

# Art Knows No Boundaries in Lamorinda

By Sophie Braccini



From left: Vivien Hart and Suzy Wear get the Hart's home ready for the Open Studio. Photos Andy Scheck

From the heights of Kite Hill and Canyon View in Orinda, to the valley locale of the Orinda Library, through Lafayette to the new home of the Lafayette Art Gallery, to private locations in Moraga and the Moraga Art Gallery at the Rheem Center, Lamorinda art lovers are invited on a voyage of discovery Oct. 19 and 20, where they can meet with 28 different artists, see how they work, and share a moment with them. The Lamorinda Open Studios 2013 unlocks nine different studios and galleries where local artists will present their latest work. A preview is already on display

at the Orinda Library. It's been at least 10 years since the Lamorinda Arts Alliance started presenting its members' work at Open Studios. In its own words, the almost 20-year-old nonprofit "seeks to foster a better understanding of art within the community and encourage the exchange of ideas for the mutual benefit of all members through its programs, exhibits and other activities within the community." Making a living of one's art is a challenge, and creating a community of artists is a way to nurture the sacred fire of creativity. "I particularly like the open stu-

dios format because it allows me to show how I do my art and also to present some of my pieces installed in my house," says Vivien Hart who creates decorative accents and accessories made of fused glass for the home. She will demonstrate how to make glass doorknobs during the event, and visitors will see her sinks, decorative panels, and glass bowls in her home.

She will be sharing her studio with Suzy Wear who does illustration, imaging and digital media art. "This is the first time I am sharing [my space] with Suzy," says Hart. "Most

of my work is functional, if not for a few sculpture pieces related to water, and Suzy's focus is on dolphins. Her work and mine tie with the beauty and fragility of water."

Visitors will have an opportunity to view a large breadth of artistic works. Collage, assemblage, sculpture and on-site installations will be displayed at Susan Wise's Orinda studio, while Donna Arganbright's home will feature ceramic art as well as Terry Blair's hand weaving, Bill Klaproth's photography, and Lauma Johnson's paintings. "My pottery can be quite heavy, and I love to show my work in my house to my friends and neighbors," says Arganbright, who is the president of the Lamorinda Arts Alliance. "I can explain the wheel, and show how I work."

Other creations include pastel, printmaking and jewelry by Dalia Alekna, oil on canvas by Geoffrey Meredith, photography by Wenda Pyman, welded steel sculpture by Joe

Bologna, silk painting by Margaret Lucas-Hill, etching and engravings, watercolors and acrylics by Stephanie Scott and many more.

The event allows visitors to take a peek at the Lafayette Art Gallery's new location at 3420-A Mt. Diablo Blvd. (at the corner of Brown Avenue). The artists' co-op previously sublet a part of the Art Room on Lafayette Circle (across from Chow).

A gala opening reception is scheduled from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 17 at the Orinda Library, and each artist will have a piece of art displayed there through Oct. 31. Maps directing visitors to the different studios will be available at the library and the two art galleries on Open Studio days, Oct. 19 and 20, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Maps and other information are also available online at [www.laa4art.org/openstudios.html](http://www.laa4art.org/openstudios.html).

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Vivien Hart will demonstrate how to make glass doorknobs during the event.

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## business briefs

### New Family Therapist Specializes in Adoption 110 Lafayette Circle, Lafayette (925) 787-4673

[CCampbell.french.lmft@gmail.com](mailto:CCampbell.french.lmft@gmail.com)

Cherie Campbell French, who recently moved her Walnut Creek Marriage and Family Therapy practice to Lafayette, specializes in various family issues, including issues involving attachment and adoption. She specializes in working with adolescents, but also works with children as young as 5 years old to adulthood. "Sometimes adopted children, even if they have been with their adoptive parents since the very beginning of their lives, suffer from the primordial wound of the separation from their biological mother," she says. "They suffer, or act up, but do not fully understand why." In such situations, Campbell-French works with the children and their adoptive parents, helping the children to go back to these first moments to understand what it was like for them and their birth mother. Together they then create a narrative that will help the children make sense of what happened to them. "Using what is known about the birth circumstance, and what we know of the country of origin history, we build a narrative for the child of what it could have been like for the mother, which enables the child to feel the love and grief of the birth mother," she says. "We all want to know where we come from; we all want to believe we were loved at birth. This is difficult for adoptees to believe." In her experience, such work deepens the quality of the attachment between the child and his/her adoptive parents. "These issues are so complex, every case is different," she says.

### Lafayette Fashionista Takes over Rosie's Consignment 1020 Brown Avenue, Lafayette (925) 283-6540

Since the beginning of October, Graciela Reynoso took over the little cottage that was Rosie's Consignment on Brown Avenue, next to FastFrame and across from Artisan Bistro. Still discovering all the technical issues that can plague a 1920s building, Reynoso nonetheless is putting on a bright face to welcome clients. This is her first store and she started by taking over her predecessor's stock. She plans to continue consigning gently-used high quality garments for women. She will hold a grand opening party in November.

### The Cooperage American Grille Hosts Investor Welcome Event 32 Fiesta Lane, Lafayette



From Left to Right: Merilee McCormick; Andrew McCormick, Owner; Bill McCormick, Investor and Consultant; Erik Hopfinger, Executive Chef. Photo provided

To celebrate the beginning of the restaurant build-out, the owners of The Cooperage in Lafayette, Andrew and Merilee McCormick, hosted an event for their investors Sept.

26 at the future restaurant site. "We understand the importance of maintaining the historic nature of the site. Our goal is for this to be a comfortable, yet sophisticated, gathering place for all centered around good food," said Andrew McCormick. The site will include a lot of the original woodwork from Petar's Restaurant, refinished for the bar and a communal table. The restaurant will offer four unique dining experiences: open dining room, stylish bar area, separate pub in the back, and patio seating. The menu will be simple, yet diverse, featuring a selection of organically grilled meats (steak, chicken, ribs), sandwiches and entrée salads using locally and organically grown ingredients. Lafayette residents for 14 years, the McCormicks have two school-aged children at Burton Valley Elementary and Stanley Middle School. Opening date is tentatively scheduled for New Year's Eve 2013.

### News from the Three Chambers of Commerce

Tri-Chamber Mixer and Film Festival Kick-Off from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Oct. 23.

The Orinda, Lafayette, and Moraga chambers join together to kick off the California Independent Film Festival, meeting in the lobby of the Orinda Theatre, 2 Theatre Square, Orinda.

### Lafayette

Chamber mixer at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 9 at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd. This is a joint event with the Moraga Chamber of Commerce.

Ribbon Cutting at California Human Resources LLC at 5 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 24 at 201 Lafayette Circle, Suite 200.

Trick-or-Treat Street from 4 to 9 p.m. Friday, Oct. 25 along Mount Diablo Blvd. For a fun, safe Halloween event, children and their parents are invited to trick-or-treat on Mt. Diablo Boulevard from Oak Hill Road to Dewing Avenue and in La Fiesta Square from 4 to 6 p.m. Friday, Oct. 25. All participating businesses will display a "Trick-or-Treat" poster and balloons. Please come in costume to receive a special treat. Don't forget to bring a trick-or-treat bag. Then head over to the Plaza at 6:30 p.m. for a costume contest and a special viewing of "Ghostbusters."

### Moraga

Apple Harvest Fest from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 13 at the Farmers Market. The event will present apple cooking, demos and seasonal recipes.

Membership meeting at 7:30 a.m. Friday, Oct. 25 at the Hacienda de las Flores. Roger Poynts will make a presentation about his 'painted rock' property project.

### Orinda

Chamber mixer from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 17 at Land Home Financial Services, Inc., 2 Theatre Square, #146 (inside 'The Square').

Orinda Chamber Member Luncheon at noon Friday, Oct. 25 at the Orinda Country Club. The guest speaker is FBI Agent Joy Mihara-Meer who will be talking about "Spear Phishing" – cyber attacks on small businesses, your parents and your children. Come to learn more. For tickets and reservations, visit [OrindaChamber.org](http://OrindaChamber.org).

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