

# LAMORINDA WEEKLY

Independent, locally owned and operated!

www.lamorindaweekly.com • 925.377.0977



**Home '14 expo**  
 Sunday, January 26, 2014  
 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
 Veterans Memorial Building  
 3780 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette  
**FREE to the public!**  
[www.LamorindaHomeExpo.com](http://www.LamorindaHomeExpo.com)

26,000 copies delivered bi-weekly to Lamorinda homes & businesses

FREE



Photos Andy Scheck

## Dry Conditions Pose Risks Beyond Water Restrictions

By Cathy Dausman

While the threat of water restrictions are top of mind for many local residents, other dangers loom in these dry conditions, including the threat of wildfire, said Moraga-Orinda Fire District fire marshal Kathy Leonard. “Ninety-eight percent of California is now in drought,” she wrote in an email. “According to the National Climatic Data Center, California is facing the driest year since accurate records began in 1895. CalFire reported

more than 4,700 separate fires for 2013, 1,300 more than the annual average.”

And wildfire conditions will likely continue into the winter. “Without rain, the vegetation is still very dry and could ignite under the right conditions,” Leonard said. “Recent fires in Big Sur, Napa and Humboldt County are proof that cold temperatures have no effect on reducing the incidence of wildfires.”

MOFD fire engines are still carrying “the full complement

of wild land firefighting equipment. In a winter with normal rainfall, this equipment would have already been removed from the trucks, Leonard said.

“MOFD reminds all homeowners to remain vigilant about keeping dry vegetation and other combustible materials” away from their homes and properties, she said, and encouraged homeowners to request a free wildfire risk assessment.

... continued on page A12

### Quote of the Week:

“Do we all want to see our kids work hard and be successful? Of course. Do we want that at the cost of their mental health? Of course not.”

Read Parenting for Authentic Success - page B6

Advertising



**LAMORINDALIVING.com**  
 Where we're living

Rochelle Williams // 925.438.2037  
 Erin McCain // 925.438.2023  
 @LamorindaLiving  
 Facebook.com/LamorindaLiving



## Challenging Job to Decide Fate of City Parcels

## Challenging Job to Decide Fate of City Parcels

By Cathy Tyson

Shortly after Mayor Don Tatzin described how the goal of the Old Library Reuse Task Force is ultimately to make a recommendation to the Lafayette City Council and develop an action plan for how to use the structure on Moraga Road and the parking lot parcel with a former doctors’ office across the street, it became very clear that doing so won’t be easy.

Numerous options and constraints will have to be considered and some creative solutions, like a land swap or perhaps using proceeds from one property to enhance another, are on the table. New mayor Tatzin and former mayor Mike Anderson provided guidance, suggesting subcom-

mittees to create a matrix quantifying impacts, costs and more to compare the various options side by side, and a public outreach committee to keep the public informed, review assessments, examine shared uses and compatibility with the downtown specific plan.

With so many moving parts involved in making a recommendation, like considering a longer term vision, finding a suitable partner for the city, defining and deciding what the highest and best, and most fiscally responsible, use actually means is overwhelming at this point. The hope is that the all-volunteer task force can narrow options and will agree on a

recommendation to deliver around May of this year. It will be up to the City Council to make a final decision, and whatever is decided will still have to be reviewed like any other structure in Lafayette through the design review process and Planning Commission.

The city has a total of more than \$4 million invested in the two parcels: \$2.3 million for the aging doctors’ office and parking lot on the west side of the street and \$1.97 million, a price that was agreed upon in the 1990s with Contra Costa County, for the old library building and its parking area on the east side of Moraga Road.

Volunteers bring a range of ex-

pertise to the task force – right off the bat, architect Tom Lee had valuable input along with construction and affordable housing professionals; the Chamber of Commerce, the Lafayette Community Foundation, the Methodist church that is adjacent to the west parcel, the Lafayette School District, the police, an investment banker and representatives from senior services, Parks Trails and Recreation, and the Planning Commission round out the group.

A call was made for proposals late last year and to date 12 have been received; to be fair, future proposals will still be accepted.

... continued on page A3

Town News	A2 - A12
Business	A10
Life in Lamorinda	B1 - B12
Classified	B8
Not to be Missed	B10-B11
Food	B12
Service Directory	B12
Sports	C1 - C3
<b>HOW TO CONTACT US</b>	<b>C2</b>
Love Lafayette	C4
Our Homes	D1 -D12
<b>This Week Read About:</b>	
Work in Progress	A2
Financial Report	A4
Busy Sister City	A6
Books Change Lives	B2
Unnamed Conspirator	B3
Self-Publishing	B5
Resolution Tools	B7
Ultimate Coop	B9
Boys’ Hoops	C1

### Life in Lamorinda B1-B12

#### WWI at SMC

From the trenches of the "war to end all wars" emerged powerful art - page B1.



### Sports C1-C4

#### Girls’ Season Update

Lamorinda girls fight for top spots in basketball and soccer - page C2.



### Our Homes D1-D12

#### Home Energy Audit

Too hot? Too cold? Tips for tempering your home - page D1.







# Lafayette Civic News

## Public Meetings

### City Council Special Meeting

Wednesday, Jan. 22, 7 p.m.  
 Veteran's Memorial Building  
 3780 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

### City Council

Monday, Jan. 27, 7 p.m.  
 Lafayette Library & Learning Center,  
 Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

### Planning Commission

Tuesday, Jan. 21, 7 p.m.  
 Lafayette Library & Learning Center,  
 Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

### Design Review

Monday, Jan. 27, 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, Jan. 15, 7:30 p.m.  
 AUHSD Board Room at 1212  
 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette  
 www.acalanes.k12.ca.us

### Lafayette School District

Thursday, Jan. 16, 7 p.m.  
 Regular Board Meeting  
 Stanley Library  
 3477 School St., Lafayette  
 www.lafsd.k12.ca.us



## Lafayette Police Department Crime Statistics

**Dec. 29 to Jan. 4**  
**Alarm responses (18)**

**Alcohol (D.U.I.)**  
 Acalanes Rd  
 Mt Diablo/1st  
 Hwy 24/Wilder

**Auto Burglary**  
 Oakwood Athletic

**Fireworks (4)**  
 Bacon Wy  
 Burton Valley Elementary  
 El Charro  
 Brook

**Grand Theft**  
 Oak Hill

**Prowler**  
 Bickerstaff

**Reckless Driving**  
 Moraga Rd/St Mary's Rd  
 Happy Valley/Mt Diablo Blvd  
 St Mary's Rd/Lucille

**Suspicious Vehicle Stop**  
 St Mary's Rd/Lucille

**Vandalism**  
 Springbrook  
 Gable Ln  
 Brown Ave

**Thank you for recycling this paper. It is printed on at least 50% recycled material and vegetable based ink and should be recycled again.**

# BRYDON & IVES

TWICE THE SELLING POWER  
 Lisa Brydon 925.285.8336 | Kristi Ives 925.788.8345

*Sold Over Asking in Burton Valley!*

**390 Hermosa Court, Lafayette**  
 390HermosaCourt.com

*Coming Soon in Pleasant Hill!*

**120 Pleasant View Drive, Pleasant Hill**

Lovely remodeled 2,351 +/- sq. ft., 4BD/2BA home on the border of Poet's Corner with wonderful open spaces. Situated on a beautifully landscaped .24 +/- acre lot, the home enjoys an exceptional eat-in kitchen open to beautiful great room, sophisticated living & dining rooms, plus a fantastic master suite with deluxe bathroom. This home is truly a gem!

*Call us for more information.*

CalBRE#: 01408025  
 CalBRE#: 01367466

www.BrydonIvesTeam.com

## Learn Latest Facts About Climate Change

By Cathy Tyson



Wei-Tai Kwok traveled to Chicago in August to attend Al Gore's training program on climate change. Photo provided

Lafayette resident Wei-Tai Kwok feels so strongly about climate change, he is actually doing something about it. After seeing "An Inconvenient Truth" more than seven years ago, "it got me thinking, am I part of the problem or part of the solution?" said Kwok, adding, "It is my problem, and we don't have a hundred years to solve it." He is concerned about rising levels of carbon dioxide and its consequences around the globe.

He was so inspired that even though he enjoyed his job with an advertising agency, Kwok realized he ultimately was encouraging people to consume more, which in his opinion is not sustainable and not good for the planet. Confronted

with what he calls a moral crisis, he now works for a solar company, reasoning that using more renewable energy is part of the solution.

Looking to be a resource for the community, Kwok is working with Sustainable Lafayette and the Climate Reality Project to deliver an entertaining presentation geared toward teaching the most current facts about climate change. He will discuss the latest consensus of the scientific community, and how extreme weather events are influenced by climate, at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 22 in the Community Hall, Lafayette Library and Learning Center. For more information, go to [www.climate reality project.org](http://www.climate reality project.org) or [www.sustainablelafayette.org](http://www.sustainablelafayette.org).

## Work in Progress in Lafayette



Photos Cathy Tyson

Although Mt. Diablo Boulevard is still populated with orange cones and traffic diversions, headway is being made on the east end Pedestrian Bike and Streetscape Improvements project between First Street and Brown Avenue. New brick paver crosswalks are being installed along with landscaped medians, decorative street lights and more. The slow and go progression up and down the boulevard gives drivers an up close and personal look. Enjoy the fun while it lasts, since the project is slated to be complete at the end of February.

Just beyond the streetscape workers, is the also under-construction Merrill Gardens building. The crane is gone, but the yellow cladding around the building is hard to miss. When complete, the structure will have a modern prairie design with neutral paint and lots of stonework. Crews are diligently working to have the 89 senior living apartments offering market rate independent living, assisted living and a memory care facility open in May. The frontage along Mt. Diablo will feature retail shops and a gathering place separated from the street by a long curving pool



Empty shell of the former Squirrels Coffee Shop.

that includes an art installation. Squirrels is just an empty shell of its former self. While there's plenty of activity at the adjacent former Handlebar Toys location, across from Plaza Park, it's all quiet at the former coffee shop. Residents will surely have to wait a while for the grand reopening. A message to the developer, Main Street Properties, was not immediately returned. *C. Tyson*

We still do 24/7 live-in care!

## High Quality, Affordable Live-In Care

Having trouble finding compassionate around-the-clock home care that fits your family's needs and budget? Call Home Care Assistance! We are the East Bay's live-in specialists! That's because we offer:

- Consistent Dependable Care.** We typically assign a primary caregiver 4 days a week and a secondary caregiver who covers the remaining days. (Some agencies alternate up to 4 different caregivers in one day!)
- Total Peace of Mind.** Rest easy knowing your loved one's needs are attended to at all times. Live-in care ensures optimal safety and is personalized to each client's individual needs.
- Professional Oversight.** Live-in caregivers are managed by a team of client care managers to make sure our clients' experiences are always positive. You don't just hire a caregiver, you hire our full team of seasoned care professionals.
- Reasonable Rates.** Home Care Assistance hires and trains only the most qualified caregivers, but our live-in rates are the most competitive in the industry. Call to learn more!

**Meet Jill.** Jill Cabeceiras is the client care manager for the East Bay. She has been working with older adults for more than ten years and is an expert on managing care within the home. Let Jill help you and your family!

Call Jill today to schedule your free assessment!

925-820-8390 • [HomeCareAssistance.com](http://HomeCareAssistance.com)

190-G Alamo Plaza, Alamo, CA 94507

We've moved to Alamo!

◆ New Owners

◆ New Attitude

◆ 30 Years in the Industry!

3344 Mt Diablo Blvd  
 in Lafayette  
 925-284-4440  
[lamorinda floors.com](http://lamorinda floors.com)

LAMORINDA FLOORS



# As Seen in Lafayette



Photo Cathy Tyson

Lafayette's finest will have additional motorcycles this year, patrolling Lafayette's streets. Drivers thinking of a rolling stop at the intersection of Moraga Road and Mt. Diablo Boulevard should think twice.

## Challenging Job to Decide Fate of City Parcels

... continued from page A1

Expected stakeholders such as the Police Department, which has an interest in the 949 Moraga Road site, the city of Lafayette, which is interested in the old library building for city offices, and the Lafayette School District have been heard from, along with unexpected others like a dance group and Futures Explored, a non-profit for developmentally disabled adults.

Traffic is already a major concern along Moraga Road; Planning and Services Director Niroop Srivatsa stated there are 20,000 vehicle trips per day on the arterial. Task force volunteers are keenly aware that part of their charge is to not make it worse.

To complicate an ultimate recommendation, both structures – the old library and the former doctors' office across the street – are not ADA-compliant and the library has suspected

lead paint and confirmed asbestos in the ceiling and baseboards. Lee opined that, "a bulldozer is cheaper," for the 949 Moraga Road building, adding, "The structure is probably inappropriate for a lot of uses."

Another added wrinkle is as of the Jan. 9 meeting, the city does not have keys to the old library to allow volunteers to take a look around. "Maybe Chief Christensen can break in for us?" joked one of the participants. Tatzin explained it has been a complicated transition and they should be getting the keys from Contra Costa County in the near future.

Meetings are public and slated for 7 p.m. on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month at the Lafayette city offices, 3675 Mt. Diablo Blvd., in conference room 240.

**I'm Selling Moraga!**

**Keith KATZMAN**

**PACIFIC UNION CHRISTIES**

**Keith Katzman 925-376-7776**

**I'm selling homes fast! Yours could be next. Call me for a no obligation visit!**

**925-376-7776 • kkatzman@pacunion.com**

**Happy New Year!**

**Time is ticking...**  
if you are planning to sell in 2014, give me a call.

**PACIFIC UNION CHRISTIES**

**Moraga Resident Since 1966.**  
**Successfully selling real estate for over 28 years.**

**License #00875484**  
A Member of Real Living

# Thanks for Another Year of Moving Experiences.

Helping both new and long-time neighbors is something we take very personally. Since the turn of the century, home buyers and sellers in growing numbers have entrusted the team at Village Associates to help shepherd them through the complexities of the local housing market. As Lamorinda's leading and most trusted Real Estate firm, we thank them for their overwhelming support.

Best wishes to our families, friends and neighbors for a happy, healthy and safe 2014.



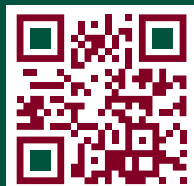
Your Village Associates:

*Seated (l-r):* Joan Cleveland, Ann Ward, Karen Murphy, Joan Eggers, Margaret Zucker, Patricia Battersby, Linda Ehrich, April Matthews

*Middle Row (l-r):* Erin Martin, Amy Rose Smith, Linda S. Friedman, Jaime Roder, Judy Schoenrock, Anne Knight, Angie Evans Traxinger, Joan Evans, Clark Thompson, Lynda Snell, Carol Stevenson, Marianne Greene, Shannon Conner, Tara Rochlin, Lauren Bjork, Caitlin O'Laskey

*Top Row (l-r):* Christine Clark, Ashley Battersby, Dexter Honens II, Art Lehman, Terri Bates Walker, Molly Smith, Dan Weil, Altie Schmitt, Charles Levine, Ignacio Vega

*Not Pictured:* Susan Zeh Layng, Ben Olsen, Sue Olsen, Ann Sharf, Jeff Snell



93 Moraga Way, Suite 103, Orinda, CA 94563 (925) 254-0505  
www.villageassociates.com  
facebook.com/Village Associates







## Moraga Civic News

### Public Meetings

#### Town Council

Wednesday, Jan. 22, 7 p.m.  
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School,  
1010 Camino Pablo

#### Planning Commission

Tuesday, Jan. 21, 7 p.m.  
Moraga Library, 1500 St. Mary's Rd.

#### Design Review

Monday, Jan. 27, 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, Feb. 11, 7:30 p.m.  
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School Auditorium  
1010 Camino Pablo, Moraga  
www.moraga.k12.ca.us  
See also AUHSD meeting page A2



## Moraga Police Department

### Week of Jan. 1

**Fraudulent use of credit card, 1/2/14**  
A Camelford Court resident noticed unauthorized transactions on a credit card statement that occurred on the first few days of the year in Orlando, Fla. and southern California totaling just over \$250. The person reporting the incident had unfortunately been the victim of identity theft before. The case remains under investigation. The charges were credited back by the fellow's credit card company.

**Dirt bike vanished, 1/2/14**  
An Ascot Drive resident parked and locked his pick-up truck in his assigned stall just after 5 p.m. In the bed of the truck was a red Honda XR80 dirt bike. The next morning when the owner was about to leave, he went out to the truck and found the dirt bike gone and the pick-up burglarized. Cops looked around, but no dirt bike was found in the immediate area.

**Petty theft, 1/05/14**  
At the Campolindo High School parking lot, an iPhone 5 and wallet were stolen from an unlocked car while the driver was swimming at the Campo pool sometime between 7 and 8 a.m. No suspects or leads at this time.

**Phone briefly lost, 1/05/14**  
A shopper at TJ Maxx placed her cell phone in a shopping cart and was unable to locate it approximately 15 minutes later. Mystery Good Samaritan saves the day – officers were later contacted and notified that the phone was returned to the original owner.

**Traffic incident, 1/07/14**  
Two vehicles collided at the corner of Moraga Road and Campolindo Drive. The driver of a car going northbound on Moraga Road "diverted" her attention from the roadway, crossed the double solid yellow line and headed into southbound traffic, sideswiping a car. Both parties declined medical attention but their respective cars needed to be towed away.

**In addition, the following reports were received:**

**False alarms (3)**

**Danger to self/others**

Buckingham Dr

**Grand theft**

Paseo Grande

**D.U.I.**

Campolindo Dr/Corte del Campo

**Car vs. deer**

Rheem Blvd

**Medical assist**

Country Club Dr

**Lost property**

Center St

## The Bernie & Ryerson Team



### Local Knowledge of Lamorinda & Extraordinary Results

Success comes only with the right marketing plan & execution strategy.

If you are considering selling your home, give us a call for assistance.

If you need referrals for home services providers, we can share our "black book" of local reliable contractors, handymen, plumbers, electricians, etc.

925.200.2222 Gary  
925.878.9685 Ken  
gabernie@pacunion.com  
ken@ryersonrealty.com



pacificunion.com | A Member of Real Living

## Moraga's New and Improved Financial Report

By Sophie Braccini

It was not the usual financial report that Moraga's administrative services director, Stephanie Hom, presented to the Town Council on Jan. 8; it was the town's first ever Comprehensive Annual Financial Report – containing much more information than a basic financial report, it is a document that tells a story. The fiscal year 2012-13 report details the town's financial picture, often in plain English, and includes historical demographic, economic and financial data.

"If you compared what has been done here with what was done five years ago, you would not think this is the same town," said Councilmember Mike Metcalf, who praised Hom's rare zeal and qualified her work as terrific; he was echoed by the other council members.

Hom explained that since the town contracted debt, such as with the road repair funding model, and since

the rules in the financial world have become stricter, the town is required to submit more detailed information, drilling into the assessed value of town property and historical revenue data. Hom expanded on the requirements to produce the CAFR that will be easier to update year after year.

The 100-page document contains three parts. The introductory section is a narrative developed by Hom and Jill Keimach, the town manager. "It is a more subjective outlook of the town, where you can elaborate more," said Hom. "It explains our philosophy and the way we conduct our business." It talks about the economic condition of the town and compares some aspects to the rest of Contra Costa County. For anyone new to Moraga, or not yet aware of how the town works and is managed, it is a very interesting and easy read.

The financial section includes all

the elements of the previous basic financial reports but adds explanations and analysis – such as one of the entries in the notes section that details pension plans and how the town paid off its unfunded liabilities before joining CalPERS' state-wide pools.

The bottom line is that the town's reserve is now at 51.8 percent of the year's expenditures. In addition, the town has \$2.16 million in the one-time developer fee fund. The town ended the fiscal year with a surplus of \$386,000 in its general fund. Expenditures increased by 3.8 percent; the sales tax revenue was \$1,343,000 (of which \$333,000 was generated by Measure K), exceeding expectations. Property tax revenue, at \$3,070,000, was stable and represents 50 percent of the town's revenue.

The last part of the document is a statistical section that provides historical context for understanding what

the financial statement says about the town's financial health. It shows that the town's net position has steadily grown over the years, with a stable property tax revenue and a slowly growing sales tax revenue; it shows the evolution of the town's debt, as well as the larger tax payers and sales tax producers, 10 years ago and now; and it gives long term perspective on property value and demographics.

The CAFR is available and searchable at www.moraga.ca.gov. Look in Documents and Resources under the Administrative Services menu. Hom is so proud of her first Moraga CAFR that she sent it to the Government Finance Officers Association in the hope of receiving a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the town; it would be the first such award in Lamorinda. She expects to receive a response within a month.

## Library's Sunday Hours Successful

By Sophie Braccini



The library was bustling, as libraries go, on a recent Sunday afternoon.

Last September the Moraga library began opening on Sundays and book lovers are taking advantage of the extra time. The Sunday hours, from 1 to 5 p.m., are funded mostly by the Friends of the Moraga Library, a volunteer group that raises money for library programs through the sale of donated books and private donations.

"I come here with my grandmother and we read together," said a young Moraga resident as she sat with her grandmother on a recent Sunday. "I come here for a change of scenery," said a studious Saint Mary's student who was working from her laptop. In the children's section, young patrons were reading while their parents browsed the adult

shelves, and older residents were reading magazines in the lounge.

"We do not run activities on Sundays," said the librarian in charge. "The people who work here on Sundays are part-time employees ... it's never the regular staff."

Even though Moraga's regular librarian, Diane McDonnell, does not come in on Sundays she derives great

pride in the success of the Sunday hours. "The average number of patrons on Sundays is 201, with 290 items checked out," said McDonnell. "It's very convenient for residents who have little time during the week; it's a peaceful place to gather and a warm destination on a winter afternoon."

Rodger Lum, who is a member of Friends of the Moraga Library and also represents Moraga on the Contra Costa Library Commission, updated the Town Council on the success of Sunday hours at its Jan. 8 meeting. "We've received comments from patrons about how much they appreciate the Sunday hours," said Lum, who added that they particularly focus on "research services as well as circulation services." Lum thanked the Town Council for its support and added that the Friends of the Moraga Library will approach the Town Council again in the next budget cycle for continuing funding.

The town contributes to the library's Sunday hours by paying for the utilities, about \$4,500 per year, while the Friends of the Moraga Library pay the staff salaries of \$25,000.

<b>Monday Night</b>	<b>House Margaritas ½ price</b> 4 pm – close	<h1>NOW OPEN</h1> <p>The Best from Mexico to California</p> <p><b>MEXICAL</b> Bistro Fusion Cuisine &amp; Bar local ♡ organic ♡ sustainable</p> <p>65 Moraga Way, Orinda   925.253.7777 327 Hartz Ave., Danville   925.838.8588 World Class Margaritas • Regional Specialties Fine Wines • Private Banquet Rooms</p>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Kids eat free</b> All day long 1 child per adult entrée	
<b>Monday – Thursday</b>	<b>10% off any Entree</b> With purchase of one entrée of equal or greater value. Must present coupon and can not combine with other offers. Exp. 2-28-14	
<b>Lunch Entrée</b>	<b>½ price</b> With purchase of one entrée of equal or greater value. Must present coupon and can not combine with other offers. Exp. 2-28-14	
<b>Tuesday &amp; Wednesdays</b>	<b>Pitcher of House Margaritas \$20</b> Reg. \$32 Must present coupon and can not combine with other offers. Exp. 1-27-14	
	<b>Lunch &amp; Dinner Open 7 Days</b>	



# MOTHER DAUGHTER TEA SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8 SPACE IS LIMITED, SIGN UP TODAY!



MORAGA PARKS & RECREATION  
925-888-7045 • www.moraga.ca.us



Realtor/Broker  
Certified Residential Specialist  
925-254-7600 office  
925-788-0229 cell  
Alex@AGRealty1.com  
Search MLS at  
www.AlexGailas.com

Skillfully Connecting Buyers and Sellers  
With Compelling Properties



27 Year Orinda Resident  
and Businessman

43 Moraga Way  
Orinda



## The Moraga Park Connection

By Sophie Braccini



The project site

Image provided

When the Moraga Planning Commission agreed in mid-December to the creation of a 5-acre nature area across from the Moraga Commons Park, it also recommended that this new park be accessed only through Camino Ricardo, or from the future development that will occur one day to the south of the property. The idea of crossing Moraga Road to link the two parks was not appealing to the commissioners. But on Jan. 6 town staff came to the commission to

make the case for a connection to Moraga Road. Town Manager Jill Keimach described the vision of an integrated pedestrian network of trails and parks in Moraga and beyond. The commission finally approved, with conditions, an access from the new park across Laguna Creek (that borders the park along Moraga Road) to regional trails; the point of crossing Moraga Road at the existing traffic light or other location will be determined as

part of the Livable Moraga Road plan. The 5-acre nature area will be dedicated to the town by Summerhill Development as scheduled in its plan to develop a more than 12-acre parcel off Camino Ricardo and reaching Moraga Road to the east. At a previous meeting the Planning Commission recommended the elimination of a pedestrian bridge that would cross Laguna Creek and facilitate access from Moraga Road.

... continued on page A9

## Theater View Veterinary Clinic



"Dr. Laurie" Langford

Theater View Veterinary Clinic is a brand new facility owned by "Dr. Laurie" Langford who has been caring for animals in Orinda for 15 years.



Phone: (925) 317-3187  
Fax: (925) 334-7017

Email: tvvc@theaterviewvetclinic.com  
www.theaterviewvetclinic.com  
1 Bates Blvd., Suite 200, Orinda

apr.com



### 1700 Reliez Valley Road Lafayette

New construction on over 2 acres. What's your style – Traditional? Mediterranean? Pool? Stables? Guest House? You can decide if you act soon!

\$2,800,000

Karen Richardson



### Toyon Road Lafayette

Breathtaking views! One-of-a-kind, Tuscan styled, 5 bedroom, 3.5 bath home that exudes a passion for living. No detail has been overlooked. Available for presale.

\$2,450,000

Karen Richardson



### 25 Richelle Court Lafayette

Expansive Mt. Diablo views! Privacy! Fantastic location! Modern home with open floor plan, three bedrooms plus den, two baths, luxurious master bath, new kitchen, sparkling pool and wonderful garden areas.

25RichelleCt.com

\$1,399,000

Lori Legler



### 163 Crestview Drive Orinda

Peaceful privacy, views and flat lawn area make this charming and spacious 3 bedroom 2 bath home ideal. Close to 12 years of top rated Orinda schools, year-round Farmer's Market and shops.

163CrestviewDr.com

\$999,000

Cheryl Hata & Lori Legler



## NOW IS THE TIME TO MAKE YOUR MOVE

With interest rates near an all-time low, we have a surplus of qualified buyers ready to make an offer on your home. Our experienced team of real estate professionals will create a marketing plan that is carefully designed and skillfully executed to help you meet your selling goals.

Connect with us today & experience the APR difference for yourself.

Square footage, acreage, and other information herein, has been received from one or more of a variety of different sources. Such information has not been verified by Alain Pinel Realtors. If important to buyers, buyers should conduct their own investigation.





# Orinda Civic News

### Public Meetings

#### City Council

Tuesday, Jan. 21, 7 p.m.  
Auditorium, Orinda Library,  
26 Orinda Way

#### Planning Commission

Tuesday, Jan. 28, 7 p.m.  
Auditorium, Orinda Library,  
26 Orinda Way

#### Historical Landmark Committee

Tuesday, Jan. 28, 3 p.m.  
Gallery Room, Orinda Library,  
26 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

#### School Board Meeting

##### Orinda Union School District

TBA

OUSD Office, Vintage Building

25 Orinda Way, Suite 200

www.orindaschools.org

See also AUHSD meeting page A2



### Orinda Police Department Crime Statistics Month of December, 2013

#### Calls for Service:

**False Residential Alarms (43)**

#### Auto Burglary

Orinda Oaks Park

#### Commercial Burglary

Davis Road  
Wilder Road/Upton Rd  
Orinda Wy

#### Residential Burglary

Charles Hill Ln  
Nelson Ln  
Muth Dr  
WB SR 24/Wilder Blvd  
Broadview Terr

#### Petty Theft (vehicle)

Sycamore Rd  
Meadow Ct  
Van Ripper Ln (2)  
Dalewood Dr

#### Recovered Stolen Vehicle

Virginia Dr

#### Felony Vandalism

Honey Hill Ct

#### Stolen Vehicles

Muth Dr  
Dalewood Dr  
Camino Sobrante  
Amber Valley Dr

#### Arrests:

**DUI**  
Camino Pablo/Ardilla Rd

#### Vehicle theft

Camino Sobrante

#### Orinda BART Reports/Arrests

No arrests reported



KURT PIPER GROUP



Christine Gallegos

415.606.2047

Christine@KurtPiperGroup.com

License #: 01896511

## COMING SOON ~ TWO GREAT FAMILY HOMES!

Classic Lafayette Rancher



467 Florence Drive | Lafayette  
3 Bedroom, 1.5 Bath, 1700± Sq. Ft.

Stunning Orinda Views



63 Bates Blvd. | Orinda  
3 Bedroom, 3 Bath, 2100± Sq. Ft.



# Whirlwind Year on World Stage for Orinda/Tábor Sister City Foundation

By Laurie Snyder



Orinda/Tábor Sister City student Roxana Rayová (in white) celebrates New Year's Eve with her Orinda host family at their home in Merida, Yucatan, Mexico. Pictured: Host sister, Lauren (in black to Roxana's right); mother, Carla (in coral top); and father, Carlos (to Carla's right, black shirt); and members of Carlos' extended family.

When an international envoy arrived in the Bay Area recently with a mission to nurture positive relations between his country and the United States, he made sure that Orindans were included in the conversation.

Networking on behalf of Orinda with Ambassador Petr Gandalovič of the Czech Republic were former mayor Bobbie Landers, one of the founders of the Orinda/Tábor Sister City Foundation; 2013 mayor Amy Worth; and a young woman who has captured the hearts of many in the community – Roxana Rayová, Orinda's 2013-14 visiting Czech student.

Rayová represented Miramonte High School and her native and honorary home towns with great poise, according to Landers, while adding invaluable civic and international affairs experience to her resumé as she

witnessed Worth, Landers, and others dialogue with Gandalovič and Richard Pivnicka, the honorary Consul General who serves as the face of the Czech Republic to San Francisco and Silicon Valley. In addition to speaking at a cybersecurity conference at Stanford University and visiting a startup accelerator in early November, Gandalovič was on hand to honor former Secretary of State George P. Shultz at a black-tie gala and banquet in Foster City. Shultz was presented with the highest award given by the Czech Republic's Ministry of Foreign Affairs – “the Silver Medal of Jan Masaryk in recognition of [his] role in implementing foreign policy that led to the conclusion of the Cold War, and for his global contributions as a statesman,” said Pivnicka. In addition, Worth talked tunnels and transportation with the envoy while others picked the brains of future



2013 Orinda mayor Amy Worth and former mayor, Bobbie Landers, joined Honorary Counsel General Richard Pivnicka in welcoming Ambassador Petr Gandalovič to the United States at a special reception in November. From left: Gandalovič, Worth, Pivnicka, Landers. Photos provided by the Orinda/Tábor Sister City Foundation

# The Sympathetic Fibers of Orinda

Residents' altruism makes life better in and beyond city's borders

By Laurie Snyder

“A community is like a ship; everyone ought to be prepared to take the helm.” With those words by Henrik Ibsen, a small group of thoughtful citizens launched an enterprise which would quickly, quietly become part of the bedrock of Lamorinda. “Orinda is home to many cre-

ative and caring people who work hard to support our schools, library, seniors and youth,” wrote Richard Westin in June 2010 as he announced the formation of the Orinda Community Foundation (www.orindafoundation.org). Its purpose, he explained, would be to enhance the quality of life

for Orindans while ensuring that the community's most beloved traditions would continue even as the nation's economy persisted in its stubborn sluggishness.

The letter was signed not just by Westin, but by younger and older residents from diverse birthplaces, spiritual traditions and political

backgrounds, and has been responded to ever since with countless small and large contributions which have been put back into the community to fund the arts, educational initiatives, recreation and sports activities, and civic and community engagement projects. ... continued on page A11

**AMFA ART GALLERY**  
BARBARCOA MEXICAN COMFORT FOOD  
ENTOURAGE SPA & SALON  
HELLO TIARA JEWELRY & ACCESSORIES

**THINK INSIDE THE SQUARE**

**KASPER'S HOT DOGS**  
**LAVA PIT HAWAIIAN GRILL**  
**LIVING LEAN**  
**ORINDA THEATRE**  
**ORINDA TRAVEL**  
**PETRA CAFÉ**  
**PICCOLO NAPOLI**  
**REPUBLIC OF CAKE**  
**SERIKA JAPANESE RESTAURANT**  
**SHELBY'S RESTAURANT**

**STARBUCKS COFFEE**

**SUBWAY**

**SWEET DREAMS TOY STORE**

**TABLE 24 NEIGHBORHOOD COMFORT FOOD**

**VISUAL ENTRÉE OPTOMETRY**

**ORINDA THEATRE SQUARE**

**AT ORINDA THEATRE SQUARE IT'S ALL GOOD.** Casual, yet upscale dining with a menu for every taste. An eclectic blend of boutiques and health & beauty services. And all the latest movie releases at an iconic Bay Area theater. With so many new and exciting restaurants and shops, including the new Piccolo Napoli pizzeria, there are so many reasons to think inside The Square!

RECEIVE UP TO 3 HOURS OF FREE PARKING WITH VALIDATION

FOLLOW US ON:

orindatheatresquare.com



**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**



**McCartt Construction Inc.**  
Custom Homes & Renovations

Building in Lamorinda Since 1999

(925) 376-5717

mccarttconstruction@msn.com

Orinda, CA  
Lic. # 770687



Integrity ♦ Knowledge ♦ Results

**Are you making a Real Estate change in 2014?**

We are again in a competitive market and it is more important than ever to plan your real estate changes early in the year. If you are considering a change, then it's time to strategize - call me!

View MLS Listings online at [LamorindaValues.com](http://LamorindaValues.com)



**Frank Woodward**

Realtor®, Previews Property Specialist

T. 925.788.4963

E. Frank@FrankWoodward.com



CalBRE# 01335916. ©2014 Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. All Rights Reserved. Coldwell Banker® is a registered trademark licensed to Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. An Equal Opportunity Company. Equal Housing Opportunity. Each Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage office is owned by a subsidiary of NRT LLC. CalBRE License # 01908304

**Keeping Orinda's Arts in Bloom**

*Orinda Arts Council a beloved Muse for creative minds of all ages*



OIS production of The Wiz.

Photo Ohlen Alexander

Orinda Arts Council volunteers have, historically, been behind-the-scenes "constant gardeners," seeding California's artistic landscape by funding the basics - providing art supplies and activities for kids in local schools and fundraising for programs deemed vital to the wellbeing of San Francisco Bay Area residents. In Orinda, their contributions are perhaps best known for help-

ing to make possible openings of the new Orinda Community Center (1973) and its amphitheater (1983), the Orinda Library (2001), its art gallery, and the auditorium where locals engage with their elected officials at Orinda City Council meetings twice each month. But, despite the integral role played by the OAC since its founding in 1950, one of the greatest challenges faced by the group's leaders has, and continues to be, the

organization's overall visibility, according to Susan Garell.

Garell would know. She has been volunteering since 2005 when she was first approached by OAC board member Petra Michel to help launch Orinda Idol, a performance program for youth in kindergarten through 12th grade which has become so popular that it was renamed Lamorinda Idol, and now offers "a multi-month collection of auditions," workshops and community performances in addition to its well-attended final competition.

Garell, who went on to assume vice president roles in communications and membership before taking the helm as OAC's president, is widely recognized by her fellow board members, city leaders, and the parents of children in Lamorinda for her good works, but is modest in assessing her Muse-like influence, preferring to praise those who came before her and those presently engaged in bringing the arts to life:

... continued on page A11

**Haddon**

**HEATING & COOLING**

Lic #855456

The Haddon Family, Orinda Residents, Owners/Operators



Do business with a neighbor.

Your comfort is our #1 priority

**Up to \$1900 in incentives now available. Call Today!**



925-521-1380

www.haddonheatingcooling.com



**MORAGA \$1,288,000**  
3/3.2. Lovely one story contemporary with great views. Lrg rear patio, great for entertaining.  
Jerry Wendt CalBRE#00178259



**ORINDA \$3,650,000**  
4+/4.5. Romantic, Contemporary Villa Built in '90 on 1.3 Ac with Amazing Gardens, Vistas & Privacy.  
The Hattersley's CalBRE# 01181995/00445794



**EL CERRITO \$975,000**  
3/3. Unique! Private! 3300 sf. Architect's Home with open living space, views, vineyard.  
Michele McKay CalBRE#01902466



**ORINDA \$2,095,000**  
4/4. New construction! Gorgeous view, nice lg yard, quality materials. Cul-de-sac loc. www.orindoaks.com  
The Beaubelle Group CalBRE#00678426



**PEIDMONT \$1,495,000**  
5/4. Lovely contemporary w/ spacious living. Large master suite w/office. Au pair unit.  
Rick & Nancy Booth CalBRE#01388020/01341390

**COLDWELL BANKER**  
*Orinda*  
**The Real Estate Firm people trust**



**LAFAYETTE \$1,150,000**  
4/2.5. 2300 square feet w/ a lot size of .29 acre, this home offers a very spacious feeling.  
Jim Ellis CalBRE#00587326



**ORINDA \$2,100,000**  
4/3. New construction. Gorgeous views, close to town. More pics/info at OrindaOaks.com.  
The Beaubelle Group CalBRE#00678426



**ORINDA \$995,000**  
4/2.5. Creek side setting in heart of OCC area! Great floor plan w/ hardwood floors. Walk to Bart and village.  
Jerry Wendt CalBRE#00178259



**MORAGA \$2,750,000**  
4+/4. Executive home, 4837 sqft, 1.54 acre private lot, gourmet kitchen, guest house, wine cellar.  
Elena Hood CalBRE#01221247



**OAKLAND \$1,195,000**  
3/3. Stunning contemporary townhome w/sweeping views of SF and the Bay. Exquisite interior features.  
Linda Van Drent CalBRE#01051129

Your **BUYER** Could Be ANYWHERE.

With 30% of buyers coming from outside of our county, it's important to choose a real estate company that has connections beyond our local marketplace. With an extensive network here and around the world, there's no company better poised to bring in a buyer for your home or showcase it for the world to see than Coldwell Banker.



**LAFAYETTE \$995,000**  
3/2. Mid-Century Rancher w/stunning views of Mt. Diablo. Flat back yard. Move in today!  
Dick Holt CalBRE#00827803



**ORINDA \$1,495,000**  
4/3.5. Sunny oasis. Remodeled throughout. Pool, spa w/ large deck & lawn for play. Bonus inlaw suite.  
Laura Abrams CalBRE#01272382



**ORINDA \$1,798,000**  
4/3.5. Orinda Downs Luxury through and through. Private deck w/hot tub off Mstr.  
Vlatka Bathgate CalBRE#01390784



**ORINDA \$2,175,900**  
4+/3. New construction. Gorgeous views, close to town. More pics/info at OrindaOaks.com.  
The Beaubelle Group CalBRE#00678426



**MORAGA \$1,250,000**  
4/2.5. Updated 2324 sq. ft home with attention to detail. .50 lot w/views and great backyard!  
Elena Hood CalBRE#01221247

5 Moraga Way | Orinda | 925.253.4600  
2 Theatre Square, Suite 211 | Orinda | 925.253.6300



californiamoves.com





Is Proud to Announce a New Partnership



**CURRAN & WOOLSEY**  
REAL ESTATE TEAM

Two professionals dedicated to providing outstanding service and expertise to meet all of your real estate needs. We look forward to working with you in 2014!

**Christine Curran & Lauren Woolsey**  
925.285.5336 ccurran@apr.com  
925.899.9837 lwoolsey@apr.com

www.atHomeinLamorinda.com

License#: 01896147 & 01940797

## Community Service

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

### Eagle Scout Creates 'Lafayette Historical Walking Tour' iPhone App

Submitted by Carol Davis



Marc Davis Photo provided

Acalanes High School junior Marc Davis, a member of Troop 204 of Lafayette, recently completed a unique Eagle Project. Recalling his memorable docent-led walking tour of Lafayette in third grade, a rite of passage for all Lafayette third graders, Marc decided to make that experience available to

all residents of Lafayette through his passion for iPhone App programming.

With the Lafayette Historical Society on board, Marc and his cadre of scouts and other youth were treated to a docent led tour where they took photos, marked GPS coordinates, and recorded verbal information for the App. They also researched and collected old photos from the Historical Society to include in the final product. Marc took all of this data, did his iPhone App programming magic and released "Lafayette Historical Walking Tour," available for free in the Apple App store on iPad, iPhone, and iTunes.

The App presents the user with a map showing historically significant locations in downtown Lafayette. The user can put the App into "auto" mode and as he approaches an histor-

ical site, the audio tour will automatically begin, triggered by GPS location. Old and new photos are overlaid with the ability to slide back and forth between them to gain an understanding of how the site has changed over the years.

Mary McCosker, the Lafayette Historical Society president, is excited about the App and has already introduced it to all third grade teachers in the Lafayette School District who have previewed their docent-led field trip by utilizing Marc's App on their school iPads. It is Marc's hope to get the word out so that all citizens of Lafayette can learn about the history of his town. But just maybe others, farther afield, will get to know it as well: some of the first downloads of the App were from China and Poland.

## Letters to the Editor

Share your thoughts with our community!



Opinions in Letters to the Editor are the express views of the writer and not necessarily those of the Lamorinda Weekly. All published letters will include the writer's name and city/town of residence -- we will only accept letters from those who live in, or own a business in, the communities comprising Lamorinda (please give us your phone number for verification purposes only). Letters should be 350 words or less; letters of up to 500 words will be accepted on a space-available basis. **email: [letters@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:letters@lamorindaweekly.com)**; Regular mail: Lamorinda Weekly, P.O.Box 6133, Moraga, CA 94570

Editor:

From time to time an incident happens that makes one question the status quo.

It happened to me a couple of months ago. I received a traffic ticket. That in itself is obviously not remarkable, for what and where, is. I received it for making a rolling right turn at the corner of Releiz Station Rd and Olympic Blvd.

Now a vehicle only makes a dead stop when the wheels stop rotating, anything else and the vehicle is rolling. At that intersection there is no left turn, there is a right turn lane, and there are no pedestrians or cross traffic. Thousands of vehicles go through that intersection every day. Ninety nine percent of them turn right and ALL of them make a rolling right turn. Now human behavior is very rational. That means that all drivers making that turn believe a traffic stop is an unnecessary and irrelevant requirement. So what is the point of writing traffic tickets for that infraction. You could literally write thousands a day and over a million per year. It is a bit like King Neptune holding a trident and trying to stop the tide coming in. Yes, you can do it but what is the point.

Would it not be more reasonable to make that turn a yield, just like the right turn from Pleasant Hill Rd onto Olympic, which also has a right turn lane, but has cross traffic too.

This would then save the costs of policing an intersection. Policing is expensive.

Surely there are higher priorities for a Lafayette police officer than these duties. Having a motor-cycle police officer is a luxury both the Orinda and Moraga departments can't afford.

In these days where personnel costs are bankrupting cities, prioritizing tax payer funds is a necessity. Squandering tax payer money on unnecessary policing activities is surely not the best use of these funds. Perhaps they would be better utilized if dedicated to schools, firefighting, or resident seniors, which are all feeling the economic pinch. As a retired Lamorinda resident who volunteers over 30 hours a month for our seniors, my mind actually boggles

Sincerely,  
David Cummins  
Moraga

### Join our Public Forum

If you have significant knowledge about an issue facing Lamorinda or one of its cities that requires more than the 350 words to which we must limit Letters to the Editor, don't despair! You can submit your letter to our Public Forum section. Just send your letter to [letters@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:letters@lamorindaweekly.com) and let us know you'd like to be considered for the Public Forum.

### Girl Scouts Spread Warmth and Cheer During Holidays

Submitted by Theresa Maloney



Photo provided

St. Perpetua School's third- and fourth-grade Girl Scouts entertained staff and residents at Aegis in Moraga during the holidays. The girls made angel decorations and spread holiday cheer.

### Rheem Fifth Graders "Pay it Forward"

Submitted by Gary Irwin



Donald Rheem Elementary School students display their copies of Time for Kids and National Geographic Explorer, donated by the Rotary Club of Moraga. Front row, from left: Rheem students Amrita Malhatra, Olivia Hillhouse, Allison Tam, Ryan Kang, Jack Bunzel-Hardie, and Daniel Granicher; back row: Rotarian Dick Vance, Rheem principal Elaine Frank, Rotarian Barbara Bruner, and Rotary president Nora Avelar.

Photo provided

Fifth graders at Donald Rheem Elementary School learned about the devastation caused by Hurricane Haiyan in the Philippines in Time for Kids, an educational magazine donated to the classrooms by the Rotary Club of Moraga. Teachers use these magazines to support the study of current events in the classroom. The fifth graders discussed the hurricane with their teachers, and were so concerned about the people impacted that they took action, as described by students in Ms. Noyes, Ms. Cavallero, and Ms. Bornfleth's classes:

"Rheem 5th graders care: On November 8, 2013 the Philippines was hit by Typhoon Haiyan. A typhoon is a tropical storm in the eastern hemisphere with winds stronger than 74 mph. Over five thousand peo-

ple died, and one thousand are still missing. All 5th graders at Rheem read about this in Time For Kids magazine and knew they had to help. They decided that 5th grade would raise money to help buy food and medical supplies for the victims. Over a three-week period all three classrooms collected coins. The total amount of money we raised was over \$600!"

The Rotary Club of Moraga's donation of full-year news magazine subscriptions such as National Geographic Explorer, Scholastic News, or Time for Kids – which are given to third through fifth graders at Moraga elementary schools, Canyon School, and St. Anthony's in Oakland – contain relevant information about the world, and subject-specific articles include current information about sci-

ence, health, current events, and literature. The teachers say that the "interactive" magazine format, which includes maps, graphs, and activities, awakens students' curiosity about the world around them and encourages their love of learning.

Rheem principal Elaine Frank complimented Moraga Rotary as a fine example of the support from the community, saying, "... your contribution will enrich the educational experience of our students." Rotarians have enjoyed reading the many letters of appreciation from the students.

Rotary Club of Moraga is a local service club within Rotary International that meets most Tuesdays at noon at Saint Mary's College. For information, please call Frank of Moraga Rotary at (925) 376-8195.

## LIVING TRUST

**\$695**  
COMPLETE

Valid until Feb. 28, 2014

**FREE** INITIAL CONSULTATION

Law Offices of  
**Lauren Smykowski**

### Plan Includes:

- Trust Agreement
- Pour Over Will
- Guardianship of Minor Children
- Power of Attorney for Finance
- Community Property Agreement
- Transfer of Real Property into Trust

Advanced Medical Directives, Including:

- Power of Attorney for Health Care
- Living Will
- HIPAA

### Notary Services Included!

(925) 257-4277

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

[laurensmy@gmail.com](mailto:laurensmy@gmail.com)

Office Located in Walnut Creek



# More Changes at MOFD

By Nick Marnell

When director Steve Anderson said last fall that, "By next year, there will be a new auditor," he was not just blowing off steam.

At the Jan. 15 Moraga-Orinda Fire District board meeting, the selection of JJACPA, Inc. as the new district auditor will be recommended by Gloriann Sasser, the district's administrative services director. The Dublin firm specializes in governmental accounting and it submitted a bid of \$30,690 to audit the district's financial statements for a 3-year period, at least 40 percent lower than figures submitted by three competitors. The low bid did cause Sasser concern, but she said that JJACPA president Joe Arch assured her that his company has senior level staff who know exactly what

they are doing, and that his bid was based on a true determination of the costs that he expected to incur. MOFD budgeted more than \$14,000 for its audit expense this fiscal year.

The district tore into its auditing firm, Cropper Accountancy Corp., at a November meeting for failing to recognize \$2 million in cash that should have been allocated to a special restricted fund.

Sasser confirmed that JJACPA has no personal or business connection with any member of the MOFD staff or board of directors.

The district will also elect new officers at the Jan. 15 meeting. Director John Wyro will have served as MOFD president for only seven months. He took over the leading role

from Frank Sperling, who moved out of the district in May. And unless MOFD moves away from historical precedent, the new president for 2014 will be board vice president Alex Evans, assuming that he wants the job.

Evans plans to attend the meeting via conference call from Hawaii.



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

**Next meetings:**  
**Wednesday, Jan. 15**  
**check website for updates**  
 (Go to [www.mofd.org](http://www.mofd.org) as the meeting date approaches for location and more information)

**NEED HELP AT HOME?**  
 for yourself or a loved one?

Errands . Driving . Appointments . Shopping . Cooking  
 Technology . Finances . Holiday . Pet Care . Organizing

925-285-6272

Lamorinda Comforts of Home  
 LOCAL - BONDED - INSURED  
[www.lamorindacomfortsofhome.com](http://www.lamorindacomfortsofhome.com)



## Civic News Moraga

### The Moraga Park Connection

... continued from page A5

The commissioners' concern was that people would leave their cars near the skate park and cross the busy arterial in an unsafe or traffic-disrupting manner. But town staff had a different vision regarding that connection.

"This community had seven years to look at the vision of the Moraga Center Specific Plan that included three pedestrian bridges," said Keimach. "(The bridge would) connect (the new park) to the Lafayette-Moraga Trail, that itself links to regional parks in the area. (We want to) create a walking community." She added that removing the bridge would create a public safety issue, making it more secluded and less accessible to law enforcement and medical services. "Look at the big picture," she urged. "You are making a big decision tonight."

Staff also discussed the financial aspects of the bridge construction. "It

would be more expensive for the town to build one bridge in the future than to have the developer build two bridges at the same time," said Planning Director Shawna Brekke-Read; the second bridge she referenced would serve as a connection within the park.

The commissioners started shifting their positions regarding the bridge, understanding the need for pedestrian connectivity but struggling with supporting the construction of a new crosswalk on Moraga Road. "We are going to become downtown Lafayette with all the crossings that we have," said Planning Commissioner Stacia Levenfeld. "(This would have a) significant impact on the scenic corridor and semi-rural feel." Other commissioners, concerned with the impact on the riparian corridor and the protection of pedestrian safety, proposed to build the bridge as

far south as possible leading not to Moraga Road but to a trail that would reach the protected intersection of Saint Mary's Road and Moraga Road.

"We want to have access to this parcel from the regional trails, with a focus on the safety of pedestrian access rather than a crosswalk," summarized Levenfeld.

The location of the new Laguna Creek bridge will be as far south as possible to minimize environmental impacts. Prior to opening the bridge for public use, a safe pedestrian crossing will be established to maximize pedestrian safety and connectivity from the Laguna Creek bridge to regional trails. Even though a new crosswalk on Moraga Road was not ruled out the idea did not gain much momentum with the commission, which will approve the final location of the crossing.

## LeapFrog Plumbing



Head Frog Mo Williams

**Who's your Valentine?** 

Give your honey (or yourself!) the gift of comfort with the Toto Washlet's warm seat, warm water, and soft air dry. (I love mine!) It's self-cleaning too. Can you say, "Ahhhhh"?! 

**Gas  
Water  
Sewer**

- Water Heater Specialist
- 24/7 Service

**\$150 OFF!\***

Toto Washlet Bidet Seat  
Pure luxury

See [www.LeapFrogPlumbing.com](http://www.LeapFrogPlumbing.com) for more coupons – **plus SAVE \$25** just for mentioning this one!\*

\*Labor & materials provided by LeapFrog Plumbing. Exp 2/14/14.



**We Hop To It!**  
 Family-owned and serving  
 Lamorinda since 1993

green solutions!

CA Lic 929641 **(925) 377-6600**  

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



You're Invited

## Learn About Gallbladder Disease Treatment Options

**WHEN:** Wednesday, January 22  
6:30 - 8 p.m.

**WHERE:** Claremont Hotel  
Sonoma Room  
41 Tunnel Road  
Berkeley, CA 94705

**Have you been diagnosed with gallbladder disease?**

Come to an informative presentation by surgeon Steven Stanten, MD, to find out about Alta Bates Summit's new treatment options for gallbladder disease as well as options for heartburn that doesn't respond to medication.

**This event is free, but registration is required by calling (510) 869-6737.**





# Globalization of Fresh Produce, Lafayette Style

By Sophie Braccini



Hank Miller

Photo provided

You might be thinking that Lafayette, with its community garden and farmers' market, is all about local food. Think again. There is a flourishing business in Lafayette – The Fresh Connection, owned by Orinda resident Hank Miller – that has been exporting fresh fruits and vegetables all over the planet for years using every means of transportation available, and is so successful that it is now moving into a new 7,000-square-foot location on Mt. Diablo Boulevard.

Miller doesn't oppose the 'buy local' movement, but when landless states like Hong-Kong want California grapes or fresh lettuce, or Australia wants citrus off-season, he is there to find it and ship it to them. "We are only about exporting," he explains, "from growers in California, Washington, Florida, Arizona, but also from Chili, Peru, South Africa, Australia and New Zealand. We just don't import into the United States."

"(Buying local) is a nice idea but it is not realistic," he adds. "We can't feed the masses by going local because it is too expensive, and people can grow only certain things in certain areas."

This man who once wanted to become a farmer when he was a student at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, but went into international business instead, says that dealing with fruits and vegetables is like no other business. "There are no contracts," he says, "almost everything is done on a handshake; it's purely a relationship business." And it is through handshakes that he has built a company that's one of the top three exporters in its field, moving thousands of containers by sea (70 percent of the business), by air or truck, dealing with a large number of farmers, large wholesalers or supermarkets who have trusted him for years.

Over the last 20 years Miller has witnessed the long-term dominant trends of his sector and has developed some skepticism regarding other aspects of the fresh food market. "We have not seen a huge growing demand for organic produce," says Miller, "but there is a growing demand for fresh fruits and vegetables and what we are producing in the United States is more consistently higher quality and safer than what is found in less well regulated countries." Miller says that the bigger benefit the organic movement

has brought to the industry is lowering the amount of pesticides used in conventional agriculture.

Fresh fruit and vegetable commerce is not immune to political decisions that sometimes have nothing to do with agriculture. "There might be a disagreement between China and the U.S. over something (not related to agriculture) that will result in changes in the rules for certain products," he says. Countries can also change the rules to protect their budding agriculture, such as South Korea when it subsidized its strawberry farms to gain new market share.

Miller says that it takes at least three years to train someone to operate as an international fruit trader. "There is no school for that," he says. "It is very detailed and changes every year with the fluctuation of the weather patterns." Of his 30 employees, some are located abroad, such as his South African inspector who buys from local farmers there.

Finding fresh water is one of the biggest challenges affecting Miller's business and farming in general. "Look at our region," he says, "the population has grown so much, and we have not done anything to our water supply for 30 or 40 years." He would like to see more water storage built, rather than seeing farmers in the Central Valley lose their water rights and let their trees die.

The second bottleneck is labor. "Some production, like nuts, can be managed by a small number of people, but stone fruits, many vegetables, and small fruits require a lot of manpower. There are not enough people and it will continue to be a problem until we deal with the immigration issue."

The epidemic that has devastated the bee population is also of concern.

"I think that for the next 5 to 10 years the market will continue to grow," says Miller, who is very cautious and does not want to seem too optimistic.

He has invested in the new commercial building on Mt. Diablo Boulevard, saying "we were crowded in our cottage on Dewing." And while he acknowledges that the process was long and sometimes frustrating, Miller and his team are looking forward to completing their move by February and celebrating the 20th anniversary of The Fresh Connection.

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

## Celebrating an Anniversary?

If your business is celebrating a significant anniversary (5, 10, 20 years or more ...) send us a photo of your business, the owner(s) or the staff with specific information about your business and what you're celebrating, and we'll include it in an upcoming issue.

## business briefs

### No-Work Fundraisers and Events

#### Maui Wowi Hawaiian Coffees and Smoothies Does It for You (415) 200-6748

tikitastes@mauiwowi.org

Matt Coy purchased a Maui Wowi franchise in October and is running events and fundraisers in the East Bay. The father of three young children, with seven years of sales experience, lives in Moraga; his parents still live in the Orinda home where he was raised, and his wife went to Campolindo High School. A real Lamorinda family, they decided that this business opportunity was right for their way of life. "We love the Aloha spirit of Maui Wowi's founders, Jeff and Jill Summerhays," says



Matt Coy with his Maui Wowi business stand during the Dam Jingle Bell Dash 5k/10k run at the San Pablo Dam Reservoir on Dec. 14, 2013.

Photo provided

Coy. "They embrace a healthy and carefree lifestyle that we want to bring to local events." Maui Wowi offers fruit and yogurt-based smoothies as well as coffee drinks made with Kona beans from Hawaii. "People here love Hawaii and our delicious smoothies have been a great hit at all the events we been to," says Coy. At this time of the year he also offers hot chocolate from San Francisco. "We go to corporate and private events with our tents and cart; this is a mobile business," says Coy. "For fundraisers, we give a percentage back to the cause." He adds that for adult events he can prepare alcoholic beverages with his fresh fruit and juices. "We are already booking for events for the summer," he says. "In the future, I plan to add a permanent kiosk to the mobile business." Look for Maui Wowi at the coming Fourth of July events and local business fairs.

### Moraga Chamber Seeks Businessperson of the Year Nominations

The Moraga Chamber of Commerce is soliciting nominations for the 2014 Moraga Businessperson of the Year. The chamber gives the annual award to an active chamber member who fulfills the following requirements: practices good business strategies; supports the Moraga community; serves as a good business model; has good customer relationships; and demonstrates ethical business practices. Local citizens can nominate any businessperson they feel may be deserving of the honor; the chamber is accepting nominations through the end of this month. Past winners have included Bill Snider of Moraga Hardware and Lumber, Brad Noggle of 5A Rent A Space, Grant Stubblefield of Neighborhood Computers and Mike Lawrence of CVS Pharmacy. Nomination forms can be downloaded at [www.moragachamber.org](http://www.moragachamber.org), and will be accepted through Jan. 31. Completed forms can be mailed to the Moraga Chamber at 1480 Moraga Road, Suite I #254, Moraga or faxed to (925) 247-1072. The award dinner is scheduled for Monday, Feb. 24 at the Moraga Country Club.

### Lamorinda Home Expo '14

Don't miss the Lamorinda Home Expo '14 featuring remodelers, builders, and design professionals who will be available to answer questions and discuss new trends from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 26 at the Lafayette Events Center (Lafayette Veterans Building) 3780 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

### Moraga Employee of the Month for December



From left: Frank Melon, Atu Anitoni, Candice Moses, and Nora Avelar.

Photo provided

Atu Anitoni, who has been serving local seniors as a lead medical technician at Aegis of Moraga for the last decade, has been selected as the Moraga Employee of the Month for December, as announced by the Moraga Chamber of Commerce and the Rotary Club of Moraga. Anitoni, who began her work at Aegis in 2004, has served in various care giving roles at the senior facility and currently oversees a staff providing medication to residents as well as basic first aid and addressing various illnesses or injuries. "Atu is just such a great person to help our senior residents," said Aegis Executive Director Candice Moses. "Everybody here really likes her because she goes above and beyond the call of duty when there is a need. She is so attentive to their needs and always willing to help. Plus, she loves what she does and our residents can feel her warmth."

### News from the three Chambers of Commerce

#### Lafayette

Entrepreneur's Club meets at 8:30 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 16 in the chamber conference room.

Ribbon Cutting for Alicia Cervenka Photography at 5 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 21 at 3614 Mt. Diablo Blvd. # C.

Green Committee meeting at noon Tuesday, Jan. 28 in the chamber office.

#### Moraga

Save the date for the first chamber business meeting of the year at 7:30 a.m. Friday, Jan. 31 at the Hacienda de las Flores.

#### Orinda

Save the date for Orinda Comedy Night on Friday, March 7.

## Compost Bins

## Home Composting For Busy People!

Using the right equipment will make composting easier and faster. The *Home Composting for Busy People!* program is pleased to offer reduced price compost bins designed to help improve your efforts to compost.

Call the CCCSWA Home Composting Information Line at 925-906-1801 x306 to request additional information or visit [www.wastediversion.org](http://www.wastediversion.org).

#### Ordering Information

**Soilsaver:** Available for Online Purchase at [www.wastediversion.org](http://www.wastediversion.org) or call 925-906-1801 x306 to request a mail-order form. Delivery time is 2-4 weeks.

**NatureMill:** Available by Online Purchase at [www.naturemill.com](http://www.naturemill.com) or call 800-613-6629 to speak to a customer service representative.

**Wriggly Wranch Worm Bin:** Available for purchase by calling 925-906-1801 x306 to request a mail-in form, or print from [www.wastediversion.org](http://www.wastediversion.org)

**IMPORTANT:** To purchase a compost bin, purchaser must reside in CCCSWA service area (Danville, Lafayette, Walnut Creek, Orinda, Moraga and unincorporated areas including Alamo, Blackhawk & Diablo).

#### Soilsaver



- Latching handles and self watering holes on lid
- 2 sliding bottom access doors
- 86 gallons / 11.5 cubic feet
- Dimensions: 28" L x 28" W x 30" H
- Normally retails for \$110.00

Available for ...

Only  
**\$62.00**  
Shipped!

#### Wriggly Wranch Worm Bin



- Holds up to 17,000 worms
- Extra large capacity working trays
- Dimensions: 22" L x 15" W x 25" H (fully assembled)
- Snap fit construction, no tools required
- Recycled content plastic
- Patented 2-tier stacking design allows for easy harvesting
- Spigot to easily dispense liquid fertilizer

Available for ...

Only  
**\$89.00**  
Shipped!

#### NatureMill Composter



- Automatic Mixing
- Perfect for apartments/condos and homes
- Food waste only - no yard waste. Usually produces compost in two weeks
- Dimensions: 20" high by 20" deep by 12" wide
- Normally retails for \$299.00 and up

Online Coupon for ...

**\$30 OFF**  
Plus tax & shipping!

Call (925) 906-1801 x306  
Visit [www.wastediversion.org](http://www.wastediversion.org)  
[www.facebook.com/CCCSWA](http://www.facebook.com/CCCSWA)



CENTRAL CONTRA COSTA  
SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY

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



## Civic News Orinda

### Keeping Orinda's Arts in Bloom

... continued from page A7

Maggie Boscoe and Myrna Witt (library art gallery), Natalie Wheeler and Hillery Patterson (high school visual arts competition and Orinda school art ambassadors program), Steve Harwood (Lamorinda Idol), and others too numerous to list in the short space of this article.

In terms of the community, she says, the library gallery has been one of the really critical contributions made by OAC. Other favorites are Arts in Bloom, the Orinda Jazz Festival, and Lamorinda Idol, which she describes as "a special thing we brought to the community" which "really struck a nerve.... It was just perfectly magical from the first year."

"Susan has done an absolutely fabulous job," says Lawrence Kohl. The founder of the Pacific Chamber

Symphony, Kohl is serving with Garell as co-president of the OAC for 2014, and is hoping more Orindans will join the organization as it ramps up its membership drive over the next few months.

OAC's vice president of communications, Kal Deustsch, concurs. "This is an incredibly exciting time with the Arts Council. Numerous new projects and new ways of doing things - everything from coming up with new modes of communication to new events on the horizon and new ways of reaching out to attract more people to the arts. We're all discussing how we can take this incredible foundation we have and bringing everything up to a new level."

Deutsch's first exposure to Orinda's cultural scene was his dawn-

ing awareness, when first house hunting in Orinda, of the many art installations popping up across town. Much of that flowering is due, he says, to the city's Art in Public Places Committee (APPC). Susan Mautner currently holds OAC's standing seat on that committee.

"It epitomizes Orinda - the nature, the beauty," says Deutsch. He terms the relationships that Orindans have with their natural and built environments as symbiotic. "Life doesn't have what human life is without art." Adds Kohl, "'Life without music,' said Nietzsche, 'would be a mistake.'"

To learn more, volunteer or become a supporter, visit OAC's website: [www.orindaartscouncil.org/](http://www.orindaartscouncil.org/).

### Orinda Library Art Gallery Exhibits - 2014

- January: Glass work (Vivian Hart); sculpture (Anthony Brigancook); photography (Barbara Lee); travel photography (Debi Cooper and Aphra Pia)
- February: Ceramics (David Vanderjagt and Lafayette Gallery artists); gourds (Carole Dwinell); history makers (Kabir Adjare); portraits (Robert Wahrhaftig)
- March: High School Art Competition
- April: Art Ambassadors (Orinda school children)
- May: Ceramics; oil painting (Mark Monsarrat); travel photography (Terry Riggins)
- June: Emerging Oakland Artists
- July: Bay Area Wood Turners; mixed media painting (Ann Marie Tabaloff and Art Connection)
- August: Clay Arts Guild; painting (Leslie Swartz); photography (Wenda Pyman)
- September: Gnomes (Carey Carpenter); painting (Geofrey Meridith and Krista Borst); sculpture (Lisa Lee)
- October: Plein Air Group (John Finger)
- November: Contra Costa Camera Club
- December: Abstracts and figures (Tina Pressler)

### The Sympathetic Fibers of Orinda

... continued from page A6

As OCF has continued to thrive, it has been able to expand its reach even further, helping to strengthen transportation options for seniors across Lamorinda and providing critically needed support for the county's food bank. Recently, as foundation leaders announced their latest round of grants they once again demonstrated the power not only of Ibsen's words - but those of Herman Melville: "We cannot live for ourselves alone. Our lives are connected by a thousand invisible threads, and along these sympathetic fibers, our actions run as causes and return to us as results."

#### Recent Orinda Community Foundation Grants

- Grants and commitments as of Jan. 7:
- Art in Public Places Committee: \$8,000
  - Concerts in the Park: \$1,000
  - Friends of the Joaquin Moraga Adobe: \$5,000
  - Lamorinda Spirit Van: \$3,500
  - Lamorinda Village Concept: \$3,000
  - Opera in the Park: \$1,000
  - Orinda Arts Council for Lamorinda Idol: \$2,500
  - Orinda Association for Fourth of July Parade & Celebration: \$5,000
  - Orinda garden clubs: \$1,000
  - Orinda Jazz Festival: \$1,000
  - Orinda Junior Women's Club for Youth Ink: \$1,000
  - Wilder Fields scoreboard: \$8,000
  - Total: \$40,000

#### Additional grants made in 2013:

- Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano: \$2,000
- Orinda Arts Council (for 2013 Orinda Jazz Festival): \$1,000
- Orinda Chamber of Commerce: \$2,000

### New pricing for all massages in 2014!

5 year anniversary



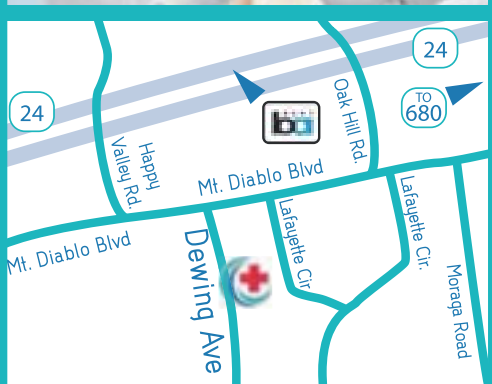
Total REFLEXOLOGY Studio

Foot massage <del>\$40</del> <b>\$30</b> For one hour	Body massage <del>\$60</del> <b>\$50</b> For one hour
---	---



361C Rheem Blvd • Moraga • 925-377-7009  
next to 24 Hour Fitness

your ultimate foot massage experience



# STAT MED

## URGENT CARE

### Now Open In Downtown Lafayette

- Open every day  
- Mon-Fri 8am-8pm  
- Weekends and Holidays 9am-5pm
- No appointment or referral needed

### Expert medical care for newborns, seniors and everyone in between.

- Outstanding patient experience without the chaos and long waits of busy ERs
- Staffed by Emergency Medicine Specialists
- Available to address immediate to routine medical needs

925-297-6396

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

970 Dewing Avenue Suite 100 B, Lafayette, CA 94549



**MVC** MICHAEL VERBRUGGE CONSTRUCTION INC.  
General Contractor

**925.631.1055** www.MVCRemodeling.com

**Specializing in kitchens & bathrooms. All forms residential remodel/repair.**

*"A little bit of myself goes into every job."*  
Michael VerBrugge, Owner, Moraga Resident

Clean | Courteous | Conscientious  
On-time | Trustworthy | Local References  
Full design team resources available

**IT'S APRIL IN LAMORINDA FOR REAL ESTATE**

Consistently Representing Buyers and Sellers in Successful Transactions

**925-254-0505**  
aprilmat@comcast.net

April Matthews www.villageassociates.com • www.dreamhomelamorinda.com

Village ASSOCIATES REAL ESTATE  
93 Moraga Way, #103, Orinda  
CalBRE#01221153

**TG HARDWOOD FLOORS**  
Moraga California  
DESIGN • REFINISHING • INSTALLATION  
**925-376-1118**  
Lic # 974653

CALL TOM FOR A FREE ESTIMATE  
Since 1993!  
Tom Gieryng, owner and operator

**Cabinet Modifications**

With over 25 years fulfilling custom needs, we can alter or modify most cabinetry, while still utilizing your existing cabinetry for:

- Large TVs/ Refrigerators and appliances
- Recycle Bins and shelf pullouts
- Cabinet alterations/repairs

Thinking about home, office, entertainment, custom cabinetry, shelving, crown mouldings, baseboards, new doors or mantels? We can help there, too!

**925.827.1093** Paul Kephart Master Craftsman  
www.TheCabinetMd.com

**Siggy's CARPET CLEANING**  
LAMORINDA'S FAVORITE FAMILY OWNED BUSINESS FOR OVER 36 YEARS

**(925) 283-8744**  
www.siggycarpetcleaning.com  
3408 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Lafayette

**WINTER SPECIAL 15% OFF**

**Custom Quality Fencing**

- Good Neighbor Fence
- Deer Fencing
- Picket/Split Rail
- RV Gates
- Trellis and Arbors
- Retaining Walls
- Insurance/Storm Repairs

**Ken Tamplen**  
**925-938-9836**  
www.kensrototilling.com

**LAFAYETTE PAINTING**

A Color Coordinated Exterior Paint Job By us will make your home Appraisal at least \$20,000 Higher!

All Work Supervised By Owner/Contractor

- Re-painting Specialist
- Color Coordinating
- Remodeling
- Restorations
- Waterproofing
- Redwood Deck Renewal
- Acoustic Ceiling Removal

**\$300 OFF** Complete Interior or Exterior exp. 2-1-14

**BURKIN ELECTRIC**  
**"Let Us Light Up Your Life"**  
Residential • Commercial • Industrial

Serving Contra Costa since 1991  
More than 35 years experience  
All Work Done by Owner

Professional Installation of:

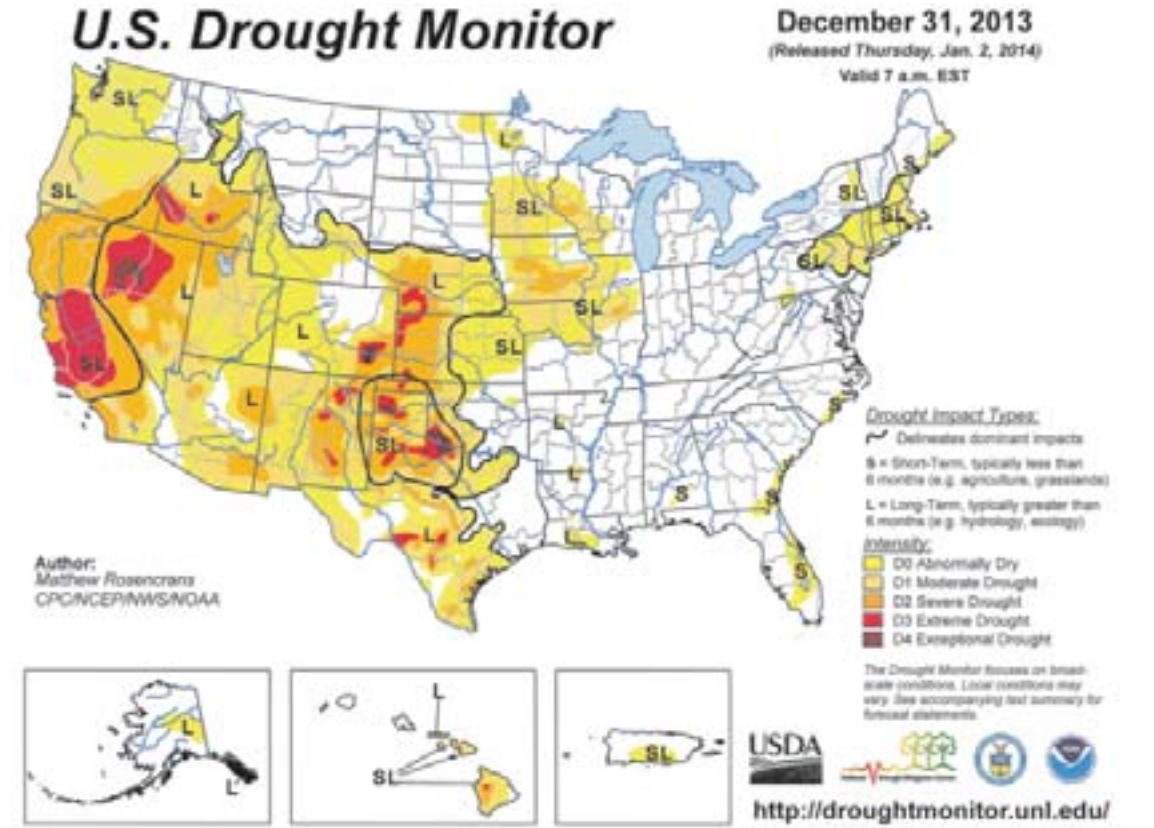
- Ceiling Fans, Recessed & Track Lighting
- Kitchen or Bath Remodel
- Exterior/Security/Landscape Lighting
- Electrical Service Upgrade
- Complete Home Wiring - Old & New
- Spa Installation

**(925) 672-1519**  
www.BurkinElectric.net

# From Front Page

## Dry Conditions Pose Risks Beyond Water Restrictions

... continued from page A1



Wildlife, too, goes in search of water. If animals can't find adequate drinking water in their normal habitat, they may venture closer to civilization. It's hard to tell if that was the reason one Orinda resident recently spied a bobcat just outside the backyard window.

"This is the driest season on record," said East Bay Municipal Utility District spokesperson Andrea Pook. "The Mokelumne River watershed is at only at 24 percent of its normal capacity, and every couple days without precipitation the level drops again."

Even when it does rain, those storms have sometimes missed the watersheds, she said. Still, Pook said the overall picture "isn't that frightening" because "there is half a winter ahead of us." When water forecasting is done in April, if the storage levels are still low EBMUD board of directors would then request water rationing, Pook said.

Many longtime Lamorinda resi-

dents recall the water crisis of the mid 1970s. Jim Russell of Moraga watched his all-grass front yard die out back then. "We lost a lot of stuff" complying with rationing, he said. His family removed their front lawn during the drought and replaced it with shore juniper, and later bamboo and river rock hardscape. Most people really got on the recycling bandwagon, Russell said. He remembers collecting shower water in containers and recycling it onto outdoor plants.

"Even today I can't stand to hear water running," he said.

When it comes to drinking water, East Bay residents may be lucky: 90 percent of their supply comes from the Sierra Mountains, and those reservoirs are 65 percent full (the San Pablo Dam and Lafayette Reservoir water would be used only in emergencies).

Pook thinks there is more water recycling and conservation today than there was during the 1970s-era drought, but her company is being proactive: "We're not just praying and hoping" for water relief, Pook said, "we're planning."

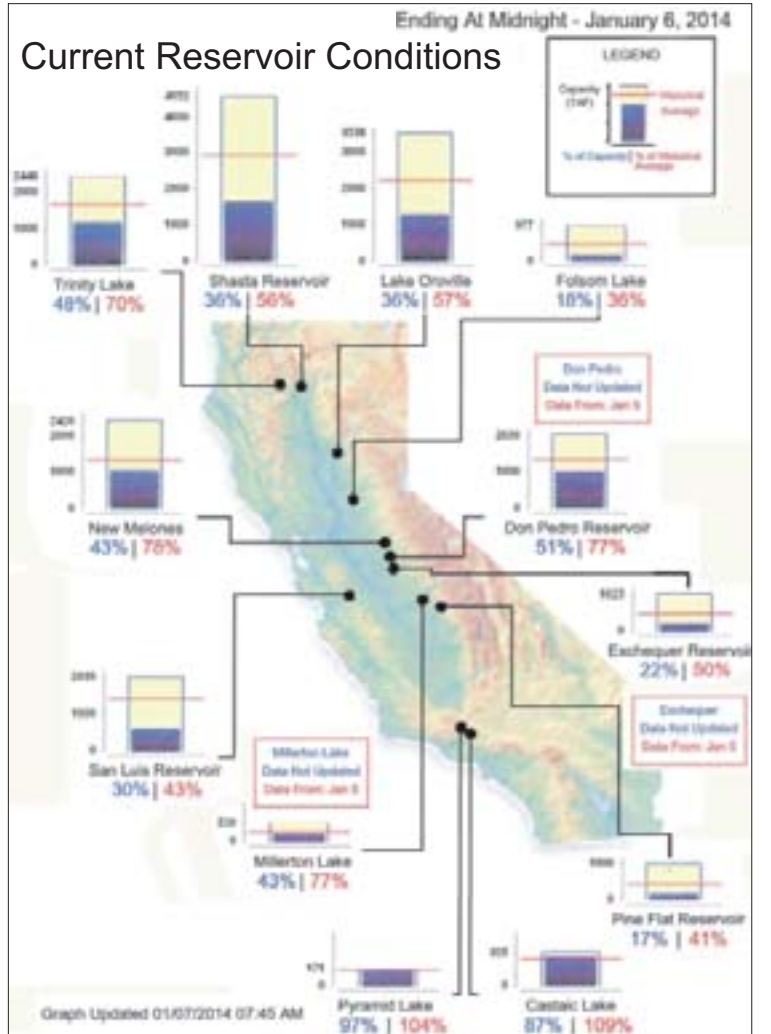


Spotted Bobcat outside a window in Orinda. Photo Dale Newhouse

### Drought Mitigation in Lamorinda

Average annual rainfall in San Francisco is 20.78 inches, yet in 2013 that amount fell to 3.38 inches. The 2013 rainfall amount was less than half the previous record low of 8.79 inches, set in 1946. Because of this, the Moraga-Orinda Fire District reminds all homeowners to maintaining clearance around housing structures, keeping clear debris on roofs, in gutters, under and on decks and by mowing, disking or trimming grasses or brush to a 3 inch maximum height. Supervise any open flames, including barbecues and fire pits. Keep a hose or water bucket handy. Watch for sparks, use a spark arrester, metal screen or cover. MOFD offers a free wildfire risk assessment to its home and property owners. The assessment takes about 45 minutes and helps homeowners identify ways to make their property safe against wildfires. For more information, contact Fire Prevention at (925) 258-4525, ext. 533.

Source: MOFD Fire Marshal Kathy Leonard





# Artistry from Agony

Saint Mary's Museum of Art commemorates the 100th anniversary of World War I

By Laurie Snyder

## Life in LAMORINDA



From left, specially trained volunteer Julie Kline, Museum Registrar Julie Armistead and Museum Director Carrie Brewster at Saint Mary's College Museum of Art carefully begin uncrating and inspecting works of World War I trench art Jan. 10 in preparation for display as part of the acclaimed exhibition, "From Swords to Plowshares." Photo Ohlen Alexander

"Bombardment, barrage, curtain-fire, mines, gas, tanks, machine-guns, hand-grenades – words, words, but they hold the horror of the world." – Erich Maria Remarque, "All Quiet on the Western Front"

Europe's flowering youth scythed senselessly from Flanders Fields, gassed and left gasping final breaths at Ypres Salient. Callow aristocrats cut down by crusty coal miners. Ploughmen purged not by the pens of poets – but by their flame throwers. It was the time of "The Great War" – World War I – the first in which chemical warfare was used, the first in which civilians dodged man-made death raining from the skies, and the first of the 20th century

in which survivors witnessed the depravity of genocide.

Although the world would be brought to its knees by the time guns fell silent at the 11th hour on the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918, humanity did not realize, as 1914 dawned, that it was heading into the seventh circle of hell. Sixteen million combatants and civilians were killed by the war and its fallout of famine and disease. Rudyard Kipling went to his grave in 1936 without ever finding his only son's body. J.R.R. Tolkien, future author of "The Lord of the Rings," contracted trench fever during front-line duty on the Somme – one of the more than 21 million eventually counted among the wounded.

Many suffered from shell shock – what we now call Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

Now, thanks to Saint Mary's College Museum of Art, additional light is being shed on this seminal period in world history. Beginning Feb. 2, "From Swords to Plowshares: Metal Trench Art from World War I" will feature more than 150 metal objects created by artists from virtually all of the countries that were involved in the conflict, says Heidi Donner, manager of education and public information for the museum. She describes the exhibition as "a powerful mix of art and history."

Visitors will experience the war in profoundly personal ways via veterans' interviews, film footage and pe-

riod music while viewing remarkable works of art.

"The ingenuity and skill range from primitive decorated artillery shell cases executed in trenches to elaborately embellished artillery shell lamps, vases, cigarette lighters, and ashtrays exhibiting extraordinary craftsmanship. The pieces are as varied and unique as the military and civilian artists who created them," says Donner.

"Unlike commissioned paintings and war memorials, which represented war from a distance, trench art was made from the waste of war itself and utilized the vehicles of death and mutilation directly," writes British archaeologist Nicholas Saunders, Ph.D., author of "Trench Art: Lost Worlds of the Great War."

"Trench art was made for a variety of practical reasons – for sale, barter and personal use – but could also possess deeper spiritual meanings associated with religious belief, grief and mourning, and relief or guilt at surviving war when so many did not."

Kicking off the exhibition will be award-winning author, Adam Hochschild. A former editor of *Mother Jones* and current journalism teacher at the University of California, Berkeley, Hochschild also wrote "King Leopold's Ghost: A Story of Greed, Terror and Heroism in Colonial Africa." His most recent book, "To End All Wars: A Story of Loyalty and Rebellion, 1914-1918," explores the interplay between generals, cabinet ministers, ordinary trench soldiers, and pacifists. ... continued on page B4



A quiet moment in German trenches Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C. 20540 USA

# Grand Opening in Lafayette

## Bollinger Nail Salon

Elegant and Relaxing Environment  
Personalized Professional Nail Care



960 Moraga Road, Lafayette

(925) 284-7700

www.bollingernailsalon.com

Voted #1 Nail Salon  
in East Bay by **Diablo Magazine.**

### FREE SERVICE

Bring a friend 1Free Service with any paid service of equal or greater value on the same visit.

(not valid with any other offer.  
Valid with coupon. Expires 1/31/14)

Lafayette location only.

### FREE MANICURE

Free Manicure with paid  
Pedicure Treatment  
(not valid with any other offer.  
Valid with coupon. Expires 1/31/14)

Lafayette location only.



## What are you waiting for?

Psychotherapy for teens, adults, couples and families.



Rachel Moran, LMFT  
rachelmoranmft.com  
(925)330-5773

Local, confidential, affordable  
license#51921

**Rosewood House**.com  
FINE FURNITURE & ASIAN ANTIQUES SINCE 1969

CONCORD 4700 CLAYTON RD (925) 827-9588  
OAKLAND 2523 BROADWAY (510) 451-7373

**Old Firehouse School**  
www.oldfirehouseschool.com

## Announcing Open Houses

**Lafayette**  
Open Houses  
January 16<sup>th</sup>  
February 10<sup>th</sup>  
at 6:30 p.m.

**Walnut Creek**  
Open Houses  
January 27<sup>th</sup>  
February 25<sup>th</sup>  
at 6:00 p.m.

Open Houses are for adults only

984 Moraga Rd.  
(925) 284-4321

55 Eckley Lane  
(925) 934-1507

## MVPC Nurtury Preschool

A Christian Play-Based Preschool in Moraga



The Nurtury provides students with a fun-filled and enriching program that addresses a child's social, emotional, physical, cognitive and spiritual development.

- Hours of operation 9am-12pm, M-F
- Programs available for 2- 5 year olds
- Low student /teacher ratio
- Trained and dedicated staff
- A connected parent community with many parent education opportunities
- After school enrichment classes (Spanish/Science/Math/Tumble/Reading/Dance)
- **NEW!** Lunch Bunch until 2pm or 3pm, M-F for toilet trained children



For more information,  
call (925) 376-4800 ext. 248  
email [nurtury@mvpc.today.org](mailto:nurtury@mvpc.today.org)

or visit our website: [www.mvpc.today.org/nurtury](http://www.mvpc.today.org/nurtury)

## Words That Change Our World

One book that brought comfort and hope to Lafayette parents

By Lou Fancher



Lamont and Sheila Gilbert, with their son Nicholas.

Photo provided

The influence of a piece of literature, whether it arrives in printed form, or on the many mobile screen devices now available, is undeniable. Founders of international humanitarian organizations, battered women's shelters, groundbreaking chefs and restaurateurs, professional athletes and artists, Silicon Valley startup entrepreneurs and a host of other people trace their origins to the pages of a novel, a collection of poetry, or a non-fiction narrative.

In the months ahead, Lamorinda Weekly will introduce a local person and the book that blossomed into significance in his or her life. The degree of sharing will depend upon the interviewee. Not everyone will want to be as open as Lamont Gilbert, but then, not every book has the profound position of oracle he and his family have assigned to "The Next Place."

For Lafayette residents Sheila and Lamont Gilbert, author/illustrator Warren Hanson's "The Next Place," is a beacon of light, a remembered smile, and a golden handprint partially filling the permanent void in their hearts. The parents of four boys, the Gilberts lost their youngest son, Nicholas Colby, when he succumbed to acute lymphoblastic leukemia, on May 25, 2006. A book, created by a man they have never met, represents a most intimate journey to healing.

"We were in Denver, Colorado, for experimental treatments," Gilbert says. One month prior to the anniversary of what would be Nicholas' 14th birthday on Jan. 27, his recall is crystal clear. "Nicholas came out of his hospital room and said, 'I want to go to Heaven.' That was the first time I

realized he wasn't going to live."

Dr. Lia Gore, the pediatric oncologist treating Nicholas, gave the Gilberts a copy of Hanson's book. Too concerned with getting their son home – the rare request of a child more prone to giving away his toys to fellow patients than to asking for anything – the Gilberts tucked it in their luggage. Arriving at Lucile Packard Children's Hospital in Stanford at 3 a.m., family and friends, numbering close to 100, rotated in 20-minute shifts. Nicholas was never alone, never without a warm hand to hold one of his own. Shirley Bacchus, his Diablo Valley Montessori teacher, offered to read to him. The Gilberts saw a gentle smile filter across their son's face as she read, "I'll glide beyond the rainbows. I'll drift above the sky. I'll fly into the wonder, without ever wondering why."

Reached at his home in Texas, Hanson was touched by the attention. "Obviously, the book was created to bring comfort at times of loss," Hanson writes in an email. "When it's the loss of a child, it still always makes me sad. I am rarely aware of how the book gets used, but I'm always grateful to hear about it."

"After he passed, going through the book," Gilbert says, "it was like Nicholas was reaching out to us. It wasn't just a book, it was God comforting our hearts with something tangible that we could see and feel."

Three paragraphs from the book are embedded in the marble memorial honoring Nicholas' life at his private Oakmont Memorial Park estate in Lafayette. But the book's resounding message of love and laughter – never

erased by individual mortality – didn't end at Nicholas' grave. The Gilberts created The Nicholas Colby Fund (NCF), a nonprofit charity providing personalized experiences like a luxury suite viewing of a Golden State Warrior's game or Disney on Ice at Oracle Arena for child patients and their families.

"The book is so uplifting, and that is a characteristic of our fund," Gilbert says. Children who are guests of NCF are given backpacks filled with donated toys and food and every January, Nicholas' beaming face and a special message light up the Jumbotron at a Warrior's game. "Never gone, never far, in our hearts and souls forever," will announce Nicholas' enduring spirit on Sunday, Jan. 26.

Gilbert's dream is to someday have a NCF suite in every NBA arena in the country. It's a vision that may have to wait until he retires from his job as a leadership and executive development consultant at CSAA Insurance Group, a AAA Insurer, but he's already making strides. His company's "Community Safety Foundation" recently made a "significant contribution" in memory of executive Mike Bregante, who died in November 2013. Gilbert says website donations have subsequently ramped up ("Ten times what we typically receive," he says), and running the fund continues to engage and warm his heart.

To learn more about the Nicholas Colby Fund, visit [www.nicholascolbyfund.org](http://www.nicholascolbyfund.org). To find "The Next Place," visit <http://www.amazon.com/The-Next-Place-Warren-Hanson/dp/0931674328>.

Lou Fancher is a journalist who, over the course of her career interviewing a wide variety of people, has been struck by how often a book has influenced the local life and purpose of her articles' subjects. If you have a book that has been important in your life and are willing to share your story with Lou – it requires only a 15-minute phone interview – please email [storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com) and include "Words" in the subject line.

## All That's Jazz:

Moraga man earns a Grammy nomination

By Cathy Dausman



Alan Ferber

Photo provided

It was a snowy Midwest day after New Year's, but Alan Ferber was warming his ears indoors listening to Grammy nominated music with his family. Ferber, a Campolindo High School grad and former Moraga resident, is a professional New York-based jazz trombonist who recently earned a first-time Grammy nomination for his sixth album, *March Sublime*. Released in 2013, the album almost wasn't considered because, as Ferber tells it, he missed the deadline.

Fortunately his record label, Sunnyside Records, was on the ball. And he learned only secondhand of his nomination when a friend texted him with the cryptic message "Grammy nominee."

"Who?" Ferber inquired.

"You!" his friend replied.

Although jazz musicians are noted for their improvisation, Ferber has "been at this for a while." He started piano lessons at age 4, and took up the trombone at 10, but "didn't really get serious" until he began attending Bay Area summer music camps where he discovered jazz improvisation and "fell in love with playing music."

He credits Sandi Bowen, his first piano instructor, with teaching him how to practice. Ken Bergmann, Ferber's freshman band director at Campolindo "made a big impact," too.

Bergmann "eventually got us (Ferber and his brother, percussionist Mark Ferber) involved with subbing in the Diablo Valley College night jazz band while we were in high school," he said.

Ferber graduated from UCLA with an economics degree. After interviewing for "a couple of real jobs," Ferber found "a ton of work" as a brass player during the neo-swing movement (Big Bad Voodoo Daddy, Cherry Poppin Daddies) that defined the late 1990s.

Now as a voting member of the National Association of Recording Artists, Ferber votes for all Grammy nominees, including his own work in the Best Large Jazz Ensemble category. *March Sublime* was recorded at Brooklyn's Systems II studio.

Ferber explained that popular music recordings may take up to several weeks to produce, but jazz albums are cranked out in one or two days. "You get at most three to four takes to capture the magic," he said. He's proud that a number of cuts on the album are first takes. "We used the first take for the first tune on the first day," Ferber said, thinking "this is so easy and so much fun."

Even their recording engineer, a rather unsentimental local, was impressed.

"These guys were the reason I moved to New York City," Ferber said, explaining the band's "cohesive" sound. The recording session was also a family affair; Ferber's twin brother Mark appears on the album as percussionist. ... continued on page B5



UC BERKELEY'S 2014 **ACADEMIC TALENT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM** PROVIDES CHALLENGING SUMMER CLASSES FOR HIGHLY MOTIVATED YOUNG SCHOLARS.

**SD**  
GRADES 7-11  
SECONDARY DIVISION  
JUNE 23 - AUGUST 1  
ACCELERATED & ENRICHMENT COURSES  
AT THE UC BERKELEY CAMPUS  
APPLICATION DEADLINES\*  
FOR NEW STUDENTS: FEB. 26  
FOR RETURNING STUDENTS: FEB. 12

**atdp**  
ACADEMIC TALENT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM  
Berkeley  
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

**ELEMENTARY DIVISION**  
JULY 14 - AUGUST 1  
GRADES K-6  
EXCITING COURSES AT  
WASHINGTON SCHOOL  
IN POINT RICHMOND  
APPLICATION DEADLINES\*  
FOR NEW STUDENTS: MAR. 26  
FOR RETURNING STUDENTS: MAR. 12

\* Applications received after the listed deadlines will be considered on a space-available basis.

FIND COMPLETE INFORMATION ONLINE AT [atdp.berkeley.edu](http://atdp.berkeley.edu)

## The Unnamed Conspirator

Film and panel discussion shed light on sexual assault victim blaming

By Sophie Braccini



Anne Munch

Photo provided

Anne Munch speaks from experience about the culture of victim blaming in incidents of sexual assault. As a career prosecutor, she first identified the ‘unnamed conspirator’ – a third party who influences sexual assault cases and can be the biggest factor in determining the fate of the alleged victims and perpetrators at trial. The unnamed conspirator is society in general.

In a powerful documentary, “Sexual Assault, Naming the Unnamed Conspirator,” Munch explains the cultural myths at work and forces audience members to question their own biases. The documentary will be shown Jan. 26 at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center. Following the film a diverse panel will answer questions from the audience and discuss ways to reverse the trend of blaming rape victims for an assault.

When Diane Bell-Rettger – then president of the Orinda/Moraga/Lafayette branch of the American Association of University Women – first saw the documentary, she felt compelled to get support from all the local branches of the organization to show the movie to as large an audience as possible. “We women have been educated to take the brunt of the responsibility when such a crime happens,” says Bell-Rettger. “By showing this video we hope to challenge some of the assumptions people have.”

According to Munch, when a woman is attacked jurors tend to require proof that the victim is blameless and innocent; proof of the assault is not enough. “Some jurors disregard evidence and decide rape cases based on their perceptions over the victim’s character and lifestyle,” says Munch. “Look at alcohol: if the perpetrator is intoxicated, would you see it as an excuse or an aggravating factor? Most of the time, jurors will see it as an excuse. As for the victim, if she is intoxicated, that will count against her.”

In a Times/CNN poll, 38 percent of men and 37 percent of women said that a raped woman is partially to blame if she dresses provocatively, says Munch.

In the documentary, Munch is specific and graphic when explaining some of the cases, and cites other sobering statistics: In a study that polled more than 6,000 students at 32 colleges, “20 percent of college aged women experience rape or attempted rape during college.” Most people when thinking of sexual assault fear the lurking aggressor hidden in the bushes, but more than 80 percent of rape victims know the perpetrator, she says.

According to the same college study, the perpetrators represent about 6 percent of male students, who will assault girls four to six times during their stay in college. And while they will admit to the behavior that constitutes the legal definition of rape, 88 percent of them will deny that their behavior was indeed rape. “They don’t see themselves as doing anything wrong because they don’t have a weapon and they don’t jump out of an alley,” says Munch.

Munch gives several examples, including recordings of actual 911 calls that show even victims blame themselves. What is surprising, Munch notes, is that women jurors are no more sympathetic to victims. In fact she cites a case that was dismissed because two of the women jurors thought since the victim was walking by herself at night, she must have been ‘looking for it.’

“Women are so shocked by these cases that maybe they need to find faults in the victims,” explains Munch, “that way they may feel that if they (or their daughters) don’t do anything ‘wrong’ nothing will happen to them.”

The expert panel will include the Contra Costa County deputy district attorney in charge of sexual assault as well as the director of Community Violence Solutions (a rape crisis center), says Bell-Rettger. “Men and women will be invited to ask questions and brainstorm what we can do to change the culture.”

The free event will be held from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 26 at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette.

## 24/7 On Call HOME CARE Experts

Let us help your loved ones retain their pride, dignity & independence with our full-service home care.

### Best Home Care For Le\$\$

- Bathing, dressing, grooming & toileting
- Light housekeeping & meal preparation
- Transportation, shopping & errands
- Medication reminders & physical activities
- Companionship & more

**\$1000 OFF** first month of live-in service\*  
\*6 months minimum, offer expires 1/31/14



Call (925) 317-3080  
now to book your  
**FREE initial assessment**

(925) 317-3080 • www.CareIndeed.com • 61 Moraga Way, Suite 9, Orinda, CA 94563

## Should your family follow you to Cal?



Of course. Every time they need an eye exam. The University of California Eye Center is an integral part of the top-rated UC School of Optometry, and we’re here to offer you complete vision care for your kids, for you, and for your parents. We’re also the ones to see for LASIK surgery and contact lenses. (Our Eyewear Center has all the big names in frames!) We take most insurance plans, and major credit cards. When it comes to your eyes, go Cal!



Open to the Public 7 Days a Week • [www.caleyecare.com](http://www.caleyecare.com)  
510.642.2020 • Free Parking with Appointments



## I'm looking for work in elder care

- This would be:**
- Medicine care
  - Companionship
  - Bathing
  - Dressing
  - Shopping
  - Pet care & walking
  - More



Call 925-476-5460 and ask for Alison

I love Senior Citizens and currently teach computer skills to the elderly. I have two elderly parents that I counsel and support. And having raising two lovely sons, I know what it means to take care of someone. I am a compassionate, loving person. Thank you. Alison

## Excellent Care



AT HOME  
Heartfelt & Supportive  
Care  
At All Times...

3645 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Suite D Lafayette  
(beside Trader Joe's)  
www.excellentcareathome.com



Our mission is to provide personalized care, help maintain independence and enhance our client's quality of life on a daily basis.

- Fully bonded and insured
- Geriatric care management
- Hourly care
- Live-in care
- Transportation to and from medical appointments
- Medication reminders

Call to schedule a free assessment and plan care review. 925-284-1213

## THE BMW 4 SERIES. UN4GETTABLE: DESIGNED TO CATCH YOUR EYE.

Michael Heller, BMW Concord, mlheller78@hotmail.com

BMW Concord



Call Michael Heller  
925-998-2150

BMW Concord | 1967 Market ST. | Concord

## HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

### Up to \$375 in Installation Rebates

ENDS June 30, 2014 - CALL FOR DETAILS



Turn to ACS & "Carrier" to find everything from standard to ultra quiet, high efficiency heating & cooling systems.

**\$95\*** Furnace Maintenance

\*Ends Feb 28, 2014 - Call for Details

**ACS** Air Conditioning Systems

5151-C Port Chicago Highway ~ Concord, CA 94520

www.ACSystemsInc.com • info@ACSystemsInc.com

License # 632329

Serving the Bay Area Since 1969

**925.676.2103**

## Artistry from Agony

... continued from page B1



The shell and clock in this piece are of German origin. Nothing besides the name "Kurth" is known of the maker, who may have been French, Belgian or German. The maker delicately applied the bronze cast, wine grape vines, and clock as a utilitarian decoration to the large center artillery shell. Part of a set of three, this piece is unusual in size and technique highlighting the unique craftsmanship of trench artistry. Hollingsworth Fine Art Collection, Florida. Photo Ohlen Alexander

His free lecture, "The War Within the War: 1914-1918," begins at 2 p.m. Feb. 2 at SMC's LeFevre Theatre. A parallel exhibition, "Songs of the Patriot," explores how Irving Berlin and other noted composers of the era addressed the feelings of Americans through music as the war raged.

"It wasn't inevitable. ... There was a lot of tension in Europe but, in early June 1914, everyone was getting along with each other quite well. There was a huge amount of trade across borders ... people were focused on other things. ... Then this chain of events begins with the assassination of the Archduke. If that hadn't happened, there might well have been a war or wars in Europe, but not necessarily drawing in everybody in the way it happened," said Hochschild in a 2011 History News Network interview. "The First World War had enormous unintended consequences. ... And it permanently darkened everybody's point of view about humanity and what was possible in the world."

Conversely, says Donner, there is something noble about human beings wanting to beautify their environment – especially after the harshest, most heartrending of experiences.

### In Flanders Fields

By John McCrae, May 1915

In Flanders fields the poppies grow  
Between the crosses, row on row,  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved and were loved, and now we lie  
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders fields.

### World War I Resources

#### Books:

- "All Quiet on the Western Front," Erich Maria Remarque (1929)
- "August 1914," Alexander Solzhenitsyn (reissued with new content, 1984)
- "Counter-Attack and Other Poems," Siegfried Sassoon (1918)
- "Memoirs of an Infantry Officer," Siegfried Sassoon (1930)
- "Poems/ with an introduction by Siegfried Sassoon," Wilfred Owen (1920)
- "Regeneration," Pat Barker (1991)

#### Films:

- "Behind the Lines" (R; Gillies Mackinnon with Jonathan Pryce, 1997)
- "Beneath Hill 60" (R; Jeremy Sims with Brendan Cowell, 2010)
- "Lawrence of Arabia" (PG; David Lean with Peter O'Toole, 1962)
- "Paths of Glory" (Approved; Stanley Kubrick with Kirk Douglas, 1957)
- "The Great War and the Shaping of the 20th Century" (award-winning PBS documentary series, 1996)

## Bay Area BAD Drainage, Inc.

— FREE ESTIMATES —

## Get Ready For Water Rationing!

- Pavestone Driveway & Walkways
- Retaining Walls
- Synthetic Turf

— FREE DEMOLITION WITH INSTALL —

- French Drains
- Underfloor Drains
- Downspout Systems
- Subdrain Systems
- Sump Pumps

A General Engineering Contractor  
Locally Owned & Operated  
Lic. #732208

**925•377•9209**

visit our website

www.bayareadrainage.com



Belgian Soldier with tools.

Photo provided

### Corrections

In the article "Medalist and Acalanes Track and Field Coach Shares Joy of the Sport," published in the Jan. 1 *Lamorinda Weekly*, the high school long jump record set by Joy Upshaw's father, Monte, in 1954 was 25 feet, 4.25 inches.

The submitted article, "Interfaith Communities Join Together to Help the Homeless this Holiday Season," published in the Jan. 1 *Lamorinda Weekly* incorrectly attributed the Winter Nights program to Contra Costa Interfaith Housing. In actuality the program is a project of the Social Justice Alliance of the Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County. Learn more at cccwinternights.org.

Submit stories and story ideas to  
storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com



# Local Romance Novelist Uncovers World of Self-Publishing

By Moya Stone



Author Vanessa Kier Photo provided

One never knows what secrets our neighbors might be keeping. For example Lamorinda resident Vanessa Kier, an unassuming accounting manager by day, toils away each evening and weekend on a series of romance thrillers titled "The Surgical Strike Unit." Having just finished book number four, the author says she started out writing purely for her own entertainment.

Kier has been making up characters and plotlines for as long as she can remember and since high school, jotting down ideas in notebooks. "I've always been a storyteller," says Kier. But did she ever think that one day she might become a published author?

Kier says, actually, she fought against publishing. After years of watching other writers face the ups and downs of the competitive industry, she didn't think she wanted to go through all that herself. But as her characters developed and began to take the lead, Kier felt, in a way, responsible and realized that perhaps she owed it to them to share their stories with readers. "I thought if I loved these characters I'm sure other people would love them too," says Kier, who after so many years of writing just for herself, finally made the choice to publish.

Romance novels were already familiar to Kier, having read them in college. She chose the genre for her own writing because she believes it's important for character development and emotional depth to have strong relationships "and love interest between two people seems to be the most powerful," says the author.

She initially went the traditional route pitching to agents and editors. Although Kier did get an agent for another book project, offers weren't coming in for her romance novels. Meanwhile she noticed writer friends having some success with self-publishing and so she decided to give it a

try. Having attended writers' conferences for years as well as workshops on self-publishing, Kier was aware that she must first hire experienced people who could do what she couldn't. Number one on the list was an editor. "Every manuscript needs at least one professional editing session," says Kier, "because no writer is perfect." Through her network of fellow scribes, most of whom she met at Romance Writers of America conferences, she found an editor. Then she found a cover designer whose work she liked. Finally she had each novel go through a "nitpicky about grammar and reasonably priced" proof-reader.

The next phase of the process was to get her manuscripts ready for e-book formatting. Undaunted, Kier did all the technical tasks herself having purchased a manuscript converting software program called Jutoh. She says she enjoyed the challenges although there was a definite learning curve.

The entire publishing process took five months and in 2013 Kier's romantic thrillers came available on Amazon.com and Barnes & Noble both in print and as e-books. Full of murder, intrigue, and of course romance, the series features an array of agents who work for the SSU (Surgical Strike Unit), a private special operations group trying to stop a deadly scientific program from kidnapping men and turning them into mind-controlled, superhuman soldiers. The stories draw on Kier's undergraduate studies in political science and her experiences in the Peace Corps.

Believing in muses, Kier says the complex plotlines just come to her. She also relies heavily on her characters. It all starts with a character and then Kier tries to figure out their story. "I do put my characters through hell," she admits. "I'd never want to come back as one of them." But she does like living with her characters, writing several hours every day.

There are no regrets for Kier. She says she enjoys having the control self-publishing allows as well as the ability to make changes at any stage in the process.

Now Kier is on to other characters and stories. Check out her website: <http://www.vanessakier.com/>.

## All That's Jazz:

... continued from page B2

Stanley Middle School music director Bob Athayde was thrilled to hear about Ferber's nomination. Athayde first met the musical twins when directing Campolindo's summer jazz band. Athayde said the Ferber brothers have a standing invitation as guest instructors at the Lafayette Jazz Festival because of their "raised to be humble" upbringing. "You'd think they were accountants," he said.

Still, they are "articulate, fun-

loving guys," and Athayde calls Alan Ferber "one of the great musicians on the planet."

"Alan is a mentor 20 years younger than me," he said.

Ferber's wife, cellist Jody Redhag, his mother and brother, Michael, will all be his guests at the Grammys in Los Angeles Jan. 26. Ferber said, "After enduring years of annoying trombone practice routines, this is [Michael's] payoff... he wouldn't miss it!"

When not composing or performing, Ferber teaches. He is adjunct professor of jazz trombone and composition at New York University's Steinhardt School, Johns Hopkins University's Peabody Conservatory, and Montclair State University's John J. Cali School of Music.

The 56th annual Grammy awards show airs at 8 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 26 on CBS TV. To learn more, go online to [www.Grammy.com](http://www.Grammy.com).

Alan Ferber, Sunnyside Records:

- March Sublime (2013)
- Alan Ferber (2010)
- Chamber Songs: Music for Nonet and Strings (2010)
- The Compass (2007)
- Scenes from an Exit Row (2005)
- Playground (2001)

GET AHEAD IN MATH THIS YEAR



WHEN MATH MAKES SENSE, YOU SUCCEED!

**MATHNASIUM**  
The Math Learning Center

**GRADES K-12**  
Pre-Algebra • Algebra 1 & 2 • Geometry  
Pre-Calculus & Calculus  
SAT/ACT Preparatory  
Individualized Instruction

**HOMEWORK HELP FOR ALL LEVELS**  
Flat Monthly Fee  
Drop-in any time, no scheduling needed!

**1 WEEK FREE TUTORING & HOMEWORK HELP**  
Must present coupon. New students only.

3435 Mt. Diablo Boulevard, Lafayette  
(Golden Gate Way at Mt. Diablo Blvd.)  
(925) 283-4200 [www.mathnasium.com](http://www.mathnasium.com)



*sew*now!  
fashion studio

## Learn to sew in 2014!

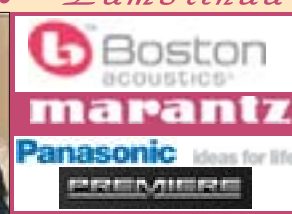
Exciting New Classes + Skills Workshops

- Adults: Intro to Machine Embroidery, Home Decorating
- Kids & Teens: Quilting, Teen Fashion Group
- Juniors: Sweet Dreams for My Doll - make a doll's bed!
- Workshops for essential skills or fun seasonal projects

In addition to our core Fashion Design & Sewing Curriculum  
**Classes starting now - call or visit [sewnow.com](http://sewnow.com) to register!**

Fashion & Sewing Classes - Camps - Workshops - Birthday Parties - Girl Scouts - Brother Sewing Machines  
3534 Golden Gate Way, Lafayette, (925) 283-7396 [sewnow.com](http://sewnow.com)

## Celebrating our 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary *Thank you Lamorinda*



Offering Complete Systems, Upgrades & Universal Remote Solutions  
Proudly Serving The Lamorinda Community Since 2002



Free-In-Home Estimates  
**925-209-7001**  
P.O. Box 365  
Moraga, CA 94556

## Happy New Year GET ORGANIZED & START THE NEW YEAR RIGHT!



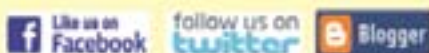
LET STORAGE DO THE JOB; CLEAN OUT THE CLOSETS, THE GARAGE, THE EXTRA ROOM... GET READY FOR A CLEAN SWEEP YEAR, MINUS ALL THE CLUTTER FROM 2013!

## TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THESE EXCEPTIONALLY LOW PRICES...

4x6 E WAS \$75...NOW \$53    8x8 EE WAS \$140...NOW \$99  
7x7 E WAS \$135...NOW \$95    8x8 IE WAS \$159...NOW \$112

**THESE GREAT PRICES HOLD FOR 3 MONTHS!**

TAKE A TOUR AND RECEIVE A FREE GIFT, WITH OUR "THANKS"!



USE OUR FREE VAN TO MOVE IN WHEN YOU RENT!



\* SELECT PROMOTIONAL UNITS ARE LIMITED, RENT SOON! OFFERS EXPIRE 1/31/14



455 MORAGA ROAD, SUITE F  
(925) 631-7000  
[WWW.5ASPACE.COM](http://WWW.5ASPACE.COM)

ASK FOR YOUR 2012 NEIGHBORHOOD COUPONS WHEN YOU COME VISIT US!



Reach 60,000+ in Lamorinda  
Advertise in Lamorinda Weekly Call  
925-377-0977 today

Thank you for your help in advertising our seminar. It's already full and I am still receiving many calls each day. J.



## Floral Arts Florist

Fresh flowers for any occasion  
Weddings • Proms  
Sympathy arrangements • Plants

**Taking orders now  
for Valentines Day**

3584 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette  
(925) 284-5765 www.floralartsflorist.com

We are NOW a part of "THE KNOT"



## Brian D. McLaren

Hailed by *TIME* magazine as one of the 25 most influential speakers, social justice advocates, pastors and writers of our day.

**February 1 & 2, 2014**

Brian McLaren to speak:

**Sat., Feb. 1, 5-6:30 p.m.**  
Book: "Naked Spirituality" – Free

**Sun., Feb. 2, 9:00 & 11:00 a.m.**  
– Worship Services / Special Music –

**Sun., Feb. 2, 12:15 p.m.**  
Book: "Why Did Jesus Cross the Road ..."  
– Light Lunch, \$5 at the door –

R.S.V.P. at [LOPC.org](http://LOPC.org) Childcare available

LAFAYETTE-ORINDA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
Questions? [Lisette@LOPC.org](mailto:Lisette@LOPC.org)

## Parenting for "Authentic Success"

Challenge Success co-founder to discuss how Lamorinda parents can encourage teens in today's society

By Clare Varellas



Madeline Levine Photo provided

In a world of unbelievably low college acceptance rates, increased competition in high school sports, and the pivotal importance of the resume, the golden college acceptance letter, championship trophy, or prestigious award can seem like the ultimate measure of success to the contemporary teenager.

But world-renowned psychologist and co-founder of Stanford University's Challenge Success program Madeline Levine says these "metric" measures of success are not as important as many high school students, parents, teachers, and administrators seem to think they are, and she is working to spread the news.

"None of us are the best at everything, and what I see is kids have developed an incredibly unrealistic point of view aided and abetted by the parents, by the school, but mostly by the general culture, that if you're not the best, you're a failure," said Levine.

Levine, a well-known clinician, consultant, educator, and author, will

be giving a presentation for Lamorinda parents Jan. 23 at the Acalanes High School Performing Arts Center about how to encourage children to not only do well metrically, but, more importantly, to develop good character traits and live happy lives.

"I'm going to be talking about what it means to give a kid a leg up, because every parent wants to give their kid a leg up," said Levine. "Some of the ways we do that are in the best interests of our children, and some of the ways in which communities like Palo Alto or Lafayette or Marin are doing that are really working against healthy development."

Levine, who centers a lot of her work around teenagers in affluent communities, says that the pressure high school students living in wealthy, successful communities feel from adults leads to much higher rates of depression, anxiety issues, and substance abuse.

"The parents in these communities are well-educated and tend to be affluent and have hard-driving careers themselves, and place a particularly high value on the metrics of success," said Levine. "By that I mean how much money do you earn, which college did you go to, who are you working for. While those are one set of measures of success, they have very little to do with either adjustment or happiness, and at the end of the day we want our kids to be successful, but we also want them to be well-adjusted and happy."

In the past, Levine has written several books: The New York Times bestselling work "The Price of Privilege" and her latest book "Teach Your

Children Well." She is also widely sought after as a speaker and a source for television and radio interviews. As one of the heads of Challenge Success, Levine helps oversee the program, which works to provide resources for managing student stress levels and mental outlooks at approximately 120 schools across the country.

"We believe that being entirely focused on grades and test scores leaves little time and energy for other [qualities] to develop," said Levine. "We provide the research-based tools to help raise kids with greater well-being. We don't measure success at the end of the semester, but over decades."

Originally a junior high and high school teacher, Levine says she enjoys working with teenagers, and hates to see their mental conditions deteriorate because of stress levels when there are so many other bad things happening in the world. Therefore, at presentations like the upcoming one at Acalanes, she strives to allow parents to see that there are multiple levels of success, and grades and titles are just one of them.

"Do we all want to see our kids work hard and be successful? Of course," said Levine. "Do we want that at the cost of their mental health? Of course not."

Madeline Levine's presentation is scheduled from 7 to 9 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 23 at the Acalanes High School Performing Arts Center. Tickets (\$10 for one; \$15 for two) are available at <http://madelinelevine.eventbrite.com>.

## "August: Osage County"

By Derek Zemrak



Photos provided

John Wells is a six-time Emmy Award winner who produced and wrote great television shows including "ER," "The West Wing" and "Southland," and is the director of "August: Osage County," that garnered a 2008 Pulitzer Prize for author Tracy Letts. Letts also wrote the screenplay, which is produced by Hollywood heavyweights George Clooney and Harvey Weinstein.

This "dramedy" – drama/comedy – revolves around Vi Weston, the pill-popping and f-word using matriarch of a dysfunctional Oklahoma plains family. She is played by the incredible 17-time Oscar nominee and three-time Oscar winner Meryl Streep. Streep is a true chameleon – from her role in "The Deer Hunter" to her role as Margaret Thatcher in "The Iron Lady," which won her an Oscar last year – once again Streep pulls off magic and will receive her record breaking 18th Oscar nomination. A family crisis reunites the Weston family and they all must deal with their deeply divided lives. Oscar winner Julia Roberts ("Erin Brockovich") delivers what I believe is the best performance of her career, portraying Vi Weston's bit-

ter and hostile daughter, Barbara. The amazing ensemble also includes Oscar winner Chris Cooper ("Adaptation"); Ewan McGregor ("Moulin Rouge!"); Margo Martindale ("Dead Man Walking"), and Oscar nominees Sam Shepard ("The Right Stuff"), Juliette Lewis ("Cape Fear"), Abigail Breslin ("Little Miss Sunshine") and Golden Globe nominee Benedict Cumberbatch ("Sherlock"). The performances of the entire cast are outstanding.

"August: Osage County" is bitterly funny in a few scenes but overall it is a dramatic piece. It does feel stacy at times – especially inside the house – and it is Julia Roberts who pulls the scenes back into being a motion picture.

"August: Osage County" is rated R for language, alcohol and drug use, sexual content and violence.

Derek Zemrak is a film critic, film producer and founder of the California Independent Film Festival. You can follow Derek on Twitter @zemrak for the latest Hollywood news. Derek can be heard every Friday on KAHN 950AM on the Poppoff Show.



## The GRUBB Co.

We are pleased to welcome

## CYNTHIA SPEERS

Joining our Berkeley Office

O: 652.2133 /417  
C: 510.517.6939  
[cynthia@grubbco.com](mailto:cynthia@grubbco.com)  
[eastbayhomesbycynthia.com](http://eastbayhomesbycynthia.com)  
GRUBBCO.COM



## TREE SCULPTURE

COMPLETE TREE CARE  
**Proudly serving the East Bay since 1965!**  
Fully Insured ❖ Certified Arborists ❖ License #655977  
(925) 254-7233 ❖ [www.treesculpture.com](http://www.treesculpture.com)



# Fun Events Kick off New Year at Lamorinda's Libraries

By Cathy Tyson

Who doesn't want to be smarter, healthier, and make new friends in 2014? There are more than just books and computers at Lamorinda's libraries; to help address New Year's resolutions, a wide variety of programs tailored to educate and entertain everyone, from toddlers to senior citizens, are being offered free of charge. All three libraries have dedicated story times for little ones, and offerings beyond reading abound.

Teenagers wondering what to do with their lives might want to check out "Networking and Career Day" from 2 to 4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 1 at the Lafayette Library. Organizer Patrick Brogan has lined up a number of professionals including a NASA scientist, a successful photographer and a non-profit executive to talk with teens and tweens about potential career paths and how to break into them. Also for students in grades 6 through 12, there's a special, complimentary event, Learn How to Make Sushi at 3:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 29.

Looking to learn something new? On Sunday afternoons starting at 3 p.m. in Lafayette there's "Improve your Chess Game" that's open to folks of all ages and abilities to gain insight, or to just find someone to enjoy the game with. The Enjoy Thinking Discussion Group will meet on at 6 p.m. tonight, Jan. 15 to discuss "Plato." T'ai Chi for adults and seniors is a low impact way to improve balance and reduce stress, with experienced sensei Robert Noha at 6 p.m. Friday, Jan. 21 and 28. On Jan. 23 Dr. Marshall Zaslove will facilitate a program on meditation at 6:30 p.m.

For grown-ups searching for a more active social life, the Lafayette Book Club meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month. The lively discussion for the Jan. 22 meeting will center on "The Language of Flowers" by Vanessa Diffenbaugh. Newcomers are welcome. Librarian Ann Miller says they usually select

popular books and have multiple copies available for check out. Copies of the following month's selection will be available as well.

While not quite free, those hoping to read more in the new year can find bargains galore, including half-price books, at the Friends Corner Book Shop from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 18. "Friends" is entirely staffed by volunteers and sells gently used books, music and more; proceeds go to fund the Lafayette Library and Learning Center.

Who doesn't like beautiful music, and snacks? Both can be found at the Lafayette Library's Community Hall with the Contra Costa Performing Arts Society giving a jazz piano concert at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 24.

Don't forget about options in Orinda and Moraga. The Orinda Library is home to the Paws to Read program every Wednesday at 3:30 p.m. where kids age 5 through 11 can practice reading with friendly furry, non-judgmental listeners. Moraga has a similar canine program, All Ears Reading, where children in grades 1 through 5 can practice reading aloud to a dog from the Animal Rescue Foundation's Pet Hug Pack therapy dogs at 4 p.m. on the fourth Thursday of every month, beginning Jan. 23. Also in Moraga is an eBook and Audio book workshop for Kindle users at 2 p.m. Jan. 21. Contra Costa Libraries have a large and growing collection of ebooks, in this workshop you'll learn how to download and more. Space is limited and registration is required; call (925) 376-6852 to sign up.

For more information on any of these programs and for complete listings, go to www.lllcf.org for information on the Lafayette Library and Learning Center - click on calendar. For information on Orinda and Moraga libraries, go to the Contra Costa County library website at www.cclib.org and click on events calendar.

# Lafayette Native Awarded Marshall Scholarship

Submitted by Jeanette Shearer



Emily Shearer

Photo provided

Lafayette native Emily Shearer recently won the coveted Marshall Scholarship, which is awarded to up to 40 scholars who are selected each year to study at graduate level in any field of study at an institution in the United Kingdom. Shearer, who graduated from Acalanes High School in 2010 and currently attends Cornell University, will study in the UK for two years. She plans to pursue a master's degree at Cambridge University her first year, and a second master's at Oxford University

during her second year. According to its website, Marshall Scholarships finance young Americans of high ability to study for a graduate degree in the UK. Shearer is majoring in government and biological sciences at Cornell, is a record-holding runner and team captain on the Cornell cross country and track teams, and has worked as an emergency medical technician on campus. For information about the Marshall Scholarship, visit www.marshallscholarship.org.

## Share Your Celebrations and Remembrances

If you would like to share an announcement about a special event or achievement, such as a wedding, engagement, scholarship or graduation of a local resident, or about a special person from Lamorinda who has passed, send a photo along with your text (up to 250 words) to storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com, and include "Celebrations and Remembrances" in the subject line.

**5A HAS BOXES, LOCKS, ALL KINDS OF PACKING SUPPLIES!**

- Boxes in all sizes • Tape • Bubble wrap
- Specialty packing supplies • Dish packs
- Glassware compartments • File boxes w/lids

DOWNLOAD A PACKING SUPPLY COUPON FROM [5Aspace.com](http://5Aspace.com)

**5A RENT-A-SPACE**  
455 Moraga Rd. Suite F  
(925) 631-7000  
[www.5Aspace.com](http://www.5Aspace.com)

Do you feel like you are throwing your money away at the dealership service department?

You don't have to pay dealer prices while under warranty.

Pre-paid service contracts eliminate choice & convenience.

Choose a local facility that offers one stop convenience and service you can trust!

# Orinda Motors Inc.

Express Oil Change & Tire Center  
Orinda Auto Rental

63 Orinda Way, Orinda, Ca., 94563  
(925)254-2012  
[www.orindamotors.com](http://www.orindamotors.com)

**BUNJO'S COMEDY** **Bunjo's Comedy All Star Show**  
The New Rheem Theatre - 350 Park St - Moraga, CA  
Saturday January 18 - 8:00 pm - \$12

Featuring Some Of The Best Comedians From The Bay Area & Beyond.  
HBO, Comedy Central, Late Night And More!

Hosted By

Lineup subject to change without notice

For more information and to purchase tickets go to [www.lamorindatheatres.com](http://www.lamorindatheatres.com) or 925-388-0751

It's game night at the RHEEM!  
Re-live the campy TV game show of the 70's era!

# MATCH GAME RETRO

Don't miss this show or you might turn into the world's biggest \_\_\_\_\_.

Featuring a panel of local celebrities!

A revival of the television hit game show presented "LIVE" at the RHEEM Theatre. Saturday, January 25th 7:00pm - Admission is FREE for this pilot performance only. Space is limited! Send an email to [derek@zemrak.com](mailto:derek@zemrak.com) to reserve your seat.

Check [www.lamorindatheatres.com](http://www.lamorindatheatres.com) for all movie listings





**Brian Clark, Psy.D.**

licensed clinical psychologist  
PSY 25198

ADOLESCENTS  
ADULTS · FAMILIES

specializing in:

- Achievement Pressure
- AD/HD
- Parenting Support
- Anxiety
- School Stress
- Depression

954 Risa Road · Lafayette  
(925) 385-8050  
www.brianclarkpsyd.com

## THE APP RAP

By Eric Pawlakos

**App:** Twitter by Twitter, Inc.  
**For:** All Smartphones  
**Price:** Free

There are so many different smartphone apps available today; it is becoming more and more difficult to single one out as a 'must have' app. However, if you are a fan of social media, and most teenagers are, Twitter is an app that you absolutely need to install. Many smartphone users are already familiar with Twitter. According to the company, they have over 230 million monthly active users sending out 500 million Tweets every day. Over 75 percent of these users access their Twitter account on their smartphone. Clearly this is a very popular app! And, with 77 percent of the accounts outside the United States, Twitter is also a truly global social media company. Twitter has become the most popular way for users to stay connected with their friends and family by exchanging short messages of up to 140 characters. These short messages are called Tweets, and they are not limited to words. You can add photos, videos, and links. It is also a great way to fol-

low what other people are saying and reach out to them, whether they are sports personalities, business professionals, or celebrities. You can easily search for people by their name or use



your email to invite friends to join you on Twitter. For social media fans, Twitter is a 'must have' app.

Alex Pawlakos enjoys biking, weightlifting, and tutoring in his spare time. He is a reporter on Express Yourself!(tm) Teen Radio. Alex is an economics major at UC Berkeley.

# TEEN SCENE

## Teen Volunteerism Warms Up the Winter

By Andrew Wang



String chamber group Jacob Ngai, Cary Huang, Andrew Wang, Alicia Kim, Soha Sadeghinejad, Michael Huang, Brian Davis, Will Gu play in front of the Orinda Library. Photo provided

Along with the frosty weather of the winter holiday season and the freshly thawed New Year came sources of familiar warmth: friends warmed their fingers by the fireplace enjoying a steaming cup of hot chocolate as soothing holiday tunes played on the radio. But what really completed the picture for local teens was their dedication to community service, in the spirit of giving back for the holidays. The holiday season is a time for celebration and cheer, but also a time to pay respects to the community, to help the sick and provide relief to other communities affected by recent disasters.

Over winter break, a group of Campolindo High School students, Jacob Ngai, Alicia Kim, Soha Sadeghinejad, Michael Huang, Cary Huang, Brian Davis, William Gu and myself, decided to make the most of this spirit of giving. Under the wing of local literacy charity Be the Star You Are, which has been promoting literacy and distributing books since 1999, the local teens performed as a string chamber group, playing holiday tunes in front of the Orinda Library. The enthusiastic group was pleased to make passing families smile in recognition of familiar jingles, from "O Little Town of Bethlehem" to "Joy to the World." They even provided shakers for eager toddler audience members who wanted to add their own flair to the music. Most importantly, these caring teens raised money for Operation Disaster Relief, which donated over 2,000 brand new books to children affected by the recent tornadoes in the Midwest.

"It was a pleasure to make kids smile through our playing," says Ngai, "and to know that we would make even more kids smile through the books we helped supply for Christmas."

The goal was to be able to get a new book to the thousands of children negatively affected by the recent natural disaster. We were impressed by the generosity of community members' contributions.

Other teens used their winter break to help the local community in other ways, some aiding the injured and ill at Kaiser Permanente and John Muir Medical Center, others inspiring a love of books at local libraries. Avan Chu, a junior at Miramonte High School, volunteered at the Orinda Library. During the holiday break he routed books across the county in time for Christmas and the new school season. "The best part of my job is knowing that I am helping deliver knowledge to little kids," he reflects. "That's the best gift of all." Whether promoting a lifelong love of reading or just making someone smile for a day, teens made the best of their break time to contribute to the community and beyond.

Andrew Wang, the Director of Concerts for Be the Star You Are! charity, is a student at Campolindo High School. Besides writing and reporting, he enjoys playing the piano and violin, and tossing a good hammer throw on his Frisbee. Check Lamorinda Weekly's "Not to Be Missed" section for upcoming free concerts offered by local teens.



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

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

## Parents, Get Ready for Kindergarten!

2014-15 Kindergarten and Transitional Kindergarten registration for the three school districts will be happening in January and February. Children must be 5 years old on or before Sept. 1 to enter kindergarten for the 2014-15 school year. Transitional Kindergarten (TK) is an optional program for those children who have their 5th birthday between (including) Sept. 2 and Dec. 2.

### Lafayette School District

(Burton Valley, Happy Valley, Lafayette, and Springhill elementary schools)

Registration for both programs will take place at the district's four elementary schools Tuesday and Wednesday, Jan. 21 and 22 at the following times:

Burton Valley Elementary from 9 to 11 a.m. and 1 to 3 p.m.  
Happy Valley Elementary from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m.  
Lafayette Elementary from 9 to noon  
Springhill Elementary from 9 to 11 a.m.

Registration packets can be obtained from the schools prior to registration, beginning Jan. 7, however the earliest day in which completed packets will be accepted by the schools is Jan. 22, during registration times. For more information about kindergarten registration, go to the district's website at: www.lafsd.k12.ca.us.

### Moraga School District

(Camino Pablo, Donald Rheem and Los Perales elementary schools)  
Kindergarten and Transitional Kindergarten registration

for 2014-15 will be held from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday and Friday, Feb. 6 and 7. For more information, visit www.moraga.k12.ca.us.

### Orinda Union School District

(Del Rey, Glorietta, Sleepy Hollow, and Wagner Ranch elementary schools)

Transitional Kindergarten and Kindergarten registration for children entering an Orinda public school in August 2014 will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at each of four elementary schools Monday through Thursday, Feb. 3-6. Registration requires the presentation of various documents. These documents and specific instructions are outlined on the district's website. Please note that some of the items need to be the original, certified documents. Visit www.orindaschools.org for more information.

Classified • Classified • Classified • Classified • Classified • Classified • Classified • Classified

### Music Lessons

**Piano/guitar w/ Robbie Dunbar**  
All levels welcome!  
I travel to your home.  
M. A. Music Composition  
Piano tuning as well!  
925-323-9706  
robbiednbr@gmail.com

### Tax Service

**Diablo Tax Service**  
IRS Licensed Enrolled Agents  
Serving Lamorinda since 1989  
bonded & insured 925-283-9382

### Rototilling

**Ken's Rototilling**  
• 4 W/D Tractors  
• Hillside Weed Cutting  
• Mowing • Discing • Rototilling  
Free estimates! 925-938-9836  
licensed, bonded & insured. CA#667491  
www.kensrototilling.com

### House Cleaning

**www.totalclean.biz**  
Serving Lamorinda since 1985.  
Insured and bonded 376-1004.

### Tile Setting

Baths, Showers, Floors, Walls,  
Counters  
Cliff 510-697-1125

### Computer Service

**COMPUTERS' BEST FRIEND**  
Home & Office Computer Service  
• ONSITE REPAIRS • VIRUS REMOVAL  
• WINDOWS TUTORING  
• HARDWARE UPGRADES  
• NETWORK SETUP AND SUPPORT  
• REMOTE DESKTOP/TELEPHONE SUPPORT  
www.computersbestfriend.com  
925-682-3408 • 510-938-1881

### Balance Class

**Balance Class Lafayette**  
Dance and Movement Center,  
1018 Almanor Lane Weds: 1-2pm;  
\$20 per class. Fun movements  
designed to improve your balance.  
Simple choreography (no dance  
experience necessary) plus exer-  
cises for balance, coordination,  
strength and flexibility. Must be  
able to walk without assistance  
and to get down and up from the  
floor. To confirm space:  
estherwetzal@yahoo.com or  
(925)262-3155.

### Windows & Gutters

**Reliable Window Cleaning**  
Friendliness & remarkable results.  
Windows, Gutters, Pressure  
Washing. (925) 254-7622  
ReliableWindowService.com

### Plumbing

**LEAPFROG PLUMBING**  
**WE HOP TO IT!**  
(925) 377-6600  
LeapFrogPlumbing.com

### Handyman

**Rusty Nails Handy Man Service**  
Repair • Restore • Revamp  
Call Rusty- (925) 825-6997

### Fencing

**Ken's Quality Fencing**  
Custom redwood fences & retaining  
walls installed. Free estimates  
licensed, bonded & insured. CA#667491  
925-938-9836 www.kensrototilling.com

### Tree Service

**East Bay Tree Service.**  
377-8733. Fine pruning, large  
tree removal, stump grinding  
License #805794

**Tree & brush removal.**  
Poison Oak removal. 376-1995,  
Licensed, insured & bonded

### Construction

**Concept Builders**  
Remodeling, Home Repair &  
New Construction  
Bonded & Insured. License no. 842563  
(925) 283-8122, Cell: (925) 768-4983

### Painting Contractor

Interior, Exterior & Repairs  
Professional & Reliable  
Call Terry 925-788-1663 Lic. # 851058

Jacob Spilsbury - General Contractor  
American owned and operated  
Renovation • Remodeling • Home Repair  
Big & Small Jobs • Bonded & Insured  
Lic # 898775 925-825-5201

### FREE Kittens

Will you love me?



I am looking for a home with  
loving parents in a safe  
environment. Could that be you?  
There are many adorable cats &  
kittens to choose. Give us a call:  
Judy @ 925-788-8675 or  
Michelle @ 925-324-7519.

### Insurance

**Totalintegrityinsurance.com**  
20+yr Lamorinda resident.  
My independent insurance  
brokerage is here to serve you.  
Over 100 top carriers = great pricing  
and coverage for Biz Gen Liability,  
W Comp, Homes, Auto, Life. Call  
**Henry at (925) 247-4356** OE0108

\$8 per 1/2" classified ad height  
Email to:  
classified@lamorindaweekly.com



# Want to See an Odor-Free and Maintenance-Free Chicken Coop?

Visit the Lafayette Community Garden

By Sophie Braccini



Hens get a lot of attention on the inauguration day of their new Lafayette home.

Photo Sophie Braccini

Lafayette Community Garden, off Mt. Diablo Boulevard close to Oakwood, officially inaugurated its sustainable chicken coop Jan. 11. Built per John Kiefer's (Papa John's) specifications, the coop will house 10 hens, require very little maintenance, and serve as an example of best sustainable practices in a semi-rural environment.

Last Saturday morning, adults and children alike were immediately drawn to the handsome structure, entered the run, and started feeding and petting the friendly white leghorns and ameraucana hens. It was exactly what the garden members envisioned: an educational opportunity for the community.

"We have completed the Fort

Knox of sustainable chicken coops," said Papa John in his introductory speech. A sustainable coop is a chicken housing that's built for the longterm healthy living of the animals – and "Fort Knox" means it is built to withstand the attack of any predator.

"The run is 16 by 24 feet and completely enclosed with chicken wire," explained Papa John. An 8-inch-deep trench was dug all around the coop where the 1/2 by 1 inch heavy duty welded wire was buried. "We need this so the underground pests can't get into the chicken's domain," he added. Since the coop is next to open space it also needed to be protected from foxes and cougars, so the wire covers the run as well.

The coop is odorless and does not

need to be cleaned – achieved through a design Papa John perfected over the years. First, the entire run and housing is built on soft soil, a mixture of the original dirt, wood shavings, straw and potting soil. Then the coop (the house where the hens sleep and lay) is built on cement blocks, elevated a few inches off the ground to provide what Papa John describes as 360 degrees of air circulation.

"The chicken poop falls on the soft soil, it dries very quickly and there is no smell," he said. Hens naturally scratch the soil and tilt it since it is soft, creating naturally aged chicken manure.

Maggie Archibald was the project manager of the chicken project. She is part of the community garden and

has an interest in the birds. She will be taking care of the coop with a team of garden volunteers. "Those are compostable floors," said Archibald. "I will turn it around once in a while and add wood shavings, and in about six months to a year, we'll move the coop's soil and put it in our compost pile." This will close the cycle that makes chickens a great addition to the garden. "In the spring we feed them the grubs from the garden, in winter they get leftover greens like kale (that's how you get omega-3 yokes), and they will give us eggs."

The clean and pretty coop will also be a great demonstration site for anyone interested in having chickens in their yard. Right now there are code restrictions as to the type of properties that can have chickens in

Lafayette – although there are a number of 'out-of-code' hens. Papa John is working with other volunteers and city staff to amend the code; a draft proposal should reach the City Council within one or two months.

"Our quote on the gate is 'In Nature Nothing Exists Alone.' Having chickens here will show that to people and teach how to care for things in a sustainable way," said community garden cheerleader Janet Thomas. "Having the chickens here enriches the educational opportunities of our community."

The coop will be open to the public starting in March, on Wednesdays from 2 to 5 p.m., Thursdays from 9 a.m. to noon, and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information, visit [lafayettecommunitygarden.org](http://lafayettecommunitygarden.org).

## The Big Mistake Students Make When Filling Out FAFSA

By Elizabeth LaScala, PhD

As the flurry starts to die down around applying to colleges, there is a new issue for students and their families to consider. Students may have to be just as thoughtful about filling out the FAFSA as they were about completing their college applications.

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) can be prepared annually by current and prospective college students to determine their eligibility for financial aid. The application is the access point of consideration for many federal student-aid programs, over 600 state aid programs and most of the institutional (college) aid available to help students pay for their education.

The U.S. Department of Education begins accepting FAFSA applications on Jan. 1 for the upcoming academic year. Students can send the FAFSA to up to 10 schools at a time; when you complete it, you are asked to list the colleges to which you are applying. The Education Department then shares the information on the FAFSA with all of the colleges on the list. What most students may not realize is that the order in which they list those schools could influence their admission chances or their aid award.

Some claim the order in which a student lists colleges directly corresponds to the student's college preferences. That may not be true of all students, but there is some data that supports this assertion. Anecdotally, when I review a student's college list, I see that many do prioritize it automatically. It's the nature of making lists and rankings ... you tend to put your top choices at the top. It is even more likely for teens, who have just gone through one of the most stressful periods of their high school years. As they research and select colleges to apply to, complete applications and fill out many different forms, they seem to naturally prioritize their colleges. In fact, a number of colleges ask this same question on their own applications, and, although theories abound, no one really knows how they use this information.

If students do, in fact, list schools based on how they rank them, then

the list could prove valuable to college administrators and enrollment managers who are concerned with yield and distribution of institutional awards. Many college advisors, financial aid counselors and professional organizations express concern about this observation. "The student has no idea that this information is being used in this context," said David Hawkins, director of public policy and research for the National Association for College Admission Counseling. The federal government ... doesn't indicate it. And institutions certainly aren't telling students they are using it ... this is a concern from our standpoint." Hawkins thinks that mostly private colleges would be inclined to take the student's list into account, since they are trying to predict and improve their "yield" – that is, the percentage of applicants offered admission who decide to enroll. Although Hawkins declined to name specific colleges that are doing this, he maintains that some are.

Many have concerns about the lack of awareness regarding this practice, rather than the fact that it happens. If you are not aware, you can't formulate a counter strategy. Others may experience dismay or even outrage at the realization that colleges act like businesses. They can and do use data to enhance their own bottom line. Just because they are in the business of education does not make their behavior less rational, but it does sour those who are under the impression that institutions of higher learning prioritize the welfare of their students over their own financial health.

Aside from rejecting students who may put their institution lower on the list, some colleges may also offer smaller aid packages to students who list their institutions at the top – why provide an incentive to a student who is already likely to enroll? Many families tell me they are willing to 'do whatever it takes' to enable a child to attend their first choice school.

It is unclear exactly how critical this situation actually is. Colleges have many ways of assessing student interest, including whether they visit the campus, write early and often for

information, attend regional events hosted by the school, register for an interview and so on. From my perspective this is just one of many factors a college may take into account when making an admission or financial aid decision.

Due to the many who express concerns, the Education Department is looking into this matter to determine if change is needed regarding the information they release to colleges. For now, private college consultants (many of whom are just becoming aware of the issue themselves) are advising their clients who use the FAFSA to list colleges in alphabetical order to avoid having the list be used in decision-making. My own recommendation is when you fill out the FAFSA, list the in-state public institutions in priority order at the beginning of your list, since some states may require you to list state schools first to be considered for aid; then list the private schools right below them, in alpha order. This strategy demonstrates clearly to colleges that your list has been both categorized and alphabetized and helps avoid the use of these data for enrollment management purposes.



Elizabeth LaScala Ph.D. guides families through the sometimes complex world of college admission. She helps students identify college majors and career paths, develops good fit college lists, and provides essay coaching and application support to help students tackle each step of the admission process with confidence and success. Elizabeth also helps families maximize opportunities for scholarships and financial aid awards. Visit [www.doingcollege.com](http://www.doingcollege.com); Call (925) 891-4491 or email at [elizabeth@doingcollege.com](mailto:elizabeth@doingcollege.com).

**Crab Feed & Dance**

**Saturday, February 8, 6:00 – 11:00 p.m.**  
**Bring your appetites & dancing shoes.**  
**Music provided by popular DJ.**  
**Dinner & Dance \$45; Dance only \$10.**  
**For tickets & reservations**  
**call (925) 672-6799.**

**Holy Trinity Cultural Center, 1700 School Street, Moraga.**



**For non-crab lovers:**  
**Chicken available by special**  
**advance order request.**  
**Dinner tickets MUST be**  
**purchased in advance.**



**CALVIN CRAIG LANDSCAPING**

- GARDEN DESIGN AND PLANNING
- CUSTOM LANDSCAPE INSTALLATION
- EXPERT GARDENING AND HORTICULTURE



- AWARD-WINNING SERVICE
- ATTENTION TO DETAIL
- LOW-MAINTENANCE DESIGN
- CLIENT-FOCUSED
- SUSTAINABLE
- PLACE-APPROPRIATE
- SINCE 1988

[WWW.CRAIGLANDSCAPING.COM](http://WWW.CRAIGLANDSCAPING.COM)  
**925-935-5269**  
cL# 545003




## College Success

### Learn What You Need to Know

- Exploring **Majors** and **Careers**
- Picking the **Right Colleges**
- Writing **Great Essays**
- Preparing **Strong Applications**
- Getting **Financial Aid**



**Elizabeth LaScala, PhD**  
**925-891-4491**  
[www.doingcollege.com](http://www.doingcollege.com)





## Not to be missed

### ART

"Love at First Sight," the new show at the Lafayette Art Gallery, celebrates the love of the visual and tactile world, and the multitude of ways artists express that love through the mediums of our art. A champagne and chocolate reception will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 1; all are welcome. If you haven't yet visited the new location at 3420 Mt. Diablo Blvd. in

Lafayette (at the corner of Brown Avenue), come by and view the over 100 works of original art by local members. For info, call (925) 284-2788 or visit [www.lafayetteartgallery.com](http://www.lafayetteartgallery.com).

**Orinda Library Art Gallery January exhibitors:** Debi Cooper, travel photos; Aphra Pia, travel photos; Barbara Lee, photography; Vivien Hart, glass; and Anthony Brigancook, sculpture. Reception from 1 to 3 p.m. Sun-

## Not to be missed

day, Jan. 26. For more info, visit [www.orindaartscouncil.org](http://www.orindaartscouncil.org). (See related story page A7)

**Please join us for Moraga Country Club's Third Art and Wine Event** from 5 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 28. Discover the beautiful florals of artists Hilary Mills and Kiyomi Kubo while tasting wines from Jaime Serra Cristalino and Brandt Rossi Family Vineyards, including both still and sparkling wines from California and imported fruits. Cost: \$15 for members; \$25 for non-members (special offer: two for \$40). Appetizers and wine tasting included. No host bar. For reservations, call (925) 376-2200 or email [frontdesk@moragacc.com](mailto:frontdesk@moragacc.com).

**Saint Mary's College Museum of Art - Three New Exhibitions** Open Sunday, Feb. 2. From Swords to Plowshares: Metal Trench Art from World War One; Songs of the Patriot: How Music Helped Win World War One - through original chromolithographic cover illustrations of popular songs, sheet music and lyrics, this exhibition explores how music publishers, songwriters, cover artists, and singers generated support for troops overseas; and Power Point Lecture: The War Within the War: 1914 - 1918 by Adam Hochschild at 2 p.m. on opening day, Sunday, Feb. 2 at LeFevre Theatre (free). 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. (See related story page B1)

**Saint Mary's College Museum of Art - Two Exhibitions** re-open Feb. 2. Malcolm Lubliner: The Automotive Landscape - The noted Bay Area photographer and Los Angeles native received an MFA in photography from Otis Art Institute. This gorgeous and sometimes humorous display reveals his life-long love affair with the car. William Keith: Nature's Tranquil Splendor - A rotating selection of oil paintings from the College collection is always on 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's new show "Good Looking: California Revealed"** highlighting the beauty and wonder of California through watercolor paintings by resident artist George Ehrenhaft and oil paintings by guest artist Loreta Landucci will run through March 15. It is open from noon to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday. For more information, visit the gallery's website: [www.moragaartgallery.com](http://www.moragaartgallery.com), call (925) 376-5407 or email [moragaartgallery@gmail.com](mailto:moragaartgallery@gmail.com).

### MUSIC

**Fingerstyle guitarists Peter Janson, from Boston, Mass., and Larry Pattis, from Eugene, Ore.,** make their Lafayette debut at 8 p.m. Friday, Jan. 17 in a concert entitled "American Guitar Masters: Celtic to Contemporary." This performance will take place at Mighty Fine Guitars in Lafayette as part of their 11-date California Winter Tour. Tickets: \$15-20 per person suggested donation. You can find more information about American Guitar Masters Peter Janson and Larry Pattis at [www.americanguitarmasters.com](http://www.americanguitarmasters.com).

**Gold Coast Chamber Players concert "Horn and Plenty"** at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 18 at the Community Hall, Lafayette Library. Chamber music for French horn, oboe, strings and piano by Mozart, Brahms and Herzogenberg. Principals from SF Opera orchestra are featured. Tickets: \$10-35 Call (925) 283-3728 or at [www.gcplayers.org](http://www.gcplayers.org).

**Faculty Chamber Music Concert from 3 to 4:30 p.m.** Sunday, Jan. 19 at the Chapel, Saint Mary's College of California 1928 Saint Mary's Road, Moraga. The free concert opens with guitar trio Mori Achen, Michael Williams, and Martin Rokeach, performing Turina's delightful Rafaga. Donna Olson, Diane Maltester, and Wendy Tamis showcase music for mezzo-soprano, carinet, and harp. A set of jazz improvisations, with vocalist Julie Ford and pianist Bob Athayde,

rounds out the performance. For more info, call (925) 631-4670.

**Warm up in the New Year with beautiful music** at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 22 at the Orinda Library. The Orinda Library continues the Winter Music Series with Brenda Lin, a Lamorinda vocalist who performs a wide repertoire of songs. Standards, jazz, show tunes, classic rock, R&B, country and bossa nova. The performance is free and takes place inside the library. For more information on the upcoming concert, please visit the library website at [ccclib.org](http://ccclib.org) or call (925) 254-2184.

**Auerbach on Broadway! A concert of Broadway** hits featuring baritone David Auerbach with instrumental ensemble at 4 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 26 at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette. Free admission, freewill offering. For more info, contact Martin Morley at (925) 283-3722 or [martin@osl.net](mailto:martin@osl.net).

**Ninety Stanley Middle School musicians** will present a free winter jazz concert at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 4, in the school's multi-use room. The 60-member Jazz Crusaders and 30-member Jazz Messengers perform music and improvised solos from composers Duke Ellington, Sonny Rollins, Cole Porter, Count Basie, Weather Report and Steely Dan. For details, visit [www.stanleymusic.org](http://www.stanleymusic.org).

**The Campolindo High School Music Program** is hosting its annual Jazz Dinner Dance from 6:30 to 10 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 8 at the Moraga Country Club, 1600 St. Andrews Dr., Moraga. There will be a sit-down dinner with salad, main entrée, dessert and beverages. The Campolindo jazz bands will play throughout the night for guests to enjoy during dinner or to dance along to. Tickets: \$40 for students. All proceeds benefit the Campolindo Music Program. For more information, contact Donia Gousios at [doniagousios@yahoo.com](mailto:doniagousios@yahoo.com).

### THEATER

**Role Players Ensemble presents Thornton Wilder's "The Matchmaker."** The crafty scheming of widow Dolly Levi turns the world of Horace Vandergelder upside down in this frantic farce. The play opens Friday, Jan. 17 and runs until Feb. 8 at the Danville Community Center. For exact times and tickets, visit [www.RolePlayersEnsemble.com](http://www.RolePlayersEnsemble.com)

**The Saint Mary's College Performing Arts Department** will present a charming and fun-filled stage adaptation of the classic Charles Perrault fairytale "Puss in Boots." The long awaited annual production offers children a wonderful experience with live theatre - something they get far too little of. The story, running the last week of January, is a much adored traditional fairy tale of trickery and deceit; power and wealth; and villains and heroes. Performances are at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 29 and at 4 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 30. Tickets: \$8. Please call for reservations at (925) 631-4670 or go to [brownpaperickets.com](http://brownpaperickets.com) for online purchases.

### LECTURE & LITERATURE

**"Juvenile In Justice: Art, Journalism, Sociology and Criminal Justice."** Richard Ross, photographer, researcher, professor and activist, will present on "Juvenile In Justice," his current multidimensional project examining the US juvenile justice system at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 21 at the Saint Mary's College Soda Center as part of its "Jan Term" Speakers Series. Seven years in the making, the project includes more than 1,000 kids in detention in 31 states and sits at the nexus of art, journalism, sociology and criminal justice. Ross introduces us to kids with the least voice, from families with the least resources in neighborhoods with the least power. Ross uses his artistic work to effect social change, advocate for public policy changes and has presented his work before U.S. Senate Committees and the U.S. Supreme Court.

**"Gender, race, and the metamorphosis of the news industry."** Moriiba is an Emmy award-winning executive producer of CNN's "In America" unit

and vice president for diversity and inclusion at CNN Worldwide. Her talk at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 22 at the Saint Mary's College Soda Center as part of the "Jan Term" Speakers Series will address gender and race in the newsroom and how those factors contribute to the way news is covered in world of journalism.

**The American Association of University Women** presents a free film/panel discussion about sexual assault at 1:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 26 at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center. Speakers include members of the county DA's office, rape crisis center, Martinez police and a recent college graduate. For details, email [dbellrettger@gmail.com](mailto:dbellrettger@gmail.com). (See related story page B3)

**"Thinking About Ovid in the 21st Century: Metamorphosis, Myth, and the Carbon Cycle."** Robert Hass is a world-renowned poet, environmental activist, educator, alumnus of Saint Mary's and former U.S. poet laureate. Hass will speak on concepts of metamorphosis in nature, society, and art at 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 30 as part of the "Jan Term" Speakers Series at the Saint Mary's College Soda Center. On the subject of his talk, entitled "Thinking about Ovid in the 21st Century: Metamorphosis, Myth, and the Carbon Cycle," Hass writes "Nature is about change; both literature and science try to understand it, so it is interesting to hold up Ovid's magical stories of mythic transformation to modern literature, the development of ecology, and 21st-century imperatives. We can't speak about community anymore, nor community service, without talking about all of life."

**As a continuation of the well-received Leadership Series** taught by the Saint Mary's College Leadership Center, the Town of Moraga, Moraga Citizens Network, SMC, and Lamorinda Presents are hosting a second series of five classes to allow us all to focus on small, short-term wins that build momentum and refine team and individual skills. The meetings start at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 30, in the Serbian Cultural Center, 1700 School Street, Moraga. A \$20 donation for the series would be appreciated.

### KIDS, PARENTS & TEENS

**Orion Academy Open House from 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 22.** Orion Academy, located in Moraga, is 100 percent focused on educating students with Asperger's or NLD. The school provides a strong academic curriculum and innovative social programs to help students successfully move on to college and adulthood. Meet the faculty and learn about Orion's unique programs, such as the use of dogs to teach non-verbal learning cues, winter abroad and more. For information and to RSVP, visit [www.orionacademy.org](http://www.orionacademy.org).

**Madeline Levine, clinical psychologist, author of "Teach Your Children Well,"** and co-founder of Challenge Success at Stanford University will discuss parenting for authentic success - why values and coping skills matter more than grades, trophies, or "fat envelopes" from 7 to 9 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 23 in the Acalanes High School Performing Arts Center. Tickets: \$10 for one; \$15 for two. Purchase tickets at <http://madelinelevine.eventbrite.com>. (See related story page B6)

**Lindsay Wildlife Museum "Mini Mondays." At 10 a.m.** Monday, Jan. 27, children from 2-5 years old become naturalists as they experience live animal encounters. The two-hour program allows little ones to explore different animal species through arts, crafts, activities and more. Nut-free refreshments are provided. Children must be accompanied by a caregiver. Registration is not required. Cost: \$8 members; \$15 non-members; \$5 each additional child age 2 and older. For more info, call Kelly Hughes, registrar, (925) 627-2913 or visit Lindsay Wildlife Museum.

... continued on next page

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

## Lamorinda's Religious Services



### Worship the Lord! Sundays, 9 & 10:30am

MORAGA VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
10 Moraga Valley Lane, Moraga CA  
[www.mvpcctoday.org](http://www.mvpcctoday.org) • 925-376-4800

### Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church 433 Moraga Way, Orinda, 254-3422 [www.holyshepherd.org](http://www.holyshepherd.org)



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



### St. Giles Episcopal Church An Inclusive & Affirming Community

Sunday School & Eucharist at 9am  
St. Mary's College Chapel  
1928 St. Mary's Rd., Moraga  
925-376-5770 - [www.stgiles-moraga.org](http://www.stgiles-moraga.org)

Traditional Church Service & Music Yet Forward Looking & Open Minded

### The Orinda Community Church

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

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

Join us Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

### St. Anselm's Episcopal Church A Loving Community

Sunday Services: 8 and 10 AM

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



### Lafayette United Methodist Church

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

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



► Sunday Worship, 9:00 & 11:00 AM,  
with programs for 3-mos.-12th grade.

► Seedlings Preschool, M-F  
► Something for Everyone,  
speakers, small groups, classes,  
youth groups, mission trips, more!

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 11 - 2

[www.christianscienceorinda.org](http://www.christianscienceorinda.org)



◆ Not to be missed ◆ Not to be missed ◆

**KIDS, PARENTS & TEENS**  
... continued

**Teen Networking and Career Day at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 1** in the Community Hall, Lafayette Library and Learning Center. A group of professionals will gather at the library for two hours to talk about their careers and how to get started in them. The professionals include a photographer, graphic designer, a NASA scientist, a director of photography for lighting at Pixar and more. For more info, contact Patrick at pbrogan@ccclib.org.

**Oakland Museum of California presents Lunar New Year Celebration and Other Asian Traditions** from noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 9. Bring the whole family to OMCA to welcome the Year of the Horse. Enjoy a daylong festival with dance, music, crafts, food, and more for all ages. Cost: \$15 adults; \$10 students and seniors with valid ID; \$6 youth ages 9-17; free ages 8 and under. OMCA Members always get in free. For more info see <http://museumca.org/event/lunar-new-year-celebration-2014> or call (510) 318-8400.

**The Orinda Junior Women's Club (Orinda Juniors)** is pleased to announce details for Youth Ink 2014, the annual creative writing contest open to all sixth-, seventh- and eighth-grade students who live or attend school in Orinda. The Youth Ink 2014 prompt is "Listen." Submissions will be accepted on an ongoing basis but must be hand-delivered to a designated school representative or post-marked by Friday, Feb. 18 and mailed to Orinda Junior Women's Club, P.O. Box 40, Orinda, CA 94563 in order to be considered for an award. Check online for submission form locations at [www.orindajuniors.org](http://www.orindajuniors.org). Winners will be announced at an awards ceremony from 6 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Apr. 24 at Orinda Library.

**OTHER**

**The Rotary Club of Orinda will host its annual all-you-can-eat crab feast** from 6 to 9 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 18 at the Orinda Masonic Lodge, located at 9 Altarinda Road. Come for fresh-off-the-boat crab accompanied by delectable pasta, salad, sourdough (courtesy of La Piazza), wine, beer and live entertainment. Cost: \$50 per person. Advance reservations required by calling Barbara Bontemps at (925) 219-0082.

**The Friends Corner Book Shop is planning its first sale** of the year from 9 to 5 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 18 at the Lafayette Library. Everything will be half price.

**Annual Martin Luther King Day Celebration at noon Monday, Jan. 20** at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 1924 Trinity Ave., Walnut Creek. Keynote Speaker: Rev. Kamal Hassan, Sojourner Truth Presbyterian Church, Richmond will provide inspiration, speaking on "An Inconvenient Hero." Joyous Music: Gospel Choir from St. Benedict's Catholic Church, Oakland. Refreshments provided during social time. Free – donations accepted.

**LUNAFEST, the fundraising film festival dedicated to promoting awareness about women's issues, highlighting women filmmakers, and bringing women together in their communities,** will be hosted by the Women's Resource Center from 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 22 in the SMC Hagerty Lounge. The films range from animation to fictional drama, and cover topics such as women's health, motherhood, body image, sexuality, cultural diversity, and breaking barriers.

**Have you been diagnosed with gallbladder disease or do you have heartburn** that is not responding to medication? Alta Bates Summit Medical Center is holding a free Gallbladder and Heartburn Informational event from 6:30 to 8 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 22 at the Sonoma Room of the Claremont Hotel, 41 Tunnel Road, Berkeley. Presented by surgeon Steve Stanten, MD, and Corilee Watters, PhD, RD, come learn about treatment options as well as information about the connection of each of these conditions to nutrition. There is no charge to attend this event, but reservations are required by calling (510) 869-6737 to reserve your seat.

**The annual Kiwanis crab feed will be held at 6 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 1** at

the Saint Mary's College Soda Center. Tickets are \$50 a person and can be obtained from Ed Balsdon, (925) 631-0205. Every ticket holder is automatically eligible for a stay at the Quail Lodge in Carmel Valley. Attendees will bid on many contributed items in a silent auction. Cash, checks, and credit cards will be accepted.

**Workshops on "How to Raise Your Own Chickens" in Lafayette.** Topics will include raising young chicks, laying hen maintenance, and sustainable coop construction. Workshops are free and will be held from 1 to 3:30 p.m. on Sundays during February and March. Reservations are required. Contact: jhkiefer@comcast.net.

**Keep your New Year's resolutions by joining Valley Stitches and Fiber Arts Guild** for a presentation by the internationally bestselling author and author of the memoir, "A Life in Stitches: Rachael Heron." She will be discuss her books about knitting. The event is at 10 a.m. Monday, Feb. 3 at Faith Lutheran Church, 50 Woodsworth Lane, in Pleasant Hill. Contact Sheila at (925) 945-1338 with questions.

**Crab Feed & Dance from 6 to 11 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 8** at the Holy Trinity Cultural Center, 1700 School Street, Moraga. Bring your appetites and dancing shoes. Dinner and Dance: \$45; Dance only: \$10. For non-crab lovers: Chicken available by special advance order. Dinner tickets must be purchased in advance. For tickets and reservations, call (925) 672-6799.

**East Bay Comic-Con comes to Concord Sunday, Feb. 16,** making for an amazing day of Comic Books, Art, Anime, Sci-Fi, Fantasy, Gaming and Cosplay FUN! Most of California's best vendors of all things cool and collectible will tempt you with the perfect gifts for Geek, Nerds, Fans and True Collectors, everywhere! Admission at the door: \$5 for adults; children under 8 are free. For more info, visit <http://eastbaycomiccon.com> or on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/East-Bay-Comic-Con>.

**Free Tax Preparation for the 2014 tax season is available** starting February 2014 from AARP's Tax-Aide and United Way's Earn It, Keep It, Save It (EKS) programs. All tax preparers are trained and certified by the IRS. While both programs serve taxpayers of any age, Tax-Aide does not have an income limit for those they can serve but EKS can only serve individuals whose incomes do not exceed \$50,000. For information or to make an appointment for the Tax-Aide sites serving the Walnut Creek area, please call: (925) 943-5851, Walnut Creek Senior Club site; (925) 405-6278, Walnut Creek Grace Presbyterian Church site; (925) 979-5013, Walnut Creek St. Paul's Episcopal Church site. For general information and other site locations, call: (925) 726-3199. For information on EKS sites call 2-1-1 or visit [www.earnitkeepitsaveit.org](http://www.earnitkeepitsaveit.org).

**The Rescue 1 Foundation, an organization dedicated to support the paramedic program of the Moraga-Orinda Fire District,** is seeking a new director from the Moraga community. Letters of interest should be sent to Julie Fisher, 815 Camino Ricardo, Moraga 94556 or email her at [juliefisher1@comcast.net](mailto:juliefisher1@comcast.net).

**POLITICAL GATHERINGS**

**Democratic Candidates Forum for California State Assembly District 16** at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 30 at the Lafayette Library, moderated by KTVU Reporter John Sasaki with candidates Tim Sbranti, Dublin mayor, Steven Glazer, Orinda city councilman, and Newell Americh, Danville mayor. Attendees may submit written questions for the candidates upon arrival at the Lafayette Library. Candidates will remain after the forum to mingle with the audience. Public and press invited. Refreshments.

**SENIORS**

**Document Your Life Story - If you have wanted to write** the stories, memories, and experiences of your life but haven't known where to start, wait no longer. Yuska Lutfi will guide you through the process of leaving a living

history for future generations from 10 to 11:30 a.m., the second and fourth Thursdays of the month in the Cedar Room, Lafayette Community Center. Included will be optional outings to Saint Mary's College for their creative writing reading series, "Afternoon Craft Conversations." Cost: \$1 member; \$3 non-member per session.

**Anne Randolph Physical Therapy Presentation: Parkinson's.** Living with Parkinson's disease (PD) can be challenging, but there are things you can do to maintain your quality of life and live well. Learn about the stages of PD and how to optimize your physical ability as long as possible from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 24 in the Elderberry Room, Lafayette Community Center. Cost: \$1 members; \$3 non-members.

**GARDEN**

**Moraga Garden Club will meet Thursday, Jan. 16; social time 9:30 to 10 a.m., meeting starts at 10 a.m.,** featuring speaker Garth Jacober of Mt. Diablo Nursery and Garden. His topic is "How to Prune Trees, Shrubs and Perennials", a very timely subject as the effects of our frosty nights are evident in gardens and landscape around town. Non-members are welcome.

**McDonnell Nursery's Winter Rose Pruning Workshop at 10 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 25** is a must for rose lovers. Rejuvenate your rose bushes and encourage beautiful new canes to produce the best blooms. Workshops are held in a covered outdoor area. Dress warmly and be prepared to learn a lot! Please call (925) 254-3713 or email [info@mcdonnellnursery.com](mailto:info@mcdonnellnursery.com) to reserve a seat.

**Service Clubs Announcements**



Explore Lamorinda Rotary clubs The heart of Rotary is our clubs- dedicated people who share a passion for both community service and friendship. Learn about Lamorinda's Rotary clubs.

**Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary Club**

We meet Friday mornings at 7:00 am at Celia's Mexican Restaurant, 3666 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Lafayette . (Diagonally across from Trader Joes)

**January 17:**  
Health care executive Dawn Knight will speak about **WHAT IS HEALTHCARE QUALITY AND WHO DECIDES?**

**January 24:**  
LSR member and past President Paul Fillingner will speak about **WHY PEOPLE JOIN, LEAVE AND STAY IN ROTARY**

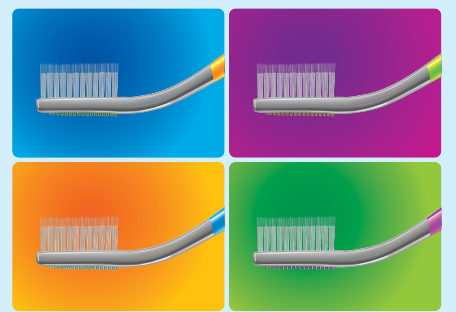
Please join us!



Next HOME Team workday is Jan 25th!

**Family & Cosmetic Dentistry**

Now accepting new patients!



**Kristi L. Doberenz, D.D.S., Inc.**  
8 Camino Encinas, STE #110, Orinda  
(925) 254-3725

*Saint Mary's College Museum of Art*

**New Exhibitions**

Sunday, Feb. 2 - Sunday, April 13



February 2 - April 13, 2014

**From Swords to Plowshares: Metal Trench Art from World War I**



Between battles, and the behind lines, soldiers crafted pieces of art from artillery shells, bullets, aircraft parts, coins, and shrapnel, with improvised tools. The works on view, made by military members from virtually every country engaged in the conflict, tell tales of bravery, grief, fear, faith, hope, and patriotism in a time of destruction.

**Songs of the Patriot: How Music Helped Win the Great War**



Fifty original chromolithographed sheet music covers from noted composers including Irving Berlin and George M. Cohan, and patriotic posters with powerful appeal present a wide range of American wartime feelings at home and abroad.

Documentary DVDs, with still and moving film from the war, and interviews with WW1 veterans, plus re-mastered recordings of the music in the exhibition will periodically play in the galleries between February and April. Both exhibits are on loan from Hollingsworth Fine Arts in Florida.

**Illuminating God's Word Anew: the Saint John's Bible**  
Feb. 2 - April 6

The Saint John's Bible was more than 12 years in the making and is the first of its kind in more than 500 years. On view is the complete Heritage Edition, one of only 299 full-sized, fine art editions of the original. Each one is unique, because the thousands of illustrations were hand-treated, many with 24 carat gold illumination. Written in the ecumenical New Revised Standard language, it is "in keeping with ancient tradition, yet with a contemporary and inclusive perspective," according to Donald Jackson, Senior Scrivener to Queen Elizabeth, and the project's artistic director in Wales.

Also on view:  
Paintings by William Keith and Photographs by Malcolm Lubliner.



**Power Point Lecture: The War Within the War of 1914-1918**  
Adam Hochschild

Sunday, Feb. 2, 2 pm LeFevre Theatre, free admission

UC Berkeley Graduate School of Journalism professor Adam Hochschild is the former editor of Ramparts, and Mother Jones magazines and has written for the San Francisco Chronicle, The New Yorker, Harper's, The Atlantic, and The New York Times. He is the author of seven books, including the award winning *King Leopold's Ghost: a Story of Greed, Terror and Heroism in Colonial Africa*, and *Bury the Chains: Prophets and Rebels in the Fight to Free an Empire's Slaves*. His newest book, *To End All Wars: A Story of Loyalty and Rebellion, 1914-1918*, is a narrative of the First World War.

**A book-signing and reception will follow in the Theater foyer.**

Public Hours: Wed - Sun, 11 am-4:30 pm. Museum Admission: Adults \$5; Members and K-12 graders Free; Parking Free; Group Tours Free Phone: 925-631-4379  
Website: [stmarys-ca.edu/museum](http://stmarys-ca.edu/museum)





**Ware Designs**  
Fine Jewelry since 1977

3645 Mt. Diablo Blvd.,  
Lafayette  
between Trader Joes & the Post Office  
283-2988  
www.waredesigns.com

**50% off**  
**Watch Battery**  
Now \$5, Reg \$10  
1 watch battery per person. Exp. 2/28/14. Usually installed while you wait. Wispoun. Restrictions apply.

**Tuesday-Saturday 10-6**

**Care. Comfort. Compassion.**  
*When you need it most.*

**Your Lamorinda Senior Checklist ...**

- Find cook for better nutrition ✓
- Get driver to appointments, groceries ✓
- Get help with laundry & changing sheets ✓
- Find somebody for companionship, exercise, puzzles ✓

**CALL SENIOR HELPERS ✓✓✓✓**

We can assist with these activities and more.

**Call for a free assessment 925-376-8000**



Bonded and insured.  
Senior Helpers locations are independently owned and operated. ©2011 SH Franchising, LLC



**SENIOR HELPERS**

Care and comfort at a moment's notice

## Chicken from the Village

By Susie Iventosch



Photo Susie Iventosch

In November, my husband and I had the opportunity to visit our daughter in New York City and had several excellent meals during the trip. We had lunch at a darling spot called Alice's Tea Cup, where they serve every kind of tea imaginable along with some really interesting menu items like a roasted cumin carrot salad sandwich, served on semolina bread with goat cheese and olive tapenade. Or, an absolutely delightful endive and watercress salad with caramelized onions, warm pear and blue cheese served with a port vinaigrette. There you will spy a set of butterfly or fairy wings on every child you see! It was so much fun to see all of

the little ones sipping tea and eating tasty treats. But one dinner in particular stood out above all others. It was an exquisite chicken dish served on a bed of pureed celery root and topped with watercress-tarragon vinaigrette. We discovered this delicacy at a tiny little restaurant called Whitehall Bar + Kitchen in Greenwich Village.

Though we did not actually get the recipe from the chef (I kept kicking myself for not doing so), I decided to try to replicate it myself based upon the menu description. I think we've come very close to the amazing flavors we enjoyed that evening. I hope you enjoy it as much as we did!

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.



## Baked Chicken Breast with Goat Cheese and Tarragon-Watercress Vinaigrette

### INGREDIENTS

Chicken  
6 boneless, skinless chicken breasts  
3 tablespoons olive oil  
Salt and pepper (or lemon pepper)  
1 large shallot, finely chopped

Heat oil in a large skillet. Season chicken breast with S&P or lemon pepper. Brown chicken on both sides and remove to baking dish. In the same pan, add shallots and cook until translucent and beginning to brown. Set shallots aside to cool (these will be mixed into the goat cheese butter). Spread goat cheese-tarragon butter over tops of each chicken breast. Cover dish with foil. Bake at 350 degrees for about 25 minutes, or until chicken is just cooked.

### Goat Cheese-Butter

1 tablespoon butter, room temperature  
1/4 cup goat cheese  
1 tablespoon minced fresh tarragon  
Cooked shallots (see above)

Mix butter, goat cheese, cooked shallots and tarragon and spread a thin layer evenly over the top of each chicken breast, just before baking

### Tarragon-Watercress Vinaigrette

2 stems of fresh tarragon  
1 cup loosely packed watercress, leaves and stems are okay  
1 small clove garlic, minced  
Juice of 1/2 lemon  
1/4 cup rice vinegar  
1/2 cup extra-virgin olive oil  
Salt and pepper

In a food processor, blend tarragon and watercress along with garlic, until finely minced. Add lemon juice, rice vinegar and olive oil. Blend in processor until well-mixed. Season to taste with salt and pepper.

### Celery Root Puree

3-4 large celery roots (celeriac) peeled and cut into large chunks  
2 tablespoons butter  
1 tablespoon heavy cream  
Salt and pepper

Place celery root in a pot fitted with a French steamer. Pour enough water in the bottom of the pot to just reach the bottom of the French steamer (about 2 inches). Bring water to a boil and then turn heat to medium-high. Allow celery root to steam until a knife pierces easily, but celery root is not too mushy. Check every few minutes, so you don't overcook it.

Place hot, steamed celery root into a food processor and blend until pureed. Add butter and cream. Blend well. Season to taste with salt and pepper.

### To Serve:

Distribute celery root evenly onto dinner plates. Serve chicken on top and spoon pan drippings over chicken. Drizzle tarragon-watercress vinaigrette over both chicken and celery root puree. Pass extra vinaigrette at the table.

## Locals Gather with Noted Author for Pie Making Session

Submitted by Kelly Hood



Photo provided

Best-selling author Joyce Maynard taught Lafayette Library and Learning Center supporters how to make a delicious pie at a Lafayette home in early January. Maynard's pie making is

featured in her book and movie "Labor Day." Pictured from left: Carol Zeman, Sally Wirthman, Courtney Anderson, Joyce Maynard, Kelly Hood, Lisa Sanchez, and Ena Cratsenburg.

**Submit stories to  
storydesk@  
lamorinda  
weekly.com**

## Business Directory

### Heating



**ATLAS**  
HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING COMPANY  
CA LIC. #489501

Old-fashioned service and  
high-quality installations.

**925-944-1122**  
www.atlasheating.com  
Since 1908

### Underpinning



**Bay Area**  
**UNDERPINNING**  
GENERAL CONTRACTOR LIC. 007120

BUILDING FOUNDATIONS • LIFTING  
LEVELING • STABILIZING

**707 310-0602**  
www.bayareaunderpinning.org

### Gardening



**J. Limon Gardening**

Maintenance/Clean-up  
Monthly Service  
Sprinkler  
System Repair

**Call Jose**  
**(925) 787-5743**  
License #: 018287

25 yrs. experience  
in Lamorinda

### Advertise

**Reach 60,000+  
in Lamorinda**

Advertise in  
Lamorinda Weekly  
Call 925-377-0977  
today



# LAMORINDA SPORTS

## Campo Takes First Game in Rivalry Series

By Conrad Bassett



Matt O'Reilly had 11 points.



Photos Gint Federas Matt Thomas led the Dons with 19 points.

The Lamorinda boys' basketball teams finished competitive preseason schedules and began DFAL regular season play last week.

Campolindo went 10-4, including wins over perennial powers Castro Valley and Burlingame. Acalanes went 9-3 defeating several teams from Marin and Sonoma counties.

Miramonte finished 8-5 despite missing three key players while they finished the football season.

In DFAL play, Campolindo beat Dougherty Valley in their opener while the Dons were surprised by Alhambra in a road loss in Martinez. On Jan. 10, the Dons traveled to Moraga where the Cougars won 72-49.

Dons' senior Matt Thomas opened the scoring with a three-point jumper from the corner to put the Dons up 3-0 early. Campo answered with a free throw followed by two jump shots from junior Matt O'Reilly. They went up 6-3 and did not relinquish the lead for the rest of the game.

After the game, O'Reilly said their success started in practice. "We

practiced our plays all week and then played with intensity the entire game. We kept moving and always were looking for spots to get open. Andrew (Zolintakis) made some very good passes to help us get good shots."

O'Reilly finished with 11 points, including back-to-back threes at the end of the first quarter, helping elevate the Campo lead to 21-7.

Dons' junior Buster Souza started the second period with a dunk and Thomas added a put-back, but the Cougars answered with an 8-1 run and were never challenged again.

The Campo lead reached 67-38 early in the fourth. Campo started the period on a 10-0 run highlighted by a traditional three point play from sophomore Sterling Strother and five points from fellow sophomore Austin Clarke.

Junior Chris Hansen led a balanced Campo attack with 12 points while Zolintakis and senior Justin Dunn chipped in nine each.

Campo coach Matt Watson pointed to the balanced attack by not-

ing that "AZ [Zolintakis] had 8 assists, one leading to the monster dunk by Hansen."

Thomas led the Dons with 19 points and Souza had 13.

After a bye, the Matadors opened their DFAL season on the road at Dublin. They came away from the game with a 69-63 win. The Mats were down by 11 points heading into the fourth period when they mounted a furious comeback behind Drew Anderson who burned the nets for 24 of his 34 points. He also added 14 rebounds.

Coach Drew McDonald said, "As we saw on Friday, Anderson hardly skipped a beat returning to basketball and has been our best offensive player. As we enter the league season, seniors Joey Goodreault, Drew and Ray Clark give us the strongest group of captains that we have had at Miramonte since I began as an assistant coach seven years ago."

All three teams played on Jan. 14 after our press deadline. They return to action at home on Jan. 17.



Buster Souza had 13 points.



Andrew Zolintakis had 8 assists.

## TAXI BLEU All Airports Served 24/7

Dispatch:  
**925-849-2222**  
Direct:  
**925-286-0064**  
www.mytaxibleu.com  
mytaxibleu@gmail.com



Learn the skills  
Build Confidence  
Love the Game

Lamorinda Soccer Club, one of the Top Clubs in Northern California - home to State and National Championship Teams, Try-out schedule is available for ALL Elite, Jr. Elite and National Elite teams - for ALL returning and new players. Teams continue to compete in the 2014 Elite NORCAL League.

Bridging the Gap between Recreational and Highly Competitive Soccer, Lamorinda Soccer Club is pleased to announce the return of the Developmental Academy Fall 2014 for boys and girls ages U6 - U10



Visit [www.LamorindaSC.com](http://www.LamorindaSC.com) for registration and more information.  
Questions - email [admin@lamorindasc.com](mailto:admin@lamorindasc.com)



### Providing Insurance and Financial Services

It's no accident more people trust State Farm.



Mike Rosa, Agent  
Insurance Lic. #: OF45583  
1042 Country Club Drive, Moraga  
925-376-2244

LIKE A GOOD NEIGHBOR STATE FARM IS THERE.™

P040036 02/04 State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company (Not in NJ), Bloomington, IL



**Kyle Davis**  
Mortgage Consultant/Owner/Partner  
Lamorinda Resident Since 1995  
BRE License #01111347/NMLS #274107

Direct: 925-314-5299  
Kyle@Stonecastle-LHF.com

319 Diablo Rd., Ste 103 • Danville • CA BRE Lic. # 01327738, NMLS#280803

**RATES ARE NEAR ALL TIME LOWS!**  
**30 YEAR FIXED RATE TO \$1,000,000!**  
**4.375% / 4.475% APR**  
**GREAT CONFORMING RATES!**

	Fixed Rates to \$417,000		Fixed Rates to \$625,500	
	RATE	APR	RATE	APR
30 Year Fixed	4.125%	4.175%	4.250%	4.315%
15 Year Fixed	2.875%	3.075%	3.125%	3.250%

"PROVIDING PREMIER LOAN PRODUCTS AND SERVICE FROM THE MOST EXPERIENCED AND SOLUTION-ORIENTED PROFESSIONALS IN YOUR COMMUNITY."

Call 925-314-5299 for Today's Quote!

This is not a loan commitment, nor is it a guarantee of any kind. This comparison is based solely on estimated figures and information available at the time of production. Interest rate is subject to borrower and property qualifying. Stonecastle Land and Home Financial, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Lender.



## SPORTS MEDICINE CENTER FOR YOUNG ATHLETES

WALNUT CREEK 925-979-3430  
OAKLAND 510-428-3558

- SPORT-SPECIFIC PHYSICAL THERAPY FOR THE DEVELOPING YOUNG ATHLETE
- LONG-TERM SPORTS PERFORMANCE ENHANCEMENT
- INJURY REDUCTION TECHNIQUES



WE'LL GET YOU BACK IN THE GAME



## Cougars, Dons Face Off in DFAL

By Conrad Bassett



Carrie Trent

The Lamorinda girls' high school basketball teams completed their preseason with mixed results, but each team felt the tournaments and travel competition prepared them for DFAL.

Acalanes (7-7 preseason) and Campolindo (6-5 preseason) each won their DFAL openers. Acalanes beat Alhambra 36-28 on the road and the Cougars beat Dougherty Valley 67-42 in San Ramon. Miramonte is undefeated 13-0 overall.

On Jan. 10, Acalanes traveled to take on Campolindo for the second time this season, the first in DFAL play. The two teams played in the Walnut Creek Classic tournament in December and the Cougars won 70-28.

The second time around, the Dons were much more competitive, even taking the lead at times. However, a tough third quarter put the Dons down and they could not recover. They lost to Campo 71-53.

Acalanes coach Chad Wellon said, "[All] I can say is, I was extremely happy with the way we came out and started the game. We played with a lot of heart and passion the entire game."

The Dons scored the first eight points of the game as junior Carrie Trent nailed two back-to-back three-point shots.

Cougars' senior Ashley Ewing stopped the run with a layup and free throw, and the Cougars pecked away reducing the lead to 19-18 after a high scoring opening period.

The teams went back and forth in the second period before Campo went on an 11-1 run behind two long range shots from freshman Brooke Panfili to give Campo the lead, 40-32, at halftime.

The Cougars opened up the third period slowly but then went on a 15-0 run behind



Brooke Panfili led all scorers.



Ashley Ewing

Photos Gint Federas

Ewing and sophomore Emily Lyall, who each contributed multiple baskets on their way to a 21 point lead.

The teams each scored 14 points in the final period. Trent led Acalanes with 12 points and Panfili led all scorers with 20. Ewing added 19 to go with eight rebounds, six assists and seven steals. Lyall scored 11.

Art Thoms, Campo coach, commented, "I was extremely proud of the way our girls kept their composure and dealt with the adversity. It was a lot of fun to see both teams giving a great effort in front of a good crowd."

In preseason, Miramonte went 12-0, winning tournaments in three different states and playing high level competition. They won the Big House Invitational in Petaluma, their own Mats Tip-Off Classic and then spent the holidays beating top teams from Texas, Arizona, and Colorado at the Nike TOC in Phoenix before heading to the badlands of Gillette, Wyo. to win the Energy Classic title.

Coach Kelly Sopak said, "Not only did we play well on the court, but the team is much closer off the court with the two travel trips, one of which required a 6+ hour bus ride together."

Last Friday, the Lady Mats opened their season with a win over always tough Dublin on the road by a score of 75-33. Miramonte led 20 to 4 after the first period and never looked back.

The three teams each played after the press deadline on Jan. 14. All three teams return to action with home games on Jan. 17.



Julia Lyons puts up a shot.

## Mats Beat Dons in Girls' Soccer

Campo remains undefeated

By Marissa Harnett



Cecelia Gee prepares for her first goal.

Photos Andy Scheck

Nearly halfway through the league schedule, the girls' high school soccer top teams are beginning to emerge. Campolindo has risen to the top, currently standing undefeated at 4-0-1 in league and 9-0-2 overall. Miramonte is just behind with a record of 2-1-1 in league (6-2-1 overall). Acalanes trails at 0-4-1 in league (2-4-1 overall).

Miramonte traveled to Acalanes on Jan. 10 to face-off in their first meeting of the season. Both teams came out strong, controlling and passing the ball with precision and finesse, but Miramonte won 2-0. While the first half was very competitive and remained scoreless, Miramonte possessed the slight edge with more scoring opportunities.

Twice during the first half, Miramonte left their net empty to bring goal-keeper, senior Mali Tehaney, onto the field. Five minutes into the game she attempted a header off of a corner kick. At 18 minutes, Tehaney abandoned her post again to take a free kick. Teammate Emma Nushi headed it at the goal, but could not capitalize. Later in the game, Tehaney left her net untended for a third time and then had to sprint back to kick out the ball that was rolling straight toward the goal.

"We do it when we need a physical presence for corner kicks," said Miramonte head coach Mohamed Mohamed. "It's worth the risk,



Cecelia Gee

and it creates some excitement," he added.

Hoping to end the first half with the lead, Mats' senior defender Jane Fessenden broke away with five minutes remaining and dribbled unchallenged to the goal. The shot, however, went wide left leaving no score at the break.

The second half began much the same way, with Miramonte's offensive pressure colliding with Acalanes' aggressive defense. By minute 13, amid a cluster of players at net, Mats' sophomore forward Cecelia Gee managed to sneak the ball low into the left corner.

Ten minutes later, Gee came back for another. She fired off a hard shot from the top of the box across and into the upper right corner to sink the second and last goal of the night.

Mohamed thought it was "a beautiful game to watch." He noted that although the team has six experienced seniors, it is predominately a young team that keeps getting better. "Sophomores Cecelia Gee, Gina Crosetti, and Maggie Maguire had a fantastic game. They are very strong, very mobile."

Although the Dons did not come out on top in Friday night's game, numbers do not tell the full story.

"Our results have not been as good as we would like, but the team has been playing good soccer," said new Acalanes head coach Evan Sassano. "We have been improving every week, which is a sign of a serious team. I am very pleased with the response from the players."

A young team creates unique challenges. "One of our biggest challenges has been against time," Sassano said. "With a new group, you have to get on the same page as soon as you can. We have showed great promise and I am confident we will improve. It is only a matter of time for when we really start to gel."

Tonight in Moraga at 6:15 p.m. the Lady Mats will attempt to upset Campo's six game winning streak, wrapping up the first round of rivalry contests.

Campo is aware of the target on their backs. "I try to create a bubble for my team. I make sure that we concentrate on the task at hand and not pay attention to anything else," said Campo head coach Ernesto Silva. "We respect every opponent and realize that everyone wants to beat the team atop the leaderboard...we pressure ourselves to play at our best every time we step into the field."



Caroline Clark looks up field in the Dons' 0-2 loss to Miramonte.

www.Lamorindaweekly.com

Most Frequently Viewed Stories From Our Last Issue:



- Tree of Life Legacies Doing more for families than just telling stories
- Increase in Residential Burglaries
- Organization for the Naturally Disorganized
- Medalist and Acalanes Track and Field Coach Shares Joy of the Sport
- Roses on Parade Experiencing America's grandest New Year's Day tradition through the eyes of "a White Suiter"
- 2013's Best Movie Picks
- "Instructions Not Included" - A Family Movie
- Lamorindans Share 'One Word' for the New Year
- Moragas New Mayor, Ken Chew
- "David and Goliath" Offers Lamorinda Readers Prescient Insights

If you wish to view any of the stories above go to [www.lamorindaweekly.com](http://www.lamorindaweekly.com) and click the link below the story.

## Lamorinda Weekly

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

### Contact us:

Letters to the editor (max 350 words):

[letters@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:letters@lamorindaweekly.com)

Sport events/stories/pictures:

[sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com)

Art, theater, community events:

[calendar@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:calendar@lamorindaweekly.com)

Business news or business press releases:

[sophie@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:sophie@lamorindaweekly.com)

School stories/events:

[schooldesk@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:schooldesk@lamorindaweekly.com)

General interest stories/Community Service:

[storydesks@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:storydesks@lamorindaweekly.com)

**Publishers/Owners:** Andy and Wendy Scheck;

[andy@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:andy@lamorindaweekly.com), [wendy@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:wendy@lamorindaweekly.com)

**Editor in Chief:** Lee Borrowman; [lee@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:lee@lamorindaweekly.com)

**Life, Our Homes and Community Editor:** Jennifer Wake;

[jennifer@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:jennifer@lamorindaweekly.com)

**Advertising:** 925-377-0977, Wendy Scheck;

[wendy@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:wendy@lamorindaweekly.com)

**Circulation:** 26,600 printed copies;

delivered to homes & businesses in Lamorinda.

### Staff Writers:

Sophie Braccini; [sophie@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:sophie@lamorindaweekly.com)

Cathy Tyson; [cathy@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:cathy@lamorindaweekly.com)

Laurie Snyder; [laurie@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:laurie@lamorindaweekly.com)

Cathy Dausman; [cathy.d@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:cathy.d@lamorindaweekly.com)

Sports Editor: Caitlin Mitchell

[sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com)

Nick Marnell; [nick@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:nick@lamorindaweekly.com)

Teen Coach: Cynthia Brian;

[cynthia@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:cynthia@lamorindaweekly.com)

Food: Susie Iventosch; [suziventosch@gmail.com](mailto:suziventosch@gmail.com)

### Contributing Writers:

Conrad Bassett, Moya Stone, Michael Sakoda, Rebecca Eckland,

Marissa Harnett, Lou Fancher, Clare Varellas, Chris Lavin,

Amanda Kuehn, Barry Hunau (cartoonist)

**Photos:** Tod Fierner, Ohlen Alexander, Gint Federas

**Layout/Graphics:** Andy Scheck, Jaya Griggs. Printed in CA.

**Lamorinda Weekly,**

P.O. Box 6133, Moraga, CA 94570-6133

Phone: 925-377-0977; Fax: 1-800-690-8136;

[email: info@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:info@lamorindaweekly.com)

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



# Former Mat Named UAA Athlete of the Week

Submitted by Chris Mitchell



Photo James Byard, WUSTL Photos

Former Miramonte Matador Alyssa Johanson was named the University Athletic Association's women's basketball athlete of the week in December. Johanson, a junior, earned the honor for the first time in her career.

She averaged 15 points and shot 52.2 percent from the field off the bench in a pair of wins for the No. 2 Bears. She scored a season-high 18 points, one shy of her career-high, and

equaled career-highs with six rebounds and three steals in an 83-53 win at Fontbonne University on Dec. 10. Johanson followed that with 12 points, including a pair of three-pointers, and a season-high three assists in a 67-44 win over Loras College on Dec. 14.

Johanson is averaging 9.6 points and 3.6 rebounds per game off the bench, and is 11th in the UAA in field goal percentage (.507).

# Stanley Basketball Wins Tourney

Submitted by Suzanne Campillo



Photo provided

The eighth grade girls' basketball team from Stanley Middle School won the Brentwood Tournament on Dec. 14. The team won three games, including a double-

overtime thriller in the finals.

The team also won another tournament in South Lake Tahoe in September.

# Water Polo Wins Tourney

Submitted by Elizabeth Munson



Top row, from left: Sydney Milham, Sara Steingraf, Lauren Indart, Kelly Murphy, Jewel Roemer, Rebekah Reynolds; middle row: Nicole Lyckfors, Ava Johnson, Katrina Drake, Makenna Ferguson, Francesca Veverka, Katie Klein; bottom row: Nina Munson. Photo Eric Munson

Diablo 14U water polo team took first place in the KAP 7 Turbo Holiday Cup in Irvine. The seasoned Diablo team

dominated over the weekend clinching the cup over several Southern California teams.



# Campo Alum Earns XC Award

Submitted by Ken Golner

Former Campolindo cross country runner Molly Simon earned the Coaches' Award in her senior season at Curry College.

Photo provided

# Fencers Head to Junior Olympics

Submitted by Dan Brofman



High school fencers Gabriel Bronfman (left, Miramonte) and Casey Lee (Acalanes) with their coach Ryan Arieta of George Platt's Swordplay Fencing Academy in Concord. Photo provided

Two Lamorinda Epee fencers are heading to the Junior Olympics, following recent successes in both regional and national fencing events. Casey Lee, a senior at Acalanes, and Gabriel Bronfman, a freshman at Miramonte, have both qualified for the Fencing Junior Olympics to be held mid-February in Portland, OR. This trip marks Lee's third trip to the JOs, and she will be competing in the Junior Women's Epee event; Bronfman is competing at the JOs for the first time,

in both Junior Men's Epee and Cadet Men's Epee events.

On the regional Bay Cup circuit, Lee finished first and second in the Junior Woman's Epee championship the last two years and Bronfman was Y14 champion for the past two years. Lee finished fifth in the 2013 Division II National Championships this past summer, and Bronfman is a nationally-ranked Cadet epee fencer, participating in USFA tournaments in Virginia, Ohio and Georgia.

# LMSC Plays Tough in Tourney

Submitted by Marcia Holbrook



From left, top row: Angeline L, Mollin H., Savannah D., Alison W., Cate C, Sasha S., Maddy K., Sydney Y., Isabel F., Cassidy H., Margaux C.; Bottom Row; Jackie G., Jessie G., Ashley H., Chloe G., Lauren M. Photo provided

The Lamorinda Soccer Club U13 girls finished No. 2 in the Danville Mustang Winter Turf Tournament. The team qualified for the tournament after going undefeated in the Premier League. The tournament featured 12 teams, including the top-8 ranked teams in Northern California.

LMSC defeated Cal Odyssey from San Joaquin Valley 2-1 to open tournament play. They beat Burlingame on penalty kicks in the second game. LMSC defeated Danville Mustang Fury ECNL on penalty kicks to reach the finals.

In a tough match, LMSC fell to Sacramento San Juan 0-1 in the finals.

# St. Perpetua Wins Holiday Classic

Submitted by Mark Poole



From left: Coach John Summerlin, Joshua Summerlin, John Kalil, Murphy Baker, Isaiah Coleman, Daniel Tarkoff, Brendan Tuholski, Jake Gilbert, June Jung, David Sniderman; not pictured: Austin Poole, coach Mark Poole. Photo provided

Capping off a successful run through the 2013 Holiday Classic, St. Perpetua's sixth grade boys won the National division championship by three points over a talented St. Joan

of Arc squad. Daniel Tarkoff hit a game-winning three pointer at the buzzer to seal the win. St. Perpetua beat Santa Maria to reach the title game.

# SMC to Renovate McKeon Pavilion

By Caitlin Mitchell

Although the Saint Mary's basketball programs posted big wins this weekend against Bay Area rival University of San Francisco, the teams have something else to celebrate.

On Jan. 11, the college announced plans for an estimated \$13 million renovation to McKeon Pavilion.

The new Student Athlete Performance Center will feature facilities dedicated to the school's division I athletes. Facilities will include a

weight room, training and on-site sports medicine area, a new women's volleyball locker room and athletic offices.

The renovation will also expand seating in the gym by 500 seats.

The college has secured \$9 million through donations and will look to make up the remaining \$4 million through corporate sponsors and ticket sales.

Construction will begin in the spring of 2015.



# Love Lafayette



**Cuesta ANTIQUES etc...**

La Fiesta Square  
3540 Wilkinson Lane #A  
**925-299-1317**

**Making Bay Area Homes Beautiful Since 1946**



**Blodgett's FLOOR COVERING**

"Quality and Service Since 1946" Abbey Carpet. **www.blodgetts.com**  
Lic. # 177588

Larry Blodgett  
Owner

3291 Mt. Diablo Ct., Lafayette 925.284.4807



**TRANS JEWELER** 

*Expert in all your Fine Jewelry needs*  
*Diamond Setting*  
*Jewelry Repair*  
*Custom Design and Manufacturing*

(925) 283-2137  
3608 Happy Valley Road • Lafayette  
- Behind Wells Fargo Bank - **D. Tran**



**Central Self-Storage**

1330 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Lafayette (925) 962-1943

First Months Rent FREE Any Size Unit!

- Access Hours 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- Complete Moving & Packing Supplies
- Major Credit Cards Accepted
- Please call for details
- State of the Art Video Surveillance
- All Doors Alarmed
- Individualized Elevator Access
- Deliveries Accepted



**ART ROOM!**

Sign up now:  
Winter Session Jan 13th-Feb 24th  
Spring Session March 3rd-April 14th

- Birthday Parties and Events
- Open Studio
- After School Programs
- 29 Classes Offered

Art Instruction for Children & Adults

(925) 299-1515 • www.theart-room.com  
50 Lafayette Cir., Lafayette



**42nd ROUGHING IT DAY CAMP Year**

Ages 4-16 • Lafayette Reservoir Site

Win a Week of Camp!  
www.roughingit.com/lamorinda



**The Treasure Trove**

Susan Cowell  
Anna M. Webb  
925-283-2252

3506H Mt. Diablo Blvd  
(Next to McCaulou's in the courtyard behind Peet's Coffee.)

Draperies  
Carpet  
Blinds & Shades  
Bedspreads  
Upholstery  
Shutters  
Wallpapers

Hours:  
Mon-Fri 10:00-5:00  
Sat. by Appointment

**McCaulou's**

Save Gas  
Save Money  
Save Time

Shop your local McCaulou's



**sew NOW!**  
fashion studio

Adult Workshops & Classes,  
Kids Classes, Camps, Parties

+ Sewing Machines + Girl Scouts + Birthdays

NEW 3534 Golden Gate Way 283-7396 **www.sewnow.com**

**FINE BEDDING & GIFTS**




**SUGI**  
Japanese style & comfort

Gifts, Hand Craft Futon, Solid Hardwood Frame, Tatami Platforms & Mats, Custom Comforter Covers, Shoji Screen & Laterns

Mon-Sat 10-6pm, Sun: 12pm-5pm **925-299-0882**

961-A Moraga Rd. Lafayette • sugi-store.com

Breakfast • Lunch • Breakfast • Lunch • Breakfast



**MILLIE'S Kitchen**

5 AM - 2:30 PM  
Seven Days a Week

1018 Oak Hill Road  
Lafayette  
(510) 283-2397

Breakfast • Lunch • Breakfast • Lunch • Breakfast



**Piano Studio**  
Keys to success

Piano Lessons in Lafayette with professional instructor. MTAC member. Competition, CM exam Preparation.

Rita Yegiazaryan  
925-283-7601  
Cell: 925-323-8969

1060 Sierra Vista Way, Lafayette

**The Yarn Boutique**



- Lots and lots of fabulous yarn
- Friendly, personal service
- Sensible prices

LaFiesta Square,  
www.yarnboutique.us - 963-C Moraga Rd. - 925-283-7377

Diamonds  
Anniversary Bands  
Wedding Rings



**NOVINA**  
FINE JEWELRY  
Value • Quality  
Integrity  
since 1994

Fine Jewelry and watch repair including Rolex & Omega using genuine parts. All work done on premises by European trained watch maker & jeweler.

Custom Designs • Manufacturing in Gold & Platinum • Jewelry & Watch Repair

3559 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette • 925-283-1800

**FASTFRAME**  
EXPERT PICTURE FRAMING

1020 BROWN AVENUE  
LAFAYETTE CA 94549  
(925) 283-7620

OPEN MONDAY 10-5 and TUESDAY-SATURDAY 10-6  
15% OFF WITH THIS AD



**KW BUILDERS, Inc.**

Residential  
- Remodels -  
- Additions -  
- Custom Homes -

General Contractor  
Lafayette  
(925) 283-3128

Contact Matt Kunz or Jeff Wendt  
matt@kandwbuilders.com  
jeff@kandwbuilders.com  
CL# 930839



**LAFAYETTE PHYSICAL THERAPY**

Orthopedics • Sports Rehab • Geriatrics

Mention the Lamorinda Weekly for a  
**Complimentary Consultation**

3468 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Ste B110, Lafayette, CA  
925-284-6150 **www.LafayettePT.com**

WE CARRY **HunterDouglas** PRODUCTS

SINCE 1954

**ARMAND'S**  
DRAPERY, SHUTTERS & UPHOLSTERY

DRAPERY & UPHOLSTERY WORKROOM ON PREMISES

Custom Drapes • Roman Shades • Alustra® • Mini Blinds • Vertical Blinds  
Vignette® & Silhouette® window shadings • Luminette® Privacy Sheers®  
Duette® honeycomb shades • Drapery Hardware • Bedspreads  
Wood & Vinyl Shutters (Indoor & Outdoor) • Outdoor Basswood Blinds  
Insoroll Rolling Shutter

NO CHARGE FOR IN HOME SELECTION & MEASURE

BLINDS & DRAPERY CLEANING & REPAIRS

SHOWCASE PRIORITY DEALER **283-8717** 90 DAYS SAME AS CASH

3391 Mt. Diablo Blvd. • Lafayette • www.armandsdrapery.net

**Lafayette Pet Shoppe**  
www.lafayettepet.com  
Carrying everything you need for your pets!

Small Animal Grooming,  
Small Animal Boarding  
Holistic Pet Food  
Huge Selection of Toys & Pet Accessories

**FREE 2014 pet calendar w/purchase of \$20 or more\***  
\*while supplies last

3517 Mt. Diablo Blvd. • Lafayette • (925) 284-5212

Watch for Shop Orinda  
**January 29<sup>th</sup>**  
Call for Advertising  
925.377.0977

**Lafayette Auto Body, Inc.**  
www.lafayetteautobody.com



3291 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Lafayette (925) 283-3421



# Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 07 Issue 23 Wednesday, January 15, 2014

## Home Energy Audit Identifies Energy Inefficiencies

By Cathy Dausman

As Charles Warner famously quipped, “Everybody complains about the weather, but nobody does anything about it.” Mr. Warner, meet the Penneys.

Damian and Laurel Penney bought a 40-year-old ranch home in Moraga three years ago and have lived with its energy imperfections ever since. “We run the heater, and the house instantly cools down,” Damian Penney complained. “We want more bang for our buck.”

Tired of stashing blankets to snuggle under near living room chairs or raising the thermostat to stay comfortable (Damian Penney) only to see it lowered to minimize energy costs (Laurel Penney), the couple hired Eco Performance Builders to assess their comfort zone and establish project priorities.

The company sent Kyle Bosworth, who has two years on the job and is Building Performance Institute certified as an analyst. Bosworth set to work using a laptop, a blower door, infra-red camera and a digital measuring tape; he inspected attic and crawl spaces, hooked up a blower to run air flow tests, and measured the air cubic volume in each room. And since Bosworth teaches building analysis, he narrated his findings.

A home is a product of a dozen interconnected systems, he said; duct leakage and combustion safety are two common energy/performance failures. Unwanted heating or cooling losses always occur through the path of least resistance – for example, through single-pane windows, under-wrapped HVAC ductwork and under-insulated walls and attics. Skylights and attic knee walls sometimes lack insulation, which works best when it is sealed tightly to the surface.



Kyle Bosworth of Eco Performance Builders inspects the Penneys' home.

Photo Cathy Dausman

New construction insulation standards, expressed in “R” values, include R-6 for ducts, R-13 for walls and R-38 for ceilings. Windows are especially poorly insulated, and the Penneys knew their street-facing windows were only single pane. On the mild autumn test day the sun shone steadily through eastern and south-facing living room windows. The infra-red camera showed east facing walls heated to 88 degrees and south facing walls at 86 degrees.

“If it’s a really hot day we’ll run the air condition-



Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian

...read on page D8

ing before we do infra-red testing,” Bosworth said.

HVAC returns are another item homeowners want properly sealed. The Penneys’ supply and return ducts efficiency averaged a lowly R1. “There are places where bare sheet metal shows through the ductwork,” Boswell said. Even heat registers should be properly sealed, using aluminum foil tape, not duct tape, because leaky returns present air quality issues in the house as well as energy loss.

...continued on page D4





## VLATKA BATHGATE



IF I HAD A BUYER FOR YOUR HOME WOULD YOU SELL IT?

Call me at 925 597 1573

Vlatka@BestLamorindaHomes.com

CalBRE#01390784



The new year is a time for reflection and resolutions. 2013 was a great year thanks to everyone who referred me business. To my family, friends and clients I thank you and I look forward to a stellar 2014. My resolution is to be the hardest working realtor in the East Bay, providing my clients with the highest professionalism. The improving economy, rising home prices and rising interest rates make 2014 a strategic year for buyers and sellers.

*Let me help you make your strategic real estate move in 2014.*

### COMING SOON

588 Dalewood Dr, Orinda

**\$1,798,000**



Orinda Downs luxury awaits you in this enchanting residence with tranquil setting on over-sized lot with playful flat areas. A sleek contemporary, 4bed/3.5 baths, updated gourmet kitchen. Master bedroom with fireplace, remodeled bathroom with jetted tub. All the bedrooms with their own remodeled bathrooms and private decks. Outdoor spa.

**EXCELLENT TIME to take advantage of strong demand to get the highest possible price on your home and buy something else while interest rates are still low. They started to go up.**  
**If I had a Buyer for your home would you sell it?**

VLATKA CAN HELP YOU WITH BUYING OR SELLING YOUR HOME.  
[WWW.BESTLAMORINDAHOMES.COM](http://WWW.BESTLAMORINDAHOMES.COM)

## Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

City	Last reported:	LOWEST AMOUNT:	HIGHEST AMOUNT:
LAFAYETTE	7	\$790,000	\$1,615,000
MORAGA	6	\$235,000	\$1,079,000
ORINDA	7	\$528,000	\$1,700,000

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

### LAFAYETTE

120 Greenbank Drive, \$1,315,000, 3 Bdrms, 3451 SqFt, 1978 YrBl, 12-6-13;

Previous Sale: \$437,500, 05-19-87

3189 Lucas Circle, \$1,350,000, 6 Bdrms, 2994 SqFt, 1956 YrBl, 12-12-13;

Previous Sale: \$550,000, 04-22-99

1220 Monticello Road, \$1,244,500, 3 Bdrms, 1982 SqFt, 1956 YrBl, 12-17-13

3758 Mosswood Drive, \$790,000, 2 Bdrms, 1897 SqFt, 1957 YrBl, 12-12-13;

Previous Sale: \$3,000, 02-27-78

2004 Reliez Valley Road, \$1,615,000, 5 Bdrms, 3650 SqFt, 1938 YrBl, 12-13-13;

Previous Sale: \$1,615,000, 04-26-13

3345 Rowland Drive, \$1,250,000, 3 Bdrms, 1566 SqFt, 1951 YrBl, 12-12-13

3352 Walnut Lane, \$1,100,000, 6 Bdrms, 2512 SqFt, 1969 YrBl, 12-11-13;

Previous Sale: \$39,500, 06-21-71

### MORAGA

2059 Ascot Drive #108, \$235,000, 1 Bdrms, 713 SqFt, 1971 YrBl, 12-13-13;

Previous Sale: \$139,000, 03-14-11

122 Danefield Place, \$1,079,000, 5 Bdrms, 2800 SqFt, 1978 YrBl, 12-18-13

2121 Donald Drive #9, \$249,000, 2 Bdrms, 756 SqFt, 1963 YrBl, 12-10-13;

Previous Sale: \$270,000, 01-02-08

100 Natalie Drive, \$915,000, 3 Bdrms, 2256 SqFt, 1968 YrBl, 12-10-13

486 Rheem Boulevard, \$490,000, 3 Bdrms, 1322 SqFt, 1974 YrBl, 12-18-13;

Previous Sale: \$400,100, 09-12-08

22 Ross Drive, \$885,000, 3 Bdrms, 1566 SqFt, 1959 YrBl, 12-5-13;

Previous Sale: \$665,000, 06-27-13

### ORINDA

138 Ardith Drive, \$1,325,000, 4 Bdrms, 2294 SqFt, 1959 YrBl, 12-13-13;

Previous Sale: \$422,500, 09-18-92

392 Camino Sobrante, \$950,000, 2 Bdrms, 2391 SqFt, 1941 YrBl, 12-18-13

705 Ironbark Court, \$1,700,000, 3 Bdrms, 3858 SqFt, 1986 YrBl, 12-10-13

82 Underhill Road, \$528,000, 2 Bdrms, 1276 SqFt, 1961 YrBl, 12-6-13;

Previous Sale: \$480,000, 03-10-11

8 Via Floreado, \$897,000, 4 Bdrms, 1640 SqFt, 1951 YrBl, 12-18-13;

Previous Sale: \$950,000, 08-10-07

19 Via Moraga, \$1,150,000, 4 Bdrms, 2881 SqFt, 1952 YrBl, 12-5-13;

Previous Sale: \$850,000, 09-29-00

18 Woodland Road, \$900,000, 2 Bdrms, 1281 SqFt, 1940 YrBl, 12-12-13;

Previous Sale: \$836,000, 07-17-07

Reach 60,000+ in Lamorinda Advertise in Lamorinda Weekly

Call 925-377-0977 today

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



STILL #1 FOR A REASON



2010, 2011, 2012, 2013



**Stunning Happy Valley Estate**  
**1200 Estates Drive, Lafayette | \$3,588,000**  
5BR+ office/4.5BA, 4837± sq. ft. on .92± acre lot  
[1200Estates.com](http://1200Estates.com)

**By Appointment Only**



**Magnificent "House of Light"**  
**1152 Brown Avenue, Lafayette | \$2,775,000**  
5BR+ office/5.5BA, 5762± sq. ft. on 1.95± acre lot  
[1152BrownAve.com](http://1152BrownAve.com)

**By Appointment Only**



**Remodeled Orinda Rancher**  
**16 E Altarinda Drive, Orinda | \$1,525,000**  
4BR/3BA, 2621± sq. ft. on .64± acre lot  
[16EastAltarinda.com](http://16EastAltarinda.com)

**1st Open Sunday 1-4!**



**Downtown Charmer**  
**1746 San Miguel Drive, Walnut Creek | \$765,000**  
2BR/2BA + basement, 1862± sq. ft. on .06± acre lot  
[1746SanMiguel.com](http://1746SanMiguel.com)

**Open Sunday 1-4!**



A Member of Real Living

*Call me today to view any of  
these wonderful listings!*

**Dana Green**

925.339.1918

License #: 01482454



**DanaGreenTeam.com**





# Beautiful Hillside Treasure!

3210 Quandt Road, Lafayette

Open January 21st, 10am-2pm



Entertainer's delight! Schools: Springhill, Stanley and Acalanes High. Remodel nestled into private hillside with level yard, gorgeous pool, 12 person spa, outdoor kitchen & grassy play area. Double refrigerators in kitchen, open floor plan, high ceilings and master suite you will not want to leave.

Offered at \$2,990,000



Marian Krochka

925.788.2950

[mkrochka@rockcliff.com](mailto:mkrochka@rockcliff.com)

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

BRE# 01127545



## Home Energy Audit

...continued from page D1

Bosworth blower-tested the air ducts, measured airflow and air temperatures at all the registers. He checked the furnace and hot water heater temperatures. Accessing the attic, Bosworth noted it contained 5-inch deep blown-in fiberglass insulation, far less than the 12 to 13 inches recommended, and the floor of the attic was not air sealed prior to insulating. A home needs a sealed air barrier next to its insulation barrier to be fully effective.

"If you go outside on a cold windy day in a wool sweater you will still be cold" unless you have a windbreaker, too, he said. The crawl space evaluation proved even more challenging; its sheet metal was crushed in many locations. Bosworth had his raw data in six hours; a week later the Penneys received their comprehensive (45 page) evaluation, complete with suggested upgrades.

Energy modifications were presented in a good, better, best format. The Penneys' wall batt insulation had an R-10.5 rating, which Bosworth called "mostly effective" but with some weak spots. HVAC ductwork lost 43 percent efficiency (statewide the average loss is 30 percent) due to poor R-1 insulation, and the boots (metal transition between ducts and heat vents) were asbestos wrapped. The heater and air conditioning unit was oversized at 4 tons (a 2 ton AC unit, would have been better).

Bosworth often sees this in homes he inspects. An oversized unit increases run-time cycling and decreases comfort and efficiency. Underneath the house, the crawl space was without insulation or a vapor barrier. So where to start?

"I'm glad we went through [the process]," Damian Penney said, explaining without the analysis he likely would have made changes he didn't need to do. He's convinced that installing dual pane windows is "a pretty good investment."

Initial whole-house energy upgrade estimates ranged from \$10,000 to \$25,000 in after-rebate project costs and payback would likely be measured in tens of years. EPB also refunds \$300 for its energy audit testing.

As he mulled over the reports, Penney said, "I haven't lived anywhere that long."

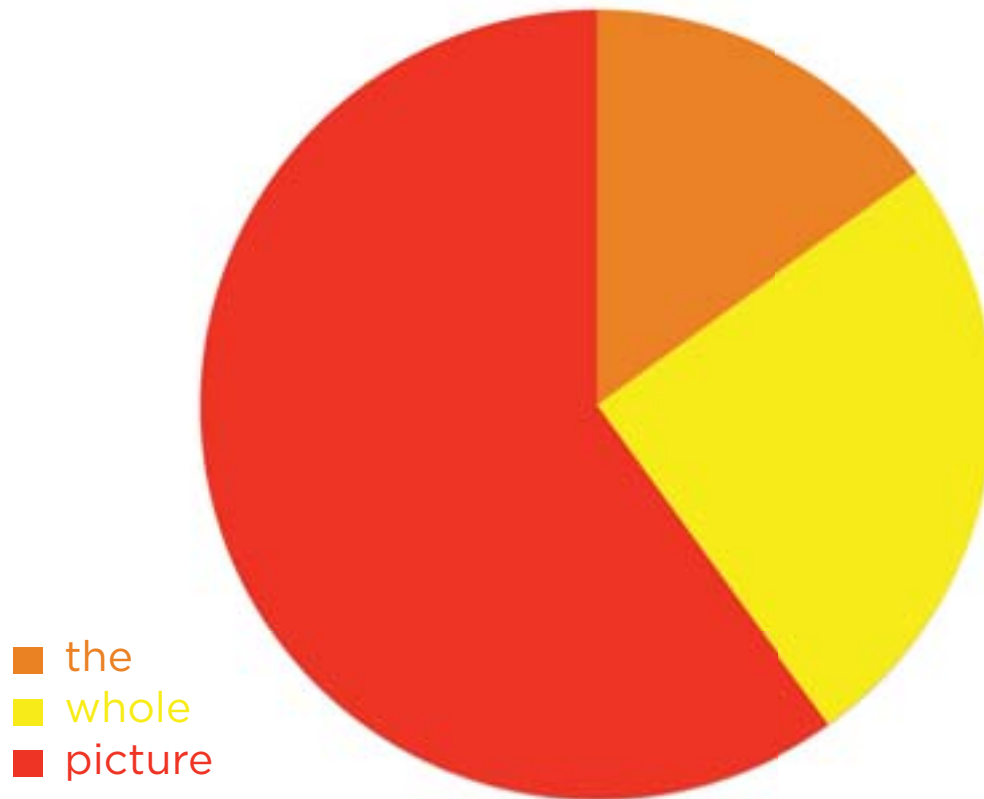
"It can take an extremely long time to get your return on investment," Bosworth noted, "but you're comfortable now... living in a home where you're not going to think about maintenance all the time."



Photo Cathy Dausman



Get the Whole Picture with All the Facts  
When You Buy or Sell in Lafayette.



Specialists in Lafayette real estate... Where market expertise, integrity and exceeding client expectations are our paramount objectives. We counsel clients based upon market facts, not conjecture.

**Consistently among the top in our business, our measure of success is always Quality.**



**Ron Rothenberg, MBA Marketing & Finance**  
**Susan Rothenberg**

**925.286.5530**

License #: 01309986 | 00857547

TeamRothenberg.com | info@TeamRothenberg.com





# The Real Estate Year in Review

By Conrad Bassett

Sales volume and the average sale price of homes increased significantly in Lafayette, Moraga, and Orinda, making 2013 another interesting year for Lamorinda residential real estate. Homes stayed on the market for a limited time, similar to 2012, and prices rose as supply remained quite low throughout the year. There were also fewer short sales and REOs (bank owned properties) in Lamorinda communities. These types of properties continue to negatively influence other nearby communities on a larger scale.

Per Contra Costa Association of Realtors statistics reported for closings Jan. 1 through Dec. 31, 2013, 314 single family homes closed in Lafayette versus 302 in 2012 and 245 in 2011. There were seven sales where the sale price was not reported to the MLS. For the 307 reported closings, sales prices ranged from \$407,900 to \$5.4 million and the average time on market was 31 days, about the same as the 32 day average in 2012. In 2011,

the average time on the market was 49 days. The average sales price was \$1,248,532 versus \$1,042,921 in 2012, \$1,040,014 in 2011, and \$1,097,749 in 2010. The average sale price was 102 percent of the final list price, versus 98.6 percent of the final list price in 2012. Of the seven unreported sales prices; the average list price was just under \$2.5 million, which would increase the actual average price in Lafayette somewhat. All seven of these sold in less than 90 days on the market, suggesting sales prices at or near the list price. There were 10 short sales and eight REOs among the total sales for the year in Lafayette.

In Moraga there were 136 single family closings in 2013; down a little from the 150 single family closings in 2012. There were 124 in 2011 and 102 in 2010. Prices ranged from \$470,000 to \$2.25 million. Of the 135 homes listed that showed a sales price, the average sale was \$1,147,207 versus \$991,469 in 2012, \$894,768 in

2011 and \$927,948 in 2010. The number of days on market in 2013 was 23, down from 30 in 2012, 40 in 2011 and 44 days in 2010. The average home sold for 103 percent of its last list price. Ninety-seven of the sales were sold at or above their listing price!

In Orinda the number of single-family closings was 262, up from 219 in 2012, 164 in 2011, and 179 in 2010. There were five properties where the sales price was not reported to the MLS. The reported sales ranged in price from \$260,000 to \$3.5 million with an average price of \$1,240,158 – a significant increase from 2012 when it was \$1,068,303, The average was \$1,021,751 in 2011 and \$1,060,798 in 2010. The average market time was 27 days, down from 44 days in 2012 and 50 days in 2011. The sales price was on average about \$4,000 above the final list price for the 257 reported sales. There were five short sales and seven REOs sold in Orinda in 2013. ... continued on page D9

## WWW.HOLCENBERG.COM

*Client satisfaction: a family tradition*

### Listing and Selling Moraga

In 2013 we helped many of your neighbors sell their homes.

11 Birchwood Place  
\$1,340,000



305 Donald Drive  
\$1,205,000



117 Calle La Montana  
\$1,001,000



314 Draeger Drive  
\$1,175,000



343 Calle La Mesa  
\$933,000



15 King's Crown Court  
\$1,375,000



18 Corte Fortuna  
\$950,000



3980 Paseo Grande  
\$910,000



24 Corte Mateo  
\$1,040,000



80 Warfield Drive  
\$1,040,000



\*represented buyers



**Wendy Holcenberg**  
wendy@holcenberg.com  
925.253.4630  
BRE#00637795

**Michelle Holcenberg**  
michelle@holcenberg.com  
925.253.4663  
BRE#01373412



©2014 Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. All Rights Reserved. Coldwell Banker® is a registered trademark licensed to Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. An Equal Opportunity Company. Equal Housing Opportunity. Each Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage office is owned by a subsidiary of NRT LLC. BRE License # 01908304

Call today so we can help you reach your 2014 real estate goals.



## Discover the Beauty of One Estates Court



*Enjoy a .85 acre setting at the end of a cul-de-sac street.*

*\$1,025,000*

**Coming Soon! Clark's New Year Listings**  
*Opening Doors to More Inventory*



8 La Campana



65 La Espiral



17 Tappan Lane

**30 Years Selling More Homes Than Any Other Individual Agent!**



BRE #: 00903367





## Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian

# Technology in the Garden

By Cynthia Brian

*“All through the long winter I dream of my garden.” – Helen Hayes*

By now most of us have made resolutions for the New Year. We pledged to become more organized, lose weight, be kinder, and enjoy life more fully. I want to add to these lofty goals by suggesting that we become enlightened, technological gardeners.

For millenniums, most of the tools of our trade were simple – trowels, shovels, spades, pruning shears, saws, wheelbarrows, and buckets. Designs were constructed with paper, pencil, string, and chalk. Modernization brought us gas and electric conveniences including lawn mowers, blowers, hedge trimmers, chain saws, nightscaping, and automatic irrigation. When we needed to learn more, we'd head to the library, buy books, read newspapers and magazines, or go to our local nursery for advice. When we had a major problem, the county farm extension became our best friend. In the last 10 years, if we were computer literate, finding information via an Internet search was just a few keystrokes away.

This year, technology is making planning and growing easier. With a download to our smart phones,

gardeners can simply access apps that will answer most questions, introduce us to new species, diagnose problems, and create the ultimate landscape.

Are you ready to experiment using technology in the garden? Begin 2014 with a tech bang by checking out any of these phone apps for your garden. Some are not quite ready for prime time, but they are a good beginning. If you are not a gardener, this short list of apps may convince you that nature rules. And to sweeten the deal, these apps are all free!

**Garden Compass:**

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/garden-compass-plant-disease/id605855033?mt=8>

This app allows you to shoot a picture of a pest or plant for submittal to a selective team of garden experts who will identify and provide specific product recommendations. This app is an easy way to solve a pesky problem.

**Garden Minder:**

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/gardenminder/id510434403?mt=8>



*If they weren't damaged by the freeze, naval oranges will be ready to pick at the end of the month.*



*Walk around a pond during the month for a dose of inspiration.*

*Photos Cynthia Brian*

Want to design the perfect raised bed for edibles? This all-in-one app offers lists of vegetables from A-Z with simple directions on when and how to plant and cultivate.

**Garden Time Planner:**

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/garden-time-planner/id594225389?mt=8>

Including annual flowers in the database, this tool from Burpee will show you when to sow and when to reap your vegetables and fruit specific to your region to ensure a hearty harvest.

...continued on page D10



# The Real Estate Year in Review

... continued from page D6

There were two reported sales in Canyon in 2013. One was at \$390,000 and the other at \$725,000.

On an average price per square foot basis for reported sales in 2013, Lafayette homes sold for \$488.60 per square foot, an increase from \$431.45 in 2012. Moraga homes sold for \$455.90 per square foot, up from \$398.99 in 2012. And in Orinda it was \$489.85 in 2013, an increase from \$422.68 in 2012. In 2011, Lafayette homes sold for \$402.15 per square foot, Moraga homes for \$381.61, and \$423.17 in Orinda. In 2010, Lafayette homes sold for \$432 per square foot, Moraga homes for \$385 per square foot and Orinda was at \$408.

In the condominium/town home category, Lafayette had 16 closings including two short sales. They had 14 closings a year ago and six closings in 2011. Prices ranged in 2013 from \$375,000 to \$750,000. Moraga had 70, up a little from 65 a year ago. Sales ranged from \$235,000 to \$899,000. This includes attached homes in Moraga Country Club. Orinda had only three sold, down from nine last year and 12 in 2011. They sold from \$850,000 to \$930,000.

It should be noted that there are also a few direct sales that do not go through the MLS and they are not reported here. These include some foreclosures that were sold at the courthouse as well as some sales between private individuals.

As of Dec. 31, there were 45 dwellings under contract per the MLS in the three communities combined, with asking prices of \$295,000 to \$3.15 million. There are eight "Potential Short Sales" that are currently pending. In each case, the anticipated closing date may be several months into the future as the sellers await approval of their particular lender or lenders. A year ago at this same time there were 17 short sales that were pending. As prices have risen over the last 12 months, more owners now have equity in their homes and have not had to go through the short-sale process.

A comparison of year-end inventory in the three communities combined versus a year ago shows 51 homes on the market versus 36 a year ago. At the end of

2011 there were 78 and on Dec. 31, 2010 there were 133 that were available. Typically the biggest inventory is in the spring and early summer, however this current number may point to another year with a combination of qualified buyers vying for a continued limited supply. There were only 24 homes on the market in Lafayette at year-end while 12 months ago there were 15. On Dec. 31, 2011 there were 34. The current asking prices range from \$550,000 to \$7.75 million.

In Moraga, buyers had a year-end selection of 11 homes and condos versus five at the end of 2012. List prices ranged between \$399,000 and \$3.5 million. In Orinda there were 16, similar to the 15 at the same time a year ago. Asking prices as of Dec. 31 ranged from \$799,000 to \$6.5 million.

As has been the recent story, the most active price ranges are the more "affordable" ones. However, 2013 showed that 40 homes sold above \$2 million in Lamorinda, up from 28 in 2012 and 17 in 2011.

Interest rates have crept up a little but are still relatively attractive to those with down payments of at least 20 percent. Corporations continue to expand and contract and also to relocate families – families who find the Lamorinda area attractive because of outstanding public schools, BART, and the close distance to San Francisco. The minimal amount of new construction helped keep supply and demand within a better balance than a lot of other neighboring communities. That will continue to change somewhat in 2014 as Orinda Grove and Wilder come further online as new construction alternatives in Orinda and condominium and townhome developments are built in Lafayette, such as the Taylor Morrison community at Pleasant Hill Road and Mt. Diablo Boulevard.

The trend in the three Lamorinda cities that began in 2011 continues today: sellers are receiving multiple offers and homes are being sold for above the list price. This, when coupled with an extremely low supply and a willingness by sellers to be realistic in their pricing, should continue to fuel a strong market.

## What to expect in 2014

By Andi Peterson Brown

The 2013 Lamorinda real estate market came in like a lion and out like a lion, with the median sales price up almost 20% as compared to 2012. As the market emerges from winter hibernation and we gear up for the 2014 spring selling season, we expect to see this momentum continue.

In addition, we can expect:

- **Buyers.** In 2013, there were buyers. Lots and lots of buyers. And believe it or not, there are still plenty of them ready to buy in 2014. The Bay Area economy is thriving, and the pool of well-capitalized buyers is growing every day.
- **Competition.** Like 2013, there is a high likelihood that buyers will find themselves in multiple offer situations. While many sellers have gotten the news that prices are up and their equity positions are improved, there still might not be enough inventory to meet the demand.
- **Interest Rates.** Interest rates are still historically low, but they are rising. Some economists are forecasting mortgage rates could rise a full percentage point before the year is over. We can expect the possibility of higher rates coming down the pike to push many buyers off the fence and into a home.
- **Quick Sales.** Sellers of properly priced and marketed homes should expect to see their homes sell quickly. Why? See the three bullet points above.

In addition, I'm happy to talk in more detail about the market if you have further questions.



DRE# 01738605

andi  
PETERSON  
brown

Real Estate Broker  
AndiBrownHomes.com  
925.818.4588



real local • real knowledge • real value

©2014 Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. All Rights Reserved. Coldwell Banker® is a registered trademark licensed to Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. An Equal Opportunity Company. Equal Housing Opportunity. Each Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage office is owned by a subsidiary of NRT LLC. CalBRE License # 01908304



# Digging Deep

...continued from page D8

## Leaf Snap:

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/leafsnap/id430649829?mt=8>

Have you ever been on a hike and found a leaf that you just had to know what it was? Leafsnap was designed by researchers from the University of Maryland, the Smithsonian, and Columbia University. Snap a photo of any leaf and the app will identify the species! This makes experts of us all.

## Our Rose Garden:

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/our-rose-garden/id577793777?mt=8&ign-mpt=uo=4>

If you are a rose lover, you will love this app created by the University of Illinois Extension. It includes videos, a gallery to track your rose favorites, and information on planting, pruning, and caring for the hardest working plant in your collection.

## Diagnostic Sample Submission:

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/sample-submission/id669269520?mt=8>



*Yellow Narcissus*



*Potted cyclamen brighten a winter border or path.*

*Photos Cynthia Brian*

Similar to the Garden Compass app, the Plant Diagnostic Sample Submission allows you to submit digital photos to a university diagnostic laboratory for identification of diseases and pests. No more need to wonder if you have spider mites or rust, this app could become a farmer's best friend.

Now that it is winter and we've put our gardens to bed, instead of just dreaming about the future, let's go into action and embrace the latest technology to help us become the best stewards of our yards as possible. Dream it! Do it! Start clicking!



*Don't miss the magnificent magnolias at the San Francisco Botanical Gardens.*



# Cynthia Brian's Mid-Month Reminders

By Cynthia Brian

- **PRUNE** your roses towards the end of the month.
- **PLANT** bare-root trees, vines, and roses now.
- **VISIT** the San Francisco Botanical Garden, home to the most significant magnolia collection for conservation purposes outside of China during the annual Magnolia Bloom Jan. 15-March 31 to take advantage of docent and curator led daytime and moonlight tours plus family activities.  
<http://www.sfbotanicalgarden.org>.
- **CLEAR** creeks running through your property of debris. Even though the weather has been dry, a storm could cause flooding if your storm drains are blocked.
- **JOIN** a garden club. If you live in Lafayette, I'll be speaking to the Happy Valley Garden Club on Feb. 3!
- **WALK** in nature at least once a week to restore balance to your life.

Wishing you a year filled with the gift of beauty, learning, and digging.  
Happy Gardening and Happy Growing!



©2014  
Cynthia Brian  
The Goddess Gardener  
[Cynthia@goddessgardener.com](mailto:Cynthia@goddessgardener.com)  
<http://www.goddessgardener.com>  
925-377-7827  
Cynthia is available as a speaker and consultant.

**DESIGN  
INSTALLATION  
IRRIGATION  
DRAINAGE  
STONEWORK  
CONCRETE WORK  
DECKS  
FENCES  
PATIOS  
LAWNS  
PONDS  
CLEANUP &  
HAULING**

BLUE RIDGE



**925-258-9233  
CELL: 510-847-6160**

**LANDSCAPE COMPANY INC.  
BLUE JAY FELDMAN  
OWNER/OPERATOR  
WWW.BLUERIDGELC.COM**

**LICENSED  
INSURED  
Lic# 818633**



## McDonnell Nursery

family owned since 1933

Winter Rose Pruning Workshop

Saturday January 25th 10:00 a.m.

To reserve a seat please call: (925) 254-3713  
or [info@mcdonnellnursery.com](mailto:info@mcdonnellnursery.com)

Trees • Shrubs • Vines • Annuals • Perennials  
Vegetables • Containers • Statuary & Fountains  
Indoor Plants • Decorative Items

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

196 Moraga Way • Orinda • (925) 254-3713 • Open Daily



Reach 60,000+ in Lamorinda  
Advertise in Lamorinda Weekly  
Call 925-377-0977 today

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

LAMORINDA  
WEEKLY

Local newspaper delivered to Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda  
[www.lamorindaweekly.com](http://www.lamorindaweekly.com)



# Lamorinda's Leading Independent Real Estate Firm

## ORINDA



### 55 Oak Road

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

**\$219,000**

## ORINDA



### 40 Dos Osos

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

**\$545,000**

## ORINDA



### 34 La Vuelta

Located on coveted street in OCC, this appx .37 ac parcel is surrounded by expensive homes & incredible opportunity to build on special location. Approved site plan w/stylish designed home comes w/purchase.

**\$569,000**

## ORINDA



### 20 Muth Drive

Beautifully updated contemporary ranch style, 4bd/2.5ba on spacious 3/4 ac lot. Hdwd flrs, slab counter kit. w/ breakfast area & formal dining rm together w/ big lawn & huge back patio w/spa are just a few of what this home has to offer.

**\$899,000**



## THE VILLAGE ASSOCIATES:

Ashley Battersby  
Patricia Battersby  
Joan Cleveland  
Shannon Conner  
Joan Eggers  
Linda Ehrlich  
Joan Evans

Linda S. Friedman  
Marianne Greene  
Dexter Honens II  
Anne Knight  
Susan Zeh Layng  
Art Lehman  
Charles Levine  
Erin Martin  
April Matthews  
Karen Murphy  
Ben Olsen

Sue Olsen  
Tara Rochlin  
Jaime Roder  
Altie Schmitt  
Judy Schoenrock  
Ann Sharf  
Amy Rose Smith  
Molly Smith  
Jeff Snell

Lynda Snell  
Clark Thompson  
Angie Evans Traxinger  
Ignacio Vega  
Terri Bates Walker  
Ann Ward  
Dan Weil  
Margaret Zucker

## 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



### 1 Estates Court

Wonderful knoll location on private view .85 acre. Delightful home, circa 1939, apx. 2200 sf w/ 3bd/3ba incl. full "in-law" unit on lower level. Wood flooring, dual pane windows, modern baths. Open decks, lovely gardens, planting beds.

**\$1,025,000**

## ORINDA



### 9 Las Piedras

Picturesque private 6bd/3ba in park like setting w/panoramic views, level lawn & recreational pool. 3745 sf classic custom w/vaulted ceilings, walls of windows, hdwd flrs, den, workout rm, FR & well-appointed kitchen.

**\$1,349,000**

## ORINDA



### 1 Camino del Cielo

Sophisticated and stylish 4900+ square foot newer construction with four bedrooms plus office, three and one half baths, decks and views.

**\$1,599,000**

## MORAGA



### 137 Via Joaquin

Updated Moraga Townhome with Oversized loft, chef's kitchen, open floor plan, lots of windows, private setting. Inviting patio backs to open space. 75 Walk Score.

**\$645,000**

## MORAGA



### 127 Cypress Point Way

Light, bright MCC Plan 4, 3bd/2ba with huge patio, living rm, dining rm, kitchen/family rm combo w/ new pecan hardwood floors & carpet. Very desirable location on cul-de-sac: walk to clubhouse, swim, tennis, golf & town.

**\$749,000**

## 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**

## EMERYVILLE



### 3960 Adeline Street #3

Commercial storefront w/open flexible retail, office or service space w/many hard-to-find features. 1000+ sf in Triangle District. Divided btwn open central office area, separate screening space or private ofc, kit. area & bath w/shower.

**\$345,000**



[facebook.com/VillageAssociates](https://www.facebook.com/VillageAssociates)

[twitter.com/villageassoc](https://twitter.com/villageassoc)

93 Moraga Way, Suite 103 • Orinda, CA 94563 • Phone: (925) 254-0505

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

Sunday Open Homes