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Energy, healing and fitness. Master Marilyn Cooper of the Little River Kung Fu School teaches Orinda seniors the slow, synchronized movements of T'ai Chi Ch'uan. From left: Delafrooz Mostaghimi, Azam Moini, Erika Bojnowski, Ron Clendenen, Lupe Jimeno, and Tasha Benjamin, social work coordinator, Orinda Senior Village. Photo Ohlen Alexander

Boomers and Beyond Take Aging in Stride

By Laurie Snyder

News flash: You're aging. Whether you're keeping Mother Nature at bay with a Botox-filled syringe or are letting laugh lines deepen as you march gleefully forward with Father Time, you will be older by the time you reach the end of this article.

The good news is that you're not alone. According to "Creating Aging-Friendly Communities," a 2009 report by the Center for the Advanced Study of Aging Services at the University of California, Berkeley, the number of Americans aged 65 and over will balloon from 1 in 8 in 2000 to 1 in 5

in 2030. This seismic shift is already being felt in Lamorinda as active baby boomers are making clear that they will not "go gently into that good night." Many will skip the nursing homes of old to age in place, they say, until they age no more.

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Quote of the Week:

"It's not enough to curse the darkness of the past. Above all, we have to illuminate the future."
 Read Yom HaShoah – What the Holocaust Can Teach Us, on page B2.

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At Long Last, a Labor Agreement

By Nick Marnell

No corks popped out of champagne bottles. No confetti fell from the ceiling. No party banners unfurled at the April 16 district meeting after the ratification of the tentative agreement between the Moraga-Orinda Fire District and the United Professional Firefighters of Contra Costa County.

In fact, the mood was downright funeral.

Local 1230 officials and a smattering of the rank and file sat silently in the back of the room as Moraga resident and past MOFD director Dick Olsen assailed the proposed labor agreement. "I am absolutely astonished," said Olsen, the only member of the public to speak out. "This is one of the most one-sided documents that I have ever seen." He noted that the contract terms included a potential increase in firefighter pay of over 12 percent (see sidebar) along with a reduction in district service of 21 percent, as the number of on duty firefighters has recently decreased from 19 to 17. "The sacri-

fice should be shared equally between the union and the public," he said.

Director Alex Evans agreed that there will be service cutbacks, and he also acknowledged that the contract was not perfect, but he stressed that the district had to make the deal in order to continue as a sustainable entity. Along that same line, fire chief Stephen Healy later said that in order to produce an agreement, the district agreed to the revenue sharing compromise: The district needed an early wage reduction to help stabilize the general fund, and "asking the union to agree to pay cuts – with no guarantee of restoration or future wage increases – when they hadn't had a raise since 2008 and their health care rates capped since 2010, was never going to lead to an agreement," said the chief.

A big concern for director Steve Anderson was the automatic nature of the wage increases. Anderson noted that not long ago, the district was close to becoming insolvent;

should tough times reoccur, the district will be forced to pay the wage increases promised in the agreement. "We could be in a position where we will have no choice but to lay off people," said Anderson. He cast the sole dissenting vote, as the motion to approve the tentative agreement passed 3-1, with director Fred Weil absent.

By a two-thirds majority, the union ratified the agreement earlier in April.

"I lose sleep that we agreed to this contract," said Vince Wells, Local 1230 president, after the meeting. Sounding similar in tone to Evans, he continued. "We didn't agree because we think it's best; we agreed to it because it would settle a labor dispute."

He explained that the union had no idea what contract terms the district may have imposed had meditation not succeeded. "If MOFD had imposed the 9.5 percent pay cut, that could have continued forever," said Wells.

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The Moraga Juniors 2014 Garden Tour is coming soon - page D1.





Lafayette Civic News

Public Meetings

City Council

Monday, April 28, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Planning Commission

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

Lafayette School District

Wednesday, May 14, 7 p.m.
Regular Board Meeting
Stanley Library
3477 School St., Lafayette
www.lafsd.k12.ca.us

STILL #1 FOR A REASON



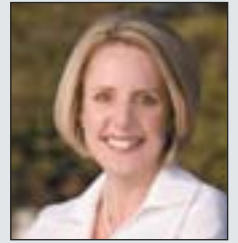
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Rethinking City Survey Options

By Cathy Tyson

City leaders recently asked for information on more technology options they could use to survey residents' priorities. Originally city staff had requested approval to spend approximately \$25,000 for a voter attitude survey from a professional pollster, but in light of upcoming budget realities, thought it best to wait until budget estimates become more firm in the coming weeks to look at potentially more economical survey options and more focused questions.

"This is the year you will see the true impact of the pension situation," said city manager Steven Falk. The city contracts for police services through the Contra Costa County Sheriff's Department. Currently 45 percent of the entire city budget is spent on police services. Because the sheriff's department allows retirement

at age 50 after 30 years of service, it's passing on the cost of the unwieldy pension burden, along with increasing health care costs. What's more, crime is up 33 percent in Lafayette; the city manager would like to slightly increase staffing of the police department to address that situation.

We're considering a two part process, explained City Council member Brandt Andersson, looking at preferences and concerns of citizens, and looking at all of those things that cost money – asking what are people willing to pay for, prioritizing concerns such as road repair, police, fire and emergency medical service, preserving open space, parking and more.

Mayor Don Tatzin added that "it's clear we're likely to have a budget problem."

City staff will have a clearer

picture of what actual costs will be as they prepare for the annual May budget workshop, and some research can be done on alternate survey methods in the next few weeks, so the City Council unanimously voted to pause. The

mayor and vice mayor will work with staff to investigate the breadth of different survey technology and come back to the council with a rough draft of possible questions.

City Website Wins Award

A survey isn't needed to measure the success of the city website, which was just awarded the California Association of Public Information Officers Award of Distinction for Excellence in Communication for 2014. City manager Steven Falk describes it as, "One of the top awards that a public website can receive in California." Staffers took two years to hone and refine www.Love-Lafayette.org into a well thought out resource that clearly organizes civic meetings, e-notification and an Open Government button on the homepage that links to a variety of information. The logical layout is so easy to use it has received over 78,000 visitors since it debuted last summer – that's about 300 visitors per day. "I'm really proud of staff and the website," said Falk. "We believe in transparency and we think this website does a good job of promoting transparency."

The End is Near – of Failed Roads

By Cathy Tyson

While the condition of roads is usually a hot, or at least warm, topic in Lafayette there wasn't a huge turnout at a recent Planning Commission meeting to discuss the multi-year plan, which is addressed biannually, for asphalt maintenance and upgrades to be completed between 2015 and 2019. "Staff is projecting that by the end of this five-year cycle, all failed roads in Lafayette will have been repaired except for the 20 streets that received a stopgap cape seal treatment last year," wrote city engineer Tony Coe in a staff report for the April 7 meeting.

The Five-Year Capital Improvement Program will prioritize how the city spends money on public infrastructure renewal and improvements within Lafayette. The plan has already been vetted by the Capital Projects Assessment Committee and the Circulation Committee; this pit stop at the Planning Commission was the last opportunity for

feedback prior to being presented to the City Council for final approval in May.

There are several funding sources that will pay for the capital improvements scheduled to be made during this 5-year cycle, including gas tax revenue, General Plan money, and Measure J sales tax.

Coe said the plan focuses on the City Council's highest priority item – failed roads. There had been a total of over 120 failed roads in Lafayette, but the city is "now down to 61 failed streets as of January of this year."

That the backlog of failed roads is finally being addressed is reason to celebrate. "Staff is excited about that prospect," said Coe. "We've been working on this issue a long time." To reach that milestone, an additional \$1.2 million more is requested for the Capital Improvement Program spread over the next five years, that is over and above the historical \$1 million per year funding.

In addition to city-provided

revenue for road repair, grant programs will provide money for several transportation projects within the 5-year cycle. Springhill and Happy Valley elementary schools will receive revenue to enhance safe routes to school by providing better pedestrian and bike access, via new walking paths in the public right of way and pathway improvements. The intersection of Pleasant Hill Road and Olympic Boulevard will see a refurbishment, and options are being looked at for Reliez Station Road and Olympic Boulevard.

The Capital Improvement Plan has to be found consistent with the General Plan before it can be adopted by the City Council and funded by the municipal budget. The Planning Commission did just that and approved the 5-year plan with minimal discussion. It may be a bit premature at this moment, but residents can say goodbye to potholes in the future.



Lafayette Police Department Incident Summary Report, March 30 to April 12

Alarms	40
911 calls	32
Auto Burglary	
Oakwood Athletic Club	
20 block Lafayette Cr	
3500 block Mt. Diablo Bl (2)	
Battery	
McDonald's	(2)
Residential Burglary	
20 block Tolan Way	
1000 block Lorinda Ln	
4000 block Happy Valley Rd	
DUI misdemeanor	
Pleasant Hill Rd/freeway underpass	
1st St/24 onramp	
BART station	
Fireworks	
Old Millstone Ln/Las Huertas Rd	
Grand Theft	
3200 block Mt. Diablo Bl	
700 block Old Jonas Hill Rd	
Health & Safety	
800 block Moraga Wy	
Hit & Run	
Panda Express	
Marlene Dr/Carol Ln	

Missing Adult	
Lafayette Park Hotel	
1000 block Hampton Rd	
Panhandling	
Mt. Diablo Bl/Oak Hill Rd	
Petty Theft	
location not available (3)	
700 block Old Jonas Hill Rd	
Public Nuisance	
Silverado Dr/E Lowell Ln	
Rohrer Dr/Contessa Ct	
Reckless Driving	
Pleasant Hill/Springhill Rds	
Springhill/Blackhawk Rds	
Moraga Rd/Mt. Diablo Bl	
Suspicious Circumstances	23
Suspicious Vehicle	9
Suspicious Subject	12
Vandalism	
2nd St/Mt. Diablo Bl	
Panorama Dr/Happy Valley Rd	
3300 block Mt. Diablo Bl	
700 block St. Mary's Rd	
Warrant arrest	
Kohl's, Pleasant Hill	

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Unique Glass Art Panels Go Up at La Fiesta Square

By Cathy Tyson



Photo Cathy Tyson

Drivers heading into La Fiesta Square were treated to an artwork in progress recently. Artist Ellen Blakeley was busy over a period of two days installing the three lovely, large scale glass panels on the side of the iTrim building across from Mangia. Each panel came in three sections that required individual seems to be painstakingly covered in tiny bits of re-purposed tempered glass on site by the artist, then grouted. Blakeley said selecting the subject matter was a collaborative effort with input from Steve and Lisa Cortese for the highly visible wall near the corner of Mt. Diablo Boulevard and Moraga Road.

years ago scattered across the sidewalk from a shattered bus shelter in San Francisco and stopped to scoop it up. She was intrigued that unlike clay, the glass was clear and could serve as a window to colors underneath.

The weather-proof art installation is completely covered in shards of glass with a colored substrate below, framed in the same substantial cornflower blue trim that surrounds the iTrim windows and entry. The subtle textures and patterns of glass come to life when viewed up close, highlighting tiny dragonflies, as well as glittering metallic bits that sparkle in the sun.

“We try to incorporate art projects in both Lafayette Mercantile and La Fiesta Square that the community will appreciate and enjoy,” said Steve Cortese. “For this project we worked closely with the City of Lafayette and SZFM Design Studio. The artist we chose, Ellen Blakeley, really fit with our ideas for this public art work. The murals make an impact from a distance, and create a different experience up close.”



Starting out as a professional ceramist in 1993, Blakeley was enchanted by the glittering heap of broken tempered glass she found

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Moraga Civic News

Public Meetings

Town Council

Wednesday, April 23, 7 p.m.
 Wednesday, May 14, 7 p.m.
 Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School,
 1010 Camino Pablo

Planning Commission

Monday, May 5, 7 p.m.
 Moraga Library, 1500 St. Mary's Rd.

Design Review

Monday, April 28, 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, May 13, 7:30 p.m.
 Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School Auditorium
 1010 Camino Pablo, Moraga
 www.moraga.k12.ca.us
 See also AUHSD meeting page A2

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Chambers Approved by Council

By Sophie Braccini

It is a personal victory for Jill Keimach, Moraga's town manager. In a town where everything has to be done on a shoestring budget, she was able to put together a team that proposed a plan to renovate 331 Rheem Blvd., creating a town meeting space that residents can be proud of and is sufficiently cost effective to meet with the Town Council's approval. For approximately \$280,000 the building will clean up nicely, with a new tile roof and some charming details.

In order to turn what was once a 2,500 square foot fire station – with two large apparatus bays and a wide concrete driveway in the front – into an attractive public building, Keimach hired local architect Steve Forster for the interior concept and a new façade; and landscape architect Tara Bhuthimethee to work on the front landscape and hardscape. The



Artist's rendering of the proposed design for 331 Rheem Blvd.

Image provided

third member of the team is Rob Kalkbrenner of Common Goal Consulting, who previously managed the remodel of 329 Rheem Blvd. and can find ways to create a beautiful space for less, according to Keimach.

In articulating its vision to the Town Council on April 9, the team reflected on Moraga, its character, its charm, and presented a concept for the building that will fit in and enhance the character of the town.

The front public patio and garden, conceived by Bhuthimethee, will be particularly attractive. She explained that she picked up elements of the hills behind the building, oak trees and local boulders, to enhance the nestling of the building in the hill. The patio will be covered in terra cotta pavers, wood trellises will create shade, and pots will be planted with succulents and native plants. The front of the patio, along the boulevard, will be planted with agrostis pallens, a perennial native grass that requires little water and

only needs to be mowed a few times during the growing season. "It will be a very naturalistic look," said the landscape architect. "The gem will be this ribbon of plants that for most of the year will stay green like the grass, but then at certain times will flower and create a purple ribbon meandering through the oak trees and the boulders."

There was some back and forth among the council members about the possibility of adding more green elements to the plan. Chew asked about water catchment and solar panels. Metcalf said that even if solar panels made sense, it was his opinion that going green costs too much. Wykle pointed out that elements of a remodel geared at saving energy and water are investments that pay off in the long term. The Town Council agreed only to add a feasibility study and cost-benefit analysis of solar panels.

Councilmember Michael Metcalf expressed concern about where the

money to fund the project would come from. After Keimach said it would come from the General Fund, or the reserve if necessary, Metcalf asked Stephanie Hom, administrative services director, to project that the 2014 fiscal year would end with a surplus commensurate with the planned expense for the property. Unwilling to make such a statement before the accounts are closed, she told him he would have to wait until August; but she added, "We have a very healthy reserve."

"In addition to that reserve, we have Palos (\$2 million in developer fees for the Palos Colorado project)," added Keimach, "and we are also working with that developer toward the grading permit that will trigger another \$5.75 million for the town."

Although those funds won't arrive before 2015, staff's confident statements won the Town Council's approval of the project. The Design Review Board subsequently approved the project on April 14.



Moraga Police Department

Speeding with booze, 4/12/14 A 19-year-old was speeding down Rheem Boulevard, going 54 mph with an open bottle that was about three quarters full of Bacardi. The driver's alcohol content was determined to be 0.034 percent – less than the legal limit of 0.08 percent, but because the young gentleman was under 21 he received a trifecta of tickets: open container, speeding, and being under 21 with a measurable blood alcohol level.

Another speeding with booze, 4/11/14 It was just after 9 p.m. when cops pulled over a Lexus going 51 mph on Moraga Road near St. Mary's Road. As the car pulled to the curb, the observant officer noticed the passenger, later determined to be 16 years old, quickly drank from a water bottle that had fruit punch and vodka in it. There was an open bottle of Gordon's vodka found in the trunk. The passenger was issued a citation for consuming alcohol in a motor vehicle and was released at the scene to his mother. The driver was also cited for triple tickets as noted above.

Vandals causing trouble, 4/12/14 About 20 juveniles were vandalizing cars in the Rheem Shopping Center parking lot. Officers were contacted by local business employees who reported being assaulted by about seven of the teenagers, who also broke out the front window of a restaurant. The youths were spotted behind the shopping center and police gave chase, all but one got away, despite cops shouting to stop. The fellow who was caught was arrested for resisting arrest, possession of alcohol, drunk in public and possession of less than an ounce of pot.

Theft from unlocked car, 4/12/14 An unlocked car was entered at the Campolindo High

School parking lot. Undisclosed property valued at \$280 was taken from the car, along with a credit card that was used in Concord and Brentwood. Luckily both transactions were unsuccessful.

Unwanted spray paint, 4/10/14 Sometime between the evening of April 10 to early April 11, an unknown subject spray painted graffiti on the exterior of a building at Campolindo High School. Clean up costs are estimated to be \$3,000. Similar incidents were reported at other local high schools. The incident is under investigation.

Money and jewels missing, 4/09/14 A Camino Peral resident stated a temporary caregiver was used for a short amount of time, when coincidentally money and jewelry went missing from the house. The only other person in the home besides the reporting person and her elderly mother was the caregiver. The caregiver's employers responded to the residence and the caregiver was also supposed to meet there. The caregiver never showed up and stopped answering her cell phone.

In addition, the following crimes were reported from April 8 to April 15:

- Commercial Burglary** – Moraga Road
- Traffic Incident** – Augusta Drive, Moraga Road, Laird Road
- False Alarm** – School Street, Devin Drive, Sanders Ranch Road
- Truancy** – Camino Pablo
- Attempted Stolen Vehicle** – Alta Mesa
- Reckless Driving** – Moraga Way
- Petty Theft** – Moraga Way
- Small Fire** – St. Mary's Road
- Battery** – Francisca Drive
- Credit Card Fraud** – Sandringham Drive S
- Tax Return Fraud** – Ashbrook Place

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2:00 Campolindo Jazz Band

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- Local Wines by the Glass
- Climbing Wall
- Artistic Materials for Children's Use
- Monster Coloring Sheet
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Livable Moraga Road Project Takes Shape

By Sophie Braccini

Protected pedestrian paths, bicycle lanes, landscaped median strips, new crosswalks: Moraga Road could become this dream for all modes of transportation, for all ages. The plan is taking shape one public workshop at a time. After the first brain-storming session, staff proposed three alternatives to a diverse group of 50 or so residents on March 19. After all of the input is analyzed a final public workshop will be conducted in late April to finalize a vision for the Moraga Road of the future.

“At the first workshop you told us what you wanted to see along Moraga Road, and what types of users we needed to accommodate,” said senior planner Ellen Clark in her introductory presentation. “From what you said we derived some guiding principles and designed three possible alternatives for the improvement of Moraga Road.” Staff defined four different segments that need improvement: the Campolindo segment with the issues revolving around high school traffic; the Rheem segment; the segment from just past Rheem to Corliss; and the last one from Corliss to St. Mary’s Road.

The guiding principles that residents brainstormed during the first workshop included improving connectivity for all types of users, enhancing the character and esthetic of the road, maintaining the highest level

of safety, and ensuring a smooth flow of traffic.

Following these principles, staff presented three possible concepts for the road. Concept A would leave the road with the same lane configuration, with the modest improvements of continuous single bike and pedestrian paths. Concept B would enhance the pedestrian and bicycle path and would remove one lane southbound in front of the Rheem Center where the median strip could be landscaped. Concept C would create a continuous multi-use trail for families walking and biking, and would include a bike lane for the serious cyclists. Space would be found by removing one lane southbound; this concept also proposed landscaped median strips.

With maps and descriptions of each concept came data such as traffic count and modeling the impact of each concept at different hours of the day. The group broke into two smaller groups that were asked to reach a consensus, if possible, to recommend one of the concepts, possibly a different one for each road segment.

One of the first aspects that was discussed among the residents was the idea of reducing the number of lanes from four to three. Some opposed the idea completely, saying it would slow traffic and create more

congestion; the traffic study suggested that would not happen. Others questioned the consultant on his methodology, the time the traffic counts were made, and the period. According to the consultant, the level of service on Moraga Road is good and will stay that way, even if all the development in the plans is built out, with the notable exception of the Campolindo area when school starts and is dismissed.

The modifications proposed by all three concepts for the Campolindo area were not very well received by residents. It proposed the creation of a new drop-off lane along the main campus, a good idea for Lafayette residents, but that would not ease the pain of the Moraga drivers. “We are discussing a very different plan with the high school,” said Shawna Brekke-Read, planning director, “but it is not completely finished. We will propose it to this group when it is ready.”

Although there was a lot of support for the idea of a family trail and acknowledgment that Concept C comes the closest to meeting the project’s goals, there was no a real consensus among participants.

Clark will present a progress report to the Town Council in May and the next Livable Moraga Road workshop will be held in June.



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More Moraga Civic News on Page A15

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CalBRE# 01029160

2811 Market Street, Oakland

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This is a charming triplex with an in-law unit. Located in West Oakland, it features 2811sf of living area plus 1000sf unfinished space in the attic. This gated property has a large lot with over 4600sf, including beautiful gardens and a 2-car garage with tandem parking. Offered at \$390,000 by Maureen Caldwell-Meurer 510.915.0092.

CalBRE# 01908929

264 Firestone Drive, Walnut Creek

NEW LISTING



Beautiful Northgate rancher with 4 bedrooms and 2 baths. Enjoy the park-like setting of the backyard with pool, grass and a deck that backs to a golf course. The open kitchen, family room and separate living and dining rooms are perfect for social gatherings. Offered at \$900,000 by Adam Hamalian 925.708.5630.

CalBRE# 01917597

2729 Marion Terrace, Martinez

NEW LISTING



Charming 1939 home with hardwood floors and updated kitchen, baths, and windows is light & bright with decorator colors. It features 4 large bdr. and 2 ba., including the basement with a cozy cabin feel and a bed, bath, bonus room, utility area. It also has a wonderful private backyard with a patio, fountain, fruit trees, roses, garden and lawn. Offered at \$537,000 by Tina Van Ardsdale.

CalBRE# 01259271

1982 Ascot Dr. Apt. D, Moraga

NEW LISTING



This 1233 sf single-level condominium has 2 bedrooms and 2 baths, featuring beautiful views of the Moraga hills. HOA dues are only \$386 per month. Enjoy the bountiful amenities of the local community such as highly-rated schools, nearby public parks, and excellent local restaurants. Offered at \$399,000 by Jim Colhoun 925.200.2795.

CalBRE# 01029160

1616 Oakmont Drive #1, Walnut Creek

PENDING



Lovely level-in Rossmoor San Franciscan model with a beautifully finished enclosure gives you a bonus family room and over 1300 sq feet. This is an end unit with no one above or below for extra privacy. Gorgeous kitchen remodeled by Toupin. Bath has been updated with a washer/dryer. Upgrades throughout! Offered at \$375,000 by Dana Fillingner 925.588.6409.

CalBRE# 01731662

TIP OF THE WEEK

The first Qtr. of 2014 had some interesting comparisons to the first Qtr. of 2013 in Lamorinda Real Estate. Homes sold on an average of 102% of the asking price, yet the average sales price was down 8% in Orinda, up 1% in Lafayette and up 2.7% in Moraga. (Based on Single-Family Detached Homes.) The number of listings for the 1st qtr. were exactly the same as last year in Lafayette and Moraga, and up 17.1% in Orinda. The 1st qtr. is historically slower than the 2nd and 3rd qtrs., so it will be interesting to see what develops. Most homes in LAMORINDA are still selling very quickly, with multiple offers, at over the asking price. There are many Buyers out there...it’s a great time to SELL!!

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510.409.6266
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Orinda Civic News

Public Meetings

City Council

Special Meeting:
Tuesday, April 29, 7 p.m.
Regular Meeting:
Tuesday, May 6, 7 p.m.
Auditorium, Orinda Library,
26 Orinda Way

Planning Commission

Special Meeting:
Tuesday, April 29, 7 p.m.
Auditorium, Orinda Library,
26 Orinda Way
Regular Meeting:
Tuesday, May 13, 7 p.m.
Founder's Auditorium, Community Center
28 Orinda Way

Finance Advisory Committee

Wednesday, April 23, 6 p.m.
Sarge Littlehale Community Room,
22 Orinda Way

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

City of Orinda:

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

Chamber of Commerce:

www.orindachamber.org

The Orinda Association:

www.orindaassociation.org

School Board Meeting

Orinda Union School District

Monday, May 12, 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, March 16-29

Alarm	53
911 calls	11
Auto Burglary	
700 block Moraga Way	
Residential Burglary	
40 block Hacienda Cir	
20 block Bates Bl	
50 block Ivy Dr	
10 block Bel Air Dr	
DUI Misdemeanor	
Camino Pablo/Moraga Wy	
Broad/Camino Encinas	
Camino Pablo/Miner Rd	
Drunk in Public	
500 block Moraga Wy	
Petty Theft	
20 block Marston Rd	
100 block Camino don Miguel	
Moraga Wy/Eastwood Dr	
40 block Claremont Av	
Reckless Driving	
Moraga Wy/Oak Dr	
San Pablo Creek/Miner Rd	
Del Rey School	
Moraga Wy/Ivy Dr	
San Pablo Dam Rd/Camino Pablo	
Suspicious Person	12
Suspicious Circumstance	14
Suspicious Vehicle	24
Vandalism	
100 block Wilder Rd	
20 block Bryant Wy	
10 block Orinda Wy	
100 block El Toyonal	
Valley View Dr/Moraga Way	
Miramonte High School	
Vehicle Theft	
100 block Ardith Dr	
Warrant Arrest	
Bryant Way/Davis Rd	

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Protecting and Preserving Orinda's Infrastructure

Orinda leaders tweak city's Capital Improvement Plan

By Laurie Snyder



Spring has sprung in Orinda! Carefree days like this one captured by photographer, Ohlen Alexander, are made possible by the city's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), which helps city leaders ensure that structures like this gazebo are built and parks are pristinely maintained.

Photo Ohlen Alexander

"The future starts today, not tomorrow." Reportedly made by Pope John Paul II, that statement might just as easily serve as the 2014 mission statement for the Orinda City Council as evidenced by its latest annual re-review of the city's Capital Improvement Plan.

The Orinda CIP, for those who have never held one in their hands, is a dense document packed with dreams – immaculate city buildings, meticulously maintained parks, weather resilient drainage systems, smooth roads, and a healthy, contented populace able to bike, walk, drive and park conveniently and safely. As described in a recent staff report, the CIP "identifies projects and funding sources for long-term investments that are designed to protect, preserve, and enhance the City's infrastructure, extend the useful service life of public facilities and improve or enhance delivery of City services." A well-crafted CIP also presents the details of just exactly how – and when – a city will make those dreams come true.

It was that "nitty" that Orinda City Council members got "gritty" with April 8. Staff provided updates regarding the completion of Manzanita Bridge, Tarabrook storm drain repairs and other infrastructure upgrades, discussed the possibility of moving several unfunded initiatives from the

Bikeways, Trails, and Walkways Master Plan to the CIP, and outlined funding sources for newly recommended projects (see sidebar).

Existing initiatives still slated for completion include the Ivy Drive Pavement Rehabilitation and Ivy Drive and Coral Drive Sidewalk Improvements, anticipated to cost \$712,000 and \$195,000, respectively. Orinda was awarded Federal Safe Routes to School and Transportation Act grants to cover about half of the sidewalk budget, and expects to receive federal grants for the Ivy Drive pavement project to fix roughly 4,225 feet of roadway from Fiesta Circle to Moraga Way via Transportation Improvement Plan funds for construction contract and management. To make it happen, Orinda will still need to pony up a match of \$72,000 for actual construction plus \$88,000 for design. So, project leaders plan to shift \$85,000 from fiscal year 2014 to 2015, and utilize \$75,000 of city gas tax revenues. If Caltrans approves the design, construction could begin after school ends in 2015.

Tennis court, park and community center improvements, school safety initiatives, road maintenance, and drainage upgrades slated for various neighborhoods would rollover to FY15 with unspent FY14 funds shifted

to facilitate their completion. Miner Road's seismic upgrades and pavement rehabilitation would be pushed back to FY16.

The bulk of the City Council's time, however, centered on review of one particular project – Camino Sobrante Pedestrian Improvements. Initiated by Orinda's Traffic Safety Advisory Committee at the request of residents to calm traffic and make life safer for walkers, the proposed \$44,000 project would widen the asphalt roadway between Orinda Way and La Plaza by 6 feet and reduce vehicle shoulder drift via the installation of channelizers without adversely affecting the driveway slope and on-street parking at 4 Camino Sobrante – the residence most likely to be impacted by the changes. "I can't emphasize how important this project is to the neighbors," stressed one resident. Calling it "a relatively inexpensive fix for a high priority," he said the area currently sees "hundreds of

people walking up to the country club" on a "gravel surface that right now is not safe to walk on."

Several council members expressed concern regarding channelizer aesthetics since the area is seen by day trippers as well as residents. Councilmember Amy Worth recalled that the street's walkability was very good when paved initially, but has since deteriorated as rains have washed away the shoulder. She pushed staff to ferret out and factor in potential drainage issues contributing to the problem before returning with a revised project proposal.

Further discussions about the Camino Sobrante project and other CIP elements will continue at future meetings. As deliberations progress, staff will incorporate relevant input into a revised 5-year CIP as directed by the City Council. The final CIP draft will then likely be adopted sometime this June.

Proposed New CIP Projects (as of April 8)

Camino Pablo Pavement Rehabilitation: Designed to improve the pavement condition of Camino Pablo between Miner Road and Brookwood Drive as well as a segment of Brookwood, staff hope to begin work in August 2014 – after BART has wrapped up its efforts to earthquake retrofit the Orinda station, or with minimal overlap. New traffic signage, striping and markings will be added, traffic signals will be adjusted at the Camino Pablo/Santa Maria/Brookwood intersection and ADA compliance will improve. Estimated cost: \$2,495,900. Funding: Southwest Area Transportation Committee (SWAT) Return to Source (RTS) Major Streets Program; Measure C construction funds.

BART Path Access Ramp (design): With construction of an ADA-accessible ramp between the Crossroads Area of Camino Pablo and the end of Bryant Way dependent on the city's receipt of Transportation Development Act (TDA) grant funding, staff have asked the city council for money to initiate a topographic study to more effectively "design a preliminary alignment to better scope the project for future grant opportunities." Estimated cost: \$20,000 from city budget.

Bikeways, Trails, and Walkways Master Plan Initiatives: Ranging from projects clearing vegetation to making road shoulders more walkable to crosswalk and bike route signage upgrades, the construction of additional trails and thoroughfare restriping, more and more projects could make their way into Orinda's CIP over the next several years, ultimately helping pedestrians and bicyclists coexist more easily with drivers city-wide. Estimated cost: Too early to tell, but potentially may be offset by federal, state or local grants.

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Seeing Justice Served – Investigating and Prosecuting Crimes in Orinda

By Laurie Snyder

You call the Orinda Police to report a stranger peering through the back windows of a neighbor's home. The black and whites roll, police spot the dastardly dude and hustle him out from the back yard and into a waiting cruiser. So, what happens next?

"The criminal investigation and subsequent prosecution process requires thorough documentation from investigators, officers and citizens," explains Orinda police chief Mark Nagel. Once compiled, evidence from the crime scene is presented to the Contra Costa County Office of the District Attorney, along with reports from each police officer involved, fingerprints, crime scene measurements, photographs, line-ups of suspects, and crime victim and suspect statements. Second interviews may also be conducted if a crime lab report or other additional evidence comes in.

Meanwhile, the suspect remains in jail – up to 72 hours before the county must release him. Or, if police can pull documentation together quickly, his heels may be cooling until arraignment.

Sometimes, though, the district attorney may rule that a suspect must be released because hold time has run out and more investigation is needed. A suspect may certainly be rearrested once the sleuthing is done, but during that time, the person is free to continue committing crimes if so inclined. That's why it's important for burglary victims, for example, to hop to it and quickly provide investigators with a list of items stolen. "Police often aren't given a list for days, weeks or months, and that delay can hamper the investigation," potentially

leading to the victimization of other Orindans.

That is why it is also vital for anyone who may have witnessed a potential crime to call police or email right away via: orindatip@cityoforinda.org. "We've already had a few people submit," says Nagel. One resident sent a cell phone picture with the license plate of a suspicious car. Another Orindan, who has a camera mounted on the dashboard of his car, turned in video of a white Ford Explorer that just happened to show the same vehicle that was being scrutinized in relation to a Lafayette home burglary.

"When you get the little hairs on

the back of your neck standing up," says Nagel, don't just suppress that inner voice. Call the police and let the dispatcher make the decision whether or not an officer needs to respond.

So, we're going to court, right?

Not necessarily. Even if OPD does its typically thorough job, a plea deal may be reached, charges may be reduced – or the district attorney may elect not to prosecute. "Contra Costa County receives thousands of cases a year," observes Nagel, "and there aren't enough prosecutors, judges and courtrooms to try every case in front of a jury."

And there also aren't enough jail cells to hold everyone – a situation that has only worsened since Governor Jerry Brown signed a law reducing the state's prison population. "AB 109 shifts the responsibility from incarcerating many low risk inmates from the state to county jails," explains Nagel. Law enforcement professionals statewide have observed that this may be causing county systems to release criminals early in order to release their own now-overcrowded facilities, and are also looking at whether AB109's implementation may be related to the recent spike in burglaries and auto thefts.

Despite this frustrating situation, though, Nagel wants residents to remain vigilant and engaged. "The bad guys, they don't want to be seen. Once they realize they've been spotted and can be identified, most will move on," says Nagel. If they don't, the sooner OPD arrives on scene, the better the chance they'll have enough evidence to bring the crooks to justice.

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Dave Rivera & Sheila Small CalBRE#01705345/01415221



MORAGA \$1,288,000
3/2. Lovely one story contemporary with great views. Lrg rear patio, great for entertaining.

Jerry Wendt CalBRE#00178259



ALAMO \$1,695,000
5/4. Bright, spacious estate home in gated community. Stunning backyard with pool and spa.

Holt/Geoffrion CalBRE#00827803/01878803



ORINDA \$2,175,900
4+/3. New construction. Gorgeous views, close to town. More pics/info at OrindaOaks.com.

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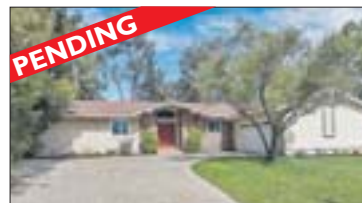
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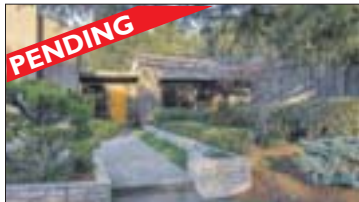
LAFAYETTE \$989,000
4/2.5. Contemporary Single Story. Extraordinary backyard. Open floor plan with upgrades throughout.

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ORINDA \$2,100,000
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ORINDA \$1,950,000
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Glenn & Kellie Beaubelle CalBRE#00678426



LAFAYETTE \$998,000
4/2. Gracious home offering a tranquil setting w/lush gardens. Many upgrades throughout.

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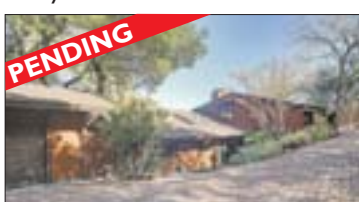
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Rising Loafer Earns Green Awards at All Levels

By Sophie Braccini



Ahmed Shibli and Maria Gastelumendi at the Rising Loafer

Photo Sophie Braccini

When Central Costa County Sanitary District inspectors conduct their yearly inspections of restaurants to ensure that these businesses are complying with their permit requirements, they sometimes notice practices that go beyond the legal demands. When they do, they nominate these businesses to get the Pollution Prevention Award. That's what happened to the Rising Loafer Café in Lafayette, and the small business became the only restaurant in Contra Costa County to earn the 2013 award. Additionally, Cool California, a non-profit organization that recognizes California small businesses that promote climate friendly practices, gave the Lafayette café a small business award, a distinction received by only seven other businesses statewide. And this month Rising Loafer was recognized with Lafayette's Green Award.

Ahmed Shibli and Maria Gastelumendi, Lafayette residents and owners of the restaurant, are proud – for them, it is just a matter of following in the century-old footsteps of their ancestors, and respecting their clients as much as they respect the earth that feeds us.

What were the odds that Shibli and Gastelumendi would ever meet, fall in love and create a restaurant in Lafayette? He came from the Middle East and she came from the Ancash highlands of Peru, both rural regions that value wholesome, homemade cuisine prepared from scratch. They first met at Oakland's Holy Names University; he became a commercial pilot, she graduated from UC Berkeley in economics. They discovered they had common culinary roots, the Mediterranean, and a common ethic of care and respect for the earth. They were married 20 years ago

and opened their first restaurant in Pleasant Hill; then in 2003 they took over the Rising Loafer Café in Lafayette.

"Everything here is about reusing, recycling or repurposing," says Gastelumendi. When a customer does not finish a glass of water, the contents goes into a pitcher that will water the patio planters; on tables, the sugar containers and cups are charming, colorful and mismatched. "They come from different antique or reuse stores," explains Shibli. "We try as much as we can to repurpose things, just as our tables that I made out of old doors."

Everything that cannot be washed and reused in the café is compostable; the napkins, the cups and take-out containers. "For our catering service, we use these baskets to deliver," says Gastelumendi, pointing to wicker baskets of different sizes that hang on the wall of the restaurant. The loaves of bread that are made on site by Shibli himself and are not sold on the day they were made are donated and not thrown away. Rising Loafer is also part of the Solid Waste Authority's pioneering program that allows local restaurants to be part of a large food waste composting program.

"We had help to set up our kitchen and train our employees," says Gastelumendi, "and we also train every new person working here in our ways of not wasting anything. It is really not a big effort, it just takes a bit of care and motivation."

The Central San inspector also noticed the outside container provided by Hanson & Fitch to collect vegetable oil. "We dump all our cooking oil into this container," says Shibli. "Hanson & Fitch picks it up when it is full and converts the oil into biofuel."

Cool California was impressed by the café's recycling practices, but also by the wholesome food that they prepare, the care they take in the selection of their ingredients, and the way Gastelumendi is able to take advantage of the small south-oriented alley behind the restaurant to grow vegetables and fruit trees. "You don't need a lot of space to grow fruits and vegetables," says Gastelumendi who likes to show off her crafty garden. "All you need is big containers, good soil, some sun and attentive care." The fig trees are already growing nicely, the tomatoes just went into the containers, and basil will soon be planted. Once ripe, everything will find its way into the salads and sandwiches, along with the homemade bread.

"We do all this because we love it and because it is our way of life," says Gastelumendi. Rising Loafer is open everyday but Tuesday, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., for breakfast and lunch, and brunch on weekends. It is located at 3643 Mt. Diablo Blvd. (between Trader Joe's and the post office) – just look for the flowering patio.

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

Walgreens Coming to Lafayette

3614 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Walgreens has started the application process with the City of Lafayette to occupy the spaces that were previously home to Citibank and Mountain Mike's Pizza on Mt. Diablo Boulevard. The opening date has not yet been set.

Massage Envy to Open this Week

558 Center Street, Moraga
(925) 376-3689

A new franchise of the Massage Envy business model opens this week in Moraga's Rheem Shopping Center. A ribbon cutting ceremony is scheduled for 5 to 7 p.m. on May 8 with both the Moraga and Lafayette chambers of commerce.

Goodbye Bo's Barbecue

3422 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette
(925) 283-7133

It was 1999 when Bo McSwine opened his restaurant on Mt. Diablo Boulevard in Lafayette. Bo's is not a place for vegetarians, but, as he says, "Those in the know, know Bo knows barbecue." Pork and beef ribs, brisket, chicken and links, Bo has it all for barbecue fans. What adds to the restaurant's charm is the informal setting and great live entertainment every weekend. So why close a successful business? The end of a lease and a property owner who wants a change. According to a Contra Costa Times article, Tony Lukaszewski, the property owner, said several other restaurants are interested in renting the place. McSwine hopes to open a new location in San Francisco. Barbecue lovers have until the end of July to eat their fill at Bo's.

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Laura Abrams has earned status in the Coldwell Banker International President's Elite, and Maureen Wilbur has earned membership in the Coldwell Banker International President's Premier Society. Abrams has been affiliated with Coldwell Banker since 1999 and has lived in Orinda for 40 years. She is co-director of the Friends of the Orinda Theatre, the group that was responsible for saving the art deco theater and supervising its restoration and reopening. She also served as an elected member of the Orinda City Council for 12 years, serving as mayor in 1999 and again in 2003. Abrams may be reached directly at (925) 253-4611 or laura@lauraabrams.com. Wilbur has been with Coldwell Banker Orinda since 2000. Before entering real estate, Wilbur taught high school and middle school math and science for 30 years. Her last 12 years teaching was at Orinda Intermediate School. Wilbur may be reached directly at (925) 253-6311 or Maureen@MaureenWilbur.com.



Laura Abrams

Maureen Wilbur

Moraga Employee of the Month

Carol Schofield of The Saklan School has been named the Moraga Employee of the Month for April by the Moraga Chamber of Commerce and the Rotary Club of Moraga. Schofield has worked at the school for 16 years, serving as a grade school teacher and as the dean of the lower school. "Carol is a huge asset to The Saklan School and the community," said Peter Metzger, head of school. "Not only is she a superior teacher,



From left: Kevin Reneau, Carol Schofield, Peter Metzger and Nora Avalar. In foreground Schofield's Saklan students.

Photo provided

but she mentors other teachers and her fundraising projects each year for guide dogs are always very successful. Both the children and their parents really love her and appreciate her efforts here at Saklan." Schofield will receive her award and gift cards to Safeway and Home Goods at the Moraga Rotary luncheon on Tuesday, April 29.

News from the three Chambers of Commerce

Lafayette

Chamber Mixer begins at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 14 at Wine Thieves, 3401 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Moraga

The Moraga Community Faire will be held from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, May 10 at the Rheem Shopping Center. Meet Moraga businesses and service groups and enjoy music, kids' activities and a dunk tank. Businesses can still register to participate; the deadline is May 1. Contact the Chamber of Commerce at moragachamber.org.

Orinda

The Orinda Rotary and Orinda Chamber present Orinda Trivia Bee on Friday, April 25 at the Orinda Masonic Lodge, 9 Altarinda Road. Not to BEE missed! Cost: \$360 per team (up to six people per team). Doors open at 5 p.m., dinner is at 6 p.m. and the game is on at 7 p.m. For families, companies, organizations, groups of friends, everyone! Winners take a cash prize for the non-profit of their choice. Cash bar, raffle prizes and instant wine cellar – bring a bottle to donate. Make your reservations at www.orindachamber.org. For more information call Candy Kattenburg at (925) 254-3909 or email president@orindachamber.org.

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



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One Man Show

MOFD takes center stage at tri-city meeting

By Nick Marnell

The annual Special Joint Meeting of the three Lamorinda civic councils was held at Saint Mary's College April 7, and there was little doubt as to who was the showstopper.

Moraga-Orinda Fire District chief Stephen Healy opened with an update on the increased number of community emergency response teams in Lamorinda, but the Soda Center audience did not let him off that easily. Healy fielded a wide range of fire questions from the public and officials for nearly three quarters of the two-hour meeting.

He relayed the history of proposed fire station 46, from the directive of prior chief Randall Bradley to check out the possibilities, to the use of software in determining resultant overall response times that he confirmed will be improved because of the new station. "Some will be positively impacted and some negatively," said Healy. "But I'm looking at the big picture, over 4,400 properties. Overall (station 46) will be a benefit to the community."

The jointly operated station between MOFD and the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District has been in discussion for over one year. "It's the right thing to do, and I hope it is successful," said the chief.

The recent murmurs of replacing firefighters with civilians to operate ambulances in both fire

districts concerned Moraga resident and past MOFD director Dick Olsen. Healy made no bones about the reason: cost. And he said that yes, the districts have been exploring the idea, and that the public will soon be hearing more about it.

"And as long as I'm talking about how expensive firefighters are, I want to stress that they are worth it," said Healy. "And they do not deserve the blame for the high district retirement costs." He explained that the majority of those costs accrue to the benefit of retired firefighters.

Moraga Town Council member Dave Trotter asked if the elimination of firefighters will make the communities vulnerable. "It's always been 'value added' to have firefighters on all of our calls, as 63 percent of our calls are medical," said Healy. "Because of our low call volume, we are nowhere near an unreasonable situation with our deployment model."



Moraga-Orinda Fire District Board of Directors Meetings

Next meetings:

Wednesday, May 7
check website for updates

(Go to www.mofd.org as the meeting date approaches for location and more information)

FRI-SUN, MAY 2-4, 10-6

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Lamorinda Fire News Briefs

By Nick Marnell

Lafayette Emergency Services Task Force

Task force member Jim Fajardo outlined the basics of the service model of a typical fire department at the group's April 9 meeting. Discussion ensued over the benefits of two-person crews versus three, where best to locate a fire station, and the risk of the occurrence of an Oakland Hills type of fire.

"The Oakland Hills fire is a misleading concept thrown in to these meetings," said task force member Rich Cunningham. "It's all about fear. It's used to manipulate the political process."

The abstract discussion clearly frustrated Vince Wells, Local 1230 president. "This is all well and good," he said. "But tell me exactly. What does Lafayette want?"

"Apparently, they don't know what they want," said Lafayette fire commissioner Bill Granados after the meeting.

The task force was created by the City Council to check out alternative delivery of fire and emergency services to the city. The investigation will continue at its May 15 meeting.

MOFD Meeting Schedule Revised

After a short trial of conducting public meetings once a month, the Moraga-Orinda Fire District will revert to its twice monthly meeting format.

"The present schedule has become problematic," said Fire Chief Stephen Healy. Meetings will now be scheduled for the first and third Wednesdays of each month.

The revised schedule, approved at the April 16 board meeting, kicks in with the district meeting of May 7.

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Letters to the Editor



Share your thoughts with our community! Opinions in Letters to the Editor are the express views of the writer and not necessarily those of the Lamorinda Weekly.

All published letters will include the writer's name and city/town of residence -- we will only accept letters from those who live in, or own a business in, the communities comprising Lamorinda (please give us your phone number for verification purposes only). Letters should be 350 words or less; letters of up to 500 words will be accepted on a space-available basis. email: letters@lamorindaweekly.com;

Regular mail: Lamorinda Weekly, P.O.Box 6133, Moraga, CA 94570

Editor:

The Lamorinda and Walnut Creek communities have long placed a high value on quality public schools. Their support of the high school district and partner K-8 districts within the communities – Lafayette, Moraga, Orinda and Walnut Creek - has resulted in some of the top performing public schools in the State and nationwide. It is the support of parents and the local community in the form of parcel taxes, contributions to education foundations, and parent group support that enables the schools to offer rich academic programs and support services.

Without this local support, core academic programs in math, science and technology; elective programs, including the visual and performing arts; reasonable class sizes; and support services so that all students have an opportunity to succeed, would not be a reality in our schools. With this local support, our districts have been able to maintain their financial health through the severe challenges of the past six years, including unprecedented reductions in the per-student funding provided by the State.

Specifically, the Lafayette School District and Acalanes Union High School District currently have parcel taxes that annually generate \$4.6 million and \$3.9 million, respectively. Without renewal, these local taxes will expire in 2015. Expiration of the parcel taxes would result in reductions in academic programs and support services. Our schools would appear very different and the quality of opportunities for students would diminish significantly.

Each of these two local governing boards has placed a no-increase parcel tax renewal on the May 6, 2014 Mail Ballot Only Election. Measure A would renew the \$112 per parcel tax in the Acalanes Union High School District. Measure B would renew two expiring parcel taxes in the Lafayette School District for a total of \$539 per parcel.

California State finance has been slowly recovering to pre-recession levels. However, California went through landmark reform last year and passed a new funding formula to radically change the funding distribution going forward. This Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) creates a new funding level for our Districts, which is inadequate to provide what we have developed as our core academic programs, while other districts with higher percentages of targeted high needs students receive an increase in funding. Consequently, even as the State economy is recovering, overall State education funding coming to our two Districts will never reach the pre-recession (2007-2008) level. Thus, the governing boards of our Districts decided not to place a term on the parcel tax renewals - Measure A or Measure B. This “no sunset” feature provides our schools with stable and reliable revenue and local control and would enable our Districts to maintain the excellent education and continue to create opportunities for a new generation of students.

Rachel Zinn
Superintendent, Lafayette School District

Editor:

Measure J—the Orinda roads bond—is a vital step toward repairing our worst residential roads. We've made a good first step with the passage of the Measure L sales tax, which is yielding nearly \$1 million annually. But the total cost to fix our roads over several years far exceeds this revenue stream.

100% of the net proceeds of this \$20 million bond will stay in Orinda and are restricted to road and drainage repairs. These funds will be applied to roads and drains that will be selected in a public process with oversight by a citizens committee comprised of Orindans with engineering experience. This selection process will take all appropriate factors into account to make the most effective use of the funds.

As with all Orinda public works projects, standard project management controls such as competitive bidding, project scope and timeline at the start of each construction phase (when the many variables that affect road construction are known) will be in place.

We need to move now to fix our worst residential roads. Vote for Measure J.

Bob Burt
Orinda

Editor:

As someone who has devoted many years and considerable volunteer time trying to improve the condition of Orinda's roads, I urge all residents to vote YES ON MEASURE J, which will appear on the June ballot. Orinda's overall road condition is ranked as one of the worst in the Bay Area. Without more funds our residential roads will continue to deteriorate and future repairs will cost even more. Doing nothing is not an option.

Orinda has an established process in place to wisely use the new funds that will be generated by Measure J. Substantial progress has been made on arterials and

collectors using this process. Measure J will expand on this process to repair the worst residential roads in the city. We cannot afford to ignore the state of our residential roads any longer. We need to act now with new funding to stem the decline of our residential roads.

There are many protections included in this measure such as oversight by an independent citizens' oversight committee and an annual audit. The funds can only be used on road and drain repairs.

Delaying repairs will only increase costs as construction costs increase and further deterioration of the roads continues. We must act now. Please vote Yes on Measure J on June 3, 2014.

Dennis Fay
Orinda

Editor:

I have been a teacher in the Acalanes Union High School District for 15 years. Every day I see students benefiting from the generous support that our community provides through the existing parcel tax. As a district we have some of the best performing arts programs in Northern California. Unfortunately, I have also seen firsthand the real impact of the ongoing lack of adequate state education funding on those same students. The Arts are vital to help maintain the high level of achievement and educational standards that we hold. Without the funds provided by Measures A and B, we are looking at additional cuts, including the further reduction in valued programs, (loss of balanced curriculum) increased class sizes, (impeding the delivery of curriculum) outdated technology (preventing us from teaching 21st Century skills) and fewer teachers. These programs are essential for our students and need to be continued. Measures A and B will ensure these programs continue to be funded without increasing taxes. Please join teachers in voting Yes on A and B.

Bruce Lengacher
Acalanes High School

Editor:

As a teacher for 9 years in the Acalanes UHSD and a parent of two boys in the Lafayette USD, I have seen firsthand the support our community provides to our local schools through existing parcel taxes. When the Great Recession hit and state funding of schools was slashed, both districts were saved from having to make dramatic cuts to the quality of the educational programs offered to students thanks to local parcel taxes. Now, due to changes in the manner of how the state funds our schools, Lamorinda schools continue to require local funding. Without raising taxes, Measures A and B will allow the Acalanes and Lafayette school districts to keep valued programs, maintain low class sizes, replace outdated technology, and attract and retain the best and brightest teachers in the state. Please join parents and teachers in voting Yes on Measures A and B!

Michael Buchel
Acalanes High School

Editor:

As a thirty + year resident and a full time Real Estate Broker in Lafayette, I urge you to vote for Measures A and B which will provide funding for our top rated Lafayette Schools.

I believe one of the most important factors in families coming to Lafayette is the excellence of our public schools. Some come from out of state, but many come from other Bay Area communities. Our top rated Lafayette school district is of monumental importance in their decision to relocate here. As long as our public schools are among the best in the State, and we continue to support our bond measures, the demand for homes in this area will continue. This will continue to directly impact our property values.

Whether you have school aged children in Lafayette or not, I urge you to support these Measures.

Sincerely,

Patricia Battersby
Lafayette

Editor:

As a local Lafayette Realtor, resident, parent, and product of the Lafayette school system, it is crystal clear that the primary reason people move to our community is because of our excellent schools. Education in our school system is a gift that I am grateful for. Each week I have the opportunity to speak to people moving into the area and ask them why they are moving here. The response makes me smile as it is always for our school system. As a result, there is a direct correlation between schools and our property values. Increased demand for homes keeps our property values high!

Measures A and B on the May mail-ballot-only election will support the Acalanes Union High School District and the Lafayette School District. Measures A and B

are a smart investment, as they will not only support our schools and our youth but will also help keep our property values high.

Investing in quality local schools is one of the most cost-effective and simple ways to protect your property value and enhance the lives of children! Measures A and B, will not increase current taxes, they merely renew the existing parcel taxes that are expiring. Over time, the growth in your property values and the minds of our youth, will far exceed the cost of the measure. Please join me in voting Yes on Measures A and B by May 6th.

Thank you,

Dana Green
Lafayette

Editor:

I am exceedingly grateful and feel lucky, as well as proud, to live in Lafayette.

For more than two decades, our community has generously supported our outstanding public schools. Voters have approved local revenue measures, which absolutely make a meaningful difference. Our schools and students have also flourished because of an exceptional spirit of volunteerism and dedication to excellence in education. So many give so much, and we all benefit.

As a proud parent of two Burton Valley, Stanley and Acalanes grads -- and past president of LASF (now Lafayette Partners in Education) -- I know firsthand how important the generous support of the community is to the quality of our schools. Measures A and B continue this support without increasing taxes. No funds can be taken away by the State or used for other purposes; all funds will stay local to benefit our students. I support Measures A and B for our schools.

Love Lafayette. Love Lafayette schools. Please join me in voting yes on Measures A and B to continue Lafayette's long-standing tradition of supporting our outstanding local schools.

Sincerely,

Nancy Falk
Lafayette

Editor:

When we moved to Orinda 20 years ago it was for one reason: great schools. Coming from the East Coast, we were taken aback by the lack of sufficient state funding for public education in California.

We wanted for our daughters what we had enjoyed as students: good teachers, a challenging and engaging curriculum, and a community that supported its schools.

We researched not only test scores, but access to music, art, and foreign language classes. We checked voting records to see which communities passed tax measures in support of schools. In our case, we settled in Orinda, but it could just as easily have been any of the communities served by the Acalanes High School District.

Now, as we look forward to our youngest daughter graduating from college, I can say with certainty that we made the right choice. Twenty years ago I looked for a community that supported its schools so that my daughters would thrive. Today, I'm mailing in my ballot in support of Measure A so that future high school students will benefit from the same.

I can think of no better investment than education, and I ask that our neighbors in the Acalanes District join my family in continuing the longstanding tradition of supporting great public schools. Vote Yes on Measure A!

Sincerely,

Pat Rudebusch
Orinda

Editor:

As the grandparent of seven students who attend the Orinda and Acalanes District schools, I want them to have the high quality education that their parents received in the same schools. As a former Mayor and City Council member in Orinda as well as a former trustee of the Orinda Union School District, I know the challenges associated with managing a budget where an outside entity controls the revenue stream. California controls the purse strings for public education funding, and has not invested sufficiently in our schools for many years. To maintain local control, and protect our excellent schools, I am voting Yes on Measure A.

Sincerely,

Joyce Hawkins
Orinda

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Public Forum

Orinda's June Bond Issue
Submitted by **Richard Nelson**

I am writing with regard to CZ Czerner's comments published in the Public Forum on April 9, 2014. I have been a member of Orinda's Citizen's Infrastructure Oversight Commission (CIOC) since it was created seven years ago and want to share some of my insights with all of you. In brief, Czerner makes a number of points that I wish to support, and a few that I hope to correct.

Let's begin with where we agree. Most importantly, Czerner concludes that she "will vote yes on the Orinda bonds," reasoning that a no vote would result in "further delaying urgently needed repairs." Czerner is right on the money here. Many roads in Orinda are in deplorable shape, and without further funding all residential roads in Orinda will eventually fall from grace. This is an unacceptable situation. Repairs have been delayed too long, and we really can't put them off any longer. I also shall be voting yes on the June bond issue and hope that all of you will join Czerner and me in supporting the bond issue.

Czerner also says that by issuing bonds, "the community will be paying almost double for that issuance." Although this statement is literally true, the added expense is interest which enables the community to pay for the road repairs over time, much like a mortgage allows a homeowner to pay for a house over time. The alternative, raising all of the money up front, would require the community to come up with the total amount immediately, causing many individuals to borrow the money themselves (likely at a higher rate than paid by the city) and others to sacrifice income on investments. Rather than concluding that the interest doubles the cost to the community, we should recognize that it enables all of us to spread that cost over a longer period of time to our own advantage.

In a third point, Czerner compares the bond with an alternative financing approach -- a parcel tax -- and argues that "homeowners alone should not have to pay the entire cost of the public project" and that "our solution can and should be multifaceted." Almost all of Orinda residents are homeowners, and landlords generally pass property taxes on to renters. But I believe that Czerner is correct in arguing for a multifaceted approach. We already have two sources of revenues for the roads: (1) gas taxes allocated to Orinda and (2) the 1/2 percent additional sales tax we voted for several years ago. The June bond measure, if enacted, would introduce a third source: (3) bond proceeds repaid by a temporary increase in our property taxes.

In the plan for repairing our roads adopted this month by the CIOC, we recognized that after fixing our worst residential roads, Orinda will eventually have to raise additional funds, beyond the gas tax, the 1/2 percent additional sales tax and the bond proceeds, to complete the repair of our roads and to ensure that they can be maintained appropriately. The CIOC did not recommend where these revenues should come from, but identified a number of new revenue sources that could be tapped, including: (4) a parcel tax, (5) a real estate transfer tax, and/or (6) some other new revenue source to be determined. The beauty of a multifaceted approach is that it enables tax rates on any one source to be kept low and spreads the burden over all Orindans more equitably than is possible by using one measure alone. We already have a multifaceted approach, and will be able to add even new facets after the bond measure is approved. Czerner is correct in advocating a multifaceted approach.

In conclusion, I really want to urge all Orindans to vote for the June bond measure. The City has been doing a good job of using funds which are currently available, focusing gas tax revenues on our most heavily used roads (arterials and collectors) and the incremental sales tax on our very worst, residential roads. But current funding simply is not enough to do the job. Many of our roads are really in deplorable shape, and all of our residential roads are at risk without additional money. The bond measure will provide sufficient funds to complete the next step -- fixing all of our worst residential roads, and this is what the funds will be used for. This will be a very significant achievement and will provide the base for us to move on even further, eventually ensuring that all of our roads are in good or excellent condition. Please join me in voting for the June bond and taking the next step to fix our residential roads.

(Richard Nelson has been an Orinda resident for 27 years. He has a PhD in economics from Yale University and is now retired after a long and satisfying career in economics, finance, and marketing in business, government, and academe.)

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 and let us know you'd like to be considered for the Public Forum.

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Orinda Theatre and CAIFFA Raise Money for Campo and Miramonte Grad Nights

Submitted by Caroline Wood

Celebrate the 30th anniversary of the John Hughes classic

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A fundraiser for Campolindo and Miramonte Grad night.

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The Orinda Theatre is showing the film "Sixteen Candles" at 7 p.m. May 1 in honor of the 30th anniversary of this John Hughes classic. Derek Zembrak, one of the founders of the California Independent Film Festival Association which owns the theater, says that all the profits from this night will go to the Campolindo and Miramonte high schools' grad nights. (Acalanes was contacted, but did not respond). "Over the years I have had conversations with people (who may or may not have had kids in our schools) about the grad nights and the huge amount of effort that goes into them and the reasons for having them," says CAIFFA volunteer Caroline Wood. "Most people have been

supportive but there are those who think it is ... a waste of time. This attitude does not represent the bigger picture of helping to curtail drinking, driving and other not smart, exuberant teenage behaviors. As far as I know, no local organization has had an event to raise money to help defray expenses and I believe this is the first time anyone in the local movie theater business has ever offered to host an event specifically geared to our local high schools." The event will include a special appearance by Debbie Pollack and Gedde Watanabe, two actors from "Sixteen Candles." For tickets and more information, visit lamorindatheatres.com.

Community Service

A Celebration of Service

Submitted by Danielle Miller



Linda Fodrini-Johnson and co-owner husband Bruce Photo provided

Dignitaries and guests recently celebrated the 25th anniversary of Eldercare Services and its founder, Linda Fodrini-Johnson, MA, MFT, CMC, a pioneer in geriatric care management, who is the senior issues columnist for Lamorinda Weekly. In 1989, Fodrini-Johnson saw a need to provide care for families and set out to change the face of advocacy for older adults by

founding Eldercare Services in the kitchen of her own home. Today, the woman-owned agency remains privately held with a staff of more than 250; more than 85 percent of whom are women. Passionate about giving back to her profession and the community, Fodrini-Johnson served as president of the National Association of Professional Geriatric Care Managers and was recognized with

their top award – the Adele Elkind Award. She also received the John F. Kennedy University Laureate Award, was honored as a "Home-town Hero" for community service and most recently was selected to the Contra Costa Commission for Women, Hall of Fame, for leadership in the community. Fodrini-Johnson and co-owner husband, Bruce Johnson, were not only honored with a proclamation from the City of Walnut Creek, but many esteemed professionals who work with older adults publicly addressed Fodrini-Johnson and Eldercare Services for their leadership and commitment to caring and serving, and educating the community on aging issues. Of the hundreds of agencies now in the Bay Area, Eldercare Services is one of only two that are accredited by the nation's oldest and largest standards-setting and accrediting body in health care. For more information on Eldercare Services, visit www.EldercareAnswers.com.

Moraga Garden Club's 'Day at the Movies' a Success

Submitted by Linda Foley



From left, Mardi "Poppins" Potts and Phyllis "Tiffanys" Reed, co-chairs

Photos provided

The theme for the Moraga Garden Club's annual fundraiser luncheon was "A Day at the Movies." Each table and its decorator reflected a particular movie. "The Scent of a

Woman" was incredibly luscious and fragrant in shades of lavender, "Batman" and his bat mobile on a black tablecloth were offset by a yellow centerpiece reminiscent of tall build-

ings in the moonlight, "The Glass Menagerie's" crystal animals sparkled on a mirror, "Memories of a Geisha" had all the classic elements including tiny origami swans on each plate. The co-chairs for this event, Mardi Potts and Phyllis Reed, went all out to implement their themes of "Mary Poppins" and "Breakfast at Tiffany's" respectively and dressed accordingly. Potts looked authentic enough in her garb, members almost expected her to fly through the room, alas, her boots sat on the table next to the umbrella stand. The Tiffany's table and its people were appropriately "blingy" including black cocktail dresses and pearls. Reed had also created another dramatic centerpiece for the coffee table which included a movie reel and red roses. Simply stunning. In addition, dialogue was rife with film jargon and movie posters added to the atmosphere. Speaker Susan Bell of Alameda – a floral designer whose art degree from UC Davis influences her innovative wedding florals, window displays and custom florals for private and corporate clients and churches – captivated a full-house audience. The entire crew on this movie outing was uber creative.

Moraga Rotary and Guests Donate to Eradicate Polio

Submitted by Gary Irwin



Rotary International Director-Elect Brad Howard accepts donation to Polio Plus. From left: Cliff Dochterman, Nora Avelar, and Brad Howard.

Photo Gary Irwin

A donation totaling \$24,000 to Polio Plus, the worldwide campaign to eradicate the disease of polio, was given to Rotarian Brad Howard, a director-elect of Rotary International and past president of Oakland Sunrise Rotary, by Moraga Rotary president Nora Avelar; \$8,000 of this donation was given specifically for this purpose by Rotarians and guests at the recent "A Nite at the Races" dinner/auction held recently in Moraga, and will be

tripled through an arrangement with The Rotary Foundation and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. So far, the Gates Foundation has contributed \$460 million toward the effort.

The Polio Plus program to eradicate polio began in 1979, when the Rotary International Health, Hunger, and Humanity Committee, chaired by now-Moraga Rotarian Cliff Dochterman, worked with local Rotarians to complete the eradication of

polio from the Philippines. In 1987, Rotary began the worldwide project and raised \$240 million from its members; with that sum and the promise of 1.3 million worldwide volunteers, they began a partnership with the World Health Organization, UNICEF, and the U. S. Center for Disease Control. Dochterman continued for several years on Rotary's International Polio Plus Committee, and participated in several national immunization days in various third world countries. He continued his involvement when he was president of Rotary International in '92-'93.

Through these collaborative efforts, polio only exists today in small parts of three countries, and the annual number of new cases has gone from about 400,000 to less than 200. Coincidentally, in March 2014, the nation of India was declared polio-free after three years without a new case. Two of the three strains of polio have been eradicated, and the efforts to complete the job have intensified.

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

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Civic News Lafayette

Dogs and Their People Party Downtown

At the debut event that celebrated all things dog, canine owners and their clearly beloved pets came to downtown Lafayette to enjoy Dogtown Downtown. While it may be easier than herding cats, city manager Steve Falk greeted four-legged participants at Plaza Park and asked them to organize the kick-off dog parade with smallest dogs leading the pack. The boisterous crowd of dogs followed instructions, making the trek all the way down Golden Gate Way to the library where a variety of booths had been set up, along with water dishes. Throughout the morning and into the early afternoon informative complimentary presentations were given in the Community Hall and the Art and Science classroom by the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine and the SAGE Centers for Veterinary Specialty and Emergency Care that lent an educational component to the festive event covering topics such as canine first aid, heat stroke and rattlesnake bites. Demonstrations and charming dog competitions were also a highlight. Shared enthusiasm for dogs, many of whom were decked out, and joyful neighborliness marked – in a good way – the event.



Butterfly pooch with pearls and two little girls is "Blizzard" with big sister Sophie who has been dressing up the dog since she was little. Pictured with friend Sammy.



Three amigos - fellow Bernese "Milka" named after a brand of swiss chocolate, and Greater Swiss Mountain dog "Trecker."



Karen Green dolled up her Miniature Schnauzer "Libby" named after Liberty due to her birthday on July 4.

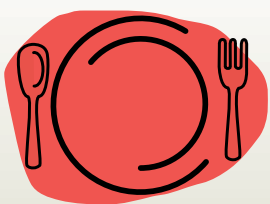


Two content Cavalier King Charles Spaniels with "brother" Max.

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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Tuesday, May 20
5:30 - 9 PM

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Stroll & Taste
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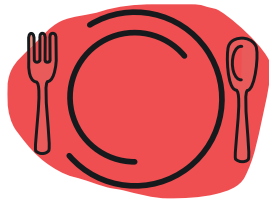
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Sales Tax Increases in Lamorinda

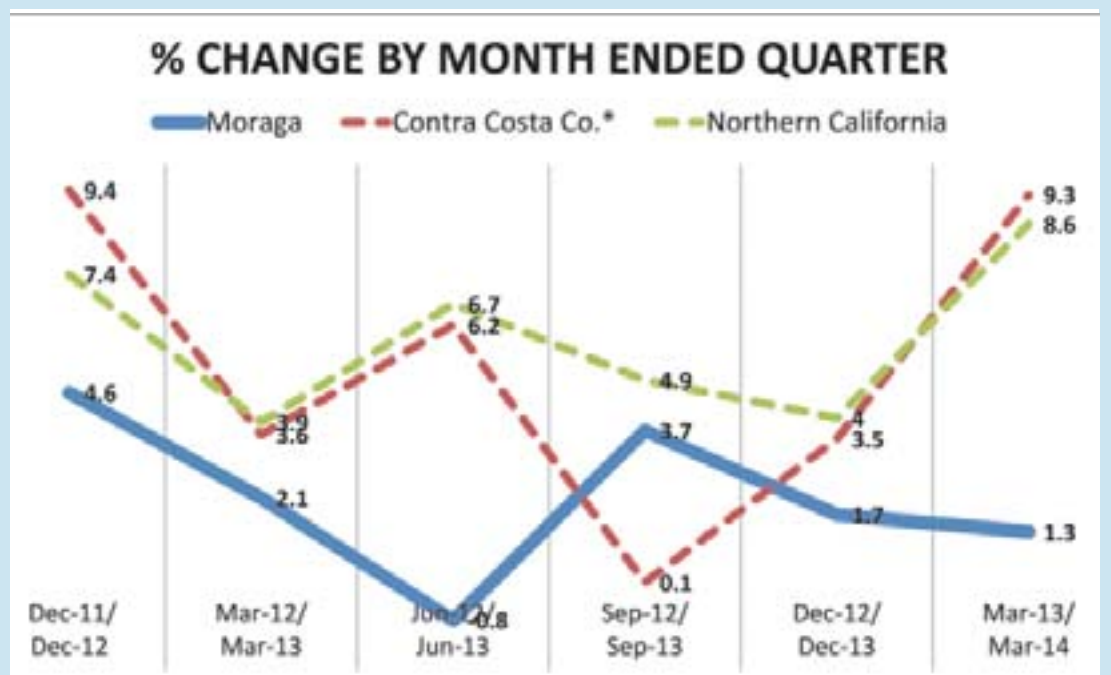
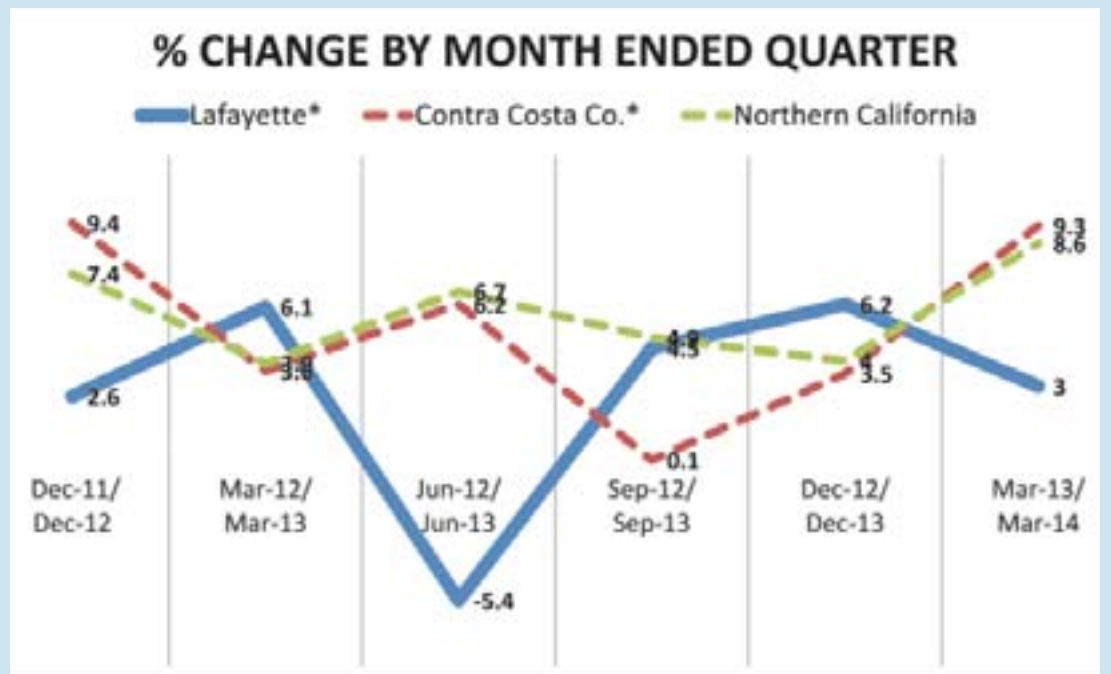
Sales tax receipts as a whole for California increased by 8.7 percent over the same quarter from last year. When you factor in statewide unemployment which dropped to the lowest rate since October of 2008, the economic picture is hopeful.

Lafayette's restaurants kept pace on a year to year basis comparing 2012 to 2013 up by 4.8 percent, about what the statewide average was. Real category winners are "Miscellaneous retail" up nearly 12 percent from last year, along with apparel stores up 9.8 percent for the same time period.

Comparing the most recent four quarters from April of 2013 through March of 2014 for Lamorinda's municipalities, Lafayette was up 2.2 percent in sales tax net cash receipts, Orinda was up 6.8 percent and Moraga was up 1.5 percent when compared to the same period a year ago - April 2012 through March 2013.

Tax amounts are reported for the three Lamorinda municipalities are noted in the charts below; the blue lines indicate which town, red dashed lines represent Contra Costa County sales tax and the green dashed line represents Northern California's sales tax. C. Tyson.

FISCAL YEAR TO DATE			
	Jul-11 thru Jun-12	\$ Chg	% Chg
Lafayette	\$2,697,899	\$58,265	2.2
Moraga	\$1,005,854	\$14,759	1.5
Orinda	\$999,860	\$63,370	6.8
Contra Costa County	\$141,767,376	\$6,420,019	4.7
Northern California	\$2,515,163,539	\$143,683,963	6.1



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Source: MuniFinancial

Civic News Moraga

Soul Searching for the Sports Facility Subcommittee

By Sophie Braccini

The Joint Ad Hoc Facilities Planning Subcommittee is a large, 12-member body that includes representatives from Saint Mary's College, the Moraga School District and Campolindo High School, town staff and elected officials, and the Moraga Sports Alliance. They meet with a similar objective: to provide residents with the sports and recreation facilities they need. But as users, landowners and administrators they have different perspectives, and during their third monthly meeting April 7 there were times when they didn't seem to hear what each other had to say. Progress was made nonetheless as the subcommittee continued to seek better ways to use existing recreation facilities, define a common vision of recreation in Moraga and identify the responsibilities each stakeholder will carry.

The meeting started with participants listing what they were expecting from the process. All indicated their desire to work collaboratively to better serve the recreation needs of residents. On the agenda was a discussion of the establishment of Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) for shared use of facilities.

When that discussion started, differences between participants surfaced.

Subcommittee vice chair Chris Maher, of the Moraga Sports Alliance, said that before MOUs are signed a structure should be put in place that would coordinate needs and administer the availability of fields and facilities. "We need a permanent group that does this," he said. Moraga's town manager, Jill Keimach, was in the audience and suggested that field owners get together to create a calendar. She tasked Jay Ingram, parks and recreation director, with the responsibility of putting it together. She also called for a long range vision.

Moraga School District governing board member Shari Simon also resisted discussing MOUs first. "What is it that we are trying to create and achieve?" she asked. She proposed a creative process in order to get a common vision. "MOUs are to be signed once the projects are defined," she added.

Councilmember Dave Trotter insisted that MOUs should be discussed separately now to better use what is available. He suggested bilateral conversations between the five entities

that have a stake in local sports and recreation.

The need expressed by the Sports Alliance was for more open fields, something they believe could be accommodated in the relative short term at Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School if a partnership with the school district is established. Simon reminded the group that the cost and responsibility to maintain infrastructure also needs to be taken into account, and school board member Charles McNulty insisted that the district's current facilities are adequate for its needs, the district's first duty is to educate children, and its budget is tight enough as it is.

Since Moraga is likely to be getting money from the Palos Colorados Development (see sidebar), staff and elected officials are thinking about possible new public facilities such as a gymnasium, a community center or a swimming pool, that could be funded by the town; in partnership with other stakeholders, or not.

Resident Edy Schwartz asked that other recreation users be not forgotten by the discussion group and the plan for sports and recreation facilities should be geared to

users from 3 to 99 years old.

Since the town owns very little flat land and often has to rent facilities from the school district for its recreation offerings, staff is trying to find options on its own properties. Ingram presented a proposal for a multi-field facility on the "back-forty" (an area at the back of the Moraga Commons Park that is little used) – a 166 by 135-foot building that would house two full size basketball courts or four volleyball courts. The project, a steel frame on a concrete slab, is in a very preliminary study phase; many issues need to be resolved, such as parking and ADA access.

The next meeting of the subcommittee is scheduled for 7 p.m. on May 5 at the Hacienda de las Flores.

The Palos Colorados development project that seems to have been going nowhere fast is, according to planning staff, starting to move forward again. The town expects that grading will begin next year for 120-home project. Once the developer obtains the grading permit, the town will receive \$2.25 million within 30 days and an additional \$3.5 million within 120 days; the conditions of approval include up to \$3 million for the town when the homes are built.

Town Council Opts for Electronic Sign

By Sophie Braccini



Design proposal by AdArt

provided

The Town Council recently selected a new electronic sign to replace the old community message board on Moraga Road across from the Commons Park. Hopeful that the new high-tech board could be in use this summer, council members were disappointed to hear that they should expect it for the summer of 2015. Design review and electrical work are likely to add months to the process.

The message board the council chose, proposed by AdArt, will be the same size as the current one – but any similarities end there. Town staff

must manually change the letters, one by one, on each side of the old sign; messages will be sent to the new sign electronically, within seconds, and will change at time intervals determined by staff.

"If there is an emergency, your police department will be able to immediately display information for residents," said the AdArt representative. "The sign can hold more messages than you will ever need, and you will define the time each message will be displayed."

The next step is for staff to bring

the proposed sign to the Design Review Board for approval. The board will have to determine if the electronic display complies with the town's new sign ordinance.

But first, that new sign ordinance must be approved.

If the message board is found compliant, staff will create a usage policy and the Town Council will approve the purchase. It will take two or three months for PG&E to provide the town with the necessary electric resources.

The sign is priced at approximately \$60,000. The source of funding is a non-restricted Comcast grant the town has not spent yet.

The cost to community groups to display a message for a week is currently \$60. Moraga Valley Kiwanis member Barry Behr told the council he was hoping the cost would remain the same.

Moraga Citizen of the Year



Cliff Dochterman has been named Moraga's 2014 Citizen of the Year. He was chosen, from among a list of people nominated by Moraga residents, by a panel that included representatives of the Moraga Valley Kiwanis, Contra Costa Times, Lamorinda Weekly, the Chamber of Commerce, Saint Mary's College and the 2013 Citizen of the Year, Dick Olsen. Dochterman's many achievements, including his role as the world president of Rotary International, were decisive factors. The award banquet will begin at 6 p.m. on Friday, May 2 at the Saint Mary's College Soda Center. Tickets are \$45 and can be ordered from Kathe Nelson at the Chamber of Commerce, email Kathe@MoragaChamber.org or call (925) 323-6524. S. Braccini

Community-Wide Garage Sale in Moraga

By Sophie Braccini



Inspired by the beautiful weather and the spirit of spring cleaning, Clinton Calkins, of Moraga's Parks and Recreation department, wants Moraga residents to clear out their garages and closets, set up their folding tables and participate in a community-wide garage sale from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, May 17.

Most Lamorindans are familiar with kitchen and garden tours; think of this event as a garage sale tour. For \$15, you can register your garage sale with Parks and Recreation and your location will be added to the Community Garage Sale Guide.

The nominal fee is to cover "the communication and advertising that we are doing to promote the event," and the cost of printing the guides, explains Calkins.

Sales of all sizes are welcome – single-family garage sales, block sales and community group sales, such as the sale being organized by the Moraga Women's Society. "We are taking the opportunity to get rid of some stuff that has accumulated over years

of marriage," smiles Rachel Riddle, the organization's president. Members will contribute treasures to be sold at her home in the Camino Ricardo neighborhood. "The money we raise at the garage sale will go to the schools, the library and other service projects," explains member Nancy Compelli.

Riddle anticipates that her garage, driveway and front lawn will be entirely occupied by the items roughly 30 members will bring. "One woman is downsizing and has a lot of interesting furniture, another has promised to bring an antique cast iron stove," she says.

"We hope this will also be a community building event," says Calkins, who reports that 10 sales have already been registered. You can add your garage sale online at www.moraga.ca.us – under Quick Links click on Register for Classes; or call Calkins at (925) 888-7036. The registration deadline is May 4.

Garage sale guides, including location maps, will be available May 14 for download at www.moraga.ca.us/dept/park-rec/community-garage-sale, or pick up at the town offices, 329 Rheim Blvd.; the Moraga library, 1500 St. Mary's Rd., and the Hacienda de las Flores, 2100 Donald Drive.

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From Front Page

Boomers and Beyond Take Aging in Stride

... continued from page A1

That tenacity is an ongoing hot topic in Lamorinda, and has recently been fostering lively discussions through "Health Matters for Boomers and Beyond," an educational series offered by the Orinda Library in partnership with the Friends of the Orinda Library and City of Orinda's Parks and Recreation Department. In addition to discussing how to "Prevent Scams, Fraud and Identity Theft" with Shirley Krohn, a member of the California Senior Legislature, participants attending the most recent session on April 11 tried out a Tai Chi workout with Marilyn Cooper of Little River Kung Fu School, and learned about ways to make Lamorinda more friendly to residents over the age of 65.

Having "a reason to be" and a social environment which "allows us to matter," are necessary to age well, said Andrew Scharlach, Ph.D. The Eugene and Rose Kleiner Professor of Aging at Cal cited "Six Cs" identifiable in aging-friendly communities: continuity, compensation, control, contribution, connection, and challenge. By installing simple "compensations" – benches for walkers to take brief breaks, railings to facilitate stair climbing – Lamorindans can help their neighbors continue to engage in the activities they love. By providing cultural and educational opportunities, they ensure that minds remain nimble.

"We are privileged and fortunate to live in a place like this and we appreciate it," said Health Matters attendee Lupe Jimeno, who moved to the Orinda Senior Village in 2004 to be closer to her grandchildren, three of whom attended school in Moraga. "Our senior community has increased

the revenues of our town and some of our residents are active members in city committees and activities," said the former employee of Esso Standard Oil who hiked Machu-Picchu and studied archaeology and anthropology at San Carlos University. "Most of our seniors are low income blue collar hard working people, but we do have retiree professionals, professors, doctors, and artists among us."

Many have volunteered for area schools and non-profits, as have other Lamorinda seniors – and that's important, say researchers. By viewing older residents as valued assets, communities aren't just keeping them healthy, they're tapping into wellsprings of wisdom and man-

power as seniors give back in ways they couldn't before retiring.

To learn more about the next Health Matters program – a May 16 Health Expo with informational programs about Medicare to palliative care and everything in between – contact Senior Community Librarian Beth Girshman: (925) 254-2184, ext. 15; bgirshma@cclib.org.

There will also be a free Crime and Fraud Prevention Forum for seniors from 10:30 to noon Thursday, May 15 at the Lafayette Community Center Sequoia Room. For more information and to find other senior activities in Lafayette, visit <http://www.ci.lafayette.ca.us/index.aspx?page=172>.

California's Senior Legislature

Established in 1979 when California State Assembly Member Henry Mello introduced legislation giving senior citizens a more powerful voice in lawmaking, the all-volunteer, non-partisan California Senior Legislature has been improving the quality of life for Californians over the age of 60 ever since. Praised by former U.S. President Ronald Reagan in 1989 "for accepting the challenge ... to prioritize the needs of California's elderly," CSL's members have persuaded California governors to sign into law 139 out of more than 300 proposals submitted to the State Legislature to improve education, health, housing, recreation, social services, and transportation – and to fight elder abuse.

In 2013, Governor Jerry Brown signed four of the CSL's five proposals, including AB 918, which requires that the State Emergency Plan include best practices for evacuating people with disabilities during natural disasters or other emergencies, and AB 663 mandating that care facility administrators and ombudsmen receive cultural competency training to better serve aging members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community.

Comprised of 120 peer-elected representatives from across California, the CSL is identified under Code 402m as the "California Fund for Senior Citizens," and is supported through the state Franchise Tax Board via the California taxpayer signoff option under Contributions (side 4 of Form 540). Tax deductible contributions are also welcome at any time throughout the year. To learn more, visit: www.4csl.org.

At Long Last, a Labor Agreement

... continued from page A1

So the union proposed the incremental increases and the revenue sharing idea. "If things get better, we will finally be able to at least recoup some of our losses from years ago," added Mark DeWeese, MOFD's union representative.

Board president John Wyro called the agreement a turning point in the history of the district, and he added that the district will benefit from a significant decrease in its unfunded pension liability as a result of the new labor contract.

In keeping with the non-celebratory tone of the meeting, free cookies provided by the district were barely touched.

Summary of the Tentative Agreement between MOFD and Local 1230

- Term:** through June 30, 2018
- Salary:**
Year One (July 1, 2014-June 30, 2015) – 3.5 percent decrease
Year Two – 1 percent increase
Year Three – 4 percent increase PLUS up to 3 percent more based upon district property tax increases
Year Four – 4 percent increase PLUS up to 3 percent more based upon district property tax increase
An additional 1 percent increase effective June 1, 2018
- Health Care:** district obligation capped at 2010 premium amounts, which is the district's current contribution
- Retiree Health Care:** current level for current employees, and a lower tier for future employees
- Staffing Model:** the ability for the district to hire up to 12 non-safety paramedics at a much lower pay scale to replace firefighter-paramedic vacancies

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Sharing Art and Vision

Lamorinda Arts Alliance lecture features local artist, and the building of a giant ichthyosaur

By Lou Fancher



50-foot, life sized fish-like creature resembles the ichthyosaur Photos provided

Artists, like the art they produce, come in all shapes and sizes. Their resumés are frequently patchwork: occupations like chemist, mountain climber, marine biologist, firefighter often stitch themselves to writer, sculptor, musician, dancer. Most people think of them as solitary individuals with a certain rough texture to their personalities that indicate either genius vision or outright unsociability.

But then there are artists who fit this profile in every way except for the last. These are visionaries who thrive on interaction. They tend to form collectives, or join their unique perspectives into potent centers of exploration, like the Lamorinda Arts Alliance.

Founded in 1994, LAA President Donna Arganbright said the organization exists to promote area artists and works with galleries throughout Lamorinda. She said the Lafayette Art Gallery's new location in The Forge,

on Mt. Diablo Boulevard, is thrilling. Promoting a show at the Moraga Art Gallery, an opportunity for artists to display their work at the May 10 Moraga Community Faire, and sending a call for art needed for Town Hall Theater's rotating lobby exhibits, Arganbright described the area's creative energy as "unlimited."

Perhaps the most exciting development for LAA—and local residents—is a planned resumption of the organization's bi-monthly meetings, a tradition that had been suspended for two years. Free to the public, LAA members and visiting artists present vivid programs and an insider's perspective on the creative process.

Kicking off the series with a lively presentation by LAA member and Lafayette resident Kris Vagner at Our Savior's Lutheran Church on April 10, it was exciting to imagine what could top "How to Build a Giant Ichthyosaur."

Vagner, an arts and public rela-

tions writer, was one person on The Pier Group's 50-person team who collectively conceived, funded, designed and built a 50-foot long, life-sized, prehistoric, fish-like creature resembling its real life ancestor: the ichthyosaur. A marine reptile that swam the ocean 225 million years ago in what is now Nevada, the 2014 plywood beast replica was constructed in the Generator, an enormous community art space in Sparks, Nev. It came complete with 10-inch resin eyeballs Vagner crafted in her home; a solar powered neon ichthyosaur "baby" sculpture created by Jeff Johnson, a Reno-based neon artist; and moveable parts masterminded by Bernie Beauchamp, a Reno puppeteer specializing in marionettes. Its moving head (9 feet long, with more than 100 teeth), waving fins and torso (lit by "strobe-y lights you activate by pulling a beer tab," Vagner said during the presentation) were designed to be interactive. And to travel: to the annual Burning Man festival in Nevada's Black Rock Desert, where 50,000 people participate every summer in one of the world's largest expressions of creativity.

"This is Burning Man," Vagner said, displaying an aerial image that looked rather like an incomplete sundial, set in sand. A closer look showed a carnival of construction with scaffolds, cranes, power generators and mostly, people. Artists, environmentalists and curious onlookers mingle at Burning Man—their mutual dependency on the elements made all the more apparent by a stunning photograph a member of Vagner's team took during an electrical storm.

"We had an architect, engineer and a house builder on the crew. I was still

nervous about injury and death, but nothing bad happened," Vagner joked.

While re-assembling the ichthyosaur after travel, Vagner said the 15-person crew worked day and night for a full week—this in a place with no electricity or running water. Even during the festival, repairs and upkeep meant "ambassadoring" the sculpture day and night. The project was funded by the Nevada State Arts Council and a Kickstarter campaign that received a serious boost from a

Nevada brewer, who donated kegs of their "Great Basin, 'Icky' IPA" at a fundraising party. Vagner said the in-kind donation estimate for labor (everyone is a volunteer on the Pier Group's projects) was equal to nearly \$18,000 at a point early in the project: "We don't know the total labor donation, but we owe a great debt to everyone who worked on it," she said.

Audience members asked if "Icky" turned out as expected.

... continued on page B4

Life in LAMORINDA

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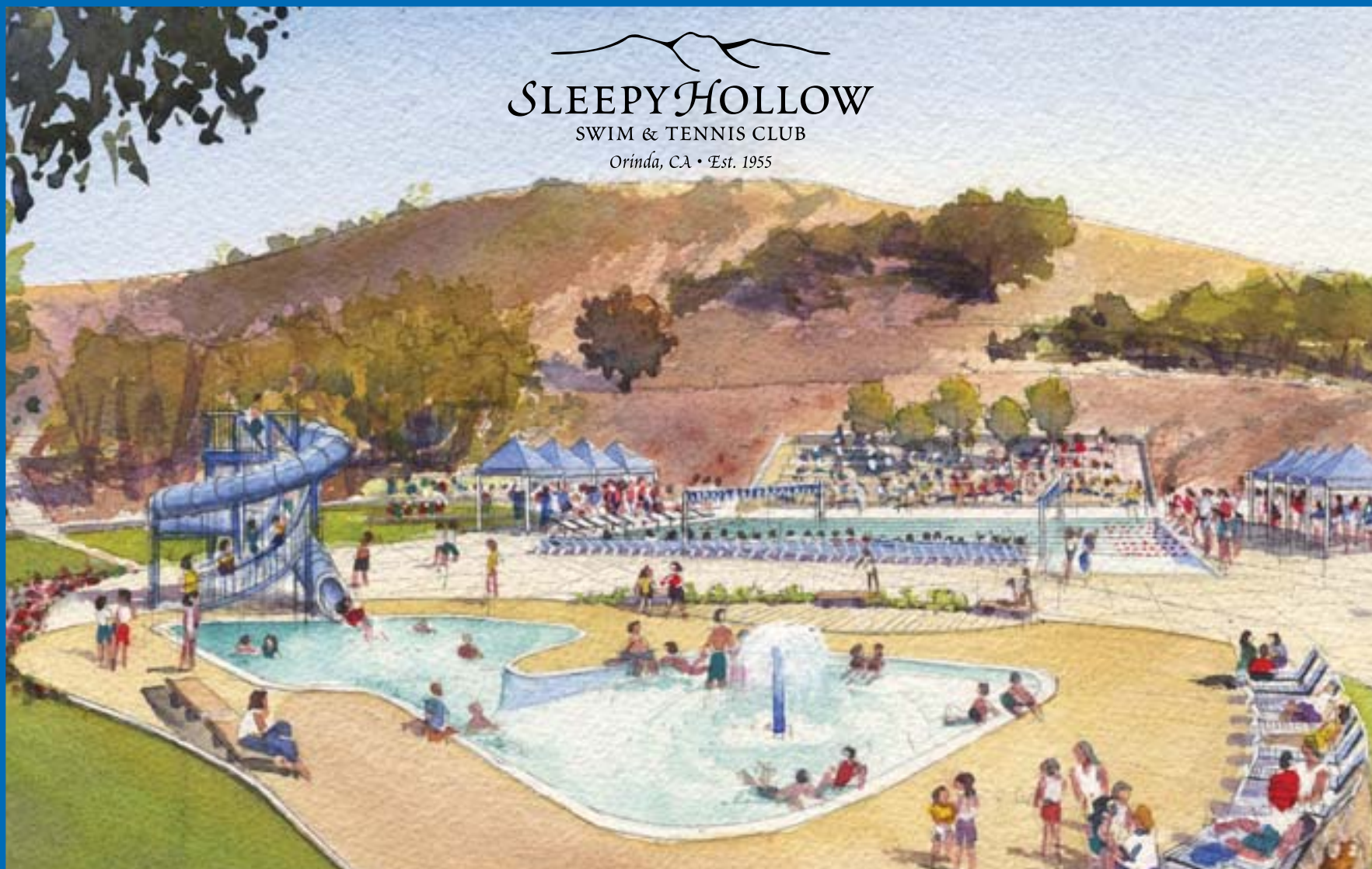
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Yom HaShoah – What the Holocaust Can Teach Us

Learning from the life of Henry Ramek

By Laurie Snyder



Henry Ramek and Eve Gordon-Ramek

Photos provided

"We remember because it is an unthinkable scar on humanity. We need to understand what human beings are capable of." – Raye Farr, "Why We Remember the Holocaust," United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

Reading about the Holocaust is never easy, but there is something particularly heart-breaking about doing so during the spring – the time of Passover and Easter – a time when modern day Druids also hold revels to celebrate life. But reflect we must because spring is also the time of Yom HaShoah – America's Days of Remembrance – the Congressionally-designated period to honor all who suffered, as well as those who protected and liberated the persecuted.

This year, the Orinda City Council will issue a proclamation April 22, encouraging residents to stand as one against hate. But hearts will be heavy because of killings in Kansas City – and be-

cause, in March, the East Bay lost a man who survived not one, but three death camps to change the world for the better.

Born the ninth of 12 children in Mława, Poland in 1918, Orindan Henry Ramek was a rabbi by the time he was a teenager and, at 30, the only one of 63 family members to survive the Holocaust. He became a beloved community leader and great-grandfather – but not before nearly dying as a teen, explains his widow and memoir collaborator, Eve Gordon-Ramek. Nazis "knocked him off his bike, beat him up," and took him to Treblinka. "They gave Henry a shovel and said, 'Now, you're digging your own grave.'" He was spared because he'd arrived just before the work day was over. "They put him in a shack, and said he'd be the first to be shot the next day."

Breaking through the shack's rotting wood, he ran and found a

farmer to take him to Płońsk where his brother, Yaakov Ramek, headed the Judenrat which distributed food and assigned work to thousands jammed into the mid-1941 ghetto. Many were persecuted by Heinrich Vogt, a member of the Kripo (German criminal-police).

"The brutality assaulted us in every aspect of our lives," wrote Henry Ramek. Vogt "came into the ghetto every morning at 8 o'clock on the dot. Each day he would kill four young people. He would point and call out, 'You, you, you, and you!' and then he would shoot them down. He would kill them in cold blood on the street for everyone to see and then just walk away. I saw it with my own eyes." While there, Henry Ramek met the future Mrs. Ramek – Anna Gutner.

During the Dec. 16, 1942 ghetto liquidation, Yaakov Ramek, his wife and children were sent on the final train from Płońsk to Auschwitz – to the gas chambers.

Henry Ramek was also sent there – his second death camp. "He found out right away that the best place to work was the laundry. The people who had to go out and walk around in the snow ...

they had no protection from the wind," says Gordon-Ramek. "These camps were for killing people." He got Anna a job cleaning toilets, and helped Polish Partisans, who freely entered and left as day laborers. "They gave him a shoe with a hollow heel; he kept a slip of paper in there, and would take them numbers of who and how many were arriving on trains," says Gordon-Ramek. "They would take it and give it to the free press."

Transferred briefly to Stutthof, he returned to Auschwitz. In 1945, he went three days without food or water on a death march before collapsing in Marburg. The Nazis covered him with a blanket and fled because the U.S. Army was nearby. American nurses saw the blanket move, and saved his life.

For five years afterward, Ramek used his fluency in multiple languages to help the Army track down Nazis. "It was kind of a transition from the pits of hell back into civilized society," says Gordon-Ramek. When he spotted Heinrich Vogt, he physically subdued him until soldiers came and arrested the former ghetto tormentor. When Vogt escaped by bribing two soldiers, Ramek

helped recapture him, gathering "30 other survivors to identify Vogt as a Nazi and testify about his cruelty and crimes."

After locating Anna in Bavaria, the Army helped them emigrate in 1951. They settled in Oakland, and he began work making sausage. Married at Temple Beth Jacob, they welcomed twin boys in 1953. He took over an Oakland shop, which became Oakland Kosher Butcher. Known for his kindness, he'd give a little extra to customers who were struggling, and instituted free chicken Fridays for students.

After cancer took Anna's life in 1995, Ramek married Eve Gordon. Together, they supported various philanthropic causes, and published Ramek's 2014 memoir, "My Will to Live – My Story of Surviving the Holocaust."

That "will" is perhaps best expressed by Estelle Laughlin, another survivor: "It's not enough to curse the darkness of the past. Above all, we have to illuminate the future. On the Day of Remembrance, the most important thing is to remember the humanity that is in all of us – to leave the world better for our children and posterity."



Henry Ramek with his great-grandson, Yaakov (Jacob).

Yom HaShoah – Days of Remembrance

4:30 p.m. Sunday, April 27

Temple Isaiah, 945 Risa Road, Lafayette

Say no to hate by joining with your neighbors at the county-wide Days of Remembrance. Everyone is welcome. Excerpts from Jake Heggie's opera, "Another Sunrise," will be performed. This moving short work captures the life of Krystyna Żywulska, a Polish resistance fighter and Holocaust survivor, as she struggles to tell her story during a sleepless night. Presented by Festival Opera, this free program is being underwritten by the Jewish Federation and The Jewish Community Foundation of the East Bay in partnership with local congregations and Jewish organizations.

It is never too late to learn:

Books:

- "All Rivers Run to the Sea: Memoirs" (1996): Elie Wiesel
- "The Druggist of Auschwitz: A Documentary Novel" (2011): Dieter Schlesak
- "The Liberators: America's Witnesses to the Holocaust" (2010): Michael Hirsh
- "The Nuremberg Interviews: An American Psychiatrist's Conversations with the Defendants and Witnesses" (2004): Leon Goldensohn
- "Survival in Auschwitz" (1995): Primo Levi

Film:

- "American Experience: The Nuremberg Trials" (2006 PBS Documentary)
- "The Boys from Brazil": Gregory Peck, Laurence Olivier, James Mason (R; 1978)
- "Conspiracy": Kenneth Branagh, Stanley Tucci (R; 2002)
- "Inheritance" (2008 PBS Documentary)
- "Judgment at Nuremberg": Spencer Tracy, Burt Lancaster, Marlene Dietrich, Judy Garland, Maximilian Schell (NR; 1961)

Web/Digital Resources:

- Southern Poverty Law Center (Hatewatch and Teaching Tolerance Resources): www.splc.org/
- United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (Holocaust Encyclopedia): www.ushmm.org/
- USC Shoah Foundation Visual History Archive: http://sfi.usc.edu/scholarship/archival_access/
- Yad Vashem – World Center for Holocaust Research: www.yadvashem.org/



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A Profile of Simplicity in This Spectrum Called Life

April is Autism Awareness Month

By Amanda Kuehn



Char Orina at the Futures Explored visual arts studio in Lafayette. Photo Amanda Kuehn

Char Orina is a thinker and an artist. She likes Tudor houses and big fat fish. She is fascinated with jewelry and collects bracelets and lip-stick, though she rarely wears either. She takes her coffee black and in large quantities. She doesn't like gossip. She does like scary movies.

In many ways, Orina is just your average 25-year-old. But while others her age might be pursuing careers or hanging with friends, Orina, who has an autism spectrum disorder, spends much of her time alone, working through her feelings. "I'm really working on being stronger and getting through the rough angry parts," she said. "Those are the parts that keep you from doing what you want to do." Art is one way Orina does this. "I have a lot of emotions and they come out in my art," she said.

Autism isn't Orina's defining feature, but it is a big part of her reality. "People that have autism see the world differently," she said during an interview at Futures Explored in Lafayette. "We can still learn, but maybe need to be taught one-on-one, or to practice a little more." Orina paused, looking at the pictures on the walls of the visual arts studio. "But if it's something we're interested in we'll probably learn it fast."

"Sometimes I need some space," she said. "When I'm not working or at the program I just like to sit on a bench and have coffee and enjoy the sun and try to be in the moment." This is also how Orina characterized her childhood, as a time to "just be in the moment."

It can be difficult for Orina to extend herself. Empathy and social interaction are common struggles for those with autism. "This is the most I've talked all week," she confided from behind a pair of sunglasses. A sort of distancing barrier, the sunglasses rarely come off.

Futures Explored, a day program that provides life skills and work-related training to adults where Orina has been coming for the past four years, gently encourages the young woman to form relationships. Each day she and the other clients are given a choice of activities ranging from brain buster games to local news discussions. Orina prefers the art studio. "I do the best I can," she said. "You can kind of see there's a lot of stuff happening," she noted, pulling out a brightly-colored painting featuring dark-lined faces, a lop-sided house and imaginative creatures. Orina makes art in the studio on Tuesday and Friday mornings and Tuesday afternoons.

Orina also works at Nifty Thrift in Lafayette, where she prices clothes, shoes and jewelry four hours a day, four days a week. The jewelry is her favorite. "You never know what kind of jewelry you're going to find," Orina said. She also enjoys the free coffee, stating that it gives her the

extra energy she needs to be out in public.

The rest of Orina's weekdays are spent at Futures, which is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. "I mostly learn from the guys and ladies here that know things that I don't know," she commented. "Everyone here is smart."

According to the National Autism Association, autism is the fastest growing developmental disorder in the U.S. It is a bio-neurological developmental disability that impacts the development of the brain in the areas of social interaction, communication skills and cognitive function. Autism is a spectrum disorder, meaning those who have it may exhibit a wide range of social and communicative impairments. They may also exhibit repetitive patterns of behavior, interests or activities. Many individuals with autism spectrum disorders also have underlying medical issues that can exacerbate their condition.

No one knows what causes autism. Many are born with it. Some parents have reported sharp regression in their children following early immunizations, though published mainstream science does not acknowledge a causal link between the two. The National Institute of Health recognizes that there is most likely a genetic predisposition, but states that an environmental component must also be present.

Autism presents a wide range of challenges for those who live with it. Treatment and intervention may include behavioral treatment, medicine, or both. It may require a rigid schedule, occupational therapy, speech pathology or a special diet. As more and more children are being diagnosed with autism (the current rate is 1 in 88), early intervention programs are growing.

There is no "typical" where autism is concerned, according to Barbara Townsend, program coordinator at Futures Explored. Orina is one case, but she is no more or less typical than anyone else when it comes to describing what it is like to live with autism. There is no cure, but there is hope. "Orina probably deals with the dark feelings every day," Townsend confided. But Orina is making great strides.

Though she does not think of herself as a wise woman, having learned how to deal with her own darkness, Orina has special advice to share. "Live for today and learn from yesterday," she offered. "Be yourself and no one else."

It is good advice to follow, no matter where you fall on life's spectrum.

To learn more about autism spectrum disorders, visit www.autismspeaks.org or nationalautismassociation.org. For information about Futures Explored, visit www.futures-explored.org.

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Summer Legal Internship in Orinda

Students get hands-on experience about life in law

By Sophie Braccini



GJEL attorney Andy Gillin speaks with students during last year's summer internship program.

Photo Peter Fleming

High school students who have ever wondered what it would be like to be a lawyer, to work in the legal profession, or are just curious about the different branches of public and private law, mediation and civil cases, will have an opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of the profession during a summer internship program offered by Orinda law firm GJEL Accident Attorneys. Designed for students interested in learning more about a career in the legal industry, the five-day internship, beginning July 21, will allow 20 students to meet different types of law professionals and gain a better understanding of their day-to-day lives.

"I was interested in seeing what it is like to be a lawyer,"

says Miramonte High School sophomore Lucy Portnoff, who participated in the first internship program last year. "They taught us a lot, and I was surprised by the number of different fields of law, such as labor, real estate, social security, juvenile, or copyright law."

The week-long internship was the idea of attorney Andy Gillin, who has been partnering with the Miramonte High School mock trial program for years. "He noticed that there was a gap in the knowledge high school students have of the law profession," says GJEL attorney Ralph Jacobson. "He wanted to give them a more practical idea of what the day-to-day life of lawyers and other law professionals is like."

Portnoff remembers a packed week, with students meeting from 9:30 to 4 p.m. daily. It was lecture-based with practical exercises and a little bit of homework reading briefs or other documents. "It was an educational experience," says Portnoff. "We got to observe a mediation and the lawyers at work. We were also asked to work together as a jury on an existing case. Many different guest speakers came in and talked to us about their specialties."

Jacobson adds that beyond the partners at GJEL who mostly specialize in personal injury, the firm invited other lawyers with different specialties to speak to students. "We asked someone working in the Oakland Public Defender's Office to come and

explain what it is like to work for the state," says Jacobson. "We also invited people such as paralegals and administrative support personnel to talk about what they liked in their profession and its challenges." According to the attorney, while the week was slightly academic, the interns were shown what a civil procedure is, as well as a legal dispute, its different phases, and also how law firms are organized. "There was no blue print out there for this kind of internship," he adds. "We just did our best to make it well rounded."

"The whole week was very collaborative and we got to work together with the other students," says Portnoff, adding that she is still in touch with some of them.

When they chose the 20 participants from among the 70 applications they received, Jacobson says the lawyers tried to build a geographically diverse group, while assessing their level of interest in the profession.

"This year I am applying for an internship with the Alameda County District Attorney's Office," says Portnoff. "I continue to be interested in law, but have not decided yet on an undergraduate field of study." Portnoff was one of the youngest participants last year as a freshman; Jacobson says that most students were sophomores and juniors.

"I got to interact with the students on the first day and then later on, when we worked on the mediation, they observed," says the attorney. "At first they were shy and quiet, but by the fourth day, they were lively, inquisitive and curious. It was a lot of fun and a great pleasure to work with them." He concludes that some of the students might go into law, and that they will now make a more informed decision if they choose that career.

To apply for the 2014 internship, go to <http://www.gjel.com/news/gjel-summer-internship-program.html> and download an application.

Love is in the Air at the Rheem Theatre

Live stage performance of 'Love Letters'

By Derek Zemrak

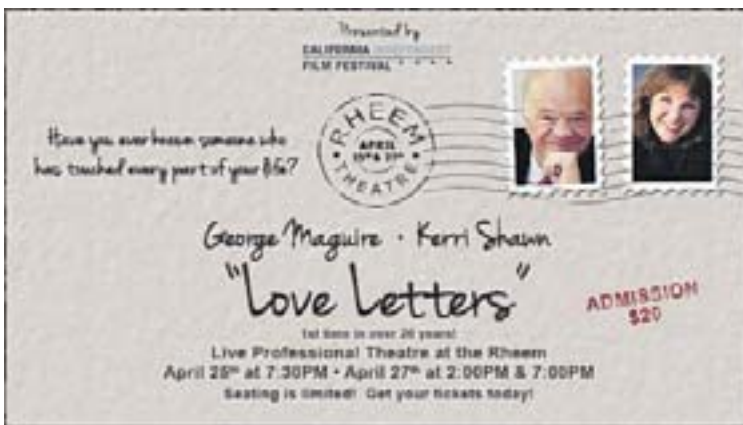


Photo provided

The California Independent Film Festival is proud to present the first stage performance at the Rheem Theatre in over 25 years – the Pulitzer Prize winner for drama, "Love Letters," written by A. R. Gurney. This is the per-

fect play to present in theatre four upstairs at the Rheem Theatre, where a newly constructed stage has been built to allow more live theater, comedy, improv, lectures and other events.

"Love Letters" is a two-char-

acter play that centers on Melissa Gardner and Andrew Makepeace Ladd III. Melissa and Andrew are both on stage as they read letters, notes and cards they have received from each other over 50 years of being pen pals. They share their hopes, dreams, sorrows, disappointments, accomplishments and losses. Many Hollywood actors have performed the play because it requires little preparation and the lines are never memorized, which is a requirement of the author. "Love Letters" has been performed by Tom Hanks, Rita Wilson, Carol Burnett, Brian Dennehy, Mel Gibson and Sissy Spacek, just to name a few.

This production will be performed by Bay Area theater fa-

avorites George Maguire and Kerri Shawn. Maguire has over 50 years of performing both on and off Broadway as well as having numerous film and television credits – "Fight Club," "Pursuit of Happiness" and "Nash Bridges." As a theater director at Center REP Theatre Company, Walnut Creek, his direction of "Our Town" and "Shirley Valentine" (with Shawn) received Shellie awards for best production and direction.

Since 1995 Shawn has served as director of education for Center REP Company at The Leshner Center of the Arts. She has been in a variety of productions over the past four decades including two one-woman shows; Shirley in

"Shirley Valentine" and Ann Landers in "The Lady With All of the Answers." Shawn has performed yearly for the past two decades at Eugene O'Neill's Tao House celebrating the life and work of Eugene O'Neill.

Come celebrate the return of live professional theater at the Rheem Theatre on opening night at 7:30 p.m. Friday, April 25. Two additional performances will be presented at 2:30 and 7 p.m. Sunday, April 27. "Love Letters" is a fundraiser for the elevator lift at the Rheem which is scheduled to be installed in June. Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased at the Rheem Theatre box-office or online at www.lamorinda.com theatres.com.

Sharing Art and Vision

... continued from page B1

"Things came out pretty much the way we thought, but the whole thing is kind of a surprise," she said. "After we put it up, there was one rib missing. We still don't know where it is."

But they do know where Icky is "living" today, post Burning Man. Installed on March 4 in just six hours at the Nevada Discovery Museum in downtown Reno, Vagner is thrilled to have found a home for the creation. Despite the fact it won't be interactively mobile and after minor criticism – a few scientists said it had anatomical errors, to which the museum answered, "It's an art piece," –

Vagner said, "The great part is, once it was built, people were amazed."

The group's next project, "Embrace," will be a 72-foot tall sculpture of two figures embracing; their heads the same size of the Statue of Liberty's head and with interior, spiral staircases lit by a mini-Cooper sized chandelier, shaped like a human heart. To learn more about the project or to donate, visit <https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/1705373243/embrace-burning-man-2014>. For information about the Lamorinda Arts Alliance, visit www.laa4art.org.



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A Decision Driven by Passion: Orinda Musician Hye Yeong Min

By Mei Sun Li



Photo provided

Into her late 30s and well established as a cancer research scientist, Orinda resident Hye Yeong Min (pronounced "Hey Young") in 1997 courageously and decisively took a detour in her career. She abandoned science for music and eventually received a Masters of Chamber Music degree at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. Min says of her conservatory training, "It was the hardest, most intense period of my life, and it was great."

Harvard and Stanford educated molecular biologist turned classical pianist, Min teaches piano, is a solo performer, both locally and at music festivals around the country, and also is a chamber musician. "Making music with others, when it goes well, is really exhilarating," she says.

Although her repertoire includes the great compositions of Chopin, Mozart, Brahms, Schubert and Schumann, Min feels particularly close to Beethoven's Sonata Opus 110, one of his last piano works. "It is a very spiritual piece that touches me deeply when I play it," she says. The decision she wrestled with 17 years ago was clearly the right one.

Dwight Stone, composer and President of the Contra Costa Performing Arts Society, says, "Hye Yeong Min is a superb pianist whose musicality comes to life in every piece she chooses to play. Her background in science as well as art translates into clarity of interpretation and execution." Min is an active member of CCPAS and a past president.

In Seoul, Korea, when Min was only 6, it was the captivating

keyboard tunes from a neighbor's piano that drew her to music. Soon she was taking lessons from that neighbor and putting in practice time there as well since her family did not own a piano.

When Min was 9, the family, including three sisters, immigrated to America, settling in Monterey, California. Along with the move, a piano purchased for \$100 and a remarkable piano teacher became a significant part of her new life.

While in grade school, she was already tinkering with chemistry sets and fascinated by the biological sciences. A high school junior year summer internship with a neuroscientist at NASA's Ames Research Center sealed the deal. "On the first day, I saw a bucket containing a human brain and watched a technician carefully cutting up brain slices," she says. Following undergraduate study in biology at Stanford, Min earned a doctorate at Harvard. Music remained a passion but necessarily took a back seat.

Soon she was deeply involved in cancer research. "I did like being a scientist," she says. "It was intellectually stimulating and we were close to a breakthrough in being able to cut off the blood supply to malignant tumors which then was a very new idea. But I never experienced the passion that I had for music."

Years later in 1997, heeding a growing, gnawing, and pent up feeling that music needed to be more central to her life, Min finally gave up the struggle and turned in her company badge. She re-focused on her piano practice and also allowed herself the luxury

of devoting more time to her two young daughters.

When Laura and Anna headed off to college, she applied to the music conservatory program and dove into the grueling 16 hour days of piano practice, chamber group rehearsals, lessons and classes. However, with the support of her husband Tom McDonald, an attorney, who enthusiastically took over household duties, Min received her master's degree in 2009.

Min and violist Wendy Clymer will be performing Brahms Violin Sonata No. 2 in A Major Opus 100 (transcribed for viola) at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 13 at Grace Presbyterian Church, 2100 Tice Valley Blvd. in Walnut Creek. This is a free Contra Costa Performing Arts Society event.

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Contra Costa Performing Arts Society Founder's Concert April 27

The Contra Costa Performing Arts Society is a local non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the performing arts among its members and in the community through free public concerts and workshops. Founded by Rosamond M. Davis in 1974, CCPAS will be celebrating its 40th anniversary with a Founder's Concert at 2 p.m. Sunday, April 27 at Grace Presbyterian Church, 2100 Tice Valley Blvd in Walnut Creek. For more information about this event and about other upcoming music performances including the annual high school vocal competition, go to www.ccpas.org.

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'Like Father Like Son' – A Philosophical Tale about Fatherhood

By Sophie Braccini



"Like Father Like Son"

Photo provided

The switching of two babies at birth is the root of Hirokazu Kore-eda's movie "Like Father Like Son" ("Soshite chichi ni naru," which literally translated means "becoming father after all"). The Japanese director explores the flaws of contemporary Japanese society and offers a philosophical tale that explores what it means to become a father, while portraying two very different social groups and ways of life in contemporary Japan.

The movie starts in the impeccably structured and controlled world of successful architect Ryoata (played by pop star Masaharu Fukuyama), his wife Midori (Machiko Ono) and their well disciplined 6-year-old son Keita. Their successful and happy life is shattered when the countryside hospital where the young wife delivered her son, calls to tell them their baby was switched at birth. The other family, Yudai (Lily Franky) and Yukari (Yoko Maki) are much less affluent and seem to live in a joyous and

somewhat precarious chaos with Ryusei, Ryoata and Midori's biological son, and two younger siblings.

Had this been an American movie, this discovery of the switch might have instigated violent outbursts and emotional scenes, but Kore-eda is of another school, that of old Yasujiro Ozu. He paints emotions through close-ups, where a single tear forming at the corner of the eye projects more than 20 seconds of sound and fury would, with subtleties similar to those in Masato Harada's movie "Chronicle of My Mother" shown last year as part of the monthly International Film Showcase. Machiko Ono, who plays Midori, the somewhat subdued wife of the successful architect is deftly restrained. Even the two boys, who say very few words, have an almost palpable physical presence that carries a great deal of emotion.

The movie could be perceived as a political tirade. The materialistic world of Ryoata, where broken toys are replaced by new ones and where

a father cannot relate to his son, to the tin shack where Yudai repairs everything and everyone bathes together in one bathtub.

But beyond the social portrayal, Kore-eda's movie is a reflection about how to become a father. In an interview for the French newspaper L'Humanité (the movie won the Jury Prize at the 2013 Cannes Film Festival), Kore-eda confirmed that he made the movie to answer the question, how do we become fathers? "The idea of switching the children is a way to ask the questions of the bloodline and of time," he said. "In one of the scenes, one of the mothers, Saiki Yukari, says: 'For you the bloodline is the most important question because you have not bonded with your child.' What fathers are asking is whether their child is like them."

The one-week showing of "Like Father Like Son" begins May 2 at the Orinda Theatre. For tickets and showtimes, call (925) 254-9060.



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Miramonte's Public Speaking Team Remains Triumphant

Submitted by Fatima Hasanain



Miramonte High School Individual Events Speakers

Photo provided

For most people, the term "March Madness" refers to the frenzy of college basketball games that consume people's lives for the entire month. However, for Miramonte High School's public speaking team, the phrase takes on an entirely different meaning. For these students, March is a busy time, with tournaments held every Saturday, some even beginning a day early on Friday.

These "March Madness" qualifying tournaments determine which distinguished competitors will proceed to the highest levels of competition: the California High School Speech Association's State Tournament held this April in Modesto, Calif., and the National Forensic League's National Tournament held in June all the way in Overland Park, Kan.

Historically, Miramonte's team has had great success in qualifying a large number of students to both of these tournaments, but this year has been one of the most triumphant yet. This year, head coach Kristen Plant will lead a team of 36 students to the State Tournament, and 10 students to the National Tournament.

"These speakers have worked harder than ever to make it so far

in the competition, and will undoubtedly represent Miramonte well in the upcoming prestigious tournaments," says Miramonte junior and team member Fatima Hasanain. "There is no doubt that the team's success would not be possible without the endless support of the Educational Foundation of Orinda and all the hardworking volunteers that make such trips possible. The entire Miramonte public speaking team extends its sincerest gratitude to EFO for its continued support in helping the program thrive."



Photo courtesy Leslie O'Brien

archives: <http://www.lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue0803/Grace-and-Passion-Lamorinda-marathoners-to-show-their-love-for-Boston-a-year-after-bombing.html>)

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Rheem School Student Advanced to State Geo Bee Finals

Submitted by Charlotte Gruebele



Rheem Elementary School fifth grader Mason Gruebele Photo provided

For the first time in Donald Rheem Elementary School history, the school's Geography Bee Champ advanced to the National Geographic Bee State Finals. Mason Gruebele, a 10-year-old fifth grader, traveled to Fresno State University April 4, to compete with 97 other

fourth through eighth graders for the title of State Champion. Nearly 600 schools in California participated in school Bees this year. Each school's Geo Bee champ then took a test to qualify for the state championship. This year, 101 students were invited to participate in the State Final, and 98 were there to compete.

Mason's love for geography started in first grade when he began drawing his own maps of the United States. Now he is passionate about drawing maps of the world, and learning about the cultures, languages and histories of other countries. He collects maps and reads atlases for enjoyment. In addition to his love of geography, he enjoys Boy Scouts and playing classical music on the piano. He was also Rheem School's Bee champ last year as a fourth grader, the only student to win the title two years in a row.

Although Mason missed one question in the preliminaries and did not get to advance to the tie breaker round in Fresno, it was such a great experience that he is eager for a chance to earn a spot at the National Geographic Bee State Final next year.

Beach Music in Lafayette

By Cathy Dausman



Matt Kolb (left) and Ben Miller listen to a song they recorded as the duo Eventide. Photo Cathy Dausman

The Lafayette studio is a compact affair with a phone booth-sized sound room holding only a Shure mic. Add a keyboard and beat pad, an acoustic and electric guitar and two musicians, and it becomes production headquarters for the duo, not a band, who call themselves Eventide. Matt Kolb and Ben Miller are Eventide; they're aiming for a laid back guitar sound filled with riffs, light percussion and what Miller calls fast-spoken "flow" vocals.

There's a gentle jazzy, soft rap feel to the Eventide sound, one that Kolb and Miller describe as a blend of alternative rock and hip-hop.

The students - Kolb attends Diablo Valley College; Miller is an Acalanes High School senior - aim to make "beach" music, hence the sunset-evoking name. They began working together last year after Miller taught himself to play guitar, and approached Kolb to jam. "It'd be a waste not to share [their music]," Kolb reasoned, so they recorded and produced it. Miller writes the guitar line music first, then fills in lyrics; Kolb lays down the beat work and handles production.

Kolb describes himself as classically trained, having started piano lessons in second grade. He played piano and percussion in wind groups and jazz ensembles through Stanley Middle School, regularly attending Lafayette Summer Music Jazz

Workshops, and Acalanes High School. "Music has been a huge influence my whole life," Kolb said, adding he'd like to make a career of music production.

The self-taught Miller has yet to take a music theory class, but that didn't stop him from singing lead vocals. The duo listens to Boston-based Aer, Jack Johnson and Foo Fighters for inspiration, and would love to open for a favorite band in a small Berkeley venue, but right now their focus is the upcoming release of a five song EP recording. They're pleased to have accumulated 50,000 plays on the web-based audio distribution platform, SoundCloud.

"Eventide's production and music skills are really good," said Lafayette singer/songwriter Laura Zucker after listening to their music online. "They are able to emulate several musical styles, and I like the contrast of traditional rap style music with non-traditional style lyrics," Zucker added.

Miller wants to attend the University of California at Santa Barbara, close enough to drive to Kolb at USC or UCLA, where he "can be Matt's weekend roommate" and continue to make music together.

Listen to Eventide via SoundCloud at <https://soundcloud.com/eventide-music-1>, find them on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/TheEventideMusic> or follow the duo on Twitter: @eventide_music.

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Vuafu Goes to Iowa!

Submitted by Michelle Regan



Lafayette fourth and fifth grade Odyssey of the Mind Division 1 "Driver's Test" team, back row, from left: Peter Husch, Kaitlyn Srinivasan, and Matthew Brock-Utne; front row: Cole Regan, Nathaniel McManus, Charlie Schofield, and William McGlothlen. Photo provided

Vuafu, his professor, and mechanic are bringing Mr. Head Guy (George Peterson Sanders, aka GPS) along with two narrators, a carrot-eating bunny, and a robot bunny car to Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa to compete in Odyssey of the Mind's World Finals Driver's Test. These characters, portrayed by Lafayette fourth and fifth grade students sponsored by Burton Valley Elementary School, conduct an original 8-minute performance where Vuafu, an absent-minded adolescent carrot, takes his driver's test in a robot bunny car designed and built solely by the

Lafayette students. The vehicle, disguised as a robot bunny to protect carrot personalities (like Vuafu), must complete a series of challenges outlined by the competition rules all while being an integral part of the group's overall student-created performance. Competition vehicle performance requirements include using two different methods of propulsion; picking an item up, transporting it, and delivering it to a new location; knocking over an item; and crashing through a wall. The Burton Valley based team advances to this World competition

event to compete against teams from all over the globe after securing a first place finish at the San Francisco Bay Region competition and a second place finish at the California state competition. Stay tuned for World competition results! Students between the kindergarten grade and university level who are interested in being part of a team to compete in Odyssey of the Mind, or adults able to coach a student team, can go to <http://www.odysseyofthemind.com> to learn more about the program.

TEEN SCENE

Too Much Stress is Harming Today's Teens

By Henna Hundal

When most people think about the life of a teenager, what typically comes to mind is days of cruising the mall, riding bikes around town, hanging out with friends, going to parties, and building lasting memories. After all, you're only young once, right?

Maybe so, but new research is indicating that the teenagers of today aren't really living the kick-back, carefree lifestyle. According to the American Psychological Association, today's young people are more stressed out than ever – in fact, even more stressed out than adults! Junior Hunter M. says, "I find myself becoming stressed out about once or twice a day."

In February of this year, the APA released the results from its 2013 Stress in America Survey, and the statistics are both very troubling and very telling. Participants in the survey rated their daily stress levels on a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 representing the least amount of daily stress and 10 representing the most. Out of the 1,018 teenagers who took the survey, the average stress rating was 5.8. On the contrary, the adults who took the survey had an average stress rating of 5.1. Junior Isaac M. says, "We teens usually get stressed out when we act irresponsibly, like procrastinate, and don't take measures carefully. When we don't manage our time well, the feelings of stress start kicking in."

Undoubtedly, school is a key root of the stress, according to the teenagers who participated in the survey. Not to mention, 31 percent of the surveyed kids said that all the school-year stress often makes them feel overwhelmed, and another 30 percent reported that it makes them feel depressed. It's so concerning that such a

large group of young people have self-reported higher stress levels than adults, as stress can have detrimental effects on a growing person's health. For example, it can lead to overeating, headaches, high blood pressure, heart problems, and anxiety. As senior Arezu K. points out, "All that tension and pressure is definitely not good for our bodies."

Clearly, this epidemic of stress hitting teenagers needs to be turned around in some way. Whether that means putting minor tasks on the backburner for a while, or whether it means readjusting one's agenda to better reflect what one is able to manage, it's crucial to find a way to get a handle on all the tension. "When I know I need to let off some pressure, I go outside and take a walk around the block," says Hunter.

Basking in the outdoors is just one of the many great ways to de-stress. Turn on some music, phone a friend, find a fun hobby, take some deep breaths: releasing the tension is crucial. The teenage years of our lives should be times of enjoyment, growth, and relaxation – not ones marred by stress.



Express Yourself!® Teen Radio Reporter/Co-Host and Be the Star You Are!® volunteer, Henna Hundal, is an 11th grader on a mission to empower the younger generation to lead active, healthy lives.

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.

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Gold Coast Chamber Players Mentor in Music

Season wraps with May 4 finale at Lafayette Library

By Diane Claytor



Gold Coast Chamber Players at a recent "Topics in Tempo" session.

Photo provided

"Music gives ... wings to the mind ... and life to everything." –Plato

People who have enjoyed the wonderful music played by the Gold Coast Chamber Players may heartily agree with the Plato quote above. Performing since 1987, the Gold Coast Chamber Players have made their home in Lafayette for the last 15 years, entertaining audiences with their unique, inspiring sounds.

When asked to differentiate chamber players from an orchestra, artistic director, viola player and co-founder of Gold Coast, Pamela Freund-Striplen, said that with chamber music, it's one person playing one part. "Each person is like a soloist,

which makes the collaboration really interesting and really vibrant. Each player contributes and interacts in a deeply personal and artistic fashion. Musicians often feel that's where they do their best work, feel most alive," she explained.

Freund-Striplen is as passionate about education as she is about music and, over the years, has brought concerts to most of the Lamorinda schools. She has also developed two outstanding programs to help bring beautiful music to kids and one program that helps kids bring beautiful music to Gold Coast audiences.

For 14 years, Gold Coast has been mentoring talented, young stu-

dents by giving them the opportunity to perform in a professional concert. In fact, the May 4 season finale, "Virtuosi," at the Lafayette Library will feature this year's student, violinist and Palo Alto High School senior Megan Rohrer. Past performances have featured the Acalanes Chamber singers and musicians from both Campolindo High School and Stanley Middle School.

Freund-Striplen notes that students "soak up the experience of playing with professionals." One former student, Orinda pianist Chloe Pang, said that "having the opportunity to make my formal chamber music debut with ... Gold Coast ... was a great honor and an unforgettable ex-

perience. ... Gold Coast allowed me to voice my ideas and treated me as a colleague, inspiring me to play at my highest level."

Ever since moving to Lafayette, a portion of each Gold Coast concert has been brought into the local schools. The students get a sneak peek of an upcoming show, as well as the chance to speak with the musicians about their music, instruments and profession. "This program is designed to create excitement among the kids and encourage them to come to the performance with their family," Freund-Striplen explained.

The most ambitious and, according to Freund-Striplen "the most difficult to explain," Topics in Tempo is described as "an invigorating instructional program that brings students, teachers and professional musicians together.

"We found that, while Sneak Previews got the students excited, it didn't seem to go beyond the moment," Freund-Striplen said. "It was an enrichment program with not much sticking power." Seven years ago she and her husband, professional clarinetist Tony Striplen, developed Topics in Tempo for grades K-5. The program uses a single movement from a classical piece to teach basic academics over a five-day period.

Beginning with Language Arts, Freund-Striplen said students "listen to a recording of the classical music and create a story inspired by it." For the math section, the kids "study fractions and division by exploring rhythm and beats; we talk about how you feel things differently depending on whether it's a meter of 3 or 4. The kids then become 'maestros,' conducting the piece."

In science "we talk about how sound travels, experimenting with different types of strings and how the pitch changes," Freund-Striplen said. "We often bring in a professional violin maker; the kids love that." The social studies section is, according to Freund-Striplen, "the most fun. We take four very small sound bites from the music and the kids learn how to sing them; they then become composers by ordering the four bites and varying the pitch, tempo or character."

The week concludes with the Topics in Tempo quartet coming into the classroom and playing the piece live. "We tie all the concepts together," Freund-Striplen said. "We've found that year after year, the kids remember what they learned."

Freund-Striplen noted that Gold Coast feels very fortunate to call Lafayette home, stating the audiences are very enthusiastic. "We're always looking for ways to reach more of the community. We want to have a personal relationship with our audience and have them enjoy every piece we perform."

Perhaps Bono said it best: "Music can change the world because it can change people."

Gold Coast will close out this special 15th season at 2 p.m. Sunday, May 4 with a high-energy concert at the Lafayette Library, followed by an anniversary celebration featuring catering from Whole Foods Market. Freund-Striplen said "we're pulling out all the stops" at this final show. "There will be effervescence, jubilation and each piece, on its own, could be a show stopper."

For tickets, visit www.gcplayers.org or call (925) 283-3728.

Taking Charge of College Admission

By Elizabeth LaScala, PhD

Many parents can recall the days when they applied to one, or perhaps two or three colleges, got accepted to their first choice school, and were done. Today, when over 12 million readers across the nation eagerly await the release of the annual August issue of US News and World Report on college rankings, those days seem far behind us and the college admission process is unduly stressful. There are many reasons why this is so. First, high school graduation rates are up in 46 states. According to the June 6, 2013 "Education Week" (<http://www.edweek.org/ew/toc/2013/06/06/index.html?intc=EW-DC13-LNAV>) the nation's high school graduation rate is approaching 75 percent, its highest rate in 40 years. The annual "Diplomas Count" report (<http://www.edweek.org/ew/toc/2013/06/06/index.html>) tracks graduation rates across the country and calculated the national average at 74.7 percent for the class of 2010, the most recent year for which data is available. Projections indicate these numbers will remain high until at least 2022.

In addition to more high school graduates, the demand for higher education has risen steadily, translating into greater numbers of college applicants. For many, a college degree is viewed as the path to economic security, and studies confirm a strong correlation between lifetime earnings and educational attainment.

On their part, colleges (for reasons related to institutional priorities and college rankings) aggressively reach out to prospective applicants, escalating their marketing efforts to attract large and diverse pools of qualified applicants. Broad student recruitment and direct outreach continue to grow in popularity both nationally and abroad. Schools send students emails, attractive guidebooks and invitations to attend regional college conferences and visit campuses for specially arranged tours. College admissions officers visit local high schools and host booths

at college fairs. And, of course, technology makes it easier than ever to access college websites, take virtual tours and prepare college applications. The Common Application, a standardized form that can be completed once and submitted electronically, has also simplified the process; it is currently used by well over 500 member institutions representing 48 states and a handful of European countries, including the United Kingdom.

These trends result in more students applying to more schools than ever before. Yet this is only part of the reason for the increased stress. Digging a bit deeper, we see that the sources of anxiety afflicting many families are fairly limited in scope. Admission stress is most felt by those who are applying to the 50 most prestigious colleges and universities in the country. More students are competing for the same number of freshmen spots at these institutions, so many well qualified applicants are rejected each year. As I frequently and wryly comment, "they [colleges] are pushing for more applications, so they can reject more students."

Unfortunately, heightened media attention on these super selective colleges makes it appear more difficult to gain entry to colleges and universities everywhere. The overall impact on students and parents can be nerve racking. The pressure mounts to take more challenging coursework, register for increasingly earlier test prep, and hire consultants to help students "get into" to the "right" college. College admission has become big business, and students are the consumers. Education begins to be treated as a commodity rather than a public good. The competition creates a game of winners and losers, and the good reasons for getting a college education as well as the quality of that education may become compromised.

There are a few simple guidelines that can help students reclaim the college admission process. First, control what you can control.

With all the hype, it is easy to lose sight of the fact that it is you, the student, who should be highly selective in the college you choose. Students must research and select colleges that meet their interests, needs and academic goals and that their families can afford. Next, plan ahead and start early. Colleges admit students who take grades seriously, challenge themselves and demonstrate consistent involvement in several activities they are truly passionate about. This can include paid employment during summers and breaks or even during the school year if it does not compromise grades or when a family needs the extra cash flow. Taking charge also means taking an honest look at areas for improvement and focusing on these during the high school years. Being a senior is far more fun and rewarding if you prepare the groundwork by doing what needs to be done in the first three years. No matter when you get started, the secret is good organization and planning, taking the right steps at the right time and ultimately applying to colleges that are a good match for you. It is helpful to remember that a good, often a great education can be had at hundreds of schools nationwide, and most of these institutions accept 50 to 80 percent of their applicants.



Elizabeth LaScala, Ph.D. is an independent college advisor who draws upon 25 years of higher education experience to help guide and support the college admissions process for students and their families. Dr. LaScala is a member of NACAC, WACAC and HECA. She can be contacted at (925) 891-4491 or elizabeth@doingcollege.com. Visit www.doingcollege.com for more information about her services.

Celebrations

Lafayette Native Awarded Donald A. Strauss Foundation Scholarship



Anna Peare

Photo provided

Lafayette native and UC Davis student Anna Peare was recently named the UC Davis recipient of the Donald A. Strauss Foundation Scholarship for her project titled the Amigos de las Américas: Backyard Program, which aims to give youth of all backgrounds the opportunity to become catalysts for positive development and change in their own community. The Donald A. Strauss Public Service Scholarship Foundation, established as a memorial to the late Don Strauss of Newport Beach, awards \$10,000 scholarships to as many as 15 California college sophomores or juniors annually. The Strauss scholarships fund public service projects that the students have proposed and will carry out during their junior or senior year. Since its inception, the foundation has awarded more than 240 scholarships, and like their counterparts in the past, all of the new recipients have extensive records of community and public service, as well as a demonstrated desire to "make a difference."

Lamorinda's Religious Services



Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church
433 Moraga Way, Orinda, 254-3422
www.holyshepherd.org



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

SAINT GILES EPISCOPAL CHURCH

"My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the peoples."
- Isaiah 56:7; Matt. 21:13; Mark 11:17



9:00am Sunday School & Service
at Saint Mary's College Chapel
1928 Saint Mary's Road, Moraga

Saint Giles is an Inclusive & Affirming Community...All are Welcome!

www.stgiles-moraga.org ~ 925-376-5770

The Orinda Community Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ
10 Irwin Way, Orinda | 925.254.4906 | www.orindachurch.org

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

Join us Sundays at 10:00 a.m.
Sunday School 10:00 a.m.

St. Anselm's Episcopal Church

A Loving Community

Sunday Services: 8 and 10 AM

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

Lafayette United Methodist Church

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

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

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

► Seedlings Preschool, M-F.

► Something for Everyone, speakers, small groups, classes, youth groups, mission trips, more!

LAFAYETTE-ORINDA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
See more at LOPC.org

ORINDA CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH

24 Orinda Way (next to the Library) - 254-4212

Sunday Service and Sunday School 10 - 11 am
Informal Wednesday Meeting 7:30 - 8:30 pm
Reading Room/Bookstore M - F 11 - 4; Sat 11 - 2

www.christianscienceorinda.org



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

MORAGA VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
10 Moraga Valley Lane, Moraga CA
www.mvpctoday.org • 925-376-4800



St Stephen's Episcopal Church

66 St. Stephen's Drive, Orinda
254-3770. www.ststephensorinda.org
Sunday 8am, 10am & 5:30p.m. Casual Eucharist

WILLOW SPRING CHURCH

Your Hometown Community Church

Try Something New With Your Whole Family This Week
Sundays: 9:00am Adult Sunday School Classes
10:00am Pre-Service Fellowship (Free Coffee & Bagels)
10:45am Contemporary Worship Service
11:15am Children's Church
Wednesdays: 10:00am Community Bible Study
1689 School Street, Moraga (925)376-3550
www.willowspringchurch.net

◆ Not to be missed ◆ Not to be missed ◆

ART

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.

Moraga Art Gallery's current show, "Illuminated by Nature," featuring paintings by Kerima Swain and Karen Kramer will run through May 31. 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.

MUSIC

Saint Mary's College Associate Professor Lino Rivera, Ph.D., will present a talk/recital, "A Conversation with Bach," at 4 p.m. Sunday, April 27 at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette. Piano works by Bach, Beethoven, Brahms, Chopin and Liszt will be performed, with connections drawn showing how Bach influenced each of these other composers. This event is part of the church concert series, which presents free public performances. A freewill offering will be collected. For info, contact Martin Morley, director of worship and music at the church, (925) 283-3722, martin@oslc.net.

Town Hall Theatre is proud to present the 4th Annual Lafayette Community Music Festival beginning at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, May 3. This year's festival features an assortment of homegrown talent spanning decades of local musical inspiration. Come and bid on rock and roll and sports collectibles as well as local hotel and restaurant items in at the silent auction. Tickets: \$30 advance; \$35 at-door.

The Gold Coast Chamber Players will be pulling out all the stops for their Season Finale: 'Virtuosi' at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, May 3 at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 600 Colorado Ave and at 2 p.m. Sunday, May 4 at the Lafayette Library, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd. This program is designed to highlight the brilliance of the performers and their effervescent approach to music making. An Anniversary Celebration Party catered by Whole Foods Market Lafayette and features tapas, sangria and more follows the May 4 Lafayette performance. Tickets: \$35 general; \$30 senior; \$10 students, available online at www.gplayers.org or by calling (925) 283-3728. Anniversary Party tickets (May 4 in Lafayette only) are \$15 adults and \$10 children. (See related story page B9)

Toad the Wet Sprocket and LUCE are teaming up for a Notes4Notes Breast Cancer Benefit Concert Thursday, May 15 at the historic Orinda Theatre. Doors open at 7 p.m., show starts at 8 p.m., no-host bar, and all ages are welcome. GA and VIP Tickets available at www.notes4notes.org and proceeds benefit Fran Drescher's Cancer Schmancer Movement. If unable to attend the event, a tax-deductible donation can be made at www.notes4notes.org.

Voci Women's Vocal Ensemble, directed by Anne Hege, presents "Songs to Live By," a banquet of songs that feed the soul, remind us of our better selves, and bring us together at 4 p.m. Sunday, May 18 at St. Perpetua Catholic Church, 3445 Hamlin Rd., Lafayette. Tickets: \$25 suggested donation at the door; \$20 advance; \$15 students; free for children ages 6-12. Available at the door or online: www.vocisings.com. For info, call (510) 531-8714.

THEATER

The Rheem Theatre will have its first "Live Theater" in 20 years - "Love Letters" at 7:30 p.m. Friday, April 25 and at 2 and 7 p.m. Sunday, April 27. Support this wonderful addition to the Rheem Theatre. It is also a fundraiser for the "ADALift" that will be installed in the early summer of this year. Purchase tickets at Lamorindatheatres.com.

Convergence, the spring dance concert slated for May 8, 9 and 10 in LeFevre Theatre at Saint Mary's College, presents a dynamic program of new works by our talented and distinguished dance faculty. The SMC Dance Company dancers will explore the theme of "convergence" from a different point in space: dancers join together, converging in an evening of beautiful performances. Tickets: \$15 general admission; \$10 seniors (65+) and non SMC students; and \$5 for SMC students, faculty and staff. For info and reservations please contact (925) 631-4670. Online tickets are also available at brownpapertickets.com.

Role Players Ensemble presents Gilbert and Sullivan's "Ruddigore." Combine a witch's curse, a haunted castle and a chorus of professional bridesmaids and you have a comic feast for the senses. This innovative take on Ruddigore Castle residents, both living and dead, fills the stage with delightful music, witty dialogue and wacky characters. Show runs through May 10; 8 p.m., Friday, Saturday; 2 p.m. Sunday at the Village Theatre, 233 Front Street, Danville. Tickets: \$20-28; online at www.RolePlayersEnsemble.com; at Danville Community Center or call (925) 314-3400.

FESTIVALS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

Lafayette will host its 9th Annual Earth Day Festival from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, April 27 at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd. (See story page B12)

Bring the family from 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday, April 27 for delightful adventures under the oak trees between 1 and 4 p.m. at the 13th Annual Earth Day-Wildlife Festival on Sunday, April 27 at the Wagner Ranch Nature Area under the oaks and adjacent to Georgette Huntington's bluebird station to have any gardening questions answered. Congressman George Miller is the honored guest of the day and Chester Miner, Elder of the Cherokee Nation, will open with a tribute to nature. Come enjoy delicious food, music, creek explorations, games, nature walks, arts and crafts and more, 350 Camino Pablo Rd., Orinda. Free. Visit fwma.org to enter the photo contest for a chance to win one of many prizes. Also visit Lamorinda Weekly's Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian, at the event. Free potpourri and lots of fun activities for the family. <http://redroom.com/member/cynthiabrian/events/earth-day-and-wild-life-festival>.

SEED's (Special Education Enrichment Development Foundation) annual fundraiser is almost here! Celebrate Cinco de Mayo and raise money to help SEED's kids from 6 to 10 p.m. Friday, May 2 at the Lafayette Christian Church at 584 Glenside Drive, Lafayette. Tickets: \$35 (includes delicious Mexican favorites such as: made to order tacos, burritos, and quesadillas, dessert from Doodle Cakes and unlimited wine margaritas, sangria, beer and soda). Purchase tickets in advance at SEED's auction website: seedauction2014.weebly.com.

Cinco de Mayo Fiesta from 2 to 6 p.m. Sunday, May 4 at Hacienda De Las Flores, 2100 Donald Dr., Moraga. Live mariachi band, authentic Mexican food and drink and activities for all ages. Visit haciendafoundation.org for additional information.

Area residents who own classic cars are invited to participate in the 6th annual Moraga Classic Car Show, which takes place from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, May 10 as part of the 2014 Moraga Community Faire. The \$30 registration fee includes an entry ribbon, lunch for two, a commemorative photo, and a chance for owners to display their restoration work to the public. Prizes will be awarded. The registration deadline is May 1. To register, go to www.moragachamber.org/faire or call (925) 247-4629.

The Moraga Community Faire will take place from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, May 10 at the Rheem Valley Shopping Center, 570 Center St., Moraga. The event will include a classic car show, music performances, wine tasting from Lamorinda wineries, Moraga-owned food trucks, art and jewelry for sale, local merchants, and a dunk tank

with local celebrities. For kids there will be a climbing wall, carnival games, Bricks 4 Kidz LEGO experience, and a bounce house. A fire truck and County Connection bus will round out the attractions. For more info, visit www.moragachamber.org/faire.

An all-day, public event with free art exhibits, music concerts, drama performances, and fun outdoor entertainment to celebrate and showcase the applied and fine arts from 1 to 5 p.m. Saturday, May 10 in the Performing Arts Center at DVC. Get inspired by the performances, enjoy the exhibitor demos, and fill your belly with the scrumptious food, including our own DVC culinary department! The Festival will conclude with a 6 p.m. student art award presentation and reception, with entertainment provided by the DVC Music Department Jazz Combos. Free. For more information about the festival or for a full schedule of events, go to www.dvc.edu/whatsnew.

The Gardens at Heather Farm is excited to host its annual Mother's Day event in celebration of all moms! This fun-filled family event will be held from 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday, May 11 at The Gardens located at 1540 Marchbanks Dr., Walnut Creek. Bring a blanket and have a picnic in the Meadow Garden, stroll along the winding path of 24 unique gardens, or simply sit on a bench and soak up the natural beauty of the breathtaking surroundings including the meditation garden. Included are craft activities for everyone and a selection of gifts for sale from local Bay Area artists. Free.

The Orinda Library turns 100 this year. Come join the celebration from 3 to 5 p.m. Saturday, May 17 in the Library Plaza. Outside the Library, three local musical groups will perform, and there will be a raffle with cupcakes, balloons and beautiful gift baskets, and an ongoing trivia contest with prizes donated by area businesses. Inside the Library Garden Room, enjoy a quilting talk with national award-winning Orinda quilt artist Liz Piatt, a 5-minute video about the history of the Orinda Library, and birthday crafts with Orinda children's librarian Lin Look. For more info, visit the Friends website at www.friendsoftheorindalibrary.org.

12th Annual Taste of Lafayette 5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Tuesday, May 20. The tours begins at Lafayette Plaza with a wine & beer reception including appetizers and musical entertainment featuring a Beatles Tribute. Ticket holders go at their own pace to any or all of the participating restaurants. Then return for a dessert reception at the Plaza from 8:30-9:00pm. Tickets are \$45 if purchased by May 9, \$50 thereafter.

LECTURE & LITERATURE

Lafayette resident Wei-Tai Kwok will provide an update on climate change findings and answer questions on that topic during a presentation at 7 p.m. Friday, April 25, at Lafayette Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). A vice president of NRG Residential Solar Solutions, Kwok also is a member of the Climate Reality Project. Kwok will show updated slides from the Academy Award-winning documentary "An Inconvenient Truth" while describing climate change facts, the scientific consensus on today's challenges, and the consequences of ignoring the man-made difficulties to achieving clean air.

Jim Jorgensen, author and Money Talk host, will meet with former listeners and readers from 2 to 3 p.m. Sunday, May 4 in the Oak View Room of the Walnut Creek Library. His most recent book, "Where Did My Money Go?" is about what he learned about building a retirement nest egg.

Free Lecture series with information on injury prevention, fitness, and other related topics presented by Lafayette Physical Therapy, Inc. "Non-Operative Treatments for Musculoskeletal Injuries" with Dr. Chad Roghair, from 7 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, May 20. Seating for lectures is limited. Please call (925) 284-6150 to RSVP and reserve your seat, www.LafayettePT.com.

... continued on next page

Please submit events to:
calendar@lamorindaweekly.com

Not to be missed

Not to be missed

Not to be missed

KIDS, PARENTS & TEENS

Seedling's Preschool 16th Annual Wheel Day for kids who love anything to do with wheels from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 26 at LOPC - Lafayette Orinda Presbyterian Church 49 Knox Dr, Lafayette. The free event promises numerous vehicles from construction, public safety, public transport and local businesses. They will all be there for a viewing, climbing and a horn honking good time! Please consider bringing a non-perishable food item to be donated to Monument Crisis Center.

Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church invites you to its second annual Tea Party from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 26. Moms, grandmas, and preschool-age daughters of the Lamorinda community are invited to enjoy tea, scones, sweets, crafts, story time and more! The event will include a reading by special guest, best-selling children's author, Mitali Perkins. There is a \$10 cost per person to attend. Registration forms will be available online at www.mvpc.today.org until April 21. Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church is located in Moraga at 10 Moraga Valley Lane.

The Orinda Teen Advisory Council is searching for students in 6th to 12th grade who are interested in improving Orinda's quality of life. Applications are being accepted through Monday, May 5 at 4 p.m. for the following 2014-15 leadership positions: Two co-chairs, community involvement and outreach officers, a treasurer and records officer, and various school representatives. OTAC members meet the first Monday each month from 4 to 5 p.m. in the Orinda Community Center to implement community service initiatives and plan fun social activities. Applications are available at the Orinda Community Center front desk or by emailing: tfaulk@city-of-orinda.org. Selections will be announced at the OTAC meeting June 2. For more information call Orinda's recreation coordinator, Troy Faulk: (925) 253-4204.

Lafayette Partners in Education is proud to announce Project LPIE at Acalanes High School, a unique opportunity to recognize the talented Acalanes students for their project-based learning with a unique community twist! The students compete in any of the 13 categories that showcase their skills both within and outside the curriculum. Project judging is done by professional business people with extensive expertise in the various categories. The student project submissions include: Acting, Applied Design, Community Service, Creative Writing, Vocal Music, Photography, and many other categories! All projects will be displayed, and the winning projects will be recognized at the Award Reception from 4 to 6 p.m. Friday, May 16 and an Open House event from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, May 17, both located at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center.

Are you looking for summer volunteer work? Do you enjoy working with kids? Each year, more than 100 junior high and high school students volunteer to spend time reading one-on-one with children at preschools in Oakland and Berkeley with the Community Reading Buddies Program. Find out more about the program and sign up at <http://aspireeducation.org/programs/communityreading-buddies/> or call (510) 658-7500.

OTHER

Lafayette's Restaurant Week, scheduled for April 21-27, is a week-long culinary celebration highlighting Lafayette's Restaurant Row. Participating restaurants are offering week-long special menus, including three-course fixed-price meals for lunch and dinner. For more information, visit lafayettechamber.com/events/restaurant-week.

Assemblywoman Susan A. Bonilla (D-Concord) will be hosting an outdoor reception to honor the 2014, 14th Assembly District Women of the Year from 5 to 7 p.m. Friday, April 25 at The Courtyard of Salvio Pacheco Square, 2151 Salvio Street, Concord. Assemblywoman Bonilla will be joined by a group of local community organizations who will recognize and celebrate honorees for their exemplary service to our community. RSVP: <http://www.asmdc.org/members/a14/district-events/14th-assembly-district-women-of-the-year-reception>.

St. Mary's College Guild's 2014 Spring Fashion Show, The Roaring '20s, will showcase clothes from Specialtees of Lafayette, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 26. Enjoy a gourmet lunch, shopping and raffle prizes. For reservations, contact Cyndie Harrison at (925) 820-8002. Cost for show and lunch: \$50 per person.

Join the National Park Service in celebrating 100 years of John Muir's conservation legacy during the annual Earth Day and John Muir's Birthday event from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, April 26 at the John Muir National Historic Site in Martinez. Participate in fun activities for all ages to commemorate Muir's legacy and the 50th anniversary of the park's establishment in 1964. Special guest speaker Bruce Hamilton, deputy executive director of the Sierra Club, will give the keynote address.

Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School is hosting the first annual Peace, Love, and Pancakes Breakfast and Art Sale. It is a student-run pancake breakfast and art sale from 9 a.m. to noon on Sunday, April 27 at JM, to benefit the students at the JBFC schools in Magu, Tanzania. Cost is \$10 per person. In addition to donating funds for scholarships for students there, JM hopes to be able to fund a number of other projects, including installing solar panels, a bio-gas system, windows for new science labs, and a new pig pen. More information about the school in Tanzania can be found at <http://www.jbfc-online.org/jbfcmodel-educationempowerment.html>. For ticket info, visit <http://jm.moraga.k12.ca.us/plp>.

A passionate argument on behalf of the middle class, "Inequality for All" features Robert Reich - professor, best-selling author, and Clinton cabinet member - as he demonstrates how the widening income gap has a devastating impact on the American economy at 4 p.m. Sunday, April 27 at The Little Theater at Bentley School, 1000 Upper Happy Valley Road, Lafayette. The documentary runs 89 minutes. Refreshments and conversation to follow. Cost: \$5 suggested donation. More details? Call (925) 567-3367 or go to www.lamorindademoclub.org.

Lafayette Girl Scout troop 31647 is hosting their Silver Award on animal responsibility from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, April 27 at the Earth Day Celebration at the Lafayette Library. Brownies can work on their pet

animal badge. There will be experts on grooming, safety, and health for animals. Donations of cat-carriers, bedding, and kitty litter will be accepted to benefit Friends of the Formerly Friendless foster cat shelter.

Moraga Citizen of the Year Cliff Dochterman Award Banquet, Friday, May 2 at the Soda Center, Saint Mary's College. Social hour at 6 p.m., dinner at 7 p.m., program at 8 p.m. Flank steak or optional vegetarian on prior request. Tickets: \$45 at the Moraga Chamber of Commerce, Kathe Nelson, executive director. For info, email Kathe@MoragaChamber.org or call (925) 323-6524.

The Women Helping Women group of Orinda Community Church will hold a forum, "The Trafficking of American Girls" including guest speaker Cynthia Peterson of Community Violence Solutions, Contra Costa County at 11:30 a.m. Sunday, May 4 in the Orinda Community Church Fellowship Hall, 10 Irwin Way, Orinda. For info, call (925) 254-4906.

Sleepy Hollow is located in a "Very High" Fire Hazard Severity Zone and has earned the distinction of becoming Contra Costa County's first "FireWise Community." Please come learn about the Sleepy Hollow Evacuation Plan and Sleepy Hollow School's realigned emergency path, from 7 to 9 p.m. Thursday, May 8 in the Sleepy Hollow School's multi-purpose room. Moraga-Orinda Fire District and five other agencies will be present to provide information and solicit feedback. Contact Moraga-Orinda Fire District Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Dennis Rein for details at (925) 698-4575.

Help fight Sudden Oak Death this year in the East Bay - at 10 a.m. Saturday, May 10 come to the Garden Room at the Orinda Library, 26 Orinda Way, for a one-hour session on SOD and the Blitz leaf collection protocol with UC professor and SOD Blitz founder Dr. Matteo Garbelotto, then collect leaves from areas and at times of your choosing through Sunday, May 11. Garbelotto's lab will analyze the leaves for SOD and post the results in the fall on Blitz website map. Visit the site, www.sodblitz.org, for more information and to see the results of past Blitzes. For space and material planning purposes, please email William Hudson at wllhh@gmail.com if you plan to attend.

Lafayette Juniors 15th Annual Kitchen Tour will be from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, May 17. Tour six special Lafayette homes with unique rustic, ranch, Cape Cod, open concept, traditional, and farmhouse style kitchens. The tour benefits First Place for Youth, STAND!, the Lafayette Library, SEED, and Twin Canyon Camp. Tickets: \$40, with a box lunch available for \$15. Purchase tickets online today at www.lafayettejuniors.org or from Douglass Designs and Premier Kitchens in Lafayette.

SENIORS

Sons in Retirement Lamorinda Branch 171 meets the first Wednesday monthly at Holy Trinity Culture Center 1700 School St. Moraga. Social hour 11 a.m.; lunch at noon. The after lunch speaker on May 7 will be Jim Barnett, the television analyst for the Golden State Warriors. Barnett has a huge knowledge of the NBA, the Warriors history and current and past players and will provide his slant on the current state of the Warriors and what the future may hold for the team. For membership information, call Larry at (925) 631-9528.

Sons In Retirement - Las Trampas Branch 116 luncheon meeting. If you are retired or semi-retired and want to make new friends, participate in fun activities and better enjoy your leisure time, come to the monthly luncheon where guest speakers address the branch mem-

bers on topics of general interest at the Walnut Creek Elks Lodge, 1475 Creekside Dr., on the third Monday of each month, except for May and December. For information about SIR activities for retired men, please visit www.Branch116.org. Luncheon guests may make reservations by calling (925) 806-8874 by the preceding Wednesday; cost is \$15.

GARDEN

Moraga Junior Women's Club presents the Moraga Juniors Garden Tour from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, May 3 - a self-guided tour in Lamorinda. The starting destination is listed on the purchased ticket. Five stunning outdoor spaces will be displayed at the garden tour, benefitting Contra Costa Interfaith Housing. Tickets: \$35 at www.moragajuniors.org. For more info, visit <http://www.moragajuniors.org/index.php/garden-tour> or email jennwen001@gmail.com. (See related story page D1)

Please submit:

Events: calendar@lamorindaweekly.com
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Letters: letters@lamorindaweekly.com
Opinion: letters@lamorindaweekly.com

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 Sun-Thur: 11:30 am - 3:00 pm, 4:30 pm - 9:00 pm
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 925-253-9852
 1 Orinda Way Ste. #1 www.yanrestaurant.com
 10% off discount on take-out orders.

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

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

April 25:	May 2:
David Isenberg, chef instructor at the California Culinary Academy will speak about what's going on in the food world.	Rotarian and past District Governor Ron Sekkel will speak about Ethics in 2014 & Rotary's 4 Way Test.

Please join us for breakfast!

SOROPTIMIST OF 24/680
 Please join us for our next meeting:
WHEN: Wednesday 5/7/14
 Social 5:30-6:00 p.m.
 Meeting 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
WHERE: The Buttercup Grill
 660 Ygnacio Valley Road, Walnut Creek.
 For more information, contact:
 Regina Englehart @925-876-9076
 or go to: soroptimist24-680.org

Lamorinda Weekly
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Contact us:
 Letters to the editor (max 350 words): letters@lamorindaweekly.com
 Sport events/stories/pictures: sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com
 Art, theater, community events: calendar@lamorindaweekly.com
 Business news or business press releases: sophie@lamorindaweekly.com
 School stories/events: schooldesk@lamorindaweekly.com
 General interest stories/Community Service: storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com

Publishers/Owners:
 Andy and Wendy Scheck; andy@lamorindaweekly.com, wendy@lamorindaweekly.com

Editor in Chief: Lee Borrowman; lee@lamorindaweekly.com

Life, Our Homes and Community Editor: Jennifer Wake; jennifer@lamorindaweekly.com

Sports Editor: Caitlin Mitchell; sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com

Advertising: 925-377-0977, Wendy Scheck; wendy@lamorindaweekly.com

Staff Writers:
 Sophie Braccini; sophie@lamorindaweekly.com
 Cathy Tyson; cathy@lamorindaweekly.com
 Laurie Snyder; Laurie@lamorindaweekly.com
 Cathy Dausman; cathy.d@lamorindaweekly.com
 Nick Marnell; nick@lamorindaweekly.com
 Teen Coach: Cynthia Brian; cynthia@lamorindaweekly.com
 Food: Susie Iventosch; suziventosch@gmail.com

Contributing Writers: Conrad Bassett, Moya Stone, Michael Sakoda, Marissa Harnett, Lou Fancher, Clare Varellas, Chris Lavin, Amanda Kuehn, Diane Clayton, Barry Hunau (cartoonist)

Photos: Tod Fierner, Ohlen Alexander, Gint Federas

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Mailing address: Lamorinda Weekly, P.O. Box 6133, Moraga, CA 94570-6133
 Phone: 925-377-0977; Fax: 1-800-690-8136
 email: info@lamorindaweekly.com, www.lamorindaweekly.com



Earth Day in Lafayette: Fun and Water Wise

By Sophie Braccini



Water is a recurring theme at Lamorinda events this year. Lafayette's 9th Annual Earth Day Festival is no exception. "With one of the worst droughts in California's recorded history, the theme of this year's festival is water conservation," says Tina Goodfriend, chair of the event for Sustainable Lafayette.

During its April 1 evaluation of the snowpack that feeds the Mokelumne watershed, the East Bay Municipal Utility District determined that it was only at 37 percent of its average water content to date (Water Supply Board Briefing, April 8). To avoid drastic drought measures, the

water utility asks everyone for a 10 percent voluntary cut in water use.

"People can learn about water conservation programs and local water conservation rebates," says Goodfriend. "The patio area will feature EBMUD, landscape experts, and others who will talk about water-efficient landscaping and ways to conserve water in the home." Rainwater harvesting will also be demonstrated by Grey Water Action.

But the festival, which is scheduled from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, April 27, will not be a "dry" event. As in past years, it will be a fun-filled half day for the whole family outside the

Lafayette Library and Learning Center. Parades, food (by Susan Foord Catering), interactive activities for all ages, and information about how to save or recycle water will be part of the day. And bring your own water bottle; there will be a hydration station there to refill it.

The beloved classics will also be back, like the ever-popular self-propelled parade that will kick off the festival at 11 a.m. from Stanley Middle School. "Kids come with decorated bikes, scooters, skateboards, or just walk with their parents all the way to the festival," says Goodfriend. Starting at 10:30 a.m., Sharp Bicycle

Shop will be at Stanley adjusting seats and helmets.

New this year to the Earth Day Festival is the introduction of total recycling solutions for clothing and shoes. "We have invited I:CO company, partnering with H&M to the celebration," explains Goodfriend. "I:CO utilizes the concept of 'upcycling,' meaning that discarded clothes or shoes are used to create a new product of equal or better quality." Participants are invited to bring stained, torn, or old clothing not suitable for donation to the event. I:CO will recycle it into new fabric or household items. "Those who drop

off their used clothes will receive 15 percent off their next H&M purchase, and a chance to win a \$10,000 scholarship," adds Goodfriend.

Booths featuring environment-related businesses, non-profit organizations and other vendors will fill Golden Gate Way, and at noon, organizations and individuals who are actively working to help Lafayette become one of the most sustainable cities in the Bay Area will be recognized and the City of Lafayette's 2013 Green Award winners will be announced.

For more information, visit www.sustainablelafayette.org/our-events/earth-day-festival/.

Middle East Meets Wild West in Bend

By Susie Iventosch



Forbidden Black Rice-Tabouli Chicken Bowl

Photo Susie Iventosch

Last month, my husband and I finally made our way to Bend, Ore., for the very first time and we found it to be quite a delightful place for dining. There are so many great restaurants and terrific breweries, too. One night, we decided to try a restaurant called Joolz, with a tagline of "Where The Middle East Meets The Wild West." This restaurant has a fabulous, exotic menu, with many choices ranging from Moroccan Camel Wings and Grilled Oregon Ribeye to Elk Kafta Burger – fresh ground elk, seasoned with red onion, parsley and poblano chili and topped with sweet red pepper-onion chutney and Rogue smoked blue cheese. Wow!

Still, even with these amazing choices, we had our eyes on the Forbidden Black Rice Chicken Bowl, which we both ordered. We selected the Mediterranean spiced olives and flash

fried cauliflower with tahini dipping sauce as sides. What a flavor extravaganza! We were thrilled with our choices and left for home the next day still savoring that delicious meal. (We took the leftovers for lunch, so we literally were savoring the meal on the drive home!) The next day, I called the restaurant to try to coax some of the ingredients from them, and they gladly obliged, without giving the actual recipe away. If you enjoy the flavors of Middle East cuisine, you won't be disappointed by this yummy dish!

Joolz
916 NW Wall Street
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www.joolzbend.com

Susie Iventosch is the author of Tax Bites and Tasty Morsels, which can be found at Across the Way in Moraga, www.amazon.com, and www.taxbites.net. Susie can be reached at suziventosch@gmail.com.

This recipe can be found on our website:

www.lamorindaweekly.com. If you would like to share your favorite recipe with Susie please contact her by email or call our office at (925) 377-0977.



Forbidden Black Rice-Tabouli Chicken Bowl

(Serves 4-6 people as main course)

INGREDIENTS

1 cup bulgar
2 cups water (or chicken broth)
1/4 cup finely chopped fresh parsley
1/3 cup tahini
1/3 cup Trader Joe's Mediterranean Greek Yogurt Dip
2 tablespoons lemon juice
2 tablespoons olive oil
1 1/2 cups Heirloom Forbidden Black Rice (Lotus Foods puts this out)
2 2/3 cups water (or chicken broth)
2 chicken breasts, grilled and cut into small, bite-sized pieces
1 1/2 teaspoons powdered cumin
1 teaspoon sea salt
1 teaspoon pepper
1/2 cup sliced almonds, toasted
1/3 cup crumbled feta cheese

DIRECTION

To make tabouli, bring bulgar and water (or broth) to a boil in a small pot. Reduce heat to low and simmer for about 10 minutes, or until done. Cool.

Mix cooked bulgar with parsley, tahini, TJ's Greek Yogurt Dip, lemon juice, and olive oil. Set aside. (Can be made a day ahead ... maybe even better!)

In the meantime, bring Forbidden Black Rice to boil with 2 2/3 cups water (or chicken broth). Reduce heat to low and allow to simmer for about 30 minutes. Remove from heat and cool.

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

Toss cooled tabouli and black rice together in a large bowl, until well integrated. Add chicken, feta cheese and cumin. Season to taste with salt and pepper. Place entire mixture into a greased baking dish. Cover tightly with foil or lid.

Bake for approximately 20 minutes, or until heated through. Serve with a garnish of toasted sliced almonds, minced parsley and more feta cheese, if desired. You can also serve with an extra drizzle of tahini and a dollop of TJ's Greek Yogurt Dip.

This dish is fabulous the next day for lunch, too. And, it is wonderful at room temperature, as well as hot.

*The restaurant dish calls for tzatziki, but when I discovered TJ's Mediterranean Greek Yogurt Dip, I thought it was perfect for this dish!

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No. 46 Gaels Fight for NCAA Berth



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Audrey Leitz

Saint Mary's women's tennis wrapped up WCC play with a win over rival Santa Clara. The No. 46 Gaels knocked off the Broncos 5-2 on April 18.

As the last home match of the season, the Gaels celebrated seniors Jade Frampton, Jenny Jullien, and Audrey Leitz. Frampton won her set 6-3 and sealed the win for Saint Mary's. Jullien, the No. 12 player in the country, also won her set.

With the win, SMC improves to 12-7 overall and 6-2 in WCC play. The Gaels have not lost a match to a non-ranked team all season.

The WCC tournament begins today, April 23, in San Diego. Last year, the Gaels lost to Pepperdine in the WCC finals, but they still earned a berth to the NCAA tournament. This year, Saint Mary's earned the No. 3 seed in the WCC

tournament behind No. 2 BYU (8-1) and No. 1 Pepperdine (9-0).
C. Mitchell

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Dons "Ace" Out Their Rivals

By Clare Varellas



Dan Cardiff leads Dons to win.

A tennis ball whizzed back and forth over the net of one of the Campolindo tennis courts on April 17 as Campolindo Cougars' Tilden Oliver rallied against Acalanes Dons' Dan Cardiff at the rivals' second match of the 2014 season.

Undefeated Cardiff scored a final victory, adding to his string of consecutive wins this season. The Dons (14-4) won 8 out of 9 matches.

Acalanes coach Brent Bird has been with the team for three years, but he says this season is the best the Dons have had in about 25 years. Bird partially attributes his team's impressive record to his highest-performing players – senior Dan Cardiff, freshman Ryan Cardiff, and sophomore Isaiah Bird. He also stresses the importance of a team effort.

"Sometimes you look at the best guys and you think, 'Wow, they're all-stars,' but in this league what really wins are the lower guys," said Bird. "You could win your first four singles and then all the rest of your guys lose and you lose the match."

The Dons have a deep team and are in the running for championships in both DFAL and NCS play.

... continued on page C2

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Dons, Mats Fight for DFAL Lacrosse Title

By Scott Wu



Chloe Landry and Kate Fellner

Photo Gint Federas

Midway through the girls' high school lacrosse season, two Lamorinda schools are battling for the league title. Acalanes and Miramonte sit atop the DFAL standings. The undefeated Dons have a slight edge on the Mats who are 5-1. Meanwhile, Campolindo is looking to rebuild for the future.

Miramonte (8-2 overall) hosted Acalanes on April 15, looking to give the Dons (8-4 overall, 7-0 in DFAL) their first league loss in three seasons.

Fans from both sides filled the stands, awaiting the most anticipated league match of the year. The match was close throughout. No team earned a lead over three goals and there was a total of five lead changes throughout the game.

Mats' junior Caroline Tague and Dons' Kate Fellner led their teams, scoring four goals apiece. Both Tague and Fellner recorded hat tricks before the first half ended.

Sophomore goalies Sommer Veverka of Miramonte and Acalanes' Sabba Jweinat made spectacular saves throughout the game, limiting what could have been an offensively dominated game.

In the end, Acalanes went home

with the 12-10 victory, once again proving their sheer dominance in the DFAL.

Head coach Whitney Campitiello is proud of her team's commitment to success. "The girls have proven that they will overcome any mental or physical obstacles in their path," Campitiello said.

The Dons have important play-off experience and a deep roster. Senior captains Kate Fellner and Chloe Landry were both part of the 2013 squad that won the NCS Championship. Landry was named the DFAL MVP of the 2013 season. Fellner earned All-league first team honors. Jweinat was the only freshman to receive DFAL All-team honors for the 2013 season.

Despite the strong start, Campitiello notes the team needs to continue to remain focused. "While we've been successful for the past few years, we still need to keep a determined attitude and work harder than ever," Campitiello stated.

Led by new head coach Melissa Humphrey, Miramonte is excited with their start. Still, Humphrey recognizes the value consistency and improvement.

"I'm glad we have had such a

solid start to our season, but I continue to remind the girls that it's not about how you start, but how you finish," Humphrey explained.

With senior captains Hannah Friel, Rachael Purcell, Mica Zimmerman, and Kady Richardson leading the team on the field, there is no doubt that the program can make a deep run into the NCS playoffs.

"We're pushing the girls to get better one step at a time and to make every day count," Humphrey stated.

Meanwhile, Campolindo, 2-4, is in the midst of a tough season. Still, the Cougars look forward to improving throughout the remainder of the DFAL season.

"The girls will have to focus on the goals they've set for themselves, which is to work hard and stay concentrated on the ultimate goal of making the NCS playoffs," head coach Jessica Hoffschneider commented.

Senior captains Jacqueline Guelfi, Megan Adachi, and Grace Carrick have been especially strong defensively this year, and continue to provide valuable leadership.

"Our team captains have worked hard to keep the girls inspired," Hoffschneider stated.

Moraga Baseball Association Box Scores

Submitted by Jin Meng

Pinto Division:

March 22

Pirates 23, A's 12

Pirates Highlights: Andy Moon 5-for-5, 3B, 2-2B, 5 RS, 2 RBI's; Hudson Pergamit 4-for-4, 2-3B, 2B, 4 RS, 4 RBI's

A's Highlights: Max O'Balle 3-for-4, 2B, 3 RS, 2 RBI's; Max Robeson 3-for-4, 1 RS, 2 RBI's

A's 14, Cardinals 5

A's Highlights: Max Robeson 3-for-4, 3 RS, 4 RBI; Nate Habas 1-for-3, 2B, 2 RS; Connor Naughten 2-for-3, 2 RS.

Cardinals Highlights: Adrian Blumberg 3-for-3, RS, 3 RBI; Parker Smith 2-for-3; Leighton Jay 2-for-3, 2 RS, 1 RBI.

Yankees 11, Giants 12

Yankees' Highlights: Corey Nelson 3-for-3, 2B, 3 RBI; Thatcher Cattell 3-for-3, 1 RS; Lleyton Osteen 3-for-3, 1 RS

Giants' Highlights: Will Will McCurdy 3-for-3 3B, 3 RBI, 3 RS; Kyle Ting 2-for-2, 2 RS; Danny Beckwith 1-for-2, 1 RS; Luke Bonardi 3-for-3, 3 RS, 2 RBI

March 27

Cardinals 8, Yankees 4

Cardinals Highlights: Adrian Blumberg 4-for-4, 1 run scored; Jack Mooradian 2-for-2, 2 runs; Parker

Smith 2-for-3 two runs. Yankees Highlights: Jake Spencer 3-for-3, 1 run; William Myers 3-for-3, 1 run; Tim Daugherty 2-for-3, 2 runs

April 8

Yankees 19, Red Sox 10

Yankees Highlights: Corey Nelson 3-for-4, GS HR, 7RBI's; Tim Daugherty 4-for-4, 3 RS; James Giordani 3-for-3, 3 RS

Red Sox Highlights: Josh Batra 3-for-3; Cooper Chang 2-for-3; Scott Lyons 2-for-3; Isaiah Ortiz 2-for-3, 2RBI's

April 9

Angels 16, Cardinals 17

Angels Highlights: Sam Whipple 4-for-4, 2 2Ba, 2 RS; Charlie Murrin 2-for-4, 3 RS; Teo Spiropulo 2-for-2.

Cardinals Highlights: Chase Colvin 1-for-2, 2B, RBI; Ryan Lee 2-for-3, 2 RS, 2 RBI's; Clayton Naffziger 2-for-3, 3 RS.

Red Sox 16, A's 3

Red Sox Highlights: Doug Ellery 4-for-4, 3 RS; Scott Lyons 3-for-4, 3 RS; Isaiah Ortiz 3-for-3, 2 RS; Josh Batra 3-for-3, 2 RS

A's Highlights: Jack Harper 1-for-3, RS; Rylen Salvi 2-for-2, RS; Connor Naughten 1-for-2, RS

April 12

Angels 13, Giants 10

Angels Highlights: Charlie Murrin 3-for-4, 3 Runs, 2 RBI, 2B; Joe Revelos 3-for-4, 4 Runs, 2 RBI; Nolan Paul 2-

for-3; Sam Whipple 4-for-4, Run, 8 RBI, 2 2B, HR

Giants Highlights: Jason Ruckel 4-for-4, 2 2B; Will McCurdy 4-for-4, 3 Runs; Braden Purcell 2-for-3

April 15

Angels 12, Pirates 9

Pirates Highlights: Cole Miller 2-for-3, RS; Rex Pastore 2-for-3; Will Vranesh 2-for-3

Angels Highlights: Peter Appleton 2-for-3, 2 RBI, 1 R; Thomas Colpo 2-for-3, 2 R; Ben Whipple 2-for-3, RBI

Redsox 13, Giants 9

Redsox highlights: Scott Lyons 3-for-3, 3 RS; Isaiah Ortiz 3-for-3, 2 RBI's; Colin Rutzen 2-for-3, 2 RS; Drew DeFrancisci 2-for-2, 1 RS

Giants highlights: Will McCurdy 3-for-4, 2 RBI's; Landon Fly 3-for-3, 1 RS; Braden Purcell 2-for-3; Tommy Beckwith 2-for-3

April 16

Yankees 10, Cardinals 5

Yankees Highlights: Tim Daugherty 3-for-3, 3 2B, 3 RS; Cort Wilson 2-for-2; Corey Nelson 3-for-3, 1 RS.

Cardinals Highlights: Ryan Lee 2-for-3, 2 RS; Parker Smith 1-for-3; Chase Colvin 1-for-2.

Mustang Division:

March 22

Giants 10, Red Sox 11

Red Sox Highlights: Phillip Jagard 2-for-3, 1 RBI, 2 Runs; Robbie Mascheroni 2-for-2, 2 Runs; Luke Berry 1 for 2, 2 RBI's

Giants Highlights: Scott Linden 1-for-1, 1 RBI, 3 Runs; Nick Buck 2 for 2, 3 RBIs, 2 Run; Max Rittmann 1-for-2, 1 RBI, 1 Run

March 24

Cubs 3, Yankees 2

Yankee Highlights: Ben Jules 1-for-2, 2B, 2IP, 6Ks; Ryan Erickson-King 2IP, 4Ks; Justin Rodriguez 1-for-2, 2B, 2IP, 3 Ks; Jack Erickson-King 1-for-2, Run, 3B

Cubs Highlights: Tyler Kivelson BB, 2 stolen bases, 1IP, 1K; Wiley Winkler 1-for-1, Run, BB, 6 stolen bases; Jack Beatty 2-for-2, Run, 2IP, 5Ks

April 9

Cubs 12, Giants 7

Cubs Highlights: Jack Beatty 2 IP, 4 Ks, 0 ER; Mason Fara 1-for-2, 1B, 3 RS; Michael Coane 3-for-3, 2 RBI, 2 RS.

Giants Highlights: Will Studebaker 2 IP, 6 Ks, 0 ERs; Max Rittmann 2-for-3, 1B, 3B, 2 RBI, 1 RS; Zach Donovan, 1-for-1, 2B, 2 RBI, 1 RS.

Cardinals 7, Yankees 6

Yankees Highlights: Xavier Esquer 1-for-3, 2 RBI, Run, 3B; Justin Myers 1-for-3, 2 RBI, Run, 2B; Vito Crudele Run, RBI, BB; Justin Rodriguez Run, BB

Cardinal Highlights: Logan Robeson

3-for-3, 2 Runs, RBI, 2 2B; Dylan Wilkalis 2-for-3, Run; Ryan Sintchak 1-for-3, Run, RBI, 3B; Rhys Pullen 2-for-3

April 12

Cardinals 11, Giants 3

Cardinals Highlights: Dashiell Weaver 2-for-3, 2 RS, 1 RBI; Logan Robeson 2-for-3, 3 RS, 4 RBI; Cooper Lenahan 3-for-3, 2B, 1 RS, 4 RBI; Cooper Alford 2-for-2.

Giants Highlights: Zach Donovan 1-for-2, 2B, 1RS; Nicolas Buck 1-for-2 1 RS, 1 RBI; Grant Roesch 1-for-2, 2B, 2 RBI's; Andrew Pak 1-for-2.

April 15

A's 8, Cardinals 5

A's Highlights: L. Rago 2 IP, 5 K, 0 ER; A. Harper 2-for-2, 2 RS; S. Meehan 3 RBI; D. Castilla-Liu 1-for-1, BB, 2 RS.

Cardinals Highlights: N. Powers 2 IP, 5 K, 0 ER; D. Weaver 3-for-3, 2 RS; C. Lenahan 2-for-3.

April 16

Yankees 15, Giants 8

Yankees Highlights: Xavier Esquer 2-for-2, 1B, 2B, 1 RBI & 4 RS; Andrew Pan 2-for-3, 3 RBIs, 1 RS; Justin Myers 1-for-4, 4RS

Giants Highlights: Ben Martson 1-for-2, 1RS; Andrew Pak 1-for-2, 2 RBIs, 1RS; Hayden Prizeman 1-for-2, 1RS, 1 RBI

Dons "Ace" Out Their Rivals

... continued from page C1

"It's not going to be an easy path through DFALs, but it's certainly going to be a fun one," said Cardiff. "We'll have some fun out there, and potentially do some damage."

Campolindo's season, on the other hand, started out rocky after losing some of last year's standout players. Over the past six years the Cougars (4-7 in DFAL) have consistently held first or second in league, but this year the team consists of relatively young members with less experience.

"We're at a rebuilding phase," said Campolindo coach Petro Petreas. "The last two years in a row we've lost a lot of seniors. So we now have to adjust to being at the middle of the pack in DFAL play."

The setback has encouraged the Cougars to improve their skills, in the hope of rebounding to their top-tier position. Junior Oliver and seniors Bailey Wu and Dylan Brodsky have stepped in to lead the team.

"Even though our season doesn't show it, I think that all of our players have improved drastically," said team captain Wu. "Every individual stepped up and did everything they could this season."

The Miramonte Matadors also lost five standout players, but the Mats have managed to maintain a top spot in the DFAL. The defending 2012 and 2013 DFAL and NCS champions, have an overall record of 10-5.

According to coach Michael McCollom, juniors Peter Martin and Neil Weikert and sophomore Alex Huang have become prominent players this year. In doubles' play, the Mats are led by Kyle Rechnitz and Bryce Hummer.

As of press time, the Mats had lost only to top teams: twice to Acalanes, twice to dominant Dougherty Valley, and once to Tamalpais.

"All of those teams are among the top five teams in the area, so it's not an insult to lose to them," said McCollom. "It's hard to replace good players. You're left with kids who don't have as

much experience in big moments, so you lose tight matches."

Nevertheless, the Mats remain hopeful for success in the upcoming DFAL and NCS tournaments, beginning in May.



Freshman Ryan Cardiff has been key to Dons' success.



Tilden Oliver gives Campolindo experience and leadership. Photos Gint Federas



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Lamo JV Win Playoff Game

Submitted by Steve Peterson



With MacLean Marks looking on, Michael Stenaro again takes the ball for Lamorinda.



Lamorinda JV (in white/green) finishes with a 6-2 league record.

Photos provided

The Lamorinda Junior Varsity beat the United Lions of Los Gatos in a playoff match at St. Mary's Pat Vincent Memorial Field on April 12.

Lamorinda found themselves down 7-0 early, but the team fought back to tie it at 7-7 behind Blake Peterson's try, his first of two, and Michael Stenaro's conversion kick.

Later, MacLean Marks put down a try to

even the score 12-12. Marks also had a conversion kick on the day. Hayden Bradley quickly scored another try to give Lamorinda its first lead. Bradley had two tries in the game. Danny Ritelli also scored in the effort. Jesse Marlow and Dylan Wall both recorded conversion kicks.

After building a solid 29-12 lead, the JV team held on to win 38-26.

Dons to the Next Level

Submitted by Gint Federas

Nearly 20 Acalanes Dons were awarded athletic scholarships to compete at the collegiate level in their respective sports.



Photo Gint Federas

Front row, from left: Elizabeth Schultz, golf (San Jose State); Kyra Ruegg, swimming (Chapman College); Rachael Cox, volleyball (U of Rhode Island); Reilly Fellner, water polo (UCLA); Chloe Landry, lacrosse (UC Berkeley); Kate Fellner, lacrosse (UC Davis); back row: Austin Fisher, baseball (Santa Clara University); Grant Henderson, baseball (UC Davis); Jack Deveny, lacrosse (Carthage College); Robbie Stern, lacrosse (Colorado College); Marco Helfrich, soccer (UC Berkeley); Max Mirner, soccer (St. Mary's College); Tommy Bush, water polo (Brown University); Will Brueckner, golf (Gonzaga); Dan Cardiff, tennis (Cal Poly SLO); Michael Wang, track (Cornell); Not pictured: Jack Mariani, lacrosse (UCSB); Henry Baer, swimming (Cal Tech); Marshall Morse, lacrosse (Carthage College).

LMSC Wins Las Vegas Titles

Submitted by Corinna Sassano



Photo provided

The Lamorinda Soccer Club's U15, U16, and U18 girls' team returned from the Las Vegas Players College Showcase, where they showcased the LMSC possession brand of soccer.

The U18 girls' team, ranked No.1 in Northern California and No. 5 in the Western United States, returned to successfully defend its Las Vegas title. The team started slow, but finished strong to beat out all the competition while scoring a tournament-high 11 goals. It was the team's final club tournament.

The U16 girls' team won its division going 4-0 while scoring 11 goals and allowing none. It opened on Friday with a 2-0 win against the San Diego Surf Club and followed that up with a 4-0 win against the 8th ranked team from

Arizona on Friday evening. Saturday brought a 2-0 shutout of the San Bernadino Inland Empire Surf Club and Sunday closed with a 2-0 win against the Washington Rainier Valley Club.

The U15 girls' team was a finalist in its division. The team played five games in three days, finishing with a 3-2 record. It opened on Friday with a 1-0 win against Carlsbad Lightning Elite. On Saturday, the girls split their games with a 2-3 loss against Austin Texans and a 2-0 win against a very strong Notts Forest FC Red. On Sunday, the girls cruised to a 2-0 win against San Diego United Black. In the championship, the girls faced San Diego Surf ECNL Academy. Despite scoring first, the girls ultimately lost 1-2.

Seals Win Again

Submitted by Jon Zuber



Top row, from left: Grant Daley, Grant Harper, Owen Hansen, Nick Kresnak, Colby Burns, Nicolas Bamont; Bottom Row: Brett Donat, Kyle Sintchak, Kade Shipp, Mark McCurdy, Vince Bianchina; Not Pictured: Will Windatt, Coach Jon Zuber
Photo Matt Hansen

The 12U Seals baseball club won the Spring Super NIT Tournament at Twin Creeks in Sunnyvale April 11-13.

The Seals had their work cut out for them after losing the first game 10-6 to the East Bay All Sports Dawgs. Lamorinda beat the Fremont Fury 7-4 in the second game and then defeated the Cypress Gators 14-3. The Seals opened up Sunday's play by taking down the Bay Valley Bombers 8-0.


After going 3-1 in pool play the Seals earned the No. 1 seed as they moved on to the semi-final game, where they beat the Delta Dawgs 9-5. Lamorinda then beat the Perk's Titans 7-2 to earn their second straight championship. The Seals are 9-1 overall.



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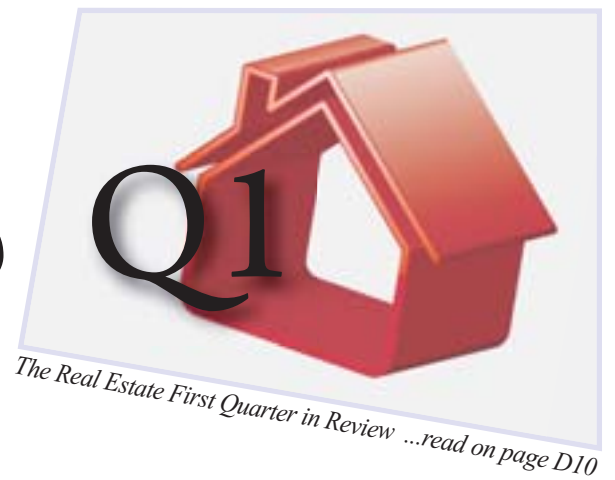
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Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 08 Issue 4 Wednesday, April 23, 2014



Outdoor Spaces Redefined

Moraga Juniors 2014 Garden Tour scheduled for May 3

By Cathy Dausman



A bird's eye view of this pool reveals a different kind of ship.

Five Lamorinda outdoor spaces will be on display to benefit the homeless during the 2014 Moraga Juniors Garden Tour May 3. The self-guided tour runs from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., rain or shine; this year proceeds benefit Contra Costa Interfaith Housing. This very diverse collection of home gardens in Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda should wow the tour-goers with “fabulous spaces,” said event co-chair Heather Myers. Their outdoor living spaces include vineyards, roses,

infinity pools and spas, sports courts, a unique wine cellar and “amazing plants and trees,” added co-chair Jennifer Wen. “This is our ninth tour.”

Landscape designer Dan Waters of Creative Environment took six months to complete one of the tour yards. Waters said his client gave them “free rein” over the design work, which he described as “California casual.”

... continued on page D4

THE *Beaubelle* GROUP



ORINDA ~ \$2,595,000

This Orinda Downs spectacular residence is filled with imported materials, custom fixtures and artistic touches around every corner. The 5-bedroom, office, library, 4-bath estate home is embraced by approx. .77 acres of private, sun-drenched terraced gardens, stunning infinity pool, breathtaking views and guest house/cabana.



MORAGA ~ \$875,000

This remodeled 3-bedroom, 2-bath home in the heart of Moraga is filled with modern amenities that begin with a welcoming curb appeal and continues through its open floor plan to the more than one third acre of land. Enjoy dual pane windows, plantation shutters, gleaming hardwood floors, updated bathrooms and kitchen and a park-like backyard.



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Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

City	Last reported:	LOWEST AMOUNT:	HIGHEST AMOUNT:
LAFAYETTE	12	\$450,000	\$1,695,000
MORAGA	17	\$310,000	\$2,230,000
ORINDA	13	\$750,000	\$1,425,000

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

3649 Boyer Circle, \$450,000, 2 Bdrms, 1014 SqFt, 1940 YrBlt, 3-18-14;

Previous Sale: \$275,000, 03-15-12

15 Brookdale Court, \$1,208,000, 4 Bdrms, 2016 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 3-25-14

12 Cerro Encantado, \$1,129,500, 4 Bdrms, 1848 SqFt, 1926 YrBlt, 3-26-14;

Previous Sale: \$160,000, 12-06-82

206 Contessa Court, \$949,000, 4 Bdrms, 1864 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 3-21-14

3382 Johnson Road, \$850,000, 3 Bdrms, 2834 SqFt, 1939 YrBlt, 3-20-14

820 Las Trampas Road, \$1,100,000, 3 Bdrms, 1622 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 3-21-14;

Previous Sale: \$575,000, 07-09-09

1322 Martino Road, \$1,300,000, 3 Bdrms, 1713 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 3-26-14;

Previous Sale: \$826,000, 04-30-02

4035 Natasha Drive, \$1,550,000, 4 Bdrms, 3282 SqFt, 1985 YrBlt, 3-18-14

961 Oak View Circle, \$610,000, 2 Bdrms, 1113 SqFt, 1942 YrBlt, 3-24-14

3396 Orchard Valley Lane, \$738,000, 4 Bdrms, 1305 SqFt, 1953 YrBlt, 3-20-14

571 Silverado Drive, \$1,156,000, 4 Bdrms, 2344 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 3-21-14

3348 Stage Coach Drive, \$1,695,000, 5 Bdrms, 3398 SqFt, 1987 YrBlt, 3-26-14;

Previous Sale: \$1,125,000, 07-26-01

MORAGA

1984 Ascot Drive #B, \$420,500, 2 Bdrms, 1233 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 3-27-14;

Previous Sale: \$255,000, 04-22-09

20 Corliss Drive, \$1,180,000, 4 Bdrms, 2541 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 3-18-14;

Previous Sale: \$1,035,000, 02-26-08

248 Miramonte Drive, \$450,000, 2 Bdrms, 927 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 3-20-14;

Previous Sale: \$172,500, 01-02-90

651 Moraga Road #33, \$310,000, 2 Bdrms, 1144 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 3-18-14;

Previous Sale: \$420,000, 07-28-05

23 Corliss Drive, \$1,300,000, 3 Bdrms, 2312 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 3-27-14

817 Thune Avenue, \$1,135,000, 4 Bdrms, 2167 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 3-18-14;

Previous Sale: \$565,000, 07-21-99

Southard Court, \$2,230,000, 5 Bdrms, 4152 SqFt, 1999 YrBlt, 3-24-14;

Previous Sale: \$365,000, 01-23-01

... continued on page D12



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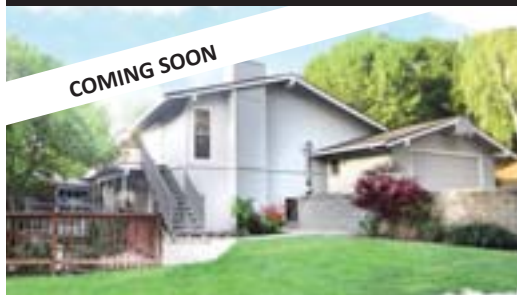


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Outdoor Spaces Redefined

... continued from page D1



Back yard pergolas stretch skyward seemingly supported by a beach pebble stone wall. Photos provided



The barbecue was intentionally placed below the line of sight as guests enter this yard from the kitchen. The pool surface (foreground) is smooth as glass.

Originally the yard contained a very large pool which was difficult to fence off (the new owners had young children). Waters' team removed the old pool, and prepped the site for a new scene and new setting. Then it rained. The project suffered six weeks of rain delay, which Waters said proved their toughest challenge. When the rain stopped, the company installed a "spool"—a small pool, something Waters said better suits the limited number of "summer days" in Lafayette. "It's bigger than a spa and smaller than a pool," he explained. The spool contains swim jets, so it functions as a therapy pool. It also provides a current for swimming "upstream" during swim lessons for the owners' children. Because it was built as a zero edge water feature, it also functions as an art piece.

Achieving a perfectly level spool surface is a complex, intricate process, Waters said, one that has been used since the Egyptians used water to level the pyramid construction. He must have gotten this pool just right – in still photos it appears less a water feature than a black slate walkway. Waters called the entire backyard a "visual experience," with pergolas arching over the spool, and basalt columns grouped within a stone bed, each column representing a family member.

Hand-set black Mexican beach pebble decorates the downhill spool wall and lends an acoustic dimension to the space, as it softly disperses sounds. Waters

said the owners told him they did "almost zero" in-home entertaining before the transformation. Now, however, the kitchen's sliding doors retract, seamlessly connecting the interior with the outdoors. Their yard has now become the central gathering point of their social group.

Anne Cole's Lamorinda back yard also boasts a pool, but in comparison and by her own definition, it is huge. That probably suits the primary school children, her children's classmates who gather for year-end pool parties at the site, just fine. Its former owner was an energy company executive who managed a pool design that is truly unique, and believe it or not, best appreciated from a Google Earth perspective.

Cole, a former Arizona resident, first moved to the East Bay in 1999, but didn't even know where Lamorinda was. Now she can't imagine raising her children anywhere else. "I don't put my kids in camp for the summer," she said, "I send them outside."

Cole purchased the home in late 2010, and kept the yard the way it was. "I think it was built in about 2003," she recalled. In addition to a commanding view looking out across the pool (her favorite), the yard features a fountain and fragrant roses, plus a vineyard growing cabernet sauvignon, cabernet franc, and malbec grapes.



Roses in full bloom greet the guests coming through the entry gate of this Garden Tour home.

Photo Cathy Dausman

... continued on page D8

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Outdoor Spaces Redefined

... continued from page D4



The Coles look forward to the summer with pool fun and barbecues. Anne Cole with son Logan and daughter Madison.



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Final touches on the landscaping, in the form of 39 pots of red flowers, makes the yard pop with color. "We are very outdoorsy people," she said, "we live outside."

She cooks outside in the full kitchen almost continuously from May through November. When extreme fog blankets the area in the morning or evening the family can huddle near the outside fireplace.

Moraga Juniors Garden Tour tickets are \$35, \$25 of which is tax-deductible. "We expect to raise \$20,000 for CCIH, which will allow some very deserving families to move into affordable housing and get vital support services at a time of crisis in their lives," Myers said.

Tickets are available at Across the Way in Moraga, McDonnell Nursery in Orinda and Orchard Nursery in Lafayette. They are also available online at www.moragajuniors.org. Gourmet box lunches are available for an additional \$10; they will be served at one location only.

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The Real Estate Quarter in Review

By Conrad Bassett, CRP, GMS-T

The first quarter of 2014 showed a continued fast pace in activity on the residential side of Lamorinda real estate. Supply has increased a little but most of the homes that have recently come on the market have quickly gone pending. Closed sales are down in numbers but only because the supply has been down. The average sales price continues to increase in Moraga, Orinda and Lafayette versus the same period last year.

Per Contra Costa Association of Realtors statistics reported from Jan. 1 through March 31, 48 single-family homes closed in Lafayette which was a decrease from 55 one year ago. Sales prices ranged from \$681,000 to \$3.375 million and the average number of days on market was 39, versus 40 days a year ago, and 41 days in 2012. The average sales price was \$1,323,841 up from \$1,283,618 in the same period in 2013 and continuing the upward trend from the \$971,889 in the first quarter of 2012 and the first quarter of 2011 when it was 973,341.

In Moraga the number of single-family closings was 25, consistent with the



1Q2012 when 23 closed and 1Q2012 when 21 closed. Prices ranged from \$525,000 to \$2.23 million. The average sale price was \$1,151,360, a slight increase from the \$1,137,226 in the first quarter of 2013, and again a huge increase from the same quarter in 2012 when it was \$959,857, and from the \$823,931 in 1Q2011. The average marketing time was 19 days ... almost half as few as the 34 days in 1Q2013. In the first quarter of 2012 it was 72 days.

In Orinda the number of single-family closings was 36 versus 33 in 1Q2013 and 24 in 1Q2012. Sales prices ranged from \$700,000 to \$2.11 million with an average price of \$1,128,161, down a little from \$1,151,882, a year ago. In the first 90 days of 2012 it was \$934,541. In 2011 it was 894,857. It took an average of 28 days on the market to sell a home, the same as the first quarter of last year; it was 67 in the identical quarter in 2012.

In the first quarter of this year, Lafayette homes sold at \$524.42 per square foot; Moraga at \$461.83, and Orinda at \$494.85. To this point in 2013, the average price per square foot in Lafayette was \$440 per square foot, Moraga was \$424 and Orinda was at \$439. In the first quarter of 2012, Lafayette detached single-family homes sold at \$384 per square foot, Moraga homes sold for \$388 and Orinda was at \$379. In same quarter in 2011, these amounts were \$384, \$374, and \$366, respectively.

In the condominium/town home category, Lafayette had eight closings up from zero in the period last year. They ranged in price from \$500,000 to \$781,236. Moraga had 10 ranging from \$245,000 to \$765,000 and Orinda had three – \$710,000 and \$735,000 and \$850,000.

... continued on page D12

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The Real Estate Quarter in Review

... continued from page D10

As of April 10 there were 82 homes under contract per the MLS in the three combined communities with asking prices of \$350,000 to \$3.75 million. A year ago there were 88 pending homes with asking prices of \$341,000 to \$3.95 million. Two years ago on the same date there were 127 homes under contract with asking prices of \$149,000 to \$3.69 million. It should be pointed out that there is only one pending "Potential Short Sale." A year ago there were 13; and 23 in 2012. There are no pending sales that are REOs (bank owned properties) at this time.

Inventory has finally increased however, as there are 117 condominiums, town homes and single family homes on the market. A year ago there were 70, so we are closer to the 115 that were available at this time in 2012.

There are 43 Lafayette properties currently on the market versus 31 properties on the market in April, 2013 and 61 properties in April, 2012. Asking prices in Lafayette currently range from \$495,888 to \$7.75 million. Of these, there are no distressed sales – attempted short sales or REOs. In Moraga, buyers have their choice of 24 homes or condos versus only nine a year ago. They are listed between \$669,000 and

\$3.5 million. There are no short sales or REOs listed in the MLS.

In Orinda there are 50 on the market, versus 30 a year ago. The list prices range from \$695,000 to \$6.3 million. There are no short sales or REOs.

As is the case nearly every quarter, the most active sales are in the more "affordable" price range. At the high end, seven homes sold above \$2 million in the three communities combined. A year ago there were nine. There are 35 currently available above this amount in the three communities combined.

Interest rates continue to be attractive and many corporations continue to relocate families both in to and out of the area. The real estate markets in San Francisco, the Peninsula, and the other side of the hill in Oakland and Piedmont have been even more active so there has been some spillover effect where buyers are willing to make longer commutes in order to find more "affordable housing." Of course, Lamorinda and affordable housing are seldom mentioned in the same breath.

Other factors of note are that there is now some new construction in Orinda and Lafayette that has added some supply and the completion of the new

bore for the Caldecott Tunnel in the non-commute direction has had some effect.

Lastly, it is important to look at what homes are selling for versus their list prices. Often homes come on the market at unrealistic prices, and they do not sell, but in the first quarter of this year many homes have had multiple offers and have sold at or above the list price.

Of the 48 single-family home sales that closed in Lafayette in the first quarter of 2014, 32 sold at or above the list price. In Moraga, 19 of the 25 sales were at or above the asking price and in Orinda, 23 of the 36 sold at or above the final listing price.

This will typically happen when a house goes pending in the two weeks on the market. Of the 82 currently pending sales in the three Lamorinda communities combined, 54 went pending in 15 days or less. The actual average days on the market would be markedly lower but most agents are setting up marketing plans where they hold the home open to the public and to brokers and follow with an offer date in a week or so after exposing the property to the market – pointing to a high likelihood of a continued trend in homes selling above the asking price.

Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

... continued from page D2

ORINDA

1 Altarinda Circle, \$1,100,000, 4 Bdrms, 2900 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 3-27-14

1 Bel Air Drive, \$1,256,500, 5 Bdrms, 2189 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 3-24-14;

Previous Sale: \$842,000, 10-20-04

163 Crestview Drive, \$999,000, 4 Bdrms, 2247 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 3-19-14;

Previous Sale: \$1,075,000, 08-09-05

48 Dolores Way, \$1,030,000, 4 Bdrms, 2073 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 3-21-14;

Previous Sale: \$849,000, 12-31-09

71 Evergreen Drive, \$1,140,000, 4 Bdrms, 2786 SqFt, 1968 YrBlt, 3-25-14;

Previous Sale: \$875,000, 11-04-11

21 Greenwood Court, \$1,145,000, 4 Bdrms, 2308 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 3-18-14;

Previous Sale: \$152,000, 09-22-78

113 Hillcrest Drive, \$750,000, 4 Bdrms, 2079 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 3-19-14

29 La Vuelta, \$1,425,000, 5 Bdrms, 3655 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 3-28-14;

Previous Sale: \$1,150,000, 07-28-11

2 Lloyd Lane, \$865,000, 4 Bdrms, 1849 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 3-19-14;

Previous Sale: \$860,000, 03-16-05

61 Meadow View Road, \$1,060,000, 3 Bdrms, 1409 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 3-28-14;

Previous Sale: \$676,000, 11-02-00

110 Ravenhill Road, \$850,000, 2 Bdrms, 2116 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 3-27-14;

Previous Sale: \$775,000, 08-20-08

26 St. Stephens Drive, \$1,099,000, 4 Bdrms, 2452 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 3-18-14;

Previous Sale: \$927,000, 10-17-08

8 Williams Court, \$976,000, 4 Bdrms, 2094 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 3-21-14;

Previous Sale: \$649,000, 01-31-03

Ask Cynthia Brian-Avocado Pit

Reader's Request

Dear Ms. Cynthia:

You helped me root an avocado pit in water by using four toothpicks. Now that it has leaves, what do I do?

Brian, Moraga

Dear Mr. Brian

Wow! From your photo that avocado pit is a happy camper. I'm glad you wrote again because this is a great project for kids to have gardening success. (Editor's note: Brian had emailed long before ASK CYNTHIA BRIAN became a column and Cynthia gave him advice on how to root an avocado seed in water.) Now that the seed has sprouted a stem and leaves and has a thick root system, it's ready to plant. Grab a pot about 10-12 inches in diameter, fill with rich humus. Plant the pit so that half of it is above ground, just like when you used the four toothpicks to anchor the seed halfway in the water. Add redwood bark or mulch to the base to maintain their optimum PH of 6 to 6.5. Water frequently and keep the soil moist, but not soggy. Put in a sunny place, the sunnier the better. When it's about 12 inches tall, cut it back to 6 inches to encourage bushiness. If you have the space, you can transplant to the garden. Keep in mind avocado trees grow to 20-40 feet but you can keep them smaller in containers. It may take several years to bear fruit, if it bears at all. I once grew a 30-foot avocado tree at a former house and had to beat the bark to get it to produce avocados. The crop was so colossal that neighbors nicknamed me Guacamole Mama. With the high price of avocados today, I'd sure like to have that that exotic fruit tree now. Have fun – this is a delicious and rewarding experiment and one to share with other young gardeners as it is easy and low-maintenance.

Cynthia

Postscript: This request from Brian came to me a while ago. Recently he invited me to visit his "guacamole" tree, now living in a half wine barrel and has grown to several feet! (see photo). I definitely recommend trying this with children as a very fun project!

Happy Gardening and happy growing!

Cynthia

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The Goddess Gardener

Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com

www.GoddessGardener.com

I am available as a speaker, designer, and consultant.

Cynthia will answer one or more questions every other issue as space allows. Email your comments or questions to

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Importance of FengShui Principles When Buying or Selling a Home

By Michele Duffy



The water feature outside this Orinda resident's entryway creates a flow of life force to the home. Photos provided

We all know what it feels like to walk into a home that oozes open, airy, positive energy, or when a dwelling sometimes feels draining, dark, heavy and unhealthy. The reason could be good – or bad – FengShui.

FengShui (pronounced Fung Schway) is literally translated “wind” and “water,” based on the Taoist belief that everything is interconnected. The art and science of FengShui represents a way of living “on purpose” which acknowledges the existence of Qi or energy

(sometimes called ch'i or prana) that is everywhere and influences us at all times.

FengShui experts use a tool called the Bagua map and overlay it over each space from the front entrance, to analyze the specific energy in nine different areas of our lives; it is individual in scope. (See diagram)

While the price of a home is a strong determinant to potential buyers, the energy of the home can be equally important. When searching for a home with good Qi, a few examples of what buyers should look for include: homes with an even shape or lot; homes with abundant natural light; or homes not located at the end of a cul-de-sac or T-intersection.

When a home/lot is an uneven shape various areas of the FengShui Bagua are “missing,” meaning there is no energy or Qi circulating or bringing life to that area. Cul-de-sacs are similar to stagnant dead ends energetically, and the home facing a T-intersection is weakened and drained energetically by the overwhelming Qi from the road.

Qi cannot be stopped or destroyed, but energy certainly can be productively redirected or transformed, which is the goal of FengShui work. FengShui acknowledges the positive relationship of the natural world to human beings. Long before western studies confirmed that a walk in the woods stimulated brain activity, Taoists understood that profound connection.

And even if “bad” FengShui exists in a potential new home, with the help of a certified FengShui expert, the property can be transformed with “cures,” like water features, plants, mirrors, sculptures, and wind chimes, which are then blessed.

So how can sellers create a home that buyers will connect with immediately and imagine themselves living in happily? First, create a magical garden experience for buyers all along the path to the home so the curb appeal sets the home apart from other properties, while enticing buyers to enter and see more. The best cure for any entry way is a FengShui water feature, like a fountain to activate the water element associated with that area

of the home. Water is life itself and is also symbolic of cash flow, life path, opportunities and good fortune. A water feature activates the powerful entryway to the home and creates a flow of life force to your home.

Clutter can drain energy, so sellers should rid their homes of personal belongings to let the energy flow, allowing buyers to imagine themselves in the space. Arrange chairs, for example, on a deck that overlooks a view; create in the buyer's mind a desire to watch sunsets, entertain, or enjoy the view from that home. Or create a warm and inviting master bedroom to connect emotionally with buyers and help them to imagine themselves loving that retreat.

Enlisting the help of a FengShui expert will educate you on what homes will promote health, happiness and prosperity, the three jewels of FengShui.



Bagua map



Placing a wind chime outside a home can help to redirect and discourage negative energy from entering.

FengShui Guidelines for Home Buyers and Sellers

Five FengShui elements buyers should avoid:

- 1) Homes below the road or on a busy road;
- 2) Uneven home shape, layout or lot;
- 3) Little natural light;
- 4) Homes with unhealthy vegetation or plants that have difficulty growing; and
- 5) Homes that sit at a dead end, the end of a cul-de-sac or at a T-intersection.

Five FungShui tips for sellers:

- 1) Include all family members in the blessing of your home to lay a foundation for success;
- 2) Clean, de-clutter, de-personalize, and repair as if your sale depends upon it;
- 3) Pay special attention to entrance, foyer, master bedroom, kitchen and baths;
- 4) Add FengShui "cures" to the "Money/Career" Bagua area and ask for blessings that include buyers who offer at your asking price, "Relationship" area so each person who plays a significant role enjoys their desired outcome, and finally the "Completion" area so the sale comes to fruition and closes; and
- 5) Deck out your curb appeal.

Michele Duffy, BTB M.F.S., is an Orinda resident who enjoys creating "Space as Medicine" FengShui one space at a time, as well as hiking in nature, cooking, and spending time with her family; Canyon Ranch Feng-Shui Master, IFSG Red Ribbon Professional. For information, visit www.mandalafengshui.com, email spaceharmony@gmail.com or call (520) 647-4887.

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ORINDA



New Listing

528 Tahos Road Style+design come alive in this total renovation 5bd/4+ba hm of exceptional quality. Granite, stone+custom wood moldings/trims of finest materials. All rms light/bright w/lrg wndws. Grassy yd, decks, balconies.

\$2,295,000

ORINDA



New Listing

36 Charles Hill Circle Stylish upscale 5bd/5ba, 4168 sf gated contemporary on 1.46 ac, updated & gorgeous! Lrg open kitchen/fam rm+outdr kitchen; 2 mstr suites; 2 ofc/study rms; heated pool; lighted tennis crt; 1,000 bottle wine cellar.

\$2,395,000

ORINDA



81 Mossbridge Lane Beautifully updated approx. 4540 sf, 6bd/5.5ba Traditional Orinda Downs gem! Form meets function in this exquisite home perched on a private lane. This is the home you have been waiting for!

\$2,795,000

ORINDA



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

\$2,998,000

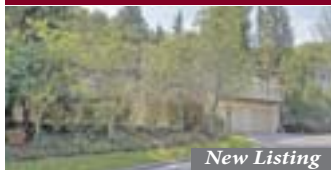
MORAGA



127 Cypress Point Way Stunning 3bd/2.5ba MCC twnhm w/new hwd flrs in entry, LR, DR, kitchen/fam rm. Fabulous kitchen w/slab granite & SS appliances. Large fenced patio. Great loc. close to clubhouse, golf, swim, tennis & town.

\$759,000

MORAGA



New Listing

113 Merion Terrace Inverness alternate model w/custom features. 3bd/2ba plus office/den & breakfast nook off updated kitchen. Beautiful & private outdoor living 2059 sf on .20 acre lot on cul-de-sac. Includes club membership.

\$829,000

MORAGA



New Listing

133 Westchester Street Exceptional three bedroom and three and a half bath Plan 3 with Bonus in Moraga Country Club. Beautifully remodeled kitchen, hardwood floors, indoor laundry.

\$839,000

MORAGA



New Listing

27 Via Barcelona Situated at end of priv. cul de sac, this 5bd/3.5ba, 3129sf hm offers great views & conv. loc. Updated open granite kit/fam rm, pristine bamboo flrs, new crpt, dual panes, cathedral ceils. Wrap around deck, lvl lawn.

\$1,050,000

MORAGA



Pending

110 Quintas Lane Stunning Campolindo 4bd/3ba hm, all updated w/high end finishes, high ceilings, random planked hwd flrs, walls of glass. Fr. drs open to sensational private yd. Close to commute, neighborhood Cabana Club.

\$1,385,000

MORAGA



New Listing

1879 Joseph Drive Wonderful single level hm in great family nghbrhd. Oversized rms, formal liv. & din. rms along w/abundance of wndws provide open feel thruout. Modern kit/fam rm combo. Priv. setting, lush landscaping.

\$1,450,000

MORAGA



New Listing

701 Augusta Drive Rare opportunity. Totally remodeled detached hm in MCC. Lrg lvl lot w/beaut. landscaping, stone patio, firepit, view of 8th hole. Walk to clubhouse. Completely renovated w/high end finishes & sophisticated style.

\$1,495,000

LAFAYETTE

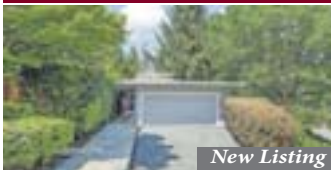


New Listing

945 Mountain View Drive Cutest home on the block! Charm abounds in this exceptionally cozy 1bd/1ba full of 1940's style bungalow. Ambiance & style. Enjoy incredible curb appeal. Lawn & garden, very private, ideal loc. near everything!

\$565,000

LAFAYETTE



New Listing

11 White Oak Drive Stylish contemporary Hidden Valley home close to town, commute. Beautifully updated, walls of glass, high ceilings, dramatic living & dining rms. Fab. kitchen/family rm. Neighborhood pool/tennis nearby.

\$1,215,000

LAFAYETTE



New Listing

4 Greenvalley Court Very desirable cul de sac loc. in beautiful Reliez Valley. 3000+sf, 4bd/2.5ba contemp. w/updated kit/fam. rm, large formal DR, step down LR w/frplc, hwd flrs & spacious rms. Decks, grdns, yd & hot tub on .6 ac.

\$1,538,000

BLACKHAWK



New Price

20 Chestnut Place Extraordinary Blackhawk Country Club 4975 square foot, country French style estate with pool on sought after cul de sac. Vaulted ceilings, Master suite with fireplace and adjoining office.

\$1,899,000

WALNUT CREEK



New Listing

909 Terra California LEVEL IN! No steps to this beautiful updated Rossmoor hm & no one above. New Mahogany hwd flrs thruout liv. & bdrms. Dual panes, newer kit. w/maple cabs & granite cntrs. Vaulted LR ceiling. VIEWS of hills.

\$635,000

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