers Fitness that share the building at 3381, 3383 and 3385 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Come celebrate the Renaissance and transformation of this location with owners Carlos, Catherine Jolivet and Marilyn Chalmers.

**Moraga**

General membership meeting starting at 7:30 a.m. Friday, March 29 at the Hacienda de las Flores, 2100 Donald Dr., Moraga. A special agent from the FBI will be the guest speaker discussing cyber fraud.

**Orinda**

Miramonte Parent's Club Heart of the Home Kitchen and Garden Tour of Orinda will feature six extraordinary indoor and outdoor kitchens presented by the Miramonte parents' club from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 18. For tickets and information, visit [www.miramonteparents.com](http://www.miramonteparents.com).

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# LAMORINDA SPORTS

## Down to the Wire

By Caitlin Graveson

Saint Mary's men's basketball program has won its share of thrillers this season but could not repeat the magic in the second round of the NCAA tournament. In a match-up against No. 6 Memphis on March 21, the No. 11 Gaels fell 54-52, ending their season 28-7.

Saint Mary's trailed by five with about three seconds remaining when sophomore forward Eividas Petrulis hit a three-pointer. The Gaels forced a Memphis turnover with 1.9 seconds to play. On the in-bound, senior guard Matthew Dellavedova put up a potential game-winning three, but it was long.

Dellavedova hit a game-tying three against USD and a game-winner against BYU this season.

After the game, sophomore forward Brad

Waldow, who had a game-high 17 points, spoke of Dellavedova's last game. "He's just a great person like all around," he said. "He taught me how to be like a winner on and off the court and a great role model, great person."

Dellavedova has the school record for most points, three-pointers, assists, and highest free-throw percentage.

Saint Mary's qualified for the NCAA tournament by winning the play-in game. The Gaels were pitted against Middle Tennessee State on March 19. Led by Dellavedova, the Gaels cruised to a comfortable 67-54 win over MTSU. Dellavedova had 22 points. Junior guard Stephen Holt contributed 18 and junior forward Beau Levesque added 13 points for SMC.



Matthew Dellavedova

Photo Tod Fierner

## Riding the Win-Streak

By Michael Sakoda



Matt McCue

The Campolindo boys' basketball team's season appeared to be over, but the Cougars got a second chance and made the most of it. Despite losing an NCS playoff game to San Marin, Campolindo (22-9) qualified for the CIF tournament when Bishop O'Dowd was moved to the open division.

"The night of our loss to San Marin, Coach Watson texted me,

telling me there was still a chance we would make the tournament," said Cougars' senior guard Jack Evans. "We focused on staying alive."

Surprising everyone but themselves, they made a run all the way to the Nor Cal Finals before falling to Sacred Heart Cathedral.

Senior guard Matt McCue was excited to get the news. "We had one more chance to redeem ourselves," he

explained, "[to] show everyone how good we truly were."

It was a great reward for an even better season. After opening the season with a series of tough road games, the Cougars sat with a losing record, dropping games to Cardinal Newman, Montgomery and Granite Bay.

Campo responded to the rocky start going 15-2, stringing together three five-game winning streaks.

"One of our greatest wins was our second game against Las Lomas at home," Evans said. "We used that game to remind ourselves of the kind of basketball we needed to play to win games."

In the waning weeks of the regular season, Campo suffered two straight losses, including a heartbreaker at league rival Miramonte, but they closed DFAL play with a 3-0 burst.

In a season of winning streaks, the Cougars were prepared to go on another streak in the playoffs.

They stormed into the CIF Tournament, winning three straight road games—at Burlingame, an overtime thriller at El Cerrito, and at Enterprise, becoming only the second team in school history to reach the Northern California Championship game (the 2005 team reached the mark).

The Cougars rolled into No. 2 El Cerrito's house with confidence, and pulled out a tremendous 69-65 win. "I'll never forget Walter Brennan hitting an NBA range three to put us into overtime against El Cerrito," McCue commented.

The Cougars lost an overtime heartbreaker 55-52 in the Nor Cal Finals of the CIF Tournament to Sacred Heart Cathedral on March 16. Evans hit four three-pointers including a clutch basket with 44.1 seconds left in regulation to lead the Cougars, but it wasn't enough to propel them to the school's first State Finals appearance. "I couldn't be more proud of what these guys accomplished this season. They did a hell of a job," said head coach Matt Watson after the game.

Watson was proud of his seniors' effort. "Matt McCue, he's a freaking stud. The kid's five nine, a buck fifty,

and all heart," he said. "Jack Evans is an incredible senior leader. He knocked down some big shots tonight, made some great plays, got some big defensive stops. (Our) seniors are going to be missed tremendously."

The Cougars lose four players to graduation this year—Evans, McCue, and forwards Tyler Garrison and John Schmitz—but the future looks bright, as they return four starters, sophomores Chris Hansen and Matt O'Reilly, and juniors Justin Dunn and Andrew Zolitakis.

## Baseball Rivals Faced-Off Last Week



Junior outfielder Cody Kiriaze beats the throw in Campolindo's 2-1 loss to Acalanes on March 19. Campo bounced back to beat Miramonte 3-1 on March 21. The Cougars are 4-3 this season, while the Dons are 5-4.

Photos Ohlen Alexander



Miramonte baseball is off to a 4-3-1 start.

## Cougar Football

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# Sweet Sixteen for the Gaels in WNIT

By Caitlin Graveson

For the past four seasons, Saint Mary's women's basketball qualified for the WNIT and they have improved in post-season play each year, including this year—they have reached the Sweet Sixteen.

The Gaels beat Seattle University 68-51 at home on March 21, before advancing to take on North-

ern Colorado on March 23.

The Gaels (22-10) came out slow against the Bears, falling behind 10 early. Saint Mary's rallied to finish the first half to cut the deficit, 27-30. Their momentum carried to the second half and they completed a 26-4 run to build a 46-34 lead. The Bears made a late-game push, but the Gaels held on

to win 68-58.

Senior guard Morgan Hatten had a career-high to lead the Gaels with 21 points in the win. Junior guard Jackie Nared finished with a double-double adding 16 points and 10 rebounds.

With the win, the Gaels will face WCC-rival BYU in the Sweet 16 in Provo today, March 27.



Morgan Hatten had a career night against the Bears. Photo Tod Fierner

# Spring Sports Rivalry Week



Acalanes boasts a 7-2 record, including a 7-3 win against Campolindo.



Campolindo (3-3) defeated Miramonte 7-0 on March 21. Photos Ohlen Alexander

# Continuing to Win

Submitted by Jose Pena



Back row, from left: Patrick McGaughey, Tom McGuire, Jamiel Liu, Nick McGaughey, Casey Linden, Matt Scully; front row: Braden Maher, David Pena, Declan Bhagwat, Nicholas Faoro Photo provided

St. Monica's fifth grade National Team closed out a successful season by winning the 2013 CYO Tournament of Champions at Heritage High School in Brentwood on March 9. The team only lost one game during the season.



Miramonte (4-3) beat Campo (2-6) 10-7 on March 15. Photo Ohlen Alexander



Campo suffered a tough 8-7 loss to Miramonte on March 15. They have a 4-4 record. Photo Ohlen Alexander

# Magic takes on Magic

Submitted by Greg Davis



Front row, from left: Emily Smith, Molly Davis, Molly Ikeya, Mia Grillo, Samantha DeVecchi; back row: Jackie Nichols, Keeley Murphy, Kierra Krawec, Rachel Brickman, Isabel Hough, Annie Midthun, Kate Minden, Kaitlin DeVries; Not pictured: Anya Li, Vanessa Vaisnor, Lauren Van Stralen, Holland McDonald Photo provided

The California Magic U13 girls' team split into two teams for the Diablo Valley Futsal League U14 division. Futsal is a fast-paced soccer game played indoors. In the championship game, the Magic Green faced the Magic Blue on March 16. Magic Blue prevailed 6-4; however, Magic Green was quick to add that it was missing three players.

# Oakland Strokes Hosts Back-to-Back Regattas

Submitted by Melissa Coupin



Oakland Stroke Girls Varsity 8+ (foreground) battle Marin down the stretch. Marin finished .1 seconds ahead in a race nearly too close to call. Photo Laura Cvitanovic

The west coast's best junior crew teams competed on the Oakland estuary in two early season regattas at the Faultline Face Off hosted by the Oakland Strokes on March 2-3. Northern California teams just edged out southern California team wins, 12-11. The closest race of the weekend was between the Oakland Strokes Varsity girls 8+ and Marin. As the boats neared the finish line the lead changed hands with every stroke, but

in the end, Marin eked past the Strokes by one-tenth of a second.

When asked about the level of competition, varsity boys' head coach Jason Hilton was excited about the event. "The races went exceptionally well. The region is looking extremely fast this season," he said.

Oakland Strokes Girls Lightweight 8+ beat Los Gatos by over five seconds to claim one of the Strokes three final's wins.

On March 10, the Strokes hosted the Battle of the Bay regatta.

Marin took 16 races to Oakland's 7. Oakland's wins came predominantly in Novice and Freshman boats.

# Water Polo Day

Submitted by Linda Lim



Front row, from left: Brooke Presten, Marley Thuma, Cessie Nishimi, Allison Stevens, Anya Morrill, Hannah Buck, Rachael Lewin, Dennae Wiczynski; second row: Assistant Coach Cat von Schwarz-Arroyo, Sarah Rasmussen, Christina Faoro, Sam Flower, Bailey Moran, Madison Tagg, Annika Jensen, Natalie Seidemann, Vice Mayor Ken Chew; back row: Mayor Dave Trotter, Council Member Roger Wykle, Council Member Michael Metcalf, Council Member Phil Arth, Head Coach Kim Everist, Campolindo High School Principal John Walker. Photo provided

The Campolindo girls' varsity water polo team was honored by the Moraga Town Council for its successful season by getting Feb. 13 declared 2012 Campolindo Girls Varsity Water Polo Day. They won the DFAL title, the NorCal Water Polo Championship, and the NCS Division II Championship.

# SMC Rugby Takes on Italy

Submitted by Tony Samaniego



Junior Garrett Brewer breaks SDSU tackle Photo Mike Geib

Saint Mary's finished its California Conference match play with a perfect 7-0 record. The Gaels closed out their season with a 48-24 win over San Diego State on March 16. The Gaels left on

March 20 for a 10-day tour of Italy, where they played matches in Parma, Padova and Florence.

The Gaels take on Central Washington University on April 6 and then Cal on April 13.

# LMYA Champions

Submitted by Chris Easter



Bottom row, from left: Maddie Low, Lindsay Easter, Emilie Malinovsky; top row: Maddie Turner, Cate Goodman, Sarah McCandless, Lauren Craig, Kendal Wenger.

The sixth-eighth grade girls LMYA Ohio State Buckeyes are the LMYA champions. It wasn't easy as the Kentucky Wildcats put up a tough fight in the championship game. Still, the Buckeyes pulled out the win to earn the championship and remain undefeated.

# Karate Kids Take Home Medals

Submitted by Thomas Westernoff



Photo provided

The Karate & Fitness Place USA has some Olympic hopefuls in the making. Seven Lamorinda athletes from KFPUSA returned home from the West Coast Karate Championships (a USA Karate sanctioned event) held in Yuba City on Feb. 24, bringing with them nine medals.

Edward Chen	Bronze	Kobudo	Jared Avenell	Gold, Bronze	Kata, Kobudo
Victor Chen	Bronze	Kata	Brent Avenell	Gold, Bronze	Kata, Kumite
Zack Yu	Silver	Kata, Kumite	Leo Ding	Participation	
Alex Yu	Gold	Kata			

# Dive Right In

Submitted by Steve Sherman



Audrey Lundgren, Fwd 1&1/2 pike Photo provided

Four Sherman Swim School divers traveled to Beaverton March 7-9 to compete in a qualifying meet for the West Nationals.

Audrey Lungren (Lafayette) competed in the 12-13 Girls 1-meter and 3-meter, finishing ninth and 11th, respectively. Brenna Certone (Orinda) finished 17th in the 1-meter and 21st in the 3-meter in the 14-15 Girls division. Miranda Gold (Lafayette) and Morgan Matranga (Moraga) participated in the 16-18 Girls division. Gold finished 34th in the 1-meter and 28th in the 3-meter. Matranga finished 24th and 26th in the 1 and 3-meter, respectively.

# St. Perpetua's East Diocese Champions

Submitted by Meredith Meade



Front row, from left: Grace Gephardt, Evan Mirabella, Julia Haggerty, Morgan Coolbaugh, Erin Meade, Madison Rogers, Jojo Flower, Mia Mastrov and Claire Rowell; back row: Jim Gephardt, Steve Haggerty and Dan Meade. Photo provided

The St. Perpetua fourth grade girls' American team beat a tough St. Monica's opponent 26-18 on March 9 in the finals of the Oakland East Diocese Championship. Coached by Dan Meade, Steve Haggerty and Jim Gephardt, the Panthers used tough defense, basketball smarts and team chemistry to finish their season on a seven-game winning streak.

# Former Mat Earns All-Conference Honors

Submitted by Kelcey Zutavern



Alyssa Johanson

Photo provided



Alyssa Johanson, alumni of Miramonte and a sophomore guard at Washington University in St. Louis was selected to the 2012-13 All-University Athletic Association (UAA) second team for women's basketball. Johanson received her first-career all-UAA honors. She ranked second on the team averaging 8.9 points per game and scored in double figures eight times during the season. Johanson scored a career-high 19 points against Southwestern on Dec. 30, and again Jan. 11 in the Bears' 56-53 overtime win at Emory University. She also leads the team with a .917 free-throw percentage (44-of-48), and ranks fourth with 39 assists.

# Second Place in Spring Showcase

Submitted by Chris Easter



Top row, from left: Lindsay Easter, Jacey Sadoff, Hannah Fishlow, Cecilia Gee, Olivia Fishlow, Tova Ricardo, Brianna Donat, coach Alex Sanchez; bottom row: Maggie Maguire, Emma Nushi, Katharine Larson, Caroline Clark, Adriana Uyehara, Jessica Carlin and Greta Kohls; not pictured: Rosie Cruz, Morgan Rogers, Mia Lineweaver, and Katie Tuemmler. Photo provided

The Lamorinda United U14 girls finished with the second highest point total out of the 10 teams in the Platinum Division of The Northern California Spring Showcase tournament.

In the first match against American River, the game ended in a 0-0 tie. The Saturday afternoon match, against rival Walnut Creek Explosion, was tough. The Explosion struck first before Emma Nushi found the back of the net

with the first of her two tournament goals. Walnut Creek broke the tie late in the second half to take 2-1 lead. On the very last possession of the game, Jacey Sadoff launched a ball into the corner of the goal to give Lamorinda a thrilling last second tie. On Sunday, against the West Coast Wonder, the United fought to a 2-to-2 tie.

In the consolation game against the Sacramento Extreme, goalkeeper Adriana Uyehara was able to preserve a 2-1 victory.

# Miramonte Lax Breaks Even

Submitted by Susan Forman



Miramonte players defend their goal: #20 Josh Chen; #25 Matt Moran; #35 Gianni Fiatarone, #10 Justin O'Camb. Photo Christian Hugener

Miramonte boys' varsity lacrosse had two tough matches last week. On March 19, they faced off against Las Lomas. Seven minutes into the game Miramonte's freshman Coleman Fine scored the first goal of a high-scoring game. The Mats won 12-8.

Miramonte took on Marin Academy March 22. In the third quarter, the Mats had a 7-5 lead, but Marin went on a run, scoring three unanswered goal on their way to an 11-10 win.

**March 19 box score:**  
John Pugliesi (3 goals)

Joey Forman (2)  
Fine (2)  
Connor Gallegos (1)  
Nick Sheehan (1)  
Patrick Swan (1)  
Miramonte Goalie: Paden Hugener 13 saves

**March 22 box score:**  
Jack Murphy (3 goals)  
Nick Sheehan (3)  
Griffin Schram (3)  
John Pugliesi (1)

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# Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 07 Issue 2 Wednesday, March 27, 2013



*Hiring Licensed or Unlicensed Contractors: What You Should Know  
...read on page D8*

## *Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian* **Weed, Seed, Feed!**

By Cynthia Brian

*"Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap, but by the seeds you plant." - Robert Louis Stevenson*

**W**hen is the right time to plant seeds? This is a question I have often been asked as I travel throughout the country speaking on gardening issues. Over the years I have embraced the age old farmer's timing technique for planting seeds in any climate, anywhere: if you can sit on the ground with your bare bottom and not feel too cold or wet, it's warm enough to sow!

This year the ground was especially warm earlier than usual and already I have tomatoes, peppers, and squash sprouting. Winter seemed to skip by Lamorinda as we went from autumn to spring. Weeds are not as ubiquitous as they have been in the past, yet before we sow our spring seeds, it is imperative to carefully edit and amend our gardens. If you planted cover crops such as vetch, clover, or fava beans, turn them over to add the much desired nitrogen and nutrients to the soil. Other weeds need to be manually pulled and either added to compost piles or put in the green bin. Once we have made sure our soil is rich and ready, it's prime time to buy the seed packets or six packs and start digging.

Arugula was my top pick for growing greens this season. I have planted runway serrated, rustic organic, true Italian organic, and, of course, my very favorite... wasabi. A jewel-toned blend of beets as well as purple and rattlesnake pole beans are already in the ground. A healthy crop of radiant radishes garnish our plates and butter lettuce is already curly and luscious. To add a bit of pretty to



*Delicate butter lettuce is ready for the table.*

*Photo Cynthia Brian*

the scene, I have sowed nigella mulberry rose, larkspur Parisian pink, Echinacea purpurea starlight, and rainbow poppies. They are not yet large

enough to photograph but I anticipate a complement of colors.

*...continued on page D4*

# Finola Fellner and Lynn Molloy

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Beautifully situated on Lake Cascade, this approx. 4900 Sq Ft Spanish Mediterranean Country Club residence on .68 acres, designed by architect Alan Page of Talon Design Group and built by award winning Mark Bohon of The Bohon Group, goes

beyond its five bedrooms, four full and two half baths, private office, four fireplaces and 3 car garage. It is surrounded by lovely gardens irrigated by an onsite well, mature oak trees, a small scale vineyard, a creek and large level lawn. This extraordinary multi-level property offers unique architectural features such as hand plastered walls, arched Douglas Fir double front doors, clay tile roof with copper gutters, wrap-around terra cotta patios and balconies with stunning views of the lake, and oversized transom French doors and windows that bring a sense of light and balance to this special home.

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## Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

City	Last reported:	LOWEST AMOUNT:	HIGHEST AMOUNT:
LAFAYETTE	4	\$778,000	\$1,000,000
MORAGA	5	\$289,000	\$1,200,000
ORINDA	11	\$193,000	\$1,650,000

Home sales are compiled by Cal REsource, an Oakland real estate information company. Sale prices are computed from the county transfer tax information shown on the deeds that record at close of escrow and are published five to eight weeks after such recording. This information is obtained from public county records and is provided to us by California REsource. Neither Cal REsource nor this publication are liable for errors or omissions.

### LAFAYETTE

556 Arrowhead Drive, \$1,000,000, 4 Bdrms, 2584 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 2-20-13;

Previous Sale: \$259,000, 04-23-85

995 Carol Lane, \$778,000, 3 Bdrms, 1506 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 2-21-13

3286 Gloria Terrace, \$960,000, 4 Bdrms, 2848 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 2-26-13;

Previous Sale: \$1,425,000, 11-28-05

675 Moraga Road, \$935,000, 4 Bdrms, 4674 SqFt, 1981 YrBlt, 2-20-13

### MORAGA

1350 Bollinger Canyon, \$1,200,000, 3328 SqFt, 1985 YrBlt, 2-22-13;

Previous Sale: \$579,000, 09-30-97

7 Carr Drive, \$825,000, 4 Bdrms, 1624 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 2-22-13;

Previous Sale: \$680,000, 04-25-03

2133 Donald Drive #8, \$289,000, 2 Bdrms, 1224 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 2-15-13;

Previous Sale: \$229,000, 06-02-11

140 Draeger Drive, \$800,000, 3 Bdrms, 1341 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 2-20-13

23 Ross Drive, \$745,000, 3 Bdrms, 1461 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 2-15-13;

Previous Sale: \$25,000, 11-12-70

### ORINDA

1 Arbolado Court, \$800,000, 3 Bdrms, 1917 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 2-27-13;

Previous Sale: \$850,000, 04-17-07

1299 Bear Creek Road, \$879,000, 2375 SqFt, 1977 YrBlt, 2-15-13;

Previous Sale: \$840,000, 03-02-12

67 Brookwood Road #5, \$193,000, 1 Bdrms, 764 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 2-14-13

16 Dos Posos, \$800,000, 3 Bdrms, 2446 SqFt, 1977 YrBlt, 2-15-13;

Previous Sale: \$561,000, 01-14-00

215 Glorietta Boulevard, \$1,200,000, 4 Bdrms, 2066 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 2-14-13;

Previous Sale: \$350,000, 12-01-98

214 Hall Drive, \$743,000, 4 Bdrms, 1898 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 2-22-13;

Previous Sale: \$925,000, 08-18-06

22 Ichabod Lane, \$850,000, 3 Bdrms, 1789 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 2-15-13

121 La Espiral, \$1,650,000, 4 Bdrms, 3712 SqFt, 1997 YrBlt, 2-26-13;

Previous Sale: \$1,200,000, 05-26-99

132 Overhill Road, \$720,000, 3 Bdrms, 1334 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 2-20-13

1 Snowberry Lane, \$1,272,000, 5 Bdrms, 3271 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 2-14-13;

Previous Sale: \$730,000, 11-10-99

81 Van Ripper Lane, \$1,150,000, 3 Bdrms, 2717 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 2-14-13

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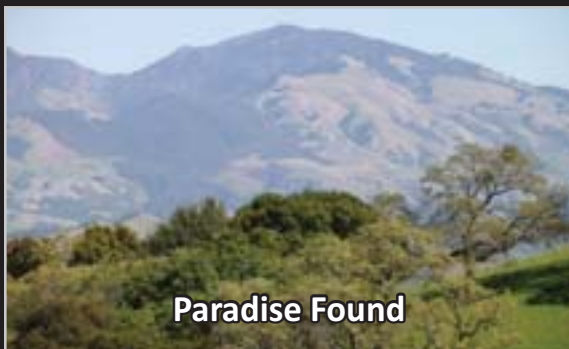
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## Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian

...continued from page D1

Naturally, it's also important to plant pollen plants to attract the pollinators and help them thrive, which in turn helps our gardens grow. Did you know that bee pollinators provide one of every three bites we take? Honeybees have been disappearing in record numbers and butterflies have also suffered significant population declines. It is essential to eliminate pesticides and insecticides while planting flowers of varied shapes to bring the bees and butterflies.

Here are pollinator plants that can easily be grown from seed. Plant them as succession plants for three seasons of enjoyment that will also support a range of bee and butterfly species.

### For Early Blooms:

*Baby Blue Eyes*  
*California Poppy*  
*Chives*  
*Clover*  
*Larkspur*  
*Lupine*  
*Osteospermum*  
*Pea*  
*Poppy*  
*Viola*

### For Mid-Season Beauty:

*Bachelor's Button*  
*Basil*  
*Black-eye Susan*  
*Borage*  
*Calendula*  
*Cilantro*  
*Cosmos*  
*Foxglove*  
*Lavender*  
*Squash*  
*Thyme*

### For Late-Season Color:

*Agastache*  
*Amaranth*  
*Cleome*  
*Dahlia*  
*Marigold*  
*Salvia*  
*Sunflower*  
*Zinnia*



*Tangerine-colored osteospermum is a pollinator plant.*



*It's time to till the vetch cover crop into your soil to add nutrients.*



Once you have sowed your special selections, you'll want to add a bit of organic fertilizer to feed the seed. A brew of homemade compost tea is recommended although you can purchase organic plant food at your local garden center. A regular fertilizing program is needed to keep plants growing well and attractive all season. The choice of fertilizer analysis will depend on the kinds of plants you are growing.

High nitrogen sources is perfect for plants grown for their foliage while flowering and vegetable crops prefer lower nitrogen and higher phosphorous types.

With your spring garden planted, you may now begin dreaming of the delicious crops to be harvested in the future. Water, tend, and wait!

**April Gardening Guide is on D11**



*The flowers of the strawberry plant herald juicy fruits to come.*

*Photos Cynthia Brian*

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Susan, Moraga seller



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**Tom Barber, Lafayette, CA - 2012**



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# Hiring Licensed or Unlicensed Contractors: What You Should Know

By Don Odell

The economy has hit the construction industry hard and many contractors and construction workers are out of work. This has proven to be a savings boom for property owners as the glut of construction workers looking for work has forced the price of construction down. However, for the unwary property owner, this savings can bring risk.

For the first time in perhaps a decade, highly skilled construction workers, many without licenses, are looking for work and are willing to significantly discount their prices. But at what cost to you, the property owner?

It is not unrealistic to hire an unlicensed contractor with as much or more experience as a licensed contractor for half the cost. But, before you do so, consider that the State of California requires that anyone performing work for which a contractor's license is required have a current contractor's license.

The license does not guarantee that the work performed will be good, it simply assures that the contractor has met certain basic standards and that the contractor has basic experience and knowledge of the work covered by the license. It also assures that the contractor has a minimum bond to help ensure that the work is completed, and, if the work contemplated is \$500 or more, it requires that the contractor enter into a contract with you for that work.

An unlicensed contractor, on the other hand, can not obtain worker's compensation insurance. So if

someone working on your job is injured on the project, you could be personally liable.

Unlicensed contractors are not bonded, so if they

do not complete the work, you will have to pay to finish it, even if you've already paid the contractor.

... continued on next page



A local solar company installs, monitors, and finances residential and commercial energy systems. They are licensed to install, maintain and repair solar energy systems and for heating, ventilating and air conditioning. Some of the crew are pictured installing panels on a home in Moraga. Photos Cathy Tyson

Unlike most licensed contractors, unlicensed contractors do not carry errors and omissions insurance so if the contractor's work injures someone or damages your property, you will be faced with the difficult task of trying to recover your damages from the contractor. Also, their work is usually not documented under a written contract, leaving you with no clear statement of what is required of the contractor, and they often do not pay taxes on the money they receive, potentially exposing you to the risk of having to pay employment taxes and social security taxes for the contractor.

Further, many unlicensed contractors do not obtain permits for their work or have the work inspected by the local building inspectors. This creates a severe long term problem for the property owner, particularly where residential properties are concerned, because when the owner goes to sell the property, the owner is required to disclose that the work was done without permits, a disclosure that often negatively impacts the sale price.

So, while you can save money by hiring unlicensed contractors, doing so comes with risks and unless you are careful, you could end up paying far more in the long run for the work than if you hired a licensed contractor.

To be safe, before you hire anyone to work on your property, licensed or not, take the time to educate yourself on the risks and make sure that you have a contract in place that will protect you.

*Donald Odell is a licensed California attorney with 19 years of experience representing businesses, homeowners and contractors throughout the Bay Area. He can be contacted at (925) 788-3089 or at donaldaodell@comcast.net.*



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**102 Oak Rd.  
ORINDA**



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## More Contractor Facts

While the Contractors State License Board says that anyone performing construction work in California that totals \$500 or more in labor and materials must be licensed, unlicensed workers are easy to find, and for small jobs around the house, usually a good solution.

The Labor Enforcement Task Force (LETF), part of the California Department of Industrial Relations is out there to police what they call "an underground economy and improve the state's business environment" to enforce carrying workers' compensation insurance and provide a safe work environment, proper payment of wages and support the collection of all California taxes, fees and penalties. In 2012, a total of 635 construction businesses were inspected by the LETF. The California State License Board estimates there are about 300,000 licensed contractors in the state, so despite undercover sting operations, the likelihood of getting caught is fairly slim. Obviously it's hard to quantify how many unlicensed contractors there are.

C. Tyson

# Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for April

*"Study nature, love nature, stay close to nature. It will never fail you." Frank Lloyd Wright*

Greener environments cut the time it takes to recover from surgery, improve the way the immune system works, and help diabetics achieve healthier blood glucose levels. Just like eating greens provides essential nutrients to the body, so does just seeing and being around green according to researchers. While we are happily planting our spring gardens, it is essential to savor the surprises that are already smiling on us. Sweet, fragrant stock is often overlooked, yet it is a stunner with its heady scent of clove in a variety of hues. Tulips and hyacinths top the charts as they reach for the Easter spotlight while daffodils and freesias maintain their sunshine through the end of May. Strawberry plants blossom as a harbinger of the sweet red treats to come. Give your garden a lift! It's easy to introduce exquisite beauty, luscious colors, rich perfume, and nutritious food simply by planting what you love to eat and see in your spring landscape.

- **AMEND** soil with compost, manure, and organic matter before preparing garden beds.
- **MAKE** marmalade with a variety of citrus. It's so easy using both the rind and the juice. Mix tangerine, tangelo, Meyer lemon, and orange. For a healthier jam, use less sugar and check online for recipes.
- **ELIMINATE** snails and slugs now by plucking from plants or drowning in beer before April showers.
- **MIX** perennials and annuals to extend the blooming season. Many specimens marked "annuals" are really perennials in Lamorinda including snapdragon, lobelia, primroses, and fibrous begonias. Pansies sometimes return annually.
- **DISCARD** fallen blooms from camellias and rhododendrons. Do not compost or leave them on the ground.
- **RECHARGE** spent daffodils by allowing the leaves to yellow and wither. The bulb is nourished for next season by leaving the leaves attached to the bulb. Inter-plant colorful annuals as a cover.
- **DIG** holes for summer blooming bulbs including tuberous begonias, gladiolus, lilies, and dahlias.
- **WEED**, weed, weed before you seed and feed. While the soil is still moist, roots can be plugged more easily. Don't let the seed heads scatter or next year you'll have double or triple the problem.
- **WATER** weekly the bare root roses, vines, and fruit trees planted earlier in the year. Stone fruit trees will bear fruit in two to three years as long as the roots are kept moist and there is plenty of sunshine.
- **FERTILIZE** all blooming and fruiting bushes and trees with an all-purpose organic mixer.
- **BE AWARE** of late season frosts that can damage tender plants. Keep blankets or sheets ready to cover your pots when warnings of cold nights are announced.
- **BOOST** your levels of vitamin A and C by planting orange-colored vegetables and fruits including cantaloupe, sweet potatoes, carrots, peaches, orange bell peppers, citrus, and persimmons. Oranges and tangerines are ripe and ready now.
- **ENCOURAGE** pollinators to your yard with swathes of salvia, sunflowers, black eyed Susan, Echinacea, borage, dill, and thyme.
- **MOVE** your containers to sun or shade areas to maintain the desired conditions for peak performance.
- **BUY** organic, free range eggs in a plethora of colors laid by chickens that eat natural greens, worms, and insects.
- **SPEND** time in nature and enjoy the health benefits.
- **PLAN** a butterfly habitat with sedum, purple coneflower, iris, prairie grasses, bee balm, nicotiana, butterfly bush, and parsley. The flowers are nectar to the adults and the leaves nourish the larvae. Don't forget to offer a restful vista of stones and a cool drink with a fountain, bird bath, or pond for the flying visitors.
- **CREATE** a fire safe barrier around your home by removing debris, dead branches, fire wood, or other flammable substances before summer. It appears we may have a hot, dry season ahead with high fire danger.
- **TURN** on automatic lawn irrigation for a few minutes every two weeks to make sure that grass has not grown over sprinkler heads. Grass grows quickly and thickly in spring and can easily cover sprinklers making it more difficult for you to water when necessary.
- **ENJOY** Easter and Passover with a picnic in the back yard with family and friends.

May the Easter bunny hop through your garden and the forest fairies sprinkle dandy dust on all your seedlings. In plain English... Joyful springtime and get growing!

Happy gardening to you!

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Cynthia Brian

The Goddess Gardener


Cynthia@goddessgardener.com

www.goddessgardener.com

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Cynthia is available as a speaker and consultant.






## ADVANCE TREE SERVICE

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## CALL AN ARBORIST

The most common reason a tree owner calls an arborist is concern that something is wrong with a tree. It may be that some of the leaves are discolored, a branch has died, or perhaps the entire tree has been dropping leaves. Sometimes the cause of the concern is a minor problem that is easily explained and corrected. Other times the problem is more complex-with several underlining causes and a remedy that requires treatments extending over several years. Unfortunately, there are instances in which the problem has gone undetected for so long that the tree cannot be helped, and the only option is removal. If an arborist had been called earlier, perhaps the tree could have been saved. So don't wait until it's too late, have a complete inspection by a Certified Arborist at Advance Tree Service and Landscaping.

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## ORINDA



### 42 La Cresta

Walk to Del Rey! 4 bd+bonus/3 ba. 2469 sq. ft. .45 acre. This home has it all, open floor plan, flat lawn, large deck, around the corner from 12 years of top rated schools.

**Offered at \$1,095,000**

## ORINDA



### 35 Haciendas Road

Beautiful 5Br/ 3.5ba, 3827 sf contemporary on 1.25 ac lot in prime country club location w/updated kit. & baths. Lr & Dr, office, 2 family rms, wonderful outr space w/stone patio, built-in stainless grill, pool, spa & pvt tennis ct. Top schools.

**Offered at \$2,150,000**

## MORAGA



### 349 Tharp

Remodeled, turnkey 4bd/3ba, 2470 sq.ft. rancher on a level .24 acre lot with pool, patio & lawn. Gourmet kitchen with center granite island, HW floors, cathedral ceilings & more! Entertainers dream home.

**Offered at \$1,050,000**

## LAFAYETTE



### 3370 Woodview Drive

Stunning Custom Home w/ attn to detail & quality. App. 3163 sf, on .54 ac parcel w/ lovely views, privacy, & fabulous entertaining areas. Some amenities include hdwd flrs, "Cooks Kitchen" 5bd/4.5 ba, formal din rm & 2nd FR.

**Offered at \$1,495,000**

## ORINDA



### 79 Rheem Blvd.

Charming 2642 sf, 3bd/2.5ba hm w/ large rms, formal LR/DR & family room, remodeled kit., fab mstr bedroom w/deluxe spa ba. Private Rim Trail setting provides beautiful landscaping, grassy yds & 250sf guest cottage w/ 1bd/1ba.

**Offered at \$1,215,000**

## ORINDA



### 65 La Espiral

Updated 4bd/4ba with 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**

## LAFAYETTE



### 3396 Moraga Blvd.

Just Listed! Totally charming 3bd/2ba with updated kitchen, new master bath, huge yard. Walk to town.

**Offered at \$865,000**

## LAFAYETTE



### 3394 South Peardale

Gracious Colonial in Happy Valley. All exquisitely remodeled extraordinary appointments, detail. Lafayette Juniors Kitchen Tour 2009. Fabulous Kitchen, Baths. Luxurious Master Suite. Beautiful living areas. Great neighborhood.

**Offered at \$2,650,000**

## ORINDA



### 34 Oak Road

Custom Built Castle Gate Home, 4bd/3ba 2601 sf. Chef's kitchen, great light, vaulted ceilings, private setting, .95 Acres level & terrace yard, gardens, oak trees.

**Offered at \$1,305,000**

## ORINDA



### 95 Diablo View Drive

Quality 4203 sf home full of top-end amenities + fine attn. to detail, tons of style, fab. 2.66 ac view setting. New high-end gourmet kit, adjoining FR plus deluxe spa-like master bath. Easy access to incredible yard, pool, and privacy!

**Offered at \$2,395,000**

## LAFAYETTE



### 18 Benthill Court

Recently renovated 4bd/ 2.5ba, 3013 sf stylish contemporary on .47 ac lot w/unobstructed views of Mt. Diablo & downtown W.C. Open flr plan features eat-in kit; LR, DR, FR; new redwood decks; Lafayette schools.

**Offered at \$995,000**

## WALNUT CREEK



### 3706 Waterford Lane

Gorgeous Traditional 4bd/3.5ba Northgate home. Many upgrades! New carpet, paint, refinished hardwood floors. Huge eat-in kitchen/family rm. Formal dining & living rms. Professionally landscaped back yard. Grand master with adjoining den.

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

## ORINDA



### 156 Ardith Drive

One of a Kind! Pristine ONE LEVEL home offers you 4bd/4ba, an office, a spectacular designer kitchen w/adj fam rm, perfect indoor/outdoor living spaces w/LEVEL LAWNS/ Sunset Views.

**Offered at \$1,588,000**

## ORINDA



### 68 Singingwood Lane

Orinda Downs! Exquisite 6bd/5.5ba Architect's Home, cul-de-sac, over 5,000 sf, 1.7 acres, soaring ceilings, views, level lawn/patio, lush landscape. First time on market in 21 years.

**Offered at \$2,750,000**

## LAFAYETTE



### 3680 Hastings Court

Happy Valley Glen end of cul de sac. Stylish hm in premium loc. Favorite neighborhood nr town & BART. Fabulous remodel. New gourmet kit/fam rm, hardwood flrs, glass doors/ windows.

**Offered at \$1,375,000**

## WALNUT CREEK



### 2050 Shell Ridge Trail

Northgate Vineyard Estate w/ Gated 1.08 Acres, Grand main house, gorgeous grounds, guest/party house w/movie theatre, diner style game room + newer salt-water pool, 5-car garage.

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

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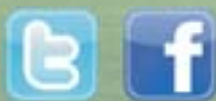
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