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Jon Wake, 11, waits 'not so patiently' for his grandmother in Lafayette while brother, Jeff, and father, Dan, check their iPhones.

Photo Jennifer Wake

Has Intimacy Suffered in the Information Age?

By Amanda Kuehn

The first iPhone made its debut Jan. 9, 2007. Seven years later, over nine million iPhones were sold in the first weekend alone after the release of the iPhone 5S, according to businessweek.com. Smartphones and their apps follow us everywhere – to grocery stores, soccer games, school, the movie theater.

We use them in our cars and at restaurants, for work and on vacation. With the ability to find friends online and take the Internet just about anywhere, is it possible that we are missing out on real connection with each other? Maybe even with ourselves?

Ellen Rigsby, associate professor of communications

at Saint Mary's College, shared some interesting insights on the issue. When asked how she saw recent technology effecting today's culture, Rigsby commented that "social relationships develop around technology." Change happens fast because technology itself advances so quickly.

... continued on page A12

Quote of the Week:

"I heard someone once say that in your first 30 years, you learn what you need to know; during the next 30 years you do what you're good at and the rest of your life you do what you love. I'm still loving it all." Read Moraga's Own Hot Dog King - page B2

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Two Parcel Taxes Likely on May Ballot

Local schools looking for an extension of existing measures

By Cathy Tyson

The Acalanes Union High School District and the Lafayette School District are making plans to put measures on the May, 2014 ballot to extend existing parcel taxes that will sunset next year. Voters in Moraga, Orinda, Lafayette and parts of Walnut Creek will vote on the high school district measure, while only Lafayette voters will make a decision for the Lafayette School District.

Back in 2010 voters in the AUHSD, which includes Campolindo, Miramonte, Acalanes, Las Lomas and the Acalanes Center for Independent Study, approved Measure A for \$112 per parcel to raise money to avoid the loss of science, foreign language, English, social studies, arts, and mathematics classes due to cuts in the state budget. Measure A, also known as the "Emergency Education Act" collected this fee per parcel for five years starting in 2010, resulting in approximately \$3.9 million in annual funding since the 2010-2011 school year, according to the district.

The initial results are in from a feasibility study completed by True North Research on behalf of the high school district; officials say the results look promising. More complete results are expected in the near future.

If the measure isn't approved, the district will have to lay off teachers and classified staff according to Tom Mulvaney, AUHSD board member. "It's key that we keep our teachers," he explained, adding, "We have a very serious responsibility; we're going to have to do something."

Board members called for an additional special meeting to review the measure and finalize ballot language before the Feb. 5 deadline.

Only Lafayette voters will likely have a second parcel tax measure, if approved, on the May ballot – this one for the Lafayette School District comprised of four elementary schools and Stanley Middle School. Not one, but two existing parcel taxes are expiring; the district would combine both to

form one measure.

Voters approved the Measure J parcel tax in 2007 for \$313 per parcel that includes a 3 percent annual adjustment for inflation – this measure sunsets in 2015. In addition, voters approved Measure B in 2011 for \$176 per parcel that also expires in 2015. Currently these two taxes contribute roughly 15 percent of the annual budget, almost \$5 million dollars.

Decisions about whether to place a measure on the ballot, along with the timing and structure, will be finalized at a special meeting of the Lafayette School District on Jan. 30, according to Teresa Gerlinger, president of the school board.

Rachel Zinn, superintendent of the Lafayette School District, called passage of the parcel tax "critical."

Both the Acalanes Union High School District and Lafayette School District measures would need to garner at least two-thirds of the vote to pass.

LAMORINDA WEEKLY

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Gaels Ride Hot-Streak

SMC men play a great game against LMU - page C1.



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Art in the Garden

Sculptures grow like flowers in this Orinda garden - page D1.





Lafayette Civic News

Public Meetings

City Council

Monday, Feb. 10, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Planning Commission

Monday, Feb. 3, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Design Review

Monday, Feb. 10, 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, Feb. 5, 7:30 p.m.
AUHSD Board Room at 1212
Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette
www.aalanes.k12.ca.us

Lafayette School District

Thursday, Feb. 12, 7 p.m.
Regular Board Meeting
Stanley Library
3477 School St., Lafayette
www.lafsd.k12.ca.us

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City Council Approves Terraces Process Agreement

By Cathy Tyson

At the second of two meetings held to make a decision on the Process Agreement of the "Alternative Plan" proposed by developer O'Brien Land Company for the Terraces of Lafayette project, opponents came out in force to express their displeasure with the new smaller project. This plan features 45 single-family homes and a unique public amenity component that includes a soccer field, dog park, tot lot and parking area; it's a fraction of the originally proposed 315-unit design that was almost universally disliked. Ultimately, despite the intense anger and frustration in the room, city council members calmly explained their reasoning to approve the agreement.

This authorization gets the ball rolling on an expedited review process for the new smaller proposal; it still requires the project to go through the usual assessment procedures, which includes the Parks, Trails and Recreation, Circulation, Planning and Design Review commissions. At the end of that process, it will go back to the City Council with recommen-

dations from all of those administrative bodies. The City Council can then vote to approve, deny or approve the project with certain conditions. A "no" vote on the process agreement would have meant the original, very controversial 315-unit apartment concept would be re-started along with the probability of an expensive lawsuit, which the developer has made clear.

Some residents saw this difficult choice as "bullying," given the potential for litigation if the process agreement for the alternative plan was not approved. Councilmember Brandt Anderson agreed that the city shouldn't bow to the threat of a lawsuit, but explained that the Housing Accountability Act, "really changes the playing field dramatically." Anderson, who is an attorney in his day job, added, "I'm not saying we're going to lose a lawsuit, but I'm not saying we are going to win either." In his opinion, if the city lost the lawsuit, it could be looking at four to five times as many units as the current 45-home plan calls for.

The Housing Accountability Act, also known as the anti-NIMBY statute, limits the ability of cities to reject proposed housing development projects that are consistent with local plans and zoning regulations.

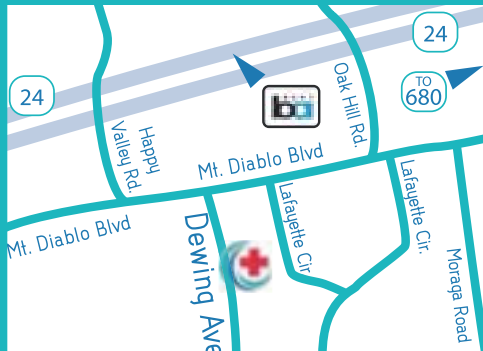
After the first public hearing on Jan. 13, the City Council asked for more information to be presented at the Jan. 22 meeting about maintenance costs and visibility of the homes on the parcel near Acalanes High School and how well they would be screened. David Gates of Gates and Associates gave a Powerpoint presentation highlighting their multi-zone landscaping plan that included a substantial number of 20-25 foot high trees and large native shrubs. "The goal is instant screening," said Gates, describing mature willows and oaks that would dominate the hillside.

Steven Falk, Lafayette's city manager, outlined expected maintenance costs and how to fund them, primarily through fees that are generated via new development in Lafayette. The estimated amenity maintenance budget in-

cludes sinking funds for long term capital investments such as replacing the soccer field at the end of its lifespan. He said a copy of the revenue sources and expected costs will be posted on the city's website, www.love-lafayette.org.

Many public comments focused on how the city dropped the ball with the initial re-zoning effort years ago that was not completed prior to receiving the development application for the original 315-unit Terraces project. City attorney Mala Subramanian was asked to comment on this. She confirmed that staff was asked to re-zone the parcel, but clarified that "even if you wanted to change the zoning it would not apply to this project. It's not an option."

On a unanimous vote the City Council approved the process agreement. Traci Reilly recused herself, "out of an abundance of caution," on the advice of the city attorney because she had commented on the Terraces project before she was elected to the City Council.



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Support Growing for Campaign to Save Park Theater

By Cathy Tyson



Lafayette's Park Theater

Photo Cathy Dausman

A grassroots effort to re-open the Park Theater is just getting off the ground with Lafayette residents Chris and Natalie Lane spearheading the effort. Chris Lane grew up in Lafayette and has been very involved in the community with Rotary, the Art and Wine Festival Committee and as past president of the Chamber of Commerce; right now the focus is on the Park Theater.

He has started a Facebook page, "Save the Lafayette Park Theater," that is gathering momentum daily, and is in the process of getting a commercial contractor to investigate the soundness of the structure to determine the repairs necessary to open the doors to the public. The ultimate goal of the endeavor is to form a non-profit to buy and operate the theater.

For years, one of the wrinkles in revitalizing the vintage movie house was the city's parking requirements. Lane said he has spoken with the city manager and believes existing parking can be grandfathered in, so no additional spaces are needed. However there may be a difference of opinion. "If the theater were to reopen, it would require about 88 parking spaces," said Niroop Srivatsa, Lafayette's planning and building director. "Would the city waive that requirement entirely? I think that would be tough to do, but it is a City Council decision." Currently the the-

ater has a dozen parking spaces.

Srivatsa explained the city's effort for a public/private partnership to address the dilemma. "The Plaza Way overlay that was approved in 2012 offers property owners some relief from the city's parking requirements. A property owner opting-in to the Overlay District is required to enter into an agreement with the city and terms of the agreement are negotiated on a case by case basis. Thus far, the city has negotiated with the Poys (who own the Squirrels, Plaza Way Tailor, and Handlebar Toy spaces) and the Park Theater Group; the Poys signed the agreement, the Park Theater Group's agreement is still in draft form. In both cases, the owners were required to provide at least some of the required parking in site."

Key organizers, who include some members of the Lafayette Community Foundation, are in discussions with the building's owners. A business plan is currently being written with advice from the operators of the Rheem and Orinda theaters.

While the effort is very preliminary at this point, Lane has hopes that the jewel, circa 1941, of Lafayette can be restored and the theater can be self-sustaining. The "Save the Lafayette Park Theater" Facebook page already has over 1,300 "likes," now they just need some angel investors and possibly more parking spaces.

Preschool Gets Okay for New Location

By Cathy Tyson

After multiple public hearings in front of the Planning Commission, Building Bridges Preschool got a green light to relocate from Our Savior's Lutheran Church on Carol Lane to a home directly adjacent to the church property – a former parsonage owned by the church.

Contrary to some misconceptions, the approval of this conditional land use permit is not a re-zoning; certain uses of a residence require a permit because there may be impacts associated with the use. Operating a preschool is allowed by right in single-family homes in Lafayette. The city can specify certain conditions of approval like the hours of operation, recess space and landscaping to limit the impact on neighbors. "A use permit is a living thing," said J. Alan Sayles, planning commissioner, explaining that the applicant must continue to meet conditions or face its revocation.

Neighbors along Carol Lane, many of whom have lived there for decades, expressed their strong concerns about the relocation including the effect on their property values, noise and traffic. Others objected to a secular commercial entity renting the home, calling it "commercial over reach."

While it's true that small children can officially be considered "mobile noise sources," Sandra Swimmer, the owner and operator of the preschool, clarified that the maximum number of children on any given day is 30, with students divided into two groups of a maximum of 15 kids in each. She pointed out that not all the children come every day. The recess area they will use is in the front of the house that faces the church, and the house itself acts as a noise buffer. The commission would not allow the preschoolers to use the spacious back yard.

Because the school is shifting only slightly southward, and parents will still use the church parking lot for pick up and drop off, commissioners didn't see an issue there.

"I have trouble finding something to object to," said commissioner Will Lovitt. He acknowledged that day care facilities in residential neighborhoods are encouraged by the city's General Plan. Assistant planner Sarah Allen said the city has never received a complaint from the code enforcement officer about a preschool in a residential neighborhood. After much discussion, the land use permit was approved – with the condition that additional landscaping be done to function as a noise buffer from the adjacent neighbor.

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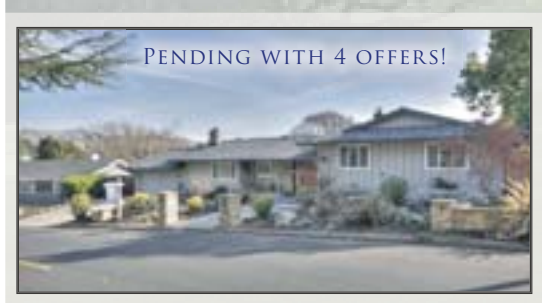
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Moraga Civic News

Public Meetings

Town Council

Wednesday, Feb. 12, 7 p.m.
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School,
1010 Camino Pablo

Planning Commission

Monday, Feb. 3, 7 p.m.
Moraga Library, 1500 St. Mary's Rd.

Design Review

Monday, Feb. 10, 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

Correction, issue date Jan. 15, 2014, "The Moraga Park Connection:"

This article indicated that the size of the nature area Summerhill Homes plans to dedicate to the town, as part of its new development on Camino Ricardo, is 5 acres – it is actually 2.5 acres.

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Council Considers Wright House

It's hard to build on a slope in Moraga

By Sophie Braccini

It's not that the architect James Wright didn't take the safest route. As he designed the creative, modern home he wanted to build on a steep slope at 1800 Donald Drive in Moraga, he worked with planning staff to make sure the project adhered to all of the town's building rules regarding height, grading, and other requirements. After more than three years of work and close to \$100,000 spent in local fees, the project that received approval from both the Design Review Board and the Planning Commission was appealed by neighbors. On Jan. 22 the Moraga Town Council upheld the appeal and the property owner was instructed to obtain a grading permit in order to proceed.

"I worked with two different planning directors, the town engineer and the town consultant to design a home that fit all of your town's re-

quirements," said Wright, an award-winning Orinda architect. The project, which would build a large home (more than 4,000 square feet) on a downslope off Donald Drive, was supported by town staff who recommended rejecting the appeal. One after the other, the town consultant, the planning director and the town manager explained that the plan fits the criteria for the amount of grading and the number of stories, which were the two main elements that caused concern among some of the council members.

The bulk of the discussion settled around the amount of dirt that would be moved to build the house. In Moraga the rule is that if a home requires more than 50 cubic yards of dirt to be moved, it requires a grading permit. Moving dirt for elements such as foundations and utilities are not taken

into account in the formula because it could become a safety issue.

Two council members, Dave Trotter and Roger Wykle, did their best to dig deeper and challenge staff's recommendation. Wykle was particularly tenacious, trying to demonstrate that the house had in fact three stories, and that the driveway that's an elevated structure should not be considered an essential element of the house, meaning that it should require a permit as a structure encroaching on the front setback.

Trotter argued that the amount of dirt that would have to be moved would be greater than estimated and that it would be better to seek a grading permit now rather than to stop construction down the road when, as he predicted, the 50-cubic-yard limit would be exceeded.

Mayor Ken Chew, although he

did not pose an argument during the discussion, was also in favor of stopping the project.

At the last minute, Trotter said he would change his vote if a grading permit were required from the applicant and the height of the windows reduced from 12 to 10 feet. The applicant will therefore have to apply for a grading permit and return to the Town Council. It is not clear what this will mean to the project since in staff's professional opinion it does not require a grading permit. Conscious that this project could set a precedent for building on hillsides in town, Trotter asked that the conditions of approval state that this specific lot was declared constructible before the town was incorporated and that the approval, if it happens, would not set a precedent.



Moraga Police Department

Gas Theft, 1/13/14 A Donald Drive resident parked her car on the driveway with a full tank of gas. When she went out the next morning at 8:30 a.m. the vehicle's tank was empty. Estimated loss \$60. Clearly that thief sucks.

Brazen morning burglary, 1/14/14 The window on the side of a Sanders Drive home was smashed, unknown suspects entered the home and took a new television and several pieces of jewelry and check-books. The theft occurred sometime between 8 a.m. and 12:50 p.m.

Self storage? 1/16/14 At 8:30 a.m. Moraga police responded to an Ascot Drive apartment for a welfare check. They contacted the reporting person and found him locked in a storage closet. The individual was evaluated and determined to be a danger to himself, so the fire department transported him to the Contra Costa Regional Medical Center.

D.U.I./drugs, 1/16/14 There was a solo vehicle traffic collision near the corner of Camino Pablo and Rimer Drive. The 22-year-old driver from Moraga reported that a deer stepped in front of his car, causing him to swerve, hit a road sign and run into a ditch. Suspicious police found a 5-gallon bucket across the roadway that contained less than an ounce of pot and a small bundle of cocaine; 10 hypodermic needles were found in the bushes just outside the passenger side of the car, a sunglasses container in the vehicle held five small baggies of suspected cocaine and 28 extended release Xanax tablets. No comment from the alleged deer, but the driver was taken to jail in Martinez and the car was towed.

Kid hosts party, 1/18/14 There was a loud party in an Ascot Drive apartment complex. Police dropped in, although they surely didn't receive an invitation, and discovered over 20 people under 21 years of age inside the apartment drinking alcohol. The 16-year-old host jumped out of a window and fled police. Cops cleared the remaining party guest and noticed – what a coincidence – a 16-year-old walking nearby. It was determined that he was drunk and was hosting the party while his dad was away. The young man was cited for Hosting a Juvenile Party with Alcohol, he was later released to his mother.

House ransacked, 1/17/14 Police responded to a burglary at a secluded home on Buckingham Drive. Apparently an unknown suspect had gained entry by smashing a rear window and ransacked the entire house. The value of stolen property has not yet been determined. Sadly nothing was seen or heard, and there are no suspects or leads at this time.

In addition, the following crimes were reported between Jan. 14 and Jan. 21:

False alarm

Moraga Rd, Larch Ave, Laird Dr

Drunk in public

Donald Dr

Suspicious circumstances

Country Club Dr, Moraga Wy

Petty theft

Augusta Dr

Identity theft

Calle La Montana, Redfield Pl

Traffic incident

Rheem Blvd, Moraga Rd

Civil dispute over tree

Deerfield Cr

Attempt to scam

Wandel Ct

Does Moraga Need More Police Officers?

By Sophie Braccini



Police Chief Robert Priebe
Photo Sophie Braccini

Frank Melon is a persistent individual; the general manager of the Moraga Country Club came to the Moraga Town Council's goal setting session Jan. 14 to ask, for the second year in a row, that police services be reinforced in Moraga. The Town Council agreed that the time has come to look into the issue.

"The average number of police officers is one per 1,000 residents," Melon told the Town Council. "That would mean there should be 16 officers in Moraga."

Moraga's budget currently allows for 13 officers but the town has had an average of 11 officers at any one time during the last three years.

Police Chief Robert Priebe knows these numbers well. "Moraga ties for the lowest number of police officers per 1,000 residents in Contra Costa County, with a ratio of 0.7," he said, "and Moraga is the absolute last if you look at police cost per resident, at \$142.07."

With officers on duty 24 hours per day, seven days per week, having less than 14 means that someone has to work overtime; and it gets worse when an officer goes on vacation or is out sick or injured. "Some officers say they like overtime when I hire them," said Priebe, who always discloses the situation to new recruits, "but after a while, over-working takes its toll."

Moraga's police department al-

ways seems to be in the process of recruiting new officers and losing others. Priebe thinks that salaries below the region's average and reduced benefit packages are not the only reasons for the high turnover. "When someone joins the police they want the excitement, they want the chase and to catch the bad guys," he said. "Here we have a different kind of policing – more prevention, more making sure that everyone stays safe. It is not enough for some of the officers." Priebe is nonetheless proud that the young officers who are trained in Moraga do very well and quickly advance in their careers when they go somewhere else.

Priebe said that 16 officers would be an ideal number for his department. He explained that he has never lobbied for additional staff because that it is a decision the community has to make and that other departments in town should be considered as well. "This community needs to look at the level of service it deserves, and how it's going to pay for it in the future," said Priebe. ... continued on page A11

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Town Tribute to George and Julie Fisher *The Fishers leaving Moraga is like the Founding Fathers leaving America*

By Sophie Braccini



Julie and George Fisher outside their Moraga home. Photo Sophie Braccini

More than 200 people attended a banquet in George and Julie Fisher's honor at Saint Mary's College on Jan. 13. Many of the diners were members of the Moraga Movers who were joined by out of town friends, city officials, and younger people who wanted to hear about a page of the history of their town that was about to be turned.

The Moragans of today may be

unaware of how much this couple, named Citizens of the Year in 2006, and the generations of those who moved to Moraga in the '60s and '70s, shaped the town we live in today.

"When we moved to Moraga in 1966 there were 9,000 people living here," recalled George Fisher. "We bought a lot on Camino Ricardo, where developers were building a

whole new neighborhood." Julie Fisher remembers looking at the model home, but then asking for a fifth bedroom, a larger family room, before the young family of five moved in the secluded house they thought they would never leave. "But when our third daughter moved to Florida where her two siblings already live, we decided it was time for us to join our family," she said.

"The '60s and '70s were a time when the wives of young professional men stayed home and raised their children," explained Julie Fisher, who earned a degree in psychology from the east coast school where she met George. "Most of us were college educated, so we had to find things to do to keep stimulated." They engaged in 'community-making' through various groups such as the Moraga New-Comers, the Women's Society, Moraga Juniors and the Moraga Service League in which she was very active. "There were no parks, no trails, no nothing," said Julie Fisher. "All there was in this town were two shopping centers."

After the incorporation in 1974, the Fishers continued to stay engaged.

... continued on page A11

Crab Feed & Dance

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Moraga Chamber Seeks Businessperson of the Year Nominations

The Moraga Chamber of Commerce is soliciting nominations for the 2014 Moraga Businessperson of the Year. Your favorite merchant or businessperson may be eligible to win! 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. 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. Go to www.moragachamber.org for a directory of chamber members, submission instructions and to download a nomination form. Nominations will be accepted through Jan. 31.



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CalBRE#01029160

201 Elderwood Drive, Pleasant Hill



Beautiful home with park-like backyard setting and pool. The interior features curved arches and stairway, as well as three nice bedrooms and two full baths, plus office. Living room has vaulted ceiling open to split level dining room and family room. 3-car garage and close to Hidden Lakes Park.

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925.708.5630

CalBRE#01917597

2900 Castro Street, Martinez



Gorgeous craftsman! Complete & stylish remodel featuring 3 BR including spacious master suite w/ walk in closet & gorgeous bath. Both baths have double sinks & granite counter tops. Hardwood floors, great room w/ vaulted ceilings, patio doors, gourmet kitchen, attached garage, & so much more! Offered at \$559,900 by Ruth Eddy, 925.788.9567

CalBRE#01313819

1522 137th Avenue, San Leandro



This charming bungalow has new floors throughout, new roof and updated kitchen and bath. It is a well cared for home and ready for someone to come in and make it their own. Close to shopping, schools and transportation.

Offered at \$425,000 by
Janine Hunt, 510-409-6266

CalBRE#01909766

1982 Ascot Drive, Unit D, Moraga



This 2 bedroom/2 bath home enjoys the bountiful amenities of the local community. Homeowner association dues are \$386 per month. Covered parking spot and additional storage.

www.1982AscotDr.com
Offered at \$399,000 by Jim Colhoun,
925.200.2795

CalBRE#01029160

2712 Oak Road #66, Walnut Creek



This end unit has a patio area next to a grassy park like setting. The split level floor plan gives it a wonderful feel that is bigger than the square footage indicates. Kitchen is usable or a blank slate for your personality. Covered Parking too!

Offered at \$199,000 by Adam Hamalian

CalBRE#01917597

Thought of the Week

We have some good real estate forecasts and buyers are paying attention. Fannie Mae's December National Housing Survey discovered that **people are becoming more confident in the housing recovery**. Even better, 33% of consumers polled said **now is a good time to sell**, a significant gain from the 21% who felt that way last December. And this is what we really need to see, since all parts of the Bay Area have more buyers looking for homes than properties listed for sale.

The Federal Housing Finance Agency said it will delay plans to raise the base guarantee fee for mortgages securitized by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac in order to give their new director time to review the changes. That's good news too.

So, we can finally look forward to a **more balanced market** this year, which benefits buyers and sellers alike.

Feel free to call with any questions!

Meet our Featured Agents ...



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925.640.2355
vanarsdale@aol.com
CalBRE#01259271



Adam Hamalian
925.708.5630
adam.hamalian@bhghome.com
CalBRE#01917597



Tania DeGroot
510.367.1422
tania.degroot@bhghome.com
CalBRE#01094898



Jim Colhoun
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Maureen Caldwell-Meurer
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Orinda Civic News

Public Meetings

City Council

Tuesday, Feb. 4, 7 p.m.
Auditorium, Orinda Library,
26 Orinda Way

Planning Commission

Tuesday, Feb. 11, 7 p.m.
Auditorium, Orinda Library,
26 Orinda Way

Citizens' Infrastructure Oversight Commission

Wednesday, Feb. 12, 6:30 p.m.
Sarge Littlehale Community Room,
22 Orinda Way

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

City of Orinda:

www.cityoforinda.org
Phone (925) 253-4200

Chamber of Commerce:

www.orindachamber.org

The Orinda Association:

www.orindaassociation.org

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 for the month of January will appear in our Feb. 12 issue.

◆ New Owners
◆ New Attitude
◆ 30 Years in the Industry!

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Orinda Mayor Steps Out to Help Shape Tomorrow's Leaders

By Laurie Snyder



Mayor of Orinda Sue Severson here to speak to government classes.
#edchat #GoMats
pic.twitter.com/v90TO93Vvw



Principal Adam Clark showed his civic pride Jan. 15, alerting the Twitterverse to Orinda Mayor Sue Severson's talk at Miramonte High School by adding "#edchat" – one of the hashtags used nationwide to help teachers cull tips and ideas from among the millions of messages tweeted daily.

"Mayor of Orinda Sue Severson here to speak to government classes," tweeted Adam Clark, principal of Miramonte High School. With a mere 108 characters, Clark advised locals that the mayor was on campus Jan. 15, and showed educators nationwide why Orinda's schools are so widely respected.

"It's important for students to see the connection between federal, state

and local government. I teach the U.S. federal government through formal instruction and simulation. Students then apply what they learned and research the branches of California state government," explained MHS teacher Meghan Selway when contacted about the tweet. "I close out each branch with students researching another country and discussing similarities and differences." During election

years, this may change with the added influx of current events-type news, but the local component always remains part of the mix.

"This year after a simulation of how a bill becomes a law, I received the most insightful reflections on the legislative process. Students said that they now realize that getting things done in Congress is not as easy as it looks to the general American public." Most, said Selway, felt they "now understood the different directions a legislator can be pulled and why Congress deadlocked on the budget. The students themselves could not agree on funding bills during our simulation. Others were critical of the majority and minority party process and commented on the undemocratic aspect of a majority party's power especially in the House. All of them said what they learned would not have been possible without the simulation."

According to Severson, Selway first reached out for help with the local component about five years ago. Severson begins with a 15-minute PowerPoint, outlining Orinda government operations. Selway adds context. The class then breaks into four groups to analyze real-time problems devised by Severson. Students brainstorm solutions to issues affecting the Parks and Recreation Department, Traffic Safety Advisory Commission and other Orinda government units.

"It's important for students to feel that their civic involvement could have a direct impact. A letter to a legislator may be one of thousands," said Selway, but in Orinda, students have greater interaction and satisfaction because Severson "gets the students' feedback on local issues ... which she then summarizes and presents to the Orinda City Council. "It is empowering for students to see their input actually making a difference."

"I've found historically that any time you have a student engaged in their learning they're going to come out better informed on the other side of it," whether in science or government, observed Severson. The last census showed that teens currently make up roughly a third of Orinda's population. "I try to impress upon them that their voices are important."

They've clearly gotten the message. Selway's students have been spotted at recent town hall events sponsored by U.S. Congressman George Miller and California Senator Mark DeSaulnier, and have even spoken up at Orinda City Council meetings.

"We need to be impressed and feel okay about the next generation," stressed Severson. "These are bright kids; they're good kids; they like to volunteer, be charitable. We should be proud of them. They're brave; they're articulate. They're tomorrow's leaders."

J Team Injects Dose of Burglar-Be-Gone into Orinda Neighborhoods

By Laurie Snyder

Criminals take note: Orinda's welcome mat has unceremoniously been rescinded. Orinda Police Chief Scott Haggard recently announced the arrival of new, no nonsense anti-crime crusaders. "Due to the spike in residential burglaries, I requested the help of the Sheriff's Specialized Patrol Services Unit 'J Team' to assist us," said Haggard.

The "J" in J Team stands for justice, he explained, noting that contracts between the Contra Costa County Office of the Sheriff and cities of Orinda and Lafayette give both communities a power boost by providing access to special emergency and support personnel, K9

units, helicopters, and other resources at no extra cost.

J Team members have actually been on the case since Christmas, quietly working with the Orinda Police Department to interview informants, conduct surveillance and undercover operations, increase the saturation of police coverage, and help burglars firmly grasp the concept that the "Home Shopping Network" has now closed in America's second friendliest city. While it's still too early to gauge the impact of the extra eyes and ears on Orinda's streets, the last time the J Team helped out, residential burglaries dropped dramatically. So, it's a safe bet to estimate that more

and more burglars will be taking their tools elsewhere – if they haven't already been booked for extended vacation stays at one of the East Bay's finer correctional facilities.

In addition, Orinda police officer Dustin Gregory was recently recognized for helping the district attorney to file charges against a man suspected of sexually assaulting a 14-year-old. According to Sheriff David Livingston's office, "Officer Gregory obtained a confession from the [19-year-old] suspect of two sexual encounters, and presented the case to the D.A., who filed two charges on the suspect."

To help Orinda's finest and

their J Team associates continue to keep Orinda safe, call police as soon as you see anything suspicious: (925) 254-6820.

Correction, issue date Jan. 15, 2014, "Keeping Orinda's Arts in Bloom:"
Due to an oversight, we neglected to include reporter Laurie Snyder's byline on her wonderful article about the Orinda Arts Council that appeared in our last issue and which is now linked on the California Arts Council's website at www.cac.ca.gov/newsroom/whatsnew.php.

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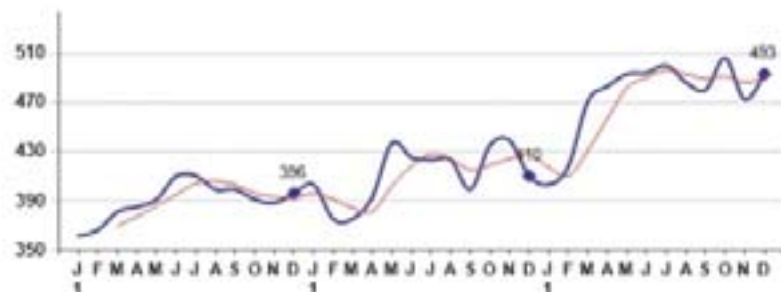
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The Heart in Orinda's Art

By Laurie Snyder



"Art is a long-time interest of mine," says Susan Mautner, recently seen standing next to another of the works chosen by the Art in Public Places Committee to brighten the community. Created by Richard Starks, this sculpture is displayed inside the offices of the city's Planning Department. Photo Ohlen Alexander

Winston Churchill once asked, "What is the use of living, if it be not to strive for noble causes and to make this muddled world a better place for those who will live in it after we are gone? How else can we put ourselves in harmonious relation with the great verities and consolations of the infinite and the eternal?"

Those words are both an excellent description of what volunteers do daily for town and country and of the positive difference arts supporters make in Orinda each year – something Susan Mautner has experienced firsthand.

"I was pretty new to the community and looking for some way to get involved," says Mautner, who moved to Orinda when her oldest son was in junior high – just as Orinda was about to incorporate. "I was very inspired by the amount of volunteerism going on all around me for the sake of the community."

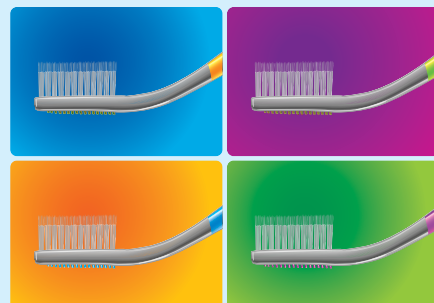
Mautner, who began studying art history at UC Berkeley, became truly hooked on the arts while volunteering as a museum docent in Seattle. After returning to the Bay Area in the mid-1980s, she put her training to use for the Orinda Arts Council.

An avid booster of the arts in Orinda's schools, she has been president of OAC's board of directors and has also taken a special interest in art installations in community gathering spots.

... continued on page A12

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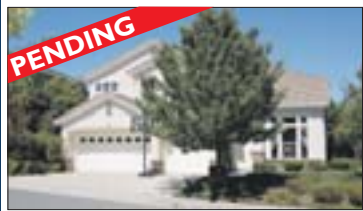


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More Orinda Civic News on Page A11



DANVILLE \$900,000
3/2.5. When sophistication is essential. Few homes compare to this rare single level residence at Alamo Creek.
Linda Van Drent CalBRE#01051129



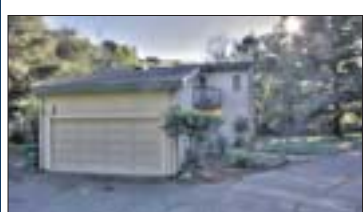
PLEASANT HILL \$984,900
4/3. Rare. 2962 SqFt on big lot w/ bedroom & full bath on main lvl. Big bonus room upstairs.
Jeannette Bettencourt CalBRE#01154506



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



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



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.
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MORAGA \$2,750,000
4+1/4. Executive home, 4837 sqft, 1.54 acre private lot, gourmet kitchen, guest house, wine cellar.
Elena Hood CalBRE#01221247



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 \$1,798,000
4/3.5. Orinda Downs Luxury through and through. Private deck w/hot tub off Mstr.
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MORAGA \$1,250,000
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Elena Hood CalBRE#01221247



ORINDA \$2,175,900
4+1/3. New construction. Gorgeous views, close to town. More pics/info at OrindaOaks.com.
The Beaubelle Group CalBRE#00678426



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



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



LAFAYETTE \$1,399,000
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Soraya Golesorkhi CalBRE# 01771736



PIEDMONT \$1,495,000
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In Memory

Remembering Longtime Lafayette Resident Ron Wilbur



A Bon Voyage Open House was held Jan. 11 to honor the passing of Ronald E. Wilbur, a 72-year resident of Lafayette. The freeway took the first house he lived in at age 4. It was at the end of Brown Avenue. Ron started Lafayette Grammar School in first grade, as there was no kindergarten, and then went straight to Acalanes, as there also was no middle school. He married Barbara Lawrence, who he had met in fifth grade. At his death, they had been married 56

years. Four children and eight grandchildren plus other family helped host the Jan. 11 event. Each child and grandchild made a poster of "Poppa" photos that were hung in a gallery, which they created in the barn.

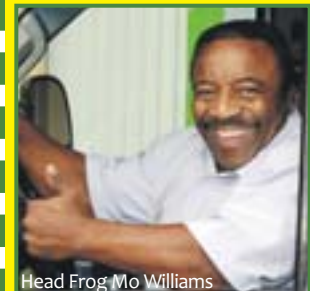
Ron's vow when he completed college was "I never want to be a salesman" and yet life proved otherwise. He started with Penn Mutual; next, he was the youngest detail man ever hired by then Smith Kline and French. Later, he purchased J. Marie Martin Co., a small west coast table pad manufacturing business, and for 23 years he worked and expanded the company across the nation. He opened an additional plant in Rockland, Maine, where the family had acquired a summer home. He and Barbara developed a farm on Maui along the way. It later became a Bed and Breakfast.

Ron was an enthusiastic builder of houses, barns, farms, businesses, boats, friendships – but more importantly, a wonderful family. He hiked the John Muir Trail twice with friend Dave Brown, together they sailed the Atlantic coast and skied mountains; Ron pushed limits or he just didn't recognize their existence. He was diagnosed with Multiple Myeloma, a fatal cancer of the bone marrow, almost five years ago. In those five years intensive research has been done. He was treated at UCSF which is cutting edge in the treatment of MM. Thanks to new research and treatments it is hoped the word "fatal" may soon no longer apply to this cancer.


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.

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Letters to the Editor

Share your thoughts with our community! Opinions in Letters to the Editor are the express views of the writer and not necessarily those of the Lamorinda Weekly. All published letters will include the writer's name and city/town of residence -- we will only accept letters from those who live in, or own a business in, the communities comprising Lamorinda (please give us your phone number for verification purposes only).

Letters should be 350 words or less; letters of up to 500 words will be accepted on a space-available basis.
email: letters@lamorindaweekly.com; Regular mail: Lamorinda Weekly, P.O.Box 6133, Moraga, CA 94570

Editor:

Thanks for your article on our dry year; I can't believe that photo – green vs. brown.

Wanted to follow up to let you know that our Board of Directors COULD request water rationing, not WOULD. They will be making decisions as the season progresses, and we'll know more in April and May as to the possibility of rationing and/or other measures.

Is it possible to issue a correction?

Either way – I just wanted to be sure you were aware, in case you cover this issue later in the spring.

Andrea Pook

East Bay Municipal Utility District

Editor:

The Emergency Service Task Force recently released a 2013 update to their 2012 report on MOFD service and finances which they posted on their web site www.OrindaTaskForce.org. A portion of the update reported on the funding of MOFD and in their cover letter to the Orinda Council, also on their web site, they focused on that element.

It appears that Orinda taxpayers are paying 60% more per firefighter than Moraga taxpayers and 20% more than what the firefighters cost MOFD. This results in Orinda taxpayers paying \$2 million per year more than they should for the service they are receiving. Not only is this money which could be used in Orinda to improve service shortfalls which currently exist, it is money which MOFD could collect from Moraga taxpayers via the parcel tax they voted for 20 years ago to cover these expenses but have never been asked to pay. Everyone knows that MOFD does not have the money to reduce anyone's taxes, but they do have the means for leveling the playing field. When the Orinda Council asked the voters to form MOFD in 1997, they promised the voters that they would pay only their fair share for the services provided; no more, no less.

While the current Council cannot unilaterally make good on this promise, the MOFD Board can. And the Orinda Council should ask them to do so.

No one wants to pay more taxes than they have to, but if Moraga deems it necessary to be serviced by the eight firefighters they currently have serving them, and those firefighters cost about \$1.1 million in taxes per position as they do, then Moraga taxpayers should be prepared to pay about \$8.8 million per year for the service. Instead, they are currently paying only \$6.7 million. While this \$300 per household increase would not be greeted with open arms, neither would the extra dollar per day expense put any great financial stress on Moraga's homeowners.

Orinda, MOFD, and Moraga need to come to terms with this issue. It has been with us for 17 years, it is not going away, and it is negatively impacting the safety of Orinda's residents.

Keith Jacobsen

Orinda

Editor:

The writer of a letter published on January 15 had an issue with receiving a traffic ticket for failing to stop at a stop sign. He states that he received it for making "a rolling right turn at the corner of Reliez (sic) Station Rd and Olympic Blvd." He maintains that "at that intersection, there is no left turn, there is a right turn lane, and there are no pedestrians or cross traffic."

I am relieved that Mr. Cummins got the reminder that a "rolling right" is not a "stop" in the form of a ticket rather than by causing an injury collision with another roadway user whom he didn't see because he assumed no one would be there.

The heavily used Lafayette-Moraga Regional Trail (http://www.ebparks.org/parks/trails/lafayette_moraga) intersects Olympic from the west at that intersection, to the left of drivers approaching Olympic on Reliez Station Road, and across from drivers turning left onto Reliez from Olympic. Cyclists heading east from the trail cross the south side of the intersection to continue in the east-bound bike lane on Olympic. Crossing Reliez from the parking lot on the north side of the intersection, pedestrians, including parents with babies in strollers and toddlers on trikes, Stanley Middle School children going to and from school, and retired people, access the trail.

My bike route to work and to volunteer at the Regional Parks Botanic Garden includes this trail. I follow traffic laws, including stopping at stop signs, and notice that most drivers in Lamorinda do as well. But I had several close calls at this intersection, when after stopping and waiting my turn, I entered the intersection thinking that an approaching driver had seen me and was slowing to stop at the sign. When the driver failed to stop at the sign, I had to brake hard to avoid a collision. Now I don't enter the intersection until I have made eye contact with the drivers at the other three stop signs. Occasionally I have to wait for a driver who fails to stop at the sign.

Police officers are necessary to educate people who fail to follow laws meant to protect public safety. Often, officers increase enforcement at problem intersections where there have been injury collisions or complaints about unsafe conditions. Enforcement of traffic laws helps to prevent injuries and save lives, by reminding drivers of the importance of driving safely and complying with traffic laws.

If you weren't looking and didn't notice the police, would you see a schoolchild or bicyclist at the intersection? Good driving habits include always stopping at stop signs and looking both ways, even when no police officer is there writing tickets.

I am grateful that the majority of Lamorinda drivers are attentive and considerate of bicyclists, pedestrians, and other roadway users, and grateful that police officers enforce the laws for those who need a reminder to drive safely. Thank you!

Sincerely,
Susan Agnew
Lafayette

Editor:

David Cummins received a traffic ticket for making a rolling right turn at the corner of (it happened to be) Reliez Station Rd and Olympic Blvd. ... there is no left turn, only a right turn lane, and there are no pedestrians or cross traffic - like hundreds of other stop signs.

I would like to concur that it would be more reasonable to make that turn a yield, just as hundreds of others should be yield - not stop .

Moreover, 50% of all the other stop signs should be yield and 25% more should be neither yield nor stop. I would be happy to inspect every stop sign in Lamorinda to determine if the sign is a hyper-extension of law enforcement or fulfills a real function.

It's time for requiring some personal responsibility on our roads .

PS: Both David and I have been driving for more than fifty years. We are both experts.

Wayne Phillips
Orinda

Editor:

In response to Mr. David Cummins:

As many years a Lafayette Circulation Commissioner, your January 15 letter interested me. You noted shortages of funds for PD services and inconvenience to drivers who don't stop at Lafayette's All-Way STOP at Reliez Station Road, northbound at Olympic Boulevard.

You may not have noticed but the free right turn you describe southbound from Pleasant Hill Road onto Olympic southbound provides a marked pedestrian crosswalk and vehicles must—and do -- yield to those pedestrians. Lafayette for many years had a YIELD stencil at that Reliez/Olympic intersection. We removed the YIELD in favor of the All Way STOP because pedestrians do cross there and the YIELD did nothing to deter hurrying drivers from nearly rolling over the feet of the children en route to school. The children – and trail-bound hikers - reach the bottom of the hill and cross to the trail right where you received your ticket for cruising through without stopping. When it was a new mousetrap, we tested for a state research team the efficacy of the in-pavement flashers one often sees now at mid-street and intersection crossings. The chief finding of the research team here, as compared to drivers in the cities of the rest of the state where the team had visited, was that those who drove in or through Lafayette exhibited an attitude unique in the state: a peculiarly cavalier attitude toward the safety of pedestrians. Lafayette residents are dedicated to our Lafayette PD and the safety of our pedestrians, our drivers, our bicyclists -- and that of our visitors. We are particularly protective of our children. It has long been so. We consider ticketing money well spent, not squandered. Our Lafayette PD saves lives, prevents catastrophes, and dedicates themselves to our community. We appreciate them for their extraordinary dedication. Rather than luxuries our PD are absolute necessities: they allow our lives to be lived safely. Lafayette residents welcome visitors. But we ask that you do your part when you come: that you show courtesy to those around you, and that you obey our traffic signals, our signs, our laws. For that, we will thank you.

Lynn Hiden
Lafayette

Editor:

It is difficult to take seriously Governor Brown's call for water conservation so long as he refuses to take seriously perpetual growth in the number of California water users. It takes twice as much water, food, and energy to support two million people as it does one million people. Of course, the governor and his fellow travelers . . . er . . . fellow supporters at Sierra Club and Zero Population Growth d/b/a Population Connection will tell us, "If Americans ate less meat and lost more weight, perhaps by riding bikes to work, it wouldn't take twice as much water, food and energy to support two million people." Unfortunately, it takes twice as much water, food, and energy to support two million skinny vegetarians riding bicycles from work to their homes--landscaped with artificial lawns made of recycled Christmas trees--than it does one million skinny vegetarians . . .

Sorry, Governor, we know you just need something to talk about to help voters forget the problem is too many people, not too little water.

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One Thousand Dollars A Page

By Nick Marnell

One year ago the Board of Supervisors commissioned Fitch and Associates, a Missouri-based fire consulting company, to determine optimal fire and emergency medical service response within the struggling Contra Costa County Fire Protection District. Frustrated residents and equally frustrated politicians provided feedback on the final draft of the company's report at a public meeting Jan. 22.

Fitch consultant Jim Broman outlined ConFire's structural deficit, caused by expenses exceeding revenue coupled with a dependency on reserve funds since 2009. The report showed that even based on positive financial forecasts, the district will survive through only fiscal year 2016-17, after which its reserves will have been depleted. It was pointed out in the public comments portion of the meeting, however, that the basis upon which those forecasts were made - a 5 percent annual growth in revenue and 1 percent growth in expenses - seemed unrealistic.

But Fitch's task was to determine what could be done with the hand that ConFire has been dealt. The study recommended that the district take two, three-person, engine companies out of service and convert them to three, two-person, Quick Response Vehicle companies. The district imple-

mented a QVR pilot program in the fall, to handle low-level EMS calls in a smaller, more flexible vehicle, allowing the fire engines to respond to larger emergencies. The report said that this change will allow ConFire to survive over the next three years under the current revenue structure, with no layoffs and even the possibility of opening some of the closed stations.

"Our work was to show you how to manage through the next two to three years, when there will be a need for a tax initiative," said Broman.

"For this, we paid a thousand dollars a page?" said Bill Granados, Lafayette's fire commissioner, referring to the \$170,000 cost of the 150-page document. He said he was frustrated with the lack of ideas for revenue generation and he was vehemently opposed to Fitch's staffing recommendation.

District 2 Supervisor Candace Andersen disputed the \$150,000 that Fitch claimed was the price to purchase a QRV; it was nearly triple what her research showed to be the case. A Fitch consultant responded that the vehicles would have additional limited firefighting duty, and the cost estimate included the upgrades necessary to do that.


The report suggested that fire response times could be reduced

by up to two minutes, blaming the performance on a cumbersome dispatch process and the slow turnout of fire crews from the stations. Andersen asked for assurance from fire chief Jeff Carman that he planned to improve those numbers.

"We are taking a fresh look at all of our operations," said Carman. "There are definitely some efficiencies that we can gain." That includes resolving why fire responses take longer than EMS responses, he said. "You'd think that a fire response would be faster," said Andersen.

Supervisor Mary Piepho reflected both the praise and caution expressed by the board over the study. "This report is a tremendous starting point," she said. "But we have a lot of work to do."

The final version of the Fitch Report will be presented to the supervisors on Feb. 25.



Moraga-Orinda Fire District Board of Directors Meetings

Next meetings:
Wednesday, Feb. 5
Wednesday, Feb 19
check website for updates
(Go to www.mofd.org as the meeting date approaches for location and more information)

Lamorinda Fire News Briefs

By Nick Marnell

MOFD Cuts Back Public Meetings

The Moraga-Orinda Fire District board voted unanimously Jan. 15 to conduct public meetings once a month starting in March, rather than twice monthly as had been the standard.

"While we have some heavy topics we are working on, monthly meetings should be sufficient for the normal work load," said John Wyro, board president. Director Fred Weil suggested that two special meetings be added to the monthly schedule: one in June, to approve a preliminary budget, and the other in September, to approve the final budget. The motion passed unanimously. Surrounding fire districts of Albany, Rodeo-Hercules, San Ramon and East Contra Costa County schedule board meetings once a month. The Contra Costa County Fire Protection District board met nine times in 2013.

Evans Asks to Not be Nominated

Each year, in January, the Moraga-Orinda Fire District board elects new officers as well as standing and ad hoc committee members. What usually happens is that the vice president is elected to the presidency, assuring a five-year rotation in the top slot among the directors. The Jan. 15 election came with a twist.

Board vice president Alex Evans is a founding partner and president of EMC Research, a firm that specializes in polling and public opinion research. Expecting a surge in business that would clash with his MOFD obligations, Evans asked that he be pulled out of the running for the board presidency. "The even numbered years are the busy times in my work cycle," he said, on a conference call from Hawaii. "I respectfully ask that I not be nominated." A motion was presented to have John Wyro continue as president through 2014 and for the other directors to retain their titles as well. Only director Fred Weil disapproved. He maintained that the proper order of succession was to elect Steve Anderson, board secretary, as president. "Shuffling this around sets a bad precedent," he said.

The motion passed 4-0, with Weil abstaining.

Lafayette Emergency Services Task Force

With neither Lamorinda fire agency able to come up with the estimated \$6 million to build a fire station to replace Lafayette's closed station 16, the city looked into the possibility of funding the replacement station 46 itself. But the Lafayette Emergency Services Task Force report Jan. 21 was not encouraging.

Steven Falk, city manager, pointed out the fiscal reality. "The city does not have the funds to help purchase a fire station," he said. "No way can I recommend loaning money out of the city's reserve. The city council would not vote for it anyway."

Task force member Dennis Garrison acknowledged that a new station will benefit the Moraga-Orinda Fire District, the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District and the city. "Would you invest \$6 million to save \$2 million annually? Of course you would," he said. "But, none of us has the \$6 million."

Co-chair Traci Reilly said that the task force will present an update on securing alternate fire and emergency service for the city, and seek further direction, at the Feb. 10 City Council meeting.

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Stat Med

An oasis of urgent care between Berkeley and Walnut Creek

By Sophie Braccini



From left: Dr. Armando Samaniego, Terri Fadelli R.N., and Dr. Stuart Shikora.

Photo Sophie Braccini

A month ago Dr. Armando Samaniego and his partners opened the first Lamorinda urgent care facility in Lafayette, Stat Med. The clinic is open seven days a week, including holidays, with expert emergency medical staff ready to address any urgent medical need or to simply give a flu shot on the weekend.

"Our clinic is set up to handle any urgent condition people might have that is not a life threatening emergency," explains Samaniego, who has been an emergency room physician for more than 25 years. The rule of thumb: if you have to call 911 and need to be transported by an ambulance, you should go to an emergency room; if you are driving your own car, downtown Lafayette is closer and the new facility is staffed with the same quality professionals, without a long wait. "We are very good at screening and triage because that's what we've done in the emergency rooms all these years," adds Samaniego. "If you come here and the situation requires hospitalization, we will get you started and initiate the transfer."

Located on Dewing Avenue just off Mount Diablo Boulevard, the clinic has ample parking. Exam rooms are stocked with the same equipment as emergency rooms. Stat Med shares the ground floor of the building with the existing radiology practice of Dr. Brad Piatt, so patients have access to x-rays, ultrasounds or even MRIs.

Piatt and Samaniego got to know each other when their sons played on the Campolindo High School football team together (they graduated in 2012); the son of Stat Med's registered nurse, Terri Fadelli, also played football at Campo. The group also includes Dr. Stuart Shikora, of Orinda, and Dr. Allen Read, who lives in Walnut Creek. Stat Med is a tight knit team of emergency specialists, all members of the American Board of Emergency Medicine, with additional specialties, such as trauma care.

"Emergency rooms today see a lot of patients who just cannot get another type of care and the consequence is that they are often crowded," says Samaniego. "Stat Med is also here for last minute medical needs, such as prescription refills, sports physicals, or travel medicine, when the primary care physicians' offices are closed or backed up."

During its first few weeks the staff treated patients with abdominal pains, allergic reactions, fractures, wounds requiring stitches, asthma, fevers, pneumonia and urinary tract infections, to name a few. Weekends and holidays have been especially busy. "Over the holidays we had several people visiting from out of town who came directly to the clinic," says Fadelli. "People from Texas, Florida or Indiana said that they are used to urgent care clinics, where they go all the time when they are in need of immediate treatment that's not life threatening."

Samaniego prepared carefully when starting the business. Knowing that being an entrepreneur was not the same thing as being a doctor, although he had been running departments, he decided to get a business degree. "First I looked at local business schools like Saint Mary's, but my med school roommate convinced me to go to Irvine, which offers an executive health care MBA," he says. It was no small commitment, but he made it work.

"The primary care physicians are overwhelmed, the ERs are overwhelmed, so I think there is a real niche for a service like ours here," Samaniego adds. He plans to continue his physician duties in addition to running the business, because his first love is taking care of people. "What I enjoy here is that I spend more time one on one with the patients, and it is a great opportunity to provide a service to the community," he says.

Stat Med, at 970 Dewing Ave., Suite 100-B, accepts all major insurance, including Medicare, and is open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekends and holidays. For more information, visit statmed.com or call (925) 297-6396.

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.

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business briefs

Golden Palace Opens in Moraga
581 Moraga Rd., Moraga
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Golden Palace's new team, from left: Ting Han, Jay Liu (owner and sushi chef), Krystal Chang, Je Paul Sing (chef), Norman Sison. Photo Sophie Braccini

Local restaurant goers will recognize the familiar face of sushi chef Jay Liu, formerly from Asia Palace, at the newest Asian restaurant in Moraga, Golden Palace. Liu learned his trade at the popular Moraga Center restaurant, before opening this location across from the Rheem Center on Moraga Road. "I wanted to own my own business," says Liu, who is originally from Shanghai. "This looked like a good opportunity to start our first restaurant with my wife, Krystal Chang." They convinced Asia Palace's chef Je Paul Sing to join them, as well as Norman Sison who works in the front of the house. The restaurant's style is reminiscent of Asia Palace, with a fusion of sushi and traditional Chinese dishes. Liu claims to get all his fish from Japan and buys fresh fruits and vegetables daily, using high quality organic products. The sushi menu features favorites as well as new creations, while the Chinese menu is classic, with some creative new dishes added such as fried red snapper and seaweed that makes a tasty and spectacular composition. The restaurant and kitchen are quite large and the interior has modern simple décor.

Local Real Estate Agents Serve Lamorinda's Over-50 Population
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Debbie Johnston and Lisa Geary recently received the Senior Real Estate Specialist designation, equipping them with special knowledge to manage the sale of a home for the most rapidly growing demographic in Lamorinda – those over age 50. Possessed with the skills and experience to assist with the financial and emotional challenges a client can face when selling a long-held family home, DL Real Estate Advisor's mission is to provide education, support and solutions to transitioning adults. Johnston and Geary are hosting two free seminars at 11 a.m. Feb. 5 and at 10 a.m. Feb. 8 at the Orinda Community Center, Room 8 to help educate the over-50 population about the complex decisions that must be made when considering a move. Seating is limited. To RSVP, call (925) 285-8556 or email Debbie.johnston@pacunion.com.

Moraga employee of the month

After serving in various roles during her eight years at the Moraga Country Club, Christina French was selected as the Moraga Employee of the Month for January by the Moraga Chamber of Commerce and the Rotary Club of Moraga.



French, who began her work at the club in 2006, is one of the most popular employees at MCC, originally serving as a hostess in the club's restaurant and working in membership assistance. Currently an accounting manager, she oversees the club's database and photo program. "Christina is one of our most valuable employees who is always ready to chip in when needed and can assist almost of our departments because of her knowledge and her past history with the club," said MCC General Manager Frank Melon. "Everybody here at the club loves dealing with her because she always has a smile on her face and just has great people skills." The Rotary and Chamber will present French with her award, and a gift card to Safeway as well as a gift certificate to Asia Palace Restaurant in Moraga at an upcoming Moraga Rotary luncheon in February.

French, who began her work at the club in 2006, is one of the most popular employees at MCC, originally serving as a hostess in the club's restaurant and working in membership assistance. Currently an accounting manager, she oversees the club's database and photo program. "Christina is one of our most valuable employees who is always ready to chip in when needed and can assist almost of our departments because of her knowledge and her past history with the club," said MCC General Manager Frank Melon. "Everybody here at the club loves dealing with her because she always has a smile on her face and just has great people skills." The Rotary and Chamber will present French with her award, and a gift card to Safeway as well as a gift certificate to Asia Palace Restaurant in Moraga at an upcoming Moraga Rotary luncheon in February.

From left: George Schiller, Christina French, Nora Avelar and Kevin Reneau. Photo provided

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News from the Chambers of Commerce

Lafayette
Mixer at Town Hall Theatre at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 12, 3535 School St. "Facebook Content Creation: Easy Steps to Create Engaging Posts" at 8 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 19 at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center.

Entrepreneur's Club at 8:30 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 20 in the chamber conference room.

Ribbon Cutting at Westamerica Bank at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 20 at 3515 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Coffee with the Mayor at 8 a.m. Friday, Feb. 21 in the chamber conference room

Moraga

First Business Meeting of the year from 7:30 to 9 a.m. Friday, Jan. 31 at the Hacienda de las Flores. Attendees will have an opportunity to present information about their businesses and hear a presentation about green business.

Ribbon Cutting and Open House at Filice Insurance at 2 p.m. Friday, Feb. 14 at 1150 Moraga Way.

Save the date for the Business Person of the Year award dinner at 6 p.m. Monday, Feb. 24 at the Moraga Country Club. RSVP to Kathe@mora-gachamber.org; \$25 per person.

Orinda

Save the date for the Live at the Orinda Comedy Night starting at 7 p.m. March 7 at the Orinda Theatre. For tickets and event information, visit Orindachamber.org or call (925) 254-3909.

If you have a business brief to share, please contact **Sophie Braccini** at sophie@lamorindaweekly.com

Civic News Moraga

Does Moraga Need More Police Officers?

... continued from page A4

“We don’t have a big revenue base, and probably never will, for a combination of reasons.” The cost of having three additional officers in Moraga is roughly \$360,000 – \$65 per each of Moraga’s 5,500 housing units.

The recent increase in home burglaries, including at the Moraga Country Club where a private patrol service augments police, may have spurred the Town Council’s decision to consider police staffing levels – but Priebe cannot guarantee that more police would mean less crime. “It’s like an insurance policy. As your family grows, your assets grow, you reassess your insurance needs,” he said. “Communities do just that. They need to take a really hard look and determine if they are underinsured or properly insured.”

Town Goals

Moraga’s goals for 2014 revolve around four key elements:

Maintain excellence in stewardship.

Maximize existing resources for enhanced community use through partnerships and agreements.

Celebrate the town’s 40th anniversary around the Pear and Wine Festival.

Enable the organization to respond to opportunities as they arise.

A detailed list of the goals can be found on the town’s website, www.moraga.ca.us (although they should eventually be easier to find, as of our press deadline the goals were listed under the Town Council Jan. 14 Special Agenda). Read the related article that appeared in our Jan. 1 issue, available in our archive at www.lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue0722/Moragas-New-Mayor-Ken-Chew.html.

Town Tribute to George and Julie Fisher

... continued from page A5

The first Parks and Recreation Director hired was Orinda resident William Penn Mott, Jr. who had directed both the California and the national park services under Ronald Reagan and supported the creation of Oakland’s Children’s Fairyland that was allegedly Walt Disney’s inspiration for his own parks. “He (Mott) was incredibly imaginative,” remembers George Fisher. “He wanted to install a wave-pool in the Rheem Theatre and organize grass-skiing at the Commons.”

The Fishers both served on the Parks and Recreation Commission at different times and were tapped for the boards of service organizations such as the Moraga Park Foundation, which puts on the summer concert series every year.

But their interests ranged further than recreation.

“Our friend’s husband got into a serious accident in ‘75 and was saved by a nurse who lived nearby,” said Julie Fisher. “It took 25 minutes to get an ambulance and another 25 to take him to Alta Bates. Some of us started to realize that we needed local paramedic services, including an ambulance.” She was at the forefront of the fundraising effort with the Service League that purchased the first van-turned-paramedic transport. “We canvassed the whole town and raised the initial \$10,000,” she recalled. Then Rescue One Foundation was incorporated in 1977 to ensure the ongoing funding of the paramedic services of the Moraga-Orinda Fire District.

“I had never heard of such a foundation as Rescue One before I came

to work for MOFD,” said fire chief Stephen Healy during the farewell dinner. “In many places it is a struggle to maintain paramedic services. My hat’s off to you Julie, the Fisher family, and members of the community for having the vision and continuing to serve (on the foundation board) for 37 years.”

When they reached retirement age, the Fishers turned their eyes to the recreation activities offered to Moraga’s seniors. “I remember when we went to the board meetings of the group that was then called the Hacienda Seniors,” said George. “It felt like all we talked about was how long it could stay in business.” It seemed to him that the group was struggling, with a dwindling membership and events that didn’t attract many of its 200 members. In 2007, the Fishers took on the challenge of rejuvenating the group and met with Penelope Leach, then parks and recreation director, as well as a few others interested in the group that George Fisher calls a passion of his life. “And it was Julie who proposed the new name Moraga Movers,” he said. He penned the Moraga Movers’ bulletin for years and served as the group’s president.

The Moraga Movers also became a voice in the town and George Fisher fought hard to cancel plans to move town staff into the Hacienda that was so dear to the heart of many in the community. That pugnacity was noted by Moraga’s town manager, Jill Keimach, who said that when she first arrive in town she soon realized that the Fishers were not only a warm and loving couple, but also people with determination when it came to mak-

ing Moraga a better place.

Today the Moraga Movers number close to 500 members, the meetings and dinners are very well attended with interesting speakers and topics.

The Fishers are putting their house on the market and are expecting to move by April 1. You might still catch them at Safeway before they leave. They also plan to come back every summer, renting something in the neighborhood “and enjoying those wonderful cool Moraga evening concerts at the Commons,” concludes George Fisher.

Lamorinda Weekly received the following message in an email from the Fishers after the event:

“And what a great party it was! We would like to express our heartfelt thanks to our friends and guests who attended the monthly dinner of the Moraga Movers at the Soda Center on Jan. 13. It was a wonderful experience for us both. We would especially like to thank Linda Borrelli for her conception and planning of the event and John Haffner for his superb MC skills. The remarks made by various speakers for the Town, Rescue 1, the Fire District, the Lamorinda Village, and the Moraga Movers were greatly appreciated. And then the remarks made by long time friends were funny, nostalgic, and only a little bit scandalous. We thank you all.”

Civic News Orinda

Orinda Library to Reveal California’s Ties to Taishan

By Laurie Snyder

Orinda history buffs and avid travelers will have a special opportunity to explore the role China and its immigrants have played in California’s growth since its earliest boom days when Bay Area photographer Richard S. Lee presents “Why Chinatowns Speak Cantonese” Feb. 9 at the Orinda Library. The free program will begin at 2 p.m. in the Garden Room and will shed light on the ties between California and a part of China’s Guangdong province known as Taishan.

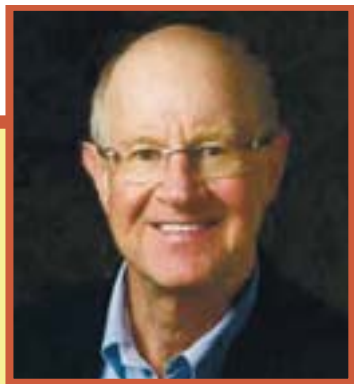
“This area is the ancestral home of most Chinese people who migrated to California during the Gold Rush and later during the construction of the transcontinental railways,” says library manager Beth Girshman. More than 60,000 arrived, seeking stability in communities across America after surviving natural disasters and the First Opium War. By World War II, Taishanese descendants, also known as Sze Yup Cantonese, were playing a significant role as airmen with America’s “Flying Tigers.”

“Lee, a fourth generation Chinese-American and native San Franciscan, has travelled to China and to

his ancestral homeland, Taishan, numerous times and has taken tens of thousands of unique photographs.” He is also a contributor to Asian Week and Xin Ning Magazine, which is distributed in Chinese in over 90 countries. His illustrated presentation will include many of these fascinating photographs.

The program is sponsored by the Friends of the Orinda Library. FOL’s dedicated volunteers raise financial support for concerts, classes, lectures, and other programs each year via their membership program, book store operation, and monthly book sales, as well as by partnering with organizations such as the Eng Family Endowment, which is sponsoring the Taishan program. Collaborations such as these also generate critical funding for surviving natural disasters and the Contra Costa library system.

For more information on this program or on other activities coming up at the library, visit: ccclib.org, or contact Girshman at (925) 254-2184, ext. 15; bgirshma@ccclib.org.



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Community Service

Food Bank Solicitation Scam

Submitted by Lisa Sherrill, Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano

There have been a number of reports recently of unwanted phone calls in Contra Costa and Solano counties from “Northwest Food Bank” (not to be confused with North West Harvest: a food bank in Seattle) asking for donations. These calls are not originating from the food bank and appear to be a scam. Caller id shows a Washington state phone number and may appear as Northwest

Food Bank. Northwest Harvest as well as the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano have not been soliciting donations via phone.

Questions or concerns can be sent to info@foodbankccs.org or 855-309-FOOD in Contra Costa and Solano counties. To find your local Food Bank, visit www.bayareahunger.org.

Orinda Troop 303 Announces Newest Eagle Scouts

Submitted by Kim Wolfe



New Troop 303 Eagle scouts from left: Christopher Ryan Andrada, Cole Wolfe, Jorge Alejandro Gutierrez, III and Thor Alexander McAvenia. Photo John Wolfe

Jorge Alejandro Gutierrez, III, and Thor Alexander McAvenia, all Miramonte High School students. For their Eagle Scout projects, Andrada refurbished a 7-foot weathered cedar Peace Pole, which displays the message “May Peace Prevail on Earth” in six languages, and installed a 10 by 12 foot flagstone patio around it at Santa Maria Church in Orinda; Wolfe designed a variety of wood rabbit chew toys and led his fellow Troop members in the fabrication of 100 toys and an instructional flier on rabbit care to benefit newly adopted rabbits from the Martinez Animal Shelter; Gutierrez refurbished the Orinda Baseball Association’s Snack Shack, installing new shelving, new countertops, and building new doors for the shack; and McAvenia coordinated and led a Safety Fair, offering basic first aid, CPR and emergency preparedness training through the American Red Cross, and a first aid kit donation benefitting SHELTER Inc. of Contra Costa County.

Under his direction, Troop 303 collected over 1,200 first aid items, which were assembled into over 60 complete family first aid kits.



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From Front Page

Has Intimacy Suffered in the Information Age?

... continued from page A1

"We have all of these social phenomena," said Rigsby. "Social media is changing the way we relate to people. Due to the instant gratification of online communication we feel we have much more intimate relationships with people than we really do." The instant responses received through texting, tweeting and chatting may cause us to feel close, but often social media is actually more distancing. "The way we express intimacy is changing," said Rigsby.

In her 13 years of teaching, Rigsby has seen a notable shift in her interactions with students. "In my first five years [my students] came to office hours," she remarked. "Now almost no one comes. They text me and e-mail me. For incidental communication they always try electronically first."

"I usually text as a first point of contact before Skype or a phone call or meeting in person," said Chloe Anderson, a master's student at the Academy of the Arts who is in her mid-20s. "I love phone calls, but they do take more time."

Rigsby explained that people who grew up around cell phones prefer to

text as a first and primary form of communication. "Calling someone on the phone to ask for information seems like a huge social extension," said Rigsby, who grew up with a rotary phone and doesn't think twice about dialing a new number.

Some people, like Saint Mary's alumnus and hospice nurse Ilona Robinson, are less prone to following new trends in communication. "I use the phone first and email second," said Robinson. "I'm one of those people who still sends letters and cards. I think they're more personal." Robinson noted that new forms of social media can isolate older people, like the patients she cares for.

The immediate and unlimited access provided by smartphones and computers presents its own challenges. "If I'm not careful, I spend the first one and a half hours of the day on email," Rigsby admitted. "I lose the most productive part of the day." But the same tools also offer her great benefits. "I've never been good at keeping track of attendance," she said, recalling how she used to record students names on random scraps of paper. Now she does it all on her

phone, adding, "I'm very careful with my phone in ways I'm not with pieces of paper."

Technology has been changing for as long as people have been inventing, but it hasn't always happened this quickly or been so immediate and far reaching. Due to the proliferation of social media, our concept of intimacy is changing.

"I currently have five social media accounts to manage," said Anderson, who uses social media both professionally and personally. "I'm very aware of how I am presented."

"It has its value," said Robinson, "but it can take away from personal relationships. I don't like seeing people out for dinner on their phones or looking at their iPods. It makes it hard to have intimate conversation."

According to Rigsby, "Social media is gratifying, but it doesn't cover what friendship un-mediated by social media can do." Human interaction is a basic need. However, "if we remember what face-to-face friends are for," said Rigsby, "we can navigate technology in a healthy way."

Civic News orinda

The Heart in Orinda's Art

... continued from page A7



According to Richard Starks, creator of "Open-Ended," one of the newest pieces to arrive on Orinda's public arts scene, the Cor-ten steel used is known for its characteristic oxide patina, which will mature "in about 8-10 years and is said to form a protective 'rust' layer over the base metal, thereby halting the formation of further rusting."

Photo Ohlen Alexander

Four years ago, she was appointed to serve as the liaison from OAC to the City of Orinda's Art in Public Places Committee. Her dual roles now are intertwined. "My part is in the area of making sure kids get art as part of their education." Orinda's students benefit because the APPC, OAC, and Educational Foundation of Orinda collaborate to ensure that instruction is delivered by teachers who have formal arts training – unlike in other schools where the arts are a "frill." One only need attend OAC's spring Visual Arts Competition to appreciate just what a difference this level of professional instruction makes.

Mautner notes that exhibits at the Orinda Library Art Gallery also play a crucial role. "OAC helps artists utilize that space month in and month out." In addition, she and her fellow APPC members visit with Bay Area artists to encourage them to loan pieces of their work for display, and hope to launch additional events to help a greater number of

artists connect with prospective donors and art collectors.

For those reading this and thinking they don't have the time to serve on the APPC or another city commission, Mautner stresses that the commitment need not be onerous. The APPC meets "during the day, once a month. Meetings don't go more than an hour-and-a-half. It's just a very delightful group of people to work with. And beyond the hours of this meeting, I have my reporting to the Arts Council."

The reward, she says, is priceless – a sense of inspiration and accomplishment. It touches her deeply each time she sees people of all ages "walking through the library gallery, enjoying the art work."

To learn more about how you can apply to become a member of a city commission or committee, visit the City of Orinda's website: www.cityoforinda.org/. To become a member of the Orinda Arts Council, visit: www.orindaartscouncil.org/.

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Laugh and the Class Laughs with You

By Cathy Dausman



Instructor Jillian Standish (red sweater, center) shares one more laugh with her Laughter Yoga class. Photo Cathy Dausman

With its rhythmic “ho, ho, ha-ha,” you might have thought Santa was back in the building. It wasn’t Santa, but the Laughter Yoga class did elicit a room full of belly laughs when a small group gathered recently in Lafayette to learn more about this happy program.

Laughter yoga got its start in India during the 1990s when physician Madan Kataria discovered exposure to laughter benefitted participants in both body and soul. It didn’t matter that the first few rounds were “forced,” genuine laughter soon followed and the result was easier breathing, mood elevation and stress

reduction. “It’s a way of connecting people,” said yoga instructor Jillian Standish, as she faced her first class of eight.

Several participants also attend Drumming for Seniors; one of those participants requested this class.

After simple warm-ups, the group passed laughs ranging from polite cocktail party twitters to gorilla laughs, belly laughs, “hot” and “cold” laughter, and ants in the pants laughter from one to another. The result was infectious, spontaneous laughter.

Participant Marilyn Sherwin can’t wait to share this find with her neighbors at Orinda Senior Village. “You

can create laughter anytime,” Standish assured her class, saying those who laugh “are the happiest ... and healthiest ... people in the world.”

Laughter Yoga meets the second Monday of the month at Lamorinda Music, 81 Lafayette Circle, Lafayette; class fee in the form of a donation is optional.

For details, email laughter.yoga.seniors@gmail.com. To find out more about laughter yoga, visit <http://www.laughteryogausa.com/> and <http://www.laughteryoga.org/english>. Madan Kataria’s book, “Laugh For No Reason,” is available online.

The Sound of Writing

Youth Ink 2014 contest deadline is Feb. 18

By Laurie Snyder

“The word ‘listen’ contains the same letters as the word ‘silent.’” – Alfred Brendel

The incomparable Alfred Brendel gave fellow pianists and future authors a tremendous gift when he uttered those words – the reminder that silence can be more important than sound, and that great artistry most often comes not from nose-to-the-grindstone drudgery, but from a place of mindful stillness.

It’s also a lesson that Orinda’s

budding writers are currently learning as they engage in Youth Ink 2014. Sponsored by the Orinda Junior Women’s Club, the increasingly popular writing competition is open to all students who attend grades six to eight in Orinda, or live in the city. Winners will be eligible for cash and other prizes once again thanks to the Orinda Juniors and their co-sponsors – the Friends of the Orinda Library, Orinda Association, and Orinda Community Foundation. ... continued on page B3



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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

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Moraga's Own Hot Dog King

By Diane Claytor



Stanley Roth with his first pretzel cart.

Photos provided

Moraga resident Stanley Roth knows hot dogs. And mustard, relish, sausage and sauerkraut. This year, Roth's business, Stanley's Steamers, is celebrating its 40th anniversary and if you're in San Francisco you're bound to see at least one of his 11 familiar and popular hot dog carts. Yet this business, as did Roth's other entrepreneurial ventures, began as somewhat of a fluke.

As a U.C. Berkeley student in 1974, Roth saw someone selling pretzels on campus. He took that idea and ran with it: he began selling pretzels out of a cardboard box at the cable car turnaround in San Francisco. As business grew, Roth built a small cart. When authorities told him no food permits were available, he got creative, selling the pretzels as "Baked Sculptures of Flour and Water" under the street artist ordinance. In 1982, Roth added hot dogs to the menu and built the first hot dog cart approved in California.

In the meantime, another opportunity presented itself – another "being in the right place at the right time" moment. A visit to the recently-opened Exploratorium with a hungry child in tow revealed that the museum had no food service, only vending machines. Roth found the appropriate person, asked why there was no food and, when told the facility didn't have water, he offered to provide a mobile café and bring the water with him. For 15 years, Roth operated the "always busy" 80-seat Angels Café, providing fresh sandwiches, salads, pastries, and espresso. And every day, Roth's company carted water in and every evening, the wastewater was carted out.

And all this time, Stanley's Steamers, once described by the San Francisco Chronicle as an "urban delicacy," was still successfully selling hot dogs around San Francisco's heavily populated areas.

The Exploratorium lease expired in 1996. Roth, with luck and again, hungry children, found his next project. And this one was much closer to home.

Sitting at the old Moraga Coffee Shop while his two children enjoyed their ice cream, Roth looked around, thinking, "this is an amazing loca-

tion." He gave his card to the waitress, telling her, "If the owners are ever interested in selling, have them give me a call." Within minutes, the owner appeared, offering to sell the restaurant on the spot. Together, they walked to the title company and opened an escrow account. Then Roth went home to tell his wife, Heather, about his latest idea.

The restaurant was gutted and rebuilt; his wife designed the interior, and together they chose the name Café Terzetto. "We wanted it to be chic, but casual, with excellent food," Roth said. Just as Café Terzetto was opening, Lafayette's popular Tourelle Restaurant abruptly closed. Never one to miss an opportunity, Roth, knowing many talented people would now be unemployed, stood outside the Lafayette restaurant and, as staff arrived to get their final paycheck, handed them an application.

"Heather took a leave from her teaching position at Contra Costa College, I sublet my carts and for more than three years, we ran a very busy, very successful restaurant,"

Roth stated. On a good weekend, they served 200-250 dinners and up to 400 Sunday brunches.

This success caught the attention of an Orinda restaurant owner who had just lost his lease. "He called me to say he wanted to buy my restaurant. We weren't thinking of selling, but realizing this was a great opportunity, we came up with an offer which was accepted a week later," Roth said. "We took a long family vacation, Heather returned to teaching and I returned to my carts."

Roth had no food service training when he began what he describes as a "great ride."

"You learn, you research," he said. "Just about anything is available to you if you read all about it. I've always said you don't have to be the smartest person; it's the person that keeps persevering that wins."

Roth realized early on that being an entrepreneur fits his personality. "I don't like rules or boundaries," he admitted. And he loves what he does, saying that there are times he just looks at it all and "is amazed at how much fun I'm having. I'm reenergized every day."

The Roths moved to Moraga's Sanders Ranch when it first opened in 1985. They immediately became involved in the community, with Roth serving as president of the homeowners association. He's again actively involved with the association as it works on a long-term creek management plan.

With three children who went through the Moraga schools, Roth has also served as a Boy Scout leader, softball coach and parent advisor.

Roth acknowledges that he occasionally thinks about retirement. "I heard someone once say that in your first 30 years, you learn what you need to know; during the next 30 years you do what you're good at and the rest of your life you do what you love. I'm still loving it all."



Roth with his daughter, Vanessa.

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“Planet in Conflict”

Authors look beyond politics to further economic growth, social equity and care for the environment

By Sophie Braccini



Raul A. Deju Photo provided

Local authors Raul A. Deju and Tapan Munroe wrote their book, “Planet in Conflict: Balancing Energy Needs, Economic Growth, and Environmental Quality,” with a single purpose: to demonstrate that economic growth and environmental protection are intrinsically linked and can produce more wealth in a compassionate way.

A geologist by training, Deju has served as chairman or CEO of major international public companies such as EnergySolutions, a provider of specialized, technology-based nuclear services. Munroe holds a doctorate in economics; he was a visiting scholar at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Stanford University, and a professor and chair of the Department of Economics at the University of the Pacific in Stockton.

“Tapan and I met in the community and had many common associates. I read his last book, ‘Innovation: Key to America’s Prosperity and Job Growth,’ a lot of his ideas resonated with me. We have differences of opinion as to how to approach issues, but we believe in the same objectives,” says Deju. (Munroe recently moved out of the area to be closer to his children for personal reasons – we could not reach him for this article.)

The two authors realized that in order to have environmental protection and social equity, economic growth was needed; and the biggest engine to economic growth is energy, directly and indirectly. The book explains that it’s not about more or less taxes; it’s not about the rich and the poor. “If economic growth does not take care of social equity and of the environment, we are all messed up,” says Deju.

“Planet In Conflict” is constructed in short chapters of four to five pages each that tackle specific topics, debunking myths with clarity and intellectual honesty. In the chapter “The Fresh Water Crisis is Growing,” the authors discuss how uncontrolled growth around the world has already started to deplete one of our most valuable natural resources. The chapter, “U.S. Clean Energy Bubble is set to Burst,” explains that clean energy solutions have been heavily subsidized to compete with cheaper fossil fuel options in the market place. When subsidies expire in the next few years, they say the bub-

ble will burst, and since China is likely to continue to support the green sector, more jobs and promising growth will likely be lost in the U.S.

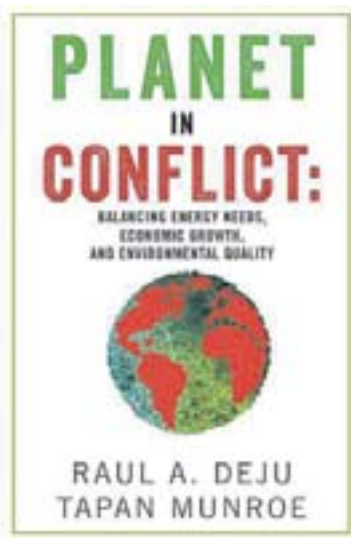
“It dawned on both of us that when people talk about energy they have a lot of misconceptions that come from the increased labeling of people and ideas,” Deju says, adding it leads to decision-making based on political clientelism rather than facts. “When Reagan was president he could reach out to progressives, and when Clinton was president he could reach across the aisle; we were not as labeled in those periods of time as we are today.”

Deju thinks that labeling when it comes to energy sources and economic growth is counterproductive. “Solar is not good and solar is not bad. Solar is a form of generating energy. It’s not about whether Solyndra is a bad thing or fracking is a bad thing; there are a lot of things about nuclear or gas that make sense and others that don’t,” he says. “It’s not about labeling one source or the other; it’s about minimizing the amount of energy we use. People in this country have a tendency to supersize everything; it is not necessary.”

Looking at possible solutions Munroe proposed the concept of ‘decisional gradualism,’ baby steps that can be taken both at the global and individual level. “Change can happen through paradigm shifts, like the Internet,” says Deju. “Reducing carbon emission by 3 percent a year is a small step, but it will add up.”

The authors defend the position that industry can be green and profitable, in fact they see it as a necessity. Innovation and conservation are the key concepts if we want sustainable shared wealth for future generations, they say. The authors encourage people to research facts and form their own opinions. “Those topics are clouded in politics, even at the individual level,” says Deju.

“Planet in Conflict: Balancing Energy Needs, Economic Growth, and Environmental Quality” can be purchased online.



The Sound of Writing

... continued from page B1

For the next few weeks, students will be scattered across town, sizing up their surroundings for humans harranguing, warblers warbling, and other sounds subtle or obnoxious as they prepare to peck away at laptops and produce poetry, fiction or non-fiction to address this year’s Youth Ink theme – Listen. “This prompt was chosen because it encourages young writers to personalize their piece and lends well to an open style choice,” explained Orinda Juniors president, Tracy Cummings.

The individual works of 750 words or less created must be new – written for this contest and without help from parents or teachers. Only one entry per student will be accepted, and must be typed and double-spaced. (Additional formatting criteria are available via the Orinda Juniors: info@orindajuniors.org.)

Submissions will be accepted until Friday, Feb. 18 via in-person delivery to the student’s designated

school representative or by mail to: Orinda Junior Women’s Club, P.O. Box 40, Orinda, CA 94563. Entry forms are available through the Orinda Library, Orinda Books, Loard’s Ice Cream, and The Storyteller, as well as the English departments or administrative offices at the Orinda Intermediate School, Orinda Academy, Athenian School, School for Girls, Smart Lounge, and the orthodontics office of John Ogro, DDS.

A panel of best-selling novelists, reporters and other local professional writers will then judge the clarity, originality, content, and structure of each submission. The winners will be announced and honored at a public awards ceremony at the Orinda Library, beginning at 6 p.m. on Thursday, April 24.

So be forewarned. Like Madeleine L’Engle, Orinda’s students “are listening. To the sun. To the stars. To the wind.” And to you.

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SMC 'Jan Term' Speaker Series

Award-winning journalist discusses race, gender and the changing world of news

By Lou Fancher



Geraldine Moriba Photo provided

Charging out of the swirl of another East Coast blizzard to headline a 2014 January Term Speaker Series event on Jan. 21, Emmy award-winning CNN producer Geraldine Moriba said change is a prerogative.

Sliding in with the "Metamorphosis" theme of the Moraga college's annual four-week jump-out-of-your-box academic term, the 47-year-old, barrier-busting journalist and mother of two said she is "a mishmash" and delivered "a countdown" of 10 elements defining who she is today and the world in which she operates.

For the audience, mostly Saint Mary's students, Moriba might have been an unknown, unless they did advance homework. If they had, they would have read about her 11 "In America" documentaries, her 15-million-plus-views "In America" blog, her co-chairing the NBC News' Diversity Council, and her long string of awards, including five Emmy's. They may have even stumbled upon YouTube videos, in which she speaks passionately and articulately about gender, race, the news, careers, parenting and why she thinks women should "have it all."

Identity was the number 10 item Moriba tackled first, working through her countdown. Early in her career, she was asked by a colleague how often she thought of herself as African American. Her response was immediate, visceral: "All the time." Moriba could tell, the man – white, middle class, Jewish – was surprised. "He said he only thought of being white when there was a reason. To me, that's privilege," she told the approx-

imately 45-member audience.

Moriba is a woman of color 24/7, but she also identifies as a descendant of Jamaican parents, married to an African American man with Native American blood in his lineage, a cancer survivor, a self-described "nerd," a documentary filmmaker, a sponsor (not simply an advisory mentor, but someone who will make a call on someone's behalf, she said), and mother of Warner, 17, and 13-year-old Nia.

"Can women have it all?" she asked. "Why not? Quite frankly, it's the only way I know how to live. My mom worked, it never occurred to me that I wouldn't."

Moriba's ninth item, "Things I tell my kids every day," shot down any impression she is an impossible dreamer. She tells her son a host of wise words whose "back story" reveals sinister, sad secrets about life as a person of color in America. Have money and a metro card; avoid walking alone; carry my business card; charge your phone, walk away from inappropriate things or people; know what to say when cops stop you, are her daily, parting words. The "when" – not "if" – in her list's final item is a heart stopper. "Do you know about stop and frisk?" she asks. "Blacks and Latinos make up 88 percent of the stops." Her daughter's list is no less eerie. In addition to warnings similar to those her son hears, are: keep keys in hand, walk in the street where you can be seen, change route often, be loud and assertive when confronted. Race, more than any other factor, shapes how she thinks as a mother, Moriba said.

Eight students in a tiny, just-formed women's studies course Moriba joined during her senior year

in college should have renamed the program "White Women's Studies," she said. There was no mention of African Americans, Latinos, female civil rights leaders of color or most of non-white history. Skipping number seven without explanation, Moriba described the aftermath of a six-month maternity leave. "I came back to work and everything was different. I wasn't getting those (breaking) stories, I wasn't on the crash team," she said. "I did resent being taken off the path I was on and thought I had earned."

The newsroom has changed since Moriba became "an accidental journalist" 23 years ago. Raised in Canada, originally aiming for a career as a foreign diplomat, her faxed protest statement, opposing a museum exhibit she believed was racially ignorant, landed her a job with the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. She discovered her inborn assertiveness, inquisitiveness and a certain fearlessness were attributes suited to the newsroom. Today, with the newsroom's global reach, tight budgets, increased technological demands, lack of privacy and reduced regard for being objective and balanced (inclusive of both sides of an issue), she said ethical lines are blurred. The battle – to get your story selected, to be a woman whose voice is heard – remains fierce.

During a career devoted largely to telling the stories of the underserved, Moriba selected break-the-mold leadership by women, especially women of color, and zero tolerance for social-media-transmitted hate as her final caveat.

Her advice for enabling change and continued metamorphosis? Pursue your curiosities.

Final Lecture in the 'Jan Term' Speaker Series Jan. 30

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" Speaker 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."

Stanley Students Get the Scoop about Writing for Our Local Paper



Photo Cathy Dausman

Stanley Middle School eighth grade English students in Geoff McCalmont's class learned a little about news writing from Lamorinda Weekly staffers

Cathy Tyson and Cathy Dausman. Tyson explained her work on the Lafayette city beat; Dausman spoke about feature writing. C. Dausman



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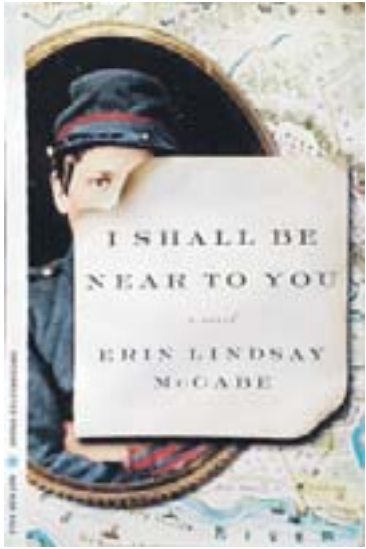
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Novel Sheds Light on Female Civil War Soldiers

Local author Erin McCabe will discuss her book Feb. 8

By Amanda Kuehn



“Anyone looking will think we’re good friends, all of us joined up together ... Papa will see the only son he’ll ever have ... [Mama] will see I still ain’t ever the daughter she wanted. But all I see is me and Jeremiah, his head leaning toward mine, his fingers tight on my shoulder.” So begins the prologue to Erin McCabe’s novel, “I Shall Be Near to You.”

A longtime resident in the Lamorinda area and graduate of the Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing program at Saint Mary’s College in Moraga, McCabe has been writing her whole life. “As a kid, I kept a diary. I had tons of pen pals that I wrote to all through middle school,” she recalled.

With the intention of becoming an English teacher, McCabe studied literature and history at the University of California, Santa Cruz. She never took a creative writing course. She taught at Ygnacio Valley High in Concord for seven years, during which time she began working on the

first draft of a novel she never intends to publish. “It was kind of a dare between my husband and I,” said McCabe. “A romance novel that sat in a drawer for a while.”

McCabe was working on revising this first novel when she crawled into bed one night and heard the voice of a character. “It was not one of the characters I’d been working with and I knew I had to get up and write it down,” she said, “and that became the first chapter of ‘I Shall Be Near to You.’”

Once McCabe began the new novel, she returned to the idea of pursuing an MFA. She worked for nine months before submitting an application, along with the first 30 pages of the manuscript. “I chose SMC because I really liked the smaller size ... and it was basically in my back yard.” McCabe began the two-year program in 2008, and by the time she graduated she’d finished a first draft of the book.

The story of a woman who impersonates a man in the American Civil War, “I Shall Be Near to You” is a historical romance based on the lives of real people. As an undergrad, McCabe found a collection of letters from Sarah Rosetta Wakeman, a woman who left her family to serve as a soldier. “I pulled it off the shelf, saw the picture of her, and that was it right there,” McCabe recalled. “I really fell in love with her and I was shocked that women fought in the Civil War and I didn’t even know.”

The first chapter is McCabe’s favorite. “That’s where I met Rosetta and found out who she is and how she sees the world,” she said. “And there’s a scene at Antietam that made

me cry when I wrote it. So, I like that scene, too.”

McCabe describes the book as a love story and a war story, with timeless desires and real characters. It is also a tribute to the bravery of unknown and forgotten female soldiers.

“I feel like it’s a book that I wrote for women,” said McCabe. “But mostly it’s a love story.”

“I Shall Be Near to You” will be released Jan. 30. McCabe will talk about the book and how it came to be, read a short selection, take questions

and sign books afterwards at 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 8 at Orinda Books.

“I really wanted to do some events in the Bay Area,” she commented. “So many of the people who supported my writing are here. It’s a really supportive place for the arts.”

‘Crosses’ Photographs on Display at the Library

By Cathy Tyson



Photo Cathy Tyson

When the first of many crosses started to sprout on a Lafayette hillside opposite the Lafayette BART station in 2006, there was an outcry from both supporters and opponents – some calling the growing art/memorial installation undignified and others seeing it as a poignant reminder of U.S. service members who made the ultimate sacrifice. Perhaps the passage of time has slightly dimmed the novelty of the “Crosses,” even as the actual number of them, along with Stars of David and other markers symbolizing soldiers who have died in the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, has grown. The memorial has attracted national attention and contains a running count of the number of deaths on the prominently displayed sign that’s visible from Hwy 24.

Now roughly eight years since their debut, the “Crosses” are the subject of famous artist Binh Danh’s Daguerreotype photographs that are currently on display in the Lafayette

Library and Learning Center gallery through March 21.

It seems only fitting that the very images that represent a painful part of our history have been captured by an artist whose work focuses on heritage, memories, and conflict. Dahn came to the United States from Vietnam when he was only 2 years old. His early work documented his investigation of the Vietnam War using a creative technique to transfer the faces of soldiers who had died in that conflict onto leaves. This collection of 18 Daguerreotype photographs captures similar themes of death, memory, and war. Despite the subject matter, they offer a unique perspective of a very visible Lafayette landmark, taken in a way that emphasizes their historical nature.

The exhibit, “The Crosses: a Protest Against Forgetting,” is located in the gallery space in the Lafayette Library and Learning Center’s Community Hall. The gallery is open most Monday evenings; call the library for more details at (925) 385-2280.

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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 took place at the district's four elementary schools Jan. 21 and 22, but parents who were unable to attend can still register at the school site. For more information about kindergarten registration, go to the district's website at: www.lafsd.k12.ca.us/registration.

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. Documents will be needed to verify age eligibility, residency and required immunizations. Any child without verified up-to-date immunizations will not be eligible to attend school. Registration information can be found on the district website: <http://district.moraga.k12.ca.us>. Parents/guardians must register at the school of residence for their child. To help determine which school your child should attend, check the MSD website at <http://district.moraga.k12.ca.us>, at 'School's Boundary Information' under the School menu, or call the District office at (925) 376-5943. Parents/guardians who need more information, or who are unable to register their child during these two days, may also call their school of residence directly.

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.

TEEN SCENE

Campolindo Robotics Wins First Place at Regional Competition

By Andrew Wang



From left: Bradley Zhu, Cary Huang, Stephen DaRodda, and Kourosh Arasteh.

Photos provided

The Campolindo High School Robotics Team 524, "Boss Bots," duked it out at Jefferson High School in Daly City Jan. 18 with 31 other teams from across the Bay Area in the First Tech Challenge (FTC) Robotics competition that puts robots head to head in a sporting-style tournament.

Campolindo's robotics club has been hot since its inception. The team has competed in the FTC robotics competition since 2011, winning the opportunity to compete at the international-level in its first year and receiving numerous design awards throughout its three-year history. Every season, the team works together to create a new robot designed to complete specified tasks, doing anything from picking up blocks to hanging from bars. Member Jacob Ngai says: "Robotics club is about every member bringing in his own forte, whether hardware or software, combining our intellects to explore the limits of robot power."

The team pulled through a hard day of competing matches to win the title of First Place Alliance Captain, making them the highest ranking team in the tournament. The team also won the Rockwell Collins Innovate award for its creative and robust robot design. The team has already qualified for the upcoming regional tournament in February, which will be their next step to the world championships.

Kourosh Arasteh, president of the Campo Robotics Club, reflected on the competition: "I am very proud of the team, for our hard work paying off, and I look forward to the challenge of competing at a higher level. We are indebted to advisors Mrs. Nita Madra and Mr. Ken Coates for their unwavering support and dedication. One of the hallmarks of our team is adaptation, and I am confident that we will bring a well-developed and efficient robot to the NorCal Championship in February."



Robot created by the Campolindo High School Robotics Team 524, "Boss Bots."

Campolindo student, Andrew Wang, is the Director of Concerts for Be the Star You Are!® charity. Besides programming computers, he plays piano and throws Frisbees.



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

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

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Tamales – Corn Husks Full of Love!

By Susie Iventosch

My husband and I are in Baja, Mexico for a few weeks and where we are staying, a local man drives by on Tuesdays to sell the latest catch of fish and seafood from the back of his truck. He honks the horn to roust his customers. You can't find fresher fish unless you're right on the boat!

On Mondays another fellow comes by to sell his wife's tamales and empanadas. He rings a little bell to let us know he has arrived. Naturally, being curious cooks, we purchased a couple of each and gave them a try. While we thor-

oughly enjoyed the empanadas, I thought we could do better on the tamales. Then, the idea surfaced that this would be a fun project for the food column.

So, I set about learning how to make tamales – it is quite a time-consuming, but really fun, project. The good news is that a lot of it can be done in stages; for example, you can cook the meat and make the sauce ahead of time and refrigerate until you're ready to assemble and cook your tamales. However, once you make the tamale dough, I think it should be "go" time!



Photos Susie Iventosch



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.

Chicken-Tomatillo Tamales with Cilantro Lime Tomatillo Sauce

(makes 10-12)

Corn Husks

1 package dried corn husks (at least 14 are needed to make 12 tamales)

Place corn husks in a large container (pot or bowl) and cover with water. Place a plate, or something heavy, on top of the husks in order to keep them submerged. Soak for several hours or overnight. When ready to use, remove from water and pat dry with a paper towel. Keep all husks whole, except two or three – enough to make strips for ties. You will need two ties per tamale.

Chicken

- 2-3 boneless, skinless chicken breasts, cut into 1 1/2-2 inch pieces
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh cilantro
- 2 fresh tomatillos, chopped
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- Juice of one lime
- Salt and pepper
- 2-3 large tomatillos for grilling to be used in sauce (recipe below)

DIRECTIONS

For the chicken, you can either bake on the barbecue, wrapped tightly in foil, or in the oven in a covered baking dish. We used the barbecue, so we could grill the tomatillos at the same time.

Place chicken in the center of a large piece of heavy-duty foil. (We double-wrapped the chicken to keep juices in.) Squeeze lime juice and olive oil over chicken. Sprinkle fresh cilantro and chopped tomatillos over chicken. Season with salt and pepper. Wrap tightly in foil and bake on barbecue until done, approximately 20 minutes over medium-high heat. When cooked, remove from heat and cool. Shred chicken and reserve all cooking juices with shredded chicken. Refrigerate until ready to use.

At the same time, grill two or three large tomatillos until beginning to brown and soften. Remove from heat and cool. Once cooled, mash with a fork or knife. Set aside for sauce.

Roasted Tomatillo Sauce

- 1 yellow onion, chopped
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 poblano peppers, roasted, skinned, seeded and chopped
- 1 jalapeno pepper, seeded and finely diced
- 6 fresh tomatillos, chopped
- 2-3 roasted or grilled tomatillos, mashed (see above)
- 3/4 cup chopped cilantro
- Juice of 1 lime
- 1 1/2 cups chicken broth
- Salt and pepper to taste

DIRECTIONS

In a sauté pan, heat oil and cook onions and garlic until translucent and soft. Add poblanos, jalapeno, tomatillos and lime juice. Mix well. Add chicken broth and continue to simmer over low heat for about 10 minutes, until slightly reduced.

Remove half of this mixture for sauce to pour over tamales when serving. Add shredded chicken and cilantro to remaining sauce in pan. Cook for an additional 10 minutes over low heat. Remove from stove and cool completely. Refrigerate until ready to assemble tamales.

Tamale Dough

- 1/2 cup (1 stick) butter, softened to room temperature
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon cumin powder
- 2 cups masa harina
- 1 1/2 to 1 3/4 cups chicken broth

DIRECTIONS

In a mixing bowl, beat butter with baking powder, salt and cumin until creamy. Add corn flour and stir into butter mixture with a fork until mixture is crumbly. Slowly add chicken broth, half cup at a time, until mixture is still thick enough to form into dough, but not too soft. Divide dough and form into 12 balls. Place each ball in the center of a prepared corn husk and spread out into a 3-4 inch square. Place about 2-3 tablespoons of chicken filling in center of each square of masa dough. From one of the long edges of the corn husk, begin to roll tamale into a tube, making sure dough and filling are tucked inside of the corn husk. Using the corn husk ties, tie each end of the tamale close to the end of the filling inside. Double knot the ties. (Here I snipped off the excess ends of corn husks, leaving about a two inch tail on either side of the ties.)

Place tamales on a French steamer in a large pot or in the steamer basket of a pot and fill pot with water to just below the steamer basket. Cover pot with a tight-fitting lid. Bring water to boil, and then turn heat down slightly to medium, and continue to steam tamales for 1.5 to 2 hours. Add water as needed, so pot does not dry out. Can be cooked ahead of time, refrigerated and reheated when ready to serve.



First stage of assembling the tamales



Second stage of assembly



Ready to serve

To Serve

When ready to serve, heat tamales in steamer or oven. Cut ties, but serve in corn husks and pass extra sauce. You could also serve grated jack or cheddar cheese to garnish.

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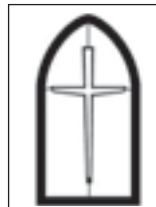
In-church Youth Zone, 10 AM Nursery Childcare
 682 Michael Lane, Lafayette, 284-7420, www.stanselms.ws



Lafayette United Methodist Church

955 Moraga Rd., Lafayette,
 284-4765, office@thelumc.org

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



St Stephen's Episcopal Church

66 St. Stephen's Drive, Orinda
 254-3770. www.ststephensorinda.org

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



► **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

◆ Not to be missed ◆ Not to be missed ◆

ART

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. Admission: free to K-12 graders; \$5 adults. Free parking.

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. 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, call (925) 376-5407 or email moragaart-gallery@gmail.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. For more information visit www.orindaarts-council.org.

Photography Show—The Camera Cabal Feb. 4-27 at City of San Ramon's Lindsay Dirx Brown Art Gallery inside San Ramon Community Center. The Camera Cabal, a collective of 11 Bay Area fine art photographers (including Orinda and Lafayette photographers), exhibit their stunning and evocative images of landscapes, abstracts, portraits, and street life. Show hours: 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday; call (925) 973-3200 for evening/weekend hours.

Town Hall Theatre is pleased to announce the opening of a free art exhibit in their gallery at 3535 School Street, Lafayette. "Greeting the New Year," which runs through March 8, is a colorful and energetic exhibit showcasing the work of eight members of the Lamorinda Arts Alliance. Gallery hours are from 3 to 6 p.m. Monday - Friday and for one hour before performances. For more info, contact curator JoAnn Lieberman at olabambola@sbcglobal.net.

"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; yet are welcome. If you haven't all 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.lafayetteart-gallery.com.

MUSIC

Concert: Songs for Kids of All Ages featuring Carol Alban at 4 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 11 at the Moraga Library. Performing with her will be Grammy-winning violinist Mads Tolling from Denmark and other surprise guest performers. Fun for everyone!

Treat yourself to an hour of classical and theatre music from 1:15 to 2:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 19 at the Soda Center at Saint Mary's College in Moraga. The free program will feature Saint Mary's student instrumentalists and singers performing works from a range of styles and traditions. For more info, call the Saint Mary's College Performing Arts Department at (925) 631-4670.

THEATER

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 brownpapertickets.com for online purchases.

The International Film Showcase presents the Saudi Arabian film, "Wadja," by writer/director Haifaa al-Mansour about a headstrong 10-year-old girl named Wadja (Waad Mohammed) who's determined to challenge a neighborhood boy to a bike race despite the potentially dire repercussions. The film, which runs Feb. 7-13 at the Orinda Theatre, is the first Saudi Arabian film directed by a woman and is the country's submission to the Motion Picture Academy for Oscar consideration. For info, visit lamorindatheatres.com.

DVC Drama presents William Shakespeare's "Hamlet" from Jan. 31 through Feb. 16. For tickets, call (925) 969-2358 or visit www.dvc-drama.net. Check website for exact times and ticket prices. DVC Drama is located at 321 Golf Club Rd, Pleasant Hill, with free parking for all performances.

LECTURE & LITERATURE

Longtime Moraga resident Mary Mark, author of "Mary's Moments: Tales of a Young Widow" will be discussing and signing her book at Orinda Books at 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 1. "Mary's Moments" is a funny, poignant, wry and deeply affectionate story of a woman's journey through life. Vignettes of college, romance, road trips, marriage, children, widowhood at 35, and single parenting pepper Mark's tale with a rich appreciation of love, friendship, family and human nature. For info, visit www.orinda-books.com.

Talking to Our Children: How We Repeat Our Parents' Patterns (Even When We Don't Want To) - Dharma College hosts a Saturday conversation about communicating between generations from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Feb. 8 at Dharma College, 2222 Harold Way, Berkeley. The discussion leaders, both parents, will talk about why and how mind repeats patterns, creating a link to the past that sometimes undermines our intentions. Admission: \$10. For more info, call (510) 809-2010 or visit the website at www.dharma-college.com.

"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. He 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.

Dr. Margaret Liu, named by Discover Magazine as one of the 50 most important female scientists, is the speaker at the Feb. 7 First Friday Forum Lecture Series at 1:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary at Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Drive, Lafayette. Her topic is "New Technologies for Cancer Vaccines and Immunotherapies." Refreshments will be served at 1 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. For info, call (925) 283-8722.

KIDS, PARENTS & TEENS

Teen Networking and Career Day at 2 p.m. 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.

Celebrate Valentine's Day with Tony La Russa's Animal Rescue Foundation's Camp ARF! Elementary and middle school students will enjoy a two hour party from 4 to 6 p.m. Friday, Feb. 7 filled with critter crafts, games, and a Therapy Animal visit. Register online at www.youth.arf.net. Cost: \$20; \$5 off if registering with a sibling or friend.

The Contra Costa Camp and School Fair is scheduled from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 23 at Acalanes High School. The second annual free event with booths for camps, schools, preschool, daycare, sports, martial arts, gymnastics, enrichment, performing arts, scouts and family vacations. Activities and exhibitions. Free. For info, visit www.ContraCostaCampFair.com.

Better Homes and Gardens Mason-McDuffie's Education Foundation is now accepting nominations for outstanding public school teachers for their 2014 grant program. Every year, Better Homes and Gardens Mason-McDuffie Real Estate awards cash grants to outstanding public school teachers in an effort to acknowledge their priceless contributions to our children's future. It is their way of giving back to the communities in which their realtors, owners, managers and staff work and live. To nominate a favorite teacher for 2014, visit www.bhg.com/education-foundation. The deadline is March 31.

OTHER

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.

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.

... continued on next page

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

OTHER ... continued

The 2014 Creating a Peaceful School Conference will be held from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 1 at the Seven Hills School in Walnut Creek. The Keynote speaker will be Victor Rios, Ph.D., an associate professor of sociology, UC Santa Barbara, motivational speaker and author of "Poverty, Gangs and a Ph.D." and "Punished: Policing the Lives of Black and Latino Boys." Registration: \$45. Full descriptions of presenters, topics and registration information: www.creatingpeacefulschools.weebly.com. For info, contact Margli Auclair at margli@mtdp.org or (925) 933-7850.

The Rohr Jewish Learning Institute (JLI) will present "To Be a Jew in the Free World: Jewish Identity Through the Lens of Modern History," the institute's new six-session Winter 2014 course that will begin during the week of Feb. 2. Like all JLI programs, the session is designed to appeal to people at all levels of Jewish knowledge, including those without any prior experience or background in Jewish learning. All JLI courses are open to the public, and attendees need not be affiliated with a particular synagogue, temple, or other house of worship. Interested students may call (925) 269-9554, email JLI@JewishContraCosta.com or visit www.myJLI.com for registration and other course-related information.

Keep your New Year's resolutions by joining Valley Stitches and Fiber Arts Guild for a presentation by the internationally best-selling author and author of the memoir, "A Life in Stitches: Rachael Herron," who will be discussing 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 and 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.

Saint Mary's College Guild presents Game Day and Luncheon. Join Friends for a day of Bridge and Bunco from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 13 at the Saint Mary's Soda Center. A delicious buffet luncheon served at noon, wine will be available. Table prizes for winners; bring your luckiest cards. Cost: \$35 per person. Make check payable to Saint Mary's College Scholarship Fund, and mail to: Dolores Mc Gonigle, 828 Crossbrook Ct., Moraga, CA 94556. Questions? Call Shirley Holloway at (925) 376-6588.

The Rescue 1 Foundation, an organization dedicated to support the paramedic program of MOFD, is seeking a new director from the Moraga community. Meetings are held on the first Monday of each month except July, August, and December. Letters of interest should be sent no later

than Feb. 15 to Julie Fisher, 815 Camino Ricardo, Moraga, CA 94556 or email her at juliefisher1@com-cast.net.

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 Geeks, 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>.

Another year of classic films is schedule for Moraga's New Rheem Theatre. A time-honored movie is slated for the third Wednesday of each month. New for 2014: 1 p.m. starting time. Each film program is introduced by Larry Swindell. Feb. 19: Knute Rockne, All-American (1940)

John Muir National Historic Site (NHS) is conducting a public workshop to develop management alternatives for the Muir/Strentzel gravesite in Martinez, Calif., Saturday, Feb. 22. The workshop will be held from 10 a.m. to noon in the multipurpose room in John Swett Elementary School, 4955 Alhambra Valley Road, Martinez. Following the workshop, NPS staff will conduct an environmental impact analysis for each of the alternatives and will select a preferred alternative based on this analysis. These alternatives will comprise the Environmental Assessment, which will be available for public review and comment later in the year.

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 info 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.earnitkeepit-saveit.org.

SENIORS

Sons in Retirement Lamorinda Branch 171 meets the first Wednesday monthly at Holy Trinity Culture Center, 1700 School Street, Moraga; social hour 11 a.m., lunch at noon. The after-lunch speaker will be Dick Callean who is currently the stadium announcer for the Oakland Athletics. Callean has had an incredible history announcing Bay Area sports including the Saint Mary's Gaels, the Golden State Warriors and the California Golden Bears. He is an entertaining speaker with his personal

comments and views. For membership information, call Larry at (925) 631-9528.

Discovering Opera: Puccini's "Madama Butterfly" - presented by Bradford Wade. Lecturer Bradford Wade will give a guided tour of the opera, with a description of the plot interspersed with musical examples, and will discuss some of the opera's literary background. This lecture is given in conjunction with Opera San Jose's production of "Madama Butterfly," Feb. 15-March 2 from 10:30 a.m. to noon, Thursday, Feb. 6 in the Lafayette Library, Arts and Science Room. Cost: \$1 members; \$3 non-members.

Saving Endangered Species, Presented by Linda Riebel. Have you met a golden lion tamarin? Ever heard of a pangolin? What about a snow leopard? These are just a few of Earth's wonderful creatures that are now endangered. Conservationists work worldwide to preserve them and their habitats. Discover some fascinating, beautiful animals, the ingenious ways they are being protected, and how you can help save them from 10:30 a.m. to noon Thursday, Feb. 20 in the Cedar Room, Lafayette Community Center. Cost: \$1 members; \$3 non-members.

Please submit events to:
calendar@lamorindaweekly.com

Service Clubs Announcements

Rotary
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.

SOROPTIMIST
A global volunteer organization working to improve the lives of women and girls through programs leading to social and economic empowerment.

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 31:	February 7:
Gillett Johnson will speak about A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A WINERY OWNER/ INTERNATIONAL WINE MERCHANT	4 WAY SPEECH CONTEST. The best students from Miramonte's Public Speaking class will give a talk developed around Rotary's 4 Way Test.

Please join us!

SOROPTIMIST OF 24/680

Please join us for our next meeting:

WHEN: Wednesday 2/5/14
Social 5:30-6:00 p.m.
Meeting 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

WHERE: The Buttercup Grill
660 Ygnacio Valley Road, Walnut Creek.

Join us for our Mama Mia Sing-A-Long and Wine Raffle. Rheem Theatre 2/22/14

For more information, contact:
Regina Englehart @925-876-9076
or go to: soroptimist24-680.org

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- **Learn about the Veterans Administration Aid & Attendance Pension Benefit** for Wartime Veterans and how this program can help pay for care in assisted living communities, board and care, and in-home care.
- **Baby Boomers: Prepare for the second half of life!** Learn how to take advantage of long-term care planning options in your estate planning documents.

Attendance is complimentary, but seating is limited.
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History of the Symphony Comes to LLC

Instructor shares his unique musical perspective

Submitted by Franette Armstrong



John Prescott Photo provided

A six-week course that is guaranteed to open the ears of even the most seasoned concert-goer begins at Lafayette Library Jan. 30. That's because it will be taught by John Prescott, Ph.D., a musician who comes at the world of music solely from the listener's perspective.

Prescott was born blind. He can't see a score or even the instruments he plays. But when his mom discovered he had perfect pitch she set him down in front of a piano. You might wonder how parents can tell if their child has a gift like that. Well, Prescott told them.

"My grandmother went to Europe, bought two sets of door chimes and gave one to my parents," he recalls. Later the two sets got switched. "I was emphatic that my folks had the wrong chimes. One was a G chord and the other an F, although I didn't know the names of the chords then." He was 2-and-a-half.

From identifying notes by ear on the piano, to playing and per-

forming the violin, and later the harpsichord and harp, Prescott's life has been the sound of music ever since. He went to Carlton College in Minnesota, spent his junior year at Oxford, England, and returned to graduate magna cum laude. He then received a scholarship to study for two years at Cambridge, England and returned to the United States and UC Berkeley for his master's and doctoral degrees in musicology.

How does a blind musician learn and remember complex symphonic scores? "Everyone thinks you need to be able to read a score to play it, but I don't even use braille notation; I learn everything by ear and I remember it as sound. I hear the harmonies in my head but I feel the notes under my fingers, almost as if I'm playing them on the piano."

Prescott received his first companion dog at age 19 and now has his fourth, Joelle, a beautiful black Labrador. Part of her training was to attend concerts to make sure she wouldn't howl at the music.

"Joelle now knows more about music history than any dog has the right to know," he says.

In addition to performing, Prescott lectures and teaches music history and appreciation to students of all ages.

He will come to Lafayette Library Jan. 30 to teach his third course for UC Berkeley's Osher Lifelong Learning Program. Each week he'll take participants on a musical visit with one of the six major composers who have shaped symphonic music. He'll play the piano to illustrate concepts.

New OLLI Classes in Lafayette

Three new six-week courses from UC Berkeley's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute begin this week at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center:

War, Peace and the Media, taught by the famed journalist and author, Reese Erlich, analyzes U.S. military involvements in Syria, Iran and Cuba and how media shapes our knowledge and opinions of them from 1 to 3 p.m. Tuesdays.

History of the Symphony takes participants on an auditory journey to visit six major composers who have shaped concert music over the last 250 years. John Prescott, noted music historian, teaches the course from 10 a.m. to noon Thursdays.

German Literature and Film of the Weimar Republic explores the creative renaissance in Germany after WWI through works such as "Threepenny Opera," "Siddhartha" and more. Instructor Marion Gerlind is German and has taught in this field for over 20 years from 1 to 3 p.m. Thursdays.

For more information, visit olli.berkeley.edu or call (510) 642-9934.

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Part Two of the Leadership Seminar Series: Small Victories

By Sophie Braccini

A series of five sessions led by Saint Mary's College Leadership Center staff for members of the community who want to

take a short-term project from start to finish begins tomorrow night. The sessions, which will be spread over a two month period, are the practical follow-up to the first leadership series offered by the Leadership Center last September, which focused on how to expand the capacities of people who wanted to lead locally, and identified roadblocks to success and ways to work more collaboratively. Those who did not attend the September session will be brought up to speed.

The Town of Moraga, Lamorinda Presents, and Moraga Citizens Network are also supporting the program. Session topics include, "Gaining input from a wide diversity of stakeholders and creating transformative scenarios that lead to win/win situations" and "Completing the

process, noticing the wins and making future recommendations."

"Participants will complete something, and will own the skills practiced over the two months," says Edy Schwartz of Lamorinda Presents. If people do not come with their own undertaking, they will sit in on different projects, the objective being to internalize a change-making process that's inclusive and constructive.

The first meeting is 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. For information about the Saint Mary's College Leadership Center, visit <http://www.stmarys-ca.edu/leadership-center/about-the-center>.

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Third Grader Wins Elementary Geography Bee!

Submitted by Merilee McCormick



Burton Valley Elementary School held its National Geographic Geography Bee final on Jan. 17. Eight students qualified for the Bee finals, mostly from the fourth and fifth grades, with Lucas Oppenheimer as the only third grade competitor. After three rounds of competition, he won the Burton Valley Geography Bee. He has a chance to represent Burton Valley and Lafayette in the State Bee, if he qualifies.

Burton Valley Elementary School third grade teacher Mischelle Doll and Lucas Oppenheimer
Photo provided

LAMORINDA SPORTS

Saint Mary's Rides Hot-Streak to Fourth Straight Win

By Michael Sakoda



James Walker (35) with a drive to the basket. Brad Waldow (00) is ready for a rebound. Photos Tod Fierner

Nearly midway through WCC league play, the Saint Mary's men's basketball team has had a season of hot and cold streaks.

The Gaels (16-5, 6-2 WCC) got off to a hot start, winning their first nine games in convincing fashion, but then dropped three straight at the Diamond Head Classic in Hawaii. SMC has again found their rhythm taking four straight games in WCC play, including an 89-61 win over Loyola Marymount University on Jan. 25.

"I don't like to count games played outside the continental U.S.," joked head coach Randy Bennett. "But seriously...we were in those games, but it's tough when you're not playing 40 minutes of defense. We've got to improve defensively."

The Gaels lost those non-continental games by a combined 11 points, 71-78 to South Carolina, 74-76 to Hawaii, and 63-65 to George Mason.

But stateside, St. Mary's is back on track, winning seven of their last nine, including their 4th straight win in conference play with the win over LMU in the final game of a six game home-stand.

With just under 15 minutes to go in the first half, St. Mary's led the Lions 12-7, but a 14-0 run, sparked by three 3-pointers from Jordan Giusti (career high 15 points, 4/5 3-pt) had the Gaels up 26-7 with 10:50 left to

play in the half. "I (was) tired of it," said Giusti about the shooting slump he'd been in much of the season. "I've been hitting the gym...getting up shots...because if I'm able to knock down the three, it opens things up for my team." The long ball was falling for a few of the Gaels on Saturday who were 8-of-18 from long. In addition to Giusti, Kerry Carter (2/3) and James Walker (2/4) hit multiple shots from distance.

Yet, it was the interior game that was constant throughout. Brad Waldow was scoring at will in the paint, putting up a game-high 27 points to go with his 10 rebounds (4 offensive), and Dane Pineau was protecting the rim at the other end, with a game-high five blocks.

"Brad played really well," said Bennett of his center. "The bigs really helped...I think Dane was the unsung hero defensively...he really made some nice plays. It's not just guarding his man, it's the help he gives."

And the help was needed. Both Pineau and Steve Holt, who was held without a field goal in the contest, were instrumental in a first half shut down of Loyola's leading scorer Anthony Ireland. Ireland, who averages better than 18 a game was held to just 2 points in the first half.

"(Ireland) is one of the best players in the league," Bennett said. "We

talked a lot about preparing for him, and Holt did a great job on him...and our bigs really helped defending him."

The Lions went on a 9-0 run early in the second half, cutting the St. Mary's lead to 44-33, but St. Mary's countered with a 15-1 stretch of their own.

Ireland finished with 17 points, but he shot 6/16 from the field, and most of his scoring came late when the game was well out of reach.

"I think we played one of our best games of the year," Bennett said of Saturday's matchup. "Probably the best we've played defensively all year...as close to 40 minutes of defense we've had."

With a 6-2 WCC record, the Gaels sit in the second spot in the conference behind No. 21 Gonzaga. The Gaels head out on the road on Thursday to take on San Diego.



Jordan Giusti had a career-high 15 points in the win over LMU.

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Lamorinda Wrestling Mid-Season Report

Wrestlers hard at work toward season goals

By Hannah Raslan



Bottom row, from left: Max Flemming, Justin Joss; middle row: Jared Deloso, Owen Chang(C) Alexander Jang(C), Justin O'Camb, Justin Correll, Leo Zepada; standing: Sam Field, Joseph Santos, Deven Galang, Skylar Wright, Alec Gates, Zachary Francis, Ben Warren, Cristofer Holobetz, Aidan Kohr(C), Coach Jose Herrera Photos Andy Scheck



Bottom row, from left: Tomas Martinho, Grant Smith, John Monasevitch, Jaqueline Guelfi, Avery Novick. Middle row: Logan MacDonald, Eric Monasevitch, Jason Pollock, Andrew Armen, Lorenzo Ruiz, Ronin McCobb; standing: Jeremy Dunbar, Keai Lucasey, Nathaniel Armen, Trevor Martinho, Ryan McCormick, Jackson Wiley, Sean Flannelly, Matt Lopresti

Looking into Miramonte, Campolindo, or Acalanes' gyms this season, spectators will surely find teams of hardworking, dedicated wrestlers practicing with an aim at the NCS title. All three teams are filled with talented, experienced wrestlers, eager new players and underclassmen ready to prove themselves on the mat.

The Miramonte Matadors (1-2 in DFAL) are an upstart team filled with young and inexperienced athletes who are enthusiastic to improve their wrestling skills with help from seasoned upperclassmen and head coach Jose Herrera.

Last year, the Mats lacked upperclassman who could guide the new recruits. They had only one junior and no seniors.

"We had 14 returners and 12 new wrestlers—usually underclassmen," said Herrera. "We're young. A lot of these guys did not know what wrestling was until freshman year, so we started late, but we are catching up."

This year, however, the team is stronger behind the returners. Junior captain Alexander Jang and junior

Justin Joss lead the team twenty wins apiece. Junior Sam Field has notched 17 wins.

The Mats are hopeful for a spot in the North Coast Section (NCS) tournament this year. Jang, Joss, and Field are poised to qualify.

The Mats recorded their first win of the dual-meet season against Acalanes. They suffered tough losses to Campolindo and Dublin.

"[Against Campolindo] we had one of the most exciting duels I've ever been a part of," said Herrera. "With one match left it was tied; we ended up losing, but we will see them next year."

The Mats return to action on Jan. 30 at Dougherty Valley.

Campolindo is having a strong season, despite a losing record. At 3-4 overall, the Cougars have already faced most of the DFAL's toughest teams including Dougherty Valley, which has "a good team, and that was a pretty tough match," said Campolindo head coach Bob McLaughlin "We are doing alright. Hopefully we can finish above 500."

Senior Jeremy Dumbar is having a career-best season with the Cougars. Fellow seniors Grant Smith and Jack-

son Wylie also lead the team in wins. They have an eye towards the NCS tournament.

Looking toward the rest of the season, Las Lomas and Dublin will be the toughest and most threatening competition. McLaughlin is confident that his team will take home the win against the Dons.

"We have done well in the NCS duels. In the past three years we've finished fourth, third, and fourth, so I would like to compete [this season]."

With a small roster, the Dons have yet to win a dual meet. At 0-4, Acalanes has to forfeit a majority of their matches.

The Dons possess skill, drive, and a much larger team than last year, but they still are not able to compete at the same level as bigger, more developed teams.

"Even though we often win the majority of matches, we haven't won a dual meet yet because we have to forfeit so many weight classes," said senior captain Brian Lilienstein. "We have one of the smaller teams in our league."

As the season progresses, the team hopes to get more participants in order to become a threat.

From World Cups to Whistles

Star rugby player transitions to coaching

By Clare Varellas



Gary Hein, pictured in center

Photo provided

Thirty years ago this month, UC Berkeley freshman football player Gary Hein stood outside Memorial Stadium about to enter the locker room to begin his usual off-season workout. But before he could even begin dressing, friend and teammate Don James approached him with a proposition that would change his life.

"He came in and grabbed me by the scruff of the neck and said, 'Come on, you're coming with me. Why don't you just come sit down and watch this sport called rugby?'" Hein recalled. "So I did, and after about ten minutes I said, 'Alright, I'll try it out.'"

Little did Hein know, that rugby practice in January of 1984 would be the first in a long and successful career that led him to play for Cal, for the U.S. national rugby team, and for a variety of top rugby teams around the world.

Hein, who is now a lawyer and the head coach of his twin sons' U12 Lamorinda Rugby Club team, comes from a line of renowned athletes, including his grandfather, an NFL Hall of Famer, and his father, a past world-record pole vaulter.

Hein was recruited to Cal on a football scholarship and played football all four seasons. However, he says that in comparison to football, he prefers both the "continuity and the camaraderie" of rugby.

"I really enjoyed the fact that in rugby when someone was tackled with the ball, it wasn't a dead ball," said Hein. "In rugby, you play a match, and afterward you have dinner and drinks with the other team."

Hein was a four-time All-American, a two-time National Player of the Year, and a member of the Cal rugby team that won three national championships. He was offered a chance to try out for the national rugby team during his junior year.

"My football eligibility had ended at Cal, and I was toying with the idea of trying out in the NFL, but it was right at the same time that I got this selection onto the U.S. rugby team," said Hein. "Given the choice of trying out for the NFL and representing my country in the first rugby World Cup, I chose the latter and loved it."

Hein played for the United States in the inaugural Rugby World Cup in 1987. He stayed on and played in two more World Cups in 1991 and 1993.

In the meantime he lived in

Dublin, Ireland, playing for the world-famous club team Old Belvedere. Hein attended Oxford University to earn his law degree from 1989 to 1991 and played on the university's varsity team and for the London-based club, Richmond.

After returning to the United States, Hein continued playing for the national team and for Old Blues, the Cal alumni rugby team. He retired from playing in 1994 but worked as an assistant coach for the Cal team in 2001-02.

In 2009, Hein started coaching for Lamorinda Rugby Club, trying to instill the same love he has for the sport into his young players.

"The most important thing is that they love the sport, and that they come back," said Hein. "If you try to pressure them too much to be committed to the sport year-round, you're more likely to lose them to other sports, whereas we make it fun for them."

Hein said that coaching is also about preparing athletes for life. "We try to teach them life lessons about how to work together as a team, how to set a common goal and work toward achieving it together," he explained.

In an era of mounting concern regarding concussions, it would seem that the lack of padding, particularly the lack of helmets, in rugby uniforms would increase players' danger of getting hurt. However, Hein believes that rugby is actually safer than football because players are more careful without all the preventative padding.

"The helmet can be a sword as well as a shield," said Hein. "It can protect you, but I think when people are wearing a helmet they feel like they're bulletproof or immune to injury... whereas when you're playing rugby you're probably intending to protect yourself as well as other people."

As rugby grows increasingly popular worldwide (it will be an Olympic sport in 2016), Hein treasures the memories he has of being a part of the world's first rugby World Cup, and continues to promote the sport's values via his coaching.

"To have done that on the highest level, on the highest stage in the world with some of the best players as your teammates was really exhilarating," Hein said. "I miss it, but I have a lot of great memories and will always look back on it fondly."

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Gaels Off to 4-0 Start

Submitted by Tony Samaniego



The Saint Mary's rugby team completed a five-day tour of Arizona, playing University of Arizona on Jan. 17 and Arizona State on Jan. 19. The Gaels have not played any Arizona schools in nearly a decade, but the team reminded the desert schools of the strong rugby played in the Bay Area.

SMC went up 26-3 in the first half against the Arizona Wildcats. The Gaels maintained their intensity in the second half to finish the game 45-3. In the second game, the "A" side dominated the Wildcats 76-10.

Saint Mary's then traveled to Phoenix where they beat Arizona State. The Gaels finished the first game 40-10, before the "A" side defeated the Sun Devils 59-19.

SMC is now 4-0 after early wins against San Francisco Golden Gate and Diablo Men's clubs.

Photo provided

LMSC Wins Title

Submitted by Corinna Sassano



Photo provided

The LMSC girls' U12 White team won the State Cup in their division on Dec. 15.

During the first half of the championship game, the girls were not able to create scoring opportunities. However, they turned it around in the second half, scoring four goals to win the game and the title.

During the first half of the championship game, the girls were not able to create scoring opportunities. However, they turned it around in the second half, scoring four goals to win the game and the title.

Magic Versus Magic

Submitted by Greg Davis



Photo provided

At the end of a successful soccer season, the California Magic U9 girls split into two teams (Magic Blue and Magic White) to play in the Diablo Valley Futsal League. Both teams made it to the championship

game. Magic took home first and second in the division.

Coach Tony Neto said, "I am very proud of the girls. Our team plays with a lot of passion and has a great team spirit."

Young Qualify for Olympic Pool

Submitted by Greg Davis



From left: Mia Grillo, Kierra Krawec, Molly Davis, Gabriella Ortale, Tai Fox, Alex Topping, Joseph Gratul and Yohannes Kalonji (not pictured: Samantha DeVecchi)

Photo provided

California Magic Soccer Club congratulates nine of its players who have been selected to the Cal North Olympic Development Program (ODP) state player pools. The selected players represent the best players from the Northern California region within their age groups. Next, the athletes will compete within the state pool to be named to the US Youth Soccer Region IV player pool.

The players representing Cal Magic: Molly Davis (Lafayette, '99G), Samantha DeVecchi

(Orinda, '99G), Tai Fox (Orinda, '00B), Joseph Gratul ('99B), Mia Grillo (Orinda, '99G), Yohannes Kalonji ('99B), Kierra Krawec (Lafayette, '99G), Gabriella Ortale (Lafayette, '01G), and Alex Topping (Lafayette, '00B).

The Olympic Development Program is a national process for identifying and developing the best youth soccer players. The process promotes players to the U.S. National Teams, the Youth World Cup, and the Olympics.

CYO Team Cheers on the Gaels

Submitted by Marty Ruane



Photo provided

The St. Perpetua seventh grade girls' basketball team took a trip to check out the Saint Mary's women's basketball team on Jan. 18. The Gaels defeated the Loyola Marymount Lions 78-74 in an ex-

citing game. The CYO team scrimmaged during half-time and had the chance to meet the SMC team after the game.

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Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 07 Issue 24 Wednesday, January 29, 2014



The Home Designer

...read on page D10

Sculptures Grow Like Flowers

In this Orinda garden, art sprouts from the ground up

By Chris Lavin



Discarded irrigation pipes are beautifully used for dreadlocks.

Photo Chris Lavin

To hear how artist Karen Wyse came to own her house, which she and her husband bought way back in 1974, is to take a trip back in time. Picture Berkeley, picture peasant skirts, bare feet, picture freedom and anarchy. Picture a friend showing up at your door and saying, “You have to see this place in Orinda.”

BART was new. Most fares were 30 cents.

Wyse’s friend had been going door-to-door in Orinda selling powdered laundry detergent. It was a somewhat typical job people did back then, with a commission of 25 cents per box, and he had gone to knock on a door that turned out to be on a 3-acre piece of land that was to die for. ... continued on page D4



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LAFAYETTE	7	\$740,000	\$1,527,500
MORAGA	6	\$430,000	\$1,625,000
ORINDA	5	\$760,000	\$1,950,000

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LAFAYETTE

- 60 Camelia Lane, \$1,250,000, 4 Bdrms, 2523 SqFt, 1980 YrBlt, 12-26-13;
Previous Sale: \$550,000, 07-19-96
- 1207 Camino Vallecito, \$1,527,500, 4 Bdrms, 3982 SqFt, 1979 YrBlt, 12-19-13;
Previous Sale: \$900,000, 09-11-12
- 5 Crest Road, \$1,311,000, 3 Bdrms, 2336 SqFt, 1941 YrBlt, 12-27-13;
Previous Sale: \$850,000, 10-23-03
- 3190 Diablo View Road, \$1,155,000, 4 Bdrms, 3024 SqFt, 1991 YrBlt, 12-27-13;
Previous Sale: \$527,000, 08-22-91
- 79 Silverwood Drive, \$1,290,000, 3 Bdrms, 2344 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 12-20-13;
Previous Sale: \$825,000, 06-13-13
- 33385 St. Marys Road, \$1,152,500, 3 Bdrms, 2258 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 12-31-13;
Previous Sale: \$1,100,000, 03-09-07
- 271 Sweet Drive, \$740,000, 3 Bdrms, 1150 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 12-19-13

MORAGA

- 119 Ascot Court #3, \$430,000, 3 Bdrms, 1320 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 12-27-13;
Previous Sale: \$566,000, 06-02-05
- 259 Corliss Drive, \$900,000, 4 Bdrms, 2440 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 12-23-13
- 101 Hardie Drive, \$1,210,000, 4 Bdrms, 2584 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 12-27-13;
Previous Sale: \$410,000, 05-12-94
- 7 Haven Court, \$1,625,000, 5 Bdrms, 3433 SqFt, 1985 YrBlt, 12-20-13;
Previous Sale: \$650,000, 04-23-97
- 146 Miramonte Drive, \$530,000, 2 Bdrms, 1514 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 12-24-13;
Previous Sale: \$385,000, 06-28-01
- 25 Via Barcelona, \$790,000, 3 Bdrms, 2873 SqFt, 1990 YrBlt, 12-24-13;
Previous Sale: \$624,500, 03-20-02

ORINDA

- 65 Camino Del Diablo, \$804,000, 2 Bdrms, 2332 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 12-20-13
- 42 Camino Encinas, \$760,000, 1 Bdrms, 1955 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 12-24-13
- 8 Crestview Court, \$860,000, 4 Bdrms, 1590 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 12-31-13;
Previous Sale: \$796,000, 01-06-10
- 10 El Castillo, \$1,950,000, 5 Bdrms, 4864 SqFt, 1998 YrBlt, 12-24-13;
Previous Sale: \$1,450,000, 05-11-01
- 10 Vista Del Orinda, \$1,010,000, 3 Bdrms, 2596 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 12-27-13;
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Sculptures Grow Like Flowers

... continued from page D1



Even the ceilings of Karen Wyse's home are filled with sculpture.

Photo Chris Lavin

Wooded acres, an abandoned house, outbuildings, a creek running through it. Paradise, the laundry detergent salesman thought. But Wyse didn't understand the concept when he rushed to her to explain.

She wasn't interested.

"Orinda?" she yelled at her friend. "Who wants to live in Orinda? I'm happy in Berkeley!"

She wanted him to go away.

But the friend had insisted, so she and her husband, Matt Wyse, went to look. (Only to shut the guy up, she says.) She set foot on the overgrown property off El Toyonal, trekked inside the abandoned house, shined a flashlight up into the dark second story, "and I knew I'd be living here someday," she said.

It took a while to buy it. Wyse found herself visiting the absentee owner almost every day. She persisted for some months. Wyse is a persistent person. Finally, on one such visit, Wyse insisted on a signature at the dotted line. Wyse is also insistent.

With papers signed, Wyse, who owned and operated Bizarre Bazaar in Oak-

land for many years, and her husband, who owned and operated bookstores, made the move. She envisioned a landscape of blooms, of flowering shrubs, of verdant vines reaching to the sky. But little would grow beneath the spreading oaks, and the tannins in the soil didn't support the kind of life she had considered. "I mean, look at this!" she exclaimed, holding her hands out helplessly beneath a towering oak tree. "I couldn't get a plant to grow!"

Therefore Wyse began to create her own garden – a sculpture garden that would begin to take shape and gradually transform their 3 acres into a garden of whimsy, of contemplation. It has become a garden of life, of life's entrapments, its allures and pleasures. A meandering walk takes one through sculptures both small and large, sculptures that grow from the ground or hang from trees.

Wyse chooses her materials carefully. When a contractor friend called and asked her if she would like a truckload of plastic irrigation pipe that he had just torn up, she didn't say yes right away. What color is it? she asked. "A very nice brown," he said.

... continued on page D8

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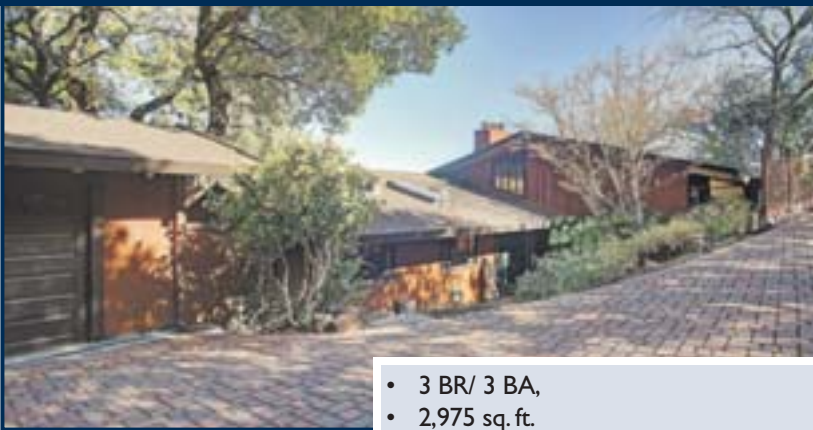


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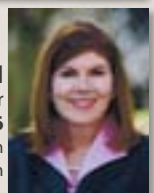
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Sculptures Grow Like Flowers

... continued from page D4



A redundant phone is rethought.

Photos Chris Lavin

Now those pipes hang in three consecutive sculptures from an oak, reminiscent of regal portraits of faces framed by perfect dreadlocks. The walkway takes you past sculptures too large to move.

"I didn't know what I was getting into," Wyse said about her largest work. It started with another friend calling and asking if she wanted some Manzanita he had cleared. She said yes. She did not expect three moving vans full of branches and trunks. The friend dumped it. She shaped and molded the pieces together, covered it with chicken wire, began sculpting it with cement. It took years to complete. But Wyse is persistent.

"It weighs 75,000 pounds," she said. "And I know it because of my bills from Diamond K," the supply store in Lafayette. It took years to complete when the English ivy, finally – one of the only plants to grow on the land -- began to make it complete. "It looks good now," she said.

Now, Wyse's space is full. Fences are adorned with flowers and lace and bags and beautiful plastic shaped bottles or carry-out containers. She has outgrown her galleries, throughout which she recently sprinkled full jars of glitter to make a connection between one piece and the next. On the path, sculptures like moose ferns

fall from the trees; stalagmites come from the other direction, sprouting sculptures that vary from the whimsical to the baffling.

Wyse has been an artist for a long as she's been alive. She also is an animal lover (she had ocelots, once upon a time, with beautiful pictures and happy cats to prove it) and she eloped at the age of 15 to leave her family home in Newark, N.J. She seems to be a person who does not look back. She is a free spirit, with a dandy hat and bright lipstick to prove it. Her beginnings, she says, are only the start of what she has produced.

She pointed to a cluster of crisp black umbrellas and fresh blankets on the ground. Someone could live here, a visitor might think. But it's a sculpture. "This is the Homeless Ladies Encampment," Wyse announced. She had recently changed a sculpture near it, to freshen it up, replacing a takeout container.

"So it's changing all the time," Wyse said, looking around. "Just like we are. We need to get spiffed up, too!"

For a tour through Karen Wyse's sculpture garden, you may watch an independent production that says it all on YouTube, at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qpz9FcwjnTk>. Or just search Karen Wyse on YouTube.



Wyse has trouble finding coffee cups because she is constantly tying them to trees, where they look better than on the shelf.

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The Home Designer

Fit For A Little King (or, Queen)

By Brandon Neff



A simple peel and stick wall decal adds whimsy and scale to any nursery.

Photo courtesy Brandon Neff Design

With all eyes turning toward the British Monarchy following the birth of Prince George, I got to thinking about nursery design. What makes an inspiring kid's room? I think that some element of surprise makes for a great start. In my work, I've seen many a baby room look far too saccharine and precious to suit my tastes – I call it the "Jordan almond" syndrome – everything looks as if it were dipped in pastel shades of mint, blush and lemon. Have we not evolved beyond pastels?

Today, everything from mid-century modern furniture to luxury bedding is being made pint-sized – why should the adults have all the fun? And, since the nursery is really more about the parents than the kids, shouldn't you create a perfectly stylish space for you to enjoy while you're filling out those pre-, pre-, preschool applications? To be sure, your newborn isn't going to be able to discern between an Eames chair and a Moooi pendant light, but you will. Half the fun in designing a baby's room is letting your imagination run wild and creating a unique and playful space that you want to hang out in. You're going to be spending a lot of quality time there feeding, changing, reading and burping – why not make it a spot that inspires you, too?

Now, I've never been a fan of baby blue or ballet pink as the main event of any room (let alone a child's room) – there are just too many far more interesting hues out there to choose from. In the 21st century, gender lines shouldn't dictate color barriers, so it's high time to think outside the toy box. When approaching the design of a nursery just apply the same practice you would to any other room in the house – begin with the inspiration, and draw from the world around you.

For example, I recently completed a nursery for a couple of first time parents who wanted something different for their daughter Kayla. While a shade of pink was used sparingly – we actually settled on a more sophisticated rose – I introduced them to a pale grey for contrast inspired by the Paris salon of Christian Dior. To add dimension, deep moss green, coral and aqua were mixed in for personality and gravitas. The overall effect elevates the room to a more artful chic rather than the ubiquitous Barney schtick.

Additionally, with very little architectural interest in the small, spec 12 by 12 foot room, I added a simple chair rail – a decorative moulding running around the room at 36 inches – painted to the floor in one color, and an accent shade painted above. This simple trick adds tremendous interest. Hint: paint the chair rail and the wall below in the same finish (satin or gloss), to ensure easier cleaning where sticky fingers are likely to reach. Additionally, full length drapes hung just below the crown were added for extra drama and to properly dress the one window.

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The Home Designer

Fit For A Little King (or, Queen)

... continued from page D10

I used a woven wood roman shade ordered from a national retailer with a blackout liner to serve as the functional covering to control light for napping. Layering window treatments gives a more finished look. And the best part is the graphic line drawing drapery panels were found at IKEA – \$20 for the pair!

Since my clients were on a budget, but wanted something high impact for the room, we installed a forest of birch trees and owls that I found online to one wall – a perfectly easy project made of full-sized peel and stick decals. The animated scene brought the room to life and brings a smile to all who enter. Simply peel off when you or your child outgrows the look.

Need more inspiration? How about white? Yes, white! Who says you can't go light from floors to walls to ceiling? The beauty of white is that it allows you to add limitless layers of color to the mix – everything works with a clean white base. For example, add a black striped rug for a mod and graphic expression. Or mix in lime and citrus orange accents for a fresh "Palm Springs" combination that inspires cheery optimism even on the cloudiest days. Try combining navy, chocolate brown and silver stripes for a sophisticated feature wall, and accent with red bedding for a decidedly Upper East Side luxe.

Feeling preppy? Install a painted Kelly green chest with brass hardware, and hang felt tartan drapery panels to bring out an Ivy League vibe – the options are endless.

If you're worried about durability, look for outdoor fabrics to dress the room – there are literally hundreds to choose from – manufactured by most fabric mills and available to the trade. They're made to withstand whatever your kids can muster – stain resistant and anti-microbial – perfect for drapes, bumpers, pillows and even the changing table cushion.

Design is in the details. With so many nursery outfitters out there it's hard to settle on a look that feels personal. Sometimes, the best spaces are made up of items you already own. Try framing a cherished childhood board game as wall art, or repurpose well worn baby clothes into a new quilt or toss pillow cover – connect your own past with your child's future, and hand down items they'll cherish for years.

I always encourage my clients to think about their design legacy. What will they pass down to the next generation? In this age of mostly disposable and forgettable design, I look to vintage and heritage pieces to connect families. When I was a kid, and decorating my room for the umpteenth time, I loved using items I collected from my parents. My father's fraternity paddle from UC, a souvenir hat from the 1952 Rose Bowl, or a collection of black and white theater photographs from my mother's days as an actress were all fantastic treasures I used to inspire my early decorating adventures. I believe a passion for art and design is inherited – start early.

Need more ideas? Check out a couple of my "go to" web destinations: www.SerenaAndLily.com; www.LandOfNod.com; www.RoomAndBoard.com; and www.DesignWithinReach.com.



A neutral background with punches of color in an unexpected palette makes this nursery chic.

Photo courtesy Lovejoy



Mostly white elements and a bold wallpaper keep this nursery from looking too sweet.

Photo courtesy The Brick House



Brandon Neff is a Bay Area based Interior Designer. He can be reached at BrandonNeffDesign.com or at brandonneffdesign@yahoo.com.

I want to hear from you!

Write me and tell me what trends you're following. What looks are inspiring your design decisions? I'd love to know what topics and stories interest you. Don't be shy, drop me an email and say hello!



Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for February

"To me every hour of the day and night is an unspeakably perfect miracle." – Walt Whitman

By Cynthia Brian

Despite Valentine's Day, familial birthdays, and President Day holidays, the second month of the year is notoriously my least favorite on the calendar because of wintery weather. This year, however, sunshine has been the mainstay for weeks and now I find myself preoccupied with the looming drought.

A few days ago on the morning of my mother's birthday, minutes before she left to celebrate her big day at a luncheon, we were on the phone lamenting the lack of water and the dire forecast for our newly planted vineyards. Two miles from our farm, a laborer's truck slammed into her at full speed. Her car flipped, hit a tree, and rolled into a ditch. Both vehicles were totaled. It was a miracle that everyone survived the collision with only minor cuts and bruises.

At that moment, we rejoiced for the lack of rain else that creek might have been rushing and the outcome of the accident may have differed. Although sore, my mom was back digging in her garden the next day, despite stitches in her arm and wearing a sling. Life is precious and it's important to appreciate every second. Rain, shine, freeze, or drought, we are all in the circle of life together. February is our reminder of the importance of uttering "I love you" often.

- **RE-THINK** your garden for the year by planning for drought and fire resistant plants. Sage, lavender, ice plant, bulbs, natives, and succulents will add beauty, fragrance, and form with little water.
- **REFRAIN** from pruning any freeze damaged plants. Wait until all danger has passed, usually the end of March.
- **SPRAY** fruit trees and roses with a final dose of horticultural oil mixed with water. The oil kills most mites, insect eggs, scale, and insects.
- **REMOVE** up to 87 percent of household pollutants by adding houseplants to your interior spaces as air filters. Plants pump life giving oxygen and moisture through their breathing. Consider fuss free Chinese evergreen, sansevieria (aka snake plant), or a desktop sago palm, all tolerant of low light and dry conditions.
- **EMBRACE** the tangy flavor of kumquats by planting a small tree in a large container by your kitchen. Bright shiny leaves with a citrus fragrance and tiny fruit that taste like a cross between sour limes and tangerines await. Kumquats are an exotic addition to mixed drinks and pies.
- **ADMIRE** the structure and architecture of your trees, both deciduous and evergreen, surrounding your property. When you get up close and personal, you'll find beauty in their winter wardrobes.
- **VISIT** the UC Botanical Gardens in Berkeley, the third largest botanical garden in the United States with its well-labeled collection of over 12,000 taxa covering 30 acres, including many endangered species. Check out <http://botanicalgarden.berkeley.edu/> for information on special events.
- **CONSERVE** water by using gray water to irrigate potted plants. Unless we get rainfall soon, California will initiate mandatory rationing as opposed to the 20 percent voluntary savings.
- **BRIGHTEN** the garden with bergenia. Even after a freeze, bergenia shoots up pretty pink blossoms.

... continued on next page



To add zest to drinks and color to your patio, plant a pot of kumquats.

Photos Cynthia Brian



Cut a few branches of budding flowering quince and enjoy the unfurling.

Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for February

... continued from page D13



Cover trees, especially citrus with plastic, bubble wrap, or blankets to protect from frost and freeze.



Despite the freeze, bergenia blooms brighten the garden.



The bark from a century old olive tree is as beautiful as a sculpture.



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With current winter drought conditions home owners need to make sure to water their trees too. Lack of water brings bugs and diseases. Proper pruning is also essential this time of year for your Pine trees. Bark Beetles can infest your tree when it is weak from lack of water or due to sap that comes from pruning in the spring and summer; these beetles are dormant during the fall and winter months. Beetles also can carry diseases from tree to tree, and the only way to stop them is to prevent them by having a healthy tree in the first place. So don't wait until it's too late have a complete inspection by a Certified Arborist at Advance Tree Service

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- **MULCH** your garden with at least three inches of organic matter to control temperature, fight erosion, and maintain moisture.
- **SHORT** on space? Vertical gardening and living walls offer effortless, space saving green environments providing privacy screens, ambiance, and health benefits.
- **SHARE** your love of nature with someone you admire this Valentine's Day. Give a living plant that will remind them of your gift for years to come.
- **INVEST** in a canvas tote bag or other reusable bag instead of using plastic or paper. You'll save trees and help eliminate pollution.
- **BUY** your firewood from local sellers. When you transport firewood from other areas, there may be invasive tree-killing pests hitchhiking on your load.
- **WRAP** tender plants and trees (especially citrus) with blankets, plastic, or bubble wrap when another freeze or frost threatens. The cold nights are not over yet despite the warmer days.
- **INVITE** our feathered friends to dinner by filling feeders. Pluck dandelions daily and put on a plate in a place frequented by California quail. Your guests will reward your efforts by eating harmful insects.
- **PRUNE** ornamental grasses to 12 inches to encourage new growth.
- **CUT** branches of forsythia, quince, flowering pear, and other early blooming shrubs as the buds swell for long lasting interior interest.
- **INVESTIGATE** the new plants debuting in 2014 such as Ms. Mars sunflower, Candy Stripe verbena, and my personal favorite, the David Austin rose, Royal Jubilee celebrating the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II.

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- **PLANT** a salad bowl garden with greens you love to eat. A small patch of earth or even two or three containers within easy reach of the house will supply you with snippets of arugula, spinach, Swiss chard, chives, radish, mustard, mache, and a variety of lettuces.
- **PERUSE** catalogues for open pollinated, heirloom, or other favorites of seeds, bulbs, flowers, and shrubs. Check out these sites for ideas:

www.sowtrueseed.com,
 www.selectseeds.com,
 www.rootsrhizomes.com,
 www.whiteflowerfarm.com,
 www.mzbulb.com,
 www.territorialseed.com,
 www.harriseseeds.com,
 www.seedsofchange.com,
 www.parkseed.com,
 www.burpee.com,
 www.rareseeds.com,
 www.seedsavers.org.

- **EAT** apples for fresher breath and healthy bodies. Did you know that the French called tomatoes 'pommès d'amour' or 'love apples' because they were convinced that tomatoes had aphrodisiac properties?

May Cupid find you this February and shoot his arrow your way. Be grateful. Celebrate love. Happy Gardening and Happy Growing!

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Cynthia Brian

The Goddess Gardener

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Cynthia Brian sends her love to you for Valentine's Day!

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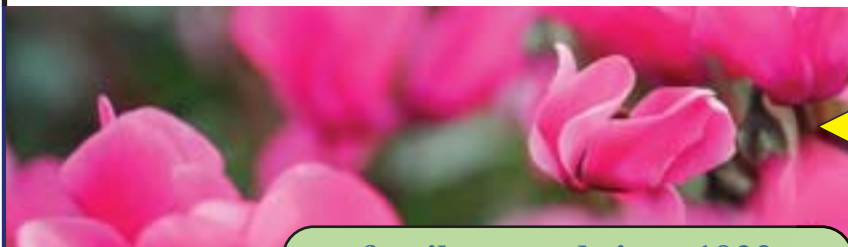
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ORINDA



8 La Campana

Super clean & ready one level living w/ 3bd/2ba, floor to ceiling windows and lots of light. Easy access outside. New Kitchen. Special setting, great high-end street, set for occupancy.

\$865,000

ORINDA



Pending

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



Pending

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 home in park like setting w/ panoramic views, level lawn & pool. 3745 sf classic custom w/ vaulted ceilings, walls of windows, hardwood floors, den, workout room, FR & well-appointed kitchen.

\$1,349,000

ORINDA



New Listing

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



Pending

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

LAFAYETTE



New Listing

3351 Springhill Road

Renovated & expanded in 2013, custom one-story 4bd/3ba, 2714 sf on .55 ac features great room w/state-of-the-art kit.; luxurious baths; hdwd flrs, exquisite crown molding & workmanship; paved patio, lawn & outdr kitchen.

\$1,749,000

EMERYVILLE



Pending

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

WALNUT CREEK



New Listing

3737 Waterford Lane

Lovely 4bd Northgate home w/spectacular .7 ac yd on cul-de-sac near schools & trains. Almost 3700 sf w/ large kitchen/FR, office w/oak built-in cabinets, beautiful hdwd flrs, 2 fireplaces, large master suite & 3 car garage.

\$1,398,000



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