

# LAMORINDA WEEKLY

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Breanna Alford had 21 points in the NCS title game. Sabrina Ionescu had 13 points in the game. Megan Reid had 10 points. Photos Gint Federas

## Miramonte Wins NCS

The Miramonte girls' basketball team won the NCS title in convincing fashion and have advanced to the CIF State Tournament in the Open Division. The Mators defeated Encinal 94-42 on March 8 at Saint Mary's College for the NCS championship. With the win, the

Mats earned their first NCS title since 2008. At 28-1, the Mats have dominated their competition. They defeated each opponent in the NCS competition by at least 50 points, including a 97-21 victory over Analy in the semifinals. Given Miramonte's prominence, the team qualified for the CIF

Open Division, a division composed of the top teams in the state. The Mats will travel to play St. Mary's of Stockton on March 14 at Delta College. Miramonte faced St. Mary's in the first round of the tournament last year and lost a 62-63 heartbreaker. Read the full story on page C1.

### Quote of the Week:

"Lots of countries drink tea, but very few actually eat the tea leaves." Read Burmese Cuisine Comes to Orinda - page B9

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## After Two Tours in Afghanistan, Local Soldier Comes Home

By Cathy Tyson



Photo courtesy Diablo Valley Flag Brigade

Residents of usually quiet Serrano Court had a patriotic afternoon when U.S. Marine Corps 1st Lt. Leigh Wolf returned from his second tour of duty in Afghanistan. He had been assigned to Combat Logistics Battalion 6 as an executive officer. Native son Wolf was raised in Lafayette, attending Happy Valley Elementary School, Stanley Middle School, and Acalanes and Las Lomas high schools, graduating in 2004. Prior to his service he attended San Francisco State University. He enlisted in the Marine Corp Reserve in the spring of 2008 and was later accepted at Officer Candidate School, where he graduated in April of 2010.

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#### Man of History

Diane Claytor meets a Lafayette resident who keeps California history alive - page B1.



### Sports C1-C4

#### OBA Season Opens

Clare Varellas reports on playing ball and making memories - page C2.



### Camps D1-D6

#### Summer Camp Guide

26 full-day camps to keep your kids off the sofa this summer!



### Our Homes E1-E16

#### Dealing with Drought

Part one of Cynthia Brian's series on gardening during a drought - page E12.





# Lafayette Civic News

## Public Meetings

### City Council

Monday, March 24, 7 p.m.  
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,  
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

### Planning Commission

Tuesday, March 17, 7 p.m.  
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,  
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

### Design Review

Monday, April 28, 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, March 19, 7:30 p.m.  
AUHSD Board Room at 1212  
Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette  
www.acalanes.k12.ca.us

### Lafayette School District

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

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# Awards, Crimes and Cameras Discussed at Council Meeting

By Cathy Tyson



Jacqui Dennison, Chief Eric Christensen and Brad Imhoff with their awards at the Feb. 24 City Council meeting. Photo Cathy Tyson

It was a big night for Lafayette police at a recent Lafayette City Council meeting. Two officers were recognized for their fine service, the chief gave his annual report on crime and a presentation was made about surveillance cameras.

Police Chief Eric Christensen called Brad Imhoff an "inspiration" and a "role model" for other officers in the department – he also made the most arrests, all of which contributed to Imhoff earning the coveted "Lafayette Officer of the Year" award. Also recognized was Jacqui Dennison, who was named

Contra Costa County's Officer of the Month, singling her out among Contra Costa County's roughly 400 deputies for her work as a detective sleuthing out auto burglars. Lafayette contracts with the county sheriff's office for police services.

Calling Lafayette "a safe place to be at three in the morning," Christensen outlined all of the various crimes against people and property within the city limits. Crimes to people are obviously a top priority, with a total of 18 incidents for 2013, which the chief pointed out as fairly low compared

to other municipalities of the same size, although "one is too many."

The six assaults with deadly weapons crimes last year were all solved; typically the perpetrator is not a stranger, but a neighbor, acquaintance or family member, according to police data. There was only one rape and one sexual battery for the year.

The number of stolen vehicles went up last year to 37, mostly older style cars which were pilfered in the downtown area; there has also been a slight increase in auto burglaries.

Out of more than 3,000 traffic stops, 1,400 citations were issued. In addition, the most common traffic collision in town is car versus tree.

The chief explained they focused on reducing the number of residential burglaries last year, which decreased to a total of 61 with jewelry being hands down the most popular item for thieves. While the number of residential burglaries has dropped, many residents are making it easy for thieves – half of the homes burgled had no locked windows or doors.

In related news, the possibility of obtaining images of thieves in get-away cars was studied by the Crime Prevention Commission to improve the safety and security of the community. The city council asked the commission to examine costs and potential effectiveness of various kinds of surveillance mechanisms.

... continued on next page



## Lafayette Police Department Incident Summary Report, Feb. 16 to March 1

<b>Alarms</b> 33	3400 block Mt Diablo Bl
<b>Animal Cruelty</b>	Lafayette Library
Trader Joe's	Springhill Elementary (2)
<b>Auto Burglary</b>	1400 block Sunset Lp
Oakwood Athletic Club	3200 block Sweet Dr
Beechwood	3300 block Victoria Av (2)
Mosswood (2)	3400 block Monroe Av
Sundale (2)	3600 block Mosswood Dr
<b>Battery</b>	3700 block Mosswood Dr
Mt. Diablo Bl	600 block Los Palos Dr
<b>Commercial Burglary</b>	Trader Joe's (2)
3500 block Mt. Diablo Bl	<b>Promiscuous Shooting</b>
Safeway	Pleasant Hill Rd/Taylor Bl
Whole Foods	<b>Prowler</b>
Roundup	1800 block Reliez Valley
<b>Death (non-criminal)</b>	<b>Reckless Driving</b>
1400 block Reliez Valley Rd	900 block Reliez Station Ln
<b>Drunk in Public</b>	Moraga Rd/School St
7-11	Mt Diablo Bl/Carol Ln
<b>DUI Misdemeanor</b>	Mt Diablo Bl/Dewing Av
EB Hwy 24/EI Cortola	St Mary's Rd/Moraga Rd
Lafayette Park Hotel	<b>Residential Burglary</b>
Old Tunnel Rd/Hwy 24	1500 block El Sombra
Mt Diablo Ct/Mt Diablo Bl	900 block East St.
<b>Fireworks</b>	Lafayette Police Dept.
900 block Reliez Station Rd	<b>Shoplift</b>
Burton Valley Elementary (2)	Safeway
Silverado Dr	<b>Susp. Circumstances</b> 33
Perales St/Acalanes Av	<b>Susp. Veh/stop</b> 19
<b>Grand Theft</b>	<b>Susp. Subject</b> 13
3300 block Woodview Dr	<b>Vandalism</b>
3000 block Bradbury Dr	1000 block Oakhill
3700 block Mosswood Dr	3200 block Marlene Dr
600 block Lucas Dr	Mt Diablo Bl (4)
<b>Hit &amp; Run</b>	1000 block Miller Dr
Moraga Rd/Mt Diablo Bl	<b>Vehicle Theft</b>
Pleasant Hill/Springhill Rds	Glenside Dr/Reliez Station Rd
Shell Station	Wanda Ln/Tahos Rd
<b>Petty Theft</b>	<b>Warrant arrest</b>
10 block White Oak Dr	4000 block Mt Diablo Bl
1100 block Hidalgo Ct	
3300 block Springhill Rd	

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## McShane Named Citizen of the Year

By Cathy Tyson



Toni McShane, pictured in her office at Stanley Middle School, is known for her positive guidance. Photo Cathy Tyson

Toni McShane was named Lafayette's Citizen of the Year for 2014. Having worked for the last 24 years with the Lafayette School District, she's well-known by scores of kids and their parents. This warm, mild-mannered enforcer of school policies, who is the assistant principal of Stanley Middle School, will wrap up her tenure and retire at the end of this school year. She's worked a total of 41 years, including 24 years with the Lafayette School District; she estimates in that time she's had about "15 bad days." "Find a job that you love," is her advice. McShane says she's no different from all of the incredibly committed teachers at the school. The one thing she won't miss is chaperoning school dances; with roughly 140 now under her belt, she figures she has two more left.

Post-retirement, McShane says she'll miss the wonderful staff she's worked with, but plans to visit with her kids and their 11 grandchildren, most of whom live relatively close by.

She grew up in a tiny town in Idaho, just across the border from Jackson Hole, Wyo., where she loved to ski. She moved to the Bay Area for high school and graduated from College of Notre Dame in Belmont, Calif. She was a teacher for many years and obtained a master's degree in leadership from Saint Mary's College, becoming the assistant principal at Stanley in 1996.

McShane will be honored by the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce with a special dinner at the Lafayette Park Hotel on March 28. Contact the chamber for ticket information, (925) 284-7404.

## Awards, Crimes and Cameras Discussed at Council Meeting

... continued from page A2

Commission chair Cameron Burks described the three types available: Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) which can be monitored or unmonitored, automated license plate reading cameras (ALPR), and motion-activated still cameras. After doing extensive research, the commission found two of the three options were prohibitively expensive, at approximately \$600,000 for CCTV and \$700,000 for ALPR, and came with the significant downside of having police sort through a substantial amount of data.

Many neighbourhoods already use motion-activated still cameras that have been very effective, with the cost shared among residents. While carefully not mentioning the neigh-

bourhoods that use them, Burke suggested building on the current still camera system seemed like the most efficient option. The commission supports the use of these cameras – which are, at \$700 each, a bargain compared to the alternatives.

Councilmember Mike Andersen agreed. "It's clear that it's economical and there are quite a few cameras out there already." He suggested looking for a way to identify gaps in existing camera coverage, and hinted that there may be potential for the city to subsidize some or all of the cost of expanding camera coverage. Looking for further clarification, the city council asked the commission to come back in six months with more detail.

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## Moraga Civic News

### Public Meetings

#### Town Council

Wednesday, March 12, 7 p.m.  
Wednesday, March 26, 7 p.m.  
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School,  
1010 Camino Pablo

#### Planning Commission

##### Special Meeting:

Monday, March 17, 6 p.m.

##### Regular Meeting:

Monday, March 17, 7 p.m.  
Moraga Library, 1500 St. Mary's Rd.

#### Design Review

Monday, March 24, 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, April 8, 7:30 p.m.  
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School Auditorium  
1010 Camino Pablo, Moraga  
www.moraga.k12.ca.us  
See also AUHSD meeting page A2



### The Bernie & Ryerson Team



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## Storm Drain Study Won't Get Local Sales Tax Funding

By Sophie Braccini

Why fix a road only to have a storm pipe collapse underneath it? This common sense approach led Edric Kwan, Moraga's public works director, to send a camera in to explore the pipes under the streets that he plans to repair this year and to ask the Town Council on Feb. 26 for additional funds to assess the state of a large chunk of the rest of Moraga's storm drainage system. Existing data regarding what's under the roads is quite foggy. The Town Council agreed, but preferred to not use revenue from the local 1 percent sales tax to fund the study in order to avoid disgruntling residents.

"The \$160,000 will permit the televising of about 45 percent of the town's pipes," Kwan told the Town Council. The chosen consultant, Schaaf and Wheeler (who was also Orinda's drainage consultant), will work with staff and an intern to document the Moraga Global Information System (GIS), an online multi-layer map that stores information about the local land, including the roads, ownerships, PG&E lines and storm drains. "At this time, we do not have a complete vision of where the pipes are and what their size and nature are," explained Kwan. "The first

phase will gather information about the pipes, using existing documentation and observation. Then the consultant will visually determine which pipes are most likely to be in bad shape; those are the ones that will be televised during the second phase of this project."

All of the council members agreed that the town needs a precise inventory of its drainage system and were ready to support Kwan's request; he gave them the choice of the funding source. Bob Kennedy, who sits on the Audit and Finance Committee and is that group's representative to the Local Sales Tax Oversight Committee advised against using the 1 percent local sales tax money to fund the study. "I'm a little concerned with this method of funding," he said. "Measure K (local sales tax) was sold for use for roads... it might be wise, particularly for this non-construction part of the storm drain project, to fund it from something else."

Councilmember Michael Metcalf opposed the statement and said he'd rather take the high road on this issue, because assessing the storm drainage system under streets is an integral part of the maintenance of these roads. But Councilmember Phil Arth said that residents were not necessarily versed in construction concepts and that it was a perception issue. The Town Council decided that the storm drain study was a soft cost that would not be financed by the local sales tax revenue.

After the meeting Kwan said he anticipates the project to start in May, with televising of the pipes in July. "We will film about 45 percent of the pipes," he said, because "more recent neighborhoods may not require it yet, and most jurisdictions take on this assessment a piece at a time." Last year Kwan had the 23 road segments that he plans to work on this year televised. "These are roads that are not in good shape, the repair will be costly and we need to know what is under them before starting," he said.

The town has established a five-year rule for utility agencies – if they cut into a road that was repaved within the last five years they have to completely rebuild it. "We apply this same five-year rule to ourselves," explained Kwan. "If the report tells me that the pipe under a road segment may fail within five years, I won't touch (that road) now." Kwan said that after receiving the report, two road segments were removed from this year's paving plan.

"The last phase of the drainage system study will be to look at flow capacity and assess future needs in conjunction with planned development in town," added Kwan. This precise inventory will also permit the establishment of impact fees related to the storm drain system if it is found insufficient to support new residences and businesses.

"We will then define an action plan with priorities and funding needs," said Kwan, noting that most

cities never have enough funding for drains. "There are sources of funding for roads," he explained, "such as the gas tax or measure G. There is none for drains."

Moraga was reminded in 2006 of the risks that could be hiding beneath its roads when a pipe broke at the intersection of Rheem Boulevard and Moraga Road creating a sink hole big enough to swallow a car.

### Local Sales Tax Oversight Committee Gives Kudos to Town for 2013

The seven-member Local Sales Tax Oversight Committee presented its first annual report to the Moraga Town Council recently. Chair Larry Rosenberg expressed the committee's complete satisfaction with the use of the money that the town derives from the new 1 percent sales tax: it's been used only for roads and all of the projects were completed on budget and on time. Rosenberg also praised staff's accessibility and excellent record-keeping. He added that the group reviewed about 95 percent of the invoices; all of the big ticket items. When asked repeatedly if something could be improved from the committee's perspective, he firmly answered "no."



### Moraga Police Department

Drug sales with reptile, 3/04/16 A 1993 black Mercedes-Benz was pulled over just after midnight for having a tail light out. Turns out the 28-year-old male driver and his Bearded Dragon had a fair amount of pot in the car (364 grams), along with a small amount of suspected Hash, 14 green Clonazepam tablets and a digital scale. The subject and his pet were taken to the Moraga Police Department where he was arrested for sales of a controlled substance. The Bearded Dragon was later picked up by Contra Costa County Animal Services for safekeeping.

Car vs. pole, 3/03/14 An honest citizen came to the police department to report that a family member had been driving an older Subaru when it went off the roadway and struck a speed limit sign pole, resulting in some damage to the pole but no injuries to the driver. The person reporting the incident made arrangements to pay to replace the damaged pole – which will set him back about \$450.

Party on! 3/01/14 There was a complaint about noise on usually quiet Donald Drive. Officers contacted the homeowners who said they were hosting a party for high school students involved in a sports program. After the homeowner received a Town of Moraga Loud Party Ordinance notice, no further complaints were made.

Minor hit and run, 2/28/14 In front of Subway in the Rheem Shopping Center a witness reported to police that he had seen a male juvenile driver of a silver Honda Pilot back into a woman's car – which was also a Honda Pilot. The bumper driver got out of his car, looked at the damaged vehicle then left

the scene without leaving notice. The 16-year-old was later identified, along with his parents, and was contacted by the cops. Both cars sustained minor damage.

Smoking while parked, 2/26/14 It was around midnight at the quiet dead end of Paseo Grande, where officers noticed a suspicious vehicle and could smell the odor of burnt marijuana coming from the car. Three of the four juvenile occupants were assigned to participate in the Moraga Juvenile Diversion Program. Note to teens: cops are well aware of all the hang out spots in town and visit them regularly.

Trouble with tree guys, 2/25/14 A Scofield Place resident hired a tree service to remove two large trees from his property. The workers allegedly damaged the roof of his residence and cement walkway while removing the trees. The fellow reporting the incident has spoken with the company owner because the employees stopped working and have not returned. Over the course of three weeks his dispute with the company has not been resolved – one of the trees has not been removed and the damage has not been repaired.

Other crimes reported in Moraga between Feb. 25 and March 4 include:

- Traffic Incident**  
St. Mary's Rd (2)
- False alarms**  
Camino Pablo  
El Paraiso Ct
- Susp. Circumstances**  
Lynwood Pl
- Bench Warrant**  
Moraga Wy
- Domestic Dispute**  
Ascot Dr

## What is Moraga Going to Look Like?

Planning Commission weighs the impact of signs

By Sophie Braccini

Eddy Schwartz, Moraga Chamber of Commerce activist, and Steve Woehleke, the newest appointee to the Moraga Planning Commission, agree that the way signage is regulated in a town can have a huge impact on its look and define its character. Both were at the March 3 meet-

ing of the Planning Commission when associate planner Ella Samonsky presented her proposal to amend the town's signage rules. No decisions were made that night; residents will have an opportunity to weigh in and let the town know whether they want a lot of vibrant neon or a more subdued, Carmel-like

look for Moraga.

"Our regulation sets rules based on content; it is complicated and needs to be streamlined; and it needs to be clarified so applicants understand what is applicable in the town of Moraga," explained Samonsky.

... continued on page A11



Project generously supported by a Transportation for Livable Communities Grant and Contra Costa County Measure J funds.

## Community Workshop: Building Blocks for a Livable Moraga Road

Wednesday March 19, 7:00 to 9:00pm,  
Hacienda de las Flores, 2100 Donald Drive.

We listened to your feedback on Moraga Road's existing conditions and your priorities for the corridor's future. Please join us at this workshop to help shape the vision into a plan!

Would you like to see....

- A shared path or trail from the Commons to Campolindo?
- Intersection improvements that can improve traffic flow?
- More green elements like landscaping and trees?
- Continuous sidewalks and bike paths?

At the workshop we'll get your feedback on these and other concepts to create a safer, better connected and more livable street. Next steps: Development and review of a preferred concept at workshops in late Spring.


Learn more at <http://www.moraga.ca.us/livablemoragaroad> or contact Ellen Clark, Senior Planner at 925-888-7041 [eclark@moraga.ca.us](mailto:eclark@moraga.ca.us)

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# Hetfield General Development Plan Approved

*Does not include emergency access to Sanders Ranch*

By Sophie Braccini



Courtesy Staff Report

A consensus was relatively easy for the Moraga Planning Commission to reach on March 3 for the approval of the Hetfield Estates General Development Plan and Conditional Use Permit. The use permit lists 175 conditions of approval that have been extensively discussed. The final elements that drew the most concern from neighbors were street

lights, parking, and an emergency vehicle access road that could provide emergency access to the back of Sanders Ranch.

Hetfield Estates is a development proposed by John Wyro along a new private street extending from Hetfield Place, paralleling Larch Creek and Sanders Drive, into a hilly 58-acre lot. The project met with serious and or-

ganized opposition from neighbors on Sanders Drive who stressed that the area, with its faults and landslides, was zoned high risk and not appropriate for development. However, the developer included remediation measures that were sufficient to obtain approval in 2012 for seven new homes of up to 4,000 square feet.

... continued on page A11



Restoring Movement - Improving Function

## Free Community Lectures

We are pleased to announce our 4<sup>th</sup> annual lecture series with information on injury prevention, fitness, and other related topics for the community. Our highly educated and skilled Physical Therapists as well as highly respected doctors and community professionals are here to share their knowledge with you. *More info on Facebook.com/LafayettePT*

All Lectures are from 7:00pm - 8:00pm

**Tue March 25: Everyone's Feet Tell A Story - Are You Listening?**  
with Kevin Wong, DC

**Tue April 22: Off Balance: Gait & Balance Disorders Affecting Your Daily Life**  
with Valerie Watase, PT, Owner, Director

**Tue May 20: Non-Operative Treatments for Musculoskeletal Injuries**  
With Dr. Chad Roghair

**Tue June 24: The Anti-Inflammatory Diet**  
with Cynthia Allen, RN, Natural Chef

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Lori Legler



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Lori Legler



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# Orinda Civic News

### Public Meetings

#### City Council

##### Special Meeting:

Saturday, March 15, 7 p.m.  
Sarge Littlehale Community Room,  
22 Orinda Way

##### Regular Meeting:

Tuesday, March 18, 7 p.m.  
Auditorium, Orinda Library,  
26 Orinda Way

#### Planning Commission

Tuesday, March 25, 7 p.m.  
Auditorium, Orinda Library,  
26 Orinda Way

#### Art in Public Places Committee

Monday, March 17, 3:30 p.m.  
May Room, Orinda Library,  
26 Orinda Way

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

#### City of Orinda:

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

#### Chamber of Commerce:

www.orindachamber.org

#### The Orinda Association:

www.orindaassociation.org

#### School Board Meeting

##### Orinda Union School District

Monday, April 14, 6 p.m.  
OUSD Office, Vintage Building  
25 Orinda Way, Suite 200  
www.orindaschools.org  
See also AUHSD meeting page A2



### Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report, Feb. 16 to March 1

- Alarm 38
- Auto Burglary
  - 10 block Wanda Ln
  - 20 block Bates Bl
- Burglary
  - 10 block Camino Sobrante
- Commercial Burglary
  - no details (2)
- Death (unknown cause) 1
- DUI Misdemeanor
  - Wilder Fields
  - Hwy 24/St Stephen's Dr (2)
- Grand Theft
  - 80 block Loma Vista Dr
- Hit & Run
  - Camino Pablo/Miner Rd
  - Camino Pablo/Brookwood Rd
- Petty Theft
  - 300 block Tahos Rd
  - 200 block Sundown Terr (3)
- Reckless Driving
  - Moraga Wy/Orchard Rd
  - Moraga Wy/Glorietta Bl
  - Camino Pablo/Brookwood Rd
- Residential Burglary
  - 300 block Daleswood Dr
- Susp.Circ./Subj./Veh. 58
- Under the Influence
  - Theatre Square
- Vehicle Trespass
  - St. Stephen's Church
- Warrant Arrest
  - WB 24/Camino Pablo



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## Roads Bond Measure Headed for June 2014 Ballot

By Laurie Snyder

As far as the bond market goes, the demand for a highly rated general obligation bond from a Lamorinda city – specifically, Orinda – would be met with a lot of interest from investors. And our sense is whether they're local investors, live in the community, or people who manage money for others or institutions, there'll be a wide audience ... And we expect, frankly, it'll probably be an AAA-rated bond issue, given the practice that Standard & Poor's takes looking at these credits. So, if indeed the voters approve the measure, and this comes to market, you would think that you'd command among the best interest rates."

That upbeat news was given to the Orinda City Council by Jim Cervantes of Stifel Nicolaus & Co. as Orinda launched Phase 2 of its infrastructure overhaul – securing voter authorization of a \$20 million bond to cleave a chunk from the roughly \$52 million it will take to fix city roads and drains. Cervantes appeared before the City Council March 4, and the Finance Advisory Committee a week earlier, to analyze tax rate issues.

"There would be two sales, each

of \$10 million, the first happening in mid-summer of 2014 – assuming a successful election – and the second following three years later. And that's really tied to a discussion with staff in public works," he said. "There needs to be a reasonable expectation you can spend the bond money in a 3-year period." Cervantes also estimated the tax rate for property owners would likely be 4.39 percent.

Prior to the meeting, Orinda resident Steve Cohn repeatedly criticized city leaders for "failing to inform residents that Orinda's 10 Year Road and Drainage Repairs Plan is deficient." Asking why the City Council was placing the measure on June's ballot rather than November's, he urged officials to take more time to evaluate Orinda's plan, "to help the CIOC determine if it is viable," and the results of a drainage study commissioned to define the figure for drainage repairs. Cohn believes that, at "the end of the plan's term, the deferred maintenance balance will only have been reduced from \$40 million in 2013 to \$25 million in 2024 despite the expenditure of \$40 million in bond funds plus \$11 million of sales tax receipts."

In response Chuck Swanson, Orinda's public works director, explained, "When formulating the original 10-year plan the Roads Subcommittee discussed the level at which the city roads system should be maintained. The optimum, as recommended by Street Saver, is a [Pavement Condition Index of] 85. At a PCI = 85 essentially all roads will have received some improvement and the deferred maintenance will be annually approximately \$2.5 million. Based on data provided by city staff and input from CIOC the committee determined that a PCI = 70 would be the best goal for Orinda. This means that the road network average will be a PCI = 70 and the city will have an annual deferred maintenance balance of \$22 million."

Asked by Cohn how the CIOC came up with the \$12.5 million in the plan devoted to drainage road repair costs, Swanson explained that this figure "comes from an estimate of the condition of the drainage facilities under the roads. It does not include all the city's drainage needs, only what should be replaced/repared under the roads being repaired." Added Swanson, "The plan as proposed will raise

the city's PCI to a system wide 70 which the CIOC determined would be the appropriate condition for the city's streets. Orinda's roads will continue to deteriorate if additional revenues are not invested in the city's infrastructure."

Following their March deliberations, the City Council unanimously called for "a special municipal bond election for approval of general obligation bonds to finance roads and storm drain improvements." A general rather than special election – despite its name, its costs will be minimized because it will be consolidated with the June 2014 primary.

The 20-year bond, if approved, would be managed via debt service escalation. "One of the reasons that we are supporting what is called the escalating debt service is the fact that it provides a much more stable rate for the homeowner," observed Councilmember Amy Worth. "What it does is it takes advantage of the increase in property values [when a home is reassessed after its longtime home owner sells] so the tax rate really does reflect the fact that the pool is growing and, therefore, we're able to essentially collect less tax."

## An Infant No More – Orinda Community Foundation Turns Four

By Laurie Snyder



Representatives of local non-profits joined Orinda city leaders Feb. 27 in thanking the Orinda Community Foundation for its contributions to the community and helping the group celebrate its fourth birthday. Photo Ohlen Alexander

"You know you're getting old when the candles cost more than the cake." – Bob Hope

A college student turning 21. A best friend hitting 50 before you do. The "Oy!" of a youngest sibling reaching retirement age. Some birthdays have a way of punctuating life's narrative more memorably than others.

In the case of the Orinda Community Foundation, the exclamation point came as the group celebrated its fourth birthday Feb. 27 with the award of \$42,052 in grant funds – each dollar a candle to light up the lives of everyone from young artists to grandparents hoping to age gracefully. ... continued on page A13

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Islands in the Stream

Orindans now able to watch City Council meetings live from home

By Laurie Snyder



It just became easier for Orinda parents and kids to do their homework together. By clicking on "To watch LIVE City Council meetings" in the right menu on Orinda's home web page, you'll be directed to the Streaming Media Archive page shown above. From there, just click "View Event" to watch the meeting live - or on "Agenda." Clicking an active link on the agenda for a specific item will enable you to read the related staff report while simultaneously viewing the related discussion live (see example from March 4 above).

Unless a dog has eaten your computer or smart phone, Orinda, there is now no longer any reason for failing to do your homework and stay informed about the operation of your city government.

Thanks to a contract with Granicus (www.granicus.com), a service provider that streams meetings for numerous communities nationwide and recently webcast the State of the State Address by California Gov. Jerry Brown, the city of Orinda is now live streaming video of its own City Council and Planning Commission sessions. The setup is a fairly functional one, enabling residents to remotely view and hear the meetings in real time, as they are taking place, on a split screen which also displays the documents for the corresponding agenda items as they are being discussed.

Although service delivery was impacted early on by frequent video buffering issues - a glitch that other communities

across the United States have also experienced, Orinda personnel have been working closely with company representatives since webcasting began in early January. As of the City Council's last meeting in February, the hiccups to the live stream now appear to have been cured.

In an added bonus, it is also now easier to access specific discussions from meeting archives via links embedded in the 2014 meeting agendas, which take users directly to the specific footage pertaining to agenda items and their respective staff reports.

In order to live stream, you'll need to have Microsoft Windows XP SP2 or Vista 7 and Internet Explorer 8 (or newer) installed on your PC - or OS X 10.5 and Apple Safari 5 (or newer) if you're on a Mac. Microsoft Silverlight plug-ins are also recommended. To learn more, visit the city's website: www.cityoforinda.org.

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## Moraga's Citizen of the Year Nominations

Nominations are being accepted for Moraga's Citizen of the Year. The designated outstanding citizen will be honored with a banquet event on Friday, May 2 at the Soda Center of Saint Mary's College.

Nominations with detailed information concerning the individual's community activity are to be addressed to Sam Richards, editor, Lamorinda Sun, at 175 Lennon Lane, Suite 100, Walnut Creek 94598, or by email to srichards@bayareanewsgroup.com.

Sponsors for Moraga's Citizen of the Year event are Lamorinda Weekly, Lamorinda Sun, Saint Mary's College, Moraga Chamber of Commerce and Kiwanis of Moraga Valley.

## Method of School Funding Overhauled

Parent, public input requested; second forum tonight at Campolindo

By Cathy Tyson

Funding for kindergarten through high school will soon see a dramatic change. For the coming fiscal year control of where money is spent will be handled locally instead of spelled out by the state in over 80 restrictive categories that had been in place for decades. Superintendent of the Acalanes Union High School District, John Nickerson described how the new and improved Local Control Funding Formula "radically changed the state K-12 funding allocation method." He explained that priorities regarding how much and where to spend funds will now be in the hands of stakeholders and will have limited restrictions.

There are some strings attached to the Local Control Funding Formula to encourage transparency and accountability. According to the California Department of Education, school districts are required to develop and annually update a three year Local Control and Accountability Plan beginning on July 1; part of that plan requires obtaining parent and public input to continuously improve budget development. To guide the process, the State Board of Education has created a template that will identify goals and measure students' progress.

The old system of general purpose funding from the state, called Revenue Limits, earmarked funds for certain items like textbooks, counseling, maintenance, GATE programs. Starting with the 2014-15 budget year, the new method of funding will allow broad discretion over base

"This is an ongoing process that will continue year after year as we shape and prioritize," said Nickerson. The district is looking for input regarding priorities and at forums held at the district's four high schools. No RSVP is necessary and the public is encouraged to attend. The first event was March 11 at Acalanes.

### Forums Coming Soon

- March 12: Campolindo High School Library, 7-9 p.m.
- March 18: Las Lomas High School Library, 7-9 p.m.
- March 26: Miramonte High School Library, 7-9 p.m.

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Editor:

I read your article on the development proposed by Lenox Homes. I think your reporter missed the point. After the first session, it should have been clear that the objections were that the development was simply too large for the site. It put everything from border to border. As a result, it would impose a super large structure on a quiet residential neighborhood. After the second session, nothing had changed. Yes, there were some superficial changes, but the fact that this development is significantly too large for the site and for the neighborhood. Eight almost 2000 sq.ft. units are too much. The three story building destroys the privacy and reduces the value of the houses along Bickerstaff. It would certainly add significantly to the parking problems in the neighborhood. By have two bedrooms and a den, they minimize the parking they need when essentially this is a 3 bedroom unit. The project is ill conceived and after hearing all the specific comments at the meeting, I would hope that the developer would make some real changes. I am not anti-development, but I am for responsible development. I do not believe that any developer should make a profit at the cost to someone else.

Leonard Dorin  
Lafayette

### Join our Public Forum

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

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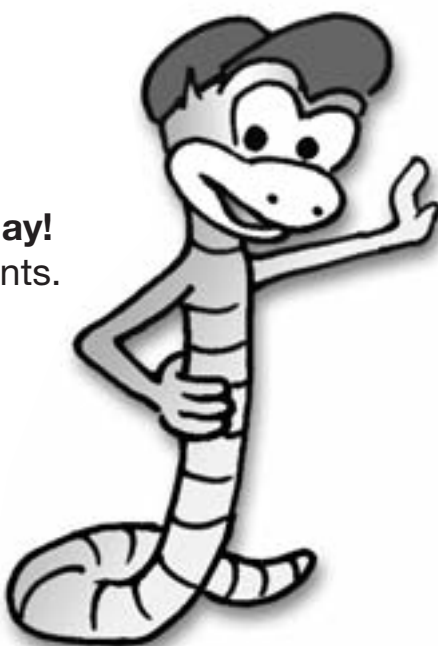
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## Good News on Two Counts

By Nick Marnell

The Moraga-Orinda Fire District announced March 7 that its property tax revenue projection for fiscal year 2014-15 increased 5.9 percent over fiscal year 2013-14. As a result the district's revenue is projected to increase more than \$500,000 over what was budgeted. The revised figure was provided to the district by the Contra Costa County tax assessor's office.

The district also announced that the rate of increase of its contribution to the Contra Costa County Employees' Retirement Association has dropped dramatically beyond fiscal year 2014-15. Since 2012, the district has absorbed double-digit annual increases in its retirement contribution rate; starting in 2015-16, the rate increases 0.42 percent, with a decrease of at least 2.64 percent in each of the succeeding four years. The retirement contribution payment is the district's largest expense item after wages and salaries.

The announcements were made the same day that the district said it will enter into mediation with its firefighters' union. "Everything we do is connected," said board president John Wyro. "Whether we had heard this news or not, though, we were going to proceed with mediation." Fire chief Stephen Healy noted, "It certainly takes some pressure off both sides." The mediation process is expected to commence in late April.



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

**Next meetings:**

**Wednesday, March 19**  
**Wednesday, April 18**

**check website for updates**

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

## Supervisor Criticizes MOFD Board

By Nick Marnell

A prosaic Feb. 25 Board of Supervisors meeting was jolted when chair Karen Mitchoff lashed out at the Moraga-Orinda Fire District board of directors.

One of the frequently mentioned public complaints uncovered by fire consultant Fitch and Associates was that the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District needed a change in its governance model; the Board of Supervisors acts as the ConFire board of directors. "When I hear comments like that, I take them to mean that we're not doing a good job," said Mitchoff. "And I resent that." She then brought up the MOFD board. "That is a perfect example of a special district with a poor governance structure," she said.

Mitchoff later explained her remarks.

"I was specifically referring to the MOFD board members who gave Nowicki the money that he got," she said. "You shouldn't make more money in retirement than you did the day before you retired." In 2008 the MOFD board approved an amendment to fire chief Peter Nowicki's employment contract that allowed the chief to sell back various accrued benefits and count the dollar amount toward his pension.

"Those were well-intentioned board members who did not know

what questions to ask and consequently made a poor decision," said Mitchoff. She blamed the MOFD board's action as one of the main reasons for the failure of Measure Q, the 2012 ConFire parcel tax initiative. "It was because of the poor public perception of public employee pensions," she said.

"Any reference to Nowicki is accurate," said MOFD board president John Wyro who, along with Fred Weil, sat on the board both then and now. "We learned something from it. But that was five years ago, and right now we have other things that we are trying to work out." The district is in labor negotiations with its firefighters; the board declared an impasse in January and on March 7 announced that it accepted the union's offer to enter into mediation.

Rather than spend time speculating over changes in the district's governance structure, Supervisor Candace Andersen also chose to keep the focus on current events. "We need to take care of the business in front of us before we go into that sideways discussion," she said.

MOFD fire chief Stephen Healy attempted to put things in perspective. "I don't consider the Board of Supervisors to be any better or worse than our board," he said, "or vice versa."

## Lamorinda Fire News Briefs

By Nick Marnell

### Breathing Room for ConFire

The Contra Costa County Fire Protection District received a \$9.6 million dollar grant from the Federal Emergency Management Association in February, and the district plans to use the money to hire 27 new firefighters over the next two years. The Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response grant provides funding directly to fire departments to help them increase or maintain their number of trained, front line firefighters - as long as the money is used to hire only entry level employees. ConFire chief Jeff Carman cautioned that there are also restrictions on how the district can deploy the new firefighters.

If ConFire hires three firefighters and opens an engine company with those three, one will be promoted to captain and one more to engineer/operator. The incremental costs over the entry level salaries and benefits are not covered by the SAFER grant. "Those costs must be absorbed by the district and right now, we don't have the capacity to cover those costs," said Carman.

In addition, the district cannot lay off firefighters during the two-year SAFER period, and vacancies that arise through attrition must be filled within a reasonable amount of time.

At its March 11 meeting, the Board of Supervisors planned to accept the grant. The district's strategic planning committee will recommend over the coming months how the new firefighters will best be deployed.

... continued on page A11



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# The Cooperage Makes a Big Statement in Lafayette

By Sophie Braccini



Andrew and Merilee McCormick

Photo Ohlen Alexander

It's big and it's beautiful. The latest addition to the already rich Lafayette culinary scene, The Cooperage American Grille, opened for dinner on Oscar night – a fitting moment for a place that claims its Americana character and makes big visual statements. In addition to its impressive size and overall beauty, the quality ingredients and craftsmanship of the food will likely turn The Cooperage into a favorite for the whole family, for all occasions.

The Cooperage team consists of 14-year Lafayette residents Andrew and Merilee McCormick, general manager Mike Iglesias and chef partner Erik Hopfinger. They came to their dream location in Lafayette armed with years of restaurant experience at City Tavern in San Francisco.

"We wanted to create a unique environment," says Merilee McCormick, "with a family friendly menu. You can have dinner in the bar, in the dining room, or choose from a couple areas that are quieter. And I also wanted kids to feel comfortable in this restaurant." She understands what it's like for parents whose kids have practices until 6:30 p.m. and the last thing they want to do is cook dinner, "so I wanted the price point to make this place a regular place to go, whether you want steak and mashed potatoes or something healthy," she adds.

Certainly the largest restaurant in Lafayette, seating up to 292 people, The Cooperage took over the spaces formerly occupied by Petar's and Storyteller at 22 Lafayette Circle across from La Fiesta Square.

The restaurant is not overwhelming, however; it has three separate spaces designed to satisfy different needs: the boardroom, the dining room, and the bar, which boasts a large beer and wine selection as well as vintage cocktails. Merilee McCormick's favorite cocktail is the Lonsdale: a base of gin or mescal with fresh apple, basil and lemon.

A wood chandelier illuminates the bar space. "It was designed by our architect, Jim Maxwell, and executed by our builder, R3 Builders," she says. "It is made of reclaimed wine barrels." Similar ceiling light fixtures are found in different parts of the restaurant, as well as other reclaimed materials. An old metal safe is used as an additional bar table; the refurbished Petar's wood bar was salvaged and is used in the boardroom, and additional reclaimed wood from Petar's is found throughout the restaurant – to create the 'communal-table' in the dining room, the suspended ceilings in the private party room, and the window soffits. Historic

Lafayette photos also grace the walls.

"I met with the Lafayette Historical Society, and they gave me so many photographs," says McCormick. All the pictures are framed and referenced, like the image of the 1920 Lafayette baseball team and a 1914 picture of the building that is now Town Hall Theatre.

From the bar, patrons can move to the boardroom or the dining room. "We created what we call the boardroom in the spirit of a cozy English pub," explains McCormick. The room is intimate; it also has a bar along one of its walls, and booths. It will be open for lunch and dinner by April 1. It can also accommodate up to 50 people for a special event.

The dining room is located to the right of the main entrance, in the former Storyteller location. It is TV screen-free, with a view of the kitchen and the rotisserie. A long communal table is perfect for very large parties; many other tables of differing sizes are also available. To the side, an alcove can be separated from the rest of the dining room with a curtain for privacy.

The entire menu is available anywhere in the restaurant. Iglesias guarantees that every ingredient on the menu has been selected for its quality, like the Rocky Jr. chickens from Petaluma that are cooked in one of the two state-of-the-art rotisserie stations. "All our seafood is wild and chosen for sustainable fishing practices," says Iglesias. The beef is grass fed (Golden Gate from Montana) and the vegetables come from local farms.

Iglesias says he's been in love with Erik's macaroni and cheese for decades, and he and the McCormicks particularly love the prime rib French dip sandwich.

"There is nothing like what we're doing here in terms of celebrating Americana, with quality and thoughtfulness, in the entire East Bay," he adds. "At this scale, we probably compare to the Buckeye (Roadhouse) in Mill Valley. We offer a varied menu of things that all of us like to eat, and offer a lot of options for eating healthy." There are gluten-free choices and when making reservations, staff will ask if diners have specific dietary needs.

The Cooperage is currently open for dinner, and plans to serve brunch by mid-March, and lunch by March 24. For information, call (925) 298-5915 or visit [thecooperagelafayette.com](http://thecooperagelafayette.com).

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



## business briefs

**Lanvie Moves to Lafayette**  
3569-C Mt. Diablo Blvd, Lafayette  
(925) 283-1888 [www.lanvieusa.com](http://www.lanvieusa.com)

The changes planned for Broadway Plaza could turn out to be a boon for the city of Lafayette as some stores must relocate during the long remodeling process. Lawn Wu, the Alameda stylist, who had one of her three Lanvie stores that offers a line of very feminine women's fashion in Walnut Creek, choose Mt. Diablo Boulevard for her retail space. Wu calls her inspiration "organic chic," using mohair wool, cotton linen or cotton silk blends for women of



Lanvie Assistant-Manager Jenny Helms (right) shows a dress to a customer  
Photo Sophie Braccini

all sizes who want to find a look that's beautiful for them. She has a special liking for black and white, as well as subtle colors such as beige or olive, and her dresses, of varied length and in a great variety of sizes, can be easily accessorized from the simple to the very sophisticated. Pants are mostly leggings, but with some interesting flattering plus size options that coordinate well with the lace tops and tunics that drape nicely. Lanvie also offers a line of shoes and accessories.

**The Perfect Packers**

**Moraga Road, Lafayette**  
(925) 238-5100 [theprecpackers@gmail.com](mailto:theprecpackers@gmail.com)

Moving in, moving out and not willing to do all the packing yourself? The Perfect Packers will come and take care of it for you. If you move locally, the team can also unpack for you. "We have found that good organizing and properly packed goods is the first key to a successful transition," explains the company's website. Perfect Packers come to your home or business, organize, pack, and label your belongings as well as provide a list of what has been packed.

**Moraga Employee of the Month for February**

Moraga's February employee of the month is Louise Hansen, a tutor with the Moraga School District who has had an impact on the education of Moraga children for over three decades. Hansen began her work as a writing aide in 1980; she tutored middle school children in the community by improving their writing and composition skills, while working at Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School. "Louise has an uncanny ability to connect with children and works equally well with the lowest performing students and the highest achievers," said Moraga School District Superintendent Bruce Burns. "She is a gift to both our students and our teachers as her humble and thoughtful style has paid real dividends to our community during her time with the district." Sponsored by the Rotary Club of Moraga and the Chamber of Commerce, Hansen will be presented with a gift card to Safeway as well as a gift certificate to Ristorante Amoroma in Moraga at the Moraga Rotary luncheon on Tuesday, March 25.



From left: Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School's Brad Cam, vice principal, Joan Danilson, principal, Louise Hansen, Bruce Burns, superintendent of the Moraga School District, and Kevin Reneau, president of Moraga Chamber of Commerce. Photo provided

**New Team at Coldwell Banker, Orinda**  
5 Moraga Way

(925) 253-4600 [WoodwardJonesTeam.com](http://WoodwardJonesTeam.com).

Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage announced that two of the top realtors in its Orinda office have come together to form an outstanding team. Frank Woodward and Tina Jones have over 40 years of experience and over 1,000 homes sold between the two of them. They will bring together their talents and provide the buyers and sellers of Lamorinda world-class service. Frank Woodward has an extensive sales and marketing background in the tech industry and has a master's degree in electrical engineering and computer science from UC Berkeley. He became a realtor in 2002 and has consistently been a top producer. Tina Jones has owned her own brokerage for 20 years and sold it to Coldwell Banker in early 2013.



Frank Woodward and Tina Jones  
Photo provided

**Business Anniversaries**

**Lafayette-based Futures Explored Inc. is celebrating 50 years in Lafayette**

3547 Wilkinson Ln., Lafayette  
(925) 284-3240 [www.futures-explored.org](http://www.futures-explored.org)

Futures Explored supports individuals with developmental disabilities. "As active contributors to society, they keep our parks clean, they bag our groceries, they recycle our waste, they cater food for our events, and the list goes on," says Jennie Dobies of the non-profit. Futures Explored was incorporated on Jan. 6, 1964 in Lafayette with a small group of young adults with developmental disabilities, their parents, and the founding director, Helen Young. There were six clients making handcrafted items for sale (which is still done today), and volunteer parents mostly staffed the program. At the time there were few, if any, programs for adults with disabilities and this was a very new and innovative idea being developed by parents throughout California. "It's amazing how far we've come!" adds Dobies. Futures Explored provides work and life skills training to adults with mild to moderate developmental disabilities. Participants may need help with personal or social skills, or to seek and hold a job, or both. The Supported Employment program places individuals in jobs in the community based on their skills and job readiness. The program derives revenue from the state, but also from donations, sales at the Nifty-Thrift stores (Lafayette and Antioch), Nifty E-Waste Recycling Centers (in Lafayette at 3467 Golden Gate Way) and the Huckleberry Café To-Go, a catering service for breakfast, lunch, and party platters.

**News from the three Chambers of Commerce**

**Lafayette**

Mixer tonight at 5:30 p.m. at Lafayette Physical Therapy, 3468 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Suite #B110.

Ribbon cutting at The Dailey Method, celebrating its one-year anniversary at 5 p.m. Thursday, March 13 at 3344C Mt. Diablo Blvd.

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

Green Committee open meeting at noon Tuesday, March 25 in the chamber conference room.

**Moraga**

Chamber mixer at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 25 at the Serbian Cultural Center, sponsored by the Moraga Rotary and the Moraga Valley Kiwanis.

**Orinda**

Save the date for the Orinda Trivia Bee sponsored by the Orinda Chamber and Orinda Rotary Club at 5:30 p.m. Friday, April 25 in the Orinda Masonic Lodge, 9 Altarinda Road, Orinda. For more information, visit [orindachamber.org](http://orindachamber.org).

## 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.

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

## Civic News Moraga

### What is Moraga Going to Look Like?

... continued from page A4

The process to update the Moraga Sign Ordinance began seven years ago and was stopped by 1st Amendment considerations: a sign ordinance should not address the content of a sign – what it says – as a basis for regulation, which could be considered discriminatory. Samonsky constructed a draft of an ordinance that is content neutral and takes several components into consideration: time – is it a permanent or non-permanent sign; manner – is the sign on a wall, in a window, or free standing; and place – will the sign be in a residential area, open space, or commercial district? It proposes that some signs be approved administratively (by staff), while others will need a hearing before the Design Review Board.

“Signs that are illuminated from the inside should continue to be reviewed by the Design Review Board,” stated Samonsky. She also introduced novelties, such as non-permanent signs (A-frames) that would be allowed on the premises, one per business. “What do you define as the premises in a shopping center?” asked commissioner Christine Kuckuk

who was concerned with what the scenic corridors could look like if all businesses in the shopping center started lining A-frames along the road.

The discussion of how the visual character of the town could be impacted by new sign policies started at that point. Commissioner Tom Marnane, who recalled his own experience setting appropriate signs, thought a professional eye was needed and wondered if the town had such a specialist.

Commissioner Woehleke, who has served on both the Design Review Board and Planning Commission in the past, expressed the most concern about the look signs could give a town. “I hope we all look at this as helping to define the town character,” he said. “What you see in Portola Valley and what you see in other cities is very different. In some, (signage) is very sparse, in others it’s ‘everything goes.’ Shop owners say that they need signage... but the Design Review Board answers, ‘We’re in Moraga, everybody knows where everything is, why do you need signage?’”

Woehleke added that he thought that making it hard to get a sign is good, because it is a way to avoid excessive signage.

“The challenge is, how do we meet the different needs?” responded Schwartz. “The businesses are complaining that they do not have enough visibility and we want to support business; but we have to protect the esthetics of our town.”

Schwartz said that the solution to the problem requires more creativity and effort. When staff said that the process was expected to be finalized within two weeks, Schwartz rose to speak again, “We’ve been waiting for seven years for this, don’t rush it,” she said. “We need more input from the public.”

Planning director Shawna Brekke-Read agreed with Schwartz and indicated that more public input opportunities would be made available; at press time, the dates had not been set. The Planning Commission is scheduled to resume its discussion of the sign ordinance at its March 17 meeting; visit moraga.ca.us for details.

### Hetfield General Development Plan Approved

... continued from page A5

Neighbors spoke out against parts of the plan. “I was disappointed, when I read the staff report, to see the access road, the parking lot and a bunch of lights,” said Daran Santi.

An emergency vehicle access road had been proposed by Wyro as a benefit to the town, connecting the Hetfield property to Sanders Ranch for emergency purposes only (fire or medical).

Planning commissioner Teresa Onoda, who lives in Sanders Ranch, said that she walked the proposed site and noticed that the path starts very flat, goes through wet land, and then takes a very steep climb to reach the end of Sanders Ranch, making it hard to build and requiring a lot of grading. “I talked to the president of Sanders Ranch (Homeowners Association),” she added, “and he said that the board has no interest what-so-ever in (creating an emergency route).” The commission decided that the

access road would not be constructed, that there would simply be a trail connecting Hetfield Estates to the Old Moraga Ranch Trail. The commissioners also asked that an easement be maintained along the trail so that in the event the fire district required the construction of an emergency access route to Sanders Ranch, it could be done.

The road along the new development was designed to be very narrow to limit grading. Street parking will not be permitted except in three pocket spaces and a four-space lot at the end.

Naturalist Malcolm Sproul asked that the curb of the road on its creek side be rounded. “Small vertebrates in particular, rodents, snakes, salamanders and even baby quails, can’t hop vertical curbs,” said Sproul. “If they can’t go up, they follow along; when they get to a storm drain they fall in and can’t get out.” Sproul

added that on the side of the road the homes will be on, there would be enough driveways that small animals could find ways to cross.

The emergency vehicle access road was removed from the plan, parking spaces were approved as proposed and limited to seven, and lights remained despite opposition from neighbors since lighting is an engineering department requirement for safety. Rounded curbs were added along the open space side of the road to allow the safe wandering of small wildlife.

The Moraga Town Council will discuss the formation of a Geologic Hazard and Abatement District that would be responsible for management of landslides and other geologic hazards on the property’s open space parcel. New homeowners will be advised that the area was formerly zoned high risk and will contribute to the district and a homeowners’ association.

## Civic News Fire Districts

### Lamorinda Fire News Briefs

... continued from page A8



MOFD fire chief Stephen Healy receives a check from CAER's Tony Semenza. Photo provided

#### CAER Package for MOFD

Also in February, the Moraga-Orinda Fire District received a \$700 grant from the Community Awareness and Emergency Response Group of Contra Costa County, a non-profit whose mission includes providing emergency preparedness and training to the public. “We collect dues mostly from industry, and we use the money to provide funding back into the community,” said executive director Tony Semenza. CAER oversees a grant budget of \$11,000 and it screens 30 to 40 annual applications to determine how best the grantees will help the largest number of people. “The applicants have to explain to us how they will use the dollars,” said Semenza.

The district plans to earmark the money to sup-

port efforts for a Lamorinda community preparedness earthquake exercise. “We’ll probably print flyers and brochures for the schools promoting the Great California Shakeout in October and have the kids pass them out to their parents,” said MOFD emergency preparedness coordinator Dennis Rein.

This year, the Shakeout is scheduled for Oct. 16 at 10:16 a.m.

#### MOFD and Union Agree to Mediation

The Moraga-Orinda Fire District announced March 7 that it has accepted the request of the United Professional Firefighters of Contra Costa County to enter into mediation.

“I’m encouraged that the union reached out to us,” said John Wyro, board president. “If the union thinks that mediation will solve the problem, then we are happy to do it.”

“It’s a huge move on their part,” said Vince Wells, Local 1230 president. “They didn’t have to do it. It’s a great opportunity for more discussion to see if there’s a chance for a solution.”

The district declared an impasse with the firefighters’ union in January. Should mediation not be successful, the parties will continue with the fact-finding process. The board still retains the ultimate authority to impose its last, best and final offer following fact finding if it chooses to, explained Eddie Kreisberg, the district’s labor negotiator.

“The district really would like to reach an agreement with Local 1230 and is hopeful that retaining a mediator will help the parties do so,” said Kreisberg.



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## Community Service

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

### Campo Basketball Team Takes on Invasive Competitor

Submitted by Scott Hill



From left: Quinn Cuddihy, Hayden Hunt, Jack Eisner VB, Tom Caprio, Patrick Duryea JV, Dylan Richardson, Michael Navruzyan, Coach Graden Travis, Jordan Li, Madison Young JV, Scott Hill, EBMUD, and Aaron Hill. Photo Odessa Cuddihy

At the end of 2014 basketball season last week, the DFAL Champion Campolindo Boys Frosh Team had one more goal they wanted to accomplish, a community service project.

On Saturday, Feb. 22, the team along with their coach and a representative from the East Bay Municipal Utility District's Natural Resources Department joined forces to remove invasive weeds growing on the watershed near the Upper San Leandro Reservoir. Using weed wrenches the boys pulled French broom (*Genistamonspensulana*) a highly invasive weed that commonly grows to 10 feet tall. Native to countries around the Mediterranean French broom is thought to have been introduced to the San Francisco Bay Area in the mid-1800s as an ornamental. It spread throughout the region via prodigious seed production. A medium-sized

shrub can produce over 8,000 seeds a year. The seed pods explode open dispersing seeds up to 12 feet which furthers the colonization of an area. French broom displaces native plant and forage species degrading the habitat value for wildlife. Like the Campo frosh basketball team, French broom is a strong competitor. Left unchecked it will dominate a plant community forming dense monospecific stands.

Pulling broom with weed wrenches is effective for removal of small populations. The wrench removes the entire plant, eliminating re-sprouting. Weed wrench removal is environmentally safe and minimizes potential impacts to desirable native plant species. However, pulling broom with weed wrenches is labor intensive, the perfect way for a boys' basketball team to spend a Saturday afternoon.

### The 13 New Eagle Scouts of Troop 204

Submitted by Brooks Pedder



From left, back row: Kevin Hull, Ben Westphal, Grant Smith, Chris Hansen (sitting), Grant Pedder, Marc Davis and Will McCandless; middle row: Michael Samaniego, Jack Hood, Sam Fraser and Nick Anderson; front row: Peter Goldie and Preston Tso. Photo provided

Lafayette Boy Scout Troop 204 will honor 13 young men who have achieved the Eagle Scout Award, the highest rank in the Boy Scouts of America from 1:30 to 4 p.m. March 15 at the Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church. The Eagle Scout Class of 2014 is the second largest group in the history of the Troop and the Mt. Diablo Silverado Council to achieve Eagle. To attain the rank of Eagle Scout, a scout must earn his way up the scouting ranks - from Tenderfoot to Life Scout. As a Life Scout, he must be active in the troop for at least six months, earn at least 21 merit badges, serve in a Leadership position, show Scout Spirit, and plan, develop and give leadership to others in an approved Eagle service project helpful to any religious institution, school, non-profit organization or the community. In addition to requirements listed above, each of these Troop 204 Eagle Scouts has attended annual 50 mile backpacking trips, hiked over 500 miles, actively participated in annual Camporees, constructed and slept in snow caves and camped in the wilderness for over 100 nights.

The following is a list of their community service projects: Nick Anderson built wooden duck boxes and donated them to the California Waterfowl Association; Marc Davis developed an iPhone app for the Lafayette Historical Society; Sam Fraser collected preschool supplies for

the JF Kapnek Trust, a Lafayette-based organization that works to prevent the transmission of pediatric HIV/AIDS in Zimbabwe and aims to open over 100 preschools for needy children; Will Goldie designed and assembled computer systems for impoverished schools in Afghanistan; Chris Hansen used donated wood from Ashby Lumber and built 50 drawers out of plywood; Jack Hood managed, fundraised, and ran a week-long science-based summer camp for underprivileged children along with his trusted volunteers; Kevin Hull rebuilt and refurbished a dilapidated deck at the Lafayette Community Center; Will McCandless wanted to do something to benefit the Lafayette Reservoir and worked with the ranger, Rod Tripp, to determine a suitable project and chose a fire danger sign to indicate the fire danger level and the associated restrictions; Grant Pedder constructed a 20-foot-long planter box out of cement blocks outside of the Lafayette School District offices at Stanley Middle School; Michael Samaniego collected 170 used soccer uniforms, cleats and equipment from teams throughout Lamorinda, Walnut Creek and Concord; Grant Smith restored the marquee in the Acalanes High School parking lot; Preston Tso worked on the Stanley Middle School tennis courts and rehabilitated them; and Ben Westphal restored the baseball backstops and benches at some of our local schools.

### Moraga Valley Kiwanis Gives to MEF

Submitted by Steve Woehleke



From left, Bruce Burns of the Moraga Valley Kiwanis Club presents a check to Eric Andresen of the Moraga Education Foundation. Photo provided

The Moraga Valley Kiwanis Club recently made its annual contribution to the Moraga Education Foundation. MEF makes a significant local impact through raising funds to preserve and en-

hance educational opportunities for all Moraga public school students to build a better future. The Moraga Valley Kiwanis Club contributes to each of the three Lamorinda education foundations.

### Two Former Girl Scout Leaders Given Volunteer of Excellence Award

Submitted by Tanya Parmelee



Gretchen Caulfield and Susan Barnes

Photo provided

Each year, Lafayette Girl Scouts Service Unit 326 recognizes those extraordinary leaders that go beyond their expected roles. Former leaders Gretchen Caulfield (Troop 32787) and Susan Barnes (Troop 32788) were each presented with the Volunteer of Excellence Award this past fall.

Caulfield co-led the troop for six years, going beyond basics to make sure the girls were a part of meaningful lessons and learning from activities - not just going through the motions to check off a badge. Through their fourth grade journey adventure, materials were presented in the best way to help better understand each section.

From the troop: "Gretchen...goes the extra mile to ensure that things are done the right way

with the maximum amount of fun for the girls."

With Barnes' leadership and mentoring, the girls not only gained invaluable experiences and memories over the years, they topped off fifth grade by organizing and hosting a successful 2013 father/daughter dance. Barnes made sure the 18 girls of both fifth grade troops were able to see how individual jobs fit into the big picture. Each girl had to share her part, solicit input and report back with results.

Thanks to these inspiring and determined women, Burton Valley School's 2012-13 fifth grade troops bridged to Cadette status at the end of the school year. Girl Scouts of Northern California will be formally recognizing award recipients March 8 in the Alameda offices.

### Container of Love Destination: Zimbabwe

Submitted by Robin Freeberg



Much needed wheel chairs destined for Zimbabwe fill half of a 40-foot container at Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church. Photo provided

Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church has created space on their campus for a 40-foot shipping container bound for Zimbabwe. This "Container of Love" will be on campus for the month of March and will be filled with items to help children who have been victims of the HIV epidemic in Zimbabwe. Half of the container will be filled with much needed wheel chairs and the other half will be divided between donations from Mother of Peace Orphanage and the JF Kapnek Trust. Needs

range from school supplies and sporting equipment (basketball, soccer, baseball, etc.) to everyday necessities including batteries and toiletries. Donations may only be dropped off on Wednesday mornings from 9:30 a.m. to noon, and Sundays from 8:30 a.m. to noon at 49 Knox Drive, Lafayette. Go to [LOPC.org](http://LOPC.org) to see what specific donations items are needed. Contact [robin@LOPC.org](mailto:robin@LOPC.org) or call (925)283-8722, ext. 250 for more information.

**Correction:** In the Feb. 26 *Lamorinda Weekly* story, "MOFD Updates GIS Evacuation Maps," the date the Moraga-Orinda Fire District began its mapping was 2005-06 and the program was initially tied to Cal Fire, not California Fire Safe, as reported.

# Civic News Orinda

## An Infant No More – Orinda Community Foundation Turns Four

... continued from page A6

Several of the checks issued will provide make-or-break funds. “We wouldn’t be able to do Youth Ink without it – literally,” said Christine Gkatzimas who joined Molly Wilson in representing the Orinda Junior Women’s Club. The \$1,000 grant awarded to the Juniors will fund prizes for students living in or attending grades six through eight in Orinda who participate in the 2014 writing competition. Author Tamara Ireland Stone will be this year’s guest speaker for the April 24 awards ceremony.

Lamorinda Village president Skip Bradish described OCF’s \$3,000 award as “the nurturing” for his non-profit’s launch of an initiative to help locals age in place more easily. (Learn more by reading “The New Old Age in Lamorinda” in our archive, www.lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue0617/The-New-Old-Age-in-Lamorinda-Aging-In-Place-Safely-and-Independently.html.)

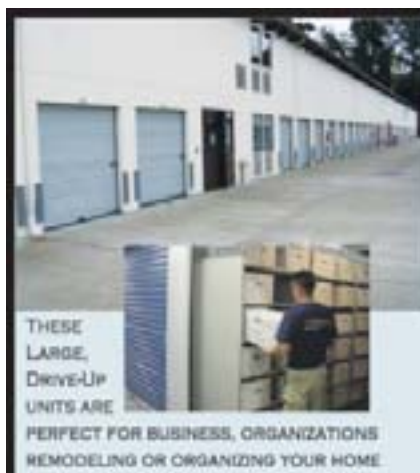
Many of the grants will be used to demonstrate to other prospective funders that recipients are worthy of additional funding – as is happening with the Friends of the Moraga

Adobe, which hopes to preserve Orinda’s historic structure, and the Orinda Association – the engine that powers Orinda’s Fourth of July Parade. Each group was awarded \$5,000 by OCF. Both are also currently reaching out to individuals, businesses, and larger private foundations for help in raising the thousands of dollars more it will take to fulfill their respective missions.

“We provide them with funds to make it a joyous event,” said OCF’s executive director, Dick Westin, of the impact the OA grant has on Orinda’s annual Independence Day bash. Other OCF grants will make flowers sprout from street corners, fill the hills with music, and support the installation of a scoreboard at the Wilder sports fields and of the city’s public display of art across Orinda.

“Since our inception,” added Westin, “we have donated \$120,000 to the community. We hope to do more in the coming years with your support and the support of the community.”

For more information about OCF, visit www.orindafoundation.org/.



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## Orinda Action Day – April 19

Whether you’re wicked with a hammer, adept at making baseboards pass the white glove test, have a jolly green thumb, or just love living in Orinda, it’s time to show your civic pride. Orinda Action Day 2014 is just around the corner, and organizers of the annual community cleanup need your help.

Each year, singles mingle, seniors flex their muscles, scouts and students earn crucial community service hours, and parents teach their children about the importance of community involvement. Even little ones join in the fun, helping to pick up litter while holding onto mom-hands.

Registration and check-in will begin at 9 a.m. at the Orinda Library Plaza on April 19. Drop-in registrants will be welcome the day of the event, but pre-registration is strongly encouraged in order to help event organizers ensure that each project has the necessary number of volunteers to truly make a difference. To learn more about how you can help, contact the Orinda Community Foundation: orindafoundation@gmail.com.

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# Remembrances

## Saying Goodbye to an Artist and Musician



Douglas Craig Duncan passed away Jan. 7, 2014. He was 61 years young. The eldest son of Marechal and Doris Duncan of Lafayette, Doug had a lot of natural talent in art and music and was employed in both the art and music business. Recently he was playing in three local bands – mostly guitar and keyboards – and composing music for the bands. Doug was also employed with various mechanical engineering firms as a computer graphics artist, utilizing his mechanical and structural design computer knowledge. While going through Doug’s belongings, his family found many pieces of his art and musical works, including the poem illustrated by Doug, pictured above. “Doris and I really thought it was a heart stopper for a parent and one we didn’t think should be just discarded,” Marechal Duncan said.

## Compost Bins Home Composting For Busy People!

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

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

### Ordering Information

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

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

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

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

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**From Front Page**

**After Two Tours in Afghanistan, Local Soldier Comes Home**

... continued from page A1



Leigh Wolf and Candace Andersen

Volunteering for both deployments, Wolf left in March 2012 for his initial tour of duty in Afghanistan, where he was assigned to the First Marine Logistics Group as platoon commander. He was home for less than a year before he went back to Afghanistan for his second tour in July 2013, after completing training at Camp Lejeune, N.C., this time assigned to Combat Logistics Battalion 6 as the executive officer.

The Diablo Valley Flag Brigade arranged for the overwhelming Operation Welcome Home event; Warriors' Watch Riders on motorcycles, loads of flags, music, veterans, Blue Star Moms, and a special recognition from District 2 Supervisor Candace Andersen, along with neighbors, friends and family, all offering heartfelt thanks for Lt. Wolf's service to the country.

Wolf couldn't have been more gracious, "I love the Marine Corps, and I love what I do for the Marine Corps. It's an honor to serve my country and serve all of you." He thanked everyone for coming out, adding he especially appreciated the care packages over the holidays. "I'd go back and do it again in a heartbeat if I could, but the war is mostly over." Getting emotional he reflected that many of his fellow soldiers didn't make it back from Afghanistan: "They are the real heroes."



Photos courtesy Diablo Valley Flag Brigade

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# The Man of History

Lafayette resident keeps California history alive

By Diane Claytor



Robert Chandler, Ph.D., stands in front of one of his many collections. Photos Diane Claytor

Walking into the back rooms of Bob and Sue Chandler's lovely Lafayette home, you're not sure if you've entered a museum or a library. There are books, papers and artifacts everywhere. It's hard to know where to look first.

Chandler describes himself as a historian and a "pack rat." He's also an author, having just published "San Francisco Lithographer: African American Artist Grafton Tyler Brown," in addition to numerous magazine articles. His business card states "Dr. Robert J. Chandler, Western American History, Stagecoaching, Mining, Banking." None of that begins to describe this extraordinary man, who, according to Californiahistory.com, "is acclaimed by many California historians to be the premier authority on California in the Civil War and, in particular, San Francisco."

An "army brat," his family moved every few years when Chandler was young. "Sometimes it was hard to make new friends," he said, "so I got interested in where we were and learning everything I could about the area." He started reading history books and over the years, amassed quite a collection. He earned his Ph.D. from UC Riverside; his dissertation was "The Press and Civil Liberties in California during the Civil War."

A trip to an antique shop in Port Costa in the '70s introduced Chandler to the world of historical items. "I found a letter having to do with the California State Telegraph Company from 1864 and it was \$10. My first article was on the Overland Telegraph, so of course I had to buy the letter," he noted. "I suddenly realized that history wasn't found only in books."

And the rest, as they say, is history. Chandler admits that while he still buys books, "I spend more money on photographs, pieces of paper, letters, something that will tell me a story. I'm on a first name basis with booksellers, antique and paper dealers everywhere."

To say Chandler is proud of his collections doesn't accurately express it. Spending an hour with him was like an historical show and tell. He showed off his collection of coral, decoys, mining equipment, crucibles for assays, Chinese ginger jars, candlesticks, tea pots, license plates, election posters, miniature German soldiers, lithographs, billheads, historical postcards and posted envelopes. He has a slide viewer from 1900 and San Francisco city directories dating back to the 1870s. And then there are his books - 9,000 of them, according to his wife.

Chandler is a longtime member of The Ancient and Honorable Order of E Clampus Vitus, a fraternal organi-

zation dedicated to preserving the American West heritage. The group often honors historical structures with one of its bronze plaques. However, as Chandler explained, "no one knows for sure if it's a drinking society interested in history or a historical society interested in drinking. And no one has ever been in any condition to resolve this debate."

Chandler spent 32 years as senior historian for Wells Fargo Bank, retiring in 2010. In that role, he said, he was "essentially the answer man" within the bank, dealing with both employees and consumers. He also wrote numerous articles on Wells Fargo's history.

Chandler is a prolific speaker, offering presentations on California history, stagecoaching, mining, banking, military and postal history. He is the secretary of the Western Cover Society which specializes in early Western postal history and is a regular contributor to The California Territorial Quarterly, a magazine dedicated to California's past. He sits on the Board of the San Ramon Valley Museum and has loaned the organization items from his gold rush collection.

The family moved from Concord to Lafayette 16 years ago. "We had to find a house that could accommodate Bob's mistress - California history in all its forms," Susan Chandler said.

Describing her husband, she said, "When we first started dating, mutual friends told me Bob was eccentric; fortunately, I didn't know what that meant. Bob is constantly making history new. It's fascinating to watch him find something old and get excited about it. It is such a gift."



An envelope from the 1870s shipped by Contra Costa Express



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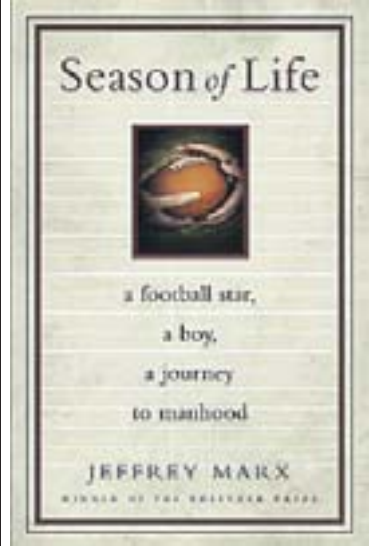
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**Words That Change Our World**

*Book shifts how Orinda football player looks at accountability, and what it means to be a man*

By Lou Fancher



Miramonte High School quarterback Drew Anderson has been called "a driving force" and an East Bay high school football "player to watch." His stats are public record: 6'3", roughly 185 pounds, 26.8 inch vertical jump, 47 passing TD's, 256 completions out of 435 pass attempts. The 18-year-old senior has "one of the strongest arms in the East Bay," according to local sports reporters. He's an Oakland A's fan, likes math and science, and as a staff writer for Miramonte's school paper, The Mirador, he contributes mostly sports-related articles. He's on the basketball team as spring approaches – and will play baseball this year for the first time since eighth grade. Still deciding between four colleges, his applications have been flagged for admission and a walk-on spot with several of the schools' football teams is assured.

Got the picture? Jock, possibly tough, cocky and confident; he names as his favorite book Jeffrey Marx's "Season of Life," in which football players hug and say to each other, "I love you."

What? Oh, and in an interview in his Orinda home, he's almost painfully shy. "I used to be shy – still am," Anderson admits, not embarrassed as much as honest. "But being in journalism and having to ask people questions is helping."

Anderson needs little help on the field, especially during his senior year, when he pushed himself to be more assertive. "I used to be a behind the scenes guy," he says. "This year, I was different."

Anderson didn't start hugging people, but he did become more verbal. "Especially the younger quarterbacks; I helped them with how to run certain plays. As a quarterback, you're right in the middle of each play. But it takes everyone to make a team win."

Accountability and a growing sense of what it means to be a man arrived, in some measure, from the pages of Marx's book. Anderson's father, Greg, a stockbroker by profession and volunteer sports coach/parent club leader by habit, gave him the slim 177-page volume. Anderson said his dad told him it was about a football program on the East Coast. He soon learned it was about much more than throwing Hail Mary's or scram-

bling out of the pocket. Pulitzer Prize winning journalist Marx tells the story of former NFL football star Joe Ehrmann. Long after his glory days as a Baltimore Colts defensive lineman – where Marx, a ball boy, first encountered the 260-pound player – Ehrmann is an ordained minister and the coach of the Gilman Greyhounds, a Baltimore, Md. high school football team. Ehrmann's "Building Men for Others" mission, aimed at using football to build not just quadriceps, but love, grace and healing – is underscored by the former player's tragic, abusive relationship with his father. Marx chronicles the team's surreal "hug and proclaim your love" interactions – discovering for himself a spiritual journey. A series of conversations between Marx and Ehrmann, held after the conclusion of a stunning season for the Gilman team, fascinate and haunt Marx. Eventually, he realizes the biggest play is yet to come: tackling his distant, uncomfortable relationship with his father. Chapter 21 is a too-short glimpse into their first attempts to change the playbook. Fittingly, although a bit too abruptly and conveniently, the book ends with their hugs and "I love yous."

Anderson said the book got him thinking: about success, mostly. "The book isn't about football, it's about helping other people and treating everyone the same," he says. "It was hard to think, 'What's my cause? How am I accountable?'"

Being reliable, as an older brother to 16-year-old Ryan; making his parents proud in all things, not just sports; not comparing himself to others, even amid people trying to do that for him – were his takeaway lessons. Anderson says these weren't explosive ideas, but slow-burners reminding him not to get caught up in the hoopla of Lamorinda's academic and sports achievement. "It's competitive here, but I never felt (pressure) from my parents. I feel like I'm not any different than when I started playing football in kindergarten."

To give back, Anderson and his brother coach a Lafayette passing league, volunteer at football camps and once delivered second-hand bats, gloves, balls and athletic apparel to underserved baseball club programs in Oakland. "They were thrilled to have anything," he recalls.

In his "circle of affirmation," another Ehrmann initiative described in "Season of Life," Anderson places two men. "My dad, definitely goes in first," he says. "He taught me football – and everything." Joining him, Dave Winford, Miramonte's head coach. "He helped me all the way through," Anderson says. "He believed in me. How do I know? He told me."

And Marx's contribution? "Season of Life" didn't change Anderson as much as it caught him on the cusp of adolescence and launched him into manhood with a profound respect for empathy, generosity and yes, love of the game.



Drew Anderson

Photo Gint Fedaras

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



# Working Together to Collect the Oral Histories of Lafayette

By Amanda Kuehn



The Lafayette Historical Society is hoping to obtain oral histories from longtime Lafayette residents who may have been involved in things like this 1931 annual dinner of the volunteer fire department in Lafayette. Photos courtesy Lafayette Historical Society



Girls from Brownie Troup 215 and Girl Scout Troup 948 celebrate the 68th anniversary of the Girl Scouts in 1951. "If we had an oral history from one of these (now grown up) girls, we would have an interesting story to accompany it," says Judie Peterson of the Lafayette Historical Society.

Maya Angelou once wrote, "There is no greater agony than bearing an untold story inside of you." Each of us has a story to share, a history inside of us that is waiting to be told.

The members of the Lafayette Historical Society believe in the power of history "to ignite the imagination, stimulate thought and provide enjoyment." Through their collections and programs, the society strives to link the history of Lafayette to the lives of its people. One way they wish to do this is by documenting oral history, but recording people's stories can be harder than you might think.

"The historical society has been doing oral history for centuries," said History Room coordinator Judie Peterson. "We have some really old ones on old reel tapes. We've been trying to resurrect that program but it's been really difficult." Although LHS has a long list of Lafayette residents ready to share their stories, the process of documenting has been a challenge, she explained.

Last fall Peterson contacted Maureen Newmann, program coordinator of Lafayette Senior Services. "She was doing a project on seniors coming in and writing in the community center and I said,

"What do you think of collaborating and doing an oral history project?"

Newmann was on board. "We try to partner with other Lafayette community organizations, including Saint Mary's and their creative writing program," said Molly Cohen, administrative assistant of Lafayette Senior Services. "We do a class called Document Your Life's Story. It's been really well received."

The class is run by an intern from the Master of Fine Arts (MFA) in Creative Writing program at Saint Mary's College. Peterson thought Senior Services might expand the program and use the SMC intern to help with the oral history project.

Representatives from LHS and Senior Services met with Candace Eros Diaz, MFA coordinator of admissions and student services and Ryan McKinley, a candidate in the MFA program. The group decided that LHS would create a list of Lafayette residents and McKinley, funded through one of SMC's Social Justice Internships, would conduct interviews and help to transcribe old tapes. The hope is that this will be an ongoing arrangement.

... continued on page B5



Walter "Wally" Costa in his office in 1966. Costa was mayor of Lafayette in 1973 and will be one of the first to provide his oral history to Saint Mary's College MFA candidate Ryan McKinley.

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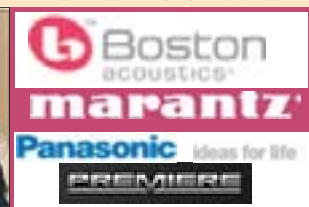
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## Memoir Focuses on 'Maxed Out' Mothering in the 21st Century

Author Katrina Alcorn to speak at LLLC March 20

By Lou Fancher



Katrina Alcorn

Photo provided

It's funny, we spend our childhoods practicing control – and a lifetime learning to let go of it.

From “Don't stick your finger into that socket; you'll die!” to “No matter how adorable you look in those pajamas, you can't wear them to school,” to “Don't text what you're thinking: you'll get fired,” growing up teaches us to stop. But maturity, it seems, is about release: not blaming others (let go resentment), not having it all (goodbye BMW), and not thinking the world revolves around you (hello parenting).

Oakland author Katrina Alcorn's memoir, “Maxed Out: American Moms on the Brink” (Seal Press), tells her story: a 37-year-old mother and working professional woman on the road to maturity. Alcorn will read and discuss her book at a Sweet Thursdays event at 7:30 p.m. March 20 at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center.

Alcorn is a mother, stepmom, wife, former journalist, blogger, and a freelance experience design consultant, a title meaning she analyzes customers and clients and designs websites and services to meet their business needs. She also speaks at conferences and appears as an expert consultant on local and national radio and television programs. She strives to maintain friendships, invest real, skin-to-skin time with her children, and at times in her life, has suffered clinically certifiable depression and panic attacks requiring medication and therapeutic intervention. In her free time – ha! – she's written her first book. To handle anxiety, she meditates, sending stress-filled bubbles into the atmosphere.

Alcorn is a busy woman, but she's not the only one – which is both the point and the purpose (and really, the societal problem) at the center of her memoir.

Her expressive narrative, bolstered by the inclusion of well-researched studies she references in

brief, chapter-concluding essays, presents a deeply human portrait. Blemishes, blushing embarrassment, blissful exclamations about her husband, Brian, and their children, all mingle with the flickering drama of female aggression in the 21st century. And it's this energy – the desire to be a major breadwinner, to stand out, to be first and foremost in their children's lives, to be a svelte, sexy, suave swinger dressed in a three-piece suit and toting a breast milk pump – that crashes Alcorn's cart.

In a series of episodes that read like a giant bowling ball headed for a perfect pin-smashing strike, Alcorn experiences nauseating, numbing panic attacks. “My heart fluttered madly. My hands shook...It was too hard to be there,” she writes. Eventually, her mind plays tricks allowing her to escape her own body and resort to puppeteering: plodding through meetings and conferences while “directing” herself as if from above.

Despite her pluses – a hi-tech job, an understanding boss, a supportive spouse, a housecleaner, attentive daycare – all the equipment the world tells women they need to lean in and have it all are not enough to save her from tanking. She quits her job and collapses, literally. It takes over a year for Alcorn to feel whole and human again. But along the way, she investigates the systems undergirding (but failing to defuse) contemporary life's pressures.

Competition from other women: Alcorn cites Cornell researchers' 2007 study showing mothers with resumés equal to those of non-mothers were 79 percent less likely to be hired and paid \$11,000 less. No sick leave: 145 countries worldwide guarantee sick leave; in the United States, barely 50 percent receive it. Lack of part-time options: 75 percent of Dutch women work part-time, with benefits. Across industries, not just in women-dominated fields, real-world examples cause Alcorn to question the cultural stigmas and corporate bias opposing a more progressive workplace in America. Childcare and family-friendly work environments shouldn't require advocacy; they should be a basic human right, she concludes. She ends the book with 10 suggestions “you can do right now.” Unfortunately they're not as thoroughly described as her personal stories, but some readers may appreciate the springboard they represent.

It's easy – even tempting – to criticize Alcorn's pain as the indulgent rant of a white, upper-middle class woman who doesn't realize how good she's got it (or had it). But that would be ignoring the more important aspects of her pain. It's not comparison that matters or will move the arguments forward. What matters is compassion – and that we not divide progressive energy and lose ourselves by infighting. After all, we owe it to the 1920s Suffragettes and women's-libbers of the 1970s who grandparent the sons and daughters of 2014 to preserve and improve upon their work. Women and men must be allowed the privilege of earning a living while raising a family in dignity.

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## Looking Good in Lamorinda

### It might as well be spring

By Moya Stone



You can find colorful separates at Lesley Evers in Lafayette.

Photo courtesy Lesley Evers

Around here spring accidentally sprung back in January. But in fashion the season officially launches in March, when we start thinking about bright colors, lighter fabrics, and new fashions for Easter, Mother's Day, and graduations.

#### Spring Picks for Lamorinda

Pleated skirts are big news for spring, and for the Lamorinda woman the look offers a perfect combination of chic and ease. Sport the pleats with a soft cropped sweater or form-fitted blouse and you are good to go anywhere in style. The button-down shirt is also on list of trends. A tailored classic, the button-down elevates jeans, skirts, and even shorts to casual elegance. Blue is the color of the season and I suggest pairing the shirt with another spring trend – crop pants. An excellent choice for the busy Lamorinda woman, crop pants cover a spectrum of local activities. Wear with flats and a sunhat on Saturday morning to the soccer field and in the evening for a quiet dinner out, switch to heels and a statement necklace.

This season Special Tees in Lafayette is stocking pastels and pale pink in particular. Also on trend for them are black and white stripes in jackets, dresses, and pants. Word has it from Special Tees that



Cinderella shoes at Collector Choice Antiques.

Photo Moya Stone

the boot cut is back on the scene edging in on the skinny jean for most popular pant.

Lesley Evers in Lafayette is known for her bright colors and bold prints, which are favorites for spring and summer. Evers tells me that for this season she's adding lots of separates, a logo jacket, a hoodie and “... a maxi that can be worn without the slip as a dramatic swim cover up.” Colors include pinks/oranges and blues/greens, and various shades of lilac.

#### Cinderella Shoes

Calling all ladies who wear a size 5 or 5 1/2 shoe, you will want to strut right on down to Collector's Choice Antiques in Lafayette. They have just received a collection of beautiful hardly worn shoes, mostly pumps and all designer brands such as Allure, Charles Jourdan, and one pair of never worn dress shoes by YSL. You can't beat the price of \$60 a pair.

#### Orinda's ReChic

Have you heard about ReChic in Orinda? Around since 2012, ReChic is a delightful boutique specializing in consignment clothing for women and men, girls and boys ages 10 and up. Proprietor and Orinda native Jennifer Vigo was inspired to open her shop after realizing that there was nothing in the Lamorinda area for consignment kids clothing. Additionally, ReChic offers a small selection of new clothes and gift items, many of which are made by Bay Area artisans. And there's more – located in the front of the store is the Social Lounge, a small space for kids to meet, hang out and even take a class. ReChic offers ongoing and one time classes in creative writing, basic auto mechanics, and teen yoga. A professional dietitian, Jennifer hopes to add nutrition classes soon. With ball and prom season coming up, ReChic is currently stocking an array of gowns and soon to arrive will be a line of (new) swimsuits.



Butterfly whimsy

Photo Richard Aiello

#### Catch the Butterfly Trend

Designers are using the butterfly motif on everything from scarves to dresses to handbags. How appropriate for spring as the delicate insect symbolizes change and transformation. What about a attracting a little change and transformation into your life with a vintage butterfly brooch? Pinned to a lapel, a hat or a handbag, brooches add a bit of whimsy to any outfit. I like to shop for brooches (and other treasures) at The Vintage Fashion Expo, which is coming up in San Francisco March 22 and 23. Over 100 dealers from around the country showcase their vintage wares including clothing, jewelry, and accessories for men, women, and children. More information can be found at: [www.vintageexpo.com/](http://www.vintageexpo.com/).

It might as well be spring, so go forth in style. Moya Stone is a fashion writer and blogger at [www.overdressedforlife.com](http://www.overdressedforlife.com).

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# Republic Services to Get Most of the 10-Year Garbage Franchise

*Recycling still pending*

By Sophie Braccini



Pacific Rim currently recycles for Lamorinda

Picture provided

At the Feb. 27 Central Contra Costa Solid Waste Authority board meeting, Republic Services was chosen over Mt. Diablo-Recology as the next franchisee to haul all of the garbage within the CCCSWA service area (including Lamorinda) for the next 10 years. Republic was cleared by an independent consultant of allegations by California Compost Coalition that it had not been recycling the green waste according to their current contract. These allegations had blocked the decision in January.

Pacific Rim, the staff's choice for recycling, came under scrutiny at the February meeting when Dana Dean of the Law Offices of Dana Dean, which represents Evan Edgar and Total Compliance Management, stated that the company may not have enough capacity to treat the volume of recyclables and does not have the proper permits to fulfill the contract. Mt. Diablo also sent CCCSWA a last minute proposal for the recycling contract and the board decided to postpone its decision for that piece of the garbage pie for another month.

"It was three minutes before 5 p.m. the day before the board meeting when we received a new proposal from Mt. Diablo to handle the recyclable waste," said CCCSWA director Paul Morsen, who explained that the RFP process had called for proposals, that service companies had been interviewed and asked to give their best offer by a certain date, and that staff and its consultant had then analyzed the proposals before making a recommendation to the board. Pacific Rim was the recommended offer. Morsen

included the last minute offer in the board documents, although no analysis had been possible.

The next morning, Contra Costa County supervisor Karen Mitchoff, a CCCSWA board member, made a motion to award the contract to Mt. Diablo-Recology. Board member Ken Chew from the Moraga Town Council asked the CCCSWA's lawyer if such a last minute offer was permitted and the answer was yes, since this was not a closed bid process. Board members Victoria Smith and Amy Worth from the Orinda City Council said they supported renegotiating that part of the contract in order to get the best deal for residents. Three board members were opposed to renegotiation; Moraga's David Trotter said that the process should not encourage bidding at the podium, and that Mt. Diablo's offer was too little, too late.

The rate per ton of recycled material that Mt. Diablo-Recology proposes in this new offer matches that of Pacific Rim, at \$47 a ton. Pacific Rim is the recycling service provider at this time. Under the present contract they pay a fixed fee per ton and as the commodity market fluctuates, the company shares the extra revenue with CCCSWA. "The price has been quite good in the past," said Morsen, "but we wanted the different proposals to indicate a fixed rate so we could compare them. During final negotiation the board has the latitude to change that."

The CCCSWA board voted 8 to 3 to re-open the RFP process for that part of the franchise agreement. Staff will make a recommendation at the next board meeting on March 27.

# Working Together to Collect the Oral Histories of Lafayette

... continued from page B3

"It will be a great opportunity to learn about Lafayette because history in general is interesting to me," said McKinley, who previously studied at the University of Hawaii and worked with the Center for Biographical Research documenting local oral histories. "I'm hoping that we can get these in the archives and they will be preserved so that 10 to 20 years from now people can go into the center and learn about people who lived here earlier. It's kind of a connection between generations."

Senior Services will serve as a liaison, connecting seniors in the area with the historical society. "It's a new relationship and a new program for us at the Senior Service Center," said Cohen. "It's one-on-one and doesn't require any work or editing for the senior." This should allow for more seniors to share their stories.

The process is now underway, with McKinley completing the first

of his interviews early this month. "There's a little bit of nervousness because I've never met these people before," he said. "You have to gauge how to get someone to return to their memories. Sometimes it begins slowly and then later on we can get these huge histories."

"We have such a big senior population in Lafayette," said Cohen. "It's a wonderful opportunity to capture history and the memories of people who have lived here for 50 plus years."

To listen to archived recordings or learn more about the history and stories of Lafayette, contact the Lafayette Historical Society at (925) 283-1848. The History Room is open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday.

For more information or to be a part of this project contact Lafayette Senior Services at (925) 284-5050 or Seniors@love-lafayette.org.

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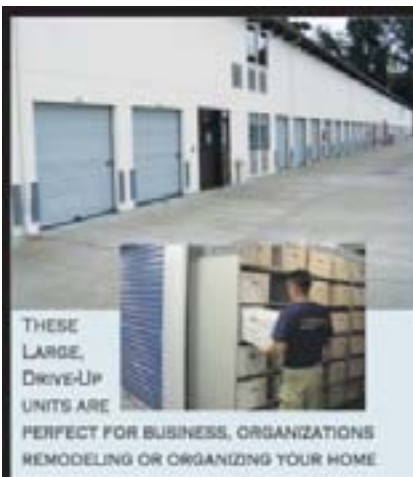
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## Ten Lamorinda Odyssey of the Mind Teams Advance to State Competition

Submitted by Michelle Regan and Beverley Sopak



Orinda Rotary Odyssey of the Mind team, from left: Bradley Wu, Nicholas Kim, Sarah Inouye, Stephanie Wu, Sullivan Jordan, Caroline Kim, Leah Sopak, and coach Michael Kim. Photos provided



Burton Valley Elementary Odyssey of the Mind Division 1 (fourth and fifth grade) team, from left: Kaitlin Srinivasan, Charlie Schofield, Nathaniel McManus, Peter Husch, Matthew Brock-Utne, William McGlothlen, and Cole Regan.



Springhill Elementary Odyssey of the Mind Primary Division team. Top row, from left: Ella del Rosario, Chase Caicedo, Joey Martin, Chase Regan and Danny Martin; bottom row: Ellie Hutson and Kyla Goertzen. Not shown: coaches Joy Martin and Shawn Goertzen.

The winner's circle was filled with Lamorinda Odyssey of the Mind teams, each comprised of up to seven student members who competed for top honors at the San Francisco Bay Region competition March 1. Teams competed in age-defined divisions ranging from kindergarten through college with the top two teams from each division going on to the April 5 state competition. The program promotes creative thinking where student groups develop and implement all problem solutions without outside assistance from adults. Each year there are five different long-term project competitions to choose from ranging from technical to artistic or performance based.

Burton Valley Elementary school placed first in their division for the "Driver's Test" competition. The student team designed and built a vehicle that achieved specific project requirements. The team also developed an eight minute performance incorporating their vehicle and team members to demonstrate the vehicle's capabilities and the team's creativity. The competition included a 'spontaneous' challenge where team members completed timed out-of-the-box thinking challenges.

The BVE team's long-term project theme is 'A Carrot's Driver's Test' where a not-so-prepared carrot embarks on his driver's test and is unexpectedly thrown into a situation where he must rescue stranded baby carrots and later rescue the bunny-abducted absent minded professor who thoughtlessly introduced bunnies into the world run by carrots. No worries here! Our student driver carrot successfully passed his driver's test and managed to save the baby carrots as well as the professor! The Orinda Rotary Odyssey of

the Mind team advanced to the state tournament by taking second place at the regionals for "The Stackable Structure" problem. This will be the team's third year competing at State. Last year this team won State and advanced to the World tournament.

Springhill Elementary School's Odyssey of the Mind team also competed in "The World's First Arts Festival" primary competition (Grades K-2) and came home with medals. As part of the long-term problem competition the team created an eight minute performance with costumes and a story line that fit the "World's First Arts Festival" problem theme. Characters included cavemen and cavewomen as well as a security guard— after all, everyone knows that all art museums have a security guard! The group also created their own 'Cave Man' song and prehistoric caveman painting backdrops.

**Other top winners included:**  
Moraga Rotary Club A (Div II) "It's How We Rule" – first place  
Orinda Intermediate School Red (Div II) "Seeing is Believing" – first place  
Lafayette Rotary Club (Div III) "Seeing is Believing" – first place  
Moraga Rotary Club B (Div III) "The Not-So-Haunted House" – first place  
Happy Valley Elementary School, Lafayette (Div I) "Seeing is Believing" – second place  
Orinda Intermediate School Green (Div II) "Seeing is Believing" – second place  
Moraga Rotary Club A (Div III) "Seeing is Believing" – second place

The state competition will take place on April 5 at Heritage High School in Brentwood. To learn more about Odyssey of the Mind student programs and events, go to [www.odysseyofthemind.com](http://www.odysseyofthemind.com).

## Helping Struggling Readers of Any Age

*The 'Reading Revolution' method comes to Lamorinda*

By Sophie Braccini



Cyndy Lemyre shows first sound movements to Growing Tree Preschool students Clara Shei Bowman (left) and Sloane McDowell. Photo Sophie Braccini

Jack is learning to blend the sound "ai" with consonants today. The happy Moraga second grader began his eighth session recently with his Active Reading Clinic tutor, Sharon Winning, and seems to be having fun.

He starts at one end of the large room where the private lesson is held, and at Winning's signal – "Go!" – he runs to the other side where she stands holding large cards with a beginning consonant, the group of vowels, and a final consonant. Jack blends the sounds of the three cards that make up real words or "monster" words. This kinesthetic and game-oriented approach is the heart of the multi-sensory method, developed by Judy Kranzler in the '80s, and taught ever since in Active Reading Clinics (ARC) across the country. A new center is opening in Moraga, and a second one should follow in Orinda. The method can help children of all ages who are struggling in school with the traditional reading approach.

Kranzler struggled to learn to read when she was a child. A visibly bright little girl, she still had a lot of difficulties and started to hate school, feeling inadequate. As she grew up, she researched ways to learn that would make it easier for kids who do not thrive with the visual or auditory methods that are taught in school. She studied and researched all over the world and gradually developed the "Reading Revolution" method, a kinesthetic approach that uses movement, sound, and visual tools to teach reading. The method is taught one on one, twice a week, allowing it to be tailored to each specific child.

Back in the ARC room, Jack's

tutor moves him from one activity to the next, never at a desk, but sitting on a mat reviewing the movements he learned for each vowel sound, or standing throwing bean bags in buckets labeled with "ai" or "ay" as his tutor calls out words. "Jack is not ADD or ADHD but he can become fidgety after a while; that is why I include a lot of different physical settings in our session," says Winning. She has other tools for dyslexic students, based on movements that help children memorize their own way.

"It is estimated that about 20 percent of the children in school are struggling, but do not fit into a defined category of learning disability," says Moraga resident Maura Richards. "When my son Tommy was in second grade, he was not doing very well." Tommy was tested by the school but did not qualify for anything, so his mother started researching other ways to teach her son. She found the ARC in Walnut Creek and decided to invest in bi-weekly trips in order to help him.

Tommy, now in fourth grade, loves to read. "Last night when my mom came to tuck me in I asked her if I could keep reading," he says. "I kept reading my book, 'Spirit Animals,' for another 30 minutes." He remembers the method as something fun. "It was like play," he says. His mother says his progress has been across the board, emphasizing Tommy's improved self-esteem from becoming a more competent student.

"I developed this curriculum over the past 30 years and it continues to be a work in progress," says Kranzler of her multi-media curriculum. "It incorporates the best of what research

demonstrates is effective in 'phonics' and 'whole language' systems. It incorporates the experience we gained with over 200,000 students in hundreds of schools across the U.S. The 'reading revolution' comes through a series of proprietary steps that, in aggregate, bring together the latest brain research and theories of how the human brain triggers its learning mechanisms."

Richards was so impressed with ARC that she decided to work with Kranzler and her managing director Cyndy Lemyre to open an Active Reading Clinic in Lamorinda. Richards introduced the method to Linda Richardi and Terri Giovanetti, the co-directors of Growing Tree Preschool, who agreed to open a new ARC at Growing Tree.

Lamorinda students of all ages will be tutored in the afternoon one-on-one at the preschool starting March 17. Additionally, the pre-K Growing Tree students, whose parents are interested, will get pre-K readers' readiness training in small groups. "We are not pushing them to read early," notes Lemyre. "We are giving them kinesthetic tools to memorize sounds that will help them to learn to read, whatever their style." The Pre-K program is different from the regular ARC sessions and is for Growing Tree students only.

Lessons start March 17 in the Moraga ARC at the Growing Tree, 695 Canyon Rd., in Moraga. For more information, visit [www.activereadingclinic.org](http://www.activereadingclinic.org) or call Cyndy Lemyre at (925) 944-5559 or Moraga Managing Director Maura Richards at (415) 637-7757.

## A Wide Array of Wonderful Films

*East Bay International Jewish Film Festival comes to Orinda March 21-23*

By Sophie Braccini



"The Wonders" Photo provided

The 19th annual East Bay International Jewish Film Festival is coming to Orinda's Theatre Square March 21-23 with 10 feature films and documentaries that present a rich tapestry of the best of Israeli films today – some funny, some serious, others poignant or violent. Festival director Riva Gambert is certainly right to say, "There is a film for everyone's taste and sensibility."

The first set of films that will be shown March 21 are on the lighter side, with "Bert Stern: Original Madman," an American documentary that takes a look at this legendary photographer who turned on America to vodka via his inventive ads for Smirnoff, and helped modernize celebrity photography; "David Steinberg Has Quality Balls," an engaging

documentary about this wonderful Canadian comedian; and "The Wonders," a film set in Jerusalem with a dangerous and glamorous leading lady and a goofy leading guy, inspired by a true story. Avi Neshet's film noir, which has touches of romance and comedy, is a well executed mix of genres.

On March 22, the film offerings take a more serious turn: In "Bethlehem," one of Israel's highest 2013 award winners that received top honors at the prestigious Venice Film Festival and won "Best Film" at the Ophir Awards (Israel's Oscar), an Israeli secret service officer and his 16-year-old Palestinian informant Sanfur form the central duo of the film. Set in the time of the Second Intifada around 2001, the movie's screenplay was co-authored by Israeli and Palestinian writers. Directed by Yuval Adler, the plot is worthy of Greek tragedy, with a young man forced to choose between loyalty and family. Caution is advised; this is a war movie with violence and brutality. It captures the complex reality of Palestinian-Israeli relations.

Also showing that day is "S#x Acts," an award-winning coming-of-age drama about a 16-year-old girl in an upscale Israeli city.

The final day of the festival, March 23, includes a heavy-hitting lineup of films that tackle tough issues

such as autism, aging with conviction, betrayal, murder and revenge. "The A Word" tells the journey of a family as they discover their son has autism; "Life in Stills" is about a 96-year-old grandmother who tries to fight eviction from her Tel Aviv photography shop, which houses thousands of photos portraying the history of the country.

"Fill the Void," which won seven Ophir Awards, is directed by Rama Burshtein – the first Orthodox Jewish woman to direct a film meant for viewing outside of her own community. In the film, 18 year-old Shira Medelman, the youngest daughter of an Orthodox Hassidic family in Tel Aviv, postpones her forthcoming marriage after her 28-year-old sister dies in childbirth. When the widower thinks about leaving the country with his newborn son, Shira's mother pressures her to wed her brother-in-law. Shira must decide whether to follow her mother's wish or fulfill her own dreams. Hadas Yaron received the Venice Film Festival "Best Actress" award for her portrayal of Shira.

"Out in the Dark" is a compelling thriller that portrays the intense romance between Nimr, a Palestinian graduate student, and Roy, an Israeli lawyer; and "Big Bad Wolves" is a mesmerizing, psychological drama that received 11 Ophir nominations.

... continued on next page

# Campo Science Teacher Named AUHSD Educator of the Year

Submitted by Ruth Thornburg



Kelson (center) with students at the top of Yosemite Falls in January.



Jane Kelson

Photos provided

Acalanes Union High School District Superintendent John Nickerson recently announced the selection of Campolindo High School science teacher Jane Kelson as the AUHSD Educator of the Year. “Described by one of her colleagues as a ‘pretty spectacular teacher,’ Jane exemplifies what we all strive to do for our students,” Nickerson wrote in a

letter to AUHSD staff. “Her passion for her subject matter is contagious, and her content knowledge incredibly deep. She takes ownership and supports each learner and successfully extends learning beyond the classroom walls. She is constantly seeking opportunities for professional growth, ‘actively seeks collaborative moments with her peers,’ and takes risks with new ideas and approaches in her constant effort to reach more students.” The AUHSD Educator of the Year will represent the district in the Contra Costa County Teacher of the Year competition. The AUHSD Educator of the Year finalists included Kelson, Acalanes High School social studies teacher Joe Schottland, and Las Lomas High School English teacher Will Cautero. “Congratulations to Jane, Joe and Will,” Nickerson wrote. “You are all ‘spectacular.’”

# Stanley Jazz Group Heads to Monterey

By Cathy Dausman



A portion of the Stanley Middle School Jazz Messengers trumpet section (there are seven in all) warms up during zero period rehearsal. Thirty musicians in all – seven saxophones, four trombones, five drummers, two bass guitars, two piano players, two flutists and a French horn player will perform at the 2014 Next Generation Jazz Festival in Monterey later this month. Photo Cathy Dausman

Spring break won't just be a rest period for 30 Stanley Middle School music students. The musicians, members of the Stanley Jazz Messengers, an advanced jazz group, have been invited to perform – again – in Monterey, Calif., during the annual Next Generation Jazz Festival March 28-30. They are one of just six middle school groups to perform.

Jazz Messengers have “gotten in just about every year” in the last seven, said Bob Athayde, Stanley’s director of music education. He said that the festival becomes more competitive each year.

The three-day event includes performances by middle school, high school and college level ensembles as well as workshops and competitions. More than 60 groups from across the United States attended the 2012 Next Generation Jazz Festival.

Although the middle school participation is “more for exhibition than competition,” Athayde said that listening to the other bands gives his students a reality check – a chance to see just how good other bands are.

“It’s the real deal,” he said.

Jazz Messengers perform at 12:30 p.m. March 29 at Fisherman’s Wharf and 10:30 a.m. March 30 in Portola Plaza. All events are open to the public and are free. For event details visit: <http://stanleymusic.org/> and <https://www.montereyjazzfestival.org/> /NGJF.

# A Wide Array of Wonderful Films

... continued from page B6

Starring one of Israel’s favorite actors, Lior Ashkenazi, “Big Bad Wolves” follows the off-line interrogation of a serial killer. Dror, a young religion teacher, is beaten by the police to get a confession to the serial murders of young women. He is finally released and the policeman who persecuted him, Miki, is fired. But Miki still believes Dror is the assassin and stays on his trail, only to discover that the father of the last victim, Gidi, is also after Dror. The Israeli thriller, directed by Aharon Keshales and Navot Papushado, contains graphic violence and is not for tenderhearted viewers.

The East Bay International Jewish Film Festival, which began March 7, continues today at Century 16 Theaters in Pleasant Hill before moving to the Orinda Theatre beginning March 21. For ticket information, or to view trailers, visit <http://eastbayjewishfilm.org>.



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## THE APP RAP

By Alex Pawlakos

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Most everyone who has ever parked a car in a large lot, a city street, or any unfamiliar location, has probably had the unnerving experience of forgetting where they left their vehicle. Luckily, there is an amazing app, called 'MyCar Locator Free,' that makes sure that one can always locate their car. It is remarkably simple to use. As soon as you have parked your car, call up the app on your smartphone and your current location will appear on the screen. Then, double-tap the screen, select the box that is labeled "PARK," and your current location is instantly committed to memory using Google's GPS satellites. That is all you have to do to ensure you can find your car when you need to. A neat side feature is that you can record the exact time that you parked, which is useful to avoid getting a ticket for expired meters or parking too long in a lot designated for a specified hour limit. When you are ready to head back to your car, simply tap the app and press the "Find Me" key. MyCar Locator will then map

out the shortest distance back to your car with detailed walking directions complete with a map with directional arrows. The GPS feature is so accurate it gets you within 10 to 12 feet of the auto. As you might imagine, this app can also be used to get you back to any location you choose, not just your car's location. It is great for hiking, biking, or finding your way back to a hotel when traveling. Perhaps it would be most useful to find lost keys!



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

## 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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# TEEN SCENE

## Girl Scouts is about more than just selling cookies!

By Jane Fessenden

Though many girls begin scouting in elementary school, few continue into middle school, and fewer participate in high school. The large drop out of girls in the organization is largely impacted by the misconception that Girl Scouts is a child-oriented program.

Like many others across the nation, Lily, a student at Campolindo High School, claims that she stopped participating in Girl Scouts because she was too old.

"When I tell people I'm still in Girl Scouts, they give me this weird look and say, 'really?'" says Linden B., a Girl Scout at Campolindo.

Often Girl Scouts is mislabeled as an organization purely for young elementary school girls, consumed only by arts, crafts, and selling cookies. The most public activity is the springtime cookie sales, when Girl Scouts seemingly line every grocery store entrance and street to sell their cookies. "People just seem to know us for our cookies. I'm always asked when cookie sales will begin, if there are any new flavors, and why they are so expensive," Girl Scout Emma P. laments. In reality, Girl Scouts strives to prepare girls for success by exposing them to different experiences and adventures.

Since the beginning of the organization, Juliette "Daisy" Low believed that all young ladies should be

provided with an opportunity to develop mentally and physically, hoping to bring girls out of their isolated home environments into the fresh air while encouraging them to become involved in community service. Girl Scouts hiked, camped, marched, played basketball, and participated in numerous other activities considered "groundbreaking for girls" in the early 1900s.

Today, Low's dream has manifested into a reality with Girl Scouts numbering over 3.2 million girls and adults across America; it is a dedicated community of young girls striving to make a difference in the world for the betterment of society. This goal is met by troops of young ladies across the nation completing their Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards. The rigorous process of completing these awards is challenging and those who do complete the requirements represent the best objectives of the Girl Scout community.

Having witnessed his female friends go through the award process, Jonathan M., a student at Miramonte High School, says that his perspectives of Girl Scouts has changed. "It's an outstanding organization that instills great life skills in young women."

Margot Odell, a Girl Scout at Miramonte, admits that there were

crafts in the earlier years, but insists that the organization stands for more robust ideals. "Girl Scouts grows with age, it does not simply remain stagnant. My troop participates in food drives and helps out at homeless shelters. For teens, Girl Scouts is no longer about arts, crafts, and singing but expands its mission to help where needed in the greater community."

Although little girls still sell cookies, Girl Scouts benefits female teens, giving us a head start to being successful adult women.



*Jane Fessenden, a senior at Miramonte High School is a reporter on Express Yourself™ Teen Radio. She is a soccer player for the Lamorinda Soccer Club and a Gold Award winning Girl Scout in a local Orinda troop.*

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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# Burmese Cuisine Comes to Orinda

*Chef William Lue and Orinda's Theodore Wang open The Refined Palate*

By Susie Iventosch



Burmese Coconut Chicken Noodle Soup

Photo Susie Iventosch

A few weeks ago I was treated to a crash course in Burmese cuisine by chef William Lue, co-owner of The Refined Palate in Orinda. Apparently, Burmese cooking is heavily influenced by neighboring countries China and India, and some of the key ingredients are kafir lime leaves, lemon grass, fish or shrimp paste and chilies. One of the most celebrated

Burmese dishes is the tea leaf salad. "Lots of countries drink tea, but very few actually eat the tea leaves," Lue said.

He pointed out the differences between the ceremonial and regular versions of Burmese Tea Leaf Salad. The ceremonial version of the dish is comprised of a variety of nuts and seeds and special tea leaves imported from

Burma. The tea leaves, carefully selected for their tenderness, are boiled for five minutes and then fermented for several weeks in a clay jar. During this process, they develop a certain tanginess. The salad is then tossed at the table in lemon juice and garnished with dried shrimp, fresh garlic and chilies. Lue said that he or his servers offer an explanation of the ingredients and the tradition while tossing the salad.

"When you take a bite of this salad, it feels like the ingredients are dancing on your tongue," Lue said. "It is a multi-dimensional dish with different textures, flavors and spiciness."

The regular tea leaf salad is more substantial and bulky, including cabbage, lettuce and tomatoes in addition to the ceremonial salad ingredients. This salad is tossed with fish sauce.

The special tea leaves used in these salads are difficult to find, but Lue imports them and will sell them to customers. Still, I thought it would be fun to have a recipe with more commonly available ingredients, so he offered to share his recipe for another traditional Burmese dish: Ono KauSwe, a coconut-chicken noodle soup. The recipe below is based upon

Lue's description of how he makes it, but because he has been making the dish for so many years he doesn't really measure quantities. So, I had to wing it a little bit. We were quite pleased with the results, but I am certainly anxious to try his version at The Refined Palate!

Lue hails from a family of chefs. Both of his parents were in the restaurant business, as were all of his siblings, at some point in their lives. Lue has been starting and operating restaurants since 1971, but he has a unique business model. Because he immigrated to the United States when he was just 14 years old, speaking not a word of English, he has a special interest in helping others in the same situation. So, he helps young chefs, who've recently arrived to the states, by starting restaurants, pulling permits and licenses, and setting these chefs up in fully operating restaurants. He mentors them and when they are ready, they can buy the restaurant from Lue and take off on their own. He then moves on to the next project. He has started more than 20 restaurants over the years.

The Refined Palate is owned by

Lue and his good friend, Theodore Wang of Orinda. Lue said they both enjoy good food and thought why not introduce Burmese cuisine to Orinda? This way people won't have to travel to San Francisco, where there are a lot of Burmese restaurants. Lue and Wang have employed an interesting concept of using a set of rotating chefs, two at a time, to see who is the best fit for the restaurant and who is better suited for the busy lunch rush and who is a better fit for the more relaxed dinner crowd. Sort of like their version of the Next Great Chef Contest!

This is a great time for locals to sample a variety of Burmese chef creations, all in one location!

**The Refined Palate**  
 19 Orinda Way, Suite F, Orinda  
 Phone: (925) 566-4877  
 Website: www.refinedpalateorinda.com  
 Email: info@refinedpalateorinda.com

Open Monday through Saturday  
 Lunch, 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m.  
 Dinner, 5-9 p.m.

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.

## Ono KauSwe

(Burmese coconut-chicken noodle soup)

**INGREDIENTS** (quantities are give or take, depending upon your personal taste)

- 4-5 cups chicken, cooked and cut into bite-sized pieces
- 3-4 large yellow onions
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- Peanut or canola oil
- 1 teaspoon minced fresh ginger root
- 1 teaspoon curry paste (Lue says any color ... I used red)
- 1 teaspoon powdered turmeric
- 1 teaspoon paprika
- 2-4 cups chicken stock (depends how thick you like it)
- 2 cups cooked lentils or garbanzo beans (to thicken soup)
- 1 can coconut milk (I used low fat)
- 1 tablespoon fish sauce
- 1 package wheat noodles (Lue prefers fettuccine), cooked al dente

### Garnish options

- Toasted sliced garlic or shallot
- Sliced raw red onion
- Boiled egg, chopped (optional)
- Cilantro leaves (optional)
- Yellow lentil fritters (recipe below)

### DIRECTIONS

Heat oil in large soup pot and cook onion and garlic until tender and translucent. Add ginger root, curry paste, turmeric and paprika. Mix well. Add chicken stock, cooked lentils and coconut milk. Season with fish sauce. (Be careful it is very salty, so taste soup as you add it.) Add cooked chicken. Heat for a few minutes and serve over cooked noodles. Sprinkle with garnishes. (I let the soup simmer on low heat for about an hour before serving, and when we had it for lunch the next day, the flavors were even better!)

### Yellow Lentil Fritters\*

- 1 cup dry yellow lentils (I used red lentils), cooked according to directions
- 2-3 tablespoons flour
- 1 teaspoon salt
- Peanut or canola oil

Mix cooked lentils with flour and salt. Heat oil in pan and pour batter into 4-inch rounds. Cook fritters until crispy on both sides. Crumble and serve as garnish in soup.

\*Chef Lue said that he has perfected the yellow lentil fritters and thought it best for people to come in to try his. I gave it a whirl, and I really loved them ... even as a snack!

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You can find most of the recipes published in the Lamorinda Weekly on our website  
 Click Food tab

www.lamorindaweekly.com/html2/food1.html

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## "Mr. Peabody & Sherman"

By Derek Zemrak



Photo courtesy DreamWorks

Many of you will remember this television cartoon from the late 1950s and early '60s, about a genius Nobel Peace Prize-winning dog and his adopted son, Sherman. Mr. Peabody is voiced by Emmy recipient, Ty Burrell ("Modern Family") and the young, talented actor, Max Charles, voices Sherman. You may remember Charles from the 2012 movies "The Three Stooges" and "The Amazing Spider-Man" or the television series "The Neighbors." He is one to watch as his career continues to rise.

In this film version of "Mr. Peabody," he has built the ultimate time travel machine – the WABAC and all is going well until the day Sherman takes the controls to impress his crush, Penny. Things go haywire and Sherman rips a hole in the universe. Now it's up to Mr. Peabody to save the day! Mr. Peabody must face his biggest chal-

lenge in life – being a parent.

Director Rob Minkoff also directed several family films including "The Lion King," "Stuart Little," "Stuart Little 2" and "The Haunted Mansion." The movie is rated PG with a TRT (total running time) of 1 hour and 30 minutes.

It is great to see high-quality children's films being released so early in the year – first "The Lego Movie" and now "Mr. Peabody & Sherman." In past years, children's movies were not released until late May, usually around Memorial Day weekend, so take advantage of this opportunity and enjoy "Mr. Peabody & Sherman" with the family.

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

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**ART**

**The Orinda Arts Council is pleased to announce its 11th Annual Visual Arts Competition!** Open to all students attending school in the Acalanes Union High School District, which includes Acalanes, Campolindo, Miramonte, and Las Lomas high schools, and/or who reside in Orinda, Lafayette, or Moraga. Artists and Awards Reception from 4 to 6 p.m. Wednesday, March 12 and Exhibit March 1-27, Orinda Library Art Gallery. For more info, visit: orindaarts.org or http://orindaarts.org/schools/high-school-visual-arts-competition.

**Lafayette Art Gallery's new exhibition, "Location - Location - Location!"** through May 3. "Location" may be the rule of real estate but what does it mean to the artists at the Lafayette Art Gallery? It means the gallery has a new location with almost twice the space, three times the windows and light, and an artistic heritage at The Forge, built on Mt. Diablo Boulevard by the noted metal artist Carl Jennings in 1946. A reception will be held from 5 to 7:30 p.m. Friday, March 14.

**Moraga Art Gallery's show, "Good Looking: California Revealed,"** featuring watercolor paintings by George Ehrenhaft and oil paintings by Loretta Landucci continues through March 15. A new show featuring paintings by Kerima Swain and Karen Kramer opens March 19. Meet the artists at the opening night reception from 5 to 7 p.m. Saturday, March 22. The Gallery is open from noon to 5 p.m. Wednesdays - Sundays, and is located at 522 Center St., Rheem Valley Shopping Center, Moraga. For info, visit moragagallery.com.

**Klein Gallery invites the Lafayette community to a reception** from 6 to 8:30 p.m. Friday, March 14 to celebrate the opening of its show, "Waves of The Current." In addition to new works of art, there will be live music by jazz trio Flanovo, wine poured by Brandt Rossi Family Vineyards and food catered by Lafayette Whole Foods. "Waves of The Current" includes work from eight Bay Area Artists who use a diverse array of mediums including painting, sculpture, graffiti art and prints. The exhibition runs through April 20.

**Saint Mary's College Museum of Art - four exhibitions now on view.** From Swords to Plowshares: Metal Trench Art from World War One; Songs of the Patriot: How Music Helped Win World War One; Malcolm Lubliner: The Automotive Landscape; and William Keith: Nature's Tranquil Splendor. 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.

**East Bay Children's Theatre, the San Francisco Bay Area's oldest continuously operating theatre company,** proudly presents "Jack and the Beanstalk and the Giant, and the Goose, and the Really, Truly-Ugly Rotten Day." This all-new musical version of the classic tale will delight children and adults alike with its upbeat attitude, clever comedy, and Broadway-style songs. In addition to a six-week tour of area elementary schools, East Bay Children's Theatre will be presenting public performances at 2 p.m. Sunday, March 23 at The Jewish Community Center of the East Bay in Berkeley, and Sunday, March 30 at Town Hall Theatre in Lafayette. Tickets: \$12. To purchase, visit www.EBCTonline.org.

**DVC Drama Presents - "Noises Off," directed By Ed Trujillo** March 28-April 13. Check website for exact times and dates. For tickets, call (925) 969-2358 or go to our website at www.dvc-drama.net. DVC Drama is located at 321 Golf Club Rd, Pleasant Hill, with free parking for all performances.

**The Performing Arts Department at Saint Mary's College** has slated "ANTIGONE(S)" as their spring production at 8 p.m. April 2-5 and at 2 p.m. April 6 at LeFevre Theatre, Saint Mary's College. General admission-\$10; seniors (65+) - \$8; non-SMC students - \$8; Saint Mary's College faculty, staff and students - \$5. For info and reservations, call the Saint Mary's College Theatre Box Office at (925) 631-4670. Tickets are also available online at www.brownpapertickets.com.

**LECTURE & LITERATURE**

**Saint Mary's College Creative Writing Reading Series:** Joshua Mohr, author of four novels, including "Damascus," which The New York Times called "Beat-poet cool," will speak at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 12 at the Soda Center, Claeys Lounge. Mohr also wrote "Some Things that Meant the World to Me," one of O Magazine's Top 10 reads of 2009 and a San Francisco Chronicle best-seller, as well as "Termite Parade," an Editors' Choice on The New York Times Best Seller List. He lives in San Francisco and teaches in the MFA program at USF. His latest novel "Fight Song" was published in February 2013.

**Lafayette Physical Therapy is pleased to announce their fourth annual lecture series** with information on injury prevention, fitness, and other related topics for the community. Highly educated and skilled physical therapists as well as highly respected doctors and community professionals will share their knowledge with you. More info on Facebook.com/LafayettePT. All Lectures are from 7 to 8 p.m. at 3468 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Suite B110, Lafayette. On Tuesday, March 25 Kevin Wong, DC. Will discuss "Everyone's Feet Tell a Story - Are You Listening?" Seating for lectures is limited: call (925) 284-6150 to RSVP and reserve your seat.

**Lamorinda Reads presents author Mary Roach, "America's funniest science writer,"** according to the Washington Post. Roach returns with a rollicking foray into the mysterious and underappreciated mechanics of the human body. This free event will be held at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 27 at the Lafayette Veterans Memorial Building, 3780 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. First come, first seated.

**The Moraga Historical Society presents Mary-Ellen Jones,** who will speak about the history of UC Berkeley's Bancroft Library at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 27 in the Moraga Library Community Room. Jones will discuss some of the collections and rare books in the collection and how Bancroft can be of benefit to the public. Free. Refreshments will be served.

**Direct from the Republic of Congo, Miles Woodruff** of the Jane Goodall Institute will present his work as principal investigator of the Mandrill Reintroduction Project at 6 p.m. Friday, April 4 at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center in the Arts and Science Room. Learn about mandrills, the largest and most colorful of all the monkeys in this discussion, which is a balance of adventure, science, conservation and hope, and learn about the Jane Goodall Institute's efforts to protect this important species and critical chimpanzee habitat. Free. For ages 14 and up. Register online at tinyurl.com/mandrillmiles.

**Biblio Spectacular. Magician Brian Scott's highly interactive** reading program that combines magic, comedy and pure fun will begin at 4 p.m. Tuesday, March 18 at the Moraga Library. The show not only encourages good reading habits, but also encourages good use of the library.

**The Friends of the Lafayette Library Bookmark Contest** is happening again! The contest is open to all first through eighth graders at all Lafayette Elementary Schools, St. Perpetua, and Stanley Middle School. Entry forms may be picked up at all of the school libraries, at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center and at the Friends Corner Book Shop. The entry deadline is Wednesday, March 26. Winners will receive a gift certificate to a local bookstore at our awards ceremony on April 30 at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center. For more info, contact Mary Ransdell: mbransdell@comcast.net.

**Story Hour at Orinda Books** from 10 to 11 a.m. every Thursday. All 2-4 year olds with their grown-ups are invited. Cathy G. hosts a delightful and lively hour.

**Better Homes and Gardens Mason-McDuffie's Education Foundation,** which awards cash grants to outstanding public school teachers in an effort to acknowledge their priceless contributions to our children's future, is now accepting nominations for outstanding

public school teachers for their 2014 grant program. To nominate a favorite teacher for 2014, visit www.bhghome.com/educationfoundation. The deadline is March 31.

**The Mt. Diablo Peace and Justice Center's 17th Annual Dennis Thomas Art and Writing Challenge.** Consistent with the theme of "The Multicultural Classroom" from its recent Creating a Peaceful School Conference, the Center is utilizing quotes from Nelson Mandela and Martin Luther King, Jr., as prompts for this year's contest. Students of middle and high school age from all of Contra Costa County are encouraged and eligible to participate. Four categories will be judged: Essay, Creative Writing, Art and Video. Submissions must be received by April 11. More specific information on the topic, contest rules and flyers may be found at www.creating-peacefulschools.weebly.com or call the Center office: (925) 933-7850.

**The Friends of the Orinda Library is excited to announce** the commencement of 2014's Poul Anderson Creative Writing Contest, open to all students who reside and/or attend high school in Orinda. Entry Categories are Science Fiction, Essay/Memoir, Poetry and Short Story. Students may submit one entry in any of the four categories for a total of not more than three entries. Submission deadline is noon on Friday, April 18. Entries should be submitted to individual school representatives. For info, visit: www.friendsoftheorindalibrary.org or email contest@friendsoftheorindalibrary.com.

**OTHER**

**Another year of classic films is scheduled 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. March 19: "I Remember Mama" (1948).

**Widowed Persons Support "Lunch Bunch." Our monthly** lunch will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday, March 15 at The Great Wall, 500 Golden Gateway, Lafayette. The WPS group welcomes members and friends. Call Ann at (925) 482-0318 for reservations.

**Celiac/Gluten-Free Discussion Group from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.** Thursday, March 20 in Meeting Room 3 at the Rossmore Creekside Clubhouse, Walnut Creek. Guest Speaker: Linda Frandsen, "The Calm Caterer." She specializes in creating delicious gluten and dairy free meals. \$3 per meeting or \$10 for the year. For info, call Walter at (925) 930-8875.

**Volunteer opportunity: English tutors needed.** The next workshop will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, March 22 and Saturday, March 29 at the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 4000 Clayton Rd., Concord. English need not be your first language - no teaching experience is required. You must attend both sessions. There is a nominal fee to cover the training and material costs. Adult volunteers typically give one or two hours per week. For more info, visit dvlc.tripod.com. To register leave a message at (925) 685-3881 or e-mail DVLC4ESL@gmail.com.

**An American Red Cross blood drive will be held from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.** Saturday, March 22 at Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church, 10 Moraga Valley Ln. Sign up online at www.redcrossblood.org (enter the Sponsor Code: Moraga925). Walk-ins are welcome! For info, call Les Deane at (925) 283-5648.

**The Widowed Persons Support will hold their monthly** meeting at 7 p.m. on Monday, March 24 at the Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church. There will be a DVD presentation on "How To Be A Renegade Patient" by Dr. Tedde Rinker, DO. The group will discuss how to make health decisions and the importance of being well informed. For directions or info, call Ruth at (925) 376-0321.

**Free Film Screening - "Behind the Orange Curtain" from 6 to 8 p.m.** Tuesday, March 25 at Miramonte High School Theater. Panel Discussion and Q & A will immediately follow the film screening. http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E45A8A928A02-signup1.

... continued on next page



# Not to be missed

# Not to be missed

# Not to be missed

### OTHER ... continued

**“Our creeks, environment, and sewage treatment – How does it all work?”** Speaker Michael Scahill, from the Central Contra Costa Sanitary District, will give a free public lecture sponsored by Friends of Orinda Creeks at 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 26 in the Garden Room at the Orinda Library. Learn about: how the Central Contra Costa Sanitary District works, the Sanitary District as a steward to the environment, and how we can prevent sewer overflows. For info, contact Jim Luini, (925) 254-6208.

**Contra Costa Tale Spinners: Keeping the Oral Tradition Alive** Informal gathering with featured performer Jim Barnard, host of Poetry Express in Berkeley, followed by “open mic” stories. From 7 to 9 p.m. on the 4th Thursday of every month, Gallery Room of the Orinda Public Library, 24 Orinda Way. Contact: Sally Holzman, (925) 478-8488, or Liz Nichols at liz@liznichols.net. Free.

**State-of-the-art “cross-cut” shredding will be done from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.** Saturday, March 29 at 5A Rent-A-Space in the Shred Defense Truck starting at just \$5 per file box. Save your boxes of papers to be shredded for March. Financial advisors, attorneys, medical offices, and other businesses can meet their legal obligation to dispose of clients’ information responsibly, while helping send Lamorinda middle school girls to AAUW’s Tech Trek Science and Math Camp. Shredding details: Government Specified Approved Shred, HIPAA Compliant Shredding, TWIC Certified Drivers. Certificates of Destruction and Donation receipts will be provided.

**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 March. Reservations are required. Contact: jhkiefer@comcast.net.

**The Moraga Women's Society is holding its annual "Brunch, Bridge and Bunco"** event from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday, March 31 at the Holy Trinity Cultural Center, School Street, Moraga. Brunch, catered by Terzetto's of Moraga, begins at 11 a.m. followed by games from noon to 2:45 p.m. Gather your friends for a round of bridge or bunco. Gentlemen are welcome! Tickets are \$30 and can be purchased from any member of the Society. For information call (925) 376-3187.

**The Lafayette Community Foundation (LCF) is accepting grant applications** from local non-profits for its spring grant cycle. LCF invests in programs and projects that promote and enhance the civic, cultural, educational and environmental health of Lafayette and beyond. The grant deadline is March 31 - please submit by emailing application to grants@lafayettecf.org. You can find the grant application online at http://www.lafayettecf.org.

**Three new six-week courses from UC Berkeley's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute** begin April 1 at Lafayette Library and Learning Center: “Health Care Reform: Medical Practice and

Medical Ethics” taught by M. Michael Thaler, MD. from 10 a.m. to noon on Tuesdays, “Proust and His World” taught by Larry Bensky from 10 a.m. to noon on Thursdays, and “Art and Architecture of Turkey” taught by Kerrin Meis from 1:15 to 3:15 p.m. on Thursdays. For more information, visit oli.berkeley.edu or call (510) 642-9934.

**Vermicomposting (Worms!) and Bin Building Workshop** from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 5 at Heather Farm Community Center, Walnut Creek. \$20.00 registration fee; 20 household max capacity. Registration form must be submitted by March 28: http://www.wastediversion.org/app\_pages/view/1723.

### POLITICAL GATHERINGS

**The Lamorinda Democratic Club's next meeting at 7:15 p.m.** Thursday, March 13 at the Lafayette Library and Community Learning Center will feature a panel discussion regarding the California court system. Like every other segment of state government, the California court system has been significantly impacted by the economic crisis that began in 2008. Justices Mark Simons and Barry Goode will discuss the implications. Cost: \$5; students free. For info, call (925) 567-3367 or visit www.lamorindademoclub.org.

**Join Assembly member Joan Buchanan at a complimentary pancake breakfast** with neighbors to discuss legislative and community issues from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday, March 22 at the Orinda Community Center. Check the website to RSVP and for other times and locations: http://www.asmdc.org/members/al6/district-events.

**The June election is coming. Help people exercise their right to vote!** Come to a nonpartisan Voter Engagement orientation from 10 to 11:15 a.m. Saturday, March 29 at the Lafayette Community Center, LWV office. Learn about registering voters, getting local candidate information onto the free website (smartvoter.org), candidate forums, ballot measure pros and cons, and more. Sponsored by League of Women Voters of Diablo Valley. For info, call Ashley at (925) 283-3638, or (925) 247-4034.

### SENIORS

**Positive Living Forum (“Happiness Club”) - Moderated by Dr. Bob Nozik, MD, Prof. Emeritus UCSF, Author of “Happy 4 Life: Here’s How to Do It.”** Brighten your day and take part in this interactive gathering which features speakers on a wide range of topics that guide participants toward a more ideal and positive life experience. Drop-ins welcome! From 10:30 a.m. to noon on the second Thursday monthly in the Sequoia Room, Lafayette Community Center. Cost: \$1 members; \$3 non-members.

**Lamorinda Dance Social - Enjoy afternoon dancing** the first Wednesday monthly from 12:30 to 3 p.m. in the Live Oak Room, Lafayette Community Center and learn some great new dance moves with professional dancers Karen and Michael, who will provide a dance lesson and live DJ services, playing your favorites and taking requests. Cost:

members \$2; non-members \$4.

**The Boomers’ Journey to 100 Years Young - A workshop** to empower and prepare Boomers from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 20 at the Lafayette Library, Art and Science Center. Workshop Topics: Aging Families, Levels of Care Covering Hospital to Home, and Common Estate Planning Pitfalls. Wine and hors d’oeuvres provided. Registration required by Tuesday, March 18. Email Lori Luckenbach at LoriL@EldercareAnswers.com or call (925) 324-5985.

**Lafayette Oral History Project. Do you have stories about Lafayette** in the days of yore? Allow SMC MFA candidate Ryan McKinley to document that history which will then be included in the Lafayette Historical Society’s archives, preserved for generations to come. All you have to do is tell those stories to McKinley; he’ll do the writing. You’ll receive a copy of the final document at the time of completion. Call Lafayette Senior Services for details and to be a part of this project: (925) 284-5050. Free. (See related article page B3)

### GARDEN

**Lafayette Garden Club March Plant and Craft Sale at 10 a.m.** Thursday, April 10. Lafayette Christian Church 584 Glenside Dr., Lafayette. For info, contact cpoetzscht@gmail.com.

**Lafayette Garden Club March meeting at 10 a.m. Thursday, March 13** at the Lafayette Christian Church 584 Glenside Dr., features speaker Stephan Andrews, professor at UC Berkeley, “Good Soil, Bad Soil, and Soil” and includes a soil testing demonstration. For info, email cpoetzscht@gmail.com.

**The Moraga Garden Club general meeting will be held** March 20 at The Holy Trinity Cultural Center, 1700 School St., Moraga. Social hour at 9:30 a.m. and the meeting starts at 10 a.m. Speaker Kathy Brenzel, garden editor at Sunset Magazine, will discuss “Garden Tomorrow’s.” Non-members are welcome.

**Montelindo Garden Club Meeting (third Friday, September through May)** will be at 9 a.m. Friday, March 21 at St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church, 66 St. Stephens Drive, Orinda. Visitors welcome. Speaker Patrick Lannen, garden designer and consultant, Flora Grubb Gardens, will discuss “Succulent Jewel Boxes.” For info, visit www.montelindogarden.com.

lawn-removal rebate from your water district. Cost: \$30. Preregistration is required, at http://www.bringingbackthenatives.net/select-tours.

**Lafayette Community Garden and Outdoor Learning Center**—Lori Caldwell, certified Master Gardner Composter and a favorite teacher at the Community Garden will discuss “Big Gardens In Small Spaces: Container Gardening” from 3 to 4:30 p.m. Sunday, March 30 at the Lafayette Community Garden on Mt. Diablo Boulevard across from the Lafayette Reservoir. A \$5 donation per person to support our education programs is appreciated but not required. Register for our classes at our website: www.lafayettecommunitygarden.org.

**Do you have questions about gardening? The Moraga Library** wants to help you get ready for spring with the Contra Costa Master Gardeners, University of California Cooperative Extension, which will discuss “Container Gardening and Gardening in Small Spaces” from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Thursday, April 3. For more information, visit cclub.org or call (925) 376-6852.

# Service Clubs Announcements

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

### Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary Club

We meet Friday mornings at 7 am at Celia’s Mexican Restaurant, 3666 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Lafayette. For more info, please email us at lamorindasunrise@gmail.com

March 14:	March 21:
<b>Al Peterson and Larry Rose</b> from Represent Us. Their topic is Big Money and Congress: Problem and Practical Solution	<b>Susan Captain, Founding Member of the Lamorinda Wine Growers Association.</b> Susan’s topic is LAMORINDA—THE NEXT NAPA?

**Please join us!**

### Lafayette Rotary Club

**Step in on a Thursday.** If you are interested in joining Rotary we welcome you to join one of our lunch meetings. Thursday at noon Oakwood Athletic Club Lafayette.

March 13 Speaker:  
 John Coleman, EBUD “Are we prepared for a drought?”

Save the date!
Concert at the Res May 5th, 2014 New Stage, Lafayette Reservoir

## Lamorinda Weekly

is an independent publication, produced by and for the residents of Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda, CA  
26,600 printed copies; delivered to homes & businesses in Lamorinda.

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**Layout/Graphics:** Andy Schreck, Jaya Griggs. Printed in CA.

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# LAMORINDA SPORTS

## Miramonte Wins NCS

Mats, Cougars advance to State Tournament

By Conrad Bassett



Mariah Seals had 11 points in the win.

Photos Gint Federas

Two weeks ago, Miramonte girls' basketball coach Kelly Sopak was expecting to play for the North Coast Section Division III championship at St. Mary's College against Bishop O'Dowd. It was a fair assumption given the teams have faced off the past two years.

However, O'Dowd was excluded from playing in the tournament for violation of an NCS rules and instead, Miramonte played Encinal (Alameda) for the title.

Encinal defeated Campolindo in the semifinals 72-52 to reach the title

game. Campo reached the semifinals by holding off Petaluma 54-49 behind freshman Brooke Panfili's 20 points.

In the NCS championship on March 8, the Mats cruised to a 94-42 victory.

The Mats steamrolled both Pinole Valley and Analy (Sebastopol) on their way to the championship game, which was close for only the first minute. Senior Megan Reid scored the first two baskets on layups and the Mats never looked back. Reid scored eight first period points pacing the Mats to a 33-10 lead. Sophomore

Sabrina Ionescu dropped in 11 in the first.

The Mats pushed the lead to 56-16 with 2:14 to go in the second quarter and went on to lead after three quarters 87 to 35, which set in place the running clock the rest of the way. Senior Breanna Alford led all scorers with 21 points. "We all worked together as a team," she said of their victory. Eleven different players scored for Miramonte.

Both Miramonte and Campolindo teams will be continuing their seasons, having qualified for the California Interscholastic Federation's state tournament.

Miramonte received the No. 6 seed in the Open Division and were rewarded with a trip to San Joaquin Delta College the night of March 14 where they will face St. Mary's of Stockton at 7 p.m. The Mats lost to St. Mary's last year. This year, The Mat's only loss came from Salesian, a team that St. Mary's defeated by 16 points.

Even so, the Mats are optimistic. Sopak said, "We are excited! This is the second year in a row we have qualified for the CIF open division."

The Cougars received the No. 7 seed in the Division III bracket and are playing tonight, March 12, at home at 7 p.m. against Soquel from Santa Cruz County.

"We are very excited to have earned a chance to play in the NorCal play-offs. I know that Soquel was 18-8 and went to the CCS finals," said head coach Art Thoms. "We are looking forward to the challenge."

The Cougars have been preparing for the post season since the start of the year and hope to make a run starting tonight. "The experience of playing a very difficult schedule during the season will pay dividends as we try to extend the season."



Uriah Howard added 10 points.



Teammates celebrate winning the NCS title.

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# 30 Years of Making Memories: OBA Kicks Off Another Season

*Orinda celebrates program with proclamation*

By Clare Varellas



Nearly 600 young players, parents, and community members gathered to celebrate the Orinda Baseball Association's 30th season on March 1.

Photo Andy Scheck

Standing at a podium before 600 excited parents and young baseball players on the morning of March 1 at the annual Opening Ceremonies event, Orinda Baseball Association board president Brent Bamberger announced the slogan for the league's 2014 season: "Go make a memory."

According to players, parents, and coaches involved in the OBA, it will not be difficult to do so in the coming months of batting practice, base runs, and games. As Orinda Baseball Association begins its 30th season in the Orinda community, 360 players ranging in age from 7 to 14 gathered with their families at Wagner Ranch, eager to start the season.

"It's my favorite sport. They're my favorite league," said 11-year-old OBA player Ben Levy. "Anything can happen. A batter can strike out, hit a pop fly to outfield, infield, or hit over the wall, and you always have to pay attention if you're on the field."

Levy is one of thousands of Orinda boys and girls who have participated in OBA, and who have grown to love the game of baseball

as a result. A private, volunteer-run baseball association, OBA was founded by previous Orinda Youth Association president Bob Hegarty in 1984, who had a 7-year-old son playing baseball at the time. Hegarty saw the need for a more "committed" alternative, with more practices and more games. Choosing to make the association a part of the Protect Our Nation's Youth (PONY) nationwide baseball program, he also wanted to establish a league in which the distance between bases varied between age groups and the coaches, not the parents, guided the players.

"I wanted a program that was committed, not necessarily more competitive, but committed, where you would have the teams chosen on a fair and equal basis, and then you would have some 15-20 practices before the first game," said Hegarty.

Thirty years later, the 2014 Opening Ceremonies event, albeit impacted by rainy weather, promised another successful season. Players and their families purchased food and

raffle tickets in the morning, then listened to Bamberger present information regarding the program's goals for the year, new improvements and additions to fields and equipment, and the recipients of last season's association awards in the auditorium. Players participated in a mini-parade marching through the building to music in their teams.

The ceremony concluded with Orinda mayor Sue Severson presenting a proclamation honoring OBA for 30 years of service in the Orinda community, then throwing the first pitch of the season.

Despite the weather, the event was considered a success by OBA board members, who are accommodating more players than ever before this season. According to Bamberger, the registration count has gone up every year over the course of the association's existence.

"I think baseball brings out a lot of life lessons: not getting too high on successes and not getting too low on failures, and I enjoy providing that platform for kids as much

as I can," said Bamberger, who joined the board in 2006 and is in his second year as president.

Players, of course, love the excitement of the game, and many look forward to returning every year. But for parents, the value of the OBA experience exists on a deeper level. They say OBA teaches players the importance of respect and passion.

"The respect that they teach the kids to have for the game and for their teammates, even if baseball isn't what [my son] does, is always a good thing to learn," said parent Scott Bammmer, whose son, Grant, is 8 years old.

And after hours and hours of practices and games, their baseball skills improve too. Bammmer said that last year at Major League Baseball spring training he met Brett Jackson, one of the many previous OBA players to achieve major successes in baseball in high school, college, or professional leagues. Jackson plays for the Chicago Cubs.

Whether players stop playing in grade school or they go on to the MLB, to encourage camaraderie and

friendship remains a tenet of OBA values. Hegarty says that OBA has only changed for the better since he initially founded it, but that fostering lifelong relationships between players has always been a constant.

"I've found over the years that for the kids that played OBA and stuck with it through to 13 or 14 years old, when they get out of high school, they go all over the United States to college, and when they come back to the Bay Area, the guys they hang out with are the guys they played OBA baseball with," said Hegarty. "That's true connection."

Levy hopes to be a professional player when he is older, though he acknowledges that it will be difficult. But as he looked toward his teammates across the playground, he said with a smile that his favorite part of playing OBA was forming new friendships.

"You get to meet new people," said Levy. "There are different teams, and they always have new combinations of different players on different teams. It's amazing."

## Lamorinda Boys' Basketball Teams Advance to State Tournament

By Michael Sakoda



Buster Souza



Andrew Zolintakis



Drew Anderson

Photos Gint Federas

The NCS playoffs wrapped up Saturday, and the brackets for the CIF State Tournament were announced with all three Lamorinda schools qualifying.

Both Campolindo (22-7, 11-1 DFAL) and Acalanes (17-12, 5-7 DFAL) advanced to the semifinals of the NCS tournament on March 5, and were eliminated—Acalanes by eventual champions Bishop O'Dowd, 68-36, Campolindo by El Cerrito, 70-59. Miramonte lost to Campo for the second time this season in the quarterfinals.

Acalanes played O'Dowd close in much of the first half, but struggled to find any sort of offense in the second, scoring a mere 11 points in the final 16 minutes of play.

"I'm proud of my guys," said Dons' head coach Bill Powers. "Buster [Souza] plays his heart out...Matt Thomas is playing the way he should have been playing all year."

Thomas was spectacular in the Dons opening round game against San Marin, scoring 24 of his game-high 29 in the first half.

"I'd been struggling leading up to (that) game, but this is the playoffs," Thomas said. "It's a whole new season."

With Souza dominating the paint, Joey Hewitt and Matt Thomas shooting the lights out, and the improved passing of point guard Zack Kisner, Acalanes won't be an easy out as the No. 6 seed in the CIF Tournament. The Dons host No. 11 Christian Brothers tonight, March 12.

On March 5, Campolindo battled the Marauders of El Cerrito throughout the game, jumping out to a 6-2 lead early, behind the brilliant play of point guard Andrew Zolintakis who scored all 10 of his points in the opening quarter.

With 4:57 to play in the first quarter, though, El Cerrito went on a 16-6 run, taking an 18-12 lead, and never looked back. The Cougars trailed 25-38 at halftime, and 42-50 after three quarters.

Late in the fourth, Campo went on a 9-2 run, cutting El Cerrito's lead to eight, but moments later Zolintakis fouled out, and consecutive turnovers on the following possessions led to Marauder buckets crushing the Cougars' hopes of a comeback.

Campolindo was paced by Chris Hansen with 19 points, 10 rebounds and Zolintakis with 10 points.

But the Cougars lost more than the semifinal game. With 5:51 to play in the third, junior standout Matt O'Reilly broke his arm after being fouled driving to the basket.

"To lose (a guy) like that...an All-Star caliber player, made (El Cerrito's) lead really difficult to overcome," said Cougars' head coach Matt Watson after the game.

As for filling his shoes in the CIF Tournament Saturday when the No. 2 Cougars host the winner of Aragon and Vanden, Watson says it will depend on matchups. "It's going to come down to who our opponent it is—Do they have size? Quick

guards?—because we can go a couple different directions...we have four or five guys who can step into that starting role."

Miramonte (16-12, 6-6 DFAL) grabbed the 12th seed in the CIF tournament after being knocked out of the NCS in the second round 72-65 by Campolindo on Feb. 28. They will visit No. 5 Fairfield tonight.

Fairfield will have their hands full with senior forward Drew Anderson, the Mats' star quarterback in the fall and now the focal point of the basketball team's offense, who is averaging just over 20 points per game to go with 12 rebounds.

"We just (planned) on staying ready to play," said Mats head coach Drew McDonald.



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## Cougars Win NCS on PK's



Samantha Vankoll

Photo Gint Federas

The Campolindo girls' soccer team entered the North Coast Section tournament as the No. 3 seed, but they walked away as No. 1. The Cougars won the NCS title over No. 4 seed Las Lomas on March 1. Regulation ended in a 1-1 tie, and Campo took the title on penalty

kicks. Campolindo finishes the season 14-3-6. It is the Cougars' first win since 2007.

The No. 1 seed, Miramonte, was upset in the semifinals by Las Lomas, 2-1. The Mats finished the season 15-2-1.

C. Mitchell

## Saint Mary's Basketball Update



Kerry Carter

Photo Tod Fierner

The Saint Mary's men's and women's basketball teams entered the West Coast Conference as the No. 4 seeds. The Gaels took to the floor on March 8. The women faced No. 5 USD and the men took on No. 5 Pepperdine.

The women defeated USD in thrilling fashion. The Gaels were down 17 points in the second half but found a way to fight for the 60-58. Senior guard Jackie Nared finished with 20 points. Nared earned Saint Mary's single-season scoring record with 602 points for the season.

The Gaels faced Gonzaga on March 10 in the semifinals, after press deadline. The winner advanced to the championship on March 11.

On Saturday night, the men solidly defeated Pepperdine 80-69 to improve to 22-10 on the year. Junior forward Brad Waldow led the Gaels with 21 points. The Gaels advanced to the semifinals to take on Gonzaga on March 10. The winner advanced to the finals, March 11.

Follow @LamorindaSports for score reports. C. Mitchell

## Champion of Champions

Submitted by Luisa Miles



From left, front row: Coach Brian Miles, Jimmy Harrington, Jack Miles, Jonathan Enriquez, Andrew Owens, Billy Beltran, coach James Harrington; back row: Ryan Owens, Charlie Bettencourt, Nick Bamont, Will Van Holten.

Photo provided

led by a relentless pressure defense, the St. Perpetua sixth grade National boys' team won the West Diablo Playoffs and captured first place during the regular season.

The team advanced to the final game of the CYO Tournament of Champions at Heritage in Brentwood on March 9. The team defeated St. Bonaventure's 38-21 for the title.

## Keeping the Streak Alive

Submitted by Lyn Schmidt



Pictured: Top row, from left: Coach Marcus Schroeder, assistant coach Jeff Salyer; middle row: Joey Schmidt, Sam Rack, Cole Curtis, Ben Jules; bottom row: Chase Bennett, Sam McGonigle, Cade Bennett, Maxwell Weaver

Photo provided

St. Monica's fifth grade American boys' team defeated St. Perpetua on Feb. 16 to win the West Diablo League Championship, making it four years in a row they've held this title. The team went on to represent West Diablo in the

Diocese of Oakland boys' basketball playoffs. The team went undefeated in three games to clench the Championship title two years in a row, defeating All-Saints of Hayward 32-23 on March 1.

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# CLAM Claims Win in Dive Meet

Submitted by Marie Estorge



Sara Koenigsberg



Simone Raeth

Photo provided

Campolindo, Las Lomas, Acalanes and Miramonte (CLAM) hosted a dual dive meet against Berkeley High School on March 1 at Campolindo's Soda Center.

In the JV event, Simone Raeth (Acalanes)

took first place for the girls. In the girls' event, CLAM placed in the top six of the eight spots.

In the varsity divers meet, Morgan Martranga (Campolindo) took first place. Sara Koenigsberg (Campolindo) came in second.

# Young but Talented

Submitted by Thomas Westernoff



Photo provided

Charlie Richtenburg competed in the first Bay Area Invitational Karate Tournament on Feb. 23. The 5-year-old brought home two gold medals in Kata (forms) and Kumite (sparring). Richtenburg is an orange

belt but beat green belts for the gold. Jared Avenell (gold in Kata, Kumite, and silver in Kobudo), Chase Yang (gold in Kata), and Leo Ding (bronze in Kumite) also participated in the competition

# St. P's Wins Championship

Submitted by Laurain Sexton



Top row, from left: Coach Koehl, coach Flitter, coach Kotarba, Adam Kim, William Johnston, Matthew Sexton; middle row: Jack Flitter, Ben Koehl, Daniel Kim, Kai Feinberg, Logan Hope; back row: Derek Kotarba

The St. Perpetua's fifth grade boys' basketball team won the West Diablo CYO playoffs on Feb. 23. They defeated St. Monica's in a narrow 28-27 win.

# A Perfect Season

Submitted by Anita Elliot



From left, front row: Coach Chris Gee, Mason Horrocks-Mustard, Tom Barendson, Nolan O'Brien, Matt Radell, Davis McGanney, coach David McGanney; bottom row: Matt Elliot, Roan Kazmierowski, Christian Gee; not pictured: Zach DeLange

In what was their toughest defensive battle of the season, the Santa Maria (Orinda) fourth grade National boys' team clinched the West Diablo CYO championship beating St. Perpetua (Lafayette) 17 to 13 on Feb. 23. This marked the 12th straight win for the Santa

Maria team, ending the league season with a perfect 12-0 record. The team advanced to the Tournament of Champions in Brentwood the weekend of March 1, where they lost a tough game in the semi-finals to St. Clement of Hayward.

# Lamorinda Wins Bridge Trophy

Submitted by Steve Peterson



Varsity Captains Matt Woolsey and Rory Howells holding the "Bridge Trophy." Photo provided

Lamorinda Rugby recaptured the "Bridge Trophy" against rival club San Francisco Golden Gate, sweeping all three matches on March 1. The JV led the morning with a

thrilling come-from-behind win, 40-27, followed by Varsity Gold's 61-17 win, and Varsity Silver's 36-22 win. Lamorinda now leads the all-time Bridge Trophy series 4-2.

# St. P's Brings Home Another Title

Submitted by Bob Trapp



Back row, from left: Gabriella Amini, Katherine Buckley, Zoe Smith, Danielle Trapp, Kennedy Cornish, Jessica Larrick, Katie Bishopp, Ivy Souza; front row: coach Bob Trapp, Jordan Parodi, Nicole Prozan, Rachel Easton, coach Bob Buckley

The St. Perpetua sixth grade girls' basketball team won the season championship on Feb. 23 at Wagner Ranch in

Orinda. It was a very competitive season against other CYO girls' teams throughout the Diablo Valley.

# St. Perpetua's Team Advances to Tournament of Champions

Submitted by Robert Buckley



Photo provided

Hard work, aggressive play, and tenacity carried St. Perpetua's fifth grade girls' National team from a fourth place seed in the play-off tournament to a victory in the championship. Proving that team-play wins games, the girls beat undefeated St. John Vianney 14-10

and advanced to the championship game where they beat St. Catherine's 22-10.

After winning the championship, the team was invited to participate in the American League Tournament of Champions. The girls' lost in the opening round to Good Shepherd.

# Undefeated Champs

Submitted by Marty Ruane



Back row, from left: Assistant coach Jeff Cronk, Remy Wixsom, Bella Bauer, Lara Dissman, Lexi Lovelace, head coach Marty Ruane; front row: Aimee Ruane, Alex Love, Molly Cronk, Cailin Mirabella, Sofia Swatt, Sarah Westergren

The St. Perpetua's seventh grade girls' National team won the CYO championship

over Christ the King. The team went undefeated 10-0.

# SUMMER CAMPS

## 2014 / #1

8<sup>th</sup> Annual Summer Camp Guide

26 full day & overnight camps listed

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see ad

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Phone: (925) 937-6500  
Website: www.adventuredaycamp.com

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see ad

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see ad

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Michael Adler

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# SUMMER CAMPS 2014 /#1

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At Camp Edmo entering K-4th graders participate in Arts & Science and Animation activities. Camp EdTech teaches entering 5th - 8th graders how to create apps, control analog components, make their own short films and animations, video games or digital photography. Camp hosted in Moraga at Rheem Elementary. Extended care options available. Dates: June 23 - July 25, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Phone: (415) 282-6673

Website: www.campedtech.org

### Camp Edmo - Park Program (Lafayette)

Looking for a camp later in the summer? A fresh twist on Camp Edmo, this camp features completely different weekly themes. Each theme revolves around local art, science, history or geography and includes nature hikes, and special presentations. Wacky weeks include Sprout About, Bay Champs, Smart Art, and Sea Creatures. Camp hosted in Lafayette at Lafayette Recreation Area. Before and after care options. Dates: July 28-Aug. 22, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Phone: (415) 282-6673

Website: www.campedmo.org

### Camp Kefli (Lafayette)

The Camp Kefli staff leads a wide range of programs that are appropriate to each age group (K-8), filling our two one-week sessions with fun. Some programs utilize the wonderful Temple Isaiah facility while others take place off site. We offer creative theme days and adventures that enrich and delight our campers!

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Phone: (925) 284-9191

Website: www.temple-isaiah.org/kefli

### City of Lafayette - Recreation Summer Camps (Lafayette)

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Dates: Various dates and times available

Phone: (925) 284-2232

Website: www.LafayetteRec.org

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# Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 08 Issue 1 Wednesday, March 12, 2014



*The Home Designer*

*...read on page E8*

## Where Good Fences Make Good Neighbors

*A peek inside Lamorinda's gated communities*

By Cathy Dausman



*Although Baywood lies in unincorporated Contra Costa County land, its houses bear a Lafayette address and its children attend Lafayette schools.*

*Photo Cathy Dausman*

Lamorinda residents often and easily cross civic boundaries for errands, schools, meals and shopping but there are still a few residential areas where access is limited. These are Lamorinda's gated communities. For those on the outside looking in, here's a neighborhood primer:

**Baywood** lies just north and outside Lafayette city limits off Reliez Valley

Road, abutting Briones Regional Park land. Resident Ron Rothenberg describes the homes as "traditional East Coast style." Rothenberg and his wife, Susan, both realtors, moved to Baywood 20 years ago to raise their two sons. The couple was drawn there because they sensed "a real closeness" among its residents. Both generations have since developed best friends inside Baywood gates. ...continued on page E4



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## Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

City	Last reported:	LOWEST AMOUNT:	HIGHEST AMOUNT:
LAFAYETTE	8	\$500,000	\$1,845,000
MORAGA	5	\$375,000	\$679,000
ORINDA	5	\$720,000	\$2,110,000

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

### LAFAYETTE

959 4th Street, \$910,000, 3 Bdrms, 1079 SqFt, 1938 YrBlt, 2-11-14;

Previous Sale: \$776,000, 05-28-10

112 Haslemere Court, \$690,000, 3 Bdrms, 1638 SqFt, 1988 YrBlt, 1-28-14;

Previous Sale: \$248,500, 05-03-88

917 Hough Avenue #2, \$500,000, 2 Bdrms, 1038 SqFt, 1969 YrBlt, 1-30-14;

Previous Sale: \$515,000, 05-11-05

3279 Mt. Diablo Court #5, \$605,000, 3 Bdrms, 1684 SqFt, 1987 YrBlt, 2-7-14;

Previous Sale: \$219,500, 06-14-94

3279 Mt. Diablo Court #7, \$510,000, 2 Bdrms, 1697 SqFt, 1987 YrBlt, 2-7-14;

Previous Sale: \$355,000, 06-14-11

3550 Springhill Road, \$1,845,000, 5 Bdrms, 3028 SqFt, 1945 YrBlt, 1-30-14;

Previous Sale: \$1,250,000, 04-10-06

3290 Sweet Drive, \$1,450,000, 4 Bdrms, 2873 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 2-13-14;

Previous Sale: \$500,000, 06-25-07

3642 Walnut Street, \$681,000, 2 Bdrms, 986 SqFt, 1941 YrBlt, 2-7-14;

Previous Sale: \$260,000, 12-03-92

### MORAGA

119 Ascot Court #2, \$375,000, 2 Bdrms, 1140 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 2-10-14;

Previous Sale: \$170,000, 11-20-98

1040 Bollinger Canyon, \$450,000, 1515 SqFt, 1953 YrBlt, 1-28-14

1515 Camino Peral #C, \$460,000, 2 Bdrms, 1428 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 1-27-14;

Previous Sale: \$140,000, 08-04-88

732 Moraga Road, \$679,000, 3 Bdrms, 1589 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 2-6-14;

Previous Sale: \$134,000, 08-27-98

137 Via Joaquin #34, \$645,000, 2 Bdrms, 1921 SqFt, 1980 YrBlt, 2-12-14;

Previous Sale: \$570,000, 09-29-10

### ORINDA

75 Barbara Road, \$720,000, 2 Bdrms, 1796 SqFt, 1976 YrBlt, 2-7-14;

Previous Sale: \$275,000, 10-07-99

68 La Cuesta Road, \$1,171,000, 4 Bdrms, 3610 SqFt, 1984 YrBlt, 2-11-14;

Previous Sale: \$435,000, 09-19-85

38 Los Altos Road, \$2,110,000, 3 Bdrms, 3799 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 1-24-14;

Previous Sale: \$1,330,000, 09-14-12

111 Van Ripper Lane, \$843,000, 4 Bdrms, 1996 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 2-3-14;

Previous Sale: \$750,000, 05-05-04

51 Van Ripper Lane, \$1,150,000, 3 Bdrms, 1671 SqFt, 1953 YrBlt, 1-29-14;

Previous Sale: \$1,139,500, 11-30-07

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# Where Good Fences Make Good Neighbors

... continued from page E1



*Sky Hy Ranch, as seen from Moraga Road.*



*Sky Hy residents straddle the hillside between Lafayette and Moraga. Its high school students attend Campolindo.*



*Olympic Oaks in Lafayette*

Unincorporated though it is, Rothenberg said Baywood remains “Lafayette centric” through its shared police and fire service providers (Contra Costa County Sheriff and Contra Costa County Fire Protection District, or ConFire) and Lafayette school district affiliation. Baywood residents are just minutes by car from Walnut Creek, Pleasant Hill and Martinez, and the community maintains a “very active” yet “fair and benign” homeowners’ association, said Rothenberg.

That HOA administers common areas, provides upkeep on Baywood’s private streets and mailboxes, and maintains liability insurance. While Baywood “has always been gated,” Rothenberg said the gate simply “wasn’t a factor” in making the decision to move there. “The real appeal was aesthetic,” he said.

**Olympic Oaks** homes line the south side of Lafayette’s Olympic Boulevard at the foot of Pleasant Hill Road. Although these well-built homes back to a busy intersection, they offer easy access to Highway 24 and Walnut Creek, great curb appeal and floor plans with three or four bedrooms and multiple bathrooms. Home sizes range from 2,300 to 2,700 square feet. The predominantly shake-sided homes give Olympic Oaks community a “Northeast feel,” realtor Diane Reilly said. Many homes also feature a detached “cottage” room for in-laws or an au pair, she added.

Lafayette’s **Sky Hy Ranch** is a gated community of 28 custom-built homes sitting just below the crest of Moraga Road. “Many drivers pass by every day not knowing of its existence,” said Reilly. Lafayette Historical Society’s website explains that Sky Hy’s original ranch was a Spanish-style home custom built in 1941 and owned by Judge O.D. Hamlin.

Hamlin originally had a cabin on what was then a 200-acre parcel of land his family owned since 1871. A developer purchased 45 acres of land from Hamlin and sold lots to others to build custom spec homes between 1974 and 1980. Sky Hy children attend Lafayette Elementary School, Stanley Middle School and Campolindo High School.

Greg Wolff, Lafayette’s senior planner, said the city does not have a policy on gated communities in its municipal code and that the city “is largely built-out,” explaining most subdivisions at this stage would be smaller infill. “The Planning Commission would evaluate homes on those new lots for compatibility with the existing neighborhood,” he said.

**Northridge**, with just 13 homes, is the smallest of the gated communities Lamorinda Weekly explored. Its north hillside location overlooks Highway 24 and the Lafayette Reservoir can be seen in the distance from the entry gates. Northridge was rezoned and approved for subdivision in 1980, said Wolff. Calls to the Northridge homeowners’ association representative were unanswered.

... continued on page E6

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## The Glorious Rent-Back

By Andi Peterson Brown

Without a doubt, the Lamorinda real estate market is currently a seller's paradise (given of course that said seller prices and markets their home appropriately). Scores of qualified buyers continue to flock to open houses, inventory remains tight, and multiple offers are still the norm for most price points in our community.

But many would-be sellers looking to make their next move feel stumped by the catch-22 of the current market: they want to move, but where will they go? They need the equity from their current home for their next down payment, but they are watching buyers write two, three, sometimes upwards of six offers before finally securing a home. If they put their home on the market, how are they supposed to find and purchase their next home in the typical escrow period of a mere 30 days?

Thus enters the saving grace for this Hot Market Catch-22: the glorious rent-back. A rent-back is a contractual term that allows a seller to remain in the home as tenant after the closing. And just why is this rent-back so glorious? Because it buys the seller time. Essential, priceless time. Knowing there's an option available that provides some breathing room means that more sellers are bringing their homes to market, boosting our much-needed inventory. Many sellers today are getting 30, 60, even 90 day rent-backs. While eager buyers have to wait longer to move into their new home, the well structured rent-back is usually crucial in writing a winning offer and thus a vital component to keeping our current market moving.



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## Where Good Fences Make Good Neighbors

... continued from page E4



*Moraga's Sanders Ranch is the only gated community to employ a gate guard*

**Sanders Ranch** was originally a working ranch, and is the only gated community within the Town of Moraga. It is also the only community to have a security guard at its entrance. Many of its first residents were Moraga families who sold their older home to "move up" to a newer home, said Reilly. She estimates the development occupies about three square miles.

A total of 275 units were approved for Sanders Ranch in three phases, with the initial approval for the subdivision in 1981, said Kelly Clancy of the Moraga Planning Department. About 231 acres of the development are protected as open space. Lot sizes range from 10,000 to 40,000 square feet, and homes have three to five bedrooms. The units are a combination of single family and "patio homes" on smaller lots, Clancy added.

"Harold Smith was the original developer and built most of the semi-custom homes beginning in 1983," Reilly said. Sanders Ranch attracts many relocation transferees because of the style and size of the homes and generous lots, she added. While potential buyers may feel the drive from Sanders Ranch to BART is too far, others love backing up to undeveloped rolling hillsides.

When it comes to having built gated communities, Orinda is a holdout. Planning Director Emmanuel Ursu said his city has no gated communities, although there are

a few private drives serving more than one house. In fact, during development talks for the Gateway area (now known as Wilder) Ursu said "the city specifically requested that it not be gated." And last year, the Orinda City Council even decided to remove an existing Emergency Vehicle Access gate between Knickerbocker Lane and Stein Way. "We are not a city of gates," said Councilmember Dean Orr.

Although each community shares a gated access, each is different. And the Lamorinda population residing within represents just a tiny fraction – slightly over half of 1 percent.

While gated communities don't loom large within Lamorinda, they do beckon with amenities.





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\*per Public Records



## The Home Designer

# Dining Room S.O.S.

By Brandon Neff



Photos courtesy Brandon Neff Design

Once the center stage for family, friends and lovers alike, these days the dining room has taken a back seat to more entertainment centric real estate in the home.

As a child, I remember our dining room with its oversized oval table and compliment of wacky neoclassical caned chairs as the epicenter of life for my family. Setting the table, arranging the silverware and the stemware just so, and clearing the china and placemats was a daily ritual that seems like a lost opportunity in households today. The dining room was, for us, not just a place to replenish, but also a chamber for political debates, current events and even a competitive post dessert game of poker.

Do people still use placemats? I hope so.

Maybe it's just my nostalgic memories of gathering all who matter for a hot meal and lively conversation that has me wondering and wistful. In this era of "great rooms" – giant all-encompassing spaces where one cooks, serves, texts and stares at the television – I am reminded of how much is lost at the dinner hour if everyone involved is forever distracted. Retiring to a gracious spot for the purpose of connection is what I'm talking about.

For me, the dining room is sanctuary – it allows you to escape, however briefly, the visual noise and static of the day and really engage with your tribe. It's a place to be heard over the din of cell phones, tweets, apps and tablets and really connect to those around you while sharing in a sensual and galvanizing experience.

... continued on page E10

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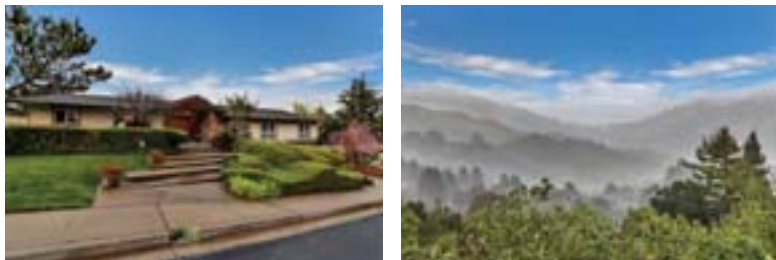


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Located in the Campolindo area, this updated 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath single-story home has it all. The remodeled kitchen with stainless appliances opens to the family room and looks onto the level yard with lawn, patio and deck. Hardwood floors extend through the formal dining and living rooms and down the hallway to the bedrooms. The spacious master bedroom features a walk-in closet and luxurious master bath. There is a newer furnace, dual-paned windows, and a large workshop off the garage. Great commute location close to top-rated schools and the Campolindo Cabana Club. **Offered at \$1,195,000**



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## The Home Designer

# Dining Room S.O.S.

... continued from page E8



Trust me, the world with all its likes and comments will still be there long after you've finished clearing the table.

I often ask, "How did we ever survive as a society without all this technology and distraction?" Just fine, thank you.

Here's my challenge: reconnect. Begin by creating a dining room that both soothes your senses and offers a sacred place to catch your breath. I like to say, "If

you build it, they will come." Whether casual or formal, make it your own. Dining is an art, not a race to finish before hurrying on to something else, so make it count.

If you're like most of my clients, the dining room has typically been annexed as the home office/recycling center/children's art supply repository. No. It's time to take it back. Think of this as a chance to feed your soul and provide your crew with lasting memories.

Historically, the dining room was always a bit more embellished and ornate than the rest of the home. This was where theatre met food – a place to impress your guests and display your finery. Today, it's all about gracious living. Time to pull out that set of dishes you've been waiting to use for only "special" occasions. What are you waiting for? Live a little. What could be more special than family dinner?

Here are a few of my favorite tips to get you started and on your way toward rediscovering the art of dining: Typically, soft lighting, comfortable seating, inspiring decor and a generous communal table are the order of the day. Regardless of your own style – classic or industrial, vintage or mod – when designing a dining room look for elements that are slightly more magical and theatrical. Remember, it's not a room you'll be spending all day in, so have some fun with it. Going a little over the top can yield great results.

Color, pattern, scale and drama are key elements to creating a successful dining room. This is the place for that statement chandelier, or those lengths of silk draperies. Exotic wallpaper, or a grand mirror can make your dining room an oasis. With minimal furnishings – table, chairs and a server – the opportunity for expressing your unique personality can be limited, so make every element interesting. Look for ways to add interest from ceiling to floors. Chunky crown moulding, a tinted ceiling color, wainscoting or an interesting pair of sconces are all ways you can add style even in a small space.

Consider a round table - more congenial for conversation with larger groups. I like tables with center, pedestal bases - keeps the area around the table clear for legs to stretch.

If you're limited on square footage, go for a banquette. Built into a cozy corner space, a banquette offers all the charm and intimacy of a chic urban bistro, and encourages community.

Break up that set – try mixing a pair of "host" chairs (typically armchairs in a grander scale), with side chairs of a different style. And, for interest, mix the upholstery or finish.

I love the look of a casual farm table flanked by painted French Louis chairs, or a set of Thonet bentwood chairs – two classic silhouettes that mix well in a variety of settings.

Install a dimmer – this is essential. Light control is mandatory in a dining room. No one wants to feel like they're eating in a hospital cafeteria, so harness the overhead light. For extra credit add a few votive candles – you can thank me later.

Rituals build closeness. What could be better than enjoying great food with the ones you love in a space made for building memories?



**For more great ideas and inspiration sign up for my design newsletter. Simply drop me an email at [brandonneffdesign@yahoo.com](mailto:brandonneffdesign@yahoo.com).**

*Brandon Neff is a Bay Area based Interior Designer. He can be reached at [BrandonNeffDesign.com](http://BrandonNeffDesign.com) or at [brandonneffdesign@yahoo.com](mailto:brandonneffdesign@yahoo.com).*



# Look WHAT JUST GOT ADDED TO *my list*

**81 MOSSBRIDGE** - *new listing*

**171 CAMINO PABLO** - *open Sunday*

**18 CHARLES HILL** - *pending*

**17 TAPPAN LANE** - *tour it*

Good things are happening  
in the 94563!



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## Digging Deep-Gardening with Cynthia Brian Singing in the Rain!

*“Spring is nature's way of saying, ‘Let's party!’” – Robin Williams*



*This cycad at the Ruth Bancroft Garden thrives in dry conditions. (Encephalartos horridus) Photos Cynthia Brian*

With the imminent drought high on the radar, garden writers from around the Bay Area were invited for a private tour of the Ruth Bancroft Garden (<http://www.ruthbancroftgarden.org/>) in Walnut Creek to be reacquainted with the beauty of drought tolerant plantings. As Mother Nature would have it, on the day of this special excursion, the skies exploded and the rain came tumbling down. Only six writers, including myself, braved the wind, cold, and drenching downpour.

Clad in my hot pink fluorescent rain coat and boots, I slipped, slogged, and slid amidst the mud and the puddles admiring the vision and design of the vibrant 106-year-old Ruth. Echeverias, yuccas, agaves, aloes, cacti, gasterias, sedums, pines, palms, and eucalyptus glistened in their watery beds adding vibrant strokes of color, texture, and pattern to an otherwise dreary day.

As I danced in the much welcomed rain, the thought of returning to the days of water rationing when the mantra was “if it’s yellow let it mellow and if it’s brown flush it down” haunted me. With the winter hibernation over, our gardens awake from their winter slumber. For a gardener, this time of year normally proclaims the perpetual party of planning, preparing, and planting. But with irrigation availability as a major concern, we need to look at ways that we can save our landscape while conserving water.

Seventy percent of our planet Earth is covered in water, although less than 4 percent is fresh and only 1 percent is potable. Water is a precious commodity and a drought is a gardener’s worst nightmare. But exactly what defines a drought? According to the United States Geological Survey, a drought is defined as “a period of drier-than-normal conditions that results in water-related problems, ... the flow of streams and rivers declines, water levels in lakes and reservoirs fall, and the depth to water in wells increases. If dry weather persists and water-supply problems develop, the dry period can become a drought.”

... continued on next page



*Snake plants add height, visual interest, and texture with little water requirements.*

We could decide to turn off the spigot but allowing our gardens to go dry will have negative ramifications including loss of property values, increased heat around our homes, physical and psychological health benefit reductions, loss of recreational activities, decreased air quality, and a larger carbon footprint as we stop growing edibles in our backyards. Since we can't change the weather, we need to change how we respond to it. In my two-part series, I offer my suggestions to help your garden survive the impending dry season without a water bill that breaks the bank.



*Succulents are attractive. A ruffled echeveria gibbiflora resembles a fleshy red lettuce.*



*A low maintenance beauty that requires little water is sedum shown here in bloom.*



## Part 1-Drought Gardening Series

### Preparing for the Drought:

#### CHECK FOR LEAKS

Make sure that your outside pipes are insulated against freezing. When water freezes it expands and pipes often burst. Even a tiny 1/8 crack could spew 250 gallons of water per day. If you witness wet spots, water running along driveways, or puddles, investigate for a leak. Check hose bibs for drips, replace washers, and routinely inspect automatic sprinklers and connections.

#### AMEND THE SOIL

The foundation of every garden is the soil. The ideal soil drains quickly while storing water. For drought toleration, add several inches of rich, organic compost to encourage deep root formation while trapping moisture. Make your own compost by adding kitchen scraps, egg shells, coffee grinds, tea leaves, shredded newspaper, leaves, lawn clippings, fish bones, aged manure, non-diseased weeds, and other organic matter to a bin or pile. Do not use human, dog, or cat feces. Don't disturb the lower levels of the ground to allow worms and micro-bacteria to do their jobs of aerating and feeding the earth. In a drought, double and triple digging techniques are not recommended.

#### WATER WELL

To stay healthy, most plants need at least one inch of moisture per week. The best way to save your plants as well as conserve water is to water deeply and infrequently. The penetration of the water encourages deeper roots that are more resistant to drought conditions. A good rule of thumb is to water until the dirt has a hint of shine. Lawns and bedding plants require a drink to a depth of 6 inches while perennials, trees, and shrubs need closer to 12. Plan to irrigate either early in the morning or evening when absorption will be maximized and evaporation minimized. Just as humans rejuvenate from a good night's rest, plants do most of their growing at night. Traditional overhead sprinklers can lose half of their effectiveness to evaporation, run-off, and over spray. Drip and soaker hoses are the best bets for deep soaking to the root zone. Soaker hoses may be covered with mulch making them invisible. When water is restricted prioritize rationing by watering:

1. Newly planted trees, shrubs, and perennials.
2. Newly seeded or repaired lawns.
3. Plants exposed on windy sites or in sandy soils.
4. Vegetables that are flowering.

#### MULCH

Three inches of mulch will insulate your plants from the heat, cold, and elements. Mulch keeps the ground cooler, maximizes water retention, reduces evaporation, and improves the appearance of your landscape. Mulch includes pine needles, straw, leaves, wood chips, bark, and even gravel. As it decomposes it becomes compost and enriches the soil. When that happens, it is time for a new top layer of the mulch of your choice.

#### WEED

Weeds steal moisture and nutrition from neighboring plants. Pull or cut down unwanted weeds.

#### STOP FERTILIZING

If you plan to fertilize this season do it now while the weather is still cooler and dew is apparent. Feeding while it is raining is the best prescription for plant wellness. If you fertilize without sufficient water, the roots will burn and the plants will die. Fertilizing encourages new growth and new growth will stress your already stressed specimens. As the weather warms, refrain from fertilizing again until rain is forthcoming.

These tips will get you started. Next month, I'll provide additional information on surviving and thriving during a drought. And if Mother Nature decides to extend the party, perhaps we'll still be singing in the rain.

To receive a complimentary list of drought resistant plants by email, contact [Cynthia@GoddessGrdener.com](mailto:Cynthia@GoddessGrdener.com).



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## IT'S TIME TO PRUNE YOUR PINE TREES

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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## Cynthia Brian's Mid-Month Reminders

- **DEFINE** property boundaries and create curb appeal with flowering shrubs. Numerous new varieties of hydrangea are a good choice, including compact sizes like Strawberry Sundae.
- **POUR** chamomile tea around the base of newly planted seedlings to eliminate fungus growth.
- **DISPLAY** fallen camellias on a hedge, ledge, or pathway for outside interest that are not pretty enough to float in a vase, but not rotten enough to toss in the compost bin. As the camellias wilt, dispose of them.
- **EXPLORE** the San Francisco Home and Garden Show March 19-23 and experience the exhibits, edibles, flowers, market, and kids' gardens ([www.sfgardenshow.com](http://www.sfgardenshow.com)).
- **FERTILIZE** hungry lawns to strengthen roots, resist cold, heat, and high traffic when weather is wet. This feeding will help combat stress of drought.
- **PRUNE** fig trees and grapevines. Dry the branches and cuttings to use in your smoker or barbecue this summer to add interesting flavors to your grilled specialties.
- **VISIT** The Secret Garden at Macy's Union Square Sunday, March 23-April 6 for a floral wonderland with flowering fashion shows and children's activities.

Think green. Happy St. Patrick's Day! Happy Gardening, Happy Growing.



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Cynthia is available as a speaker and consultant.

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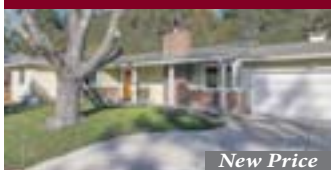
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## ORINDA



New Price

**119 Moraga Way** Fabulous location by downtown Orinda. Classic ranch w/sparkling high-end remodel incl. Great Rm, gourmet kitchen & baths, bamboo floors, dual pane windows. 3bd/2ba. Large private lot w/ level area. **\$810,000**

## ORINDA



Pending

**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



New Listing

**9 Las Piedras** Picturesque private 6bd/3ba home in park like setting w/panoramic views, level lawn & pool. 3745sf classic custom w/vaulted ceils, walls of wndws, hardwood flrs, den, workout rm, FR & well-appointed kitchen. **\$1,349,000**

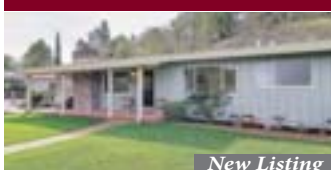
## ORINDA



New Listing

**60 Davis Road** Elegant, traditional, yet very comfortable 4+bd/3.5ba, 3346sf home set in a .75 ac private setting. Formal living & dining rms, large kitchen w/breakfast area & fantastic courtyard for indr/outdr livability. **\$1,350,000**

## ORINDA



New Listing

**89 Tarry Lane** Wonderful Sleepy Hollow location on .78 acre with 3bd/2ba, 1711 sq. ft., hardwood floors, large living room, family off kitchen, knoll setting. Views of the surrounding 'Hollow' hills. **\$1,395,000**

## ORINDA



New Listing

**18 Mira Loma** 'Classic Orinda' Spanish home circa 1930 offering formal living, dining & family rooms, w/ approx. 2546 sf on two levels. Located across the street from the Club's 18th fairway, pools and lower tennis courts. **\$1,450,000**

## ORINDA



New Listing

**30 Dias Dorados** Stunning 5bd/3.5ba, 3333sf contemporary on .57ac; updated eat-in kitchen w/stainless & granite; LR & DR; fam rm; hot tub sauna, dual panes; stone patio & wonderful indr/outdr living spaces. **\$1,495,000**

## 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. **\$1,588,000**

## ORINDA



New Listing

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

## ORINDA



Pending

**18 Charles Hill Road** Extensively remodeled Spanish home w/apx. 4000 sf, 4bd/3.5ba, on .67 ac. Chef's kit, deluxe master, media rm, wine cellar. Indr/outdr living areas w/ patios, balconies & grassy lawns. Top-rated schools. **\$2,425,000**

## ORINDA



New Listing

**11 Scenic Drive** Gorgeous 4bd/3.5ba, 4695sf single-story Orinda estate on .64ac lot w/exceptional style & quality; LR & DR; office; showplace kitchen/dining/fam rm; 1bd/1ba guest home; solar heated pool & large patio. **\$2,998,000**

## MORAGA



New Listing

**24 Carr Drive** Updated Inside & Out 4bd/3ba home. Designer kitchen & baths, new siding, roof, gutters. Dual pane windows & hardwood on the main floor. New carpet in master. **\$1,195,000**

## MORAGA



New Listing

**1320 Bollinger Canyon** Rarely available Bollinger Canyon two acre property; 5 bedroom/ 5 bathrooms; 4489 square feet with 5 car garage; 2 master suites + aupair/ inlaw; beautifully landscaped light & bright lot! **\$1,345,000**

## LAFAYETTE



New Listing

**3290 Springhill Road** Cute Marchant 1576 sf rancher on level .6 acre. Dual panes, hardwood floors, updated kitchen, close to everything. **\$899,950**

## LAFAYETTE



New Listing

**971 Pleasant Hill Road** Light & airy contemporary home on private .50 ac Mt. Diablo view lot. 4 spacious bd & 3.5 ba incl. 2 mstr stes. Updated kit. w/brkfst bar. Large LR&DR. Huge mstr ste w/priv. deck, ofc area, 2 car attached gar. **\$995,000**

## LAFAYETTE



New Listing

**1322 Martino Road** Sophisticated rancher totally remodeled from top to bottom a few yrs ago. Tucked away on desirable priv. street in Springhill Valley. Set on .48ac w/lawns, fruit trees, patios. Exq. remodeled kit. Walk to schls. **\$1,195,000**



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