

# Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 08 Issue 8 Wednesday, June 18, 2014



*Bouquets for the Big Day!*

*...read on page D12*

## Keeping That Roof Over Your Head ... For as Long as Possible

By Chris Lavin



*Roofing contractor Peter Eva of Lafayette points out where summer inspections could begin: where the shingles meet the flashing. Make sure it's overlapping, that there are no gaps, and that debris is cleared.*

*Photo Chris Lavin*

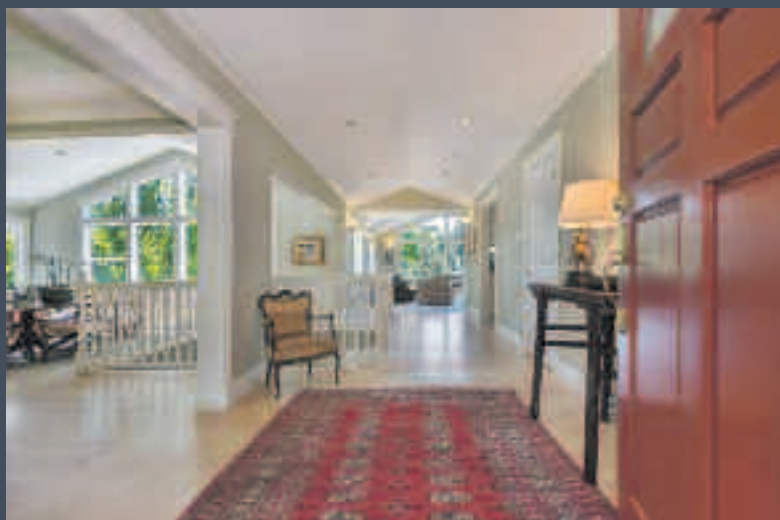
It's happened to many of us: A big rain storm hits in the winter, then a strange, regular "kerplunk" starts coming from somewhere, probably nowhere near a bathroom or kitchen, and hopefully not from a gathering puddle on the bed. You get out the bucket, and get on Yelp to look for a contractor to line up for summertime. Right?

Not necessarily, says Peter Eva, who runs Skyline Roofing in Lafayette. A roof should last a good 20 to 25 years, he says, and there is no reason to think you'll have to take out a second mortgage – or give up your family's summer vacation – to pay for a new one.

*... continued on page D4*



# THE *Beaubelle* GROUP



## NEW LISTING ~ ORINDA ~ \$1,998,000

**121 Meadow View Road** - Extensively and thoughtfully remodeled for today's modern lifestyle, the two-story home features five bedrooms and three and a half bathrooms on a deep lot surrounded by gorgeous mature trees, with expansive outdoor entertaining spaces and terraced level lawns.

Enjoy the close in location to schools, town and highway.

*Open Sunday, June 22 from 1-4pm.*



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## Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

City	Last reported:	LOWEST AMOUNT:	HIGHEST AMOUNT:
LAFAYETTE	27	\$533,000	\$3,560,000
MORAGA	11	\$564,500	\$1,600,000
ORINDA	10	\$699,000	\$2,320,000

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

### LAFAYETTE

- 810 Acalanes Road, \$2,600,000, 5 Bdrms, 5271 SqFt, 2008 YrBlt, 5-21-14;  
Previous Sale: \$1,585,000, 03-25-11
- 3574 Brook Street, \$630,000, 2 Bdrms, 1179 SqFt, 1941 YrBlt, 5-14-14;  
Previous Sale: \$37,200, 07-01-75
- 1037 Cavallero Lane, \$920,000, 4 Bdrms, 2144 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt, 5-22-14;  
Previous Sale: \$500,000, 05-08-12
- 1824 Del Rey Street, \$850,000, 3 Bdrms, 1654 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 5-23-14;  
Previous Sale: \$275,000, 05-16-96
- 3569 East View Drive, \$1,200,000, 3 Bdrms, 1824 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt, 5-9-14;  
Previous Sale: \$463,000, 06-11-99
- 4 Greenvalley Court, \$1,635,000, 4 Bdrms, 2983 SqFt, 1977 YrBlt, 5-22-14;  
Previous Sale: \$1,500,000, 10-17-06
- 4051 Happy Valley Road, \$3,560,000, 4 Bdrms, 3726 SqFt, 1941 YrBlt, 5-21-14
- 1118 Hidalgo Court, \$1,340,000, 3 Bdrms, 2004 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 5-16-14;  
Previous Sale: \$316,000, 09-06-91
- 3364 Kim Road, \$1,900,000, 4 Bdrms, 3668 SqFt, 2000 YrBlt, 5-23-14;  
Previous Sale: \$1,500,000, 03-16-10
- 616 Lancaster Drive, \$1,200,000, 4 Bdrms, 2280 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 5-13-14
- 1090 Leland Drive, \$1,355,000, 3 Bdrms, 3025 SqFt, 1997 YrBlt, 5-9-14
- 3911 Leroy Way, \$1,058,000, 4 Bdrms, 2656 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 5-19-14;  
Previous Sale: \$490,500, 08-16-94
- 3882 Los Arabis Drive, \$1,525,000, 3 Bdrms, 3546 SqFt, 1981 YrBlt, 5-20-14;  
Previous Sale: \$1,350,000, 05-16-08
- 3316 Mildred Lane, \$750,000, 3 Bdrms, 1643 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 5-19-14;  
Previous Sale: \$232,000, 03-02-89
- 3398 Moraga Boulevard, \$1,255,000, 3 Bdrms, 2121 SqFt, 1939 YrBlt, 5-19-14;  
Previous Sale: \$281,000, 05-18-94
- 1076 North Thompson Road, \$1,745,500, 4 Bdrms, 3322 SqFt, 1928 YrBlt, 5-15-14;  
Previous Sale: \$300,000, 11-05-91
- 1 Shreve Lane, \$790,000, 5-19-14
- 5 Shreve Lane, \$533,000, 5-19-14
- 110 Silverwood Drive, \$1,625,000, 4 Bdrms, 2839 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 5-14-14
- 72 Silverwood Drive, \$1,175,000, 3 Bdrms, 2723 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 5-9-14;  
Previous Sale: \$800,000, 04-02-01
- 3364 South Lucille Lane, \$901,000, 3 Bdrms, 1820 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 5-14-14;  
Previous Sale: \$635,000, 10-07-03
- 3297 South Lucille Lane, \$1,660,000, 4 Bdrms, 3731 SqFt, 1994 YrBlt, 5-20-14;  
Previous Sale: \$610,000, 07-14-95
- 3547 Springhill Road, \$2,000,000, 4 Bdrms, 3398 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 5-23-14;  
Previous Sale: \$1,700,000, 06-04-01
- 3575 Springhill Road, \$900,000, 3 Bdrms, 1629 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 5-19-14;  
Previous Sale: \$546,100, 08-31-01
- 3090 Sweetbrier Circle, \$900,000, 3 Bdrms, 1649 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 5-21-14;  
Previous Sale: \$900,000, 05-25-07
- 11 White Oak Drive, \$1,215,000, 3 Bdrms, 2245 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 5-9-14;  
Previous Sale: \$880,000, 09-05-03
- 1039 Windsor Drive, \$1,015,000, 4 Bdrms, 2010 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 5-15-14

... continued on page D11



## KURT PIPER GROUP

*Just Listed*



- 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 1700± sq. ft.
- Flat .5± acre expandable lot

**750 Los Palos Dr, Lafayette**  
Offered at \$999,000

*Just Listed*



- 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, 2000± sq. ft.
- Heart of Burton Valley

**555 Merriewood Dr, Lafayette**  
Offered at \$1,135,000

*Just Listed*



- 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 1700± sq. ft.
- Mid-century modern

**592 Michael Ln, Lafayette**  
Offered at \$1,095,000

*Just Listed*



- 5 bedrooms, 4 baths, 3300± sq. ft.
- Gorgeous single story remodel

**15 Blackberry Ct, Lafayette**  
Offered at \$1,895,000

*Pocket Listing*



- 5 bedrooms, 4 baths, 3100± sq. ft.
- Close to town, trail, schools

**679 Los Palos Dr, Lafayette**  
Offered at \$1,750,000

*Available*



- 5 bedrooms, 4 baths, Burton Valley
- 3769± sq. ft. big floor plan

**529 Morecroft Dr, Lafayette**  
Offered at \$1,550,000

*Pending*



- 3+ bedrooms, 2 baths, 1700± sq. ft.
- Expandable .74±AC flat lot

**710 Saint Marys Rd, Lafayette**  
Offered at \$1,250,000

*Sold*



- 4 bedrooms + office, 2 baths
- Lovely yard spaces. Large patio.

**3380 Reliez Highland Rd, Lafayette**  
Offered at \$1,195,000

*Sold ~ Represented Buyer*



- 3 bedrooms + office, 2 baths
- Flat .25±AC parcel

**616 Lancaster Dr, Lafayette**  
Offered at \$1,287,000

*Sold ~ Represented Buyer*



- 4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, 4600± sq. ft.
- Exquisite over 1±AC flat lot

**3340 Rowland Dr, Lafayette**  
Offered at \$2,650,000

*Sold ~ Represented Seller*



- 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, 2000± sq. ft.
- .25±AC cul-de-sac lot

**326 Lowell Ln East, Lafayette**  
Offered at \$1,149,000

*Sold ~ Represented Seller*



- 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, 2298± sq. ft.
- Desirable Orinda Country Club

**52 Miner Rd, Orinda**  
Offered at \$919,000

**Kurt Piper**



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**Christine Gallegos**



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Realtors Recommended for a Reason



# Keeping That Roof Over Your Head

... continued from page D1



*A summer roof inspection can reveal surprises. This hole in a Canyon roof was discovered after a tree contractor left. Evidently a heavy branch pierced the roof, which can lead to problems in the winter rains.*

“Don’t panic when you get a leak, especially in a rain storm that’s coming from a direction that’s different than usual,” Eva said recently while supervising the installation of a new roof on a remodel in Lafayette. “When it’s really raining, and there are high winds, the water is going to get blown in somewhere.”

That said, he explained, summertime is the time to act – on prevention. According to the National Roofing Contractors Association, new roofs can cost anywhere from \$10,000 for a 2,000-square-foot home to above six figures for some Lamorinda homes, depending on the type of roof, how difficult it is to climb, and the substrate materials. So, as the saying goes, “a stitch in time saves nine,” or in other words, a small repair

now can save big bucks later.

“The most important thing is keeping the roof clean,” Eva said. “Debris build-up makes the water go places it isn’t meant to go.”

But here Eva rushes in with a caveat that he seems to bring up in every other sentence. You’d think that ladders are serial killers.

“You have to be very, very careful around ladders,” Eva said. “People do not take ladders seriously enough. I’ve seen people climb onto roofs from step-ladders that are below the eaves.”

He visibly shuddered at this. No, he says. No, no, no.

“Never do it by yourself,” he said. (Naturally he repeated this several more times, as well.) “And make

sure to have the right equipment. A ladder has to extend over a gutter by at least four feet, and not at too sharp of an angle. Get the right ladder and make sure the footing is secure.”

So, we get that.

Here are Eva’s other tips on what you can do this summer, after you get that safe, tall ladder on to secure footing with someone holding the bottom:

- Wear soft-soled shoes; don’t go barefoot. It’s better for the roof. And roofs can get hotter than you expect. After he says to wear soft-soled shoes, he said don’t think about walking on a roof at all if it’s shake or tile. “Get someone else to do it or you can cause a lot of damage,” he said. He also said get the “someone else” locally. “You don’t want to get a roofer from Fremont who comes and makes a repair and then you need him again, and he can’t make it,” Eva said.
- Look for leaves and debris that collect, especially behind chimneys. That stops water from flowing, causes it to pool in little wet areas that salamanders will love, but so will roof rot.
- Get the leaves and debris off the edges of skylights and from the valleys.
- Do not use a power washer to do this. (Remember the rain coming from weird directions makes weird things happen down below. The same will be true of power washing.)
- Just before the rains: Clean gutters.
- Test the downspouts by running a hose down and making sure they flow out the other end. If not, tap the downspouts gently with a hammer to find blockages.
- Put wire mesh over your gutters.
- Try to find the source of your leak, if you had one in the rains: It’s probably caused by something clogged, and because water has to have someplace to run, it’s going to back up.
- Replace worn rubber collars with new ones over the plumbing vent pipes.
- Blackjack the flashing around skylights if you know the leak is coming from there.

... continued on page D8

# The RE/MAX Collection

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**Alhambra Valley** ~ Beautiful solar powered 3000sf farmhouse style hm on 6+ acres backing to open space, built in 2000. In a private valley w/a peaceful natural setting, this 4 bed/2.5 bath hm w/ lg bonus rm. Truly one of a kind home.

**\$1,499,000**

**Dianne and John Peira 925.297.0321**  
ThePereiraTeam@aol.com



**Alamo** ~ New Listing! 4bdrms, 3baths, w/complete in-law on lush, manicured grounds. Private, pleasing, Alamo Schools. Await just a few more days to see this elegant and tasteful estate It will be work it!

**Michael Hatfield 925.984.1339**  
Michael@alamoluxuryhomes.com



**Charming Brentwood** ~ 4bedroom, 2.5 bath, 1-level Golf Villa. On Market 6/11, come and see!  
**\$513,500**

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**Lafayette** ~ Charming home in Lafayette Valley Estates. This lovely 1,960 sq ft home offering 4 beds, 3 baths, is perfect for any family. The backyard is a must see, beautiful level yard studded with fruit trees. Call for Details!

**Paddy Kehoe 925.878.5869**  
Paddyrealtor@gmail.com



**Pleasant Hill** ~ Thinking of selling your Lamorinda family home but not sure where to go?? The community of Grayson Woods in Pleasant Hill is one of the best kept secrets in the area. Beautifully maintained w/open-concept. 4+/2.5  
**\$979,000**

**Jeannette Bettencourt 925.787.3464**  
www.464IronHill.com



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## Happy Valley Opportunity

931SunnyhillRoad.com

Offered at \$1,099,000



Fantastic opportunity to build your dream home or remodel the current 3BD, 2BA, 1,437+/- sq. ft. home on this 5+/- acre parcel just minutes from the freeway and downtown Lafayette. Great flat area, gentle slopes and mature Oak trees. Enjoy unparalleled views of Mount Diablo and beyond.

## Captivating Moraga Estate

16QuailXing.com

Offered at \$3,400,000



Captivating 5BD, 5BA Moraga estate located on a quiet private road only minutes from K-8 schools and shopping enjoys breathtaking panoramic views. This gracious, light-filled 5,818+/- sq. ft. home on 6.6+/- ac offers classic beauty, refined character and plenty of land for horses, a guest house and/or a vineyard.

## Burton Valley Charmer

3218RohrerDrive.com

Offered at \$995,000

Absolutely charming turn-key 3BD, 2BA Burton Valley home with 1,636+/- sq. ft. Situated on a fantastic flat .23+/- acre lot with wonderful large grass area and patio area. Just blocks from Burton Valley Elementary, Community Center and Rancho Colorados Swim & Tennis Club.

*Pending with Multiple Offers*



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JUST LISTED

## Happy Valley Spectacular Gated Property!

1224 Upper Happy Valley Road

3+ Bedrooms Bonus Room + Study +  
Den/Office 2 Baths 2235\* Sq Ft

.86 Acre\* Magnificent Private Setting  
Beautifully Landscaped Grounds  
Views of the Hills

Fabulous Outdoor Living Pergola with  
Flagstone Fireplace & Seating Area  
Sparkling Pool



A gated driveway provides a fitting entrance to this wonderful .86 property in desirable Happy Valley. Taking advantage of the private and picturesque setting with beautifully landscaped gardens, thoughtfully designed outdoor living areas and views of the surrounding hills, it is the perfect venue for entertaining as well as day to day living. Designed with expansive windows, glass doors, and well done updates throughout, the home is comfortable and inviting. The location is prime, close to vibrant downtown Lafayette, The Reservoir, Oakwood Athletic Club, Happy Valley walkway, and easy commuter access to Highway 24 and BART.

**Top Rated Schools: Happy Valley Elementary, Stanley Intermediate, Acalanes High School** (check availability)

\*Per Tax Records



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### Open Houses Sunday 6/22 1-3pm

21780 Cull Canyon Rd., Castro Valley  
Offers 5 bed 3 bath 2800 sq-ft home  
on 12+ ACRES

134 Crestview Dr., Orinda  
Offers 3 bed 3 bath 2999 sq-ft home  
on 1.92 ACRES

# Keeping That Roof Over Your Head

... continued from page D4



*While moss on the roof can eventually lead to failures, contractor Peter Eva says not to worry too much. Sometimes people cause more damage to their roofs by walking on them than they do by fixing them.*

The question arose as to how to perform these summertime maintenance activities without walking on the roof.

“Well, you can walk on it, but not very much,” he said. “It deteriorates with each step you take.”

At this point in the interview Eva was horrified (at least he looked that way) to find that a certain reporter liked to take a hot cup of tea up to the roof every month on the full moon to get a good view as it rose.

“Just,” he said, “just don’t do that.”

So when the full moon rises, watch it from somewhere else.



### 259 Corliss Drive, Moraga

Incredible remodel in the heart of coveted Moraga, this 4 bedroom, 2 and ½ bath home on half an acre of land has been completely transformed and beautifully landscaped for entertaining or day to day living.

For photos, virtual tour and more details visit [www.259CorlissDrive.com](http://www.259CorlissDrive.com).



### 1024 Carol Lane, Lafayette

This 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom Craftsman style home has been extensively renovated and redesigned in 2006 and offers elegance and distinctive quality with a very open floor plan.

Walk to town or trails. Located in top rated Lafayette Schools and Acalanes High School district. Offered at \$835,000.

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## Just Sold in Moraga



**394 Calle La Montana**

Three bedroom, 2 bath with .4 acre level yard.

**Offered at \$879,000**

**Sold for \$1,019,190**



**3872 Paseo Grande**

Four bedroom, 2.5 bath with updates throughout.

**Offered at \$1,195,000**

**Sold for \$1,290,000**



**272 Draeger Drive**

Four bedroom, 2 bath updated with pool and amazing view.

**Sold for \$1,338,000 off market**



**Wendy Holcenberg**  
wendy@holcenberg.com

**925.253.4630**

CalBRE#00637795

**Michelle Holcenberg**  
michelle@holcenberg.com

**925.253.4663**

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## Digging Deep-Gardening with Cynthia Brian

# Bouquets for the Big Day!

*“Love is to the heart the harvest of all the loveliest flowers of the soul.” – Author Unknown*



*Sweetheart table dressed simply beneath an elaborate columned pergola with twisting wisteria vines and urns planted with stargazer lilies.*

*Photos Cynthia Brian*

Besides the celebrations for grads and dads, June is the favorite month for couples to tie the knot. Getting married is a wondrous event experienced at a variety of venues from the simple backyard wedding to a grand hotel extravaganza, and everything in between. It's one of those rites of passage bringing family and friends together to commemorate the love of two individuals. Sometimes the price for these enchanted "I dos" can be staggering. One way to cut costs while also encouraging a collaborative, meaningful activity is to create your own bouquets, boutonnieres, corsages, and floral arrangements.

For both weddings of my son and daughter, I spent months growing their favorite blooms, then designed and hand crafted the floral components. The vow exchange for my son occurred on a hill on our Napa ranch overlooking the vineyards and Lake David. For that springtime ceremony, the hillside wine barrel tables were

festooned with mason jars filled with local wild flowers while the bridal bouquets, boutonnieres, and corsages boasted my homegrown calla lilies, peonies, roses, and forget-me-nots. The dining tables were simply decorated with merlot hued rose petals scattered amongst the private label wine allowing the food to take center stage.

For my daughter's Southern California vineyard wedding, I transported over 50 pounds of my Moraga garden floral fronds via airplane. Because the venue was stunning, she wanted the table décor to be simple and ethereal. A mix of feathery grasses, heather, sage, and flax filled wine bottles painted with the table number for a perfect blend of simplicity and elegance. The day before the nuptials, I hosted a Flower Party luncheon for all the ladies walking down the aisle where I taught everyone how to make their own personal bouquet using a sample I had created as an example. Stargazer lilies, roses, gardenias, freesia, alstroemeria, purple sage, grape leaves, razor

grass, and narcissus soaked in buckets. A nearby table included all the necessary tools, ribbons, and adornments for a personalized touch. After the rehearsal dinner, my mother, daughter, daughter-in-law and I enjoyed a final female bonding date as we made the beautiful boutonnieres for the groom and his groomsmen using tiny white roses framed with ferns.

Crafting the flowers for the Big Day or any special occasion produces such joy and camaraderie and is a special way to show your love. There is nothing to fear and so much bliss to savor. It's fun, simple, and extremely rewarding. Allow me to be your guide on the side offering these suggestions for DIY floral success.

First of all, it is important to have a conversation with the betrothed to define what their dreams and goals are for their Big Day. Even if we, as parents, are footing the bill for the celebration, we still have to keep in mind that this event is about them and not about us. It's their day and needs to be their vision. Talk to them and find out their specific wishes. Let them know that if they want you to create or help in creating floral displays, you'd be honored. They may provide you with tear sheets of ideas they have culled from magazines or bridal books. Assuming they are excited that you'll be an active participant and not just order from the professionals, here are the next steps.

...continued on page D12



*Use wild flowers including Queen Anne's Lace and thistle arranged in a jar for rustic or casual displays.*

## Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

... continued from page D2

### MORAGA

- 701 Augusta Drive, \$1,600,000, 4 Bdrms, 2680 SqFt, 1975 YrBlt, 5-20-14;  
Previous Sale: \$975,000, 01-10-07
- 127 Cypress Point Way, \$740,000, 3 Bdrms, 1749 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 5-16-14;  
Previous Sale: \$530,000, 06-23-10
- 24 Freitas Drive, \$1,335,000, 6 Bdrms, 2594 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 5-22-14
- 1879 Joseph Drive, \$1,450,000, 4 Bdrms, 2744 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 5-9-14;  
Previous Sale: \$1,490,000, 07-11-08
- 10 Laird Drive, \$1,054,000, 3 Bdrms, 1455 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 5-16-14;  
Previous Sale: \$975,000, 05-31-06
- 1235 Larch Avenue, \$1,450,000, 5 Bdrms, 2949 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 5-15-14;  
Previous Sale: \$180,000, 07-21-78
- 113 Merion Terrace, \$889,000, 3 Bdrms, 2059 SqFt, 1987 YrBlt, 5-20-14;  
Previous Sale: \$485,000, 06-26-98
- 33 Miramonte Drive, \$564,500, 2 Bdrms, 1762 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 5-14-14
- 92 Miramonte Drive, \$595,000, 2 Bdrms, 1772 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 5-23-14;  
Previous Sale: \$370,000, 02-27-02
- 227 Paseo Bernal, \$681,000, 2 Bdrms, 1937 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 5-23-14;  
Previous Sale: \$554,000, 01-06-10
- 418 Woodminster Drive, \$595,000, 3 Bdrms, 1572 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 5-22-14;  
Previous Sale: \$240,000, 05-07-98

### ORINDA

- 146 Canon Drive, \$812,000, 2 Bdrms, 1206 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 5-16-14;  
Previous Sale: \$500,000, 10-12-11
- 24 Charles Hill Road, \$2,320,000, 4 Bdrms, 3564 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 5-15-14;  
Previous Sale: \$1,830,000, 11-15-05
- 67 Citron Knoll, \$1,133,000, 5-23-14
- 129 El Toyonal, \$900,000, 2 Bdrms, 1593 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 5-15-14
- 25 Monte Vista Road, \$850,000, 3 Bdrms, 2311 SqFt, 1968 YrBlt, 5-16-14;  
Previous Sale: \$335,000, 05-20-88
- 34 Sanborn Road, \$907,000, 4 Bdrms, 2500 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 5-9-14;  
Previous Sale: \$136,000, - -
- 8 Snowberry Court, \$1,550,000, 3 Bdrms, 3254 SqFt, 1979 YrBlt, 5-15-14;  
Previous Sale: \$840,000, 03-31-99
- 17 Tappan Lane, \$2,237,500, 6 Bdrms, 4155 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 5-16-14;  
Previous Sale: \$2,400,000, 05-23-07
- 34 Van Tassel Lane, \$1,199,000, 4 Bdrms, 3204 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 5-19-14;  
Previous Sale: \$360,000, 08-15-91
- 1 Wanda Lane, \$699,000, 3 Bdrms, 1951 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 5-16-14



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## *Digging Deep-Gardening with Cynthia Brian* **Bouquets for the Big Day!**

... continued from page D10

### **PRELIMINARY PREPARATIONS**

1. Have a frank discussion with the couple to determine their theme, color scheme, style, and flowers they are seeking.
2. Choose flowers that have staying power. Popular choices include sunflowers, hydrangeas, roses, lilies, orchids, succulents, dahlias, clematis, iris, zinnia, callas, peonies, herbs, delphiniums, iris, tulips, anthurium, snapdragons, freesia, foxglove, hollyhock, gladiola, and seasonal favorites.
3. Write down the names of each person who will need a bouquet, boutonniere, or corsage. If there are too many people and you are already feeling stressed, this is the time to decide exactly what you are willing to do. If you want to make just your daughter's bouquet and purchase the rest, that's totally fine and liberating.
4. Buy a swatch of fabric from the store that matches the bridesmaids' dresses. Put your swatch in a zip lock bag to carry in your purse ... everywhere! You'll add the ribbons and other swatches as you go along.
5. Ask if they have any special flowers or greens they specifically want incorporated.
6. Determine whether you will grow the flowers and greens, buy them from a flower source, or engage a combination of the two.
7. Re-read my article, *The Wild Bunch*, as it is filled with tips on how to keep flowers and greens fresh. You can find it online at <https://www.lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue0718/Digging-Deep-with-Cynthia-Brian-The-Wild-Bunch.html>.
8. Go to a crafts store or floral supply to buy green floral tape, wire, rolls of clear wrap, and ribbons that will coordinate with both the bride's gown and the bridesmaid dresses.
9. Organize your tool bag. Include scissors, pruning shears, water buckets, masking tape, zip lock bags, rubber bands, hot glue gun, mister, floral tape, wire, clear wrap, ribbons, and cotton balls. Make sure to have a broom for clean-up.
10. Experiment with designing several different bouquets and boutonnieres at least a month in advance of the wedding. Take photos of your creations to share with your daughter, son, and anyone involved in the project design. Ask for feedback.
11. Log how long it took you to make each item. It will take at least that amount of time, if not more, before the big day.



*A lush DIY bridal bouquet of dual colored calla lilies flanked by peonies reflecting the color scheme of the wedding.*



*A dramatic table arrangement of white hydrangeas, blue delphiniums, and apricot tulips.*



*Holiday bouquet with traditional red and white roses, gerbera, lilies, snapdragons, and gladiolus.*



*Succulents, tulips, and orchids are low centerpieces for this event.*

## PREP TIME

1. Three days before the event: Go into your garden or floral shop to gather the greens. Depending on the season, you'll need bear grass, boxwood, ferns, fountain grass, flax, evergreens, vines, or whatever suits the style and season. Cut the stems on an angle and soak overnight in cold water in deep buckets.
2. Two days before the event: Whether you are buying or growing the flowers, always choose fresh, tight buds. They will open naturally by the day of the wedding when prepared properly. Cut stems to soak up the water, separate flowers into species, plunge in cold water in a separate bucket from the greens. Cut stamens from lilies to prevent stains.
3. One day before the event: Create your bouquet beginning with the greens and add individual flower stems as you twist the arrangement in one hand until it looks as lush and full as you wish. Don't be afraid to add, subtract, nip, and tuck.
4. If you are adding an ornament, embellishment, beads, or other adornment, do it now. You may need to wire the decoration to the bouquet.
5. Holding your bouquet in one hand, wrap a piece of masking tape around the stems to hold the bouquet in place. Cut your coordinating ribbon and cover the tape and stems, leaving about 2 inches of stems uncovered.
6. Trim a small amount of the stems once again and wrap the entire bouquet with clear wrap, like the coverings of store-bought flowers. Tape the bottom to hold in place and write the name of the bridal party member on the package.
7. Plunge in cold water with ice. An ice bucket works well to keep each bouquet fresh. If you are keeping all the bouquets together, an ice chest is a great asset. Mist the flowers lightly. If you are putting a bouquet in the refrigerator, you must remove any fruit or vegetables. Ethylene gas rots a bouquet quickly.
8. If you hold a Flower Power Party whereby each person constructs her own bouquet, make sure to label each arrangement with the individual's name for easy identification on the wedding day.
9. For boutonnières or corsages, wrap your chosen bud and leaf with the green floral tape. Wrap the ribbon around the floral tape to cover.
10. Finish the ends of the ribbon on the backside with a dab of hot glue. Mist the buds.
11. Place each boutonniere in an individual zip lock bag with a moist cotton ball not touching the flower. Add the name of the person and a couple of pins. Place in the refrigerator. I usually put all the bags in a large plastic container, then, put the container in the refrigerator.

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## Digging Deep-Gardening with Cynthia Brian Bouquets for the Big Day!



The bride and bridesmaids with the individualized bouquets they created at the Flower Power party. Flowers included stargazer lilies, liliun speciosum, purple sage, lavender, gardenias, roses, alstroemeria, narcissus, freesia, grape leaves, razor grass, flax, and a grape bunch ornament.

... continued from page D13

### WEDDING DAY

1. An hour before the ceremony, remove the bouquets from the ice buckets, cut off the bottom stems evenly on each of the bouquets. Add the final ribbons, bows, and bangles. Bouquets no longer need to be in water or ice.
2. Pin the corsages and boutonnières on the left side of each recipient, right over the heart. (For my daughter's wedding, all the women in the bridal families, including grandmothers, mother of the groom, and myself carried small, simple bouquets instead of wearing a corsage. We all liked this approach better than the traditional cumbersome corsage.)
3. Distribute your bouquets to the bride and bridesmaids with big hugs.
4. Extra Tip: I always make at least three or four extra corsages and boutonnières and two extra bouquets as accidents do happen. In addition, I create a bouquet for the bride to throw so that she can preserve the original, if she chooses. You can also make wreaths, braids, headpieces, and other creations with left over flowers to add to the décor.

Voila! Take a bow! You've done it yourself.

All of this takes time, patience, confidence, energy, creativity, and ultra organization. Before you embark on this DIY project, make sure you understand the obligations of this enterprise. You don't want to be frazzled for the wedding day itself. Now that you know the work, time, and effort that generating glorious and original floral creations entails, you won't suffer sticker shock at the price tag of purchased bodacious bouquets. If after a practice run, you realize that fabricating floral masterpieces isn't your forte, a fabulous florist is just a phone call away.

For assistance in learning this craft, I do offer personal consultations as well as classes and workshops on the Art of Flower Power. Email me at [Cynthia@God-dessGardener.com](mailto:Cynthia@God-dessGardener.com).

Wishing you the most beautiful wedding ever! Enjoy every second of this momentous once-in-a-lifetime event.

Happy gardening and happy growing.



A pale pink and white peony with a sprig of fern makes a beautiful corsage.



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#### CALL AN ARBORIST

The most common reason a tree owner calls an arborist is concern that something is wrong with a tree. It may be that some of the leaves are discolored, a branch has died, or perhaps the entire tree has been dropping leaves. Sometimes the cause of the concern is a minor problem that is easily explained and corrected. Other times the problem is more complex-with several underlining causes and a remedy that requires treatments extending over several years. Unfortunately, there are instances in which the problem has gone undetected for so long that the tree cannot be helped, and the only option is removal. If an arborist had been called earlier, perhaps the tree could have been saved.

So don't wait until it's too late, have a complete inspection by a Certified Arborist at Advance Tree Service and Landscaping.

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## Cynthia Brian's Harvest List for June:

- Artichokes
- Cherries
- Loquats
- Mulberries
- Plums



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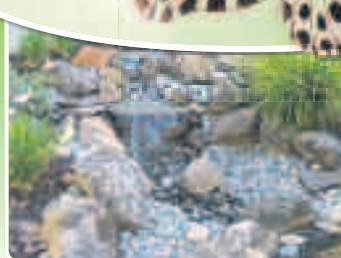
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**4 Carisbrook Drive** Great views and great location, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, open floor plan with separate Family Room or Guest Room.

**\$899,000**

## ORINDA



New Listing

**45 Don Gabriel Way** Classic Ranch style home, single level, park like backyard with creekside setting. 4bd/2ba with 2342 sq. ft. on .52 acre lot. Walking distance to 12 years top Orinda schools.

**\$1,035,000**

## ORINDA



New Listing

**155 Amber Valley** Orinda Downs 3bd/2.5ba, 2506 sf custom traditional on 1.55 ac cul-de-sac lot; formal LR & DR; updated eat-in-kitchen opens to FR; large paver patio w/outdr kit., pool & fire pit; downstairs bonus rm.

**\$1,395,000**

## ORINDA



New Listing

**393 Miner Road** Warm & elegant New England traditional on oak studded acre. Large living & dining rms w/French drs to enchanting garden, updated kitchen w/keeping rm, sunroom. 3bd/2.5ba, sep. office.

**\$1,395,000**

## ORINDA



New Listing

**36 Linda Vista** Country Club ngrhbrd beauty & convenience combine in this 5bd/5.5ba home of over 3098sf incl. "Nanny" unit & sep. 1bd/1ba cottage. Sunset views + incredible design style make this property a rare find.

**\$1,465,000**

## ORINDA



**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/fam rm, deluxe master suite. Beautifully landscaped.

**\$1,575,000**

## ORINDA



New Listing

**11 Daryl Drive** This is the one you have been waiting for! 5 bedrooms, 3 baths, 3187 sq. ft. on one of the most coveted streets in the Glorietta Neighborhood. Flat yard with a pool. Don't miss!

**\$1,650,000**

## ORINDA



New Listing

**28 Calvin Court** Located at end of cul-de-sac in private location with fantastic views, this 4bd/3.5ba updated home boasts 3146 sq. ft. & lovely indoor-outdoor living. Guest House, garden, pool with mini kitchen.

**\$2,395,000**

## ORINDA



**36 Charles Hill Circle** Stylish upscale 5bd/5ba, 4168 sf gated contemp. on 1.46 ac, updated & gorgeous! Large open kit/fam rm + outdr kit.; two masters; two study rms; heated pool; lighted tennis crt; 1000 bottle wine cellar.

**\$2,395,000**

## MORAGA



**27 Via Barcelona** Situated at end of private cul de sac, 5bd/3.5ba, 3129sf hm w/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

**17 Tamarisk** Large single family home in special MCC w/park-like setting-level lawn area, fenced yard, decks w/hill & partial Mt. Diablo views. Turnkey upgraded 4 bedrms, Italian tile flrs, granite/stainless kitchen.

**\$1,290,000**

## MORAGA



New Listing

**248 Draeger Drive** Fully remodeled 4bd/3ba w/priv. bckyd resort setting. Mstr bath retreat w/heated flrs & towel bar. Light & bright home w/ filtered hill views. Bckyd pool, gas frplc, kit./bar & lvl lawn. Two masters.

**\$1,395,000**

## MORAGA



New Listing

**112 La Quinta** Top-of-the-Line updates throughout, featured on Moraga Country Club Kitchen Tour, chef's kitchen with 14 ft island, three fireplaces, golf course views. Super Special!

**\$1,450,000**

## LAFAYETTE



New Listing

**1024 Carol Lane** This hidden treasure has been extensively renovated & redesigned in 2006. 3bd/2ba Craftsman offers distinctive quality w/very open flr pln. Picturesque gardens w/native & fragrant plants + mature oak.

**\$835,000**

## LAFAYETTE



New Listing

**3431 St. Mary's Road** Set WAY up off road at top of Hansen Drive. Trail neighborhood beautifully remodeled 5bd/3ba w/chef's kitchen, great room & separate family room, sparkling pool & flat backyard w/lawn.

**\$1,795,000**

## PLEASANT HILL



New Listing

**530 Odin Drive** White picket fence charmer w/in walking distance of schls, trails, restaurants. Bonus rm great for ofc/ 4th bdrm. Fabulous fenced yd, updated kitchen, family rm, double panes, wood flrs, plantation shutters.

**\$649,000**



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