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Will Pemble and son, Lyle, are ready to roll.

Photo Ohlen Alexander

Orinda Dad Shares Roller Coaster Joy

By Cathy Tyson

Passionate backyard engineer and devoted dad Will Pemble, with help from his charming sixth grade son Lyle, has built a backyard roller coaster in Orinda. Clearly thrilled with the challenge, Pemble came up with the CoasterDad Project as a way to share physics,

family and fun on a grand scale, way beyond the kids in the immediate neighborhood, via the Internet on YouTube and at www.coasterdad.com. It's working, going viral with thousands of subscribers on YouTube and pushing a million views of the video. News of the coaster has even

reached the land Down Under, and will soon be featured on the Australian version of Good Morning America.

"I believe in the 'wow' factor," said self-described insanely curious Pemble.

... continued on page A14

Quote of the Week:

"Change won't happen from the top down, it will happen from the bottom up, and you're it."

Read SMC Commencement: Former Defense Secretary Leon Panetta challenges Saint Mary's grads to lead - page B3.

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Lafayette Council All In for Station 46

By Nick Marnell

Throughout its 12 months of existence, the Lafayette Emergency Services Task Force has struggled with the subtleties and the complexity of the fire protection industry. But in May, the task force took a major step forward: it agreed to endorse and support the construction and operation of fire station 46; and the Lafayette City Council concurred.

When the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors closed Lafayette's fire station 16 and refused to commit to the joint venture between ConFire and the Moraga-Orinda Fire District to build and operate station 46, the Lafayette City Council formed the task force to investigate alternate delivery of fire and emergency medical service to the city.

The task force, co-chaired by Council Members Traci Reilly and Brandt Andersson, evaluated a range of options, including funding its own

service, contracting for service with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, merging with another district and even contracting back with ConFire. At a task force meeting in March, ConFire chief Jeff Carman asked that the task force stop talking secession and indicate if it was serious about station 46 as an option; he did not want to present a revised plan for station 46 to his board while at the same time the board was reading that Lafayette had one foot out the door.

In May, Alan Hartford, assistant chief of operations, unveiled to the task force the ConFire internal Strategic Planning Group, charged with evaluating the operation of the district on all levels, including standards of cover, finances and public outreach. Hartford also said that the district planned to take its risk-based deployment model to an entirely new level, based partly on pitching for the

county's ambulance contract now held by American Medical Response.

Since ConFire does not know the deployment model of AMR's ambulances, it cannot tailor custom responses to medical calls. If it controlled the ambulance deployment, explained Hartford, then the district could keep its fire resources where it feels they are needed and deploy medical resources to ensure adequate coverage for medical emergencies without compromising the fire response. "We have no way of doing that right now," he said. "If we had the ambulance contract we would know where our resources are and then can move them around accordingly."

"Hartford's address calmed nerves in the room," said Reilly, who emphasized that the committee was impressed by how rapidly ConFire is working to fix its problems. The task

force presented a resolution supporting the concept of station 46 to the City Council, which unanimously approved it on May 27.

Acknowledging that station 46 would be a huge step in the right direction, Reilly cautioned that there are still areas that need to be addressed. One of those problem areas was highlighted in a letter sent to the city council by task force member Jim Cunha.

"This motion does not solve all of our problems," he wrote. "Firefighter pensions and post retirement medical benefits are still to be solved before we are anywhere close to where we need to be on a sustained basis."

Carman plans to present his revised station 46 strategy - along with the formal support of Lafayette - to the Board of Supervisors this month. MOFD chief Stephen Healy is expected to make a similar presentation to his board shortly.

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Meet Bryce Pinkham

Sophie Braccini talks to Tony Award nominee Bryce Pinkham - page B2.



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Campo volleyball wins NorCal Championships - page C1.



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Stylish Solutions

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Lafayette Civic News

Public Meetings

City Council

Monday, June 9, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Planning Commission

Monday, June 16, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Design Review

Monday, June 9, 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, June 4, 7 p.m.
Wednesday, June 25, 7 p.m.
AUHSD Board Room
1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette
www.acalanes.k12.ca.us

Lafayette School District

Wednesday, June 25, 7 p.m.
Regular Board Meeting
Stanley Library
3477 School St., Lafayette
www.lafsd.k12.ca.us

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Manzanita Room More Expensive than Anticipated

By Cathy Tyson



Image provided

The preliminary plans to replace the very tired 60-year-old Manzanita Room at the Lafayette Community Center were admittedly pretty basic. City Council members expressed concern at a recent meeting over the cost increase from the original estimate; it was initially slated to cost roughly \$1.8 million, but after input from the Design Review Commission, now comes in at almost \$2.3 million. Due to the change staff brought the project back to the city council seek-

ing approval to proceed.

As the design evolved, what was a bare bones box morphed from utilitarian cube to a more dynamic design with a dramatic wall of glazed windows and nicer materials that raised the estimated construction costs. Cost savings where possible were factored in, but the Design Review Commission suggested changes, including pricey Kalwall structural window sections, which helped boost the overall cost. "We tried very hard to keep to

the original cost," said Jennifer Russell, director of Parks, Trails and Recreation. Tony Coe, city engineer, explained that the design review process changed the building. "It's now something that makes an architectural statement – more of a pavilion than a gym." Seven of nine volunteer Parks, Trails and Recreation commissioners came to voice support for the improved project.

The City Council was not thrilled with the substantial cost increase, but members were amused by the irony. "Now we're on the other side of the table," said Council Member Brandt Andersson, adding, "I have more sympathy," in reference to homeowner applicants seeking approval from Design Review, where changes that will likely cost more are required for approval. "The building came out much better, but it's going to cost me more," he said of this not uncommon situation.

Mayor Don Tatzin asked for quarterly cash flow forecasting to get a better sense of money from developer fees that will be coming in to the fund that holds park facility fees paid by developers that are earmarked for this project. These fees are paid before construction starts and, while there are several projects in the pipeline, there is a potential risk that forecasted revenue may not materialize. Funding sources also

include over \$240,000 from voter-approved Measure WW funds, a \$45,000 donation from the Community Center Foundation, and \$5,000 pledged by the teen-led Lafayette Youth Commission.

"Construction of a new Manzanita Building will span two fiscal years and, based on a forecast of facility improvement fees from new development, there will be enough funds to pay for the project," said Russell. "If the timing of contract invoices and facility improvement fees don't exactly align, staff will go back to Council and request a short-term loan to be paid back as soon as the fees are received."

Council Member Mark Mitchell brought up a relevant point – that the old building served Lafayette citizens for decades – and since the new structure will likely do the same perhaps the city should consider amortizing a portion of the cost.

Ultimately the City Council gave a measured response to the price increase, first – to submit the plans for bids, which may come in higher or lower than the estimated price tag, while at the same time investigate less expensive building materials and fixtures, and also look into pending changes in Contra Costa County building codes, slated to go into effect in the near future, which may further drive costs up.

After Long Hiatus, Activity on Lucas Ranch

By Cathy Tyson

After the original application was filed about a decade ago to develop part of an 88-acre parcel in Lafayette, there was a contentious review process that ended with a whopping 90 conditions of approval regarding development of the eight-home subdivision. Applicant Soldier Field Partners is now moving forward and its request for a permit to build a large custom home on one of the lots was recently heard by the Planning Commission.

This is a project that has been 10 years in the making. It all started with a subdivision and hillside development permit application in 2004, back when George Bush narrowly defeated John Kerry.

The final environmental impact report was approved in 2006. Later that same year an appeal of the Planning Commission's certification of the final EIR was made; then in September of 2006 the City Council held a public hearing that ultimately denied the appeal. ... continued on page A12



Map courtesy City of Lafayette Staff Report

Lafayette Police Department incident summary report, May 11-24	
Alarms	63
911 Calls	10
Animal Cruelty	
Peet's	200 block Glorietta Bl
Safeway	3300 block Oswego Ct (2)
McCaulou's	3500 block Terrace Wy
Battery	1200 block Upper Happy Valley Rd
3600 block Bickerstaff St	Missing Adult
3500 block Mt Diablo Bl	3300 block Mt Diablo Bl
Auto Burglary	Panhandling
3600 block Crescent Dr	3500 block Mt Diablo (2)
Oakwood Athletic Club	Petty Theft
Residential Burglary	Safeway (2)
3600 block Crescent Dr	Springbrook Pool
1000 block Carol Ln	Oakwood Athletic Club (2)
3400 block St Mary's Rd	3400 block Black Hawk Rd
900 block Dewing Av	1300 block El Curtola
Custody Order Violation	El Charro
3400 block Golden Gate Wy	Sun Valley Pool
Disturbance (domestic)	1000 block Upper Happy Valley Rd
Round Up	Grand Theft
1000 block 2nd St (3)	1100 block Howard Hills Rd
McDonald's	Prowler Heard
1000 block N Thompson Rd	1200 block Vacation Dr
30 block Deer Trail (2)	Promiscuous Shooting
10 block Walabi Ct	Pleasant Hill/Reliez Station Rd
Drunk in Public	Reckless Driving
Monroe Av/Moraga Bl	Glenside Dr/Los Palos Dr
DUI Misdemeanor	Lafayette Reservoir
Brook St/Moraga Rd	Lafayette Cr/Mt Diablo Bl
Harassment	Acalanes High School
1100 block Upper Happy Valley Rd	Reliez Valley/Pleasant Hill Rd
Hit & Run	Pleasant Hill Rd/Deer Hill Rd
Diablo Foods	Restraining Order (violation)
Acalanes High School (3)	3200 block Sweet Dr
Pleasant Hill/Reliez Valley Rd	Suspicious:
Carol Ln/Mt Diablo Bl	Circumstances
Hawthorne Dr/Moraga Bl	17
Juvenile Disturbance	Vehicle
Lafayette PD	27
3700 block Mt Diablo Bl	Subject
Mt Diablo Bl/Acalanes Rd	27
Happy Valley Rd/Upper Happy Valley Rd	Traffic Stops
Health & Safety Violation	110
Bacon Wy/Springbrook Rd	Vandalism
Loud Party	900 block Dewing Av
10 block Chapel Dr	10 block Carolyn Ct
La Caminita/Reliez Valley Rd	Windsor Dr/Mars Ct
3700 block Mt Diablo Bl	1000 block Windsor Dr (2)
	3100 block Stanley Bl
	3400 block Hamlin Rd
	3400 block Golden Gate Wy
	Vehicle Theft
	3300 block Mt Diablo Bl
	3500 block School St
	Safeway

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City Council Honors Young Jazz Musicians



Photo C. Tyson

The City Council, after hearing a few fantastic tunes from the Stanley Middle School Jazz Messengers, recognized each and every member of the band and proclaimed that May 28 will now officially be "Stanley Jazz Messengers Day" in Lafayette. "These are very talented musicians who happen to be middle school students," said Mayor Don Tatzin, who should know since he oc-

asionally practices with the band. The Jazz Messengers recently came in second place as best middle school ensemble in the country at the Next Generation Jazz Festival in Monterey. Conductor, teacher, jazz guru and music director at Stanley, Bob Athayde, was gracious and thanked everyone for their support of the arts.
C. Tyson

Tell the City How You Really Feel...

Yes, the City of Lafayette would like to hear your opinion about a specific area that many motorists use on a daily basis, for a traffic study along the Olympic Boulevard and Reliez Station Road corridor between Pleasant Hill Road and Glenside Drive. This busy, yet residential route has frequent bottlenecks and cars line up coming and going from Lafayette.

With critical input from the public, the study will identify traffic problems and concerns and explore solutions to address them. City staffers offer a number of options for folks to chime in:

Community Walk No. 1 is scheduled for 10 a.m. this Saturday, June 7, starting at the corner of Pleasant Hill

Road and Olympic Boulevard; or perhaps a weekday is better - Community Walk No. 2 is on Thursday, June 12 at 7:30 a.m. on Thursday, June 12, also at the corner of Pleasant Hill Road and Olympic Boulevard.

If taking a survey from the comfort of home is more your style, simply go to www.lovelafayette.org, then go to Hot Topics and click on the Reliez Station Road/Olympic Corridor Study - it should take less than 10 minutes to complete.

There's even a meeting slated for the day this paper is published: Wednesday, June 4 at 6:30 p.m. in the Sequoia Room of the Lafayette Community Center, 500 St. Mary's Road.
C. Tyson

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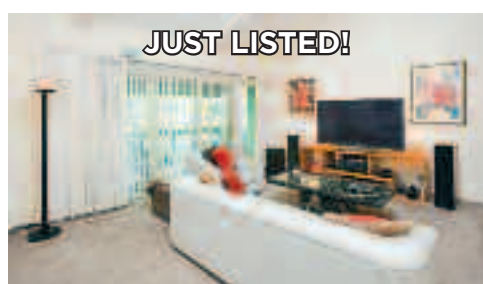
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Moraga Civic News

Public Meetings

Town Council

Wednesday, June 11, 7 p.m.
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School,
1010 Camino Pablo

Planning Commission

Monday, June 16, 7 p.m.
Moraga Library, 1500 St. Mary's Rd.

Design Review

Monday, June 9, 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, June 10, 7:30 p.m.
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate
School Auditorium
1010 Camino Pablo, Moraga
www.moraga.k12.ca.us
See also AUHSD meeting page A2



Moraga Police Department

D.U.I., 5/21/14 It was just after 11 p.m. when officers were dispatched to check on a vehicle swerving in and out of traffic leaving the 7-11 parking lot. The driver failed to yield for two miles even though police used their flashing lights and siren. The driver finally pulled over near her home, and surprisingly flunked field sobriety tests.

Teen battery, 5/22/14 There was a domestic dispute on Ascot Drive. The person reporting the incident said he was being assaulted by his 15-year-old son after he instructed his son to finish his homework. The teen left the residence after the altercation. Unfortunately the son has a history of violence. The father had visible injuries but declined medical assistance and didn't seek prosecution; the police report was for information only.

Loud party, 5/23/14 A home on Lucia Lane was rocking until the wee hours of the morning. Police observed a group of college-age students inside the home, some clearly intoxicated. Perhaps a coincidence that the Saint Mary's College graduation ceremony was set for the next day? Officers contacted the residents, one of whom had previously been issued a warning so this time they issued a citation, at which point the party was over.

Stolen car found, 5/23/14 Cops located a parked car at Orchard Supply Hardware that was reported stolen from Hertz in South San Francisco four days earlier. The vehicle had a layer of dust on the exterior, so fingerprints weren't found. The car wasn't stripped or damaged and even the license plates were still attached. It was towed from the scene.

Avoiding police, 5/23/14 A Toyota was being driven erratically around lunch time on Moraga Road near Donald Drive. The driver didn't yield to cops, was speeding and

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Gary Bernie & Ken Ryerson

Town of Moraga to Form a GHAD

By Sophie Braccini

Orinda has one for Wilder, now Moraga will have one, too: a Geologic Hazard Abatement District, or GHAD; a legal entity that is formed to fund the prevention and remediation of land slides and other earth movements for a group of property owners. As in Orinda, the council members will comprise the GHAD's board of directors. Three developments in Moraga will have to join Moraga's GHAD as part of their conditions of approval: Palos Colorados, Hetfield, and Rancho Laguna II.

"The GHAD functions a little like insurance," explained Uri Eliahu, president of the consulting firm Engeo, who answered questions at the May 14 town council meeting. "But unlike insurance, a GHAD monitors soil conditions and does preventive work."

A GHAD is relatively new mechanism that was authorized by the

state in 1979; the first was the Abalone Cove Landslide Abatement District, formed in Los Angeles County in 1981. The 600-acre Abalone Cove landslide, which began moving in 1978, threatened over 100 homes. This GHAD has since financed continued geologic investigation of the slide and has allowed it to be treated as a single physical entity, with no consideration of property boundaries. "The four magic words in GHAD law are abatement, prevention, litigation, and control of geologic hazards," said Eliahu.

The source of revenue for a GHAD is a tax, assessed on homes that fall within the GHAD, which appears on the homeowner's county tax bill. Council members asked about the cost for each resident. "The preliminary study will determine how much money should be put aside and what the annual levy should be," said

Eliahu. "The amount can be different for each development; it works like insurance, a different risk level will mean a different premium." The consultant explained that there are economies of scale linked to large GHADs but the Moraga GHAD will be on the small side; GHADs range from 40 to 22,000 homes. "A very large GHAD would have an annual assessment in the hundred dollar range, while a development like Wilder in Orinda has an annual assessment of about \$2,700," he added.

The council wondered if a GHAD ever went bankrupt and if the town would have any liability. "It's never happened," said the consultant. "First a GHAD does prevention work; then if a major catastrophe happens, it can borrow against future revenue streams." Eliahu also confirmed that the town would not be liable, but that the GHAD as a separate legal entity could be. Council mem-

bers were surprised to learn that a GHAD, which is a state entity, would be subject to local rules, such as MOSO, to fulfill its mandate.

GHADs are managed by a team separate from town staff that reports to the board annually. "It gives a run-down on the reserves, which is key," said Eliahu. Town attorney Michelle Kenyon stressed the fact that the council members would not be acting as a town council, but as a GHAD board.

Once established, other groups of property owners can petition to be annexed into the GHAD, including property owners outside of Moraga. It will be the prerogative of the board to accept or refuse annexation.

The final proposal for the establishment of the Moraga GHAD will come back to the council for approval, and the selection of a management team, at a date not yet set.

The Nuisance Fine

By Sophie Braccini

Have you ever been frustrated by a neighbor who left a pile of debris in front of his home or a business displaying an obnoxiously oversized commercial sign? Have you wondered what recourse you have?

Until now, even if Moraga residents called the town to complain, there was not much that anyone could do about it – the town had no ordinance allowing for administrative citation and abatement. The old process required a council hearing; a set of rules was applied only in the most

egregious cases, such as a property under complete disrepair or abandoned. Town staff proposed new code enforcement rules to the Moraga Town Council on May 21, a timely move since new sign regulations were just approved.

Staff will soon be able to issue citations and fine residents who are not in compliance with the municipal code, and an amendment of the current abatement regulation allows staff to act without first going to elected officials. The actions can be appealed, first to a town officer and then to the

Moraga Town Council.

Moraga has no plans to hire a code compliance officer, said Town Manager Jill Keimach. "The town will act only when a complaint is filed, we will not seek out violations." Associate planner Ella Samonsky added, "Staff will continue the existing practice of providing courtesy calls and written warnings to encourage voluntary compliance before initiating the nuisance abatement process."

The fine for a first offense is \$100, rising to \$250 and \$500 for the

second and third offenses, respectively.

The modification of the abatement ordinance allows staff to abate a nuisance after proper warning and if the abatement decision is not appealed to the town council. Any violation of the municipal code can be declared a public nuisance – examples include overgrown vegetation likely to harbor vermin, sports equipment blocking travel lanes, abandoned buildings, construction done without a permit, and non-compliant signage.

weaving in and out of traffic, even went through two red lights without stopping. The vehicle then stopped suddenly in a parking lot; the driver was slow to comply with the officer's verbal requests. An investigation revealed the female driver was possible under the influence of an unknown controlled substance. She was cited for evading a police officer, D.U.I and for possession of concentrated cannabis.

Wandering toddler, 5/24/14 An observer called police to the area around Saint Mary's College Extension about a 2-year-old wandering around with no adult supervision. A passerby checked Francisca Lane and located the mother of the child. The mom said the little one had slipped through an open gate and wandered off. The woman, who has two other children at home, was counseled regarding the proper observation of young children.

In addition, the following incidents were reported May 20-27:
False Alarms – Deerfield Drive, Camino Pablo
Suspicious Circumstances – Freitas Drive, Miramonte Drive, Claudia Court
Welfare Check – Augusta Drive
Lost Property – Ascot Drive
Loud Party – Shuey Drive
Traffic Incident – Moraga Road
Identity Theft – Calle La Montana



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Moraga Housing Element: Staying the Course

By Sophie Braccini

Four years ago Moraga was one of the first Bay Area cities to get its Housing Element approved by the state. Now entering the next cycle, the town is required to plan for building slightly fewer new homes and need make only minor adjustments to the existing plan and move it forward. As part of the process the town will conduct public outreach to ensure that its Housing Element meets the needs of all segments of the population. The issue does not elicit as much passion in Moraga as it does in other jurisdictions, but as in most cities, two groups oppose each other – one wants more low income housing and the other does not want to see more development. At a recent meeting, both groups expressed their different views but shared common concerns over traffic and emergency operations.

“We are here tonight to hear from you,” said Chelsey Norton, a project manager with the consulting firm Mintier Hamish, at a public meeting May 22. She introduced the plan that should not vary much from the one approved

in 2010, since Moraga is now required to plan for 229 units instead of 234, and the Moraga Center Specific plan alone is zoned to accommodate more than 600 new homes/condominiums.

California plans for future housing needs and trickles down the figures to each city with a number of housing units to be planned for within eight years. For the Bay Area, the projected need is 187,990 new units, which translates into 229 in Moraga; of these, 119 should be planned for lower income residents. Since cities don't build, the requirement is just to plan for these units, and affordability is measured by a density of at least 20 dwelling units per acre.

At the meeting, some residents said that housing for local workforce, students and lower income seniors should be built, while others indicated that they did not want to see growth in Moraga. The latter group shared the same concerns that were raised in 2009, when the Moraga Center Specific Plan and the Housing Element were discussed and approved: Will building hun-

dreds of new units worsen traffic conditions? Do local schools have the capacity for so many new children? Moraga is a very slow growth community that does not want to become Lafayette or Walnut Creek – could “over-building” forever alter the character of the town?

Planning Director Shawna Brekke-Read confirmed that the town has no latitude to negotiate the number of units for which it must plan. Resident Denise Coane, who is concerned by the large number of projects now in the development pipeline, proposed to enact a rule that would limit the number of projects approved each year. Brekke-Read did not comment on the legality of such a rule, but noted that things are already pretty slow in Moraga. Palos Colorados, for example, has been in the works for over 20 years; Rancho Laguna II and Hetfield for nine – and none of them has broken ground yet.

Residents who believe that more affordable housing is needed were asked for solutions to make it happen.

... continued on page A12



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Orinda Civic News

Public Meetings

City Council

Wednesday, June 4, 7 p.m.
Wednesday, June 17, 7 p.m.
Auditorium, Orinda Library,
26 Orinda Way

Planning Commission

Tuesday, June 6,
Workshop 6 p.m.
Garden Room, Orinda Library,
Regular Meeting 8 p.m.
Auditorium, Orinda Library,
26 Orinda Way

Historical Landmark Committee

Tuesday, June 24, 3 p.m.
Gallery Room, Orinda Library,
26 Orinda Way

Check online for agendas, meeting
notes and announcements

City of Orinda:

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

Chamber of Commerce:

www.orindachamber.org

The Orinda Association:

www.orindaassociation.org

School Board Meeting

Orinda Union School District

Monday, June 9, 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, May 11-24

Alarms	49
911 Calls	13
Residential Burglary	
20 block Irwin Wy	
10 block Donna Maria Wy	
50 block Oak Dr	
Disturbance	
100 block Overhill Rd	
70 block Tarry Ln	
Elder Abuse	
20 block Orinda Wy	
Hit & Run	
Overhill Rd/Broadview Ter	
Health & Safety	
Chevron station	
Loud Party	
80 block La Espiral	
Lavina Ct/Ivy Dr	
10 block Las Palomas	
San Pablo/Moraga Wy	
20 block Orchard Rd	
Stein Wy/Moraga Wy	
20 block Lavina Ct (2)	
Missing Adult	
10 block Altarinda Rd	
20 block North Ln	
Reckless Driving	
San Pablo Dam Rd/Camino Pablo	
Safeway	
Rheem Bl/Glorietta Bl	
Petty Theft	
10 block Camino Sobrante	
10 block Darby Ct	
Grand Theft	
500 block Tahos Rd	
20 block Cedar Ln	
Promiscuous Shooting	
40 block Tarry Ln	
Public Nuisance	
Estates Dr/Brookside Rd	
Reckless Driving	
St. Mary's Rd/Glenside Dr	
Shoplifting	
Safeway	
10 block Camino Pablo	
BevMo	
Suspicious:	
Person	7
Circumstances	9
Vehicle	24
Traffic Stops	132
Uncontrollable Juvenile	
10 block Estates Dr	
Vandalism	
100 block Crest View Dr	
10 block Daryl Dr (2)	
Vehicle Theft	
20 block North Ln	



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Orinda Settles Housing Element Lawsuit

By Laurie Snyder

"In the matter of Advocates for Lawful Environmental Review Today vs. the City of Orinda, the council unanimously approved a settlement of this litigation brought under the California Environmental Quality Act challenging the city's 2013 adoption of its Fourth Cycle Housing Element." That announcement was made by Orinda mayor Sue Severson at the May 20 Orinda City Council meeting, and came as Orinda ramps up for its next housing element review. Advocates for Lawful Environmental Review Today, often referred to by the acronym ALERT, agreed to dismiss all claims against the city while the city "agreed to various things related to preparing an Environmental Impact Report for the Fifth Cycle Housing Element" and also to pay \$19,756 of ALERT's attorney fees.

The agreement document shows that San Diego attorney, Craig A. Sherman, filed a Writ on Dec. 19 for ALERT and its president, Maria Protti, challenging a Mitigated Negative Declaration approved by the city council in November – part of adopting Orinda's "State-mandated 4th cycle housing element to plan for its Regional Housing Needs Allocation ('RHNA') for the years 2007 to 2014."

While disputing the merits of ALERT's claims, the city affirmed that all normally-applicable laws will apply when it prepares its fifth element EIR and said this EIR will "in-

clude site-specific environmental impacts consistent and compliant with the level of detail required by CEQA." Plus, even though Orinda "decided to rely on the 3.2 acre Santa Maria site to help meet its RHNA for lower income households" in cycle four, the city will reconsider inclusion of that acreage for cycle five and won't assume eventual development of those acres in its EIR baseline.

Despite selecting PMC (Pacific Municipal Consultants) as fifth cycle advisors on April 22 after concluding Orinda's standard Request for Proposal process, under the settlement agreement that states, "following consultation with Petitioner," the city will issue an RFP to AECOM, Diana Elrod, Dyett & Bhatia, ESA, Mintier Harnish, PMC, The Planning Center/DC&E, Veronica Tam Associates, Lamphier Gregory, LSA, and Geier & Geier Consulting.

Staff received just three responses to 10 Requests for Proposal issued prior to April 22 – from PMC, RBF Consulting, and Diana R. Elrod, the advisor who helped Lafayette complete its fourth cycle element and is now working to help prepare its fifth.

As to the city council's April 22 choice, Planning Director Emmanuel Ursu said all three firms were very well qualified and that serious consideration was given to Elrod. However, there was a perceived weakness with her firm on the CEQA side. "We will need to go through a CEQA process that will be a little more rigorous than

I think it was the last time Both PMC and the other consulting firm have more experience in that respect." Elrod's estimate – roughly \$9,000 above PMC's bid of \$37,965 – projected the need for only 25 hours of CEQA-related time versus PMC's estimated 58 hours.

RBF submitted the low bid, but was ruled out due to potential difficulty in accessing consultants and travel costs that might arise with a Southern California-based firm. Timing was also considered. PMC aimed for element adoption by January 2015; both RBF and Elrod needed another month. "Under new state law ... if we do not adopt a housing element by within 120 days of the deadline [May 31, 2015]," said Ursu, "then rather than being on an eight-year cycle to update the

housing element, we would be required to update the housing element four years after that, and then another four years after that, and then yet again four years after that." And that would cost the city significantly more, observed Councilmember Amy Worth.

Finally, the city agreed that the fifth element and related CEQA document will, when adopted by the city, supersede the fourth element and its CEQA document. Nothing in the settlement limits how the city will plan for its Regional Housing Needs Allocation or other fifth element matters nor does it limit ALERT's ability to participate in the fifth cycle housing element process – "including possible CEQA litigation over the EIR adopted for the 5th cycle housing element."

Orinda's Mounting Legal Costs

At its Feb. 18 meeting, the Orinda City Council learned from staff during a mid-year budget review that city General Fund expenditures would surpass original budget projections by \$129,995 largely due to:

- "Unusually high demand for legal services associated with the Housing Element, including responses to voluminous Public Records Act requests."
- A lawsuit brought by Advocates for Lawful Environmental Review Today.
- Litigation threatened by the owners of 81 Moraga Way challenging the council's Jan. 14 decision not to rezone their downtown property.
- A new suit (Painter v. City of Orinda) brought by the owners of 34 Broadview Terrace challenging the city's denial of their design review application.

Saving a Life in Orinda

By Cathy Dausman

Barry Schneider and his daughter Allison recently completed a father-daughter bonding experience so intense that Schneider described it simply as "not on his list" – they saved a life using CPR. The pair, along with employee Julie Gavigan, will be honored by the Moraga-Orinda Fire District and Orinda City Council on June 4.

The meeting coincides with National CPR and AED Awareness Week, said MOFD division chief Darrell Lee. Schneider, who calls himself as "a trainer and jack of all trades," and his daughter were at work at Orinda's In Forma Integral Fitness gym last month when Allison Schneider noticed a member collapsed face first on the ground. "I ran over and rolled him onto his side," she said.

The victim, an elderly man

who regularly trains there, was barely conscious, his respiration rough and infrequent and he was not responding to questions. His obviously shaken wife was standing nearby.

Gavigan remained at the front desk to make the 911 call. "Allison and I both looked at each other and started team CPR," the elder Schneider said. "I started [chest] massage and Allison started [rescue] breathing." This was not an experience likely to leave anyone with "a warm fuzzy feeling," Schneider explained. Still, "everybody was completely engaged and doing exactly what they should be doing," he said.

The pair continued to work on the victim until MOFD personnel arrived, took over and transported the victim to the hospital where he was treated and later released.

... continued on page A12



Barry and Allison Schneider are two of three people who will be honored June 4. The third, Julie Gavigan, was camera-shy. Photo Cathy Dausman



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– Marian Nichols, Moraga

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On the Job with Orinda Deputy Sheriff Lisa Cook

By Laurie Snyder

“A lot of this job is how you talk to people. If you show somebody respect, they will show you respect back,” says Orinda police officer Lisa Cook – a no-nonsense professional who, despite having taken taller criminals to the ground when needed, has also developed a reputation for putting Girl Scouts and crime victims at ease. “There are times when a person wants to talk to a woman rather than a man. Sometimes, with little kids, it might help to be a female.”

She attributes much of her success to her dad. “He was into sports and he got me playing basketball. He made me who I am.” During 16 years of work in dentistry, Cook discovered a talent for investigative work. She decided to try her hand at the Police Academy and soon realized that she’s not just good at police work, she thrives on it. Employed by the Contra Costa Sheriff’s Department for more than seven years, she has been protecting Orindans for about one and a half years.

“We never, ever know what our day’s going to bring,” says the deputy sheriff of life on the job. The afternoon she was interviewed for this article, she was called to the scene of a car accident; days earlier, she and her partner helped an elderly resident joust with a home fire alarm that refused to be silenced.

But it is the time she spends with Orinda youngsters that clearly generates some of her most meaningful moments. “When you have kids all you can think of is that could be my kid,” she says, reflecting on past emergencies. If she could reach through the page of this newspaper, she’d give high school or college-age readers gentle forehead flicks to remind them that they’re not invincible. Her own daughter’s best friend was killed in a car accident. “You never think it can happen to you. It can and does happen. Don’t take life for granted.”

It’s a message that Cook and her husband, a fellow deputy, live and breathe. Although the job is “90 per-

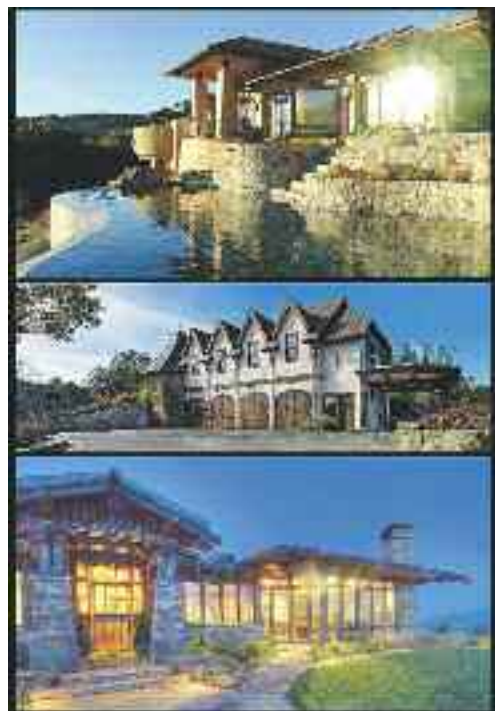
cent paperwork and following up and investigating,” they’re acutely aware that bad things can and do happen. So, they make sure to carve time out of hectic schedules for regular date nights, and always tell each other to be safe every day before leaving for their shifts. “We just never know.”

Most Orinda police officers you encounter will echo that sentiment. While finding weapons on a suspect can send hearts racing, it can be even more stressful responding to residents’ homes when neighbors call to report someone at risk of domestic violence or elder abuse. Several of the most challenging moments for Cook have come during encounters with individuals showing signs of mental illness. In cases that require “a 5150” – when police officers or mental health workers must involuntarily commit someone for psychiatric confinement because that individual poses a danger to himself or others – things can go south very quickly.

... continued on page A13

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Editor:

While the Acalanes Unified High School District's pest management program has, undoubtedly, improved, recent incidents clearly demonstrate why their pest management policy needs strengthening to truly protect the health of students, staff, and community members. First, the policy needs to include an Advisory Committee comprised of District staff, parents, students, and public health and environmental representatives. This Committee will be a valuable resource and help the District find effective and safer solutions to its weed and insect problems. The Committee will also provide a source of checks and balances and ensure an appropriate review of a product's contents and adverse health effects before it's used, and people are exposed. We reviewed the District's presentation to the Governing Board on their recommendations for treating weeds on Acalanes' practice field and also the minutes from recent Board meetings where this issue was discussed and the use of a broad leaf weed killer was approved. There was no discussion of the health risks associated with these products. A Committee would ensure product safety is a key part of any discussion. Second, there need to be Banned and Approved Use Products Lists and a Limited Use Products Provision. There are thousands of very toxic pesticides the District could use and still be in compliance with its current policy. The Banned Products List would include pesticides linked to cancer, birth defects, and other serious health issues. If the District needed to use a chemical control as a last resort, an Approved Use Products List would contain those truly least toxic products; evaluated by credible scientific bodies for their safety. Currently, no requirement exists that products be evaluated for their potential adverse health effects. Finally, a Limited Use Products Provision would allow District staff to submit a written request to the Advisory Committee for review that a pesticide not on the Approved List be approved for a specific and limited purpose. Unfortunately, the current policy is inadequate and incomplete. The addition of these provisions is essential to safeguard and protect the health of the District's students and staff and the community.

- Carol Shenon
Moraga
- Erika Pringsheim-Moore
Lafayette
- Susan JunFish
Moraga
- Katharine Barrett
Orinda

Editor:

My wife and I enjoyed your article about Ken Murakami and the Moraga Garden Center, honoring Ken and his contribution to our community. He is much more than a businessman - we have been visiting him for many years and hope to continue for many more. He offers great counsel and uses his knowledge about plants as a way to connect to people rather than to connect to people to sell plants. Also, he is a CAL basketball fan. I have promised him a bottle of wine from the backyard grapes he helped me grow. I hope to make good on this promise during my lifetime.

- Robert McEwan
Moraga

Editor:

When I was evaluating candidates in the upcoming election, I noticed that Glazer put himself as being very independent of special interests, etc. However, I have since changed my mind. We have been inundated with mailers on a daily basis. I discovered that he has taken significant amounts of money from interest groups that certainly aren't interested in the general good. I wonder about the local leaders who are endorsing him and now have to start wondering about them as well. Perhaps it is time to really sweep everything clean, using the built in term limits, called 'elections'.

- Leonard Dorin
Lafayette

Editor:

Allowing people to own guns is not promoting freedom of speech or the freedom to protect one's self but, in fact, promoting fear and the lack of freedom to feel safe. Seldom, do you hear in the media, the use of guns in self defense. More often it is the use of guns to harm and hurt by an aggressor. Because we have the freedom of gun ownership in this country the majority of the citizens live in oppression for fear of the random bullet. Please be our voice to stop gun ownership in the United States. This "constitutional right" was an item at a time when the arms of law enforcement were not as efficiently far reaching as they are today. It is an antiquated constitutional right that needs to be urgently revisited. My plea is not directed at the rifles used for shooting game but at the small and repetitive arms that exist mostly for use in crimes. In America we deserve the right to feel safe "beyond a reasonable doubt". Today our gun culture has failed the citizens of America. We can start this resolution in baby step. Our babies deserve to grow old, to take those giant steps fearlessly and resolutely.

Tina Tankka
Lafayette

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Proposed District Budget Riles Union

By Nick Marnell

The Moraga-Orinda Fire District and the firefighters union reached a tentative agreement on a new contract in April, and at the May 20 district meeting, the 36-page memorandum of understanding was approved by the board of directors. But a pall of resentment hung over the rank and file.

"This is not a contract that we are happy with," said Vince Wells, Local 1230 president. Wells maintained that the district's financial situation was never as bleak as it was portrayed during the negotiations, and he expressed cynicism that a balanced general fund was now projected for every year of the district's revised long range financial plan. The new financial forecast only verified the union's belief that the district finances were never as dire as projected, noted Wells.

"We hope that in future negotiations similar tactics are not used," he said.

The MOFD directors did not respond to Wells' comments. The MOU was approved by a 4-1 vote, the dissenting vote cast by director Steve Anderson, who has steadfastly objected to the automatic wage increases built into future years of the new labor agreement. Starting July 1, 2015, base salaries per the MOU are set to increase 1 percent with a 4 percent increase in each of the two succeeding years. The firefighters accepted a 3.5 percent pay cut for one year beginning this July.

Gloriann Sasser, administrative services director, then led a presentation on the 2014-15 fiscal year district budget, projecting that for the first time in three years the district will operate in the black. Total district revenue for 2014-15 is projected at \$22.2 million, with total expenditures – including capital expenditures and debt service fund expenditures – equaling \$21.7 million.

Those numbers only added to Wells' chagrin.

"Next year's financial forecast shows a surplus of around the same amount the district will be saving with the 3.5 percent pay cut," he said. "A reduction in salary is not the way to balance the district's budget."

Fire chief Stephen Healy said that he appreciated the effort and cooperation of the union throughout the negotiations but he did acknowledge the uneasiness that pervaded the talks. "The process of concession bargaining was very difficult for both sides," he said.

Moraga-Orinda Fire District Board of Directors Meetings

Next meetings:
Next meeting: Wednesday, June 4
check website for updates

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

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Drama at School Board over Pesticide Use

By Cathy Tyson

Supporters of a more organic approach to weed and insect problems at Acalanes Union High School District schools got a blistering response from school board members responding to what they perceived as some of the tactics of the group. A social media site featured misinformation about the topic, in a posting by a student – that posting was promptly removed.

"To think that we are not concerned about 5,300 students is appalling to me," said longtime school board member Tom Mulvaney, getting emotional. "That kind of rhetoric is uncalled for. I'm really disappointed."

Striking a more conciliatory tone the newest member of the board, Nancy Kendzierski, asked that the dialogue be tamped down, which will be more helpful in reaching a solution. Chair Kathy Coppersmith was also clear, stating she was "very unhappy" with the way the situation has been handled.

"I believe the district has been very progressive," said Chris Learned, associate superintendent, explaining that the district is using the least toxic methods and has adopted an Integrated Pest Management program that focuses on long term prevention or suppression of pest problems through a combination of strategies. IPM does not eliminate the use of chemical pesticides, but instead uses them only when needed.

In his staff report, Learned outlined the current landscaping maintenance situation. "No chemical was used on any campus this year." The last time Round Up was sprayed, it was in April of 2013, only during spring break when school was not in

session and only along the perimeter of the fence. It was slated to be used again during the 2014 spring break - weather permitting; however it rained, so no application was made.

"Unfortunately the current policy is inadequate and incomplete," said Carol Shenon in a statement to the board. She described suggested changes as "essential to safeguard and protect the health of students, staff and the community." She and fellow supporters would like to have an IPM Advisory Committee to develop guidelines and oversee the IPM policy and program. They would also like a 'banned' and 'approved' use product list and a 'limited use' products provision.

Susan JunFish, of Parents for a Safer Environment, described the situation at the meeting as misdirected anger at the web-post and an online petition that her group wasn't responsible for. "It certainly was not our intention to make the district look bad or to distribute information that is not correct. Our objective is to work with the district to see where improvements can be made to the current IPM policy."

Nothing was decided as the meeting concluded, but in follow-up conversations Learned told JunFish that he plans to send a copy of the draft IPM updated language for comments to Parents for a Safer Environment before sending it to the board in June. Calling the dust up "a major misunderstanding," Learned explained that the district has significant problems with its athletic fields, which become a safety issue for the district. Going forward, the district plans to do its homework and evaluate options, said Learned.

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T's Firehouse Indian Cuisine Offers Unique Combinations

By Amanda Kuehn



Creamy chicken tikka masala, spiced lamb in Rogan Josh, garlic naan and cardamom-infused basmati rice. Photos Amanda Kuehn

When you first arrive at T's Firehouse, you may question if you've come to the right place. Located in the former home of Fuz, adjacent to a large parking lot behind Kelly-Moore Paints, the new Indian restaurant and sports bar is easy to miss.

Enter the tan double doors and you're greeted by an exhibit of colorful hanging lanterns and mannequins clad in traditional Indian clothing. "Each [of them] represents something else," said owner Harinder Singh Tiwana. One mannequin is grinding flour, another spinning cotton, a third figure doing a traditional dance. Tiwana hopes the foyer decor will "give a feel of India" to his establishment.

Pass through a short hallway and you get to the restaurant itself—a single open room with low and high top tables decked with white table cloths

and folded napkins. There is also seating at an extensive and impressive bar, the feature around which T's is arranged.

"We wanted to be different from other Indian restaurants," said Tiwana, who hopes to attract multiple demographics with his unique combination of formal dining, authentic Indian cuisine and a sports bar atmosphere featuring six big screen TVs.

Purchased in 2012, T's has been two years in the making. Tiwana, who has lived in the area for some 25 years and has worked a wide array of jobs from transportation to agriculture, has done much of the work himself, including the design and construction of a backlit glass cabinet that flashes the bright colors of a Bollywood film.

Whereas other Indian establishments often feature buffets, T's is made to order. The daily lunch spe-

cial allows you to choose two of six entree options (four of which are vegetarian), served with your choice of cardamom-infused basmati rice or puffy, crisp naan bread for \$9.95. There are also four wrap options (two vegetarian and two meat). The dinner menu is more extensive, with both vegetarian and meat options that range from the lingering spicy cinnamon of lamb chunks simmered in Rogan Josh sauce to the creamy tomato-onion sauce of the Chicken Tikka Masala. The signature appetizer is a thin crisp lentil papadum speckled with fennel seeds and wrapped around large tender prawns in a warm spiced sauce sprinkled with cilantro. One serving includes two papdums.

T's officially opened on May 10. Happy hour happens every day from 3 to 5 p.m. In addition to sustainable wines from Banrock Station and eight beers on draft, T's also features seven specialty cocktails, ranging from the refreshing Yerba Buena to the fruity Wicked Sparkler.

If you're looking for friendly service and authentic Indian flavors, a new destination for dinner and drinks or a place to grab a beer and watch the game, T's might be just the right combination.

T's Firehouse

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T's bar featuring backlit glass cabinet.

business briefs

La Finestra Ristorante Named Lafayette Small Business of the Year

100 Lafayette Circle, Suite 101, Lafayette
(925) 284-5282, www.lafinestraristorante.com

La Finestra Ristorante was honored as Lafayette's 2014 Small Business of the Year by the East Bay Leadership Council's Small Business/Entrepreneurial Task Force in May. "Jeff Assadi has been the owner/chef of La Finestra since 2003," said Jay Lifson,



Photo provided
Jeff Assadi, the owner of Lafayette's 2014 Small Business of the Year, La Finestra Ristorante, with Supervisor Candace Andersen.

executive director of the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce. "He is committed to providing a great dining experience and has given back to our community in many ways. La Finestra supports all the schools each year with gift certificates and hosted dinners. He is a proud participant of Taste of Lafayette since the event began, and he gives of his time for special events like the annual Loaves and Fishes fundraiser." La Finestra is centrally located in Lafayette, but secluded among large eucalyptus trees, giving the place a unique charm. Assadi has a great reputation as a passionate cook who makes most of his plates to order with the finest ingredients. His Italian cuisine with a Sicilian accent has been celebrated for years.

Artists' Market

Lafayette Art Gallery

3420 Mt Diablo Blvd., Suite A, Lafayette
(925) 284-2788, www.lafayetteartgallery.com



Photo provided
First Artists' Market at The Forge in Lafayette.

The first of a summer series of Artists' Markets was held in the courtyard of The Forge, the new home of the Lafayette Art Gallery, at the corner of Mt. Diablo Boulevard and Brown Avenue in Lafayette on May 17. It was the first such event for new member Karin Lechner, a bead artist, who recently joined the gallery; while photographer Warren Rice participated for many years in the summer shows the gallery held in its former location on Lafayette Circle. "The new location for the market has a Carmel feel to it," said Rice. "It is a lovely setting, with a fountain, and we enjoyed very much displaying our art there." The Artists' Market will be open from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on three more Saturdays, June 21, July 19 and Aug. 16. "We have about 15 artists coming to the events, including some invited artists who are not members of the gallery," said Rice. "We strive to offer a wide variety of artistic productions." Although foot traffic is not as developed as it was on Lafayette Circle, both Rice and Lechner say they enjoy the new location of the art gallery—a wide, luminous space they moved into last October. "It's also a great place to hold our wine reception, every second Friday of the month," added Lechner, who is one of three artists featured in June.

Moraga Employee of the Month for May

Chris O'Connell, Los Perales Elementary School's secretary and front office manager, was named the Moraga Employee of the Month for May. O'Connell first started working at Los Perales in 1999 as a substitute teacher, then became a teacher's assistant and eventually was hired as the school secretary in June, 2001. She has been described as the glue that makes the school run so efficiently. "Every person who walks through our doors is greeted with a warm, genuine smile from Chris," said Los Perales principal Amy Black. "She is the first one here and the last one to leave. Her attention to detail is unparalleled. She never gets flustered, never misses a beat. LP would be lost without her." O'Connell is the 28th recipient of the monthly award sponsored by the Rotary Club of Moraga and the Chamber of Commerce. She will be presented with her award, and gift cards to Safeway and Massage Envy, at the Moraga Rotary luncheon on Tuesday, June 3.

News from the three Chambers of Commerce

Lafayette

Rock the Plaza at 6:30 p.m. on Fridays with Azure Moon, June 6, and The Floorshakers, June 13; at Plaza Park (corner of Moraga Road and Mt Diablo Boulevard) in Lafayette.

Chamber Mixer at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, June 11 at The Mechanic, 3328 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Entrepreneur's Club at 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, June 19 in the Chamber Conference Room.

Ribbon cutting at 5 p.m. on Thursday, June 19, Lily Dong Photography, 3506D Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Moraga

Save the date for the all-day 3rd annual Moraga Chamber Golf Tournament on July 14. The event is the chamber's largest fundraiser of the year. Proceeds support the chamber's many community and business-based programs. The cost is \$175 per player and includes golf, dinner (starts at 4:30 p.m.), refreshments and prizes. For more information or to sign up, visit www.moragachamber.org.

Orinda

First Chamber Brunch on from 8 to 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, June 17 at Barbacoa in Theatre Square. Enjoy delicious brunch food while meeting with the board of directors and ambassadors, hear the annual report presentation, and get the latest chamber news. RSVP to Candy Kattenburg at info@lamorindachamber.org; the cost is \$10.

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



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Smitten in Lafayette

By Sophie Braccini



"Brrr" churns and instantly freezes ice cream. Photos Andy Scheck

Molecular cuisine is becoming main stream. Chin Chin Labs in London, Lab Made in Hong Kong, and now San Francisco-based Smitten, which just opened its fourth Bay Area location in Lafayette, offer liquid nitrogen creations to tantalize ice cream lovers.

For many years, innovation on the ice cream market revolved around new flavors; now the process that instantly makes ice cream to order is spreading all over the world. For Smitten founder Robyn Fisher, this is the way to create incredibly smooth, delicious ice cream – without the preservatives, stabilizers, or emulsifiers needed for packaged ice cream – so she can showcase the true flavor of the best local ingredients.

Fisher discovered the freezing property of liquid nitrogen in a lab at Stanford where she was a graduate student. "I was immediately taken by the way the liquid would create very fine crystals when it came in contact with another liquid at room temperature," she says. As a gas, nitrogen comprises roughly 78 percent of the air we breathe; it becomes a liquid at -320 degrees. As it warms it starts to bubble, returning to its gaseous form and instantly cooling the environment it is in contact with. Liquid nitrogen is not toxic at all, but it needs to be handled with care; touching it is not a good idea – it can do serious damage to skin. It's been used all over the world to create instantly frozen delights such as ice cream, sorbet and meringues.

"The problem was to find a way to turn the ice cream efficiently enough to make the smoothest ice cream," explains Fisher. She says that most people who make liquid nitrogen ice cream use a KitchenAid, as she did when she first got started, but the result was not good enough for this perfectionist. For two years, she worked in partnership with different engineers to create "Brrr," a churning machine that

makes one to four servings of ice cream to order.

Fisher took to the streets of San Francisco eight years ago with Brrr on a wagon. Now with four locations, the young business woman and mother of an 8-month-old baby says she does not want to grow her business too fast. "I own three patents for Brrr," she adds, "and I have been asked to partner with others to grow faster, but I don't want to. What I want is to make the best ice cream in the world, which means controlling the quality of the ingredients; and that takes care and time."

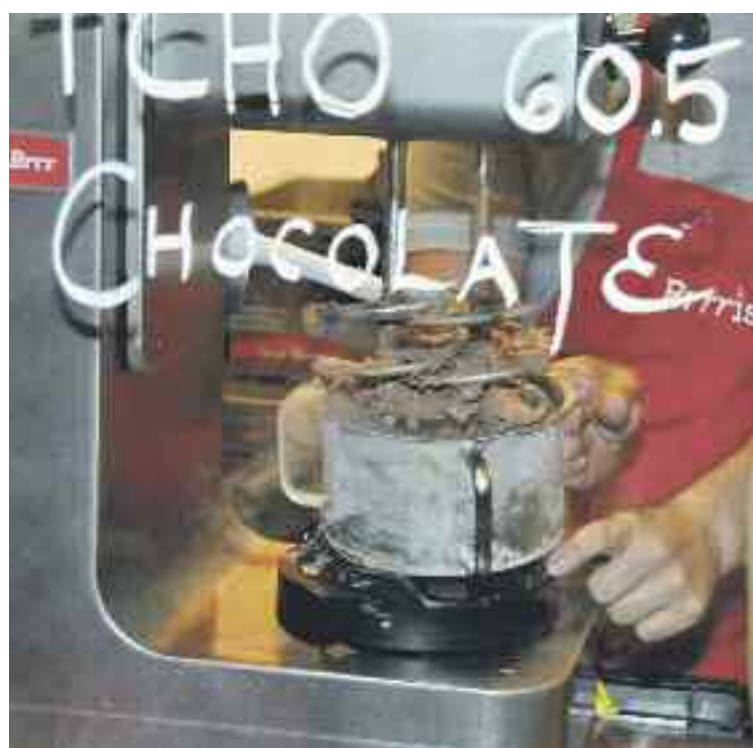
Most of her ice cream is made from cow's milk – although she offers a few coconut milk-based specialties – and that major ingredient comes from the organic dairy farm Beretta in Santa Rosa; the berries are from Swanton Berry Farm, also organic and based in California; the chocolate is from Tcho New American Chocolate in Berkeley.

"With the best process and the best ingredients, I also needed a chef who would create the recipes," says Fisher. "Our consulting chef is Robyn Lenzi, who designs all of our tastes."

The seasonal flavors change every week, but some favorites come back regularly. The Lafayette store was an immediate hit with flavors like strawberry, white balsamic, salted caramel, fresh mint and Tcho chocolate. You can also get an ice cream sundae. "People can buy pints of ice cream to go," says Fisher, "but since it does not contain any additive or preservatives it should be eaten quickly."

Smitten is open daily from noon to 10:30 p.m. (11 p.m. on weekends) at 3545 Mt. Diablo Blvd. in Lafayette; phone (925) 385-7115 or visit www.smittenicecream.com.

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



A fresh batch of Tcho chocolate ice cream.

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Civic News Lafayette

After Long Hiatus, Activity on Lucas Ranch

... continued from page A2

The piece of property known as Lucas Ranch, roughly located between Burton Valley and Rossmoor, will be mostly undeveloped – over 60 percent of the land will remain in its natural state, with the already approved lots clustered on the southern portion of the parcel starting at the terminus of Lucas Drive.

The applicant's attorney, Allan Moore of Gagen McCoy, started out on a positive note, agreeing with the staff recommendation to shrink the size of the proposed 9,330 square foot structure. He also wanted to confirm that earlier approvals for the subdivision are not re-opened.

"No one wins if we don't all win," said architect Tim Ward, referring to reaching consensus in modifying the home to ensure privacy for nearby neighbors. Moore expressed an interest on behalf of his client to work with the neighbors, and asked to go into their back yards to see exactly what their view is and listen to their concerns.

The size of the proposed home is

already an issue. While city staff couldn't specifically suggest an amount of shrinkage, the word "significant" was used.

This application for a Phase I Hillside Development Permit for siting and massing determination has a long way to go. It is the first step in a long journey; specific floor plans for the proposed home have not been drawn up or approved and a swimming pool has not been approved, although general conceptual plans were produced as part of the original subdivision approval years ago.

Full design plans are required for Phase II, and in order to approve the permit a laundry list of findings are necessary, including, to the extent feasible, "minimize the loss of privacy to surrounding residents and not unduly impact, restrict or block significant views."

The commission's task at this point in Phase I is to look at the location and bulk of the home; it considered the matter and gave the applicant time to make modifications.

Civic News Moraga

Moraga Housing Element: Staying the Course

... continued from page A5

"One way is subsidizing the land cost," suggested Sam Sperry, a recently retired municipal bond attorney. "Usually this is done by non-profit groups; another way is to increase density, so you get more units for a given piece of land."

Creative solutions were proposed by the group, such as encouraging Moraga businesses to hire from the local workforce and adding more fire stations. Public transportation was a popular dis-

cussion topic and Brekke-Read said that a tri-city Lamorinda shuttle study will be underway soon – a request for proposal has been issued for a consultant to determine how such a shuttle might work, if people would really ride it, and how much it would cost.

Next steps to finish Moraga's Housing Element include discussion by the Planning Commission and Town Council; staff will submit Moraga's file early next year.

Civic News Orinda

Saving a Life in Orinda

... continued from page A6

He is recovering at home, with no apparent loss of function or memory.

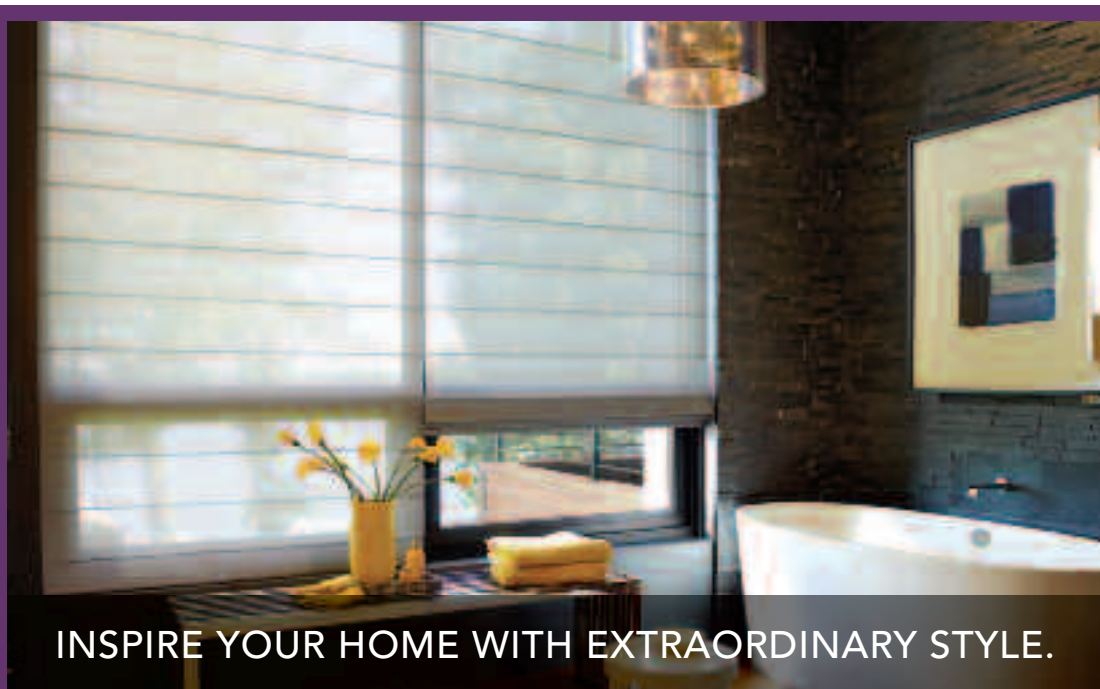
When the paramedics left, Barry Schneider closed the gym and drove home, stopping at Briones Regional Park to sit under a tree for half an hour. Allison Schneider headed "to the Berkeley Y" where she swam laps to gain control of her nerves. Although the younger Schneider had never performed CPR on a real victim before, she remained "cool, calm and very focused on her task," according to her father. "She was truly, truly extraordinary...much older than her years," he said with pride.

Allison Schneider said she wants to pursue a career in health care, perhaps as a physician's assistant. Meanwhile, this summer she'll work as a

counselor at Boy Scout Camp Wolfeboro where she will remind the scouts how important it is to learn CPR. She'll tell them, "This isn't fun, this is serious."

"I've always known [Allison] was going to do good things," said her dad. "She is so passionate about helping people."

For more information on the National CPR and AED Awareness Week go to <http://tinyurl.com/r9fr46> (on the American Red Cross website). "I encourage all residents of Contra Costa County to learn critical lifesaving skills such as CPR and AED use," said Lee. He'd also like to see the Lamorinda Communities become HeartSafe Communities (<http://heart-safe-community.org>).



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Civic News Orinda

On the Job with Orinda Deputy Sheriff Lisa Cook

... continued from page A7



"Is that a real gun?" Orinda Deputy Sheriff Lisa Cook captured the attention of Orinda Daisy Girl Scout Troop members and their leaders during a tour of OPD headquarters at Orinda City Hall recently.

Photo courtesy OPD Chief Mark Nagel

For Orinda police officers, though, the lingering headache continues to be Orinda's waxing and waning problem with burglaries. "A lot of our job is being reactive instead of being proactive." She urges Orindans to think more about ways they can make life harder for criminals, and recommends two city programs that can help. During Home Security Audits, residents frequently end up finding and fixing residential security flaws. And thanks to drive by house

checks, still others find themselves breathing more easily at Tahoe knowing that police are keeping their Orinda homes safe.

"We like to help people; sometimes we just don't know if we do. Sometimes we don't hear back," she says. So the next time you see Cook, feel free to introduce yourself and say thanks.

Because, from time to time, even police officers need to hear that they're doing a good job.

Crime Fighting 101 with Orinda Deputy Sheriff Lisa Cook

1. Write down the serial numbers of your laptops and other tech devices, and then keep that list in a safe place. When police are given serial numbers to enter into their tracking system, it not only gives the police and district attorney an edge when prosecuting the thieves, it makes it easier for you to get your stuff back.
2. Have jewelry appraised, and photograph those and other valuables. Then keep that documentation in a safe location as well. Never store your jewelry in your bedroom or bathroom – the first two places burglars search.
3. Store important documents (birth certificates, social security cards, etc.) in a fire safe – or, even better, off site in your safety deposit box at the bank.
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From Front Page
Orinda Dad Shares Roller Coaster Joy

... continued from page A1



Will Pemble works on the coaster cart in his well-equipped garage.

Photo Ohlen Alexander

With projects like a luge track in their former Connecticut backyard and some home remodeling experience under his belt, Pemble decided to go for it, in a big way.

It's not easy to build a roller coaster. Pemble describes his process as, "Think, dream, draw, build, think, dream, draw, rebuild, test, break, fix, rebuild," and so on. "There's no shame in failure." Apparently it takes a few coaster cart crashes to find the right design; one of his web postings explains, "From our pile of slightly twisted metal will come a new design, a rebuilt cart, and a far more stable wheel assembly. All told, it was a great couple of days!"

Initially it took about six weeks and \$3,500 in order to be ready for a Halloween block party last year. Refinements have continued and Pemble admits it's gotten a little out of hand. The newest version of the steel cart with tricked out wheels has taken roughly 40 hours to build.

Excited and very proud of the "Caution Zone," so named for the safety area surrounding the wood and PVC pipe structure, a new version of the cart, with transparent seat freshly attached just moments before, was taking its

maiden voyage when *Lamorinda Weekly* stopped by. Instructing Lyle to hold on tight, since the seat belt hadn't been installed yet, Pemble quipped "don't want to sacrifice the offspring." He was tickled at how well it turned out, with more advanced features like decoupled wheels made from recycled I-beams, snagged when a neighbor got rid of old garage door tracks, massive skateboard wheels, and a clear floorboard to view the cart components. Each wheel assembly can steer individually and pivots.

Clever and handy, with a Bachelor of Science degree in aeronautics from Louisiana Technical University, and a commercial pilot's license, Pemble had to start from scratch, although Lyle certainly pitched in. That was part of the mission, to make science and math tangible, something that is more relevant and concrete than doing endless worksheets. A student at Orinda Intermediate School, Lyle is naturally curious, and started this whole process by researching roller coasters.

Pemble is hoping to leverage the success of the coaster project to educational video learning, similar to George Lucas' Edu-

topia.org or the Khan Academy that offers free user-friendly educational lessons in bite-sized chunks, geared for the shorter attention span of youngsters. On the CoasterDad website are examples of these lessons – one features a Ruben's tube hooked up to a keyboard, in which Pemble explains the process simply and clearly, then plays the Star Spangled Banner as the music is expressed in propane flames. How cool is that?

Pemble is now a management consultant; prior to that he was the founder and CEO of web.com, which has since been sold. Wife Liz Pemble and daughter Ellie are supportive, but this really is a father and son project. Defining the coaster as a 'temporary structure,' Pemble has done the math (no surprise there) and estimates the wood coaster supports should last approximately three years, but he says it will be de-constructed much earlier than that.

Next on his list is a trebuchet – a type of catapult that was used in the Middle Ages. Who knows if the family-friendly neighborhood block party is ready for a contraption that can launch pumpkins into the air?

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Decorated Lafayette WWII Veteran Lives Life to the Fullest

By Lou Fancher



Dan Baker with a model of the Curtiss SB-2C Helldiver aircraft. Photo A. Scheck

Dan Baker is a man of action. Ask the 94-year-old former World War II Navy fighter pilot and still-actively practicing attorney about his late wife, Arlene, who passed away in 2012, he springs out of a chair in his Lafayette home's sunroom and races down a hallway. Returning with a black-and-white photo of his wife of 64 years, he spouts poetic and practical reasons for marrying her within three months of their first meeting. "She was charming, inside and outside. Look at her: she was beauty itself," and "She was working and making

money: I wasn't," he says. Then, like the Grumman F6F Hellcat he flew long ago in combat, a subsequent inquiry about WWII battles sends him running again. Returning, he brings medals, mounted in a display box: a Navy Cross, for bombing the Japanese battleship Nagato; the Distinguished Flying Cross, for destroying a second enemy ship; an Air Medal, for shooting down a Japanese fighter plane. Baker grew up in San Francisco and says he was "a party boy," a kid who started as an honor student and "went downhill" just gradually

enough to still graduate from college. A heart murmur kept him out of the Army, but when the country started to re-examine even legitimate outliers like Baker, he joined the Navy on May 10, 1942. "Nobody had a choice," he says. "Everybody had the idea they wanted to go because there was a war going on."

After training on a two-winged Serman airplane at Navy Preliminary Flight School in Livermore, Baker was sent to Florida. Trained on combat planes, he became an instructor and scouted the Atlantic coast, looking for German submarines. After 10 months, he was assigned to Air Group 18 and found himself on the 900-foot-long U.S.S. Intrepid, an aircraft carrier that is now the Intrepid Sea, Air and Space Museum located at Pier 86 on the west side of Manhattan.

But in October of 1944, the Intrepid was a launch pad for the Battle of Leyte Gulf, arguably the largest battle in naval history. "We took down the two largest battleships ever built in Japan, the Yamato and Musashi," Baker says. Japan used all the steel the country produced to build and arm the two signature battleships, distinguished by their size and then-record-setting 18.1 inch guns. "Our group was responsible for sinking the Musashi," Baker says.

Although unafraid to assert the importance of the U.S. military victories, Baker isn't sentimental about his role. "I was trained to do one thing: fly a plane with guns and bombs and go after the targets," he says. "They gave you an award for what you did. When I returned, they thought I was a hero. I thought I'd accomplished the things I was trained to do, and did it successfully."

... continued on page B4



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Samira Says

Samira Davi is a Nurse Liaison for ManorCare Health Services in Walnut Creek. Samira has over 10 years of experience working in health care in Contra Costa County, which has gained her a wide view of what is important to the health care consumer. She will be posting common questions and comments in each issue of the Lamorinda Weekly. You are welcome to contact Samira directly at 925.270.8766

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Project LPIE Recognizes Student Achievement

By Amanda Kuehn



From left, Will Goldie demonstrates his computer program to Stephenie Teichman and Sam Fraser. Photo provided

The Project LPIE Recognition and Awards Reception Program held May 16 in the Lafayette Library and Learning Center Community Hall marked the culmination of many months of work, not only for students who participated, but also for volunteers and administrators. Talk of doing a Lafayette Partners in Education event that would directly benefit students began last fall. The result was Project LPIE, a platform for students to showcase their talents and share their projects with the community.

Over 200 participants entered in 13 categories including video production, digital art and entrepreneurship. Awards were given for first, second, and third place, as well as many honorable mentions. "We were very excited about how many kids were involved and how many could be recognized for their achievements," said

Myrna Kimmelman, executive director of LPIE. Kimmelman was similarly impressed by the number of community members who volunteered to assist and to judge as experts in the field.

Displays of student work covered the hall. Photos were printed, art was hung, digital design entries flashed on computer screens, creative writing was displayed in notebooks. There were posters of students who participated in performing arts, with a live performance from the first-place winners in vocal music, instrumental music and acting.

According to Caroline Whelehan, a senior who took first place in acting and second in vocal music, "Project LPIE allowed students to not only share their own talents, but also to appreciate the talents of their peers. It was a great experience and I'm very happy that I decided to participate."

Project LPIE First-Place Winners:

Acting: Caroline Whelehan
Applied Design: Marko Helfrich, Jesse Smick
Community Service: Marc Davis
Computer Programming: Tal Ben-Ari, Michael Edlinger, Jesse Smick
Creative Writing: Uma Agrawal
Digital Design: Jackie Nichols
Entrepreneur: Siena Kuan
Instrumental Music: Spencer Tejada
Journalism: Adam Blake
Photography-Digital: Amanda Moylan
Video Production: Kate Kintner
Visual Arts (2D): Raea Gragg
Vocal Music: Andrew Cope

Meet Bryce Pinkham

Campo grad receives 2014 Tony Award nomination for best actor

By Sophie Braccini



Bryce Pinkham with Malagasy children.

Photo provided

It is a big deal to get a Tony Award nomination. For 2001 Campolindo High School grad Bryce Pinkham, the nomination gave him a sense of inner pride to be recognized by his peers at the same level as many of his role models. The young actor's goal was to achieve his dream within five years after graduating from the Yale School of Drama – his talent took him the rest of the way to a Tony nod and a successful career on Broadway.

Burton Valley Elementary School first grade teacher Kai Welch gave the initial push that eventually led to Pinkham's career. "It was during a parent-teacher conference," remembers Pinkham. "She recommended that I get an outlet outside of the classroom for my creative and sometimes a little reckless behavior and my parents registered me in a theater class." At the time it was the Moraga Playhouse; then Pinkham continued theater through his school years, but never intensely. "I never took it too seriously and I think it was a good thing," says Pinkham. "I feel very blessed to have had a very happy and balanced upbringing with a lot of sports and a supportive family that let me do what I wanted to as long as I kept the good grades."

After graduating from Campolindo, Pinkham attended Boston College where he spent two years studying a solid liberal arts curriculum. "Then I decided to give [theater] a serious try and I majored in both theater and communication," he adds. After graduating, he auditioned for different master's programs and fell in love with the Yale School of Drama. "I gave five years of my life to seriously studying acting," states Pinkham. "I then decided to invest another five years to try to make it in that profession, after which I would reevaluate where I was professionally." Pinkham says he's always known that with his solid education he could adapt to another line of work; but talent and hard work moved him quickly to the center stage.

The dark haired, blue eyed actor made his Broadway debut in 2010 in "Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson" as Black Fox, before landing the role of Carl Bruner in the 2012 Broadway version of "Ghost." Since last year he has co-starred in "A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder," portraying Monty Navarro, who finds out that he is ninth in line to inherit a dukedom and decides to eliminate the other eight heirs standing in his way. The show received the most Tony nominations this year, with 10, including best performance by an actor in a leading role in a musical (Pinkham) as well as for Tony Award winner Jefferson Mays (2004, "I Am My Own Wife"), who plays several roles in "A Gentleman's Guide."

Pinkham's father, David, has been the stage director for musicals at Campolindo for 12 years and has seen "A Gentleman's Guide" five times, one of them from behind the scenes. He confirms that when growing up his son was not a "theater kid," trying

to be in every show. "What made him special was that he was a good communicator, good at making people trust him, and good at networking," says the proud father.

Pinkham attributes his success to different factors: He pays tribute to two Campolindo choir teachers, Lindley Hall and Gene Peterson, as well as professional connections made through the Yale School of Drama. As far as "A Gentleman's Guide" is concerned, Pinkham believes that he owes the success of his audition to his other passion: helping others.

Pinkham is one of the three founders of Zara Aina (<http://zaraaina.org>), a non-profit that brings acting to children living in poverty in Madagascar. "I was just back from our first complete class with impoverished children in Madagascar when I went to the audition," remembers Pinkham. "Working with these children gave me a perspective on what is really important and I believe it helped."

The non-profit was founded by Lucas Rooney with Pinkham and Dana Gross. "Lucas visited Madagascar and was shocked to discover that 90 percent of the children live there on less than \$2 a day," says Pinkham, "so he had this idea of training children to become story tellers and actors of their own folk tales." The three partnered with local teachers and organizations, started teaching routines to kids over the Internet and went there for a full session a year ago. The 14 children trained in the program quickly gained confidence, started speaking clearly, and presented themselves with pride. Then the group performed for other children while bringing along school supplies the American actors had collected as part of a fundraising effort.

"This is now an ongoing program and we are working at raising funds to set a permanent location for it in Madagascar," adds Pinkham. For the young actor, giving back helps him to stay real and grounded. He also performs Greek tragedy for service men and women, some of them traumatized, and has witnessed the healing power of words. "I don't want to take this too far; at the end of the day, it's all storytelling," he says, "but performing has the power to move people. It is a human experience; what makes the hair on the back of my neck stand up is when something we do has reached across and affected somebody."

And when Pinkham needs further grounding, he goes for a night out with his former Campo classmates living in New York – actors, Google employees, lawyers – and he lets them poke fun at him, like when they were Lamorinda teens.

As for budding Lamorinda Broadway stars, Pinkham recommends one thing: get a solid education before setting off to live the dream.

The Tony Awards are scheduled to be shown at 8 p.m. Sunday, June 8 on the CBS Television Network. Check local listings.

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SMC Commencement

Former Defense Secretary Leon Panetta challenges Saint Mary's grads to lead

By Cathy Dausman



From left: Brother Mel Anderson, FSC (president of Saint Mary's College 1969 - 1997), Brother Ronald Gallagher, FSC (president of Saint Mary's 2005 - 2013), Provost, Vice President for Academic Affairs Bethami Dobkin, Leon Panetta, chair, Panetta Institute for Public Policy, former Secretary of Defense, and Meagan Leader, chair, Saint Mary's Board of Trustees.



Laurels to, and on the Class of 2014 Saint Mary's graduates!



A new Saint Mary's grad, this one a man of the world, is all smiles after receiving his diploma May 24. Photos Cathy Dausman

Saint Mary's College conferred more than 750 undergraduate diplomas May 24 in ceremonies held outdoors on stadium grounds with former Defense Secretary and CIA chief Leon Panetta as commencement speaker. The Monterey, Calif., native has served in public office for over 50 years but it may be in his latest role, as chairman of the Panetta Institute for Public Policy that he spoke to the heart of the students' creed: "Enter to Learn, Leave to Serve."

"Saint Mary's is a remarkable academic institution with a commitment to educating students dedicated to improving the lives of others in our society. That educational approach is extremely important in this day and time," said Panetta. College president James Donahue called Panetta's "high regard for public service" inspiring.

Panetta interspersed stories of his work as a child for his immigrant Italian parents with his college years at rival Santa Clara University and finally to what he called "the ups and downs in our democracy," which he has seen at close range. Beyond

learning a way to think and the importance of service to community, Panetta said is "that will to fight for what you believe in."

"That will to fight," he said, whether for a fair and just system of immigration reform, to promote income equality or to provide sound energy policies "is what all of us pay tribute to on this Memorial Day weekend.

"We could have an America in Renaissance ... or we could be an America in decline. What path we take will largely be determined by how we govern ourselves or how we fail to govern ourselves, and whether we have the courage to lead," Panetta told his audience. "Change won't happen from the top down, it will happen from the bottom up, and you're it."

An additional 467 graduate and professional degrees were conferred May 25. Those graduates were addressed by football coach and Saint Mary's alum Bob Ladouceur, who reminded his audience that education is not a goal but a path.

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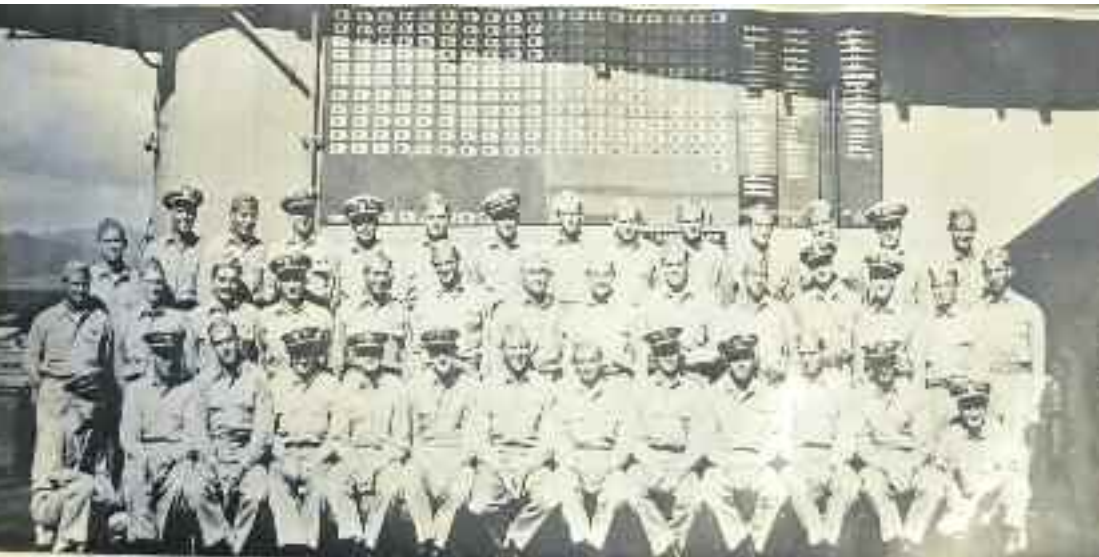
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Decorated Lafayette WWII Veteran Lives Life to the Fullest

... continued from page B1



The U.S.S. Intrepid crew in front of the victory board, which tracked the number of enemy aircraft and ships destroyed. Image provided

After the seven-and-a-half years in the Navy, Baker chose to study law at University of California's Hasting College of the Law, when an inexplicable instinct told him there'd be a need for attorneys following the war. Practicing all manner of law as a sole practitioner in Oakland, he then formed a partnership with another attorney in San Francisco. Hendler, Baker, Green and Taylor grew to be an eight-partner operation and after 30 years, merged with Hanson Bridgett, now a 150-member firm. "I worked and had a job to do," Baker says, about a profession that has awarded him honors not unlike his Navy career.

Distinguished Service, Lifetime Achievement and other awards from international lawyers associations remain tucked away – perhaps because when touring the grounds around his home, which he built it in 1973 – duplicating a model house he visited, but rearranging some of the rooms – there were memories of dinner parties, too numerous to individualize. And he has a long list of hobbies: golf, ballroom dancing and reading voraciously.

And there are more achievements: like a California Public Utilities Commission rate program he proposed that he says "controlled the rates (citizens) paid for general commodities, like food and clothing," from 1996 to 2000. A national

grassroots campaign he instigated generated enough momentum to cause the Senate and House of Representatives in Washington, D.C., to reverse a ruling he disliked: "I've always been competitive," he says, shrugging, but leaning forward in his chair as if prepared to engage in debate.

Baker's energy would be alarming, if its intensity wasn't disarmed by his still charismatic grin – and the soft, honey-sweet shift in his tone and physicality when he talks about his family and life in Lafayette. He says the city is filling up with buildings and cars, which makes him regretful as a resident, but he speculates, is good for businesses. He calls the area's schools "outstanding," and his two adult children, Danny and Kim, are "loved by everyone who knows them, just like their mother was."

Hopeful that politicians in Washington will find a way to run the country with more harmony and less gridlock, Baker says, "You can't solve everything. You do what you can within the purview of what's available." Has Baker been lucky, to have survived war, prospered through economic cycles of boom and bust, and lived within the fold of a loving family and wonderful friends? "You bet," he says. "Dan Baker has led an interesting life: I did what I wanted to do. I am indeed, lucky."



Dan Baker's Distinguished Flying Cross and other service crosses.

Distinguished Flying Cross Winner from Battle of Midway to be Honored June 7

Lt. Col. Lloyd Childers (USMC-Ret), a survivor of Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor Dec. 7, 1941, will join fellow members of the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps in commemorating the 72nd Anniversary of the Battle of Midway at the Marines' Memorial Club in San Francisco June 7. Childers, who is also the final surviving member of the torpedo bomber squadrons which spearheaded America's attack against the Japanese Imperial



Navy during the tide-turning confrontation at Midway, was awarded both the Distinguished Flying Cross and Purple Heart for "extraordinary achievement in aerial flight." L. Snyder
Lamorinda Weekly will feature a profile of Childers in its July 2 issue.

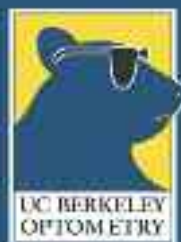
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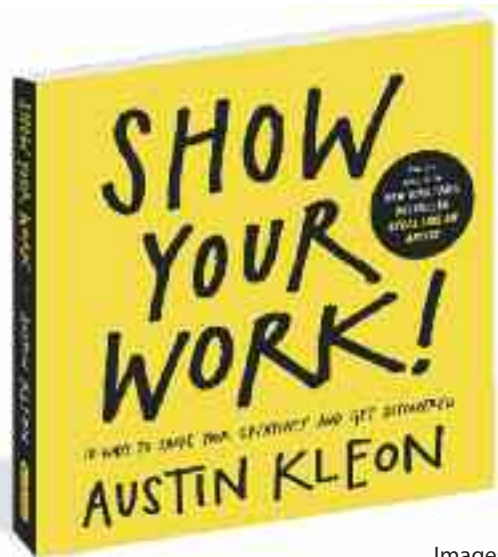
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Great Book Ideas for Grads

By Lou Fancher



Images provided

With Saint Mary's College graduates recently tossing caps into the air and Acalanes, Campolindo and Miramonte high school students prepping for commencement next week, the number one gift we can give a child at graduation is good advice. What better way to insure the future happiness of the kid who was, just yesterday – it seems – still in diapers, or wobbling down the sidewalk on their first two-wheeler?

Problem is, these wee ones are now young adults, and they'll likely prefer electronics or cash to hearing wise words. But two new books can serve as stand-ins. (Actually, it's three, because one author has been clever once before, in a 2012 book readers may have missed.)

Facebook CEO Sheryl Sandberg conveniently released "Lean In For Graduates" (Knopf, April), a new edition of her 2013 best-selling "declaration of independence" for working women. The original version has sold over 1.75 million copies and spawned over 16,000 Lean In "circles" in 72 countries. The small support groups – over 300 are on college campuses – emphasize building a more equal world by working together.

"Start by aiming high," Sandberg writes in the expanded edition's introductory "Letter to Graduates." Suggesting the world is rooting for every graduate, she says "leaning in" consists of unbridling ambition, making and seizing opportunities, and employing leadership unbound by what she later in the book calls "the holy trinity of fear: the fear of being a bad mother/wife/daughter." Six chapters, penned by contributing writers, and paired with a total of 12 illustrative personal-account stories (and given priority here), add nuts-and-bolts support to Sandberg's spirited pronouncements.

Millennials entering the highly-charged job market and high school graduates taking a gap year or working to pay tuition will benefit from executive coach Mindy Levy's "Find Your First Job." Levy's tips on improving your online presence, making the right impression during interviews and following up on everything are concise, concrete and contemporary. McKinsey & Company consultant Kunal Modi's frank words on bias in "Man Up and Lean In" are worthy of note. And learning from Tufts University graduate Nola Barackman's story that the Brooklyn Bridge's construction was completed by a woman, Emily Roebling, makes her message – knowing one's history – inspiring.

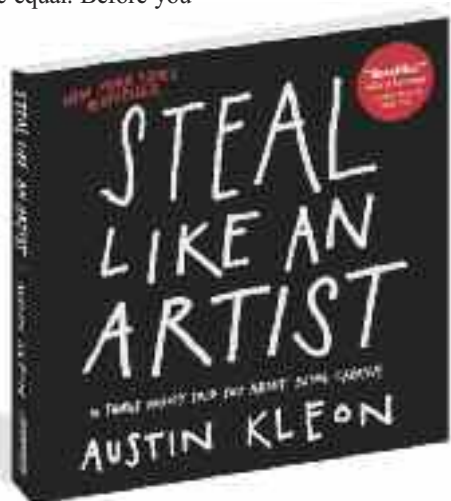
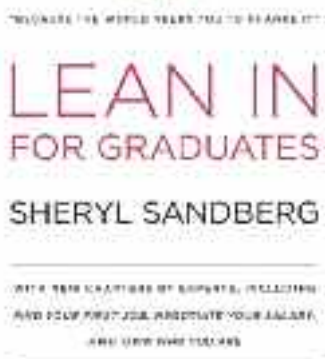
Not all of the added narratives or chapters have the fiery aggression of Sandberg's manifesto. Most lack her welcome, blunt directives (to get over quibbling about "what should be," or to get on with the work of women supporting each other) to make a lopsided world more equal. Before you

conclude it's a gift only for girls, note: it's a book aimed at women that men might do well to discover. If Sandberg is spot on in her predictions, women will increasingly influence the workplace – gender neutrality leveling the playing field – in the 21st century.

Like Sandberg's book, Austin Kleon's "Steal Like an Artist" (Workman Publishing, 2012), has its genesis in a keynote speech given to college graduates. An Ohio native and New York Times bestselling author who now lives in Austin, Texas, Kleon writes and creates art. His immensely readable books speak to an audience raised in the digital age with pithy, timeless advice reminiscent of yesterday, but attuned to today's high-speed platforms. Using words as his tools – copying, pasting, scribbling and, most humorously and effectively, redacting them – Kleon's "Steal" encourages readers to "make friends, ignore enemies," "choose what to leave out," "use your hands," and importantly, "write the book you want to read." Packed with quotes and quiet gems of advice – both Kleon's and well-sourced, assiduously-attributed words from others – the message is to be unstopably hungry (intellectually) and make sure you get fed (literally and creatively), even if the prospect ahead causes you to gulp.

"Show Your Work" (Workman Publishing, 2014), the "sequel" to "Steal," is all about getting discovered. Counterintuitively, the idea is to share: stealing is over, revealing is all. Sending out daily (digital) dispatches, "building a good (domain) name" and not "feeding the trolls" (not listening to aggressive Internet criticism) address the online era's potential and pitfalls. "Don't turn into human spam" ascends into "If you want followers, be someone worth following." Pipe dreams become purposeful: "Look for something new to learn, and when you find it, dedicate yourself to learning it out in the open." Given singly or as a pair, Kleon's tiny editions are no larger than an average adult's hand print, but promise wisdom for eternity.

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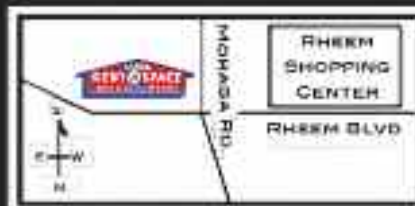


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Band Including Lamorinda Residents Competes in "Oakland's Got Talent"

Submitted by Jennifer Duff



From left, Brave Ulysses band members Tjaard Van Loben Sels (Orinda), Chris Tuck (Martinez), Harrison Flynn (Martinez), Noah Baldwin (Moraga), Jared Cvetich (Walnut Creek) and Tyler Bach (Martinez). Photo provided

Noah Baldwin, a Moraga resident and junior at Oakland School for The Arts is the lead vocalist and rhythm guitarist for Brave Ulysses – one of 12 contestants competing in Oakland's Got Talent June 4 at the Fox Theater in Oakland. Tjaard Van Loben Sels, an Orinda resident who attends Orinda Intermediate School is the cello player for the band. Brave Ulysses has been a band for three years and also includes Harrison Flynn on lead guitar, Chris Tuck on bass, Tyler Bach on guitar and Jared Cvetich on drums. They will perform one of their original songs, "Sympathy," for the show. Brave Ulysses takes its name from the song by Cream, "Tales of Brave Ulysses" and is influenced by classic rock groups like Led Zeppelin, Cream and Rush while also drawing inspiration from

'90s rock bands like Nirvana and Foo Fighters. They formed in January of 2011 and over the years have grown both as musicians and as people, they say, having played at festivals like The King of The County BBQ in Martinez, Fridays on The Main in downtown Martinez, and the Alameda County Fair, as well as at venues like Red House in Walnut Creek, The Vitus in Oakland, DNA Lounge in San Francisco, and the world famous Whisky a Go Go in LA. To learn more about Brave Ulysses, visit facebook.com/BraveUlysses13. Oakland's Got Talent is a fundraiser for Oakland School for the Arts as well as 51Oakland, a non-profit bringing music to schools in Oakland. To learn more about the event, visit oaklandsgottalent.org.

JM Debate Team Competes in National Championships

Submitted by Troy McAlpin



From left, Don Read, Sharon Yuan, Audrey Moore and Cassidy McAlpin. Photo provided

After placing second in the East Bay Debate League, Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School debate students Cassidy McAlpin (eighth grade), Audrey Moore (eighth grade) and Sharon Yuan (seventh grade), qualified to attend the Middle School Public Debate Program's National Championship held on Saturday, April 26 at Claremont McKenna College in Claremont, Calif. The teams participated in a series of five debates covering current topics such as banning tipping in the service industry, whether or not the war on poverty is a success or failure, whether "stand your ground" laws are more helpful

or hurtful, the value of massive open online education courses and whether or not universities should divest from their fossil fuel company holdings. In a typical debate teams are prepared to argue for or against the topics and have only 20 minutes to prepare prior to the actual debate. The team is judged on timing, preparation, accuracy, presentation, quality and persuasiveness of their respective arguments. Accompanied by their debate teacher and coach, Don Read, the team won three of their five debates which placed them 32nd out of the top 88 teams in the nation.

Local Student Wins Grand Prize

Art contest geared toward raising motor oil recycling awareness

Submitted by Helen Fischer



Rehem Elementary School fifth grader, Tawny Fischer, won the grand prize, an iPad and an appearance in the 2014 Oil Busters commercial for Cartoon Network and Nickelodeon for the Mr. Funnelhead Art Contest sponsored by the Contra Costa Clean Water Program. An award ceremony was held May 15. Entries were judged for messages, originality and creativity.

Photo and image provided

JM Students Learn 'Ins and Outs' of Differing Careers



Photo Cathy Dausman

Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School students recently attended an informational session on news reporting as part of their school's career day. A variety of working

professionals – from veterinarian to FBI agent, horse trainer to pilot (and a *Lamorinda Weekly* reporter) – spoke to students about their specific careers. C. Dausman

Lafayette Elementary School Cool Cats 'Chill' After Poetry Slam

Submitted by Rosylyn Aragon Stenzel



Photo Rosylyn Aragon Stenzel

After an afternoon of reading poetry in the Beatnik Poetry slam, these cool cats from Mrs. Corcoran's fourth grade class at Lafayette Element-

tary School gave their best Beatnik poses for the camera. Next stop, City Lights Books.

Lamorinda Idol 2014 Finalists Announced

Submitted by Esther Becker

Lamorinda Idol 2014 auditions were held May 15-17 with over 200 young people from Orinda, Moraga and Lafayette auditioning before a panel of three judges, who selected the finalists. Commenting on the au-

ditions, Lamorinda Idol chairman Steve Harwood said, "I think those of us present knew we were witnessing something very special as each of the auditioners was well prepared, put themselves on the line and gave it

their all. We have a very talented group of finalists, but each of the auditioners was special." Thirty-four soloists and 11 groups will compete at the finals on Sunday, Sept. 7 at the Orinda Theatre. The community will also be treated to several performances throughout the summer in Orinda and Lafayette from finalists and runners up. Further details are available at:

<http://www.orindaartscouncil.org>.



Lamorinda Idol finalist Eleanor Rhoeder sang at the March 26 Orinda State of the City Address. Photo Andy Scheck

Lamorinda Idol 2014

Finalists and Runners-Up

K-2 Soloists	Avery Hansen	Lilesa
Finalists	Jennifer McFarlane	Malesa Hasler
Callie Barber	Lauren Ramlan	Lily Jensen
Katie Barmmer	Michaela Sasner	
Janie Hollerbach	Lindsey Wallace	Runners-Up
Claire O'Conner		Lucky Charms
Natalie Schroeder		Lucy Foss
	Runners-Up	Kaylin Ishizu
	Grace Mesenbring	
	Niamh Akazawa	Runners-Up
Runners-Up		Abby & Isabela
Audrey Peatross		Abby Evans
Katie Welch		Isabela Pursiano
	9-12 Soloists	
	Finalists	
3-5 Soloists	Grace Baer	6-8 Groups
Finalists	Sarah Cain	Finalists
Nejla Ackdoe-Pagey	Forest Castillo	ABC
Grace Barmmer	Lucy Clearwater	Lleyton Allen
Amelia Chen	Jesse Epstein	Elizabeth Becker
Bella Deanhardt	Isabelle Kimura	Jenni Coletta
Jenna Foster	Jocelyn Purcell	Team Voce
Ava Jacuzzi	Eleanor Roeder	Gianna Capozzi
Lleyton Allen	Leah Woodcox	Isabella Capozzi
Bridgett Mills		The Duettes
Grace Sjoberg		Grace Mesenbring
Aya Sullivan		Mia Polichio
	Runners-Up	The Tri Tones
Runners-Up	Hannah Witbeck	Arriana Glenn
Cece Cohen	Melissa Elliott	Kiera Glenn
Gianna Capozzi		Olivia Montiel
	K-5 Groups	
Finalists	Finalists	Runners-Up
Rainbow Harmony	Amelia Chen	Rising Starz
	Kaitlyn Roach	Leah Douglas
6-8 Soloists		Hannah Hoffman
Finalists	The Complete	Nicole Prozan
Elizabeth Becker	Opposites	
Joel Braunstein	Marlene Monteilh	Pia and Rachel
Isabella Capozzi	Fiona Young	Pia Dovichi
Jenni Coletta		Rachel Go
Kiera Glenn		

A Musical Exchange

Submitted by Barbara Bisel



Men's Glee Club members perform outside Laura and Eppy Giles' Moraga home. Photo provided

Musical excitement abounded recently, as the University of Michigan Men's Glee Club passed through Moraga in the middle of their West Coast tour. The singers exchanged performances May 20 in Campolindo's Performing Arts Center, first with performances by the Campo Concert and Chamber choirs, then with the Men's Glee Club, to the delight of the students. The Club is the second oldest collegiate choir in the country, and brought 53 of their usual 100-plus voices on the road. Moraga choir parents gave them a warm welcome by hosting a barbecue at the home of Laura and Eppy Giles May 19. Barbara Bisel, whose son Rob sings in the club, organized the

event as well as home stays for the boys. Parents, friends, and neighbors were thrilled by an impromptu, breathtaking performance on the Giles' front lawn at the conclusion of the barbecue.

Highlights of their tour included a performance at MusicFest Canada (a national musical festival in Vancouver where they are the featured guest vocal ensemble for the festival); their Brothers in Song LA concert at Pasadena Presbyterian Church (where they will collaborate with several schools from the LA area); and their final performance with alumni in San Francisco (where they revisited Carl Orff's In Taberna section of his *Carmina Burana*).

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Celebrations

Sarada Symonds Graduates from Campolindo High School



Sarada Symonds Photo provided

After relocating to Moraga from Salt Lake City, Utah in 2010, Sarada attended Campolindo

High School, participating in basketball, volleyball, Future Business Leaders of America, Model UN, La-Puma, and Academic Decathlon; where she was awarded nine out of ten medals at County in 2013, and seven out of 10 medals at County in 2014, as well as a gold and silver medal at state, and four gold, two silver and one bronze medal at Nationals, missing only one medal in one category. She worked part time as a Lifeguard at Moraga Ranch Swim Club for the past three swim seasons. She played club volleyball all four years for Diablo Valley and Pacific Rim serving as team captain. She was a school reporter for two years and, senior year Editor-In-Chief of La-Puma, Campolindo's school paper, wrote articles for Lamorinda Weekly and was an AP Scholar. She will be heading to Northeastern University in Boston where she will be enrolled in their Honors Program and the College of Engineering. In celebration she is headed to a well deserved vacation in Paris and Italy this summer.

Gordon and Gail Nathan Celebrate 50 Years Together



Gordon Nathan and Gail (Goldstein) Nathan will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on June 7. They met at Lincoln High School in San Francisco, began dating their junior year and married in June 1964. The Nathans moved to Moraga in 1969, where they raised their three daughters. Gordon retired in 1995 after 30 years with the American Automobile Association (AAA). Gail continues to work at Krumrei & Ross, where she began in 1984. The couple love to travel, dance, hike and spend time with their six grandchildren. Their daughters, Andrea Lowery and Michelle Williams, both of Portland, Ore., and Shari LaBuwi of Scottsdale, Ariz., will host a party for them later in the month.

Pettegrew Graduates Magna Cum Laude



Jenna Pettegrew Photo provided

Lafayette resident Jenna Pettegrew, 22, graduated from Santa Clara University, magna cum laude, with a Bachelor of Science in psychology and a minor in sociology. Jenna, an active member of the Alpha Phi Sorority, was also initiated into the Phi Beta Kappa honor society. Jenna will continue her graduate studies in Counseling at USF in the fall.

Community Service

SMC Athletes Featured at Moraga Rotary's 23rd Annual Field Day

Submitted by Gary Irwin



Saint Mary's basketball players Jordan Giusti and Beau Levesque run the new basketball free-throw event at Rotary Field Day with Los Perales Elementary School competitors. Photos provided

Coach Randy Bennett, assistant coaches, and several members of the Saint Mary's College men's basketball team helped conduct Moraga Rotary's 23rd Annual Field Day, a track and field meet held at Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School for third, fourth, and fifth grade Moraga students in the local schools. There were 312 athletes this year, a few more than the 302 athletes last year, competing in events such as sprints, relays, sack races, long jumps, and baseball and football throws.

This year, fifth graders competed in a basketball throw event which was judged by the SMC men, who also judged the other events. Several of the children had fun trying to take the ball from Steven Holt as he was dribbling in a game of keep-away. Gold, silver, and bronze medals were awarded to the top three contestants in each event, and all athletes earned a blue participant ribbon.

Again this year, Donald Rheem Elementary School won plaques for High Point School, and the High Point Boys and Girls. Two girls tied for High Point: third-grader Charlotte Arnswald and fourth-grader Mia Columbini. Three boys

tied for High Point: third-grader Robbie Mascheroni, fourth-grader Jalen Esteen, and fifth-grader Bradford Martin.

These students and their parents along with the High Point Teacher, Mrs. Bornfleth, and principal, Elaine Frank, both of Rheem School, have been invited to a Moraga Rotary meeting where they will be presented with the plaques honoring their achievements.

Tony Schoemehl, the Rotary Field Day chairman, said the work done by the Saint Mary's athletes was quite an inspiration to the competitors. He really appreciated the work done by the teachers and principals of the schools to promote and encourage participation by the kids, and how some of the parents were helping run the events.

The Moraga Rotary Field Day is a community service project originated by Moraga Rotarian past president Al Simonsen, who chaired the event for its first 21 years. Moraga Rotary is a local service club within Rotary International that meets at noon most Tuesdays at Saint Mary's College. For information, please call Frank May at (925) 376-8195.



Fifth grade Basketball Shoot medalists at Rotary Field Day, from left: Samantha Johnson (CP, silver), Julia Ortega (LP, gold), and Quincy Morgridge (Rheem, bronze).

Campolindo Honors Students for Volunteer Service

Submitted by Ann Ryles

The First Annual Campolindo Volunteer Service Awards were held on May 27 in the Performing Arts Center at Campolindo High School. This year a total of 127 students received awards for volunteer service to dozens of organizations, including Special Olympics, John Muir Hospital, Lawrence Hall of Science, Shelter Inc., and Foster A Dream, in addition to many more. Mission trips to the East Coast to rebuild after Hurricane Sandy and to Mexico to build homes were other paths to service that students pursued in earning their awards.

To receive recognition, each student volunteered between 25 to 250 hours over a 12-month time period. Collectively, Campolindo students earning awards this year served a grand total of over 13,000 hours. Students who served be-



Campolindo High School Volunteer Service Award recipients.

tween 50 and 250 hours received national recognition and were honored with either Bronze, Silver, or Gold President's Volunteer Service Awards, which are given by the federal government to thank and

honor Americans who by their demonstrated commitment and example inspire others to engage in volunteer service. At the awards ceremony, Campolindo Associate Principal Sharon Bartlett quoted

Gandhi in reflecting upon the value of the students' service: "The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others." She also thanked Campolindo parent Patti Ringlee for establishing this

awards recognition program at Campolindo. Next year, Campolindo students will again be able to apply for these awards to receive recognition for their hours of volunteer service.

Photo Yvonne Dunning

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

Orinda Moraga Girl Scouts Honor Award Recipients

Submitted by Thama Brentano



Graduating Ambassador Girl Scouts are all smiles.

Photo provided

The Orinda Moraga Girl Scout Service Unit on Sunday, May 18, honored 21 Bronze Award recipients, 11 Silver Award recipients, three Gold Award recipients and 14 graduating Ambassador Scouts. Jan Cushman, a member of the Gold Award committee of Girl Scouts of Northern California and Councilwoman Amy Worth from the City of Orinda were on hand to help recognize the Scouts' accomplishments.

The Bronze Award is the third highest award a Girl Scout can earn. The Junior Scouts awarded for their three projects included: Emma Bennett, Sadie Habas, Haley Hartman, Zoe Heidersbach, Olivia Hillhouse, Kira Jangotichian, Jessica Long, Quincy Morgridge, Katie Price, Jennie Sheehan, Erin Thomas, Sofia Vattuone, Sarah Warner (Troop 30288) for the Moraga Easter Egg Hunt; Maddy Crain, Emma Dillard, Sarah Millard, AJ Russell, and Marit Ullrich (Troop 30318) for the Sister to Sister Troop Mentoring Kit; and Annabeth Chow, Aislinn Welch, and Alexandra Yokomizo (Troop 30638) for the Moraga Royale Visitors Program.

The Silver Award is the second highest award that can be earned in Girl Scouting. This project takes a minimum of 50 hours per scout towards the design, planning, and execution of the project. From Troop 30072, Kiera Crandall and Maria Wong worked together on their project titled Transitional Kindergarten Book Exchange; Kyra Merryman's project was called Mira Vista Mural; Josie Rosso's project was Shelter Inc. Kitchen Upgrade. Kim Baxter, from Troop 30114, held a Teen Game Night at the

Moraga Library. From Troop 31035, Cameron Cort and Payton Ellis did a Kindergarten Supplies and Homework Readiness Kits project, while Erika Riepe worked on Safety Tips for School Children. From Troop 33120, Claire McCullough and Sasha Gordon's project was titled, Wagner Ranch Nature Area Improvements, and Erica Stephan's project was Renewed Garden for Lavonia Allen Head Start in Bay Point.

The Gold Award, the equivalent of the Boy Scout Eagle Award, was presented to three scouts this year: Katherine Coates, of Troop 30273, a junior at Campolindo High School who ran a summer reading camp and donated books to the Lyle Morris Family Center with Shelters Inc.; Jane Fessenden of Troop 30040, a senior at Miramonte High School who ran a summer arts camp at a Head Start pre-school in Concord with the goal of inspiring the children to continue with art and to aspire to great success; and Emma Patton, also a senior at Miramonte, who planned and implemented summer music lessons at a local Head Start preschool that culminated in a musical performance for the parents.

Additionally the service unit honored the following 16 Ambassador scouts for their years of dedication and service as Girl Scouts who will be graduating this June: Campolindo students Elysa Campo, Jacqueline Redinger, Bailey Thomsen, Linden Brentano, Megan Adachi, and Katherine Friedman; and Miramonte students Elizabeth Chenok, Colleen McCullough, Ariel Ramirez, Anna Finnell, Michelle Juliana Prezkop, and Julia Young.

Lamorinda Chapter of NCL Demonstrates Commitment to Community

Submitted by Kathi Torres



Mothers and daughters of the Lamorinda Chapter of National Charity League distribute donated backpacks to children at the Monument Crisis Center. Photo provided

John F. Kennedy once said, "One person can make a difference, and everyone should try." The 268 mothers and daughters in the Lamorinda Chapter of National Charity League exemplify those words through their ongoing commitment to volunteerism. The chapter recently concluded their operating year with an enjoyable afternoon get-together at the Saint Mary's Soda Activities Center, recognizing outstanding contributions by both individual members and the chapter as a whole.

The Lamorinda Chapter of NCL recorded a remarkable 7,187 philanthropy hours for the year, averaging almost 600 hours a month of volunteer service performed throughout the community. Philanthropies include Monument Crisis Center, Blue Star Moms, Child Abuse Prevention Council, Contra Costa & Solano Food Bank, J.F. Kapnek Trust/Pediatric AIDS Fund, Loves and Fishes, American Cancer Society, Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, Special Olympics, American Heart Association, Las

Trampas, Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, Save Mt. Diablo, Friends of the Library, and many more.

Several young women went beyond expectations and were duly recognized for their extraordinary efforts. Grace Baer, a freshman at Acalanes High School, earned NCL's national "Merci" Award for completing 131 philanthropy hours in addition to chapter requirements. Kai Otsmaa, a freshman at Miramonte, qualified for the national Yellow Rose Award for completing 80 philanthropy hours in addition to chapter requirements.

National Charity League's motto is "Mothers and Daughters Serving Communities Together." Its mission is to foster the mother-daughter relationship through community service, leadership development and cultural enrichment. The Recognition event was a powerful illustration of how putting goals into action serves the betterment of all involved.

Caie Kelley wins Lions California Student Speaker Contest Semi-Final Round

Submitted by Fred George



Photo provided

Miramonte High School senior Caie Kelley won another \$6,500 in scholarship money May 25 at the Elks Club in Santa Clara, speaking on the topic "Community Service - What Does It Mean, and Why Does It Matter?" Kelley has now won five rounds and \$11,000 in scholarship money, and advances to the finals

to be held June 7 in Pasadena, Calif. If she wins the finals, she will receive another \$10,000 in scholarships. Pictured are Rich Laufenberg of the Moraga Lions Club, Vince Lipinski, district governor of the Lions Clubs, and champion, Kelley, who will be attending Harvard University in the fall.

Books Galore Go to Good Cause

Submitted by Melanie McCauley and Sue Milby



Camino Pablo Elementary Students smile with some of the donated books from the successful book drive. Photo provided

Camino Pablo Elementary School in Moraga held its annual Reading Round Up (Read-A-Thon and Book Drive) and student involvement was at an all-time high, with some grade levels reaching 100 percent participation. The CP community collected gently used book donations to benefit Reading Partners (www.readingpartners.org), a local, non-profit literacy program in the East Bay. The over 1,000 books donated will be used to help chil-

dren enrolled in a one-on-one tutoring program build their home libraries. Principal Tom Rust explains, "Life skills are the foundation on which we build a community of learners at Camino Pablo School. The Read-A-Thon and Book Drive gave students an opportunity to raise money for their own school and think about others in the larger community, emphasizing the life skills of caring, cooperation, effort and respect."

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THE APP RAP

By Alex Pawlakos

App: MyScript Calculator by Vision Objects Inc.
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Doing a math problem on your smart phone is not a particularly easy task. If it is a complex math problem, with symbols and expressions that aren't found on your keypad, it may be impossible. But what if you could just draw the math problem on your smartphone screen using your fingertip? What if there was an app that could convert your drawings of math numbers, expressions and symbols into digital text and give you the result right on your screen? Well, you can do all of this if you download an amazing app called MyScript Calculator. Although this app is truly easy and simple to use, it is hard to believe it when you see it in action. If you can draw your equation freehand, using your fingertip or a stylus pen, this app can solve it. It should be noted that this app is not just a simple addition, subtraction, and division toy. On the contrary, MyScript recognizes complex math symbols including absolute value, exponents, factorials, pi, logarithms and even trigonometry func-

tions. It actually recognizes written math terms such as "tan" or "sin" or even "log." An added feature of MyScript Calculator is that it allows the user to clear the whole equation at once or rub out those parts of the equation that need to be changed.

This app is a natural for math students, business people, or anybody who wants a quick and easy way to solve a math problem.



Alex Pawlakos, an economics major at UC Berkeley, enjoys biking, weightlifting, and tutoring in his spare time. He is a volunteer with Be the Star You Are!® charity and a reporter on Express Yourself!(tm) Teen Radio.

TEEN SCENE

Staying Connected While Traveling Abroad

By Caiseen Kelley

When my mom came to America for her graduate degree, she lacked the resources and funds to talk to her family often. She often laments about her experiences with the long distance and how hard it was for her to communicate with her loved ones back in her homeland. Luckily for students going abroad today, the story is a lot different.

There is a plethora of apps and websites that help people stay connected with home. Skype is a popular software application that allows you to get free face-to-face time with people anywhere in the world. In addition, Skype has paid options for international calling, which are often a lot cheaper than telephone services. Another alternative is Google Hangout. Google Hangout allows video chat in a group setting. You can invite all members of your family to "hang out" on a Google page where you can all see one another.

A common problem with traveling abroad is feeling disconnected

with your friends or family. Often it is the little moments that make us feel lonely, wishing that we could share our adventures. Now using apps like Snapchat you can document these special times. If you use Apple TV or Chromecast you can even share the shows you are watching with your loved ones, thus creating a "movie date" type setting. When you have a certain someone in your life that has been left behind, the apps Couple or Avocado may be perfect. Couple and Avocado allow you to send sketches, messages, pictures, stickers, and thumbprints to someone else in a password protected arena. For the more forgetful individual, the app Romantimatic is your ticket to being responsible. It allows you to send yourself reminders to text your friends and relations to keep connected.

Thankfully for our generation, this new technology helps us enjoy a more relaxing summer of traveling or studying abroad without losing

contact with family and friends. With these applications, travelers can focus more on the culture while being immersed in exciting foreign experiences without feeling homesick, because "home" is just a click or chat away.



An Orinda 10th grader, Caiseen Kelley is the Be the Star You Are!® radio coordinator and Techie Talk reporter for Express Yourself! as well as a competitive swimmer, coach, and piano player.

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

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

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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A Perfect Combination for Crunchy Crostini

By Susie Iventosch



Blue cheese-olive crostini

Photo Susie Iventosch

This appetizer is a family favorite and one that my husband's mom, Dolores Iventosch, taught me to make. I think she made it for many years prior to my first introduction, which was back in the late 1990s, when she prepared a few hundred for my father-in-law's 50th

class reunion from Berkeley High School.

The combination of melted blue cheese and olives was an immediate hit with me! She had hundreds of these prepared and frozen, in advance of the cocktail party they hosted as part of the

weekend festivities.

We recently served it for my father-in-law's 85th birthday celebration and the family enjoyed it with such fond memories of Grandma and her wonderful repertoire of recipes!

She used to cut rounds from slices of white and whole wheat bread as the base, but with all of the wonderful local bakeries, we now make it "crostini" style with slices of freshly-baked baguette.

I hope you enjoy this special treat as much as we have over the years! It is also great served alongside pasta in lieu of bread and butter.



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Blue Cheese-Olive Crostini

(each recipe makes about 16 crostini)

INGREDIENTS

- 1/2 baguette, sliced into 1/4-inch slices
- 1/4 cup olive oil
- 1/2 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 1/2 cup finely chopped Manzanilla olives, stuffed with pimientos
- 1/2 cup crumbled blue cheese
- 1-2 tablespoons yogurt-based blue cheese dressing (bottled)

DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 400 degrees.

Place baguette slices on baking sheet. Mix olive oil with black pepper and brush on tops of baguette slices.

Bake bread for 5-7 minutes, until slightly crunchy on edges, but still soft in the middle. Remove from oven and set aside.

In a bowl, mix olives, blue cheese and dressing. Spread on tops of toasts. Bake again at 400 degrees, for approximately 10 minutes, or until cheese is bubbly and beginning to brown.

Serve hot!

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.



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Longevity Discussion at Lafayette Library Begg the Question: How Long Would You Want to Live?

By Lou Fancher



David Ewing Duncan Photo provided

Lamorinda residents have it good. At a recent Commonwealth Club event at the Lafayette Library, more than a dozen hands shot up when author, journalist, television and radio correspondent David Ewing Duncan asked how many people would like to live to be 120 years old.

Duncan, a frequent national-platform science writer and speaker series participant has asked over 40,000 people the question: How long do you want to live?

"You guys are really unusual," he said, as Good Morning America technology reporter Becky Worley, the program's moderator, counted the number of people hoping to live to 80, 120, 150 or forever. Turning the question on Duncan for his answer, Duncan said he didn't want to become old and decrepit, but might "push it out to 120." He liked the idea of technology that would allow him to be frozen, then awakened every 25 years to live a year, before going back into the deep freeze.

It's a fantastic idea, but then, how many people imagined scientific breakthroughs like tumor markers that can direct doctors to the best medication for fighting a specific can-

cer or biomechanic exoskeletons that allow paraplegics to walk, or induced pluripotent stem cells that can be created from reverse-engineered blood and grown and transplanted to treat macular degeneration – and maybe someday, to replace damaged heart, brain and lung tissue? Such amazements are in Duncan's TED Book, "When I'm 164," a 77-page e-book available for \$3 on multiple digital platforms through Amazon, the iBookstore, Barnes & Noble app editions and the TED website.

TED Books are shorter than traditional books, but longer than an article. Duncan's book developed from his articles and a TEDx talk he gave on longevity. "When I'm 164" continues in the footprints of his previous book, "Experimental Man: What One Man's Body Reveals about His Future, Your Health, and Our Toxic World." For that book, he turned himself into a human guinea pig. Collecting nearly 10 terabytes of data, he had his complete genome sequenced, whole body scanned, environmental blood toxins evaluated and a stem cell line reverse-engineered to create new cells that are exact copies of his cells just after his birth.

Although he learned he is sensitive to Warfarin, a blood thinner, and the knowledge could save his life, pre-surgery, Duncan isn't blinded by medical technology's dazzle. "We can test people infinitely, but what's key is taking massive amounts of data and creating test models to predict something about our future," he said. "We need to turn the corner and know what the data means."

Increased longevity introduces numerous economic and ethical quagmires for society to wade through.

Poor people don't want to live as long as millionaires, Duncan has learned. Aside from those vitally important issues, Duncan said what happened in the 20th century is remarkable. Life expectancy, which was about 49 years old just 100 years ago, nearly doubled, jumping to 80. In Monaco, the average life expectancy is 92. "I guess being rich, living on the beach and hanging out with movie stars is the way," Duncan said.

Realistically, good hygiene and diet account for much of the improvement and Duncan said a United Nation's estimate for female life expectancy 150 years from now is 100 years old. Even so, aging, he said, is simply unavoidable and the natural entropy of physics. The constant division of our cells allows us to reproduce and heal, but also for errors to be made. Eventually, replication malfunctions: cancer is the most common result.

Questions from the audience centered on solutions; methods for staving off the effects of aging. Suggesting there is little scientific evidence supporting the benefits from

some plant-based substances, like ginkgo, Duncan said probiotics, flax seed, and polyphenols in green tea could be somewhat beneficial. Red wine, he said, would have to be consumed in quantities close to 600 bottles of wine per day, to gain enough of the healthy ingredients. And caloric restriction may slow things down, but comes at a price. "It means you're starving yourself to get a few extra months or years, so you have to decide for yourself," he said.

Social engagement, keeping the brain nimble by learning a language or playing video games designed to engage the brain, and walking 30 minutes each day are simple actions Duncan said people can take without resorting to "hi-tech, whiz-bang stuff."

For more information about aging, visit www.whenim164.com. For information about TED Books, visit <https://www.ted.com/read/ted-books>.

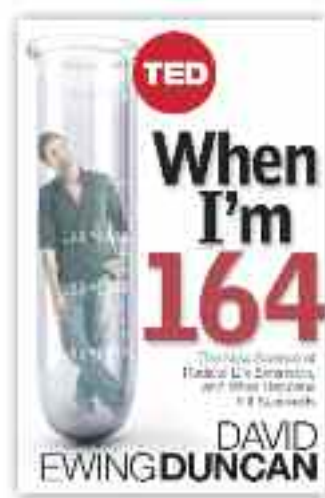
Author, Author!

Don't miss the Distinguished Speakers Series at LLLC June 8

The Lafayette Library and Learning Center Foundation, as part of its Distinguished Speaker Series, will feature a discussion with authors Kelly Corrigan and Katie Hafner on the topic of mothers and daughters at 5 p.m. Sunday, June 8 – an event to raise funds in support of the Lafayette Library and Learning Center. Corrigan is a New York Times bestselling author whose explorations of family life and parenthood have brought her to the forefront of the pack of new American writers. Her first book, the memoir "The Middle Place," recounts her father's and her own battle with cancer. Her essays and articles have appeared in O, The Oprah Winfrey Magazine, Good Housekeeping, and Glamour. Her other nonfiction books are "Lift," and her newest "Glitter and Glue" in which she explores her relationship with her mother.

Hafner writes about the deeply binding relationship between mothers and daughters in her remarkable memoir "Mother Daughter Me." Dreaming of a year in Provence-like experience, with three generations under one roof, Hafner urges her mother to move to San Francisco to live with her and her teenage daughter. Filled with fairy-tale hope that she, her 77-year-old mother and teen daughter will become a tight-knit family, Hafner embarks on an experiment in intergenerational living that brings unnering memories of her parents' painful divorce, of her mother's drinking, of moves across the country, and of Hafner's own widowhood and bumpy recovery. How these three women learn to navigate their challenging, turbulent journey makes for a gripping read that is heartbreaking and humorous.

Both authors will sign books after the event. The Storyteller in Lafayette is currently stocking their books, and will have them for sale at the event. Cost for the event is \$25/per ticket. For information, visit www.lafayettelib.org. Fran Miller



'A Raisin in the Sun'

Cal Shakes offers first-rate production to kick off the season

By Lou Fancher



Ryan Nicole Peters as Ruth and Marcus Henderson as Walter in California Shakespeare Theater's production of "A Raisin in the Sun," directed by Patricia McGregor. Photos Kevin Berne

Cal Shakes strides boldly into its 40th anniversary summer season with Lorraine Hansberry's "A Raisin in the Sun," a classic masterpiece in which dreams float, faith falters, and human resilience is the glue preventing societal walls from tumbling.

The first play written by an African American woman and produced on Broadway, Langston Hughes' poem, "Harlem," lent the landmark work its title. Playwright Hansberry, the then 28-year-old granddaughter of slaves, drove truth onto the stage in 1959, telling the story of the Youngers, a black family in a poor Chicago neighborhood, in which race, poverty and dreams are as volatile as its members.

Lena Younger (the convincing Margo Hall) is the family's matriarch. Standing at the receiving end of a \$10,000 life insurance check after the death of her husband, her devotion circles around her son. Walter Lee (played with remarkable nuance by Marcus Henderson) is a man searching for his soul in all the wrong places: women other than his wife, the bottle, and a liquor store he dreams of owning with his mother's money.

His wife Ruth, (Ryan Nicole Pe-

ters in a role she commands flawlessly) is the family's peacemaker. She coaxes their son, Travis (played by Ajani Barrow on Sunday, May 25), from his bed in the family's too-crowded living room and forgives, but doesn't forget, her husband's weaknesses. Beneath, Walter Lee's brainy sister (easily captured by the capable Nemuna Ceesay) aspires to be a doctor, while wavering between a moneyed man her family favors and Joseph Asagai, who fills her head with visions of her ancestral Africa.

When the money finally arrives, Lena puts a down payment on a house in Clybourne Park, an all-white neighborhood. Half the family is transported, even before they move – their minds abuzz with escape from ghetto life as they fill packing crates. But without the money he'd hoped to invest in the liquor store, Walter Lee chides against the loss. Stripped of what he believes represents his manhood, the appearance of a representative of Clybourne Park's neighborhood association is the catalyst causing Walter Lee's internal fire to explode. The man offers to buy the Younger's yet-to-be-occupied home for an inflated price, in order to keep what he calls "you people" from invading the neighborhood. Walter

Lee's rage – against racism, his own shame, the partner who runs away with the remaining money his mother entrusts to him, his crumbling self-confidence – threatens the entire family's future.

In the end, the presence of young Travis and the women's relentless love revive Walter Lee's silver lining.

He finds a belief in himself strong enough to deny a white man's intimidation and refuses the money's dirty charm.

"Raisin" is sentimental, especially as viewed through the lens of 21st century cynicism, but Hansberry's dream – like the tiny, forlorn plant Lena nurtures throughout the play – is alive with modern relevance. How many families, of any race or ethnicity, have had future hope sustained by the strength of their community? And how many have been ripped apart by false illusions of prosperity or have dissolved, due to a lack of forgiveness?

Deft in its direction and design, a first-rate creative team takes the play's 1950s history and stuns contemporary sensibilities with subtle and overt messages proving an era can represent eternity – especially in America, where skin color continues to divide and destroy the country's union. Director Patricia McGregor exceeds expectations, which are high, after her previous turns directing "Spunk" (2012) and last season's "A Winter's Tale." With a bravura cast, McGregor knows when to rein in the firepower – and when to unleash it, wildly unbridled. Avoiding the

clichéd, "angry black man" portrayal that Henderson has the acting chops to pull off – by tempering his performance a few degrees shy of outrage – is a sophisticated rendering. And Peters manages to sidestep appearing the victim: credit goes to both actor and director for the agile mastery of a critical role.

So too, is Dede Ayite's splendid set, a balanced world, where worn T-shirts evoke whispered imaginings and water-stained wallpaper peels back illusions like a finely-dressed woman, shedding tears.

With every element leaning forward, creating light and exposing universalities, it is small wonder this marvelous show casts long shadows. Departing the Bruns Amphitheater, it's possible to be filled with the joy of finely curated theater – and dismayed, that yesterday's battles to defeat racism and poverty are not yet won.

"A Raisin in the Sun," presented by California Shakespeare Theater, runs through June 15 at the Bruns Amphitheater, 100 California Shakespeare Theater Way (off Highway 24), Orinda. For information, call (510) 548-9666 or visit www.calshakes.org.



From left: Marcus Henderson as Walter and Zion Richardson as Travis.

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Dancers of all ages enjoy last year's Rock the Plaza.



Photo Andy Scheck Fourth of July parade, 2013

Photo Ohlen Alexander

Spring into Summer with Fun-Filled Lamorinda Entertainment

By Sophie Braccini

Lamorinda will ring with the sound of music, parades, games, parties and dances, most of them outdoors this June and July, taking full advantage of local parks and the warm California sun.

Feeling like rocking and rolling to a little outdoor music? Mark your calendars for Tuesday, Thursday and Friday nights beginning June 6 in Lafayette, June 10 in Orinda and June 19 in Moraga. **Rock the Plaza** (Lafayettechamber.org) in Lafayette begins at 6:30 p.m. on Friday nights June 6-27 at Plaza Park. The lineup includes: Azure Moon, Rockin' Country, Funky R&B and Classic Hits on June 6; The Floorshakers, Funk, Soul & Rock and Roll on June 13; The Big Jangle, A Tribute to Tom Petty and all things jangly on June 20; and the Lamorinda Idol finalists will perform on June 27.

Starting June 10, sit back and unwind at the free **Summer Concerts in the Park** on Tuesday nights from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Orinda Community Center Park, 28 Orinda Way. Sponsored by the Orinda Community Center Auxiliary, and supported by the Orinda Parks and Recreation Foundation, Orinda Community Foundation, and City of Orinda, the lineup includes: Hey Jude, '60s and '70s Rock on June 10; Brian Moran Jazz Trio, classic jazz on June 17; Extended Roots on June 24; Bay Bridge Beat, funk rhythm and blues on July 1; and David Correa and CASCADA on July 8. Concerts continue through Aug. 12. (Visit <http://www.city-of-orinda.org> for information.)

Organized by the Moraga Parks Foundation, the weekly **Moraga Summer Concert Series** will be held Thursday nights at 6:30 p.m.

beginning June 19 at the Commons Park, showcasing Mixed Nuts (rock and roll) on June 19; Zebop! (Latin rock) on June 26; Busta-Groove - Dance Party on July 4; Aja Vu - Chicago and Steeley Dan tribute on July 10; and Mania - Beatles tribute on July 17. Concerts continue through Aug. 21. (See <http://www.moragaparks.org/concert.html> for details.)

On July 19, come out to the Lafayette Reservoir from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. for **Operation Swing-time**. In the spirit of remembering our veterans, for the first time ever Lamorinda's local Rotary Clubs (including Rossmoor) and Lamorinda Presents are organizing a free USO show to bring back a piece of history when communities would organize, have a parade and celebrate our veterans' return.

The show at the new stage and picnic area overlooking the lake will feature The Big Band of Rossmoor - a 32 member big band well known over the past 22 years for sharing music with the generations that is a part of Generations In Jazz Foundation, playing all things "American." Music will include hits from Glenn Miller, Gershwin, and the songs that Fred Astaire danced to. In addition, enjoy special guest the Swingin Blue Stars (think of the Andrew Sisters singing "Don't Sit Under the Apple Tree"), military vehicles on display, and veterans honored during the program. If you know of a veteran, email Mo Levich at gto@67goat.com with name, rank, branch and years served and let organizers know they are coming. A golf cart shuttle is available for those who may need assistance. Uniforms are optional but encouraged. Bring

a blanket, your lawn chairs and a picnic. (Information at <http://www.rotarylafayette.org/>.)

Looking for indoor musical entertainment? Don't miss **Diablo Ballet's Annual Dance** on Film series with the showing of "Oklahoma!" - the Academy Award winning musical starring Shirley Jones and Gordon MacRae - Thursday, June 5 at the Community Hall of the Lafayette Library and Learning Center. The event will include meeting Artistic Director Lauren Jonas and dancer Edward Stegge for a pre-screening discussion of fun facts about the film. At 6:30 p.m. Thursday, July 10, the film will be the Oscar-nominated musical "Funny Face" (1957), with songs by George and Ira Gershwin, starring Audrey Hepburn and Fred Astaire. (More information at <http://diabloballet.org/events/>)

Then get ready for the **Fourth of July celebration!** Lamorinda Presents, the group that includes representatives from Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda, has been working to ensure a fabulous summer of local entertainment, especially for Fourth of July coordinated events.

This year, Fourth of July festivities will take place in Orinda and Moraga. The Orinda Association sponsored events start at 7:30 a.m. with the **Roadrunners' Pancake Breakfast** in the Community Center Park, followed at 8 a.m. with the **Roadrunners' Fun Run and Haley's Run for a Reason**, which starts in front of the Community Center, and at 10 a.m. the popular Orinda Fourth of July parade will begin. (For more information, visit <http://orindaassociation.org/parade-info/>.)

In Moraga, the **Kiddie Runs** begin at 8 a.m. followed by the **5 mile run and 2 mile run/walk** at 8:30 a.m. in the Moraga Shopping Center. The **MYIC Pancake Breakfast** at the Commons Park starts at 8 a.m., followed at 9 a.m. with the **Dog Parade and the Car Show**. The **Bike Parade** is at 10:30 a.m., and day-long games, community booths and food will continue at the Commons until the fireworks begin at 9:20 p.m. (See information at <http://www.moraga.ca.us/BookingRetrieve.aspx?ID=49578>.)

"The objective of [the Lamorinda Presents] committee is to support all the events and groups and get the word out to everyone," says Moraga Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Kathe Nelson.

See you soon!



Summer Concert at the Moraga Commons Park

Photo Ohlen Alexander



Lamorinda celebrates the Fourth of July in Orinda.

Photo Ohlen Alexander

Lamorinda's Religious Services



St Stephen's Episcopal Church

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www.holyshpherd.org



SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

9:30 a.m. Worship Service
Coffee Fellowship at 10:30 a.m.
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ART

"Virtuosity Goes Viral" at the Lafayette Art Gallery where artists have filled walls, display cases, and pedestals with more than 150 works of the first order, including paintings, jewelry, glasswork, ceramics, photographs, and more. "Second Fridays" will also continue through the month of June. Come between 5:30 and 7:30 p.m. Friday, June 13 to meet the artists, have a glass wine, and enjoy good conversation with art aficionados like yourself. For info, call (925) 284-2788 or visit www.lafayetteart-gallery.com.

Jennifer Perlmutter Gallery presents "Belonging," an exhibit featuring the work of Laura VanDuren and Carol Aust. Through sculpture and paintings, the show explores identity, home and our relation to it. "Belonging" will be on exhibit June 7 through July 19, with an opening reception held from 7 to 9 p.m. Saturday, June 7. There will also be an artist talk at 7 p.m. June 21. The exhibit will be open to the public Monday-Saturday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., and by appointment, at Jennifer Perlmutter Gallery, 3620 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. For more information, contact Jennifer Perlmutter at (925) 284-1485 or jp@jenniferperlmuttergallery.com.

The Moraga Art Gallery announces a new show entitled "Luminous - Nature Revealed and Reimagined" highlighting the often fleeting, yet immortalized, beauty of the natural world through floral photographs by resident artist Lucy Beck, and fruit and vegetable bowls and jewelry by guest artist Margaret Dorfman. The show opens June 4 and will run through Aug. 9. There will be an opening reception to see the exhibit and meet the gallery's artists from 5 to 7 p.m. Saturday, June 7. Free.

The City of Lafayette Public Art Committee invites the public to attend a welcome reception for its newest art exhibit "Adventures in Wildlife and Glass" featuring two local artists from Lafayette - Dwight Yassany and Janice Peacock. The reception will be held at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center, Library Gallery, from 6 to 7 p.m. Monday, June 9. The exhibit will run from June 9 until Aug. 11. The library gallery is open every Monday evening from 7 to 9 p.m. and during public events in the Community Hall.

Dale Chihuly: The Venetians. An exhibition of 72 works from Chihuly's Stunning Glass Venetians at the Saint Mary's College Museum of Art runs through July 20 from the George R. Stroemple Collection, A Stroemple/Stirek Collaboration. Three more new exhibitions include: Michael Collopy Face to Face: Movers and Shakers, Armistead Gallery; All Natural: Work by Pamela Blotner and Sam Perry, Studio Gallery; Keith's The Big Paintings, William Keith Gallery. Museum hours are Wednesday through Sunday, 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Admission: Adults \$5; members and K-12 graders free (parking free). For info, call (925) 631-4379 or visit stmarys-ca.edu/museum.

MUSIC

Lafayette's Annual Jazz Café will be held at 6 p.m. Friday, June 6 in the Stanley Middle School Auditorium. There is a

fabulous lineup featuring: the Wednesday Morning Jam Session, The Stanley Crusaders, The Stanley Jazz Messengers, The Campolindo Big Band and The Acalanes Jazz Ensemble. General admission is \$10 per person, reserved seating \$15, elementary students \$5 and children under 6 are free. If that's not enough, Los Primos Taco Truck will be selling scrumptious food from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Dessert, coffee and beverages will be available for purchase all evening. And to top it off, drawings will be held to give away fabulous gift baskets!

The 'Rock the Plaza' series will take place Friday nights in June at Lafayette's Plaza Park at the corner of Mt. Diablo Boulevard and Moraga Road. The headliners start at 6:30 p.m. and are presented free of charge. Arrive a little early for a good spot on the lawn. This year's line up: June 6 Azure Moon; June 13 The Floorshakers; June 20 The Big Jangle; and June 27 Lamorinda Idol Finalists.

Join your neighbors on Thursday evenings at the Moraga Commons Park for a relaxing free concert in the park. Bring your picnic blanket or lawn chairs to the grassy hillside in front of the band shell. Enjoy the music while your children enjoy the park. The volunteers of the Moraga Park and Recreation Foundation will even cook dinner for you with the Snack Bar opening at 6 p.m. Concerts start at 6:30 p.m. and end at 8:30 p.m. June schedule: June 19 Mixed Nuts - Rock & roll; June 26 Zebop! - Latin Rock.

Sit back and unwind at the free summer concerts on Tuesday nights, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Orinda Community Center Park, 28 Orinda Way. June concerts: June 10 Hey Jude, '60s and '70s Rock; June 17 Brian Moran Jazz Trio, Classic Jazz; June 24 Extended Roots.

THEATER

Diablo Ballet's Annual Dance on Film series will screen "Oklahoma" (1955), the Academy Award winning Rodgers and Hammerstein musical starring Shirley Jones and Gordon MacRae at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, June 5 at the Community Hall of the Lafayette Library and Learning Center. Enjoy a pre-screening fun facts discussion by Diablo Ballet Artistic Director Lauren Jonas. Cost: \$5. At 6:30 p.m. Thursday, July 10, the film will be the Oscar-nominated musical "Funny Face" (1957), with songs by George and Ira Gershwin, starring Audrey Hepburn and Fred Astaire.

Wagner Ranch Elementary School proudly presents its annual spring musical, "Oliver!" Friday and Saturday, June 6-7. Show times are 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Friday and 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Saturday. Tickets can be purchased at the door or online at www.showTix4u.com: \$12 reserved, \$10 general seating.

California Shakespeare Theater presents "Raisins in the Sun," which runs through June 15. "Raisins in the Sun" is the saga of the Younger family of 1950s Chicago, and the inheritance check that threw into question everything they knew. This American classic about a dream deferred was the first play written by an African American woman to be produced on Broadway, and

was proclaimed by the New York Times to have, in its world premiere, "changed American theater forever." For info, visit www.calshakes.org.

LECTURE & LITERATURE

On June 6, the 70th anniversary of D Day, the topic for First Friday Forum will be "World War One, the Versailles Treaty and Why Germany Lost World War II," presented by Dana Lombardy who has appeared as an on-camera expert in more than 20 historical television documentaries and has recently published "World War One Illustrated" for the World War One Historical Association. The lecture, with power point illustrations, will be held at 1:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary of Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church with refreshments served at 1 p.m. in Fellowship Hall, 49 Knox Drive, Lafayette. For info, call (925) 283-8722.

LLLCF Distinguished Speaker Series presents Kelly Corrigan and Katie Hafner, in conversation on the topic of mothers and daughters at 5 p.m. Sunday, June 8 at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center. Author Kelly Corrigan is a New York Times bestselling author whose explorations of family life and parenthood have brought her to the forefront of the pack of new American writers. San Francisco based author Katie Hafner writes about the deeply binding relationship between mothers and daughters in her remarkable memoir "Mother Daughter Me." Cost: \$25. For info, visit www.lafayette-lib.org.

Dirty Deeds, Done Dirt Cheap - a slide lecture by Joe Bologna about everything you could think to ask—and then some—about the life and work of a metal sculptor at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, June 19 at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette. For event info, contact Donna Arganbright, (925) 788-0549.

KIDS, PARENTS & TEENS

Come See the Campolindo Senior Memory Boards, which will be displayed in the CPAC from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. June 10-12 and from 7 to 8 p.m. June 10-11. It is a special time to see the 2014 graduates share their memories with their friends and family. Also write a note to be put in their mailbox at Grad Night!

OTHER

Campolindo Junior Sam Larson is collecting new and gently used toys, sports and rec equipment, backpacks, athletic apparel, outerwear, accessories, jewelry, and shoes for underprivileged kids preschool to age 18. These items will be given away at a "New to You" event held in September in San Pablo. Collection starts now and continues through August. Drop your items at 243 Paseo del Rio, Moraga, or call (925) 284-8142 for pickup. Email californiasam22@gmail.com for info.

Come thank Toni McShane, retiring vice principal of Stanley Middle School, for her 41 years of service in education from 4:30 to 7 p.m. on June 5 in the Outdoor Courtyard of the Lafayette Library and Learning Center. Reception and refreshments.

... continued on next page

Please submit:

Events: calendar@lamorindaweekly.com

Stories: storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com

Letters: letters@lamorindaweekly.com

Opinion: letters@lamorindaweekly.com

◆ Not to be missed ◆ Not to be missed ◆

OTHER ... continued

The public is invited to join the Moraga Horsemen for a day of fun from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, June 7 at the MHA Arena, 423 Canyon Road, Moraga. Chili and pie contests, three-legged race, sack race, pony petting, horse painting, root beer floats and much more. For more info, email moragahorsemen.info@gmail.com.

The Stroke Support Group of Contra Costa County will hold its June meeting from 7 to 9 p.m. Monday, June 9 in the Concord I Room at John Muir Medical Center - Concord Campus, 2540 East Street, Concord. The speaker will be Carol Howard-Wooton MFT, stroke survivor. Her presentation is entitled, "Moving Forward and Living Well with Stroke." After the program, attendees will break up into three coping groups: stroke survivors without aphasia, stroke survivors with aphasia, and caregivers and families of stroke survivors - each group led by a trained professional. For info about the Stroke Support Group,

contact Ann Dzuna at (925) 376-6218. Free.

Celebrate Summer Solstice and Igeahinvdo Cherokee Sun Goddess on June 20. At the altar of Igeahinvdo, absorb the rays of the Sun, celebrate fertility, and bathe in the abundant harvest energy that is upon us. Dance, sing, and celebrate the brightness of the Sun and ourselves. Daughters of the Goddess is a Dianic Temple and community that is dedicated in the spirit of aloha to the preservation, perpetuation, and promotion of multicultural Goddess culture, public ceremony, ritual, and Women's Mysteries. For info, visit www.DaughtersoftheGoddess.com.

SENIORS

The Sons In Retirement, Las Trampas Branch 116 luncheon meeting begins at 11:30 a.m. Monday, June 16 at the Walnut Creek Elks Lodge, 1475 Creekside Dr., featuring speaker Dan Franklin, a survivor of the Normandy Invasion on June 6, 1944 and the recipient of the French

Legion of Honor. His presentation will incorporate first-hand experiences of what went on before that day, during the invasion and the days following the landing. Guests are welcome and may make reservations by calling (925) 322-1160 by Wednesday, June 11. Cost: \$15. For information about SIR activities for retired men, please visit www.Branch116.org.

Words of Wisdom ... From the Philosophical to the Lighthearted discussion group led by Craig Janke. Take part in this free-wheeling exchange of inspiration, information, and humor. Topics - from soup to nuts - will be explored, examined, and discussed by participants. Stories and photographs will stimulate humorous discoveries regarding the benefits of becoming the "elders of our tribe" held the third Tuesday monthly from 10:30 a.m. to noon. The next meeting is Tuesday, June 17, Toyon Room, Lafayette Community Center. Cost: \$1 members/ \$3 non-members.

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.



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June 6:

Fritz Tubach author of "Uncommon Friendship" & recently retired Head of the UC Berkeley Germanic Department shares his story.

June 13:

Deputy D.A. Mary Elizabeth Knox will speak to us about "HOMICIDES, DRUGS & GANGS—MY LIFE AS A DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY"

Please be our guest for breakfast and a great speaker!

Please submit events to: calendar@lamorindaweekly.com

MOVIE REVIEW 'Maleficent'

By Derek Zemrak



Photo Disney Studios all rights reserved 2014

You know summer is approaching - communities are preparing for Grad Nights, proms, graduations and blockbuster movies. This past weekend Disney released "Maleficent," which has all the elements for a major summer blockbuster - it was made with

an estimated \$200 million budget.

"Maleficent" stars Angelina Jolie - two-time Oscar recipient for the film "Girl, Interrupted" and a Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award she received at the 2014 Academy Awards. She stars as the evil villain Maleficent who was

first introduced in the 1959 Disney classic "Sleeping Beauty." The movie tells the story - in the style of the Broadway play "Wicked" - of how Maleficent became the person she is now. Maleficent was once a good, kind horned fairy who was loved and admired in the fairy kingdom

where she lived. Everything changed when Maleficent experienced how cruel humans can be as a result of greed. She must learn unconditional love in order to return to happier days. Ellen Fanning ("Super 8," "We Bought a Zoo") plays Aurora, the Sleeping Beauty.

Maleficent is a spectacular, visual piece of art that should be experienced in the theater and not on an iPhone. The film is directed by two-time Oscar winner Robert Stromberg, who won his Oscars for art direction in "Alice in Wonderland" and "Avatar." This is Stromberg's directorial debut. His illustration of the beauty of filmmaking is visible in each scene as his strong direction comes through in the performances of both Jolie and Fanning. Seven-time Oscar recipient

and 12-time Oscar nominee Rick Baker ("Ed Wood," "An American Werewolf in London," "Men in Black") is the special makeup effects artist on the film. Baker is the master of his craft and I predict another Oscar nomination for his work in "Maleficent." The makeup in the movie is astonishing.

For all you trivia buffs - "Maleficent" will go down in history as the first movie role for Vivienne Jolie-Pitt, daughter of Jolie and Brad Pitt, as she plays Aurora at age 5.

"Maleficent" is rated PG with a total running time (TRT) of 97 minutes. The film's battle scenes, green smoke and the dark forest trees maybe too scary for the little ones.

Listen to Derek every Saturday morning at 8 a.m. on Real to Reel, 1450AM KEST.

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Michael Collopy: Face to Face with Movers and Shakers



Large scale photographs, including the Dalai Lama, Michael Phelps, Mother Teresa, Steve Jobs, Bono, Cesar Chavez, Nelson Mandela, Tim Lincecum, Kerri Walsh Jennings, Carmelo Anthony, Ray Charles, Paul McCartney, Ringo Starr, Johnny Cash, Clint Eastwood, Carmen Electra, Dave Navarro, BB King, and more.

All Natural: Pamela Blotner and Sam Perry

Environmental sculpture: Perry's reclaimed and fallen wood; Blotner's mixed-media, hand felted imperiled animals.



Sam Perry image courtesy of Rena Bransten Gallery



California Grandeur: William Keith's Big Paintings

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LAMORINDA SPORTS

Back-to-Back Champions

Campo boys' volleyball wins regional title

By Scott Wu



Steven Buhl (31) and Jack Eisner (11) block opponent's hit.

Photos Gint Federas

On their way to going undefeated in league, winning an NCS title, and dominating the Nor-Cal Regional Championships, the Campolindo boys' volleyball team did not lose a set. In total, the Cougars won 48 consecutive sets.

For the second year in a row, the Cougars have taken the volleyball "Triple Crown," a league title, NCS title, and Regional Championship; the team is ranked No. 9 in the nation.

"Our success has first been based on the fact that we have very experienced and skilled players all playing together on one team," head coach Dave Chen said.

Players echo the same desire to win. "We've been successful because of our determination and drive to win," junior Ryan First said.

In the finals of the 2014 Nor-Cal Regional Championships on May 31, the Cougars experience showed as they controlled the entire match, winning in straight sets, 25-19, 25-22, 29-27. For the second year, Campolindo faced Whitney High, and

while they were not taller or stronger than the Wildcats, they were sharper and played as a cohesive unit.

All aspects of the game, including serves, passes, and spikes, favored the Cougars. "It was our passers who always kept the ball alive so we had a chance to be successful," Chen explained. "We would never be in the winning position we're in now if they hadn't been able to give the ball to our multiple strikers."

Senior Steven Buhl and junior Yize Dong kept their opponents confused with key hits.

In the last set, it looked like Campo's win streak might be broken. The set was close throughout with multiple lead changes. Needing to win by two, the Cougars were pushed to extra points, eventually winning 29-27. They won the final point of the match on an ace by senior Pieter Derksen.

Players and Chen stormed the court, congratulating their teammates and later accepting their medals.

"The most important component of our game that is brought year after year is an increased desire to maintain the winning tradition that has long been part of our program," Chen said. "Just like any close family, we experience our ups and downs, but the team always finds a way to play hard for each other when the time comes."

Campolindo's hard work starts with off-court analysis that helps them compete at a high level. "Coach Dave has us watch and analyze tapes of our opponents' games during the playoffs to look for the tendencies of other teams," Dong explained.

Both Dong and First noted that off-court camaraderie is one of their favorite parts of playing on the team. "They are setting new standards for a supportive team environment that we never even thought was possible," Chen said.

After winning multiple titles and dominating league and post-season play, the Cougars will return as a top contender next year.



Ryan First sets up his teammate.



Yize Dong controls the ball.



Campolindo celebrates its fourth straight NCS title. From left: Dave Chen (head coach), Steven Buhl, Luke Hoyle, Gage Worsely, Ryan First, Michael Standing, Pieter Derksen, Joe Worsely, Jack Eisner (bottom), Walker Franklin, Charlie Mattox, Yize Dong, Griffin Bell, Nick Obrand, Sean Dobbyn, John Vuong (asst. coach) Photo Peter Constantinidis

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NCS Champions



The Acalanes Dons' girls' lacrosse team took home the 2014 NCS Division II championship – their second championship in a row and third title in four years.

After going undefeated in the DFAL, the Dons earned the top spot in the NCS tour-

nament. Acalanes showed its dominance by cruising to the title. They outscored opponents 62-15, including a 21-9 win over No. 2 Piedmont in the finals on May 22.

C. Mitchell

Baseball Teams Fall Short on NCS Repeat

By Michael Sakoda



Doug Nimura



Photos Gint Federas Drew Anderson recorded the game-tying RBI in the 17th.

After a tough regular season, Acalanes, Campolindo and Miramonte all battled during a great run in the NCS baseball playoffs.

Acalanes (16-12; 6-6 DFAL), led by two seniors – pitcher Doug Nimura and shortstop Austin Fisher – earned the No. 7 spot in the Division III playoffs.

After winning three consecutive NCS titles, the 2014 Dons' road through the postseason was tougher. "We thought we were seeded a little low," said head coach Justin Santich-Hughes. "Being the No. 7 seed made our run a lot more difficult."

But Acalanes stepped up, getting a boost from sophomores Jake Berry and Tommy Henderson, and won their first and second round games – at Del Norte 6-1 on May 21 and at Drake 5-3 on May 24.

The Dons faced No. 3 Tamalpais in the semifinals on May 28 and ran into the Redtailed Hawks' red-hot pitcher, Mason Collins. The Dons managed only two hits off of Collins, and gave up two runs – an RBI single in the fifth inning and a sixth inning bases-loaded balk – falling 2-0.

"This was our first postseason loss in 12 games, and being on the losing end was shocking," said Santich-Hughes. "But for these guys to go as far as they did was a testament to the competitiveness they've shown all year and I'm proud."

Miramonte rounded out the year with a 14-13 record (7-5 DFAL) earning the No. 6 seed in the Division III playoffs. In the opening round, the Mats hosted No. 11 Albany in a two-day, 18 inning thriller. On May 20, the two teams played 15 innings, but the score remained tied at 2-2.

Play resumed May 21 with junior Connor Jackson on the mound for Miramonte. He was superb, throwing 44 pitches (31 strikes, 13 balls), striking out five, with no walks, four hits and a run allowed.

Albany scored first, and led 3-2 in the bottom of the 17th. With two out and one on, Drew Anderson trailed in the count 0-2. Alex Gutierrez advanced to second on a wild pitch, and Anderson slapped the 1-2 past Albany's shortstop, sending Gutierrez home, tying the game 3-3.

In the bottom of the 18th, with one out and one on, it was Mats' sophomore James Vaccaro, with the walk-off, as he crushed the 0-1 fastball to left center, scoring Logan Boersma, sealing a 4-3 victory for Miramonte.

"Eighteen innings and nobody flinched," said head coach Vince Dell'Aquila. "It might have been the single most well-played, hard-played, heart-played game in North Coast."

Miramonte ended a strong season on May 23 with a second round, 2-0 loss to Tamalpais. "The season was like

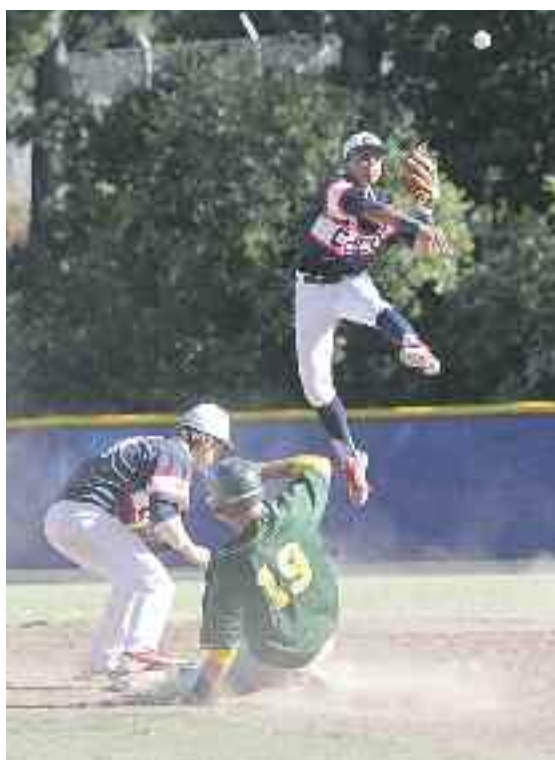
the (Albany) game," said Dell'Aquila. "It had ups and downs, but the guys hung in there. It's a credit to them ... through all of it they kept battling."

Campolindo wrapped up the regular season going 20-5 (11-1 DFAL), winning a league title and locking up the No. 1 seed in the Division II Playoffs. But their run ended before it really began as the Cougars dropped an opening round game 1-0 to No. 16 Casa Grande on May 21.

It was a true pitchers' battle between Cougars left-handed pitcher Matt Ladrech and Casa Grande's Eric Parnow. Ladrech was outstanding, pitching a complete game, with four strikeouts, seven hits, a walk and a lone run in the second inning, but the run-support lacked.

Campolindo threatened in the sixth, as Denis Karas stole second after being hit by a pitch, but Parnow struck out the next two batters ending the inning. Scott Singh led off the seventh with a single to right, but again, Parnow struck out the two subsequent batters. With one on and two out, Ben Skinner flew out to right, stranding Singh, and ending the season.

"(Parnow's) a tough pitcher. He threw well," said Cougars head coach, Max Luckhurst. "We saw him about a month ago, and he threw well then too."



Campolindo gets the out at second and looks for the double play at first in the loss to Casa Grande.

Softball Teams Make Early Exit from NCS

By Hannah Raslan



Alex Grant-Hudd



Gina Pagan Photos Gint Federas

As the school year comes to a close, so do the playoff aspirations of spring sports. The Acalanes and Miramonte softball teams entered the North Coast Section playoff tournament with different goals but both were eliminated in the first round.

As a No. 13 seed the **Acalanes** Dons suffered an 11-4 loss to No. 4 San Marin in the first round on May 21.

"I thought because we had a young team we were a little nervous in the playoffs, the whole team was nervous, and it affected us, we didn't play very well," said head coach Victor Silva. "Hopefully the girls will learn from experience."

Despite the low seed, Silva was hoping for a fight in the first round. The team got off to a rocky start. After the first two innings, San Marin was up 7-2.

"The first couple of innings we were really nervous," said Silva. "As the game wore on we seemed to play better but I think the kids just have to get experience playing and we will get better."

For the next five innings, the Dons were still, they gave up four

runs to San Marin.

"I was hoping we could be a little bit more consistent," said Silva of the game and the season. "We had some good victories but we had some really bad losses, and I'd like to be more consistent in the future."

Miramonte was excited to qualify for the postseason. As a team filled with new players, they were very happy to make it into the tournament as a No. 12 seed. Finishing the season at 11-11 overall, the Mats exceeded expectations.

"Our season went great, better than anyone expected," said head coach Emily Hunt. "The girls improved tremendously from start to finish and we were able to win some big games that we maybe weren't expected to."

The Mats took on No. 5 Terra Linda on May 21. They kept it close but fell 3-2.

"[We were happy] just to make it, let alone compete in the game," said Hunt. "The school hasn't made NCS or had a .500 record in over 10 years so the fact that we achieved both of those things this year is a great accomplishment."



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Memorial Day Mavericks

Submitted by Susan Linden



From left: Shane Nelson, Brady Manz, Cole Jeter, Sam McGonigle, Nicholas Fitzpatrick, assistant coach Dan Wheeler, Coach Dave Manousos, Daniel Wheeler, Casey Linden, Jack Daugherty, Ben Powers, Max "Dream" Weaver and J.T. Clark
Photo Susan Linden

Moraga Mavericks 11U team celebrate second place finish at the Ultimate Memorial Day Tournament in Manteca.

LMSC Wins Santa Cruz Shootout

Submitted by Corinna Sassano



From left, top row: Anna S., Katherine M., Sydney T., Coach Javier Ayala-Hil, Danielle D., Samantha K., Natalie M., Isabella G.; bottom row: Lindsey L., Caitlyn M., Brooke P., Kelsey V., Lily B., and Emma B.
Photo provided

Lamorinda Soccer Club U10 Navy team won the Santa Cruz Breakers' Memorial Day Shootout held at Cabrillo College in Aptos over the Memorial Day weekend. The girls played five games over the course of three days and scored a total of 23 goals while allowing only five.

In their bracket, the girls played and beat the Gryphons Soccer Club from Belmont (2-1), CV San Jose FC Jaguars Red (7-0), and finally CV San Jose FC Jaguars White (6-0). In the semifinals, they defeated the CV San Jose FC Jaguars Academy (4-2). In the championship, they beat the host, the Santa Cruz Breakers, 4-2.

Volleyball Champs

Submitted by Kristina Brouhard



Photo: From left, top row: Coach Rich Scarpitti, Molly Mitchell, Natalie Brouhard, Nicole Kennedy, Lindsey Davis, Coach Rick Davis; bottom row: Sydney Roberts, Lulu Scarpitti, Tyler Oliver, Spencer Deutz
Photo John Brouhard

Manhattan Beach, the fifth grade girls team, won the LMYA volleyball title with an undefeated season.

LMSC Looks to National Series

Submitted by Colleen Wiggins and Corinna Sassano



Photo provided

The LMSC U15 girls qualified for the US Youth Soccer National Championship Series by beating the MVLA Typhoons, 4-1, to win the CYSA State Cup Championship in Modesto on May 3.

Orinda Outlaws Take First

Submitted by Junaid Khan



From left, top row: Ben Duncan, Adrian Hunt, Ryan Schwarz, Will Hollerbach, Jake Dashiell, Zack Schroeder; bottom row: Jack LaCour (Tournament MVP), Stradley Foutch, Chris Bruen, Zach Raphael, Amir Khan, Greg Austin
Photo provided

Orinda Outlaws 11U celebrates winning championship game the Santa Cruz Memorial Day Silver

Defending the Title

Submitted by Buddy Rowell



From left, bottom row: Tyler Schenone, Simon Oh, Gareth Kwok, Parker Windatt, and Seppi Ortman; top row: John Torchio, Coach Craig Mizell, Jake Finegold, Robby Rowell, Coach Buddy Rowell, Ryan Regan, Kyle Mizell, Vince Mossotti, Brian Merken, and Coach Greg Ditmer; not pictured: Sam Walker and Coach Conner Hulse
Photo provided

Advanced Baseball's (AB) 14U Blues (34-3) team defended their tournament title by winning this year's Walnut Creek Memorial Weekend Bulldawg Brawl. The Blues went undefeated in pool play, which included complete games pitched by Tyler Schenone and Ryan Regan and a pivotal RBI single in the final game by Simon Oh, setting up the Blues for the No. 1 seed going into bracket play.

Merken, and two big doubles by Robby Rowell and John Torchio.

In the finals, after a shaky first inning falling behind the Fairfield Tigers 3-0, the Blues rallied behind gutsy pitching by Kyle Mizell, stellar team defense, and big hits to tie the game at 3-3 by the bottom of the fourth. Vince Mossotti closed the game with three dominant shutout innings. In the bottom of the sixth, after working the count full, Seppi Ortman hit a chopper up the middle, scoring Parker Windatt for the go-ahead run.

LAMORINDA SPORTS

First Place Finish

Submitted by April Murphy



From left: Shannon Murphy, Paige Mays, Reese Hansen, and Peyton Mays. Photo provided

As the CYO 2014 Track and Field season comes to a close these 4th grade girls can look back with pride and see how far they have come. The St. Monica's relay team earned a first place finish at the Sectionals in the 800 Sprint Medley.

Another Goal!

Submitted by Corinna Sassano



Photo provided

Lamorinda Soccer Club's Megan Reid committed to play soccer at the University of Virginia. A star for Miramonte's soccer and basketball teams, Reid began playing for LMSC on the U9 team.

Champs at the Championships

Submitted by Lynn Klinkenberg



Women's Varsity 8+ earned first place. From left: Elizabeth Elmgren, Tara Bozzini (Acalanes), Hunter Deuel, Abby Vare, Jennifer Mundelius, Olivia Klinkenberg (Acalanes), Marie Johnson (Miramonte), Lindy Clute, Margaret Ross (Miramonte). Photo provided

Oakland Strokes Rowing Club left the May 2014 US Rowing SW Regionals Jr. Championships with eight gold medals. The Championships took place at Lake Natoma Aquatic Center in Folsom and featured 36 clubs from across the western states. The Women's Varsity 8+ boat finished in first place for the second year in a row. Men's Varsity 8+ beat rival Marin Rowing by 0.04 seconds to finish in first place. Overall, Oakland Strokes took home eight gold medals, nine silver medals, and seven bronze medals. Six boats qualified for the Nationals in June.



From left: Alex Lilichenko (Miramonte), Christian Cuellar, Josef Starc, Kevin Chang (Bentley), Hannah Christopher (Miramonte), Cubby Parker (Bentley), Marshall Krock, Daniel Hogan, Viggo Hoite, Jason Hilton, Coach. Photo provided



The Freshman 8 and Novice boat took first and second place at the US Rowing Southwest Regional JR. Championships.

From left: Martha Yates (Lafayette), Limor Dubrovsky (Lafayette), Natalie Stollman, Olivia Tefft, Caroline Rickson (Orinda), Gracie Petty, Molly Bobrovitch (Moraga), Alisha Lewis, Betty Hosler and Coach Beth Anderson with two assistants. Photo submitted by Molly Bobrovitch

Orangemen Look for Gold

Submitted by Craig Bocks



From left, front row: Logan Hurd, Justin Bocks, Garrett Dunn, Aidan Lyon, Nick Davidson, Stefan Raeth, Daniel Dinerman; back row: Scott Brydon, Ross Ney, Cole Berzins, Ethan Frigon, Tommy Hawkins, Eddie Burns. Photo provided

Advanced Baseball's (AB) 13U Orangemen are enjoying great success this year as they head into the final weeks of the spring season with a cumulative record of 26-8, including a consolation championship at the Memorial Day Bulldawg Brawl in Walnut Creek. The Orangemen are primed to finish atop the District 57 Junior Gold Division standings and will compete throughout the summer in a variety of local tournaments.

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Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 08 Issue 7 Wednesday, June 4, 2014



Cynthia Brian's June Gardening Guide ...read on page D13

Lamorinda Home Composting: A Diverse and Growing Practice

By Sophie Braccini



Norm Paulsen transfers the compost in his vegetable garden.

Photo Sophie Braccini

With 545 Lamorinda families certified as composters, a growing number of residents are finding the practice good for their vegetable and ornamental gardens. All of these families have different practices, from a simple single pile on the ground, to elaborate multi-bins systems, and being certified gets them a little discount on their garbage bill. But, foremost, they do it to be part of the natural cycle of life, death, and rebirth in the garden.

Norm Paulsen has been composting for years in his Lafayette garden. For him, the practice is a normal part of gardening, a process he's been involved with since grammar school. His vegetable garden is extensive, and next to it is a compost pile in its simplest form: a heap on the ground delineated on three sides by wood siding. "We drop all our vegetable scrap in the pile, as well as green waste from the garden," he says, "then I cover it with wood chips and animal bedding provided by my neighbor, who raises llamas and alpacas." Paulsen has a pitch fork next to the pile and he turns it regularly before adding the result to the garden when fully composted.

"This is one of the key elements of composting," says Eric Fromer, "knowing when the compost is ready to be used."

... continued on page D4

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- 804 Acalanes Road, \$2,895,000, 5 Bdrms, 5688 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt, 5-6-14;
Previous Sale: \$3,220,000, 05-23-02
- 3621 Chestnut Street, \$780,000, 1426 SqFt, 1946 YrBlt, 5-7-14;
Previous Sale: \$550,000, 08-05-09
- 911 Dewing Avenue #A2, \$625,000, 2 Bdrms, 1296 SqFt, 1979 YrBlt, 5-2-14;
Previous Sale: \$415,000, 01-31-12
- 900 Dewing Avenue, \$500,000, 3 Bdrms, 1416 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 5-8-14
- 473 Florence Drive, \$990,000, 3 Bdrms, 1785 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 4-29-14;
Previous Sale: \$260,000, 07-09-92
- 39 Greentree Court, \$1,773,500, 3 Bdrms, 2833 SqFt, 1969 YrBlt, 4-30-14;
Previous Sale: \$1,195,000, 06-03-03
- 2199 Hidden Pond Road, \$1,355,000, 4 Bdrms, 3352 SqFt, 1996 YrBlt, 5-6-14;
Previous Sale: \$1,411,000, 04-01-05
- 1539 Huston Road, \$822,500, 4 Bdrms, 1801 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt, 5-1-14;
Previous Sale: \$257,500, 09-11-98
- 326 Lowell Lane #E, \$1,330,000, 4 Bdrms, 1991 SqFt, 1968 YrBlt, 4-29-14;
Previous Sale: \$68,800, 03-29-72
- 1985 Marion Court, \$2,219,000, 5 Bdrms, 4206 SqFt, 2001 YrBlt, 4-29-14;
Previous Sale: \$1,985,000, 03-29-13
- 3503 Moraga Boulevard, \$905,000, 2 Bdrms, 1115 SqFt, 1946 YrBlt, 5-1-14;
Previous Sale: \$790,000, 06-08-05
- 3337 North Lucille Lane, \$950,000, 2 Bdrms, 1357 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 5-8-14;
Previous Sale: \$500,000, 05-03-13
- 3977 Rancho Road, \$2,050,000, 5-6-14
- 70 Ridgecrest Court, \$1,866,000, 4 Bdrms, 4016 SqFt, 1987 YrBlt, 5-8-14;
Previous Sale: \$1,275,000, 09-27-00
- 1229 Rose Lane, \$2,960,000, 5 Bdrms, 6046 SqFt, 1982 YrBlt, 5-1-14;
Previous Sale: \$2,900,000, 07-03-00
- 624 Sky Highway Circle, \$1,590,000, 4 Bdrms, 2979 SqFt, 1976 YrBlt, 4-29-14
- 1154 Sunrise Ridge Drive, \$1,408,000, 5 Bdrms, 3102 SqFt, 1996 YrBlt, 4-30-14;
Previous Sale: \$1,050,000, 05-02-02
- 1702 Toyon Road, \$1,200,000, 4 Bdrms, 2811 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 5-1-14;
Previous Sale: \$585,000, 12-19-12
- 1110 Via Media, \$1,401,000, 4 Bdrms, 4332 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 4-30-14;
Previous Sale: \$390,000, 07-18-97

... continued on page D11

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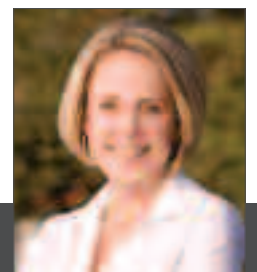
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Lamorinda Home Composting: A Diverse and Growing Practice

... continued from page D1



Amber Dyer turns her compost tumbler.

Photos Sophie Braccini

He says that when the mix just looks like dirt and smells like a forest after the rain it is ready; he puts it in bags for use in his Lafayette garden. "Another important aspect is to have enough nitrogen," he adds. "Our way of doing it is by adding some of our chicken's manure to the mix. Nitrogen is what you need for the temperature to rise in the pile and the process to take off." Fromer has chickens, and he even sometimes lets a hen frolic in one of his tumblers, as a treat.



Weeds and clippings turn brown in Dyer's pile.



The children help with composting in the Paykel family.

Fromer started on his own 5 years ago, while Joseph Paykel has a much more recent practice. "I started 7 months ago after attending a free [Central Contra Costa Solid Waste Authority] compost class," says the young Orinda father. The Paykels looked for a place in their garden that would be the most convenient, "otherwise we would not sustain the practice," he adds. They decided to put the container they bought from CCCSWA by their trash bins, on a concrete pad. "We added corrugated cardboard under it," he says. "Sitting on concrete might not be ideal, but we wanted something close to the house so the practice would be easy." He says that he just spends a few minutes a week taking care of the pile.

Everyone has their own unique system, like Lamorinda Weekly publisher Andy Scheck who added a handful of worms when he started his first compost pile a few years ago. In his Moraga garden, Scheck has two double compost bins, because his vegetable garden is spread between two different spots on his property. Scheck never took a class with CCCSWA, for the native German had been exposed to composting since his youth in his uncle's extensive garden. He built a double compost bin. "In the first bin I start to pile brown garden waste that has been cut small (he acquired a professional chopper), and food waste from our kitchen," he explains. "After a few months, the bottom of the bin is completely composted, so I transfer the top layer to the other bin and can use the finished compost from the first bin." All the composters attribute the wonderful growth of their vegetables and ornamentals in large part to their home-made compost. Most composters have had to face a challenge somewhere along the way. Amber Dyer in Lafayette thinks that her compost hasn't been more successful because not much compost volume was created during the winter, despite the fact that she dumps tons of food waste in it. But looking at the double tumbler she bought at Costco, the result is pretty good.

... continued on page D6

He's All About New Inventory in Orinda



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Lamorinda Home Composting: A Diverse and Growing Practice

... continued from page D4



*Wendy Scheck chips yard clippings while her husband, Andy, turns the compost.
Photo Jaya Griggs*

"For the compost process to happen, you need heat and you need moisture," says Paykel, adding that the CCCSWA workshop he attended last year taught him all he needed to know. For him the challenge was ants, and what he found was that the little critters were taking over the pile when it was too dry. Scheck had a problem that no one would want: rats. "Since I put wooden compost boxes on concrete pavers, I have had no more problems," he says. None of the people reported any unpleasant smell coming out of the pile.

"Yard and food waste represent 30 percent of the waste stream; we encourage people to compost to reduce the volume of what has to be hauled away," says CCCSWA Ashley Louisiana. On the authority's website residents can purchase bins at a reduced price and check out the dates of free upcoming workshops. In order to get certified, residents need to either have purchased a bin from CCCSWA or send pictures of their practice.

"This is an Honor system," adds Louisiana.

The Skinny About Composting

A balance of browns (fallen leaves, straw, wood chips) and greens (grass clippings and food scraps) is all you need to make compost. Compost needs heat and moisture. Composting containers vary from a simple pile on the ground, to a series of bins that can be made of different wood or plastic. The next compost workshop in Lamorinda is scheduled for Saturday, June 7 in the Lafayette Community Garden. For more information, go to wastediversion.org.

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Something Special! 112 La Quinta, Moraga Country Club



Featured on the 2010 MCC Home Tour, this fabulous home has been lovingly updated from head to toe! Originally a 'Sequoyah' model - walls have been opened, spaces have been re-imagined, and everything has been improved!

Expanded Kitchen includes Wood-Mode custom cabinets, Caesarstone Counters and high-end stainless appliances.

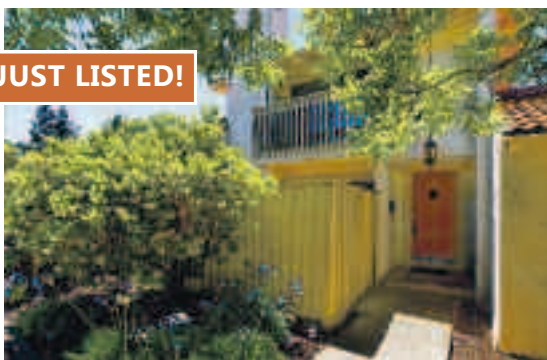
Tucked back on the 6th Fairway, this house has super views of the course and surrounding hills without feeling overexposed. Great entertaining spaces inside and out.

4 Beds, 2.5 Baths, 3424 SqFt, Golf Course Location

Open Sunday June 8th from 1 to 4pm

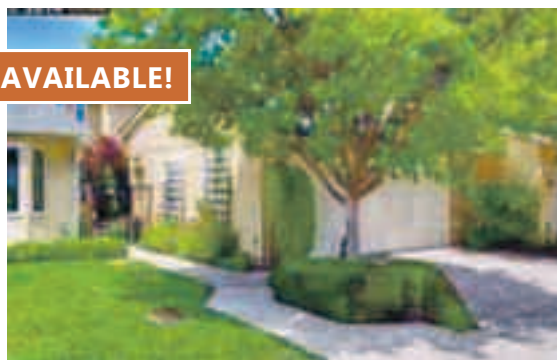
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Moraga Country Club - Lagoon location

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42 La Cresta Rd. Orinda

This Del Rey family home is conveniently located close to 12 years of school. 4 bedrooms plus a bonus room.
Offered at \$ 1,095,000



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Fire Safety Outside: Sealing the House

By Cathy Dausman

(Editor's note: This is the first in a series of Lamorinda Weekly articles designed to raise awareness and help homeowners secure their homes against the threat of wildfire.)

If “location, location, location” are the watchwords of choosing a good home, then topography, weather and fuels are the corollary to keep your home safe during fire season.

Brush fires, even small ones, are a constant threat, especially when trees and woody shrubs on rolling hills abut back yards. Natural landscaping is the very reason Lamorindans like their outdoors, but late spring rains have done little to relieve the California drought. The entire country knows our fire season has begun in earnest. According to Cal Fire, 1,701 fires have burned 14,925 acres so far this year. Alameda and Contra Costa County lands are now classified as D4, or “exceptional drought” areas.

Recently, local landscape contractors and fire agencies met with the Diablo Fire Safe Council to learn about local fire history, wildfire behavior, ignition pre-

vention techniques, working safely around power lines, and creating defensible space.

The Diablo Fire Safe Council offers a list of five ways to reduce ignition around the home: sweep, remove or store combustibles, caulk and screen. Sweep walkways, patios and decks, gutters and rooflines regularly to remove leaves, pine needles and twigs. Do not store combustible materials under decks.

Consider replacing older decks with a product meeting the Wildland Urban Interface fire safety code. Ensure that siding and windows are fully caulked to prevent embers from entering the home. Store backyard combustible materials inside if a wildfire threatens. Finally, install 1/8-inch mesh metal screens under eaves and at foundation vents – those areas are vulnerable entry points for embers and flames.

For details go to http://www.diablofiresafe.org/preventing_wildfires_house.html.



Using 1/8-inch mesh metal screens under eaves or at foundation vents can prevent burning embers from entering a home.
Photo Andy Scheck

Exclusively Presented by Sue Layng:

Charming Home in Burton Valley's Lafayette Estates!

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Beautifully remodeled and updated ranch-style home next to the Lafayette Trail and Community Park. This wonderful home offers three bedrooms, two baths, plus a separate office that can easily be used as the fourth bedroom. The open kitchen with breakfast bar, granite counter, and stainless steel appliances, has easy access to the back patio... complete with an outdoor kitchen for entertaining. The two patios and spacious yard are wonderful for family living as well as entertaining. Hardwood floors and updated windows create warmth and natural light year round. The private yard offers garden, play, and entertaining areas... all within walking distance to the Lafayette Bike Trail and top rated Lafayette Schools.

Offered at \$945,000



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Stylish Solutions

Design for the Great Outdoors

By Ann McDonald



On this covered entry porch we replaced pots that would normally hold high water use plants with graphic decorative pillows. Photo courtesy Couture Chateau LLC, photo Faryn Davis

Summer is fast approaching and that means outdoor decorating is in full swing, and it's time to refresh and update our front or back yard spaces for summer enjoyment. But with the current drought, how do we, as responsible residents of California, decorate our outdoor spaces for gracious and luxurious living on trend, without being wasteful? And what if your design aesthetic simply isn't compatible with some of the drought resistant flowers?

The good news: There is more to decorating, water-wise, than just using succulents on your outdoor tables. While I love the look of cactus, it isn't always a fit for me or my design clients.

Here are my Top Stylish Solutions for water-wise decorating anyone can implement:

Use brightly colored outdoor pillows instead of flowers. Replace pots that would normally hold high water use plants with graphic decorative pillows on your covered entry porch. The traditional design of the house does not lend itself to succulents on the front porch. I wanted a punch of color normally provided by masses of annuals and by purchasing these ready-made, low cost outdoor pillows, placing them where the pots of flowers would normally sit, I have the color punch without the water use.

Match patterns with the surrounding pieces to provide cohesion; for example, a trellis pattern on a pillow can match a similar pattern on a bench or pot. Look for repeating patterns in your own home, and try to match outdoor pillows to a detail. The best part? The pillows cost less than \$20 each, and can help carry the decorating scheme to an outdoor covered porch at the back of the house so the theme would be consistent.

Use statuary where pillows won't work. Don't balk. Trust me, "Let's go buy a statue" is not the first thing out of this decorator's mouth. With careful thought to scale, color and type, I placed concrete formed pieces where piles of flowers would normally be. By purchasing two, I was able to repeat the theme from the entry walkway into an indoor/outdoor space for this season.

This simple tip is easily scaled or modified for the smaller space or contemporary design. No desire for concrete lions? Use a beautiful cast pinecone, the traditional welcome sign. Need a contemporary touch? Reflective orbs do nicely.

Take advantage of the drought to introduce whimsy. Good decorating is all about solutions to problems. When the weather gives issue, consider it an opportunity to be creative. Think outside the box.

Use strong graphic patterns on outdoor fabrics instead of solids. Go bold to focus the eye. Many of my clients purchase investment quality pieces and fabrics that tend toward traditional. This season in outdoor spaces, we had some fun.

... continued on page D12

Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

... continued from page D2

MORAGA

- 1180 Cedarwood Drive, \$1,040,000, 5 Bdrms, 2818 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 5-2-14;
Previous Sale: \$51,000, 02-25-72
- 68 Corliss Drive, \$1,150,000, 3 Bdrms, 2038 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 5-1-14;
Previous Sale: \$367,000, 02-27-91
- 752 Country Club Drive, \$700,000, 2 Bdrms, 1262 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 4-29-14;
Previous Sale: \$749,000, 02-21-07
- 1615 Del Monte Way, \$1,420,000, 5 Bdrms, 2745 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 5-2-14;
Previous Sale: \$940,000, 09-10-10
- 272 Draeger Drive, \$1,338,000, 4 Bdrms, 2450 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 4-30-14;
Previous Sale: \$1,171,000, 09-12-07
- 89 Laird Drive, \$3,337,500, 5 Bdrms, 6123 SqFt, 2006 YrBlt, 4-28-14;
Previous Sale: \$350,000, 06-27-00
- 71 Lambeth Square, \$1,615,000, 5 Bdrms, 3140 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 4-28-14;
Previous Sale: \$595,000, 10-01-96
- 1047 Larch Avenue, \$900,000, 3 Bdrms, 1460 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 5-1-14;
Previous Sale: \$725,000, 01-14-11
- 31 Maison Court, \$1,650,000, 4 Bdrms, 2963 SqFt, 2000 YrBlt, 5-8-14;
Previous Sale: \$1,103,500, 07-25-01
- 110 Quintas Lane, \$1,600,000, 4 Bdrms, 2472 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 5-2-14;
Previous Sale: \$1,300,000, 05-31-05
- 218 Rheem Boulevard, \$875,000, 3 Bdrms, 1944 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 5-7-14;
Previous Sale: \$989,000, 03-02-05
- 36 Wandel Drive, \$910,000, 3 Bdrms, 1478 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 4-30-14;
Previous Sale: \$689,000, 07-22-11
- 133 Westchester Street, \$870,000, 3 Bdrms, 2264 SqFt, 1979 YrBlt, 5-2-14;
Previous Sale: \$620,000, 02-18-11

ORINDA

- 30 Dias Dorados, \$1,425,000, 5 Bdrms, 3333 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 4-30-14;
Previous Sale: \$1,435,000, 12-02-05
- 23 Dos Posos, \$1,250,000, 4 Bdrms, 2575 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 4-30-14;
Previous Sale: \$78,000, 12-05-75
- 17 El Rincon, \$950,000, 1 Bdrms, 1678 SqFt, 1928 YrBlt, 5-8-14;
Previous Sale: \$347,000, 04-25-97
- 14 Monterey Terrace, \$3,461,500, 5 Bdrms, 6030 SqFt, 1991 YrBlt, 4-30-14;
Previous Sale: \$1,480,000, 03-01-96
- 63 Moraga Via, \$1,410,000, 4 Bdrms, 2662 SqFt, 1968 YrBlt, 5-6-14;
Previous Sale: \$1,173,000, 11-25-08
- 119 Moraga Way, \$785,000, 3 Bdrms, 1407 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 4-30-14;
Previous Sale: \$779,000, 11-10-04
- 54 Morello Place, \$1,297,500, 5-1-14
- 36 Owl Hill Road, \$1,277,500, 4 Bdrms, 2555 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 5-5-14;
Previous Sale: \$650,000, 11-16-01
- 112 Ravenhill Road, \$980,000, 2 Bdrms, 2060 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 5-7-14;
Previous Sale: \$850,000, 06-01-07
- 108 Scenic Drive, \$1,647,000, 4 Bdrms, 2497 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 4-30-14;
Previous Sale: \$610,000, 08-29-95
- 14 Silverwood Court, \$1,545,000, 6 Bdrms, 4669 SqFt, 1976 YrBlt, 5-2-14;
Previous Sale: \$820,000, 06-05-98
- 6 Sleepy Hollow Court, \$2,141,500, 4 Bdrms, 2620 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 5-8-14
- 103 Sleepy Hollow Lane, \$1,650,000, 3 Bdrms, 2378 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 5-2-14;
Previous Sale: \$1,205,000, 11-21-03
- 5 Via Corte, \$1,315,000, 5 Bdrms, 3024 SqFt, 1975 YrBlt, 5-2-14;
Previous Sale: \$805,000, 07-18-01
- 35 Via Hermosa, \$1,025,000, 5 Bdrms, 1950 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt, 4-29-14;
Previous Sale: \$394,500, 03-28-97
- 208 the Knoll, \$855,000, 2 Bdrms, 2116 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 4-29-14;
Previous Sale: \$735,500, 05-08-08



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Stylish Solutions

... continued from page D10

For our decorating projects in California especially, we are using strong bold and graphic outdoor fabrics. Making slipcovers allows for seasonal looks without the commitment of reupholstering an entire suite of outdoor furniture.

An outdoor fabric slipcover removes easily for washing. An indoor chair, “shopped” from a consignment store locally, can be used in an outdoor covered patio. When the weather hits next fall, the chair simply comes back inside. For now, the inexpensive and fun slipcover carries us through the summer entertaining season. The bold pattern provides visual impact. Last season, this same space was all burlap and beige with masses of flowers in pots, here we simply traded fabric for flowers.

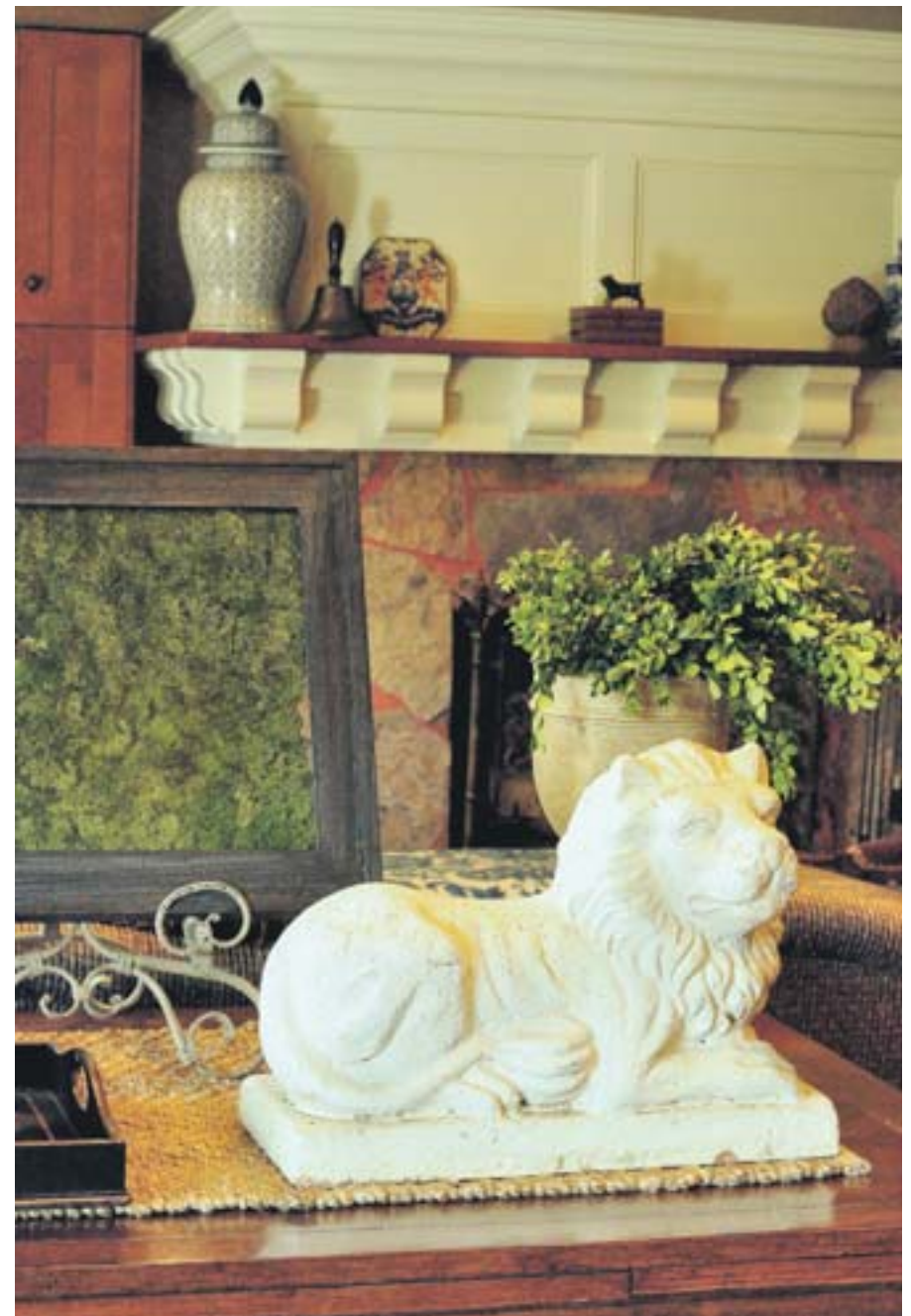
Cut and arrange dried flowers in pots. Have some fun. I literally went into



This outdoor fabric slipcover removes easily for washing, and when the weather hits next fall, the chair will come back inside.

the back yard and started cutting: flowers, herbs and sprigs. I made baskets and piles, hung them to dry and am using them in my summer table floral arrangements instead of purchasing annuals for my pots.

Whatever design element you choose, enjoy your summer and the great outdoors! Live a custom life.



Take advantage of the drought to introduce whimsy. This lion is not something we would look at and think: perfect! Yet, when placed in context, one outdoor instead of flowers and then a mate in the indoor/outdoor room on a coir entry mat (used instead of a table runner), the scheme works.

Photos courtesy Couture Chateau LLC, photos Faryn Davis



Ann McDonald, IIDA, NAPO, is the Founder/CEO of Couture Chateau, a luxury interior design firm in Orinda. If you are interested in chatting about your next decorating project, give us a call at (925) 386-0720 – we're here all summer. For a complete blog post including photos of the indoor/outdoor room, visit www.couturechateau.com/blog.

Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for June

"Nature. Cheaper than therapy." ~ Source unknown

By Cynthia Brian

Why is it when we surrender our "busyness" to get outside in nature, we feel better? Researchers have found that going into the garden, hiking, biking, or strolling in the countryside, bird watching, or animal petting triggers the release of endorphins and oxytocin that activate the pleasure center in our brain. When you spend time in the outdoors you experience a deep feeling of well-being and relaxation. Close contact with nature improves health while increasing self-esteem and confidence. Mother Nature is the ultimate teacher providing a foundation for life-long learning that nourishes the senses. Indulging in "green activities" reconnects us to ourselves, one another, our kids, and the natural world. Nature soothes, restores, and heals. Our stressed, depressed, or anxiety-ridden moods are elevated to refreshed, peaceful, and balanced. The next time you are feeling blue, go green and talk to a plant. We can all use a little Vitamin N (as in Nature)!

- **EMPTY** all standing water from containers to stop mosquitoes from invading in this dry year. If the bloodsuckers are biting, check out the ThermoCell products, including a portable protector. A copy of the natural insecticide found in chrysanthemums is vaporized to create a 15 by 15 foot zone of protection. www.thermacell.com
- **BOOST** your immune system and stave off diseases including diabetes, heart disease, and cancers by growing and eating leafy greens, broccoli, apples, beans, onions, garlic, leeks, and tomatoes.
- **PULL** ivy from trees as ivy strangles and kills. Ivy also is a haven for rats and mice.
- **ELEVATE** your palate by including home grown fennel, also known as sweet anise, into your recipes. The aromatic feathery fronds are pretty in the garden while the thick bulbs are delicious! If flower stalks begin to form, pinch them off to direct the plant's energy to the bulb.
- **SAVE** our pollinators by creating habitats that support and nourish them.
- **MAKE** noise before putting your hand into a hidden space such as your irrigation controls as snakes are slithering about in this dry, warm weather, including rattlers.



Nasturtiums deter cucumber beetles, whiteflies, and squash bugs plus the entire plant is edible and makes long lasting cut flowers. Photos Cynthia Brian

- **DON'T** overlook the common petunia for lasting beauty and deer resistant lantana. Both are available in luscious pink, purple, orange, red, and white. Butterflies will swarm to the bright yellow and gold lantana.
- **PRUNE** butterfly bush after the blossoms fade to encourage another round of blooms for fall.
- **STIR** fried, sautéed, or just tossed in a fresh salad, the green tops of radishes, carrots, turnips, and beets are pleasantly earthy, peppery, and most of all nutritious!
- **PINCH** spent petunia petals to enable repeat blooming through fall.
- **REFILL** birdfeeders weekly to ensure that the flyers spend the summer with you.

... continued on page D14

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Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for June

... continued from page D13

- **CREATE** unique bouquets and arrangements for your graduation and Father's Day festivities with natural elements from your personal flowerbeds.
- **SWING** on a hammock under a tree for a soothing dose of relaxing nature therapy.
- **GIVE** dad a green gift on Father's Day that he'll enjoy for years to come. Perhaps a blueberry bush for healthy antioxidant eating or a beautiful bougainvillea to enliven the backyard fence.
- **PRINT** personalized coupons to help with the weeding, watering, and digging as another great gift idea for all gardening dads. Mother Nature will thank you.
- **PLANT** cilantro, lettuces, and basil in containers for easy reach for your culinary treats.
- **CHECK** your irrigation timers to make sure they are working properly and set to early morning or evening, but not during the day. Twice a week watering is sufficient for most gardens and will help you conserve our H2O.
- **PROTECT** your plants from hungry hunters as food gets scarce during the dry summer months by installing wire cages, netting, or repellents. No plant is 100 percent deer or rabbit proof.



A hanging pot of petunias brightens any patio.

- **TREAT** diseases with organic remedies. Neem oil and plant based cures are recommended.
- **CELEBRATE** summer by encouraging children to sow easy-to-grow sunflowers. Press the seeds into the soil, add water, and watch the wizardry that can surpass 16 feet!
- **PULL** onions for salads and grilling.
- **TOLERATE** minor aphid infestation to allow lady beetles (aka ladybugs) and "aphid lions" lacewing larvae to do their beneficial pest control. The good bugs only stick around when they have an infested buffet to feed on.
- **USE** the lily pad shaped petals of nasturtiums as serving dishes for appetizers as they are deliciously edible.
- **THINK** ahead to Halloween and Thanksgiving now by sowing your pumpkin seeds directly into the enriched, fertilized ground before mid-June.
- **DRIVE** carefully through neighborhoods as school is soon out for the summer and kids are enjoying the outdoors.

Congratulations to our Lamorinda graduates of all ages and the beautiful June brides and grooms. Wishing the men a joyful Daddy's Day too! Enjoy a warm, fun-filled June!

Happy Gardening and Happy Growing.



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Mock orange tree attracts the bees.



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Cynthia Brian

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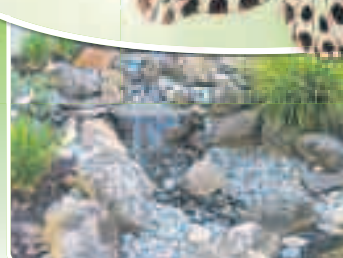
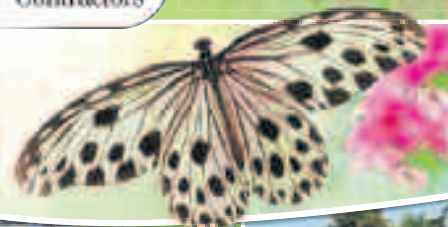
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ORINDA



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56 Dolores Way Set on a picturesque, oak studded knoll w/Mt. Diablo views is this charming single-story home w/3bd+ofc & fam rm & 2.5ba. Located in popular Del Rey area on quiet cul-de-sac. Short walk to schools. **\$1,049,000**

ORINDA



New Listing

42 La Cresta Walk to Del Rey! 4 bd+bonus/3 ba, 2469 sq. ft. home on .45 acre. This home has it all, open floor plan, flat lawn, large deck, around the corner from 12 years of top rated schools. **\$1,095,000**

ORINDA



8 Via San Inigo Quiet nature surrounds this spacious 4bd/3ba 2840 sf home on .52 acre. Best of both worlds, with easy access to Orinda, Berkeley & Tilden Park. Level yard, great patio & VIEWS! **\$1,150,000**

ORINDA



New Listing

62 Van Tassel Lane Charm abounds in this 4bd/3.5ba, 3422 sq. ft. traditional on .68 acre in Sleepy Hollow. Formal LR & DR; eat-in kitchen/ family combo; master retreat with large separate office; and den/study room. **\$1,295,000**

ORINDA



New Listing

2 Los Altos Road Experience living on private .27ac lush setting in sought-after Country Club area. Remodeled 4bd/2.5ba of apx. 3035sf. Vaulted ceilings, kitchen/family rm, deluxe master suite. Beautifully landscaped. **\$1,575,000**

ORINDA



New Listing

259 Sundown Terrace Fabulous 3560sf Orinda Downs one lvl custom w/4 spacious bdrms, grand piano sized living rm, formal dining. Beaut. private .8ac creekside estate setting with sparkling pool, expansive lawn & decking. **\$1,899,000**

ORINDA



3 Canyon View Drive Truly a special setting on 1.36 ac w/grassy lawns, privacy & tranquility. Gorgeous remodeled home of incredible design integrity, fabulous amenities, quality features. Bonus 1 bd/1ba w/kit. cottage. **\$2,050,000**

ORINDA



645 Miner Road Inviting trad. w/sep. guest apt, ideally situated at bottom of cul de sac in desirable Sleepy Hollow school district. Incredible kit. w/granite counters & central island. Priv. mstr suite. Pool & mature redwoods. **\$2,750,000**

MORAGA



New Listing

1392 Camino Peral Updated 3 bedroom, 2.5 bathroom townhome. New carpet, fresh paint, and minutes from Library, Park, Trails & transportation. **\$525,000**

MORAGA



New Listing

720 Augusta Drive Moraga Country Club Plan 3 with 2 bedrooms and 2 and a half bathrooms. Serene lagoon setting, minutes from pools, tennis courts, golf course, & Club House. **\$739,000**

MORAGA



27 Via Barcelona Situated at end of private cul de sac, 5bd/3.5ba, 3129sf hm offers great views & convenient loc. Updated open granite kit/fam rm, bamboo flrs, dual panes, cathedral ceilings. Wrap around deck, level lawn. **\$995,000**

MORAGA



New Listing

1056 Sanders Drive Beautiful spacious home on level .23ac. 4bd/2.5ba, lots of wood flooring, bay windows, skylights, formal dining, large living rm. Fam. rm off patio, pool, spa, everything to make your summer wonderful. **\$1,125,000**

MORAGA



New Listing

500 Rheem Blvd. Gorgeous 4bd/4ba, 3996sf gated Napa/Mediterranean on 10.68 ac built in 2004! Vineyard w/275 bearing vines & temp controlled cellar & fermentation rm; barn w/2 stables; outdoor kitchen. **\$1,959,000**

LAFAYETTE



New Listing

3300 Betty Lane Desirable Lafayette Estates! Walk to schls & Laf. bike trail from this beautifully remodeled 3bd/2ba + sep. ofc hm. Lovely hdwd flrs, full of natural light. Lvl yd w/inviting patios, play & entertaining areas. **\$945,000**

PLEASANT HILL



New Listing

387 Odin Place Cul-de-sac location, 3 bedroom & 2 bathroom home with hardwood floors, dual pane windows, new HVAC. Walk to Vahalla elementary. **\$569,000**



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