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SIXTEENTH ANNUAL CALIFORNIA INDEPENDENT FILM FESTIVAL



The California Independent Film Festival, opening tomorrow, offers something for everyone. Pictured on the right is founder Derek Zemrak in the new Member and Filmmaker Lounge at Orinda's Theatre Square. Photo Andy Scheck

## CAIFF Lets You Party with the Stars

By Sophie Braccini

Beginning tomorrow night, Lamorindans will have an opportunity to experience more than 18 feature films and documentaries, as well as 31 short films over the course of three and a half days at the 16th California Independent Film Festival (CAIFF). In addition to seeing wonderful films, CAIFF attendees can meet some of the actors, directors and producers who made them possible.

Thomas Ian Nicholas, who played Kevin in the iconic movie "American Pie" 16 years ago, the year of the first CAIFF, will answer questions prior to the screening of the film on Saturday at the Orinda Theatre. The screening will launch a full night of partying starting at 10 p.m. at Shelbys where Nicholas will be the headline act, with opening performer Johnny Nash. The party is free with

any festival movie ticket stub.

On Sunday, at Moraga's Rheem Theatre, the actor will answer questions before the 11 a.m. showing of "Rookie of the Year," the 1993 American sports comedy starring Nicholas who played 12-year-old Henry Rowengartner, signed to play with the Chicago Cubs.

... continued on page A12

### Quote of the Week:

"We didn't have GPS. We had to use the stars and the moon." Read Mickey Ganitch, a True Man of Honor - page B1.

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## Dad Performs CPR on Young Daughter, Saves Her Life

By Cathy Tyson



Karen Rose and a very thankful Marco Ortiz, with 2-year-old daughter, Jacqueline, at the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce offices. Photo provided

It's every parent's nightmare, finding your lifeless child face down in the pool. Still shaken by the ordeal, Lafayette Park Hotel employee Marco Ortiz had that unfortunate experience, but wanted to get the word out to the many homeowners in Lamorinda with pools that CPR training can save a life.

Getting ready for a family dinner out on a recent Sunday, Ortiz took a quick shower while his two older children, ages 14 and 5, and wife were home. Upon arrival in the living room, he started looking for 2-year-old Jacqueline. Panicked, he saw her lifeless body in their pool, and took "the biggest jump of my life" into the cold water. Lifting little Jacqueline out, Ortiz immediately started giving her CPR, remembering the instructions he received at a work-sponsored class. The quiet afternoon turned to chaos as his wife was scream-

ing, but Ortiz continued compressions and mouth to mouth.

In a few minutes he could tell she was faintly breathing and eventually started crying and throwing up the pool water. Paramedics and police arrived after about 10 critical minutes, praising Ortiz for his quick response.

After a 24-hour stay at Kaiser hospital in Walnut Creek to check out heart and lung function, Jacqueline is doing just fine and has no lasting injuries from her near drowning. Thankful father Ortiz still has poignant memories of the event.

Recently he and Jacqueline made a visit to give flowers and heartfelt thanks to his CPR instructor, Karen Rose, director of events at the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce, who teaches classes to staff at the hotel in her free time.

... continued on page A12

### LAMORINDA

Town News	A2 - A12
Life in Lamorinda	B1 - B12
Classified	B8
Food	B9
Service Directory	B9
Not to be Missed	B10-B11
Business	B12
Sports	C1 - C3
<b>HOW TO CONTACT US</b>	C3
Shop Orinda	C4
Our Homes	D1 - D12
<b>This Week Read About:</b>	
Terraces Shrinks	A2
Bridge to Canyon	A4
Housing Element, Almost?	A6
Riding the Wind	B2
Daughters of the Goddess	B3
Self-Publishing at LLLC	B5
High School Plays	B6
Water Polo	C1

### Life in Lamorinda B1-B12

#### Kids Do Their Part

Local schools lead the way to 75 percent diversion rate - page B8.



### Sports C1-C3

#### Gaels Face Tough Season

The Saint Mary's College men's basketball season opener is this Friday, Nov. 8 - page C2.



### Our Homes D1-D12

#### Man-Caves on Display

Move over, kitchens and gardens - the Garage Tour is coming to Lafayette! - page D1.



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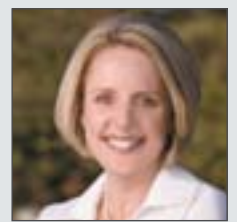
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## Lafayette Civic News

### Public Meetings

#### City Council

Tuesday, Nov. 12, 7 p.m.  
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,  
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

#### Planning Commission

Monday, Nov. 18, 7 p.m.  
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,  
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

#### Design Review

Tuesday, Nov. 12, 7 p.m.  
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,  
Arts & Science Discovery Center,  
3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

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

#### School Board Meetings

**Acalanes Union High School District**  
Wednesday, Nov. 20, 7:30 p.m.  
AUHSD Board Room at 1212  
Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette  
www.acalanes.k12.ca.us

#### Lafayette School District

Wednesday, Nov. 13, 7 p.m.  
Regular Board Meeting  
Stanley Library  
3477 School St., Lafayette  
www.lafsd.k12.ca.us

Share your thoughts,  
insights and opinions with  
your community.

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editor:**

letters@lamorindaweekly.com

## Terraces Shrinks, Waiting for Clarity

By Cathy Tyson

It is unclear where the developer is headed with the Terraces of Lafayette project. At a recent Design Review Commission meeting, representatives of O'Brien Land Company did not officially abandon the land use application for the 315-unit version of the project, but expressed interest in garnering feedback for a significantly revised 208-unit proposed project. Project manager Dave Baker agreed that the process is confusing and the "details need to be worked out."

When the original proposal for a 315-unit complex was presented, it garnered a fair amount of negative feedback from commissioners in late September. At the Oct. 29 commission meeting, representatives from O'Brien

took to heart the negative comments from their last go round and introduced a new re-vamped preliminary iteration that reduces the number of units by one-third, from 315 to 208.

Acknowledging that the original 315-unit project is a "non-starter," Baker discussed a revised version that shrinks the number of buildings, changes the layout and embraces a number of other suggestions design review commissioners made last month. He invited citizens to talk about the design of the project, and specifically asked for feedback.

As the meeting wrapped up, the commission needed to make a decision on the original building application for the 315-unit project. They unanimously voted to

reject that proposal, due to their inability to make the findings to recommend approval to the planning commission.

However, procedurally, the developer is still pursuing the official application of the larger 315-unit concept, though it will surely be denied. It's not uncommon for any project to go through revisions, and Baker said they plan to move forward to find something acceptable.

Architect Norm Dyer outlined how they had responded to concerns and suggestions, presenting a summary of plan changes that included 10 items, from reduced unit count to increased green space and minimized grading that conforms more closely to the hillside.

Pointing out a list of positive new design attributes, commissioner Ken Hertel was cautiously optimistic about the initial look of the more petite project, although he, along with other commissioners also suggested facets that had room for improvement. There was general agreement among the design review commissioners that the process should be re-started focusing on the new, smaller version.

To check out physical models of the proposed project, visit the Terraces of Lafayette Information Center in the Clocktower building, 3569 Mt. Diablo Boulevard, Suite E, near Francesca's; open Tuesday through Friday from 1 to 5 p.m.

## Personnel Bowl Over the Office for Halloween



Photo Cathy Tyson

Lafayette city staffers strike a pose at the decked out "Lafayette Lanes" for Halloween. The creative public servants that keep the city running came up with an impressive 1950s bowling alley concept for their annual themed extravaganza. No detail was "spared" putting together the magic: borrowed bowling balls, pins and shoes, along with a popcorn maker, candy, "beer" on tap, and clever photo-shopped images of the mayor and winning teams from years past. The "Happy Valley Girls" busted out the bedazzler to add a little sparkle to their stylish bowling shirts and named themselves along with rival team the "Burton Valley Bowlers" after street names in town, Betty Lane, Lucas, Millie and Flo (short for Florence). Cocktails, tattoos, cigars, retro hairdos and actual bowling lanes that extended into the lobby rounded out the space that usually is a bit more business-like.

C. Tyson

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## ALL LAFAYETTE RESIDENTS Community Meeting THURSDAY, NOV. 14, 2013

Dear Lafayette Residents,

Please join your friends and neighbors for a meeting of our entire community at the Veterans Memorial Hall 3780 Mt. Diablo Blvd. on Thursday, November 14th from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. to hear a "State of the City" address by our Mayor Mike Anderson followed by a question and answer period from the audience.

- What more can be done about our roads, traffic and parking?
- What is going on with the surge of development in our town?
- What does it mean to have our downtown designated a "Priority Development Area" (PDA)?
- What does the Association of Bay Area Government's (ABAG) "Plan Bay Area" mean for you, a concerned Lafayette resident?
- How do we respond to regional planning issues and still maintain our semi-rural atmosphere?
- And other important concerns!

Please mark your calendars and tell your friends and neighbors!  
More information and details to follow closer to the event.

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## Expanded Smoking Regulations Ready for Prime Time

By Cathy Tyson

Restrictions will be added to Lafayette's existing regulations that expand areas where smoking isn't allowed as of mid-December. Citing scientific studies that cigarette and cigar smoking causes a host of diseases, the City Council recently voted to support public health by discouraging "the inherently dangerous behavior of tobacco use near non-tobacco users" according to the staff report, along with protecting children from exposure to smoking and tobacco.

The new ordinance will support extending the smoking ban to include outdoor public areas like plazas and public events, for example the farmers' market, along with outdoor dining areas, new multi-family residences, and existing multi-family units that are newly leased or rented after the ordinance takes effect. In addition, smoking will be banned within 25 feet of building entries and windows.

While many speakers at the public hearing were in favor of the ban, one fellow spoke up about potential intrusion into people's rights.

Once the new rules are in force, the city's Code Enforcement Officer will handle complaints. The new ordinance will become effective 30 days after its official adoption slated for Nov. 14, meaning expanded regulations will be applicable as of mid-December. The new rules don't apply to e-cigarettes.

City Council members discussed the matter saying it's a balancing situation. Acknowledging that quitting smoking is difficult, Councilmember Brandt Andersson said it's only banned in situations where it affects other people, as in multi-family housing or outdoor dining. Councilmember Mark Mitchell talked about the role of government, that this is a reasonable compromise that respects the rights of all citizens.

## Acalanes English Teacher Wins Prestigious Award

By Cathy Tyson



Natalie Moore

Photo Cathy Tyson

Acalanes English teacher Natalie Moore was humbled to receive an official Proclamation from the mayor and City Council

Oct. 28 as one of the winners of the 2013 Warren Eukel Teacher Trust Award.

... continued on page A8

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## Moraga Civic News

### Public Meetings

#### Town Council

Wednesday, Nov. 13, 7 p.m.  
Wednesday, Nov. 27, 7 p.m.  
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School,  
1010 Camino Pablo

#### Planning Commission

Monday, Nov. 18, 7 p.m.  
Moraga Library, 1500 St. Mary's Rd.

#### Design Review

Tuesday, Nov. 12, 7 p.m.  
Moraga Library, 1500 St. Mary's Rd.

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

#### School Board Meeting

##### Moraga School District

Tuesday, Nov. 12, 7:30 pm  
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School Auditorium  
1010 Camino Pablo, Moraga  
www.moraga.k12.ca.us  
See also AUHSD meeting page A2



## Police Report

**Trick, no treat 10/28/13** Sometime during the night, unknown suspects sprayed large blue and white block letters in the bowl portion of the Moraga skate park. Damage is estimate at \$500. No suspects or leads at this time. Police report doesn't spell out the vandal's message, but surely it was worth getting arrested over.

**Loud dog, 10/27/13** An anonymous reporting person advised police that a dog had been barking for approximately six hours in an Ascot Drive apartment. Upon arrival at nearly 1 a.m. police didn't hear the barking dog. Did the poor fellow bark himself out?

**Slow learner, 10/26/13** Police pulled over a Dodge pick-up truck for failing to stop at the posted stop sign on Camino Pablo at Hodges Drive around 11 p.m. Turns out the 46-year-old male driver had a driver's license that was suspended due to a prior DUI. The car was left locked and the gentleman, who was cited, called a friend for a ride, because he isn't allowed to drive.

**Post bumped, 10/26/13** A Black Chevrolet SUV backed into a concrete post at Joaquin Moraga Middle School in the middle of the afternoon. The paved base of the post buckled and now the post is tilted. The unknown female driver got out of her car, looked at the damage, then left the scene. Police are currently investigating because the woman's license plate number was noted.

**Driving while very intoxicated, 10/26/13** Moraga Police stopped an Infiniti at 2 a.m. on Donald Drive near Carroll Drive for speeding. The 33-year-old driver smelled suspiciously like alcohol. Upon taking field sobriety tests, his blood alcohol level was nearly three times the legal limit at 0.233 percent. This was not his first brush with the law, the fellow's driver's license was suspended due to a prior DUI. His car was towed and he was taken to the Martinez Detention Facility. Like déjà vu all over again, except worse.

**Mysterious stinky package at SMC, 10/24/13** Mailroom workers at Saint Mary's College discovered a padded envelope with what they describe as a "foul odor." The package was delivered to the campus Public Safety office, personnel there called the Moraga Police. What could it be inside? No need for the bomb squad. Cops wisely contacted the addressee, and determined that the package contained smoked trout. At the request of the recipient the package was disposed of by campus Public Safety staff. Perhaps best to stick with cookies, new socks, or even better – a shiny new check.



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## The Bridge to Canyon

By Sophie Braccini



Canyon Road bridge

Photo Andy Scheck

It's a bucolic little bridge over a nice creek. The dilapidated, 24-foot wide structure provides emergency services access to the unincorporated community of Canyon. It serves as one of only three exit routes out of Moraga and is shared 6,000 times a day by cars, bicycles and pedestrians. The Canyon Road bridge, located where the road narrows at the edge of town, is modest in appearance but serves a vital function. After a Caltrans inspection revealed the bridge to be structurally deficient, Moraga's public works director, Edric Kwan, started researching engineering solutions.

The Canyon Road bridge, called

the "white bridge" by Canyon residents, was built in 1936 and passes over the west branch of the San Leandro Creek. The bridge is eligible for replacement, Kwan told the Moraga Town Council Oct. 23 as he presented his plan. The proposed new bridge will be 40 feet wide, accommodate future bike lanes, and have a sidewalk on one side. The new construction will be able to weather an earthquake, which is not at all a given for the current bridge.

Kwan explained that his preliminary study suggests two possibilities as far as the timing of the construction of a replacement bridge: all construction work could take place in a single

season – April to October – and would cut off access to the bridge; or the work could be completed over two years, addressing one side of the bridge at a time.

"I agree that the project is a good idea; it's the implementation that concerns me," said Canyon resident and emergency preparedness expert Jonathan Goodwin. "Surely the first option would be cheaper, but it would increase Code 3 medical, fire and police response to Canyon from about 12 minutes to around 30 minutes. The potential for loss of life or catastrophic fire would be greatly increased," Goodwin stated, adding that it seemed to him that emergency re-

sponse from Oakland would be infeasible.

Kwan said after the meeting that he is aware this is a major issue for Canyon residents and his plan includes a large community outreach and input campaign to take into account the needs of all constituencies.

Canyon resident and former Caltrans employee S. Eric Olafsson also commented after the meeting and proposed a different alternative: build a better new bridge. "The present bridge is on a horrible alignment, where you need to turn sharply to get on," he said. "I would think they could take a small portion of the pear orchard and build a new bridge on an improved alignment, without demolishing the old bridge until the opening of the new one."

The pear orchard property belongs to the Moraga School District.

The Town Council authorized Kwan to contract with Nolte Vertical 5 of Walnut Creek for an amount not to exceed \$567,016 for civil engineering and bridge design services. Kwan secured funding for the study through Caltrans and the Measure J Transportation Sales Tax. Construction of the bridge will not start until 2015.

## Fields of the Future

### School district and town plan to work together

By Sophie Braccini

Although the setting was formal and distant, there was no chill in the air at a joint meeting of the Moraga School District and the Town Council on Oct. 22. After listening to a presentation on the district's financial future, the Town Council proposed to revive the joint committee whose work led to the town providing funding for the renovation of the sports field at Camino Pablo Elementary School. The school district

agreed to start looking into planning the renovation of the middle school's fields, and proposed to extend the dialogue on sharing sports resources to the high school and college. The joint committee will be comprised of two council members and two school district board members, and will start its work early in 2014.

Concerned about the welfare of the school district, Councilmember Michael Metcalf asked the school

board what kind of impact that future developments, which are now on the drawing board in Moraga, would have on their finances. Jill Keimach, the town manager, listed those projects but noted that forecasting an exact time when they would translate into actual population growth is a crystal ball exercise. The first development, that could be on the market in the next couple of years, is the 26-home Summerhill project on Camino Ricardo; the others are probably four to 15 years in the future.

Superintendent Bruce Burns replied to Metcalf's question by saying that the answer is not clear cut – new students translate into additional revenue, but the state does not fund students at the actual cost of their education.

Mayor David Trotter broached the revival of the sports fields subcommittee to plan for additional cooperation between the town and school district to improve the quality of the fields and

access by sports groups.

The logical place to start, according to the mayor, is at Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School, which has multiple sports fields in need of amendment.

School district board member Shari Simon proposed to include in the discussion all of the institutions that could share sports fields, such as Saint Mary's College and Campolindo High School; the Town Council supported the idea of widening the conversation.

Simon volunteered to serve on the joint committee and disclosed her position on the board of the East Bay Eclipse Soccer Club, as did board member Charles McNulty. As the Town Council representatives, Trotter nominated himself and Metcalf. Keimach will develop a charter with parks and recreation director Jay Ingram and invite Campolindo and Saint Mary's College to join the discussion.

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# Wrong-way Cyclists at Risk

By Sophie Braccini



Officer Michael Dreyfuss stops an unidentified cyclist riding on the wrong side of the road. Photo Sophie Braccini

Officer Michael Dreyfuss makes it a point to stop cyclists when they ride on the wrong side of the road. "It can be very dangerous," says the Moraga officer, "particularly when a car turns right at an intersection – the driver checks on the left where the traffic comes from and risks missing a bicyclist who is riding on the wrong side of the road." Dreyfuss says that bicycles are

vehicles that must follow all of the rules of the road, like any vehicle, including stop signs, traffic lights and the direction of traffic movement.

"I haven't given any citations yet, just warnings," notes the young officer, who has worked in Moraga for seven years. "Our mission is to educate and prevent accidents."

Dreyfuss says that he has been invited to Los Perales Elementary School in the past and has a presentation and games for students that he is happy to bring to schools. "We keep an especially watchful eye at the beginning of the school year, when young, new bicyclists take the road for the first time." Children who are afraid to cross the street at certain places should walk their bikes on the sidewalk if they need to remain on the wrong side of the road, advises Dreyfuss.

**More Moraga Civic News on Page A11**

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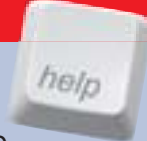


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# Orinda Civic News

## Public Meetings

### City Council

Tuesday, Nov. 19, 7 p.m.  
Auditorium, Orinda Library,  
26 Orinda Way

### Planning Commission

Tuesday, Nov. 12, 7 p.m.  
Auditorium, Orinda Library,  
26 Orinda Way

### Citizens' Infrastructure Oversight Commission

Wednesday, Nov. 13, 6:30 p.m.  
Sarge Littlehale Community Room,  
22 Orinda Way

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

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## Orinda's Draft Housing Element Finally Heading to End Zone?

By Laurie Snyder

The Orinda Planning Commission recently moved the ball forward on Orinda's Housing Element with its recommendation to the City Council to adopt the most recent version of the document – draft five – as well as the Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration, Zoning Ordinance text, and General Plan and map amendments associated with the Element.

The Oct. 29 commission meeting was the first of the latest public hearings to help Orindans achieve détente with state and local officials regarding the creation of a Housing Element for Orinda's General Plan.

With the civic equivalent of a two minute warning looming, time is of the essence. Orinda must obtain certification from the California Department of Housing and

Community Development by Jan. 31, 2014. Failure to do so puts the city at risk of losing significant transportation and planning dollars.

The second of the hearings will be held before the City Council on Nov. 19 at 7 p.m. If approved by council members, staff would then immediately send the Element to the HCD for review.

"We're the last city of 19

cities in this county that doesn't have a certified housing element," noted planning commission chair Carlos Baltodano, who described the housing element review process undertaken by the city these last several years as "arduous." He added, "We've had a lot of input from people to get to this point."

... continued on next page

## New Orinda Grove Neighborhood Rolls Out the Welcome Mat

By Laurie Snyder



"The project is well on its way to being a very good asset for the community," said Orinda city manager Janet Keeter of the Orinda Grove neighborhood currently under development. Keeter advised the Orinda City Council that more than 1,500 people had toured the model homes even before Pulte's Oct. 24 ribbon cutting – an indicator of the expected competition for just 73 new homes. Photos Ohlen Alexander

In addition to hearing positive news Oct. 22 from Janet Keeter, city manager, about burgeoning public interest in the 73 homes being created for Orinda's newest neighborhood – Orinda Grove – members of the Orinda City Council received an update regarding eight of those homes

which will be classified and sold at below market rate.

"When the city council approved the project back in 2008," said planning director Emmanuel Ursu, "there was a condition of approval that required eight of the units to be affordable at moderate income levels," and that these

homes "were to be made available to households with at least four persons." Staff, in consultation with city attorneys and the developers, subsequently worked out criteria for setting the below market rate price for the first four homes and for determining prospective homeowner eligibility.

"The way we established the price is we used 110 percent of the area median income for a family of four – that is \$102,850 a year. We assumed that no more than 35 percent of the household income would go toward housing costs," explained Ursu. For city purposes, he said, "housing costs" would include the principle, interest, tax, insurance, homeowners' association fees, utilities, maintenance, and city costs to operate the below market rate program.

"We also assumed a 10 percent down payment and fixed rate mortgage over 30 years, using the average mortgage rate for the prior 12 months," ultimately settling on a sales price of \$385,000.

That price will be reassessed, when the remaining units are ready, in response to median income and mortgage rate changes. A concerted effort is being made to reach out to local businesses, schools, churches, and others who have contact with individuals working in Orinda. "We want to target folks that are locally employed, as they will have priority," stressed Ursu.

Staff will host a workshop in November or early December to explain the details of the below market rate program. A date will be announced soon. The deadline to apply will likely be in mid-January.



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**Orinda's Draft Housing Element Finally Heading to End Zone?**

... continued from page A6

The audience included faces familiar to those who have attended earlier City Council meetings on the matter: Chris Engl, Vince and Janet Maiorana, Bruce London, Owen Murphy, Ann O'Connell Nye, and Chet Martine. Engl, an Orinda Watch leader, asked for still more wording to be removed from the latest draft and continued to question the plan to adjust zoning on 3.2 acres at the Santa Maria Church.

According to the staff report, one way that Orinda may demonstrate to the state that it has an adequate land supply to meet its Regional Housing Needs Allocation is to "zone land for multi-family development and take advantage of a 'safe harbor' in the law that deems certain densities as appropriate to accommodate housing for lower income households." This does not mean that the city will require development in these rezoned areas, just that it is showing the state that there is land available for development.

Orinda and other suburban areas qualify for this safe harbor "in the

law where land is zoned for at least 20 housing units per acre." However, despite this provision, "HCD staff has taken the position that zoning to allow only one specific number of units on a site (i.e. 64 units on a 3.2-acre site) constitutes a governmental constraint to the development of housing and therefore a range of density of development is required in the applicable zoning standards." And that is why the city decided to adjust the zoning to 20-25 units per acre on the 3.2 Santa Maria acres.

Baldodano noted that leaders of the Oakland Archdiocese, which manages the Santa Maria property, had been concerned about the proposed zoning, but said those concerns were dispelled following a meeting between Archdiocese representatives and city leaders. Still, Engl and Orinda Watch wanted commissioners to ask the City Council to request an opinion from the Attorney General regarding HCD's determination. City staff stressed, once again, that no development is actually planned for Santa Maria.

The lengthiest commission deliberations, however, were reserved for the Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration. Noting that staff had made "a valiant effort" to consider every possible impact of the Element, City Attorney Osa Wolff advised commissioners of their obligation - "to evaluate reasonably foreseeable events." Commissioners tweaked wording and even debated punctuation and formatting before finally recommending that the City Council adopt the items.

The public comment period for the Initial Study and Mitigated Declaration, which began Oct. 25, continues through Nov. 19. Copies of the Element and related documents with the commissioners' Oct. 29 revisions will be made available on the city's website. Residents wishing to provide input should send their written comments to Christina Ratcliffe at CRatcliffe@city-of-orinda.org, or via U.S. mail: City of Orinda Planning Department, 22 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563.

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

Editor:

Funny, I never thought of that sign across from the Commons as, "The Town Marquee." That seems a little inflated, but so does the idea of electronic eye-catching signs with town news. Ummmm. I thought we were supposed to be concentrating on driving. Am I wrong? As it is, there is enough information on that sign to distract me from watching for the light to turn green, the cars in front of me, pedestrians/bikers crossing there, etc. We have the wonderful Lamorinda Weekly for news, and the Patch as well. The current locations of "The Town Marquee," is not the place to try and capture our attention with more local information about events, and a greater change in the frequency....just how often we need to notice the newest of the news. In the article by Sophie Braccini, and the comments from the Councilmembers, my point doesn't seem to have crossed anyone's mind! I mean, get an app for town info! Additionally, the "tired old sign" IS part is one of the few remaining reminders (other than the endangered ROCK,) of the semi-rural community most of us love about Moraga. If you want to have the sign fixed, I am CERTAIN that it would make a primo project for one or more potential Eagle Scouts. Spend the money elsewhere. While I have deep respect for those who serve our town such as Mr. Ingram and Mr. Reynolds, I find it positively disturbing to read that Mr. Reynolds gets "really positively giddy," when he thinks about just how much info can be put on a sign "at that location." If you want a flashy sign, with ever-changing info, and lots of important town information to read....please not in any location where we are supposed to be focused on driving the SUV packed with the kiddies en route to their soccer practice or the Safeway. My point, in case it may have been lost in my sarcasm, is that we have currently have enough distractions while driving. We are told not to talk on our cells and drive; we instill in our new drivers the importance of not texting in the car. We should be watching for kids and squirrels, cyclists, and cars. How can this point have been lost? Simply for a desire for something new and flashy? Come on, guys!

Editor:

After suffering many on-strike days of the 40+ year history of BART, Orindans faced driving through their "Confluence of Congestion at its 'Crossroads.'" This CCC results from a design prior to City incorporation, overlapping the Orinda BART station with intersections of Brookwood Road, Camino Pablo & the exit from Eastbound Rt. 24 & dumping exiting traffic into that intersection due to a lack of a critical cloverleaf-shaped exit from Rt. 24 for Northbound traffic. Worse yet, on October 23, 2013, Orindans heard with disbelief that BART negotiators created a huge financial mess by giving the transit system's workers an outrageous pay increase, management receiving virtually nothing in return & retaining obsolete work rules, all of which prevents BART from lowering its (& riders') costs. One fallacy of management's decisions quickly surfaced that evening as Eastbound Rt. 24 traffic became more snarled than usual from heavy smoke from an Eastbound train stalled at the Orinda BART station. Orinda's faulty "CCC" design then resulted in more than the usual substantial delays on Eastbound Rt. 24 in Orinda, & also more delays for drivers crossing the CCC to go through Orinda Northbound onto the San Pablo Dam Road. Clearly, Orindans have no apparent benefit from a "Complete Streets" Resolution presented to the Council on 12/18/12, that CSR being ineffective to mitigate the Crossroads Congestion. Sadly, at day's end on 10/23/2013, "Complete Streets" remained an illusion, the CCC remained dangerous from traffic flow and safety standpoints, & BART riders readied their pocketbooks and wallets to be pick-pocketed again to pay for the non-electronic workers' new raises. Moreover, to avoid Rt. 24, 100s & 100s of drivers clogged the Orinda Grove construction area along Orinda's Altarinda Road, worsening long interruptions of proper access to the Orinda Convalescent Hospital by ambulances & turning the sidewalk-lined Orindawoods area into a high-speed freeway parallel to Rt. 24, shocking mothers pushing their stroller-bound babies on the once-safe sidewalks. So ended another day in Orinda, a self-described "semi-rural character" City, which ABAG & MTC call a Potential Priority Development Area into which they are directing yet-more housing development.

Jari Hazard  
Moraga

Chet Martine  
Orinda

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## Civic News Lafayette

### Acalanes English Teacher Wins Prestigious Award

... continued from page A3

The award is given out annually to three outstanding nominated teachers, to foster excellence in education; it also comes with a \$10,000 grant with no strings attached.

Moore graciously reflected that she was surprised and grateful and her students are "completely thrilled. It's a wonderful thing to be recognized for doing a job you love so much."

City manager Steven Falk, whose two children are graduates of Acalanes and were taught by Moore, said, "She's an inspiration."

She's been teaching for 14 years, seven of those at Acalanes, and was nominated by a group of students she taught last spring who raved about her philosophy of focusing on the art of critical thinking and her dedication to her students.

Moore was selected from over 40 teachers nominated this year in Contra Costa County.

If teaching a total of four English classes isn't enough, she also mentors another beginning teacher and is a Common Core Coach along, of course, with an off campus life that includes husband and fellow Acalanes teacher Ed Meehan and their 5-year-old son.

She says she asks a lot of her students and sets "high expectations; they rise to meet them," adding, "I just love my students and love being part of their lives."



# Healy Unplugged

By Nick Marnell

Stephen Healy was appointed fire chief of the Moraga-Orinda Fire District Oct. 16. The Lamorinda Weekly talked with district residents and presented the chief some of their questions and concerns as he ushers in his new administration.

**LW:** Ashley, a junior at Saint Mary's College, wants to know your number one goal as the district's new fire chief.

**Healy:** Presently, my primary goal as fire chief is to ensure the fiscal sustainability of the district.

**LW:** Ray lives on Ivy Drive in south Orinda and he wants to know what will be the biggest difference in the district now that you are in charge.

**Healy:** The district will be focused more on fire prevention than ever before.

**LW:** Rheem Valley's Susette wants assurance that the fire department is large enough to handle a major disaster. And Jamie, an Orinda nurse, wants to know what residents can do to help prevent that major disaster.

**Healy:** A major disaster would quickly overwhelm our local resources. That's why we are a participating member of regional and federal disaster teams. In other words, we give help because we may need it someday. The best way that residents can help prevent a disaster is by following the guidelines of the Firewise initiative. You can learn more when you go to [www.mofd.org](http://www.mofd.org) and click on Fire Prevention.

**LW:** Moraga advertising professional Jason asks if the district is responsible for fire prevention in the free space along the Valle Vista staging area. And Canyon mom Denise wants to know if there are plans for preventive maintenance in the Canyon natural areas.

**Healy:** The land around the Valle Vista staging area is owned by the East Bay Municipal Utility District. We cooperate each spring to make sure that the 50 miles of fire trails are graded, and the district has always been responsive to our concerns regarding vegetation management. The land around Canyon is both publicly and privately owned. I am not aware of any plans for preventive maintenance, although we will continue to work with residents to abate weeds and make their homes safer.

**LW:** Orinda resident Michele wants to know why the district does not enforce the weed abatement policy as diligently as it used to.

**Healy:** We froze the fire marshal's position for two years because of budget cuts. Our new fire marshal, Kathy Leonard, just rewrote the district's fire prevention ordinance, which will strengthen our ability to ensure that dead vegetation is cleared

in inhabited areas.

**LW:** Markl, a Moraga information systems manager, wonders why the district hasn't hired or purchased cows and sheep to graze along the weedy hillside below Ascot Drive. Commercial real estate agent Gordon had the same question for the dry areas of Orinda – only he suggested buying goats to do the job.

**Healy:** Good questions. Using cows or goats is a great way to keep annual grasses down. It is not without some controversy though, because of the environmental concerns of overgrazing. I've asked one of my battalion chiefs to further explore the idea, and what our role might be in it.

**LW:** Don, a rower who lives off of Miner Road, wants to know if you recommend a particular fire alert system for the home; one that will contact MOFD at the slightest sense of trouble.

**Healy:** I would suggest three things: do online research to see what is out there, talk to your neighbors and find out what their experience has been, and negotiate a good deal from the start.

**LW:** Back to Saint Mary's, sophomore Kayla wants to know if the buildings at the college undergo routine fire prevention maintenance.

**Healy:** Many of the buildings at Saint Mary's College have fire sprinklers - including all of the labs and dormitories. Saint Mary's is responsible to install and maintain the sprinklers. My experience has been that the college is very responsible when it comes to student safety.

**LW:** Charles, in Orinda law enforcement, echoed a concern of many residents – are there enough firefighters in the district?

**Healy:** There are enough firefighters on duty each day to fulfill the mission of the fire district: to provide the highest level of emergency and public service in response to the needs of our community.

**LW:** And finally, Sleepy Hollow attorney Kellian presented the closing statement. Can you protect us sufficiently without asking us for more money?

**Healy:** We are able to protect the community. To ask the community for more money is a public policy decision that only our board of directors can make.



**Moraga-Orinda Fire District Board of Directors Meetings**

**Next meeting:**

**Wednesday, Nov. 6**

(Go to [www.mofd.org](http://www.mofd.org) as the meeting date approaches for location and more information)

## Lamorinda Fire News Briefs

By Nick Marnell

### Is Rock Bottom in the Rearview Mirror?

The county Board of Supervisors unanimously ruled at its Oct. 22 meeting that the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District will not have to close an additional fire station in January.

"The picture is brighter, but we have a long way to go," said David Twa, county administrator, who presented the board an update on ConFire finances. Twa stated that he thinks the district's financial situation has bottomed out, and that he sees modest recovery ahead. He credited a projected 5 percent increase in assessed property values – which will result in more tax revenue – and a \$4.65 million federal grant as the main contributors to the rosier picture for fiscal year 2013-14.

Yet Twa cautioned that major obstacles remain for the district, including increased pension liability and health costs, unfunded infrastructure maintenance and the continued depletion of reserve balances, which he said will be close to exhausted by 2017. And he also warned that his financial model assumes only the 23 fire stations currently in use; if the district expects to go back to 30 fully-operating stations and companies, it could not happen using the projected revenue stream.

ConFire chief Jeff Carman recognized the challenges that lie ahead, yet he maintained a positive outlook. "Based on what I see," he said, "I'm sure we are on the way to becoming a healthier organization."

### Another Option for Lafayette?

The city of San Pablo, in reaction to the financial difficulties of the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District, requested that the Board of Supervisors consider that the city implement a response squad to provide emergency medical service to the San Pablo service area. The squad would supplement the heavy demand placed on ConFire station 70, and the cost of the program would be borne by the city. The board, acting as the ConFire board of directors, authorized the district to negotiate program terms with the city.

After the meeting, supervisor and ConFire director Candace Andersen was asked if it made sense for Lafayette, a city within her district, to consider providing a similar type of supplemental service. Lafayette, also served by ConFire but frustrated with its performance, is investigating alternative delivery of fire and emergency medical service to its residents.

... continued on page A12

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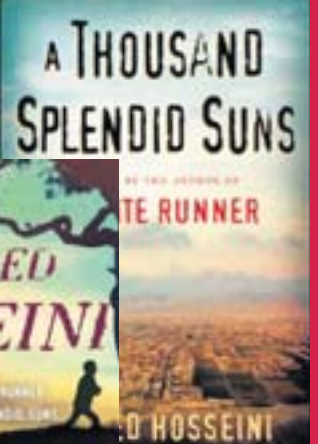
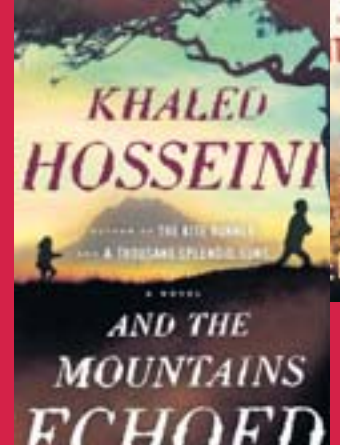



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## Khaled Hosseini

(author of *The Kite Runner*, *A Thousand Splendid Suns*, and *The Mountains Echoed*)



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### St. Perpetua Families Hike for SHELTER

65 students and families raise \$35,000 for homeless in Contra Costa County

Submitted by Theresa Maloney



From left: St. Perpetua School students Noah Sampson, William Johnston, Christopher Ruane, Owen VanStralen, Jack Flitter, Kieran Mein and Matthew Sexton. Photo provided

In mid-October, 65 students and their families from St. Perpetua School in Lafayette hiked beautiful Mount Diablo to help the homeless in Contra Costa County. With the intention of "giving back" to their community, one of the core foundations of the school, this dedicated group of parents and kids of all ages participated in the annual Hike for SHELTER. The event is run every year by SHELTER Inc., an organization working to raise awareness and money to help combat the problem of homelessness,

and students to accomplish this impressive goal. She says by giving these people the financial support they need, this year's event will help to change the lives of many in the county. The Hike for SHELTER is just one of the many events the close and compassionate community of St. Perpetua rallies for every year. Through the school's Mission Effectiveness program they will again partner with SHELTER Inc. for two more events this school year. With this program St. Perpetua strives to make a difference in the lives of those in their community and teach students the simple value of giving back. In a letter of thanks to St. Perpetua families and friends Chris Flitter congratulated her fellow parents on their achievement and contribution to SHELTER Inc. "You gave your children the message of what it means to be a true hero," she said.

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"You gave your children the message of what it means to be a true hero," she said.

Parents of soon-to-be kindergartners are invited to attend the next Taste of Kindergarten event on Friday, Dec. 13 at St. Perpetua School. Come for coffee at the Café before 8:45 a.m., followed by conversations with school staff and a visit to the kindergarten classroom from 9 to 10 a.m. Space is limited, pre-registration required at <http://stperpetua.org/domain/11>. Contact school development director Natalie Deininger for more information: [ndeininger@cndo.org](mailto:ndeininger@cndo.org).

## MEF Receives Donation from Campo's Leo Club

Submitted by Robert Murtagh



Photo provided

The Campolindo High School Leo Club, a community service club sponsored by the Moraga Lions Club, recently conducted a fundraising activity which resulted in the presentation of a \$300 check to the Moraga Education Foundation. The club president Katie Rossi and

club vice president Tiffany Powell made the presentation Oct. 8 to Campolindo High School principal John Walker. Also present was Moraga Lion John Baitx, Leo Club advisor. From left: John Baitx, Katie Rossi, John Walker, and Tiffany Powell.

## Annual NCL Tea at Moraga Royale

Submitted by Bailey Yuen



Photo provided

"Grease" was the word and fun was on the menu at Moraga Royale where the Class of 2016 hosted the annual National Charity League Tea with the sophomore class. With the tables set and food prepared,

the girls mingled and entertained Moraga Royale guests with songs and dances from the movie "Grease." After dancing, singing and some mingling, the guests enjoyed tea and treats.



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## Civic News Moraga

### No Parking on St. Mary's Road



Crosswalk, trail entrance and no-parking signs on St. Mary's Road Photo Sophie Braccini

The town of Moraga and Saint Mary's College are engaged in discussions about parking and transit concerns. The town's first initiative was to install "No Parking" signs on St. Mary's Road opposite the campus. Town staff stated that this was done "to improve traffic and pedestrian safety on St. Mary's Road, in the area of Saint Mary's College." At the Oct. 23 Town Council meeting, town manager Jill Keimach said that the decision to ban parking

is intended to prevent people who are attending special events at SMC from crossing the busy thoroughfare unsafely in the middle of the block. The college supports the new signage, she added. Not allowing parking will also permit pedestrians coming from the Lafayette-Moraga trail to have a clearer view of traffic when using the crosswalk between the trail and the campus.

S. Braccini

### Business is Not Booming for Moraga's TSAC

By Sophie Braccini

The Moraga Traffic Safety Advisory Committee had its first meeting of the year on Oct. 21. The committee decided that John Valentine and Richard Sauvé will again serve as chair and vice chair, respectively, and agreed that Larry Rosenberg will be its representative on the Livable Moraga Road advisory committee.

The short agenda included a discussion about parking at Saint Mary's College during special events. College representatives presented their strategy to administer parking at special college events, ensure smooth visitor access, avoid excessive congestion on public streets and accommodate parking demands within campus boundaries.

"The main strategy of the plan is to have designated college staff responsible for advance planning," according to the staff report. Committee members queried SMC representatives regarding the implementation of the plan and received reassurance from Moraga Police Chief Robert Priebe who stated that the process has always gone smoothly and that SMC coordinates with his forces in advance of events. TSAC approved the college's plan.

The committee then asked the existential question, "Should TSAC continue to exist?" TSAC is chartered as a five-member body but

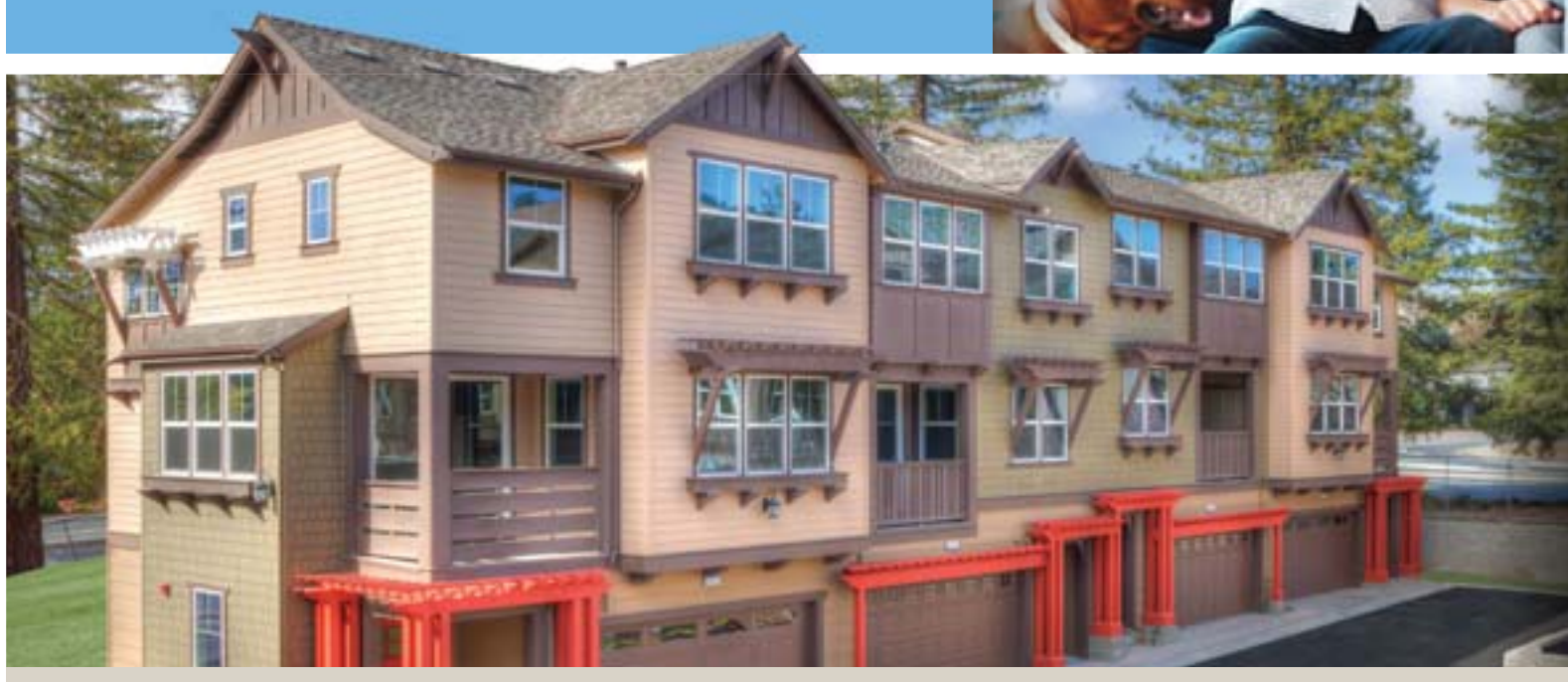
has had difficulty recruiting new volunteers – it currently has only three sitting members.

In the wake of an ill-fated speed-bump project on Camino Pablo in 2008, TSAC was revived and wrote its new charter to be an advisory body that would study traffic issues in town, conduct public hearings and hear expert testimony before making recommendations to the Town Council.

Since its inception, TSAC has discussed many issues including the roundabout at the intersection of St. Mary's Road and Rheem Boulevard, additional stop signs on Campolindo Drive and Tharp Drive and safe pedestrian access to a local elementary school. But the number of requests by residents to improve circulation has fallen off – so the committee had no need to meet in 2013 before October.

During the meeting, committee members emphasized the need to recruit new volunteers and decided to conduct their meetings every three months, or more often if needed. TSAC members serve for two years; the terms of the current members end next March. Rosenberg confirmed he hopes to be reappointed, while Sauvé said he would not seek selection again and Valentine was undecided.

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**Civic News Fire Departments**

**Lamorinda Fire News Briefs**

... continued from page A8

"We're at a point where all options should be considered," she said. "It certainly is another possibility to look at."

But the District 2 supervisor was hesitant to endorse the idea. "Is it equitable for Lafayette to offer to pay an additional amount, on top of what they're already paying, to have this supplemental service?" said Andersen. "Some would suggest it is fair. I'm not so sure."

She also explained that data needs to be compiled on the performance of the district's own medical squad unit, which was put into service in September. Plus, a draft of the Fitch Report is

due in November; she said that it may provide other solutions to providing fire and emergency medical service.

However, Andersen has not lost faith in a much-discussed proposal that she feels will improve service to Lafayette. "I'm still very hopeful that we can make station 46 work," she said.

**ConFire Management Reorganization Nearly Complete**

At a recent Advisory Fire Commission board meeting, Contra Costa County Fire Protection District outgoing chief Daryl Louder announced the appointment of Alan Hartford as assistant chief in charge of opera-

tions, effective Oct 1. Hartford has worked as a fire professional for more than 30 years; his resume includes nearly 20 years at ConFire, where he has held captain and battalion chief positions.

Fire marshal Lewis Broschard has been identified as the likely successor to assistant chief Rich Grace who will retire in March. No official announcement can be made on Broschard until Grace's position is actually vacant.

New chief Jeff Carman was heavily involved in the interviewing and selection process of all candidates.

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**From Front Page**

**CAIFF Lets You Party with the Stars**

... continued from page A1

On Friday, Nov. 8 at 6 p.m. Golden Globe nominee and 16th Annual CAIFF Lifetime Achievement Award recipient Lee Meriwether and Golden Globe winner Susan Blakely ("Rich Man, Poor Man"), who both appear in the short film, "Remember to Breathe," will be at the Orinda Theatre. You can also see Blakely at 4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 9 at Moraga's Rheem Theatre.

Many others actors and producers will present their productions at the festival: On Saturday, the star of "G.B.F." Michael J. Willett ("Pop Singer," "United States of Tara") will be in Orinda at 6 p.m.; and director Rosser Goodman ("Love Or Whatever") will be in Orinda with actress Jennifer Elise Cox ("The Brady Bunch Movie," "A Very Brady Sequel," "Web Therapy") at 8 p.m.

Bay Area directors Joel Pincoy ("Goatherder") and Kyle

Kerman ("SUX2BME") will participate in a Q&A at 11a.m. Sunday, Nov. 10 at the Orinda Theatre.

There will also be a discussion about bullying in schools led by Bruce Burns, superintendent of the Moraga School District, Heidi Felt, Joaquin Intermediate School counselor, and Kim Parks, dean of The Saklan Middle School following the presentation of the documentary "Bully," and the short music video "Big In L.A." at 1:30 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 10 at the Rheem Theatre.

Members of the CAIFF Association will also get to meet film professionals throughout the festival in the Member and Filmmaker lounges, located above Barbacoa in Orinda's Theatre Square and in the Rheem Theatre.

CAIFF founder Derek Zemrak describes the Orinda lounge as "a place to go before or after

the movies, have a little beer or wine and an appetizer, to relax and meet the filmmakers and stars."

Zemrak says a similar lounge existed during the first years of the festival, but he had not found the right place in Lamorinda. This year, the Theatre Square management team gave CAIFF the space above the restaurant to set up the lounge. "At the Rheem it's a little more complicated," says Zemrak. "The lounge is in the lobby, in the alcove areas."

On Friday night, the filmmakers' and CAIFF members' get-together will be in the lounge and on Saturday night people can gather there before the all-night party. CAIFF members get price reductions on films year-round, including at the festival; membership starts at \$55 a year.

For a complete schedule and ticket information, visit caiff.org.

**Dad Performs CPR on Young Daughter, Saves Her Life**

... continued from page A1

The hotel likes to have several people on every shift with this training, says director of human resources Linda Anderson. We need to get the word out about the importance of knowing CPR, said Anderson, adding that

Ortiz was humbled by all the attention, "He's our real life hero."

Ortiz has been with the hotel for almost 12 years and is now a room service supervisor.

CPR, or cardio pulmonary resus-

citation classes will be held in late February at the Lafayette Parks and Recreation department, and are also offered through the American Heart Association. For details, visit www.heart.org.

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# Mickey Ganitch – A True Man of Honor

By Laurie Snyder



Twenty-eight ribbons were earned during 23 years of service to America and the world by Pearl Harbor survivor and Orinda Masonic Lodge chaplain, Mickey Ganitch. "Do unto others. Make a better world," he urges.

Photo Ohlen Alexander

Master Mason since 1969, Mickey Ganitch has been a member of Orinda's Masonic Lodge since 1992, and currently serves as its chaplain. He is also one of the few Pearl Harbor survivors remaining in America.

An Ohio farm boy who grew up driving a Ford Model T, he recalls his parents giving away a significant portion of the corn, potatoes and fruit they grew to hungry relatives during

the Great Depression. He continues their goodness, helping with his church's pantry and serving Thanksgiving meals. He's been an usher for 46 years.

His hero's journey began before the Pearl attack even launched. "Germany was taking over so many countries. Japan was already expanding. I saw the handwriting on the wall," he said. He enlisted Jan. 16, 1941, joining the flagship of America's Pacific

Fleet – the USS Pennsylvania. "We always had an admiral aboard."

That ship would have been one of Japan's first targets – save for serendipity. Propeller issues had forced the ship into dry dock. "We weren't in our normal place," he said.

Ganitch saw it all from the crew's nest. While readying for morning football practice ahead of a big game against the USS Arizona, the Pennsylvania's guns thundered. Clad in everything but helmet and spikes, he clambered up his ladder. One bomb missed him by just 45 feet.

The Downes belched a half ton of torpedo tube onto his ship's forecandle before being damaged by the Cassin's rollover. The USS Shaw exploded. The Nevada tried to steam clear – until ordered to stop before she could be sunk to block the harbor. A friend wriggled from a porthole on the Oklahoma. ... continued on page B7

## Life in LAMORINDA

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The USS Cassin shown capsized against the Downes in front of the USS Pennsylvania, shortly after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. Visible at the center in the distance is the rolled Oklahoma with the Maryland beside her. The sunken and burning Arizona billows smoke out of view behind Ganitch's ship; the California is partially visible, extreme left.

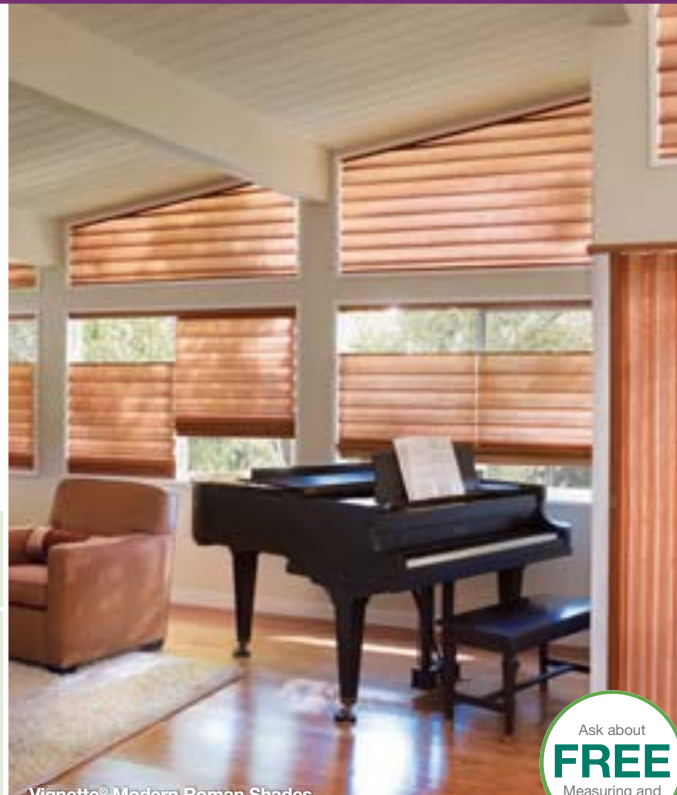
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# Riding the Wind

By Amanda Kuehn



Daniela Moroz racing at Crissy Field.

Photos Linda Moroz

Daniela Moroz appears to be a typical Stanley Middle School student — she hangs out with her friends and goes to school. When classes are over, though, Daniela trains hard as a competitive swimmer with Orinda Aquatics, and on the weekends she zips up her wetsuit, packs up her gear and heads to the delta to catch the wind and ride the waves.

At 12 years old, Daniela was the youngest of the juniors to attend a kitesurfing racing clinic held by the St. Francis Yacht Club (SFYC) this past summer. She learned from some of the best, including female and male world champions, Ericka and Johnny Heineken. “Accidents happen,” Daniela admitted, “but I know what I would need to do to stay safe.”

Kitesurfing, also called kiteboarding, is a surface water sport in which kites harness the power of the wind in a large kite, using it to propel themselves across the water on a kiteboard, similar to a small surfboard. It takes physical strength and pain-staking technique, aptitudes that Daniela has honed as a swimmer. Riding the water is a passion she learned from her parents, Linda and Vladimir Moroz, windsurfers who first paddled their daughter out on the water as a toddler.

The family has lived in Lafayette for the past eight years. Prior to that, Linda and Vladimir lived in Berkeley, not far from the marina where they met. “I came to California and saw all of these people out on the water in Berkeley Marina,” said Linda Moroz, who has always been an active per-

son. “I thought ‘Oh, I want to do that.’” She and Vladimir independently came to the United States as refugees from Czechoslovakia in the early ‘80s, prior to the Velvet Revolution and the fall of communism.

The couple bonded through their mutual love of windsurfing and the life that it entails. “You don’t really make other plans,” she said. “You go where the wind is.”

“It’s a sort of a lifestyle,” added Vladimir Moroz. “There are surfing bums and beach bums and there are windsurfing bums.” It is rare that there is a time of year when you cannot find wind.

On a typical Saturday the family spends the morning at home, packs up their gear and heads for the beach. They travel to Baja for two weeks

each winter, where they see many of the same windsurfers they’ve met before. They’ve also been to Maui and the Caribbean.

“It’s a kind of meditation,” Linda Moroz reflected, describing the way she feels when she is alone on the water. Daniela echoed this sentiment, “I love the fact that there is never a dull moment. There is always something new to learn or master.”

Daniela participates in a regular racing series on the bay at Crissy Field and hopes to become a part of SFYC’s Junior Kite Racing Team, the first of its kind in the USA. “I think it would be really cool to compete in kiting in the 2020 Olympics,” she said. For now, she hopes to keep learning and to inspire others her age to do the same.



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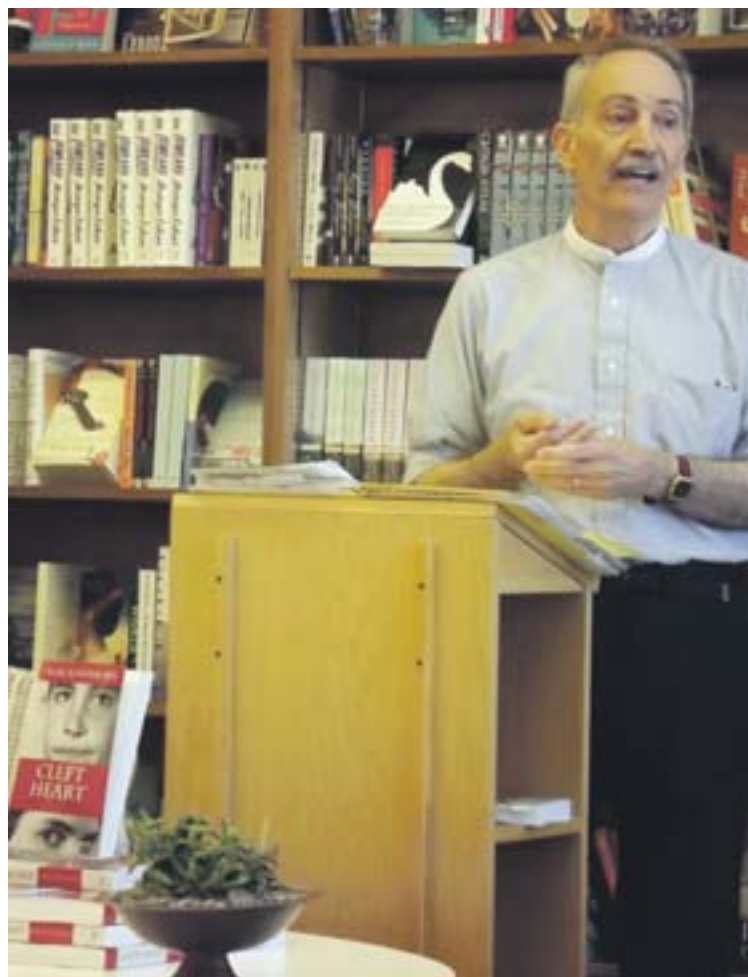
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# Author’s Life Far from Normal

By Cathy Dausman



Author Karl Schonborn speaks at a recent book signing. Photo Cathy Dausman

Is Orinda resident Karl Schonborn normal? Schonborn – debater, visual artist, motivational speaker, retired Cal State East Bay professor, husband, father and author of the newly published memoir, “Cleft Heart: Chasing Normal” – has journeyed far from the scarred school boy with a speech defect. “He has overcome a lot of obstacles,” said Orinda Books employee

Kathy Kerr. Kerr said Schonborn “knows what it’s like” to be bullied. The was born with a cleft palate and endured seven oral/facial surgeries as a young child. Each time his lip was re-cut. His facial imperfections and accompanying speech difficulties made him the subject of both verbal and physical harassment in school. His personal background and com-

ing of age in the violence filled 1960s led him to study crime and violence and make it his life’s work.

Although Schonborn said he didn’t write his memoir as therapy, he does see an opportunity to reach out to those being bullied today, whatever the reason. Schonborn plans to use his upcoming book tour – with stops in Palo Alto, New York, Philadelphia, and New Haven – as a platform to educate parents about bullying.

“Prevention is the real key to stopping the bullying process,” Schonborn said. Males often used their fists, to hurt others or retaliate, the author explained. Bullies often want to “puff themselves up by putting someone else down,” he adds. “We’re at the mercy of all the [verbal] code[s] that teenagers and tweens use [on various social platforms today].”

Determined to “give back,” Schonborn is offering himself as a speaker at facial surgery and speech pathology conferences. He made back-to-back local appearances the last weekend in October, the first at a book-signing event hosted at Orinda Books; the second as featured speaker for an Orinda Community Church “Life Journey” forum.

Schonborn previously revealed his artistic side, something the author developed in defense of his early physical limitations, in an OCC gallery display of sketches and paintings.

... continued on next page

# Daughters of the Goddess Celebrate Their Ancestors

By Sophie Braccini



Daughters of the Goddess gather around the temple before the ceremony. Photo Sophie Braccini

Nearly 100 women gathered at the Orinda Masonic Temple Oct. 25 to celebrate their female ancestors. The gathering was organized by and for the Daughters of the Goddess, a spiritual Dianic group led by Lafayette resident, high priestess and kahuna Leilani Birely. Mixing Hawaiian and Dianic traditions, the Daughters of the Goddess want women to reclaim their feminine spiritual powers and mysteries.

The word that most characterized the Spiral Dance ritual open to any female that night was joyfulness. The air was filled with the sweet scent of burning sage, with a diverse group of females in attendance, ages 4 months to 76 years.

Surrounding the entrance of the temple, female merchants sold jewelry, teas and beauty products, whimsical and feminine attire, books and candles. Then the participants started gathering in the temple where an altar was raised on the back stage, with pictures and written memories of female ancestors. To one side, drummers played and chairs lined the walls; people either sat in them or on the floor.

Many ladies seemed to know each other and there were many embraces. A dozen women and children started dancing and free flowing in the middle of the room, following the beat of the drums. The diversity of the participants was refreshing: all colors, shapes and ages with a variety of styles in dress, from lace and velvet flowing fairies to more relaxed looks of pants and sweaters. There was a feeling of complete freedom and lack of judgment; even for a first timer like this reporter, with no guide, it was easy to go with the flow and enjoy the event.

Then the structured ceremony began, which was centered on honoring ancestors, calling to them from all directions, honoring the more mature and wise daughters, the "crones," and moving into the Spiral Dance – an inclusive ritual sending intentions for healing the world and empowering women. Dancing, chanting and med-

itating were all part of the evening.

"I am part Hawaiian, a hula dancer, and was initiated as a kahuna (Hawaiian shaman)," says Birely. "Then in my 30s, my spiritual quest led me to explore women's spirituality." She adds that female deities and spiritual movements always existed, but that since the '70s in this country there has been a revival of studies and practices around feminism and earth-based spiritual wisdom.

"In my studies I felt a calling for the female part of deity," she says, "the female healers, the shamans, the fire of life. That opened my whole life and I studied the pagan communities that bring back traditions from Europe, from Africa, and reclaim the sacred feminine with its mysteries and powers."

The group of women was never aggressive toward men during the ceremony. The only incantation calling for "an end to patriarchy," was asking for social change rather than as an attack against men. But the Daughters definitely want to regain the power of their female heritage.

"We also want to reclaim some words that have been demonized," says the priestess, "such as the word 'witch.'" For Birely, the word "witch" can be characterized by the acronym "with intention to consciously heal."

The yearlong training that the Daughters offer is within the Dianic Witch School. "We cultivate the ability to create and manifest the things we want," she explains. "This is along the same lines as creative visualization, using herbs that have been traditionally associated with certain energies such as peace, energy or protection." She says that the witches call forth things for themselves and their community, with the focus on the higher good of all involved.

The next open ceremony is scheduled for Friday, Nov. 15 at the Orinda Masonic Temple to celebrate Laksmi, Hindu Goddess of Fertility, Abundance, Prosperity, Beauty and Health. For more information, visit [www.daughtersofthegoddess.com](http://www.daughtersofthegoddess.com).

## Author's Life Far from Normal

... continued from page B2

Anyone meeting Schonborn today would be hard-pressed to detect even a slight facial anomaly, or hear any nasal overtones marking him with what his early tormenters cruelly called "harelip" speech.

He writes about himself as someone who developed "risk aversion stemming from enduring a lot of psychic and surgical pain as a kid," yet Schonborn constantly took risks, allowing himself to graduate from Yale, enter medical school, and travel across Europe and the Far East before settling into marriage, a teaching career and finally a family.

"I'm blessed to have the outcome I did," Schonborn said, admitting he "lucked out" with good speech therapists. He marvels at the incredibly complex facial surgeries occurring today, saying they make cleft surgeries "no big deal."

Ironically, Schonborn notes there is still a tendency to show someone with facial deformities as evil. He cited a recent movie with a cleft palate villain as an example. Locals will appreciate the book's early 1950s Palo

Alto setting, Schonborn's acquaintance with the Hewletts, Packards, and Joan Baez, as well as school friendships he developed with Olympic swimmer Steve Clark and politician John Kerry, whom Schonborn called "a skilled wordsmith and darned good debater."

"I think his story is an important one for our young people," said Joy Walker, who attended Schonborn's Orinda Books appearance. Asked about a sequel, Schonborn admitted writing book two "would be the ultimate catharsis," before quickly adding that he is "under strict orders [from his wife] that there will be no second book."

It seems the peace-loving professor of crime and violence has learned something about conflict resolution, perhaps even finding a bit of the elusive "normal" he's often sought.

"Cleft Heart: Chasing Normal" (Wayman Publishing, 2013) is available at local bookstores. Visit the author online at [www.karlschonborn.com](http://www.karlschonborn.com).

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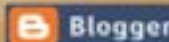
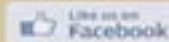
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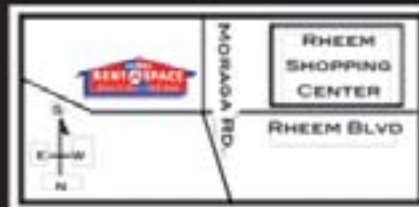
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# Capturing the Elusive

Lafayette artist's work combines minimalism and realism

By Jen Copeland



Pam McCauley Photos Julie Cheshire

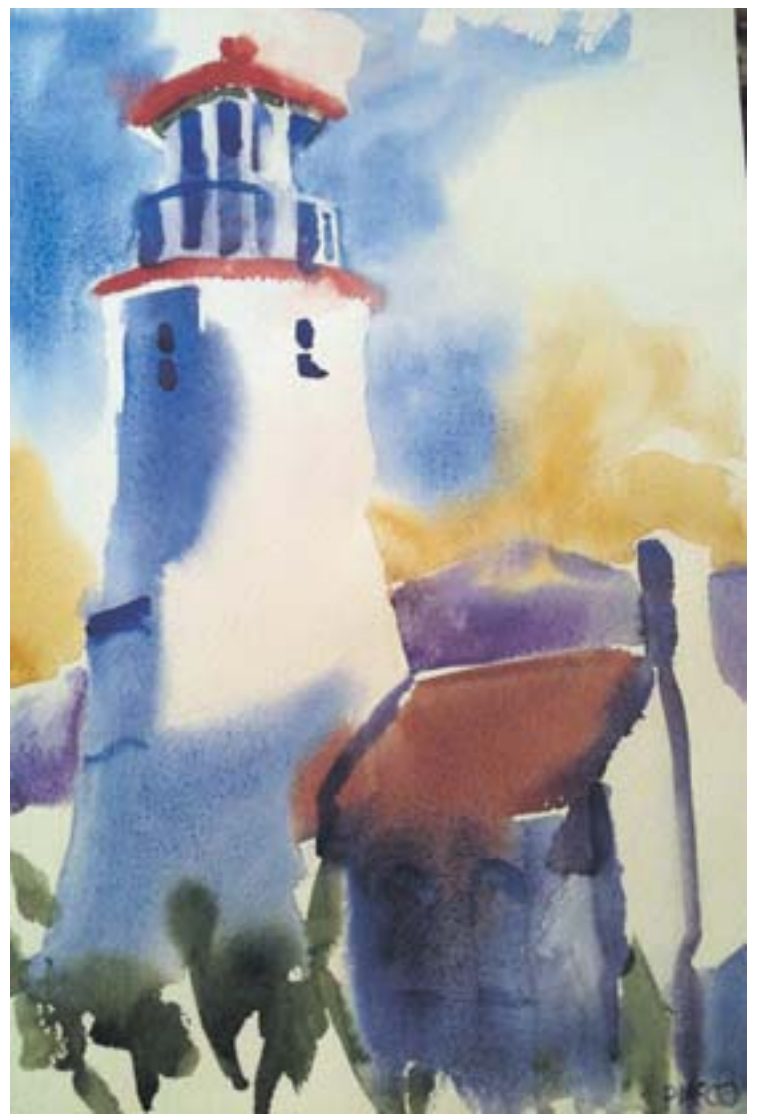
Years of painting still life arrangements and attending life drawing sessions has made longtime Lafayette resident Pam McCauley a skillful draftsman, able to work quickly, dashing in confident lines and swashes of color, to capture moods and fleeting moments.

"I like to paint loosely, to catch an emotion that is being given off by the human or object," said McCauley.

In her prints of three gleaming white yachts dry docked at the Oxford Bay boat yard in Oregon, the prows of the yachts are marked out with two, well-placed cedar brown lines, squares of navy blue suggest the cabin windows, light grey washes puts one side of the yachts into shade while the other side of the boats is left white as untouched watercolor paper. The effect is marvelously simple. Minimalism and realism are combined with deftness, the resultant image being one a fisherman might see on his way down to the end of the pier, bucket of worms, tackle box and fishing rod in hand, catching a glimpse of the blindingly bright sunlight bouncing off the sides of theyachts into his eyes as he passes by them.

Her technique is fast, painting her immediate impressions, not laboring over the work and getting bogged down in details. McCauley makes effective use of the transparency of the watercolor medium and surface textures to capture the most elusive elements of reality.

Enjoying the life of an artist to its fullest, McCauley often goes on plein air painting journeys with other painters, usually being the only watercolorist in the group. One of her recent trips was to the Point Montara Lighthouse in Montara, Calif., where she found differently colored and numbered floats tied to thick ropes



Heceta Lighthouse, watercolor.

scattered about the grounds and artfully arranged them into a tangled, still life heap. For a touch of added drama, the park ranger threw a fit when he saw what she had done (not to worry; for the sake of their art, artists endure these over reactions from the public all the time). Her painting of the floats is mind-engaging, an orderly composition of disorder.

McCauley appreciates the beauty in life. This is apparent from her artwork. She believes everything is alive and has a particular influence, even inanimate objects.

"Surround yourself with objects that mean something to you. I think you have to be careful what you have around you," she said.

McCauley spends time relaxing in her home garden, away from it all, puttering amongst her flowers, which brings to mind her first painting experiment. When she was a little girl, she decided that the petals of a certain flower would look better painted a different color. She fetched her paint

set and redecorated the petals, like a character in "Alice in Wonderland" working in the Queen of Hearts' garden.

The watercolor painting titled "Still Life and Landscape in One" takes this same playful leap into an imaginary world filled with red apples as big as houses. A green striped dishcloth takes on the shape of sand dunes by the sea and cliffs by Point Montara Lighthouse on the coast of Oregon.

McCauley is grateful to Casey Rasmussen White and Cathy Riggs for encouraging her as a professional artist in so many ways. Her watercolor paintings were recently displayed at Lafayette's Town Hall Theatre and as part of the Lamorinda Arts Alliance Show at the Orinda Library, and her work is currently featured at the Martinez Art Association Show at John Muir Aspen Center and the Lindsay Dirx Brown Gallery Show put on by the California Watercolor Association. For more information, visit [www.pammccauleywatercolors.com](http://www.pammccauleywatercolors.com).

# "The Trial of Robin Hood" Opens Next Week at OIS

Submitted by Jeanette Lipp



OIS cast members.

Photo provided

Orinda Intermediate School's Bulldog Theater will be staging "The Trial of Robin Hood" – a dramatic production written by Thomas Poole, with musical scores by composer Michael Kroener – Nov. 14-16 at OIS.

The story unfolds at the celebration of May Day outside of Sherwood Forest in the town of Nottingham. The town is busy preparing for the festivities when the ruthless Sheriff of Nottingham enters with Robin Hood, now captured. The Sheriff wants to make an example of Robin Hood and hang him without a trial, but is surprised by the arrival of King Richard's judge who insists that the townsfolk

have a voice. He asks them to reenact Robin's adventures and the real hero of this classic tale is revealed.

The production is directed and produced by Bay Area Children's Theatre, Youth Education Program with Rachel Robinson serving as director, and Brett Jones as fight choreographer, both from BACT. Assistant directors are Christina Martin and Jack Henry.

There are two casts, comprised of over 45 OIS student actors, with an additional 16 OIS students serving on tech crew. Each cast spends approximately 35 hours rehearsing and preparing for the show. In reference to the students, Robinson notes,

"They have handled dense text, sung ballads, and the intricacies of stage combat with impressive maturity and commitment."

Performances will run Nov. 14-16 at the OIS Bulldog Theater. The production is funded through parent contributions, the OIS Parents Club, Orinda Arts Council, and donor contributions. The performance lasts a total of 90 minutes, including one intermission. For show time information and to purchase tickets, please visit [www.showtix4u.com](http://www.showtix4u.com). Tickets are also available at OIS Theater one half hour prior to show times.

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# Interested in Self-Publishing?

Lafayette event discusses ins and outs, ups and downs of getting there

By Lou Fancher



Grant Faulkner

Photo provided

Anyone who has ever been told, "You oughta write a book," and has actually done it, should circle Thursday, Nov. 7 on the calendar. And wanna-be writers who've considered, imagined, fantasized, or tried writing and self-publishing a book should circle it twice. In red ink.

On that day, two DIY gurus, uniquely matched like living, breathing bookends are bringing their expertise to a Commonwealth Club event, "DIY Publishing 101," at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center.

Grant Faulkner is the author of "No Plot? No Problem!" and the executive director of National Novel Writing Month (NaNoWriMo). Guy Kawasaki is a former chief evangelist of Apple, the founding partner of the angel investor matchmaking service Garage.com, co-founder of the "what's happening" online answer land, Alltop (Google it – BTW, he works for Google, too) and the author, with Shawn Welch, of "APE: Author, Publisher, Entrepreneur – How to Publish a Book."

But what makes them the perfect couple isn't the similarity of the years they've spent slogging along the literary trail; it's their yin-yang. Consider their most recent books: Kawasaki allots pages 58 to 65 (eight pages out of 377) to the subject, "How to Write Your Book." Baty explains, in 143 out of 175 pages, how to spend 720 hours writing a book (that's a 30-day month, without sleep or late night drinking episodes), but devotes just 16 pages to the aftermath, "I Wrote a Novel. Now What?" The combined punch is good physics – equal and opposite, universe-balancing forces – and great preparation for writers interested in self-publishing.

And as with all things in life, the best thing about their yin-yang is how it supports the authors' improbable symbiotic crossover. Despite their contrasting tomes, there's nary a conflicting conclusion between them. The big picture? Writing is a beast, but worth the wrestling.

Except for their sense of timing – with Baty a wild, slippery, slamfest all about momentum and Kawasaki a thickly plotted hike requiring three personas and the heft-

ing of countless nuts-and-bolts details – their overlapping philosophies and a shared OCD-style tendency to sweat the small (medium, big, and extra-large) stuff, keeps their messages aligned: Wrestling the beast as a self-publisher is an idea whose time has come.

APE breaks the self-publishing process into a tricorn attack with practical, thorough information. Early chapters cover a historical overview of the industry and tips for writers entering the ebook and self-publishing universe. Chapters 8-21 outline distribution, print-on-demand companies, pricing, publishing audio and foreign editions, and the all-important "How to Navigate Amazon." Social media guerilla warfare rules the final section (that's not "gorilla" – one can only take the APE thing so far), in which Kawasaki's entrepreneurial muscle is most evident. An explanation of how he and Welch APE'd their book and a glossary of truly useful terms add relevancy to the package. Personal notes are scattered throughout the book: on handling rejection, writers can get it in perspective by reading the list of famous author's rejections on page 20. And making revisions to correct inevitable errors is easy because ebooks are online and print-on-demand book files can be constantly updated before each printing. The notes lend a soft edge to the book's overall technical tone.

Faulkner's book, in contrast, is like an ape on steroids, or amphetamines. It's a mad marathon aimed at a reader-turned-writer busting out 50,000 words in 30 days. The only negative is that, as a guidebook, it might be so much fun to read, you never sit down to write. Baty's tone is more personal trainer than professorial: pumping a writer up with jolly anecdotes and promoting caffeine-injection as much as careful character development. But under the bouncy delivery, there's the considerable knowledge he gained while turning NaNoWriMo from a trendy, hip idea into a phenomenon.

In 1999, 21 people began writing their novels-in-a-month. Six writers finished, and Baty admits, the resulting novels "were stiff and awkward creatures, riddled with enormous plot holes," before adding, "But they were beautiful in their own ungainly way."

In 2012, there were 341,375 participants in the now-octopus-like organization that boasts camps, young writer's programs, festivals, fairs, merchandise, winners certificates and of course, the grand prize, a place on the "Published Wrimos" list. The book's step-by-step walk, through preparation, execution and weekly delivery, is clear and compelling. For writers not fond of the lonely attic, the chance to join the NaNoWriMo community offers a social alternative.

Adding to the wealth of information Baty and Kawasaki will offer, there are two more reasons to circle "7." It symbolizes "good relationships" in Chinese (which makes that yin-yang analogy slide down easily) and attendees will be half-way to a complete self-publishing library with a voucher for a free copy of Kawasaki's "APE" given to each ticket holder.

The Commonwealth Club lecture "DIY Publishing 101," with Grant Faulkner and Guy Kawasaki, will begin at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 7 at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center. Check-in time at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$22 non-members, \$12 members, and \$7 students, and can be purchased online at <http://www.commonwealthclub.org/events/2013-11-07/diy-publishing-101>.

# Town Hall Addresses Transportation Hurdles

By Laurie Snyder



Photos Andy Scheck

We represent 60 percent of the residents who commute," said Orinda Mayor Amy Worth recently of the Contra Costa County road warriors making the daily schlep from the bucolic East Bay to urban grindstones. That 'wow' moment was just one of many at the Town Hall hosted by California Senator Mark DeSaulnier in Orinda Oct. 30.

DeSaulnier explained how funding declines are jeopardizing California's transportation infrastructure, thanks to sources like the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and California's Proposition 1B ending – even though the modern workforce requires greater mobility than ever before.

Seventy-one percent of mothers are now employed, contributing to the nationwide average of two or more people in every household commuting daily. Locally, the East Bay ranks

number one for U.S. "mega commuters" – those with commutes of at least 90 minutes and 50 miles. One reason for this, said DeSaulnier, is that housing closest to job centers is the

most expensive, forcing many workers to live further away.

Randy Iwasaki of the Contra Costa Transportation Authority and Tom West from the University of California, Berkeley discussed impacts of technology on traveler behaviors, infrastructure and vehicle safety before Anthony Levandowski fired up his presentation about Google's self-driving cars.

"For me, this is personal," he said, choking up while relating his wife's car accident when pregnant with their now healthy son, Alex. Self-driving cars will not be 100 percent effective – even kids' car seats aren't – but he said many lives will be saved. Perhaps most heartening, cars will no longer be taken away from seniors when vision declines because their cars will drive for them.



Lafayette council member Don Tatzin stops by to take a look at the self-driving car on his way to the meeting.

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## 2013 Annual Arts and Culture Commission Awards Announced

Submitted by Darwin Marable



From left: Candace Andersen, District II Supervisor, Corey Mason, James Phillip Wright, Eugene Rodriguez (Los Cenzontles), John Gioia, District I Supervisor and Federal Glover, District V Supervisor and chair of the Board of Supervisors.

Photo Raj Bhandari

The Arts and Culture Commission of Contra Costa County (AC5) and the County Board of Supervisors honored two individuals and an organization Oct. 22 at the County Administration Building in Martinez for their continuing contributions to the arts and culture of the county. For the past 17 years the Arts Recognition Award has honored individuals, institutions, organizations and businesses that have made significant contributions to the arts and culture of Contra Costa County and beyond over a sustained period of time. The awardees for 2013 are James Phillip Wright, architect, Corey Mason, cultural promoter and educator, and Los Cenzontles Mexican Arts Center.

When James Phillip Wright purchased the 123-year-old "Old Yellow House," as it was originally known, at 209 Moraga Way in Orinda he had a vision for the house, both exterior and interior. After consulting with the Orinda Historical Landmarks Committee, Wright is restoring and modifying it as close as possible to its original form and color combined with some modern innovations. He plans to use the historical building as a residence and an office.

Wright graduated from the University of Maryland and has been a practicing architect for 31 years. He was inspired by the organic architecture of the Spaniard, Antonio Gaudi, after a trip to Spain. Wright has been an architect in California since 1988 working in Lafayette, Bel Air, Carmel, Monterey, San Francisco,

Lake Almanor and others. His creativity and innovative work in integrating modern materials and the latest energy efficient methods with architecture are both creative and unique.

Corey Mason is an educator at El Cerrito High School where he is the founder/director of worldOneradio WCCUSD Public Radio 88.1 keCg 97.7 since 1995 which both educates and engages the community while promoting global awareness through music, culture, nature and technology. He also teaches radio courses at El Cerrito High School. In addition, since 1998 as festival director of worldOne radio and festival in El Cerrito, he has promoted cultural diversity.

Los Cenzontles Mexican Arts Center in Richmond provides innovative arts programs which celebrate the beauty of Mexican American culture. The Arts Academy provides cultural education in traditional and popular arts, music, dance and crafts. The Academy also educates more than 250 students annually while the Youth Mentorship Program builds lifelong skills and encourages students to become teachers.

Each honoree received a commemorative glass sculpture representing the flame of creativity created by the internationally recognized artist Randy Strong of R. Strong Glass, Berkeley from the Arts Commission and a resolution from the Board of Supervisors honoring their accomplishments.

## High Schoolers Take the Stage in Upcoming Fall Productions

Miramonte's 'Our Town' opens tonight

By Clare Varellas



Miramonte High School "Our Town" cast and crew members, front row, from left: Michael Thuesen, James Gammon, Maritza Grillo, Maya Konstantino, Elena Wasserman, Nate Lloyd, Ian Cowles, and Colin Mooney. Middle row: Teala Volkamer, Caitlin Kozicki, Olivia Madsen, Andy Tobin, Katherine Smith, Lauren Thuesen, Julia Young, Anita Levin, Carl Deaton, and Max Hunt. Back row: Zach Brooks, Daniel Cook, Dylan Watson, and Elizabeth Chenok.

Photos Andy Schreck

If you walk into the Acalanes High School theater after school on a typical weekday this month, you will find several students perched high on ladders painting a set, leading actors running lines, and the drama teacher making detailed plans. A production is in progress, as are the fall plays at both Miramonte and Campolindo high schools.

Students at all three schools have been hard at work on these performances since September, and in the coming weeks their efforts and time spent will finally come to fruition as the students hold their official performances. Each school's fall play is unique in its own right, as are the methods in which students and directors have chosen to carry out their individual productions.

Opening tonight, 75 years after Thornton Wilder's "Our Town" was written, Miramonte High School drama students will perform the three-act play, which depicts simple life in a small town and life's simple pleasures. But the most interesting aspect of their production is its minimalist backdrop, which only includes two ladders.

"This minimalism allows the focus to be on the acting, and my student actors are really getting to sharpen their mime skills – an important tool for any actor or storyteller," said Miramonte drama teacher and director Heather Cousins. "The cast also creates all of the live sound effects."

In addition to its unique staging, "Our Town" will be performed on a stage surrounded on three sides by audience members. Cousins says this method is used to create a more intimate play-watching experience.

"The exchange between actor and audience is critical in any theatrical production," said Cousins. "However, this relationship is highlighted in our production. There are times when the fourth wall is struck down entirely and the audience is asked to participate and become a part of the story."

Stage managers Daniel Cook and Elizabeth Chenok will oversee the production, which features Sam Shain and Nate Lloyd as George and Maritza Grillo, Maya Konstantino, and Elena Wasserman as Emily. "Our Town" will be shown at 7 p.m. Wednesday through Friday, Nov. 6-8 at the Miramonte theater.

Campolindo's play "We Scene Us" takes an even more unique approach to traditional theater as a compilation of eight different stand-alone scenes centered around the theme of "human beings finding themselves and finding others."

"These scenes run the gambit of the human condition: audiences will see boys meeting to discuss if it's time to start 'liking' girls, a psychic having relationship problems, a couple's anxiety ridden moment as they are about to cross the threshold, and so on," said Campolindo drama teacher and director Jamie Donohoe. "A lot of humor and a lot of charm."

Scenes last for seven to 15 minutes each, so the audience will be constantly entertained by new action onstage. Donohoe says one of the best aspects of the play is the way it highlights certain comical human characteristics all people have, even if they didn't realize it before.

"There are many 'aha' moments, moments of truth and many of those moments produce real laughter – you're laughing at something you recognize to be true about yourself," said Donohoe.

"We Scene Us" will take the stage at 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Nov. 8-9 at Town Hall Theatre in Lafayette,

as Campolindo's theater is currently undergoing construction.

Acalanes' play, "The Man Who Came to Dinner," written by George S. Kaufman and Moss Hart, is a classic, comical production from the late 1930s. The play tells the story of a popular, well-known radio personality who falls and injures himself at a dinner party, and is detained from leaving the host's house for some time. Acalanes drama teacher Ed Meehan says he chose the play for the drama students to perform because it includes many different characters who are guests at the dinner, and their presence makes the play more lively.

"There are a whole bunch of wacky support characters that come in and make everyone laugh and leave," said Meehan.

But though the humor of "The Man Who Came to Dinner" is still relevant, Acalanes actor Grant Gerber, who plays the leading role of Sheridan Whiteside, says he likes the play's 1940s air, which the drama class has worked hard to keep intact in their production through accurate sets, costumes, and linguistics in the script.

"This play doesn't have a modern feel," said Gerber. "This one is blatantly set in the 1940s, so the biggest challenge has been having to adjust to the language use and getting the words and the verbiage right. That's what really sets it apart."

Leads for the Acalanes play include Gerber as Whiteside, Jess Kallen as Maggie Cutler, Danny Igoe as Bert Jefferson, and Izzy Parkinson-Morgan as Lorraine Sheldon. "The Man Who Came to Dinner" will be performed at 7 p.m. Nov. 13-16 at Acalanes High School's Little Theater.

"Our Town" seating is limited to just 80 people per night, so purchase tickets on the Miramonte High School web store at [miramonte.revtrak.net/tek9.asp](http://miramonte.revtrak.net/tek9.asp). Tickets for "We Scene Us" are available online at the Town Hall Theatre website at [www.townhalltheatre.com/tickets/single-tickets](http://www.townhalltheatre.com/tickets/single-tickets). And tickets for "The Man Who Came to Dinner" are available at [dramadons.org](http://dramadons.org).

## As Seen in Lamorinda ... Bus Stop Blues



Photo Cathy Dausman

The remnants of a resident-built school bus stop perched precariously on a Lafayette hillside fell into disrepair over the last five to eight years, says Todd Gritzer. Gritzer attended Stanley Middle School in the 1950s, when he helped his neighbors build the shelter. "There were about 10 kids on our block," he says, and they used it all the time. One of the neighbors owned a lumber yard, he adds, and that's where the materials came from. C. Dausman



From left: Nate Lloyd, Daniel Cook and Maya Konstantino

# Ways Seniors Can Live on Reduced Incomes

By Linda Fodrini-Johnson, MA, MFT, CMC

Often, when one retires these days, the person is left with social security only. If you are fortunate to have a pension, cash savings and/or the money you saved in an IRA or 401K, it will also be there to support your "Golden Years!" Many of us have planned for retirement and we think we have what we need.

The big "however" is that we are living longer and the price of a bag of groceries will double over the years as inflation takes a bite out of what one has to live on. Then there is the unexpected or the needs of others in your family that might also have eaten into your savings.

Usually our biggest asset is our home so if you find yourself not able to cover normal living expenses, downsizing might be an option for you – but, before you do so, you might want to consult a tax attorney or your financial planner. Also, there are options for using the equity in your home in programs such as Reverse Mortgages.

If it is care you need and either you or your spouse was a veteran that served during any wartime, you might be entitled to benefits of up to \$1,900 per month from the "Aid & Attendant" entitlement from the Veterans Association. One of the most important issues for most of us is to know what we are entitled to and I suggest that you consult a government website such as www.benefitscheckup.org. You may be surprised at the entitlements available to you– even I was eligible for a pass to the National Parks!

It is important to stay con-

nected to local organizations that might have information on programs for seniors in your local area that are not available to others in different locations – often these benefits can assist with costs; like low cost community meals, transportation or reduced rates on home repairs or even home care services. Lamorinda Village is a community membership-based non-profit organization founded as a one-stop resource to provide a wide range of services to empower Lamorinda residents to remain independent and confident in their homes and communities as they grow older. You can sign up to be on the e-mail list of the "Lamorinda Village" (planned to begin late next year) by going to their website www.LamorindaVillage.org and clicking the "Get Email Updates" link at the top.

The Rotary Club of Lamorinda Sunrise offers free minor home repairs like fixing leaky faucets or stuck drawers. You might have to pay for the parts but they do the labor. Go to www.rotaryhometeam.com to learn more.

One of the choices for those on limited income is to rent out a room in your home – but, do your homework before inviting a stranger to live with you. Some elders decide to live with children or other relatives so that some costs can be shared. But, again, I suggest working with a Professional Care Manager (www.eldercareanswers.com is my website or www.caremanager.org nationally) before making such a move. Look under all those rocks that might make

everyone uncomfortable so that you can have a successful outcome.

How to ask your children for help, should you need it, will be the subject of my next column.

Staying healthy will keep you from using that nest egg – so stay engaged to keep your mind fit, keep stress in check, exercise for the body and the mind and eat a heart-healthy diet full of fruit and veggies. But, don't forget the dark chocolate – for life is short and we can't forget dessert!



Linda Fodrini-Johnson is the executive director of Eldercare Services, a licensed marriage, family and child counselor, and a certified care manager.

# Mickey Ganitch – A True Man of Honor

... continued from page B1

"It was less than 20 minutes before it was lying over on its side," he said.

America grew up. "We were united. We had to defeat the enemy." A seaman first class that day, he rose to chief petty officer in four months through study and diligence. As a quartermaster, he steered the 33,000-ton Pennsylvania. "We didn't have GPS," he said. "We had to use the stars and the moon." Once, he steered so hard over that an oncoming torpedo shot clean under her.

Kwajalein. Eniwetok. Leyte Gulf. While under repair in Okinawa, a "torpedo hit the propellers on the right. Everything went up," he said, his head bowed, the pain an arrow from his heart to the listener's. "I had 26 quartermasters. I lost 20 of them."

He'd been up top writing home. "I was like a father to them. It was up to me to identify them, to contact their families." America signed the peace treaty in Tokyo Bay a short time later on Sept. 2, 1945.

Ganitch put 23 years in before finally retiring. After 16 years at the Disabled Veterans of America, he sees today's veterans opting for suicide because of unemployment, homelessness and post-traumatic stress disorder. He hopes readers will reach out to learn more about how to help.

He and two other Pearl survivors recently celebrated the return of Mount Diablo's beacon

Oct. 22. Restored with help from California Assembly Member Joan Buchanan and Save Mount Diablo, the light was a guide for planes and ships from the time it was turned on by Charles Lindbergh in 1928 until the day after the Pearl attack. Lit each Dec. 7 since 1964 at the request of Pacific Fleet Admiral Nimitz, the beacon will shine again at sunset this year.

Ganitch's greatest joy, though, comes from talking to students. Using PowerPoint, he makes history stick to brains in ways even gifted teachers cannot. His reward – kids sitting spellbound. "Be responsible for your own actions," he tells them. "You're the future of our country."

"Behind every dark cloud, there's a silver lining," he said. "Think about what tomorrow brings, and see what you can do to help other people."

Join Boy Scout Troops 212, 234 and 246 for the Veterans Day Ceremony at the Moraga Commons Park Nov.11 from 9 to 10 a.m. before heading to Main Street in Pleasanton to cheer on Mickey Ganitch as he marches in the Tri Valley Veterans Day Parade from 1 to 2:30 p.m. And don't forget to make the trek to Mount Diablo for the beacon's sunset lighting Dec. 7.

To learn more about how you can help the Disabled Veterans of America, call: (510) 893-1666.

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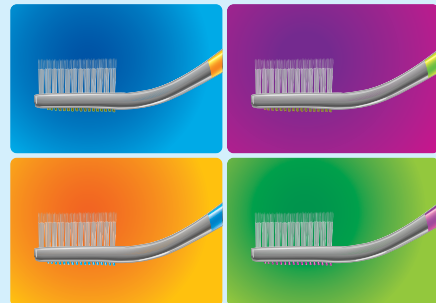
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# On The Way To 75 Percent Diversion Rate, Schools Do Their Part

By Sophie Braccini



From left: Green Team members Jessica Finnerty, Amy Blei, and Anna Rossi supervise trash disposal as students Charlie Lopez, Elsie Bulling, and Colin Baker choose the right bin. Photo Andy Scheck

Central Contra Costa Solid Waste Authority recently released its diversion rates for 2012, with Lamorinda hitting the 66 percent mark, a good start toward the 2020 objective of 75 percent. Because collection services are available to individual homes, they are the most efficient at diverting, so the target for improvement is with businesses, multi-family dwellings and schools. In Lamorinda, schools have made great strides toward the goal and are tackling the last pockets of trash going to the landfill. "Camino Pablo Elementary in Moraga has been leading for some years, they are showing us the way of the future," says Ruth Abe, a HDR Engineering technical consultant to schools, hired by CCCSWA. "They should be the first to reach the 75 percent diversion rate."

On site, science coordinator Bonnie Hazarabedian is in charge of the recycling effort. "We started 10 years ago," she says, "and we'll soon be at a point where it will be very hard to find additional things to remove from

the landfill bin."

The first big step was perfecting the lunch time food recycling program. "We have a green leadership team made of fourth- and fifth-graders who supervise the food scrap sorting at lunch time," she explains. This year the schools can incorporate soiled napkins and papers into their compostable food scraps, including the paper towels from washrooms and classrooms. "And what has helped, too, are the families' practice of giving their kids less and less disposable lunch bags, and more reusable lunch pails with reusable containers and utensils," adds Hazarabedian.

Unlike with home recycling, where food scraps mix in the green waste, the schools have the same food scrap service as restaurants. Since the hauler gets revenue from the back end of this service, food scrap recycling is free to users.

"This November we will introduce new small food waste containers for the classrooms where kids will be able to recycle their snack food waste

and napkins," says Hazarabedian. "The teachers will bring those to a centralized location at the end of the day so as not to add to the custodian's work load." Hazarabedian explains that buy-in from all staff is crucial. "We are lucky to have Alberto Hernandez-Cortez as our custodian here," she says. "He got the custodial award a couple of years ago. He is so proactive and will tell me when we need a smaller landfill waste container or additional recycling ones."

Hazarabedian is also working on recycling the bathroom towels and got a new container for the Bobcat Club, the after-school program. "All we have left in the trash now are non-recyclable plastics and utensils," she says.

Abe says that she is supporting other Lamorinda schools with similar programs: Del Rey and Glorietta elementary schools in Orinda, and Orinda Intermediate School where teachers Kristen Nielson and Suzy Kisch have taken a lead on a very extensive program that includes onsite composting and gardening. The other two elementary schools in Moraga, Los Perales and Rheem, and Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School are all going in the same direction, composting on site and involving students.

In Lafayette, the effort is also supported by Sustainable Lafayette and Nanette Heffernan, who leads the Lafayette Green School initiative. In most Lafayette elementary schools, lunches were served by Choice Lunch to the children on cardboard trays that were tossed. Heffernan's idea was to have children use reusable trays that would not have to be trashed – a savings in terms of volume and cost of recyclables.

"It took two years to implement the pilot program at Springhill," explains Heffernan, "there were some legal complications and Sustainable Lafayette ended up buying the trays and creating the system to haul them back and forth to be cleaned (the schools don't have kitchens)." She says the system has been going on without a hitch. "Because we now reduced our recycling by 75 percent, Springhill will be able to go from two pick-ups a week to one pick-up a week, saving the district \$2,000 a year," she commented. "We're hoping we can get the district to finance trays for the other schools."

Heffernan adds that there are more opportunities for schools. She is excited that paper towels and soiled paper containers can be added to the free food scrap recycling program. "That's huge," she says. "All we need

is to get the district behind us and re-train staff. The district savings could reach \$40,000 a year (according to CCCSWA) for a behavior change that is minuscule. Everybody wins."

She believes that it will take two years to get Lafayette where it could be and to reap all the financial benefits from diverting. Her next step will be to reach out to all the private schools.

## TEEN SCENE

### The Psyche of Psychics

By Jane Fessenden

In 1997, J.K. Rowling published "Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone" – known in this country as "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" – a book about magic and wizardry that captured millions of people's imaginations. "Harry Potter, books and movies, is awesome! I literally buy everything wizard," local teen Sarah M. exclaimed. However, this fascination with the paranormal has been around for centuries, and the latest "Twilight" movie is not recent phenomena.

Since the beginning, man has believed that supernatural is in some way real. The excitement of ghosts and telekinesis has been used for profit by industry, through books, television and film, to make millions of dollars. Though there is no viable evidence for any paranormal claims, the industry continues to grow. Are we falling for a huge psychic scam?

Since 1854, the Ouija board, marked with letters and numbers that "communicate" with spirits, has sold over 20 million sets. "I always pull out the Ouija board for game night," says the McDonald family, one of thousands who have a Ouija board in their home. Hundreds claim that spirit boards join the user and the dead by connecting to an inner channel within people. "Everyone is always so pumped to play the Ouija board! It's pretty spooky when you get an answer and nobody says they moved it," says Orinda student Claire R. Though, another line of thought is that the user is consciously or subconsciously controlling the reading device. Even more simply, the power of suggestion.

From bending spoons to telepa-

thy, psychics have used trickery and illusion to perform supernatural activities. Some psychics claim to be able to read one's palm to foretell the future or the past. "I usually followed reading rules but to spice up sessions, I said fabricated things," says Lamorinda mom Mrs. Gee, who once read palms at dances.

Ray Hyman, a psychologist, was once a professional palm reader who was dared one day to say the exact opposite of what the palm read. When Hyman did this with one client, the woman was so aghast at his accuracy that she didn't say a word throughout the entire reading. Hyman now believes that "it doesn't make a difference what you tell them, [it's] more of what you convince them."

Why do we ascribe to these paranormal systems? Perhaps because psychics offer a world of magic that uplifts us in our mundane lives. Though it could be legend, could there be otherworldly things amongst us here in Lamorinda?



Jane Fessenden, a senior at Miramonte High School, loves to play soccer and work at the local Head Start facility. She is currently playing for the Lamorinda Soccer Club and working on her Girl Scout Gold Award.

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

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



Nanette Heffernan holding the old and new tray Photo Sophie Braccini

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# Local Author Lizette Marx, "Flavors of Health"

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Quinoa Risotto Milanese

Photo provided

Lucky are those whose personal passions and life's work go hand in hand. This is the case for Lizette Marx, local yoga teacher, journalist, nutritionist, chef, and instructor of culinary arts and nutrition. She is also an author, with a recently published book, the "Flavors of Health Cookbook," a beautiful cookbook, chock full of recipes for the new S.O.U.L. food – Seasonal, Organic, Unprocessed and Local. The book, co-authored by Dr. Ed Bauman, is a guide to eating for health, but what I like is that it is not just about nuts, berries and edamame! It has some really fantastic recipes for every meal of the day.

Marx says she has always enjoyed cooking ever since she was a young girl growing up in Paradise, Calif. During college, she loved to cook for her friends. After graduating from Cal State Chico with a degree in journalism, she wrote a column for a paper in Paradise, before landing a job with Yoga Journal Magazine, which was her entree into health and wellness and yoga.

"I've always had a huge passion for cooking," she said. "Years ago, I started making healthy celebration cakes for children using organic and alternative ingredients. That business was great, but I wanted to prepare more nutritional foods, so I enrolled in Bauman College in Berkeley for a nutrition certification in order to change my focus to food and wellness."

Now, she is part of the faculty at Bauman College as a natural chef instructor, and teaches several classes at Back To The Table Cooking School in Lafayette, as well.

Besides classes for "healing anti-inflammatory foods" and cooking for "balancing blood sugar," one class that really caught my attention, was "Dinner with the Doctor," where doctors and other medical practitioners learn to cook and eat well, so they may pass these skills on to their own patients.

"It's really great that the doctors want to take this kind of class," she said. "They love it and they don't have to clean up after they cook. So, it's a bit of an unreal situation, but a great way for them to get inspired again. We talk about all of the tools and ingredients you need to have a healthy kitchen."

Marx along with her husband, Geoff, who is a clinical nutritionist at the Health Medicine Center in Walnut Creek, also own and operate Kitchen Treasures, a full spectrum catering and holistic culinary education company. They cater anything from small groups to gatherings of 50 or so people.

Marx keeps her son and daughter, Tyler and Reina Strohmayr, both Campolindo High School students, busy in the kitchen. And, this is one of my personal passions ... teaching children to love the art of cooking.

"They love to help with the cooking classes and are great assistants for the catering business," Marx said. "When they were 13 and 14, we did a 'Let's Do Lunch' program, which was a week-long cooking camp for teens."

When Marx is not cooking and teaching culinary arts, she unrolls her yoga mat and teaches at Studio E and at the Moraga Barn, both in Moraga, and at YogaWorks in Walnut Creek.

While it seems like a chaotic schedule with so many interests and time demands, Marx has found a way to seamlessly weave her passions with her work.

"Everything I do is compatible," she said. "I've found a way to bring my passions: writing, cooking and yoga together and that is very satisfying."

"Flavors of Health Cookbook," by Dr. Ed Bauman and Chef Lizette Marx offers recipes for every course of the meal. It is available on amazon.com. www.flavorsofhealthkitchen.com

**Yoga Classes**  
**Moraga Barn:** Monday and Wednesday evenings from 6:30 to 7:45 p.m. and in January, Sundays 9 to 10 a.m. before the Moraga Farmers' Market (taught by Lizette Marx and Meredith Avant).

**Studio E**  
1605 School Street, Moraga (925) 388-6779  
For class schedule: www.studio-e-moraga.com



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.

**RECIPES**

There are so many wonderful recipes in "Flavors of Health," but the two I chose to try first were the Quinoa Risotto Milanese and the Black Olive Bechamel sauce, which we served over grilled fresh wild swordfish. Both were delicious. Next on my list is Cornish Game Hens with Latin Spices!

## Quinoa Risotto Milanese

**INGREDIENTS**

- 1 1/2 cups vegetable or chicken broth
- 1 1/2 cups goat milk
- 2 large pinches of saffron threads (optional)
- 1 tablespoon butter
- 1 tablespoon thinly sliced leeks
- 1/4 cup minced shallots
- 1/4 cup white wine
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 cup uncooked quinoa
- 3/4 cup grated Parmesan, Manchego, or other dry aged cheese
- 1/4 cup scallions, thinly sliced
- 1/2 medium red pepper, diced

**DIRECTIONS**

1. Rinse and drain the quinoa three times, using a fine mesh strainer to remove the bitter outer coating. Set aside.
2. In a medium sauce pan on low heat, slowly heat broth and goat milk together until hot. Add saffron threads and stir gently. Keep liquid on low heat until ready to use. Do not allow to boil.
3. Heat butter in a large sauté pan or Dutch oven over medium-high heat. Add leeks and shallots and cook until caramelized, about 15-20 minutes. Deglaze pan with white wine and while stirring constantly, scrape up the fond (the flavorful browned remnants that stick to the bottom of the pan) and incorporate into vegetables.
4. Add garlic and quinoa and continue stirring a minute or two.
5. Stir in 2 cups of the broth and milk and bring to a boil, then reduce heat to low and simmer until quinoa is tender, stirring occasionally, approximately 10-12 minutes.
6. Stir in remaining broth and milk, cover, and continue cooking until liquid has nearly evaporated, about 30-35 minutes. Then, add grated cheese and stir until melted through. Fold in scallions and diced red pepper. Taste and add sea salt and pepper to taste if desired.
7. Transfer to a serving platter or onto individual plates and garnish with a little more grated cheese and scallions if desired. Serve immediately. Can be enjoyed as a side dish or as a lighter main dish.

## Black Olive Bechamel

**INGREDIENTS**

- 3 tablespoons unsalted butter, divided
- 1/4 cup amaranth flour (a high-protein, gluten-free flour, available by Bob's Red Mill)
- 1 pint whole milk (or plain unsweetened nut milk for a dairy-free option)
- Pinch of sea salt
- Pinch of freshly grated nutmeg
- 1 ounce pitted Nicoise or Kalamata olives, diced
- 1 ounce pitted Spanish green olives, diced
- 1 garlic clove, peeled and smashed

**DIRECTIONS**

1. Heat a sauté pan, add 2 tablespoons of the butter, and allow it to melt. Sprinkle in amaranth flour and stir vigorously with a wooden spoon until "roux" is lightly browned and has a nutty aroma.
2. Whisk in the milk in a slow steady stream, then add the salt and nutmeg and continue stirring until sauce begins to thicken.
3. Mash olives and garlic clove in a mortar and pestle until smooth and whisk into the sauce. Add a remaining tablespoon of butter and adjust seasoning to taste.
4. To serve, place a spoonful of bechamel sauce over fish, chicken, pasta or veggies.

# Business Directory

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**Linda Kucma**



(925) 746-4649 or (925) 788-1429  
mywoodypup333@hotmail.com

## Not to be missed

### ART

The Orinda Library Art Show, "Putting on the Shine," features oil and water color paintings on the auditorium wall. Artists' reception will be a Kaffee Klatch with treats to be served at 10 a.m. Thursday, Nov 7. The show

will run through Dec. 30, during Orinda Library hours.

Klein Gallery is pleased to announce an upcoming art exhibition in its new gallery space in Lafayette. The exhibition opens Friday, Nov. 8, with a reception from 6 to 8 p.m. and will include

painting, photography and sculpture. Artists will be present to meet the public, and the jazz trio Flanovo will play during the showing. The gallery is located in central Lafayette, just off Mt. Diablo Boulevard. It shares a building with The Art Room, a studio that has been offering classes to children and adults for 15 years. Contact: Carrie Klein (925) 360-1335, carrie.klein@kleingallery.net

results in a more intimate experience as well as limited seating, so advance ticket sales is critical. Purchase in advance through the Miramonte High School Web Store: (<http://miramonte.revtrak.net/tek9.asp?pg=products&grp=196>) Tickets available at the door, if not sold out! (See story page B6)

cert by the Juice Box Heros will start at 10:30 a.m. Kids of all ages are invited to wear their pajamas to this circus party. Please bring new children's sleepwear (preferably kids' sizes 4 to 14) to donate to AASK (Adopt a Special Kid). Cost: \$10 with an advance purchase; \$12 at the door. For more info, visit [www.moragajuniors.org/index.php/events](http://www.moragajuniors.org/index.php/events).

### OLD FASHIONED CHRISTMAS BOUTIQUE



Beautiful handcrafted items, gourmet goodies, and works of art.

Friday, Nov. 8  
11 am - 7 pm

Saturday, Nov. 9  
9 am - 5 pm

ELK'S LODGE

1475 Creekside Dr., Walnut Creek

After 14 years on LaFiesta Lane, the Lafayette Art Gallery opened its doors Oct. 8 at its new and greatly expanded location, in the historic Forge complex of Lafayette (3420 Mt. Diablo Boulevard, next to Bo's Barbecue, and adjacent to The Artisan Bistro). The new space was formerly occupied by the Pacific Wildlife Galleries, and has been designed expressly for displaying art, photography, ceramics and jewelry. A new exhibit titled "The Heart of Art" will inaugurate the opening, and will feature warm and emotional works by both current and new members. It will run through the holiday season, ending Dec. 28. For info, call (925) 284-2788 or visit [www.lafayettegallery.net](http://www.lafayettegallery.net).

7th Annual Artisan Faire in Orinda will feature 28 local artists, craftsmen and authors from 4 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 14 at the Orinda Country Club. Complimentary wine tasting will be offered as you purchase your favorite gifts for the holidays.

Saint Mary's College Museum of Art's Schedule of Exhibitions through Dec. 15: "Judy Dater: Edo Redux," one of the country's most influential living photographers (in the new Studio Gallery). "The Artist Revealed: Artist Portraits and Self-Portraits" (in the Hearst Gallery). Fifty portraits and self-portraits are on loan from the Syracuse University Art Collection. "Malcolm Lubliner: The Automotive Landscape" (in the new Armistead Gallery). "Nature's Placid Splendor" (In the Keith Gallery). Landscape paintings with three private collection paintings never before on public view. Open 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday. For info, call (925)-631-4379 or visit [stmarys-ca.edu/museum](http://stmarys-ca.edu/museum). Admission: free to K-12 graders; \$5 adults. Free parking.

The Moraga Art Gallery show entitled "Capturing Light: Lens and Glass" highlighting photography by resident artist Wenda Pyman, and cast sand glasswork and flamework by guest artist Janice Peacock will run through Jan. 4, 2014. The show also includes works by the gallery's 14 resident artists and several guest artists at 522 Center Street, Rheem Shopping Center, Moraga. Free. The gallery is open Wednesday through Sunday from noon to 5 p.m. For more information, email [moragaartgallery@gmail.com](mailto:moragaartgallery@gmail.com) or call (925) 376-5407.

### MUSIC

Enjoy solo sonatas, duos, trios, operas and Broadway songs performed with passion by Saint Mary's student instrumentalists and singers from 1:15 to 3:15 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 6 at the Soda Activity Center, Saint Mary's College. Free.

Free Range Opera presents Irene (1919) - A Cinderella Story from 2:15 to 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 9, at Leshner Center - Knight 3, 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek. Free Range Opera's darling revival of "Irene" to benefit Bay Area charity, Career Closet. This is a rare opportunity to hear the original 1919 hit! Cost: \$30. For more info, visit [www.freerangeopera.com](http://www.freerangeopera.com) or call (408) 475-1376 or email [info@freerangeopera.com](mailto:info@freerangeopera.com).

Experience the vibrant rhythms of salsa, sultry blues, and beloved Big Band standards performed by the SMC Jazz Band from 8 to 10 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 21 at the Soda Activity Center, Saint Mary's College. Cost: \$5 general; \$2 SMC community and seniors. Buy your tickets by phone at (925) 631-4670, at the door, or online at <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/467632>.

### THEATER

Miramonte Drama Fall Play - "Our Town" by Thornton Wilder at 7 p.m. Nov 6-8. For the first time, the Miramonte Players will be performing in a thrust, which means that the audience will sit on the stage on three sides. This

## Not to be missed

Campolindo High School drama students present "We Scene Us" - a compilation of eight different stand-alone scenes centered around the theme of "human beings finding themselves and finding others" - at 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Nov. 8-9 at Town Hall Theatre in Lafayette. For tickets, go to [www.townhalltheatre.com/tickets/single-tickets](http://www.townhalltheatre.com/tickets/single-tickets). (See story page B6)

"The Man Who Came To Dinner" by Moss Hart and George S. Kaufman, acknowledged as one of the funniest comedies ever written, is coming to the Acalanes High School theatre, Nov. 13-16 with a 7 p.m. curtain (house opens at 6:30 p.m.), directed by Ed Meehan. Tickets: \$10 general; \$7 students. Tickets are available at the door or online at [ahsperformingarts.org](http://ahsperformingarts.org). All proceeds benefit the Acalanes Performing Arts Boosters-Drama. (See story page B6)

Saint Mary's College, Performing Arts Department Theatre Program proudly presents the West Coast premiere of "And When We Awoke There was Light and Light," Laura Jacqmin's contemporary fable about teenage idealism and activism in the age of global connections. Guest director Susannah Martin stages the production, which opens Thursday, Nov. 14 and performs for two weekends on the Saint Mary's College campus. And when we awoke performs at 8 p.m. on Nov. 14, 15 and 16, 21, 22 and 23, and a matinee at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 24. Tickets are \$10 general; \$8 seniors (65+) and non-SMC students; \$5 SMC students, faculty and staff. Tickets are available online ([www.brownpapertickets.com](http://www.brownpapertickets.com)), by phone (925) 631-4670 or at the door.

Orinda Intermediate School's Bulldog Theater proudly presents, "The Trial of Robin Hood," at 4:30 and 7 p.m. Nov 14 and 15 and at 3 and 7 p.m. Nov 16 at 80 Ivy Drive, Orinda. Ticket prices range from \$3 - \$10 and are available for advance purchase at [www.showtix4u.com](http://www.showtix4u.com). Tickets will also be sold at the door. (See story page B4)

### KIDS, PARENTS & TEENS

The upcoming parent education event, "Social Emotional Learning: What Really Matters," presented by Dr. JoAnn Deak from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Monday, Nov. 11 at Bentley's Student Performing Arts Center will provide parents with information about the value of social and emotional education in a child's development. This talk is intended for all parents, K-12.

Teen Advisory Board (TAB) meeting at 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 12 in the Teen Center at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center. Help plan what you want to see at the library in terms of programs and teen collections. TAB meets every second Tuesday of the month. Learn leadership and group work skills while at the same time earning community service credit.

Lamorinda Moms will host the 16th annual Preschool Fair designed to help parents find the perfect preschool for their children from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 14 at Oakwood Athletic Club 4000 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Lafayette. Free. Children are welcome to attend. For info, contact Catherine Aker, Lamorinda Moms publicity chair at [publicity@lamorindamoms.org](mailto:publicity@lamorindamoms.org).

Turkey Trot Fun Run and Walk from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 16 at Fernandez Ranch, 1050 Christie Rd., Martinez. Run with the wild turkeys at Fernandez Ranch during the first annual turkey trot, open to all ages. Walkers welcome to join in the fun, too. T-shirts and refreshments included with registration. Cost: \$25 adults; \$20 Under 18. To register, visit [muirheritagelandtrust.givezooks.com/events/turkey-trot-fun-run-walk](http://muirheritagelandtrust.givezooks.com/events/turkey-trot-fun-run-walk).

Moraga Junior Women's Club presents the second annual Pajama Jam from 9:30 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Nov. 16 at the New Rheem Theatre. Doors open at 9:30 a.m., the dance party commences at 10 a.m. and a con-

Enjoy an autumn day of family fun with hands-on activities for children and families from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 16 at John Muir National Historic Site in Martinez. In partnership with the alternative high school New Leaf: A Sustainable Living Collaborative, students and park staff will run rotating activity stations in the park orchards. For more info, visit the park website at [www.nps.gov/jomu](http://www.nps.gov/jomu) or call (925) 228-8860.

Open House at St. Mark's Nursery School from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Nov. 16 at 451 Moraga Way, Orinda. Drop in and tour the school, meet St. Mark's teachers, enjoy goodies and refreshments, and speak with St. Mark's parents. St. Mark's offers ongoing enrollment. For more info, call (925) 254-1364 or email [stmarksnurseryschoolorinda@gmail.com](mailto:stmarksnurseryschoolorinda@gmail.com).

"Finding Kind" documentary film comes to Lafayette. Stanley Girl Scout Troop 31488, as part of their Silver Award, is hosting a free movie night for middle school and high school girls and their parent(s) to view the award winning documentary film at 4 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 17 in the Student Performing Arts Center at Bentley High School (doors open at 3:30 p.m.), and at 7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 21 in the Student Performing Arts Center at Bentley High School (doors open at 6:30 p.m.). This film explores the turmoil and lifelong emotional scars caused by girls mistreating each other and how we can unite to take a stand against this kind of behavior ... and be kind. The event is free and open to the public. Due to limited space, all attendees must reserve tickets online: [www.eventbrite.com/event/8668887877](http://www.eventbrite.com/event/8668887877) to sign-up. Seating is on a first come, first served basis.

Teen Art Session for teens ages 13-19 at 3:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 20 in the Arts and Science Discovery Room at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center. Come and create art to be publicly displayed at the library or to take home. Supplies, food and art examples will be provided.

Young Adult Author Talk: best-selling author, lawyer, TV broadcaster and former professional football player, Tim Green, will join us to share his latest book and to discuss how he made his life dreams come true at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 20 in the Homework Center at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center.

Young Adult Author Talk. Local author Corina Vacco, winner of the 30th Annual Delacorte Prize for a First Young Adult Novel, will discuss "My Chemical Mountain" at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 21 in the Community Hall at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center.

### OTHER

Travels through Southern Asia. Filmmaker Nateon Ajello and his wife Pam traveled 1,300 miles by bicycle, bus and train through India, Nepal and Bhutan. Come and hear about their adventures abroad, the people they met and the sights that they saw at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 6 at the Arts and Science Discovery Room, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Lafayette.

The 16th Annual California Independent Film Festival will be held once again at the Orinda Theatre and the New Rheem Theatre in Moraga Nov 7-10, with the biggest lineup of films to date for this festival. For more info, visit CAIFFA at [www.caiffa.org](http://www.caiffa.org). (See story page A1)

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

## Lamorinda's Religious Services



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)

Worship	Sunday	10 am
Children/Youth Sunday School	Sunday	10 am
Youth Fellowship	Sunday	6 pm

### St Stephen's Episcopal Church

66 St. Stephen's Drive, Orinda  
254-3770. [www.ststephensorinda.org](http://www.ststephensorinda.org)

Sunday 8am, 10am &  
5:30pm. Casual Eucharist

- ▶ Something for everyone, birth through senior adults
- ▶ Seedlings Preschool
- ▶ lamorinda familycenter
- ▶ Sunday Worship

LAFAYETTE-ORINDA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
See more at [LOPC.org](http://LOPC.org)

### 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.holyshpherd.org](http://www.holyshpherd.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

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### 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.

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

OTHER ... continued

Maintain Your Home's Interior. Mark Shaw, 15-year real estate broker, will discuss interior maintenance tasks that are critical to the long-term performance of your home from 10:30 a.m. to noon Thursday, Nov. 7 at the Lafayette Library, Arts and Science Room.

The Orinda Community Foundation (OCF) invites community organizations to apply for grants for projects that enhance the quality of life in Orinda. To be considered in the current cycle, grant applications must be received by Nov. 8.

The Lafayette Community Foundation is excited to announce the first ever Garage Tour from 1 to 5 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 10, featuring four custom garages, shops and mancaves in the Lamorinda area.

Veterans Day Mass and Luncheon. Join members of the Saint Mary's community for a special mass honoring our veterans in the Chapel, followed by lunch in the Soda Center from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday, Nov. 11 at Saint Mary's College.

Reaching out to Korean War-era veterans. Contra Costa County is seeking connections with Korean War-era veterans who served in the "Forgotten War" and to encourage them to be a part of the 2013 Veterans Day celebration.

The Stroke Support Group of Contra Costa County will hold its November meeting from 7 to 9 p.m. Monday, Nov. 11 in the Ball Auditorium at John Muir Medical Center- Walnut Creek Campus, 1601 Ygnacio Valley Rd.

Governor Jerry Brown: Leadership and Legacy. Explore the history, philosophy, and impact of this fascinating political leader during a panel discussion at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 12 in the Soda Activity Center, Saint Mary's College of California, 1928 St. Mary's Rd., Moraga.

Saint Mary's College Guild Annual "Treasure" Sale and Luncheon benefiting the SMC Scholarship Fund will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 14, with a traditional Thanksgiving luncheon served at noon at Saint Mary's College Soda Center.

Sons in Retirement (SIR) Lamorinda Hills Branch 174, a social club, invites you to attend its luncheon meeting from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 13 at Holy Trinity Cultural Center, 1700 School St., Moraga.

All Lafayette residents are invited to a town hall meeting from 7 to 9 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 14 at the Veterans Memorial Hall, 3780 Mt. Diablo Blvd. to hear a "State of the City" address by Mayor Mike Anderson.

The Moraga Women's Society's Goodwill Bags Fashion Show and Luncheon at 11 a.m. Monday, Nov. 18 will present a museum collection of antique clothes that span over 100 years at the Holy Trinity Cultural Center, 1700 School St., Moraga.

Alison McKenzie, who has been recruited by the California State Department to train county leaders about the Affordable Health Care Act (ACA) and its implications, will discuss the ACA provisions starting at 9:15 a.m. Tuesday Nov. 19 at the Serbian Cultural Center, 1700 School St. in Moraga.

Free book launch event in Lafayette. Everyone is invited to help launch the new book, "Ending Anger: The Couple's Guide," by local author Suzanne Bare from 5 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 19 at La Boulange Bakery, 3597 Mt Diablo

Bld., Lafayette. Bare will be signing books and answering questions. Get the eBook for free that day, and receive a free raffle ticket for a prize. For more info, visit endingangerbook.relatedgreat.com.

The 35th annual Community Thanksgiving Breakfast will be held from 7 to 8:30 a.m. Friday, Nov. 22 at Our Saviors Lutheran Church, 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette. Cost: \$20 per person. Begin the holiday season in a significant and meaningful way.

For the 16th year Bobbie and Tom Preston will be holding the Cycle Recycle, collecting repairable bikes to be refurbished and given to charitable groups to distribute at Christmas. New

and/or used bikes and trikes—in working order or repairable—or useable bike parts may be delivered to the side driveway of the Preston's home at 1307 Larch Avenue in Moraga throughout the month of November only. No skateboards please; no need to call beforehand. For info, contact Bobbie or Tom Preston at (925) 376-8474.

through May, will feature Ted Kipping, arborist who travels the world, locating rare flora and fauna, who will discuss "Flowering California Native Shrubs for Gardens" at 9 a.m. Friday, Nov. 15 at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 66 St. Stephens Dr., Orinda. Visitors welcome. For info, visit www.montelindogarden.com.

Moraga Garden Club meeting will feature Dr. Anthony O'Geen, soil specialist at UC Davis, who will discuss "Fascinating Information about Soil and Its Ecosystems" at 9:30 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 21 at Holy Trinity Cultural Center, 1700 School St., Moraga. Guests are welcome.

GARDEN

The Lafayette Garden Club's next meeting will feature author Stephanie McInnis who will discuss "Encouraging Children to Garden" at 10 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 14 at the Lafayette Christian Church, 584 Glenside Dr., Lafayette. Visitors and New members welcome. For info, call Carolyn Poetzsch, (925) 944-1737

The Montelindo Garden Club, which meets every third Friday, September

Please submit events to: calendar@lamorinda weekly.com

MOVIE REVIEW

"Valentine Road"

By Adam Reeves



"Valentine Road" Photo provided

"Valentine Road" is a gripping documentary about hate and intolerance, and about the story of eighth-grader Larry King. When he was attending school in Oxnard, Calif., Larry began to be aware of his tendency to be more feminine and he began to explore this outwardly by dressing more and more as a girl in school.

But there was one student, Brandon McInerney, who decided that all the other students needed to be protected from this "freak." He came to class the next day and shot Larry twice in the back of his head in front of fellow students and the teachers in attendance.

What took place next was an amazing journey of emotions and opinions from the parents, teachers, fellow students, city officials, and the lawyers handling the situation. The outrage that some said "Brandon was the victim" caused national press coverage. Many in the public eye, such as Ellen Degeneres, Anderson Cooper, and the talk show host Larry King, got involved and gave voice to the issues.

"Valentine Road" will be shown at the Orinda Theatre as part of the California Independent Film Festival at 1:15 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 10.

CAIFF Must-See Films and Events

By Derek Zemrak

The California Independent Film Festival starts tomorrow, Nov. 7! I know the film festival can seem a bit overwhelming with over 60 films and events to choose from, but I would like to help you out.

Thursday, Nov. 7 at 5:30 p.m. - Come to the Opening Night Reception and screening of the highly acclaimed film "Le Week-end." Opening night has become the must attend annual event in Moraga. This year the event, chaired by Caroline Wood, will be over the top with amazing food from Whole Foods of Lafayette, award-winning wine from Concannon Vineyards, beer from Ale Industries and the amazing film "Le Week-end," which recently had its world premiere at the prestigious Toronto International Film Festival.

Friday, Nov. 8 at 6 p.m. - Do not miss Shorts Program D "Celebrity Shorts" in Orinda. Former Ms. America and Golden Globe nominee Lee Meriwether ("Batman," "Barnaby Jones," "All My Children") will be in attendance to receive the 16th Annual California Independent Film Festival Lifetime Achievement award after the screening of the short film "Remember to Breathe." Golden Globe recipient, Susan Blakely ("Rich Man, Poor Man," "Towering Inferno") will also be in attendance.

Saturday, Nov. 9 at 10 p.m. - The place to be seen is at the annual CAIFF party at Shelbys Restaurant. Shelbys will be serving up fabulous food and live music from Johnny Nash and headliner, Thomas Ian Nicholas ("American Pie," "Rookie of the Year"). CAIFF started in 1999, so let's party like it's 1999!

Sunday, Nov. 10 at 6 p.m. - Wrap up with the Closing Night movie, "Jackpot" - a dark comedy in the vein of "Fargo" that previously screened at the Tribeca Film Festival and the Palm Springs International Film Festival, where it was a festival favorite of Jo Alice Canterbury (Orinda's International Film Showcase).



See you on the Red Carpet!

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# Specialty Greens – Fresh Hydroponic Veggies for Delivery

By Sophie Braccini



Patty Phaneuf grows hydroponic vegetables Photo Sophie Braccini

What is a speech therapist doing commercially growing vegetables under fluorescent lights? It might sound odd, but for Patty Phaneuf, it is the result of a life-long passion for vegetable gardening and finding the most sustainable way to grow them commercially, limiting the impact on water supply and agricultural land. “Hydroponics is the way of the future,” says the Lafayette resident who decided to start her own business, Specialty Greens, once her kids went to college.

living, consuming lots of highly nutritious greens, and I wanted to be part of the practical solution,” says Phaneuf. “I provide high quality greens, chard, spinach, kale, micro greens, gourmet lettuces and herbs that are fresh and clean.”

Hydroponics, or growing vegetables without soil, is a technique that has been around for hundreds of years and has many advantages. No dirt required – plants grow by being directly fed the nutrients and minerals that would be otherwise extracted through water in the soil. Hydroponics supporters claim

that the technique requires only 20 percent of the surface and as little as one-twentieth of the amount of water regular agriculture needs to produce the same amount of food.

“I have an area of about 1,500 square feet indoors for my planting,” explains the hydroponics farmer. “With the fluorescent lights, it allows me to grow lots of plants in record time.” Phaneuf explains that she completely controls the cleanliness of her production, and she does not have to use pesticides to keep her plants pest free. “You can eat them fresh out of the bag,” she says. The vegetables and herbs are fed with nutrients that are provided by Dyna-Gro, a fertilizer producer that also offers a line of nutrients for hydroponics agriculture.

Phaneuf started to work on her project a year ago; it took that full year of research and investment to start selling commercially. Now she delivers to businesses in Lamorinda and adjacent Bay Area cities free of charge, she is working on a home delivery system, and is looking for retail partners. She also sells hydroponic systems for those who want to grow vegetables in their own homes.

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

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

# SpotDining Mixes Local Philanthropy and Online Deals

By Sophie Braccini

Three years ago, a group of friends led by Lafayette resident Wymond Choy started brainstorming an online system for local dining deals that would also support local charities. Since each friend had a full time job it took a little longer than expected, but at the beginning of October they launched SpotDining.com, a service that lets you check for available deals at local restaurants before you head out the door. The service is free for restaurants and the two dollars that users pay to secure the deal goes to a charity of their choice.

“We were frustrated by the available online services like Groupon that were offering deals with an expiration date,” explains Nicholas Chang, the marketing brain of the team. “This may be good for promoting a business, but for users, who are often procrastinators, it does not make a lot of sense. Our service is simpler. If you want to have dinner at a Lamorinda restaurant, you go online to SpotDining.com and see what the current deals are, and you go.” He adds that the offers found on SpotDining are

exclusive, posted in real time by the restaurants and can change every day. “The types of deals on SpotDining are unlimited: a free entrée, a dollars-off discount, a prix fix meal, or a special just for the day,” he says.

Chang adds there are important benefits for the restaurants. “We believe that they will take advantage of our service to push hours when they have less clients, or to push products that are in season for a short period of time, like crab,” he says. “On other online coupon sites they sell their service with a discount, but a percentage goes to the coupon organization, but not with us,” he adds. “For now, we are not taking any salary and our system does not cost much to operate. Our end game is to get compensation later, once we’ve proven ourselves and can offer additional services.”

Since its launch, SpotDining is expanding its range of restaurants. For more information and deals, visit [www.spotdining.com](http://www.spotdining.com).

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## business briefs

### Lafayette Resident Receives ECHO Award

The East Bay chapter of Commercial Real Estate Women named Lafayette resident Patricia Curtin of Wendel, Rosen, Black & Dean LLP as one of the winners of the ECHO Awards at their third annual Honors and Ovations award ceremony Oct. 24 in Walnut Creek. These awards recognized four winners who fulfilled the mission of CREW by demonstrating a commitment to advancing women in commercial real estate. “The commercial real estate profession is male dominated and we want to showcase the incredible deals, companies and professional women who demonstrate outstanding success and pave a way for unlimited opportunities for future generations of men and women in this industry,” said Teresa Goodwin, chapter president of East Bay CREW and regional director of HPA Architecture. Mike Consol, editor for the Institutional Real Estate Letter and Tillie Ross, vice president for Old Republic Title Company, served as co-host and emcee of the event. Curtin was named Sustained Leader in Commercial Real Estate, an award honoring women with more than 10 years of experience in the field of commercial real estate who have made a significant contribution to the field, while also demonstrating their leadership in their field and community.

### News from the three Chambers of Commerce

#### Lafayette

Ribbon Cutting at the offices of Cherie Campbell-French, LMFT & Adrienne Casadaban, Ph.D. at 5 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 7 at 110 Lafayette Circle.

Monthly mixer at Alta Bates Summit Women's Health Center at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 13 at 3595 Mt Diablo Blvd., Suite #350 (on the third floor of the building of the Lafayette Mercantile).

Ribbon Cutting at Lafayette Fashionista at 5 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 14 at 1020 Brown Avenue, Suite F.

Ribbon Cutting for the new Lafayette Art Gallery at 5 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 20 at 3420 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Suite A.

#### Moraga

At the beginning of October, the Chamber unveiled the new version of the ShopMoragaFirst.com pages within the chamber’s main website. “We wanted to give our members the ability to further promote their business offerings to the entire community,” said Executive Director Kathe Nelson. “We have accomplished this through many improvements on the ShopMoragaFirst.com business directory. Now businesses can promote their offerings free with the addition of expanded listings, social networking links, searchable keywords and business descriptions, and SEO (Search Engine Optimization).”

Save the dates: Nov. 19 Mixer at the Barn, hosted by Canyon Construction and Dec. 10 Holiday Party hosted by Moraga Royale.

#### Orinda

Save the date for the 12th annual holiday party on Dec. 5 at the Hilton House. The Chamber party is held every year on the first Thursday of December. Everything will be on sale from 5 to 9 p.m. Free gift wrap and refreshments will be available, and a lot of fun, with music, too.



Preview of the California Independent Film Festival at the recent Tri-Chamber Mixer at the Orinda Theatre. From left, Lafayette Chamber’s executive director Jay Lifson, Moraga Chamber’s executive director Kathe Nelson, and Orinda Chamber’s executive director Candy Kattenburg and president Sylvia Jorgensen. Photo Walter Nelson

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

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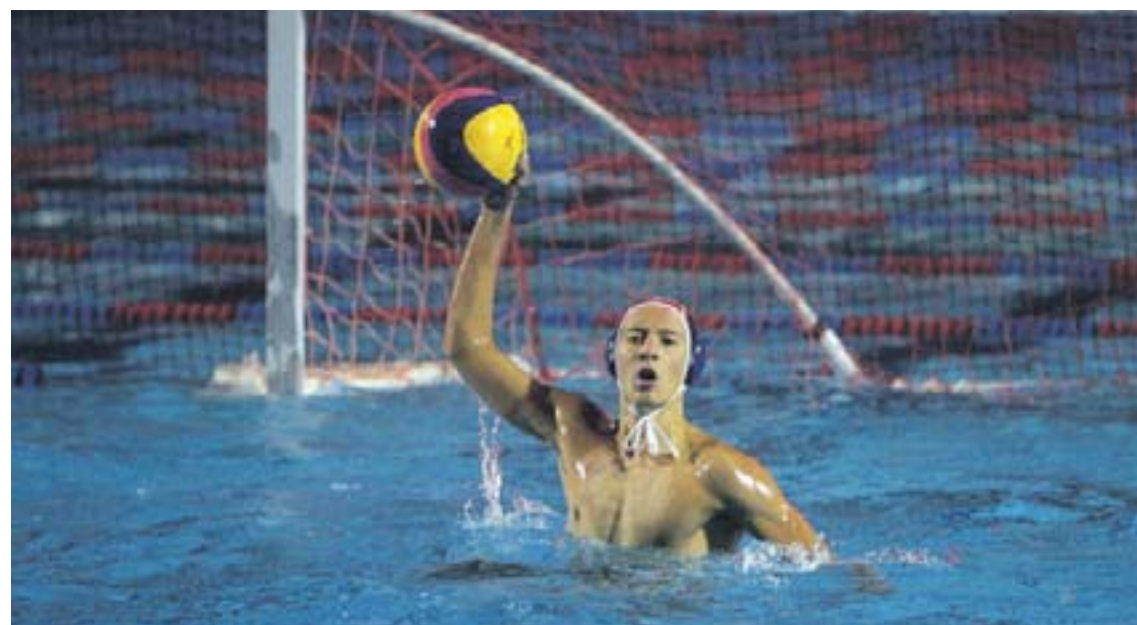
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# LAMORINDA SPORTS

## Lamorinda Prep Water Polo in NCS

By Marissa Harnett



Campolindo's goalie Spencer Tagg was key in the team's success this season.

Photos Gint Federas

After a tough regular season, the Lamorinda prep water polo teams are gearing up for NCS title runs.

Boys' water polo had an unusual finish to the DFAL season. Las Lomas, Campolindo (18-6), and Miramonte (16-8) finished the season with 4-1 records in league play. According to DFAL rules, a three-way tie is settled by drawing a team from a hat. After a lucky draw, Campolindo took the league title from defending champions Miramonte.

Although the DFAL title was taken in a game of chance, Miramonte remains focused on continuing their dominance in the NCS. Winning the title six times in the last seven years, the Mats look for a three-peat this year. They earned the No. 1 seed and will play on Nov. 7.

Head coach James Lathrop feels they've had a successful season and have improved with every difficult match-up. "I am pleased that our team faced several challenging opponents throughout the season, which challenged us to raise our level of play and consistency," he explained. "Each time we play a challenging opponent, it shows us things that we need to improve upon to be better."

Campolindo, the No. 2 seed in the NCS, has also played a tough schedule in preparation for playoffs. "It's been a tough season but it's the only way to get better," said head coach Miles Price. "Each game we learn something new, which is the idea behind a tough schedule."

The strategy has paid off. Although they lost to Miramonte in league play, the Cougars are hoping for a rematch in the NCS final. Campo starts its campaign on Nov. 7 at home.

In the final match of the DFAL regular season on Oct. 30, the Cougars celebrated Senior Night with an 11-8 win over Acalanes. In an extremely physical game, the Dons stayed with the Cougars through the first quarter. By the end of the third quarter, Campo enjoyed a comfortable five-goal lead. Acalanes came on strong at the end to narrow the gap to three goals, but it was not enough.

"We played good team ball, our goalie, Spencer, played excellent and everyone contributed for a good win and a good season finishing first in DFAL," Price said.

With a 12-14 overall record (2-3 in DFAL), Acalanes missed the cut for the NCS playoffs this season.

The Campolindo girls went undefeated, finishing first (5-0, 21-3 overall) in the DFAL. They earned the top

seed in the NCS playoffs and a first round bye. Miramonte came in second with a record of 4-1 (18-6), losing only to Campo. The Mats got the No. 2 seed in the playoffs and will also have a bye. Acalanes finished the season at 2-3 (13-11). The Dons earned the No. 4 seed and will face Encinal at home tonight, Nov. 6.

Campo demonstrated their dominance in last week's action against Acalanes, defeating the visitors 14-4.

The Acalanes girls fought hard, but after a very early 1-1 tie, the Cougars pulled away and widened their lead to six goals by the end of the half. In the third quarter, Acalanes put together a few successful plays narrowing the gap to five, but by the fourth quarter, Campo surged and ended the game 14-4.

Acalanes head coach Misha Buchel was impressed with his team's tenacity in the face of tough competition. "The girls played hard from start

to finish. We just don't have much margin for error this year - we need to play perfectly in a game against a team like Campo," he explained.

Acalanes could face Campo in the semi-final round, should both teams make it that far.

Miramonte hopes the fifth time is the charm to beat the Lady Cougars. Dropping the first four matches this season, the Mats won't have the opportunity again unless they reach the finals.

Miramonte head coach Trevor Rose also notes teams have to be perfect to beat the Cougars.

"They've got so many weapons it's tough to beat them. We've gotten close a couple times, but they're so well coached that we simply can't make mistakes," Rose explained. "We've got the personnel, speed, and mental toughness needed to bring home a win ... but again ... it would have to be a perfect game."

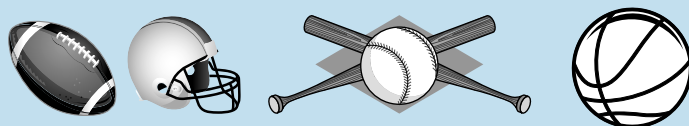


Hannah Kresnak (5) and Kari Jensen (3)



Rachael Lewin (16) and Emma Myall (8)

## Youth Sports Registration



### Lamorinda Rugby Football Club

Registration is now open for the 2014 rugby season! Season runs January through March for youth, and through April for HS. All ages welcome. Girls welcome through age 11. No prior rugby experience necessary. Practices are located at the Wilder Fields in Orinda. Youth parent informational meeting is scheduled for Nov. 20 at 7pm in the Miramonte HS Cafeteria. High School player/parent info meeting is Sunday, Nov. 17 at 5pm in Miramonte HS Cafeteria. Find out more about our team and how to register online at [www.lamorugby.com](http://www.lamorugby.com). Contact head youth coach Doug Pearson for more info: [dpearson@lee-associates.com](mailto:dpearson@lee-associates.com). For High School, contact Recruiting Director Tim Mascheroni at [tim@mascheroniconstruction.com](mailto:tim@mascheroniconstruction.com).

## LAMORINDA SOCCER CLUB ANNOUNCES FREE

COACHES FROM & WITHIN THE COMMUNITY GIVING BACK TO COMMUNITY Free 2013 Fall Soccer Clinics (All COMMUNITY PLAYERS)

Learn the Skills - Build Confidence - Love the Game The Lamorinda Community Clinics is a place where kids have fun and learn about the game of soccer! The Lamorinda Soccer Club would like to welcome all girls and boys at any skill level between the ages of 5 (U6) to 11 (U12), born August 1, 2001 - July 31, 2008

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Dates\*: EVERY FRIDAY November 15th - December 13th (No Clinic on Nov. 29th 2013) Ages 5-7 (U6 - U8) @ 4:30 PM - 5:30 PM Ages 8-11 (U9 - U12) @ 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM Location Wilder Field 2, Orinda

To Register: Registration Fees: FREE - please register to reserve your spot All FALL Clinic Registrations will be available online at [www.lamorindasc.com](http://www.lamorindasc.com) Deadline for registration is Nov. 10, 2013 (space is limited) Questions? E-mail [admin@lamorindasc.com](mailto:admin@lamorindasc.com)



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# Saint Mary's Men's Basketball Season Tips Off Friday

By Michael Sakoda



Front row from left: Paul McCoy, Beau Levesque, Dane Pineau, Brad Waldow, Matt Hodgson, Garrett Jackson, Treaven Duffy; back row from left: Kerry Carter, Jordan Giusti, James Walker III, Eividas Petrulis, Calvin Hermanson, Stephen Holt, Joe Coleman, Emmett Naar Photo Tod Fierner

Despite a great end to the last season, the Saint Mary's men's basketball team is in for a tough season this year. The Gaels open their 2013-2014 campaign on Friday, Nov. 8 at home against Louisiana Tech.

Last year, the team finished with a 28-7 record (16-1 at home, 14-2 in WCC), the sixth straight year the Gaels have won 25 or more games. SMC also earned its third NCAA Tournament bid in the last four years, where they defeated Middle Tennessee State 67-54 as part of the First Four, before falling 54-52 to No. 6 Memphis in the second round.

"We've had a nice run of teams, of guys and good leaders ... but there's no way to top that team in terms of how much they achieved with what they had," said head coach Randy Bennett. "Everyone talks about (Dellavedova), but there was a whole group of them that did it and they all were important."

Matthew Dellavedova, now a reserve with the Cleveland Cavaliers, was one of four seniors lost to graduation along with center Kyle Rowley and forwards Tim Williams and Mitchell Young, but they have a new group of leaders ready to step up.

"Holt will fill Dellavedova's position in terms of running the point," said Bennett. "Matt Hodgson will play more...(Brad) Waldow will play more, and Garrett Jackson and Beau (Levesque) will play the four."

Both Holt (11.6 ppg, 5.4 reb, 1.2 stl, All-WCC Honorable Mention) and Waldow (10.2 ppg, 6.0 reb, 61.8 field goal percentage) were named to the Pre-Season All-WCC Team.

"Holt's basically been an All-Conference guy the last two years ... for whatever reason, they only put one guy from our team on (the All-

WCC Team) last season," said Bennett. "But I expect (them) to get better. Delly got better every year, so did Mickey and Omar. I think they will too."

In addition to the standouts, the Gaels add depth in forwards Dane Pineau, Jackson, Calvin Hermanson and in guard Kerry Carter.

"The way (the new guys) push everyone to get better is amazing," said redshirt sophomore Jordan Giusti. "Their attitudes are great...all just really excited to be here."

The WCC hasn't gotten any easier. Pre-season polls have the Gaels third in the conference behind BYU and Gonzaga.

The Gaels are facing more than just adversity on the court as they continue to deal with the fallout from the NCAA sanctions imposed last season.

Bennett is suspended for the first five WCC games of the season and has been prohibited from off-campus recruiting for a 1-year period. The school's scholarships have been reduced (from 13 to 11) for the 2014-15 and 2015-16 seasons.

While Bennett is away, the Gaels face Gonzaga on the road and host league rivals San Francisco and Santa Clara.

"I have to sit out the first five conference games, and that will be a tricky one," said Bennett. "We'll (also) have to be more efficient with our scholarships ... we can do it with 11, but it will be harder."

At the end of the day, though, Bennett has faith in his team.

"I like our team, but to do what the other teams have done, we have to do things about perfect," he said. "Every team has its own story ... every team is different ... this team has

the pieces, whether we can get them to fit right, and fast enough, remains to be seen."

## Saint Mary's Sports Round-Up

After getting swept in straight sets to No. 9 San Diego at home, the Gaels volleyball team (13-7, 9-3 in WCC) defeated No. 19 BYU in a come-from-behind thriller. Dropping the first two games, the Gaels won the next three to upset the Cougars on Oct. 26. In third place in the WCC, SMC traveled to Stockton and beat Pacific on Halloween. They face Pepperdine and Loyola Marymount next week, before returning home on Nov. 14 to take on Santa Clara.

With three top-20 teams in the WCC, the women's soccer team (6-12, 2-5 in WCC) has faced some tough competition. The Gaels dropped two games against their Northwest rivals, No. 11 Portland and Gonzaga this past weekend. SMC closes out its season on the road. The Gaels travel to take on USD (3-4 in WCC) on Thursday, before heading to Utah to face No. 20 BYU on Nov. 9.

After a tough season, the men's soccer team (3-3-2 in WCC) celebrated Senior Day in dramatic fashion, winning in overtime 2-1 against USD on Nov. 3. Junior Michael Semenza scored in the 98th minute off an assist from senior Justin Howard. The Gaels have another home game against USF today, Nov. 6 before they close out their season on the road against Santa Clara and their Northwest rivals.

# Lamorinda Soccer Club Boo Fest Results

Submitted by Corinna Sassano



U10 Navy Boys

Photos provided

Lamorinda Soccer Club participated in the Impact Boo Fest Soccer Tournament in Brentwood on Oct. 26-27. Several of the teams finished with top honors.

The Lamorinda United U10 Navy boys' team was the runner-up.

The Lamorinda U10 White boys' team, nicknamed Team Zombies, beat opponents, 5-3 and 6-2. They only dropped one game, 0-2.

The Lamorinda U10 Navy girls' team, nicknamed the Cal Super Heroes, finished in second place. They won four games in a row.

The Lamorinda United U11 White boys' team, nicknamed the Killer Bees, was the runner-up.

The Lamorinda U11 Navy girls' team placed second.

The Lamorinda U12 Navy boys' team took first place, beating the Mustangs 2-1 in the finals.



Team Zombies



Cal Super Heroes



The Killer Bees



The U11 girls' navy team



The U12 boys' navy team

# Lafayette Reservoir Run Results

The Lafayette Chamber of Commerce celebrated the 21st annual Lafayette Reservoir Run on Oct. 27. Here are the top Lamorinda finishers:

- 5k:**
- Female 2-7 years old:**
  - 2 Stella Hatch Lafayette
  - 3 Emily Jones Lafayette
- Female 8-10 years old:**
  - 2 Megan Go Lafayette
  - 3 Lyla Cox Lafayette
- Female 11-13 years old:**
  - 2 Isabella Chao Lafayette
- Female 14-18 years old:**
  - 1 Hannah Ruane Moraga
  - 3 Lindsay Wilson Lafayette
- Female 19-24 years old:**
  - 1 Alessandra Pichelli Orinda
  - 2 Wendy Berner Lafayette
- Female 40-49 years old:**
  - 1 Diane Batchelor Lafayette
  - 3 Amy Starr Lafayette
- Female 50-59 years old:**
  - 2 Arona Ragins Orinda
- Female 60-69 years old:**
  - 1 Betsy Barsamian-Teman Orinda
  - 2 Linda Herkenhoff Orinda
- Female 70-79 years old:**
  - 2 Audrey Richardson Lafayette
- Female 80 and over:**
  - 3 Rosemary Bredahl Lafayette
- Female 80 and over:**
  - 1 Dee Farkas Lafayette
  - 2 Joan Bruzzone Lafayette
- Male 2-7 years old:**
  - 1 Jake Boselli Lafayette

- 2 Tiago Jordan Orinda
- 3 Tomas Jorcino Lafayette
- Male 8-10 years old:**
  - 2 Gabriel Lund Lafayette
  - 3 Marco Chao Lafayette
- Male 11-13 years old:**
  - 1 Cayden Hein Moraga
  - 3 Brandon Hein Moraga
- Male 14-18 years old:**
  - 1 Pete Bull Lafayette
  - 2 Nikolaus Moore Lafayette
  - 3 Jack Mader Orinda
- Male 19-29 years old:**
  - 2 Ryan Troxel Lafayette
  - 3 Achim Christner Orinda
- Male 40-49 years old:**
  - 1 Chris Dodge Lafayette
- Male 50-59 years old:**
  - 1 Keith Duncan Orinda
- Male 60-69 years old:**
  - 1 Martin Brook Lafayette
- Male 70-79 years old:**
  - 1 Robert Gormley Moraga
- Male 80 and over:**
  - 1 Joe Azalde Lafayette
- 10k:**
- Female 2-7 years old:**
  - 1 Esther Dean Lafayette
- Female 11-13 years old:**
  - 1 Carly Harris Orinda
  - 2 Sarah Burnick Orinda
  - 3 Emersyn White Lafayette

- Female 14-18 years old:**
  - 1 Katie Coates Moraga
  - 2 Georgia Roden Orinda
  - 3 Samantha Martin Lafayette
- Female 19-24 years old:**
  - 1 Rachel Carpenter Lafayette
- Female 30-39 years old:**
  - 1 Maia Siu Lafayette
  - 2 Monica Phillips Lafayette
- Female 40-49 years old:**
  - 1 Tasha McNamara Lafayette
  - 2 Paige Dunn Moraga
- Female 60-69 years old:**
  - 2 Connie Chiba Moraga
  - 3 Joan White Orinda
- Male 8-10 years old:**
  - 1 Taj Donthineni Moraga
- Male 11-13 years old:**
  - 1 James Bull Lafayette
  - 3 Bradley Sides Lafayette
- Male 14-18 years old:**
  - 2 Vinny Gladden Lafayette
  - 3 Will Coates Moraga
- Male 19-29 years old:**
  - 2 Michael Kent Lafayette
- Male 30-39 years old:**
  - 3 Fontel Flowers Lafayette
- Male 40-49 years old:**
  - 1 Darren Baker Lafayette
  - 3 Chris Maxwell Lafayette
- Male 50-59 years old:**
  - 2 David Trahan Orinda
  - 3 Tony Montano Moraga

# CYO Preseason Success

Submitted by Junaid Khan



Back row, from left: Carson Eassabhoy, Sander Laggay, Doug Zeller, Carlo Frick, Ethan Luckenbach; front row: Chris Watson, Amir Khan, Ryan Banisadr. Photo provided

Santa Maria's sixth grade boys' CYO team members celebrate with their medals after the championship game of the MVP preseason tournament at DVC.

# Oakland Strokes Win Gold, Bronze in Boston

Submitted by Lynn Klinkenberg



From left: VW Coach Derek Byrnes, Elizabeth Elmgren, Tara Bozzini, Marie Johnson, Abby Vare, Margaret Ross, Katie Hubert, Jennifer Mundelius, Lindy Clute, Amy Tarczynski.

The Oakland Strokes youth rowing club won gold and bronze medals at the Head of the Charles rowing classic in Boston on Oct. 19-20. The competition included 85 top high school teams. The women's varsity 8+ finished the 4800m course in a winning time of 17.23 minutes, 17 seconds ahead of second place. The boat was crewed by Elizabeth Elmgren, Tara Bozzini (Acalanes), Marie Johnson (Miramonte), Abby Vare, Katie Hubert, Jennifer Mundelius, Lindy Clute, Amy Tarczynski, and coxswain Margaret Ross (Miramonte).



From left: Kevin Chang, Viggo Hoite, Christian Cuellar, Cubby Parker, Hannah Christopher, Josef Starc, Marshall Krock, Allan Hosler, Daniel Hogan.

The varsity men's 8+ finished third with a time of 15.31 minutes, just one second behind second place St. Paul's. The varsity men's 8+ was crewed by Marshall Krock, Viggo Hoite, Josef Starc, David Parker (Bentley), Kevin Chang (Bentley), Christian Cuellar, Allan Hosler, Daniel Hogan, and coxswain Hannah Christopher (Miramonte).

# Gaels Continue Playing Abroad

Submitted by Tony Samaniego



Tim Maupin (left) and Nick Wallace Photo provided

Two recent Saint Mary's rugby graduates, Tim Maupin and Nick Wallace, qualified to represent the US on the Eagles National Team. Wallace made the USA squad months ago and has played in four International matches. Maupin recently made the team and

debuting against Canada. In his first match, he scored two tries.

On Oct. 19-20, the USA took second place in the American Rugby Championships. Maupin and Wallace played in the last match of the ARC against Uruguay.

# Santa Maria CYO Preseason Champs

Submitted by Laura Lamison

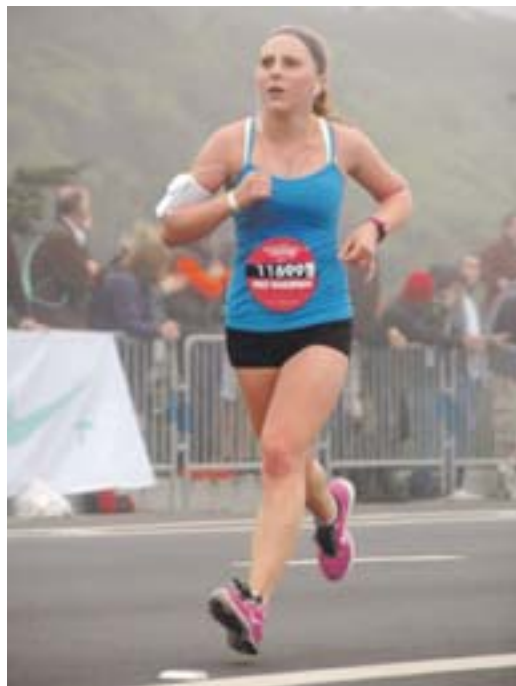


From left: Caden Breznikar, Trent Larson-Deak, Bradley Nestal, Jack Brun, Tyler Dutto, Matt Millham, Luke Lamison, Noah Deitrick and Ben Murphy. Photo provided

The fourth grade Santa Maria Celtics Pre-Season Tournament held on Oct. 26-27. League play began on Nov. 2. won their division in the MVP CYO

# Local Wins Age Group at Nike Women's Half Marathon

Submitted by Leslie Ryder



Savannah Ryder, a resident of Orinda who is attending University of Notre Dame, won her age group for the Nike Women's Half Marathon in San Francisco on Oct. 20. The former Miramonte cross country varsity runner and Notre Dame NCAA Division I Rowing team member came across the finish line with a time of 1:31.12. Ryder finished 36th overall, including men. More than 30,000 runners participated in the Half Marathon.

Photo provided

# Wonder Woman to the Rescue

Submitted by Jon Zuber



Photo provided

The East Bay Eclipse U13 girls took home the title in the Walnut Creek Octoberfest Tournament October 26-27. Wearing Wonder Woman costumes, the girls fought for a 2-1 victory in overtime in the championship game.

**Submit stories to**  
**sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com**  
*(we prefer to receive your original photo file, minimum size: 200 dpi and 1200 pixels wide)*

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# Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 07 Issue 18 Wednesday, November 6, 2013



*Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian  
...read on page D8*

## Shelve It!

### Garage tour to offer 'man-cave' insights

By Chris Lavin



*Gary Fulcher in his "man-cave" in Lafayette – his retreat will be on the first Garage Tour sponsored by the Lafayette Community Foundation.*

*Photo Chris Lavin*

There was a time when the idea of a "man's garage" meant having perks like a black-and-white TV with rabbit ears and a Styrofoam cooler full of beer set up in time for the Sunday football game. Plastic lawn chairs come to mind.

Well ... we've come a long way. To show just how far our neighbor-

hoods have come in the way of haute garage design and use, the Lafayette Community Foundation has organized a tour of four of the best they could find, including one that would be worth the tour all on its own.

"This is my man-cave, I guess you could call it," said Gary Fulcher, who did not appear to like the term "man-

cave." He lives in Orinda but his three-door garage is in Lafayette.

He does have it all: a kitchen (no Styrofoam cooler here, but a built-in fridge that looks like tool storage, which is next to a *dishwasher*, also disguised as a tool area), a workspace, a loft for sleeping or watching a flat-screen TV, exercising, and most im-

portantly, a fully equipped workshop for him to build his custom wooden boats. "When I was building this (the garage), my kids said, 'Are you leaving Mom?' It has everything anyone would need, so they were wondering."

The garage is that extreme. (And no, he certainly is not leaving his wife.) One could live in it, quite comfortably. It's the perfect "man-cave" if you're into building your own boat. Or cabinets. Or twirling salad bowls on a lathe. Or just having great parties.

The Garage Tour begins at 1 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 10, at Blodgett's Flooring, 3291 Mt. Diablo Court, in Lafayette. Tickets are \$35 online at [www.lafayetteCF.org](http://www.lafayetteCF.org), and at Blodgett's, Lafayette Car Wash, and the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce. Food trucks and music will be everywhere, starting at the beginning of the tour, where tour-goers will receive their maps, wristbands and parking instructions.

"The tour is self-guided, but there will be lots of refreshments and time to talk with the garage owners," said Teresa Gerringer, an organizer with the Lafayette Community Foundation. "Two garages on one cul-de-sac will have classic cars."

...continued on page D4



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## Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

City	Last reported:	LOWEST AMOUNT:	HIGHEST AMOUNT:
LAFAYETTE	14	\$490,000	\$5,400,000
MORAGA	11	\$325,000	\$1,400,000
ORINDA	7	\$575,000	\$1,230,000

Home sales are compiled by CalRESource, 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

- 2459 Cherry Hills Drive, \$753,000, 3 Bdrms, 1740 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 9-23-13;  
Previous Sale: \$610,000, 09-26-03
- 1269 Del Arroyo Court, \$900,000, 3 Bdrms, 1718 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 10-3-13
- 3131 Diablo View Road, \$855,000, 3 Bdrms, 2317 SqFt, 1947 YrBlt, 9-24-13
- 3490 Hamlin Road, \$811,000, 3 Bdrms, 1927 SqFt, 1947 YrBlt, 10-7-13
- 16 Happy Valley Road, \$1,750,000, 3 Bdrms, 3885 SqFt, 1987 YrBlt, 10-8-13;  
Previous Sale: \$230,000, 06-13-84
- 3802 Happy Valley Road, \$5,400,000, 4 Bdrms, 4123 SqFt, 1940 YrBlt, 10-1-13
- 917 Hough Avenue, \$490,000, 2 Bdrms, 1038 SqFt, 1969 YrBlt, 10-4-13;  
Previous Sale: \$485,000, 11-13-08
- 1571 Hunsaker Canyon Road, \$630,000, 3 Bdrms, 1468 SqFt, 1980 YrBlt, 9-26-13;  
Previous Sale: \$350,000, 06-01-04
- 1551 Huston Road, \$525,000, 3 Bdrms, 1436 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 10-4-13;  
Previous Sale: \$479,000, 08-16-02
- 3138 Mars Court, \$850,000, 3 Bdrms, 1990 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 10-4-13;  
Previous Sale: \$620,000, 07-21-03
- 3500 Moraga Boulevard, \$1,075,000, 4 Bdrms, 2178 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 9-25-13
- 860 Paradise Court, \$1,200,500, 3 Bdrms, 1855 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 10-7-13;  
Previous Sale: \$195,000, 04-02-85
- 657 Sky Ranch Court, \$1,415,000, 3 Bdrms, 3262 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 10-3-13;  
Previous Sale: \$1,030,000, 10-20-10
- 3337 Sweet Drive, \$860,000, 3 Bdrms, 1209 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 10-7-13;  
Previous Sale: \$53,200, 09-23-75

### MORAGA

- 2055 Ascot Drive #107, \$325,000, 2 Bdrms, 1068 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 10-4-13
- 2079 Ascot Drive #239, \$370,000, 2 Bdrms, 1193 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 10-2-13;  
Previous Sale: \$247,000, 01-08-02
- 1965 Ascot Drive #4, \$340,000, 2 Bdrms, 1130 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 9-30-13;  
Previous Sale: \$175,000, 11-12-04
- 169 Cypress Point Way, \$706,000, 2 Bdrms, 1626 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 9-25-13
- 180 Derby Lane, \$1,000,000, 4 Bdrms, 2435 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 10-3-13;  
Previous Sale: \$440,000, 07-12-89
- 462 Fernwood Drive, \$1,360,000, 3 Bdrms, 2729 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 9-30-13
- 25 Harrington Road, \$1,400,000, 4 Bdrms, 2858 SqFt, 1986 YrBlt, 10-7-13
- 293 Lakefield Place, \$1,024,500, 5 Bdrms, 2358 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 9-26-13;  
Previous Sale: \$1,025,000, 07-03-13
- 103 Miramonte Drive, \$500,000, 2 Bdrms, 1302 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 9-24-13;  
Previous Sale: \$387,000, 09-23-03
- 112 Walford Drive, \$1,081,500, 4 Bdrms, 2410 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 9-25-13;  
Previous Sale: \$245,000, 02-14-86
- 3 Wandel Drive, \$752,000, 4 Bdrms, 1604 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 10-1-13

### ORINDA

- 173 Camino Pablo, \$575,000, 3 Bdrms, 1837 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 9-25-13
- 29 Charles Hill Circle, \$1,150,000, 3 Bdrms, 2505 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 10-1-13;  
Previous Sale: \$569,000, 08-26-94
- 230 Hall Drive, \$800,000, 3 Bdrms, 1531 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 10-4-13
- 102 Orchard Road, \$925,000, 3 Bdrms, 2345 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 9-27-13
- 128 Scenic Drive, \$975,000, 4 Bdrms, 2284 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 9-30-13;  
Previous Sale: \$751,000, 08-15-03
- 89 Van Ripper Lane, \$1,230,000, 2 Bdrms, 2513 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 10-4-13;  
Previous Sale: \$66,000, 05-09-75
- 5 Westover Court, \$990,000, 3 Bdrms, 1875 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 10-4-13;  
Previous Sale: \$746,000, 01-30-04



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## The Most Wonderful Time of the Year

By Andi Peterson Brown

It's beginning to look a lot like the most wonderful time of the year. And if your home is still on the market, you might be contemplating pulling it for the winter. Hold that thought. Even though real estate activity tends to decline during November and December, the season can in fact be a great opportunity to showcase your home in its holiday best.

Buyers who are out looking during the holidays are usually more serious about their search. To capture their hearts and secure a sale, here are some quick and easy tips for holiday staging.

**Tip #1:** Keep it natural, keep it simple. While it might be tempting to display your cardboard cut-out Buddy The Elf or put your Clark Griswold skills to the test, it's best to keep things simple and natural at your front door. Beautiful wreaths, poinsettias, and tasteful, classic twinkle lights will put buyers in the spirit and make a lasting first impression.

**Tip #2:** Keep it natural, keep it neutral. It's important for buyers to see themselves living in your home, and universals such as winter greenery, decorative candles, pine cones, and glass jars of candy canes and marshmallows all invoke the warmth of the holidays and spread good cheer to the widest pool of buyers.

These tips, coupled with the fact that Lamorinda currently has a low housing supply, might just make the difference for that one buyer. And remember: it only takes one.



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## Shelve It!

...continued from page D1

Yes, some garages are actually used for cars, she said.

The classic car show will be held all afternoon, ending when the tour does at 5 p.m. All proceeds go to the foundation to support neighborhood projects.

Yet the heart of the tour will be behind the garage doors. (Or in Fulcher's case, works of art by Real Carriage Doors he went and fetched himself from Washington state.) Geringer said the foundation modeled the garage tour after the Lafayette Juniors' kitchen tours, but instead targeted those who have "boring, cluttered" garages and want inspiration for fresh ideas for storage, storing tools, or a place to hang out.

"We have a good cross-section," she said.

Fulcher started the actual work on his garage about five years ago, but he dreamed of it for decades while working in the GIS (geographic information systems) field. He would call it the Green Barn Canoe and Kayak Company, he mused to himself for many hours while writing code. Finally, when he retired, he got to work to make his dream come true.

And so it has, although now he's hardly retired, having built some 14 or 15 canoes and rehabbing a fishing trawler.

He designed the spacious workshop himself, then worked with a company in Canada that cut the timber and framing, ordered up the SIPs (those are "structurally insulated panels," which is the kind of thing you learn on garage tours), then he and friends from Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary Club did the rest.

To say the least, Fulcher has taken the "tool bench out in the garage" to another level altogether. He will list his power tools for you, "drill press, band saw, table saw, edging sander, joiner, planer, lathe..." until you tell him to please stop. Then he won't be able to help himself and show you the rotund dust-collection system he installed. He will even proudly open his cabinets to reveal pull-out shelves and tools precisely placed so there is never a "where's the Phillips head?" kind of discussion.

"In the whole place, though, people like the ladder best," Fulcher said, which reminds visitors that one would indeed need a way to access the loft. Fulcher reached up and gently spun a horizontal ladder on a fulcrum that he built himself using a big lazy Susan, and popped it into place. Voila.

"People are going to like this," he said, and lifted the ladder back up, just as effortlessly.



Fulcher with Teresa Geringer of the Lafayette Community Foundation in front of his garage, which he lovingly calls the Green Barn Canoe and Kayak Co., in Lafayette.  
Photo Chris Lavin



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## Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian

# The Wild Bunch

By Cynthia Brian

*“Life is the flower for which love is the honey.” – Victor Hugo*

Have you ever looked upon a glorious floral arrangement or loosely arranged bouquet and wished that you could enjoy similar beauty without the hefty price tag? In this era of celebrating the “Do It Yourself” creativity that resides within us all, I want to encourage you to step outside with a pair of shears and tap into your inner florist. If you don’t have a garden, buy bunches of greens and flowers at the flower market to create your personalized design. Don’t be tempted to buy a bouquet and plopping it in a vase. Be original, add flair, go wild. The plethora of fall leaves, berries, seedpods, feathery plumes, vines, and wild grasses lend themselves to designing dazzling garlands, holiday themed topiaries, romantic wreaths, and exquisite floral centerpieces. All that is required is a bit of imagination and plenty of chutzpah.

To be successful, use innovative combinations of foliage, flowers, and wispy elements. Fruit, vegetables, herbs, succulents, and even weeds add appeal to displays. Urns, bottles, flutes, boots, pitchers, or any vessel that holds water can become an attractive base vase.



*Big leafed plants such as philodendron add drama to an urn when combined with roses, palm fronds, feathery plumes, and splashes of color.*

*Photos Cynthia Brian*



*A beautiful bridesmaid bouquet of loosely arranged and hand-tied magenta lilies, stargazer lilies, fuchsia colored roses, Russian sage, narcissus, freesia, and bear grass are adorned with a grape cluster.*

Choose a color scheme. Do you want a boisterous mix or monochromatic spray? Depending on the occasion and the final location placement, the arrangement can be tall, low, rambling, cascading, lush, simple, or fancy. For best results, allow flower stems to soak for 24 hours in 8 to 10 inches of water after cutting before creating your masterpiece.

### Trade Tricks and Tips

- Pick flowers early in the morning as water content is highest while the temperatures are cooler.
- Choose buds that are tight to ensure longer post harvest life.
- If you bought your flowers and greens, wash the stems under running water before cutting. Do not trim under water as tap water sources may contain fluoride, which is injurious to a variety of cut flowers such as gerbera and freesia.
- Cut stems on the diagonal to provide the bloom with the greatest amount of surface area exposed to water. Relatively little water is absorbed through the walls of the stems.
- Add a drop of bleach to cold water to deter bacteria.
- Remove all thorns from roses with a knife



*A lovely loose mixture of the best of fall flowers including dahlia, zinnia, hydrangea, allium, eucalyptus leaves, and agastache.*

- Remove all leaves below water level to prevent rot.
- For soft-stemmed flowers like calla lilies or Star of Bethlehem, submerge stems only in a small amount of water.
- For woody stems such as Protea, fill the vase to 8 inches or more.
- Pull or cut the stamen out of lilies. The bloom will last longer and you won’t have to worry about the yellow stamen staining clothing or furnishings.
- All flowers release ethylene gas. Ripening fruit and damaged flowers result in a significant increase of the concentration of the gas, causing arrangements to deteriorate more quickly. Remove dead or aging petals, keep flowers away from fruit, and ventilate the room. Don’t store bouquets in a refrigerator with apples or other fruit.

- The waxier the leaf, the longer the plant will live in or out of water. Magnolia leaves are a great choice for long lasting shiny green foliage.
- Line clear vases with grasses or big leaves to mask murky water and messy stems. Razor, lemon, or bear grass don't decompose rapidly and look exotic. For big leaf lining, use magnolia, birds of paradise, tea, or banana.
- Opaque containers compliment without competing.
- Mimic nature with an asymmetrical composition. Vary the height, depth, and length of your elements.
- Think seasonal and use texture, fragrance, and shapes to keep it interesting. Mix and match delicate purple sweet pea tendrils with celery hued sculptural reeds, or carrot colored Japanese lantern pods with large sunset dahlias.

...continued on page D10



A country feel using well worn cowboy boots filled with pistache berries, roses, baby pomegranates, and amber crepe myrtles.

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# Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian

...continued from page D9



*Don't be afraid of color. Orange protea complements the neon pink dahlias, peach roses, and pink stock with wisps of asparagus ferns.*

- Build a foundation with foliage, add flowers, wisps and welcome whimsy. Mint, feathery fountain grass, ferns, and climbing vines can spill while organic treasures like acorns, shells, pinecones, feathers, or sliced limes will thrill. Keep turning your vase to view the arrangement on all sides.
- For wide mouth containers, use florist foam as a base, make a grid with clear tape or use curly willow to anchor your flowers.
- Design a dramatic low centerpiece by cutting large flowers very short and arranging in unexpected ways. Combine the heads of roses with succulents or place just the sunny face of big sunflower in a small vase.
- Change water daily or refill water as needed.
- When making bridal bouquets or posies, hold the flowers in one hand and start with the greenery. Thread in new specimens creating a spiral. Keep twisting until the desired look is achieved. Use tape or a rubber band to hold in place and cover with ribbon or fabric.

## **Mechanics of Keeping Bouquets and Posies Fresh**

- As soon as bouquet or posie is complete, put the ends of the bouquet stems in water without allowing any ribbon or trim to get wet.
- Spray the blooms with a light spritz of water.
- Keep bouquet upright in a cool place and if overnight storage is necessary, refrigerate. Make sure to remove fruit from the fridge before placing bouquet inside and warn your friends and family, "Do Not Disturb!"

Start with simple projects to boost confidence. In a clean, empty wine or olive oil bottle, combine three stems of purple sage, razor grass, and native birdseed plumes with a single rose. For certain creations, a container isn't necessary. Mingle dried flowers with living ones, such as purple artichokes with red pyracantha berries and golden liquid amber branches, no water necessary! Pile gourds and pumpkins on a bale of hay for an entryway greeting, or twigs of autumn painted pistache with the aqua and pink fruit attached for a fanciful arch design.

Whether you favor designs that are edgy, opulent, minimalistic, country, urban, or traditional, marry Mother Nature's bounty with your human ability to craft original elegance utilizing her organic elements. Show your love by walking on the wild side to save money, highlight your home with floral focal points, and reserve the bragging rights to "I did this myself!"





# Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for November

*"I don't feel like spring. I feel like a warm red autumn." – Marilyn Monroe*

Are you falling for fall? For a few weeks the leaves on the trees are ablaze with their fiery finery in crimson, gold, burnt umber, and copper. The air is crisp and clean. The squirrels are busy storing acorns and nuts, the turkeys parading across our landscapes are plump, and, as we wrap a cozy scarf around our necks, we harvest the last of our year's produce. Narcissi have begun to pop their fragrant heads allowing us to perfume our interior spaces. The holiday season is on the horizon where we'll gather around the hearth with dear friends and family. But before the festivities begin, we have much to do to prepare our gardens for a long winter's sleep.

- **STORE** potatoes for winter consumption by culling any damaged tubers, then nestling the good spuds in ventilated bins, bushel baskets, or root storage boxes. Cover with newspaper to eliminate all light and keep the temperature at 35-45 degrees. Toss out green potatoes as they are inedible.
- **WASH** and cover or store patio furniture, especially pads and hammocks.
- **RAKE** fallen leaves and clean areas that could be hiding places for snails and slugs.
- **ADD** ornamental grasses as late season plantings with pretty spikes that add interest through winter. Suggestions are fountain grass, maiden grass, and switch grass.
- **MULCH** hillsides to prevent erosion and runoff as well as protect plants from frost.
- **RECYCLE** plastic pots by bringing them back to your local nursery or donating the containers to schools, Master Gardener groups, or horticultural societies to be used for plant sales.
- **GATHER** guavas that drop. It's best to put a tarp on the ground to collect the fallen fruit. Ripen indoors until skin is yellow, then refrigerate. Eat. Dehydrate to make fruit leather.
- **NATURALIZE** narcissi as soon as the ground temperature chills to around 60 degrees. Plant early, mid, and late bulbs for months of spring blooms in a variety of colors.
- **PLANT** other bulbs November through January including ranuncula, Dutch iris, anemone, crocus, and scilla. By staggering the planting dates, you'll enjoy a longer display of blooms.
- **REMOVE** and destroy any garden debris that could bring overwintering insects and diseases that cause rot.
- **SOW** seeds for early spring bloomers such as larkspur, sweet peas, lupines, and California poppies.
- **CUT** back stalks of iris to six inches from the ground which tidies the garden and reduces the surface space where the fungus leaf spot may develop with the rains.
- **PROTECT** container frost tender plants such as Birds of Paradise by moving close to house or covering with blankets or plastic.
- **CREATE** a wildlife habitat sheltered from the elements with plants that provide nourishment for birds, butterflies, and bees.
- **FILL** birdfeeders and sanitize birdhouses.
- **SET** out transplants of Iceland poppies, pansies, sweet alyssum, and kale while soil is still warm.
- **HARVEST** gourds and pumpkins to decorate your Thanksgiving table. The flesh from fresh pumpkins makes delicious pies, soups, sauces, and cookies.
- **SEED** your winter vegetable garden with radishes, cabbage, arugula, lettuces, bok choy, beets, garlic, onions, and mache.
- **ADD** structure, seasonal interest, and fragrance to your property with shrubs such as spicy viburnum, miniature lilac, long-blooming hydrangea, and the fruiting holly, winterberry.
- **SHOW** your four-legged friends some love with a shallow water garden or a ground-level fountain that bubbles fresh, running water.
- **BRING** color into your flowerbeds with edible multi-hued kale and lacy Italian parsley.
- **MARVEL** at the wild turkeys running at up to 25 miles per hour and reaching speeds of 55 miles per hour in flight. No wonder these garden visitors are not the main course on our Thanksgiving tables!

Wishing you a month of grace and gratitude. Enjoy a glorious Thanksgiving.  
Happy Gardening and happy growing to you!

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Cynthia Brian

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## ORINDA



New Listing

**18 Woodland Road** Charming traditional, great street, neighborhood. Large level .34 acre lot, lawn, brick patios, Carrera marble kitchen, stainless appliances, light, bright, good size living areas, hardwood floors, stylish updates. **\$865,000**

## ORINDA



**54 La Campana** Brilliant 1938 south facing lathe & plaster construction in heart of Country Club. 4bd/3ba with approximately 2608 sf. One of largest pools in Orinda, Trader Vics built BBQ poolside, gardens. A bit of TLC needed. **\$1,000,000**

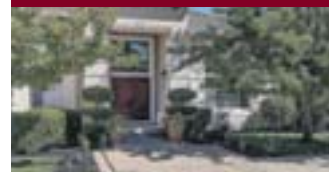
## ORINDA



New Price

**1 Camino del Cielo** Price reduced \$100K! Only \$326/sf for immaculate 4900 square foot newer construction home close to town with 4 bedrooms + office, two family rooms, chef's kitchen, + top of the world views. **\$1,599,000**

## ORINDA



**10 El Castillo** Spacious 5 bed, 3.5 bath. Built in 1998, home includes: marble entry, private office, huge kitchen/family rm, media rm, large level lot on cul-de-sac, citrus garden, resort-like living. **\$2,150,000**

## ORINDA



**17 Tappan Lane** Vistas across Orinda come alive from all rooms of this spacious 4,155 sf with 6 bd/4 ba & 2 half ba. High ceilings & light & bright. Perfect for fun in the sun with yards, decks, pool, & vineyard on 1.15 acres. **\$2,389,000**

## ORINDA



**11 Scenic Drive** Elegant updated 4bd/3.5ba, 4695 sf single-story estate property on .64 ac. Custom millwork, hand carved biblical stone flpls, lrg bdms, ofc, Chef's eat-in kit/fam.rm; guest house, pool, lrg patio, gorgeous landscaping. **\$3,350,000**

## MORAGA



**146 Miramonte Drive** Pristine Miramonte Gardens home. Many upgrades: updated baths, new hardwood floors, lighting, new carpet, fresh paint. Three bedrooms + office + great storage. Move-in Ready! **\$540,000**

## MORAGA



**1743 Spyglass Lane** Moraga Country Club Forest Hills model, updates throughout include new kitchen appliances, granite counters, updated bath, hardwood floors, new carpet, paint & lighting. **\$950,000**

## LAFAYETTE



**60 Camelia Lane** Happy Valley charming traditional. Beautiful natural setting/ landscaping near end of lane. Bright & sunny-high ceilings, 9 French doors, skylights. Separate ofc, luxurious master, great in/outdoor living. Prime close in location. **\$1,299,000**

## LAFAYETTE



**9 Mountain View Place** Fabulous updated 4bd/2.5ba, 3481 sf custom contemporary on .78 ac in tranquil setting. Spacious LR & DR, new hardwood flrs throughout, new eat-in kitchen/DR open to FR, voltaic solar panels, new redwood deck & more. **\$1,299,000**

## LAFAYETTE



New Listing

**1 Springhill Lane** Charming one story located on small court in Reliez Valley. 2516 sf, ranch style 4bd/3ba completely re-done from top to bottom in 2006. Level 1/2 ac lot beautifully landscaped for entertaining, gardening, lounging or play. **\$1,588,000**

## CONCORD



New Listing

**2780 Prospect Street** Cute two bedroom, one bathroom, 809 square feet, one car garage. Fantastic location, walk to BART & downtown. Room to expand. Big yard. Cheaper than rent! **\$249,000**

## CONCORD



New Listing

**926 Ridge Drive** Opportunity knocks... three bedroom and two bath, 1921 sf on 1.22 acre lot. 270 degree views, 3-car garage. Rural feel yet mins to shopping, BART & downtown. Needs some TLC but well worth the effort. **\$525,000**

## DANVILLE



**1540/1550 Finley Road** Terrific horse property on two level separate parcels total 2.98 acres(pr). Rancher w/country kitchen, pool & hot tub! The Ranch has 12 stall barn, indoor/outdoor riding arenas, covered & stall paddocks, fenced pastures & more. **\$1,299,000**

## ROSSMOOR



New Listing

**1112 Rockledge Lane # 5** Beautifully Remodeled w/Designer Details throughout! 2 bedrooms and 1 bath single level with serene views, smooth ceilings, slab granite, interior laundry, 2 blocks to Gateway Clubhouse. **\$234,000**

## WALNUT CREEK



New Price

**3737 Waterford Lane** Don't miss this fabulous Northgate area 4bd/3.5ba home with close to 3700 sf. Huge kitchen/family room area overlooking spectacular .70 ac bkwd w/orchard, vineyard & room for pool. Hdwd flrs, ofc, formal dining & living rms. **\$1,398,000**



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