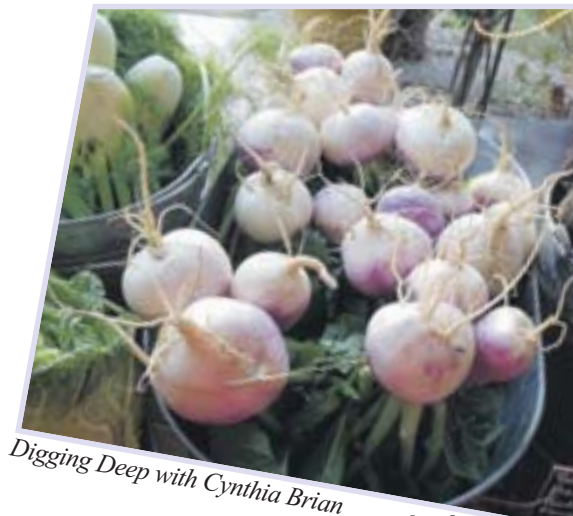


# Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 08 Issue 14 Wednesday, September 10, 2014



*Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian ...read on page D13*

## What to Do With All the Books?

*Creating a “home library” needs organization*

By Chris Lavin

**Y**ou’ve got to have it: That latest book, something from an interview on NPR, or Fox News, or the New York Times best-seller title that seems to resonate. You order it, or better, you end up buying it from an independent book-seller. Then what? If you’re like most of us you get the book, think “I can’t wait to look at this!” and it ends up in one of three places: the bedside table, next to the toilet, or – in those few homes with open space on bookshelves – on a shelf.

Book buying is still a passion for those who haven’t taken kindly to a Kindle or a Nook, but it also poses problems. What to do with a physical book collection is a challenge in many homes – impossible shelves full of books, with more coming in all the time.

Think dust.

“Some people just prefer paper,” said Randy Young in a simple way. He doesn’t seem to be concerned about dust. He is a volunteer for the Moraga Friends of the Library,

and works in the store there selling other people’s cast-off books, and shrugged off the question of keeping books clean in every nook and cranny. “Books are great!”

Right. Home libraries are full of books that have been read, are intended to be read, or are just

there because they are great books that might be visited again. Just looking at them can be rewarding. Managing what comes in and goes out seems to be the key to keeping the house a healthy and happy environment.

... continued on page D4



*Molly Young’s home library is organized by subject and by how often a book might be revisited.*

*Photo Chris Lavin*

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## Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

City	Last reported:	LOWEST AMOUNT:	HIGHEST AMOUNT:
LAFAYETTE	8	\$825,000	\$2,637,000
MORAGA	-	-	-
ORINDA	-	-	-

Home sales are compiled by CalREsource, 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

61 Carolyn Court, \$1,352,000, 5 Bdrms, 2717 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 8-15-14;  
Previous Sale: \$65,000, 05-06-77

3270 Hillview Lane, \$825,000, 3 Bdrms, 1176 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 8-13-14

1077 Leland Drive, \$1,625,000, 4 Bdrms, 3013 SqFt, 2013 YrBlt, 8-1-14;

Previous Sale: \$500,000, 08-08-12

3425 Shangri La Road, \$2,637,000, 5 Bdrms, 3383 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 8-12-14;

Previous Sale: \$2,130,000, 05-14-10

3361 Stage Coach Drive, \$1,955,000, 5 Bdrms, 3831 SqFt, 1989 YrBlt, 8-1-14;

Previous Sale: \$715,000, 05-27-94

3271 Theresa Lane, \$910,000, 3 Bdrms, 1704 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 7-31-14;

Previous Sale: \$96,500, 09-02-77

128 Villa Court, \$845,000, 4 Bdrms, 1813 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 8-14-14;

Previous Sale: \$519,000, 12-19-01

3288 Withers Avenue, \$925,000, 4 Bdrms, 2340 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 8-8-14

No sales were reported in Moraga and Orinda during this period.



### 180 Colgett Drive, Oakland

This stylish Mediterranean estate home is located on 3.92± acres with spectacular 5-bridge views of the San Francisco Bay. Spacious and intimate, elegant and functional with all of the modern conveniences. Timeless architecture and walls of glass complement the delightful flavor of this unique residence. The finish is an artistic blend of complexity accented by simple elegance. Lovely outdoor living areas include verandas, private terraces, Koi pond, level yard with lawn, rose garden, walking paths and vineyard potential. Truly a work of art!

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# What to Do With All the Books?

... continued from page D1



Virginia Tracy and Anna Evans at the Moraga Library sorting facility.

Photo Chris Lavin

But for those who prefer “paper,” as Young said, managing books in the home can be somewhat of a challenge. When they start to stack up, unorganized, or disorganized, it can create clutter.

But not in Molly Young’s house in Orinda. She’s not related to Randy Young from the earlier reference, not even close. But they might be similar in their approaches to home libraries.

“I try to keep it simple,” she said at her Orinda home, where her book collections are organized by room, by subject, and by people. “My husband is a non-fiction person, and I’m a fiction person.” And then the kitchen has the cookbooks.

Room by room, Young’s collection is organized by how often each book is looked at, and she usually just keeps the hardbacks. She works at Mrs. Dalloway’s bookstore in Berkeley on College Avenue, so she knows what she’s doing, and her house shows it. From the bedroom to the hallway to the den, her shelves are squared like a well-made bed.

“We try not to keep what we’re not going to look at again,” Young said. “But it’s a problem – my husband likes to keep books, too.”

You wouldn’t know it from looking at the Youngs’ collection – it’s immaculate.

“I don’t like clutter,” Young said.

To that end, most homeowners try to rid their homes of unwanted or under-used books the easy way: by donating them to their local libraries for book sales.

In Moraga, that task usually falls to Anna Evans and Virginia Tracy, who spend about 10 hours a week sorting through boxes of books donated to the library and both of whom ironically don’t have masses of books at home.

“I’m one who reads it and it’s gone,” Tracy said. Evans is more a fan of mysteries, so she doesn’t keep those around, either, because what would be the point?

“I live in a condo so I simply can’t keep books,” Tracy said. “But I love them.”

On an adventuresome visit recently to a sorting facility at the Moraga Library, Randy Young pointed out that many people dump lots of books from their “home libraries” thinking that someone else will want their cast-offs, including encyclopedias. Encyclopedia donations actually led to a sign that’s posted on the donation box now: “Please don’t.” Family bibles are another ubiquitous donation, Tracy said. Those don’t sell so well at the big book sales.

“No one needs encyclopedias anymore,” Randy Young said, and laughed. He bought an online version of an encyclopedia for his children and they used it, he said – once. With the Internet, all things have changed, reference-wise. When he was told that a Norwegian-to-English dictionary was cast off recently, and donated to the library system, his answer was a surprise. “Oh!” he said. “We’d probably put that in the Foreign Language section at the next book sale.” Why?

People like to travel with paper, he said.

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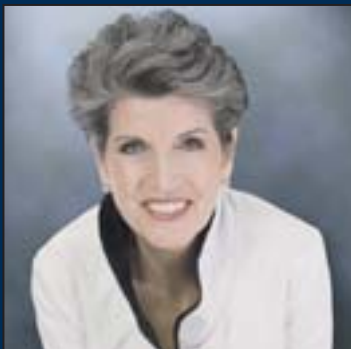
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# Studious Feng Shui for Fall

*Accessing self-knowledge and self-cultivation in a study or home office*

By Michele Duffy



*The desk in this Moraga home shows the proper “commanding position.”*

For many of us, the beginning of school and the return of homework assignments reminds us of the importance of feng shui for the student study area or home office. Proper furniture placement, color choice and traffic flow are all factors conducive to fostering the creative, ponderous, and daily pursuit of knowledge, which should be fun, exciting and inspiring.

The Self-Knowledge and Self-Cultivation area of the Feng Shui Bagua map (see diagram, page D12) that correlates with skills, knowledge and studying is located from the front door in the near left area of a home – a very auspicious placement. But don't despair if your office is located in another area. Certain design principles can be used to make a room located elsewhere in the home reflective of good feng shui.



*Bamboo is placed on a desk to invite luck into studies and work at this Orinda home.*

*Photos Michele Duffy*

No matter where an office or study area is located, remember to create a quiet, soothing sanctuary away from heavy traffic flow and daily household commotion. If space is an issue, choose an area off to one corner in as secluded a spot as possible, in the quietest part of the space.

Placing a desk in the “commanding” position – diagonally facing the door, so you can see who enters the room, with your back facing a solid wall – makes a huge difference energetically for a more positive study or work outcome. This placement will help you feel more in control and confident of your abilities while enhancing comprehension and retention, and you will feel more inspired, organized, focused and happy. ... continued on page D12



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# Studios Feng Shui for Fall

... continued from page D10



*Whimsical overhead lighting is used to create the proper ambiance in this Lafayette home.*

*Photo Michele Duffy*

For some, this placement may not feel right, but from a feng shui perspective, if your back is to the door, you are not in control. Try placing your home office desk or your student's desk in the "commanding" position for one week and see how it feels. Does it make a difference to you or your student's ability to concentrate? You may be surprised that

with the desk located in the coziest interior part of the room, you feel more in command and more comfortable, which is conducive to studying or working longer with greater energy. Give it a whirl!

Use soothing feng shui colors like light green, blue green, latte or light earthy browns for study areas and bedrooms. And place green bamboo in a red accented colored pot to attract growth, luck and abundance to your work. Avoid harsh, overly active – or yang – wall colors such as red, orange or bright yellow that might make it difficult to settle into a significant study or work session. White is also fine, but be sure to fill the walls with art that motivates and reflects the function of the room, or reminds you of the point behind it all. This can include personal photos or things of interest: If your teen loves sailing, then frame photos of athletes competing in the World Cup. Or include a framed photo of some of the great thinkers of our time, like Einstein, Gandhi or Martin Luther King, Jr. Mountains are also symbolic of knowledge, so framing a favorite mountain range will also promote the positive intention of learning and gaining wisdom. The imagery we look at continuously has a profound influence on our minds.

Lighting should be abundant so that what we are working on or studying is illuminated properly and easy to read. Adjust the lighting so it matches the function of the room. Add a mixture of 100-watt table or floor lamps or a brightly lit whimsical overhead light.

If the study space is in a student's bedroom, it should be kept tidy so that clutter is not a distraction to staying on task. And unless a screen is used for homework it is wise to limit or ban the simultaneous use of any cell phones, iPads, or TVs during studying time.

By creating a fun, whimsical, warm and inviting place

for yourself to work and your student to study, everyone should be off to a year of exciting and meaningful growth.

*Michele Duffy, BTB M.F.S. is an Orinda resident who, since 1999, enjoys creating "Space as Medicine" Feng Shui one space at a time, as well as hiking in nature, cooking, spending time with her family; Canyon Ranch*

*Feng Shui Master, International Feng Shui Guild (IFSG) Red Ribbon Professional. For more info, visit [www.mandalafengshui.com](http://www.mandalafengshui.com), email [spaceharmony@gmail.com](mailto:spaceharmony@gmail.com), or call (520) 647-4887.*



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## Digging Deep-Gardening with Cynthia Brian

# Harvest Homecoming

*“Tickle it with a hoe and it will laugh into a harvest.” – English Saying*



*Banana peppers are ready to harvest.*

*Photos Cynthia Brian*



*Thump a pumpkin and scrape your fingernail over the shell. If it doesn't pierce, cut the stem to harvest.*



*Dinosaur kale blooms and sets edible seeds. Eat the blooms and the leaves.*

Growing up on our Napa farm, I fondly remember the harvest festivals of September and October. Organized by the local volunteer fire department, farm bureau, or 4-H Club, once all the crops had been harvested, the hoes were put down. The men ignited the flames on the huge homemade grills laden with farm-raised chicken, lamb, pork, and beef while the ladies prepared the potluck side dishes from bushels of fresh fruit and vegetables. Hay bale mazes, bobbing for apples, sack races, and piñata punching would be activities that entertained the kids. Everyone anticipated the rhythms of the fiddles, accordions, drums, horns, and guitars. Music signaled our time for foot stomping. It was time for the barn dance, heel kicking, and foot stomping.

As earnest gardeners who have not grown up in rural America, how do we know when the time is ripe to harvest our produce? Nature usually has a way of informing us about the optimum time to pluck your fa-

vorite vegetable or fruit at its peak. Berries are plump, juicy, and deep in color. Apples fall into your hand the second they are touched. Our noses lead us to the sweet smell of a ripe pear, our eyes shine on that perfect deep red tomato, and our ears hear the hollow thump of a crunchy melon. We use all of our senses to identify the best time to harvest including our common sense. If possible, pick your produce early in the morning, just as the sun is rising. The air is cooler and the crops are crisp, allowing them to last longer. If you wait to pick until the heat of the day, lettuces, radishes, peas, chards, and leafy greens will be limp and wilted. The second best time to harvest your non-droopy crops like zucchini, grapes, tomatoes, and root vegetables is early evening, preferably after the sun has set. The early sunbathing actually adds to their sugariness.

Here are time-tested suggestions to help you pick, pull, and pluck a sampling of your garden favorites at the peak of perfection. ... continued on page D14



*A beautiful bowl of sun-ripened tomatoes in several colors tossed with cilantro makes a delicious autumn salad.*



# Harvest Homecoming

... continued from page D13

## Harvest Hints

**Apples:** When you touch a ripe apple, regardless of variety, it should need only a slight pull to fall off the branch.

**Beans:** Pick before the pods begin to swell and when the strings are still slender. Pick often to encourage more bean development.

**Beets:** Pull when beets are 1 ½ inch to 2 inches in diameter. Cut off the tops to use in cooking or chop into salads.

**Carrots:** Whether you are growing orange, purple, yellow, or white carrots, loosen the soil when they are ½-1 inch thick, then pull.

**Cucumbers:** Harvest cucumbers when they are shiny and small. The bigger they get, the more bitter and seedy they become. Lemon cucumbers will be slightly yellow while English and Armenian cucumbers will be green. Frequent picking encourages more growth.

**Eggplants:** Young eggplants are the tastiest and sweetest. Their flesh is glossy purple. Do not pull eggplants. Cut with a sharp knife.

**Fennel:** Cut bulbing fennel at the soil line. Use the bulb as well as the ferny leaves in recipes.

**Grapes:** If you are growing grapes, you know when they are ready to be harvested by doing a taste test. Don't pull the bunch from the vine. Use a sharp knife to cut individual bunches.



*A basket of fresh picked tomatoes.*



*Eggplant, zucchini, beans, lettuces, and tomatoes are ready for the table.*

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ISA arborists Darren and Lew Edwards*

## TREE WORK IS NOT FOR AMATEURS

Tree work is dangerous and is among the highest risk professions in the U.S. with a fatality rate ranked near commercial fisheries and logging. We as ISA arborists do not manage danger but we do and can manage risk. A tree crew under the supervision of a certified ISA arborist minimizing risk every day. So don't try to save a buck and put yourself in harm's way. Have the professionals at Advance Tree Service do the job right and safely.

So don't wait until it's too late, call your local ISA arborist at Advance Tree Service and Landscaping for all your tree needs.

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**Kale:** As long as you leave six to eight leaves of the kale on the stem, you can start picking kale as soon as it is established. Kale grows quickly and will continue to send out more leaves.

**Peppers:** For the ultimate in flavor and sweetness, allow peppers to grow to their deepest colors of green, red, yellow, orange, and purple. Twist and pick whatever size you wish.

**Pumpkins:** Try to pierce the skin of a pumpkin with your fingernail. If it is too hard, the pumpkin is ripe. Cut the stem at least 3 inches long and let the pumpkin cure for a week or more in the sun. Pumpkins will last a very long time when stored at 48-50 degrees in a dry environment.

**Tomatoes:** For the richest flavor, be patient and wait for your tomato to reach its full sun-ripened color for the specific variety. If rain threatens, pick your green tomatoes and leave on the counter. Most will ripen at room temperature. Whatever you do, never refrigerate tomatoes after picking or you'll lose nutrients and taste.



The end of crop harvesting heralds the beginning of autumn everywhere as a time for rejoicing. Although in cities, towns, and suburbia attending a barn dance may not be in the cards, there are a number of festivals to celebrate the times. Check Lamorinda Weekly's "Not to be Missed" section for fun events for the entire family during the autumn harvest season.

For a day of old fashioned entertainment and activities, be sure to attend the 2014 Pear and Wine Festival at Moraga Commons from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 27 for music, food, wine, crafts, kids zone, and the Toast to Moraga 40th Anniversary Celebration.

It's a harvest homecoming! Cue the fiddles!

Happy Gardening and Happy Growing!



Cynthia Brian

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## ORINDA



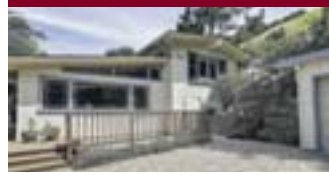
**19 Mira Loma Road A** delightful 3bd/2ba of apx. 1715sf built in 1940's represents traditional properties built on the knolls overlooking the Club. Naturally light & bright. Walk to town, Lake Cascade or the Club. **\$875,000**

## ORINDA



**56 La Vuelta** Country Club Contemporary 2,472sf hm offers bright, open living spaces & gorgeous views. Well appointed 4 bdrms & 3 baths. Kitchen/fam rm layout inviting & ideal for entertaining. **\$1,028,500**

## ORINDA



**62 Van Tassel** Charm abounds in this 4bd/3.5ba, 3422sf traditional on .68ac 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



**28 Moraga Via** Lovely views & peaceful setting. Single level Glorietta home w/lux. upgrades. Gourmet kit. w/cherry cabs, granite, stainless. Master Suite w/granite, jetted tub. Solar htd pool, sprts crt, patio, deck. **\$1,325,000**

## ORINDA



**7 Orchard Road** Beautifully renovated 3 bdrm trad. ranch w/fully permitted 570sf guest house. Gorgeous priv. .8ac parklike setting w/lvl lawn pool, spa. Huge savings w/fully owned solar system. Walk to town, BART. **\$1,595,000**

## ORINDA



**28 Calvin Court** Come see this incredible Orinda estate located in the Glorietta Neighborhood. Updated 3136sf hm with 4bd/3.5ba & separate 763sf au pair unit. Sparkling pool, outdr kitchen, park-like lawn. **\$2,150,000**

## ORINDA



**81 Mossbridge Lane** Beautifully updated apx. 4700sf, 6bd/5.5ba Traditional Orinda Downs gem! Form meets function in this exquisite home perched on a private lane. The home you have been waiting for! **\$2,650,000**

## ORINDA



**92 Sandhill Road** Estate setting of unmatched appeal. Large spaces plus modern design allure for appealing family living or grand scale entertaining. Fabulous views of valley & Briones reservoir/sunsets. **\$4,475,000**

## MORAGA



**117 Miramonte Drive** Miramonte Gardens 3 bedroom and 2 bath home. Great storage. Near golf course. Backs to private creek location. **\$565,000**

## MORAGA



**267 Paseo Bernal** Spacious & sophisticated 3bd/2.5ba end-unit near shopping & restaurants. Bright & airy with vaulted ceilings & windows on three sides. Lovely private patio. **\$739,000**

## MORAGA



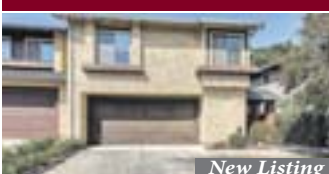
**93 David Drive** Spacious 4bd/2.5ba, oversized Family Room, lots of windows & large level yard with pool. **\$1,250,000**

## LAFAYETTE



**1023 Ameno Court** First time on market - light, bright, airy w/dual panes, vaulted ceiling entry. Small, friendly cul de sac, close-in, schools, good commute. **\$1,028,000**

## MARTINEZ



**2150 Blackrock Place** Beautiful duet 3bd/2.5ba home on quiet ct location in desirable Diablo View. Private lot! Frpl, new roof, fresh paint, master suite. Very low HOA. Easy freeway access & close to CC Trail. **\$419,000**

## PLEASANT HILL



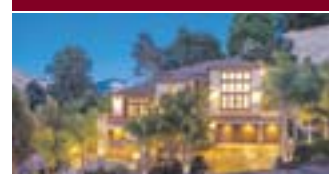
**536 Odin Drive** Wonderful 4bd/2ba home with fenced-in level park-like yard. Fabulous neighborhood, walk to schools, trails, restaurants. **\$619,000**

## SAN RAMON



**2776 Ashwell Lane** Beautiful home in desirable Windemere! New hardwood flrs, granite counters, separate living & family rooms. Large master! Walk to comm pool & park. Top rated schools! **\$625,000**

## WALNUT CREEK



**20 Rodrigues Lane** Gorgeous custom contemporary 3800sf home built in 2005, on private lane on Lafayette border with over 1400sf of decking & covered patio. Views of open space. Fully automated communications & monitoring system. **\$1,995,000**



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