

LAMORINDA WEEKLY

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Saturday, Sept. 20th 10-7 PM

Sunday, Sept. 21st 10-6 PM

Downtown Lafayette

Live Music on Four Stages/ Kid Zone

www.lafayettefestival.com

Meet the Filmmaker & Cast

Julie Newmar

Oliver Cowley

Ashley Parker Angel

Chris McNally

Christine Lakin

Jeffery A. Johns

Rena Elyse Strober

Jack Turner

Kathy Garver

Jan Wahl

Sondra Currie

Justin Henry

Debbie Pollack

Gedde Watanabe

Kent S. Leung

Blake Peyrot

Derek Zemrak and Leonard Pirkle are ready to roll out the red carpet for stars and guests at the California Independent Film Festival.

Photo Andy Schreck

Film Festival Opens in Lamorinda This Weekend

By Sophie Braccini

What better way to kick off a wonderful weekend of fantastic films than to rub elbows with the films' stars, directors and producers? This year's California Independent Film Festival, Sept. 11-14 at the Rheem and Orinda theaters, and the Castro Theatre in San Francisco, will offer film enthusiasts more chances to mingle than ever before. The festival's main features have been purposefully steered toward feel-good, optimistic

films, while several powerful documentaries will intrigue, inform, uplift, or simply break your heart – you can choose your emotion and run with it. And don't forget the shorts; as usual there will be unforgettable surprises.

"We chose movies that talk about relationships in a positive way," says CAIFF co-founder Derek Zemrak. "We heard what people said last year, and added more light-hearted films."

"An Evergreen Christmas" will be featured on opening night at the Rheem Theatre, Thursday Sept. 11. Some of the cast will be there, including Oscar nominee Robert Loggia ("Jagged Edge," "Big," "An Officer and a Gentleman"), Charleene Closshey ("A Thousand Cuts"), and Jake Sandvig ("Easy A," "Sky High," "Weeds").

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LAMORINDA WEEKLY

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The 10th Annual

Orinda Classic Car Show Weekend

Saturday, September 13th, 10am - 3pm

Enter Your Car Today at

www.OrindaCarShow.com

New Art Form Makes Debut Spin at Art and Wine Festival

By Cathy Tyson



Jon Barry

Photo provided

This year's Art and Wine Festival brings the public debut of a new art form – live trAction painting that feeds off the energy of the crowd and music as it's performed. Several artists have stepped up to volunteer their time during the festival to introduce the magic, just for the fun of it. Look for the artists near the Fiesta Stage as they bring their own creative signatures to this unique method that utilizes wheeled conveyances that will "paint" to the music played on stage, boldly interpreting the vibe in real time. The art will be auctioned off upon completion when there's a break in the music; 100 percent of the proceeds will go to Meals on Wheels.

Artist Jon Barry came up with the

concept of trAction painting as a fresh look at Action painting, a genre that emphasizes the physical act of painting as an essential aspect of the finished work. TrAction is his interpretation using a variety of wheeled contraptions, like a mountain bike, roller blades or a scooter, produced on large canvases.

Initially he practiced on an unused street, and he has customized his sidewalk. He even had summer camp kids participate in producing the art. Barry describes it as a combination of performance and process art, abstract expressionism, and much more of a kinetic experience – pedaling and skidding, making patterns – than producing art with a brush.

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please...

...thanks

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Lafayette Civic News

Public Meetings

City Council

Monday, Sept. 22, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Planning Commission

Monday, Sept. 15, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Design Review

Monday, Sept. 15, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Arts & Science Discovery Center,
3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

School Board Meetings

Acalanes Union High School District
Wednesday, Sept. 17, 7:30 p.m.
AUHSD Board Room
1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette
www.acalanes.k12.ca.us

Lafayette School District

Wednesday, Sept. 10, 7 p.m.
Regular Board Meeting
Stanley Library
3477 School St., Lafayette
www.lafsd.k12.ca.us

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



Lafayette Police Department Incident Summary Report, Aug. 17-30

Alarms 65
911 Calls 16

Animal Cruelty

Lafayette Cir/Hough Av
3500 block Mt Diablo Bl

Burglary, Auto

Stanley Middle (2)
3200 block Stanley Bl
800 block Topper Ln
Springhill Rd/Pleasant Hill Rd
1000 block Laurel Dr
3500 block Mt Diablo Bl

Forgery

1000 block Carol Ln (2)

DUI

Pleasant Hill Rd/Hwy 24
Deer Hill Rd/Pleasant Hill Rd

Hit & Run

1st St/Mt Diablo Bl
Lafayette Park Hotel (3)
900 block Moraga Rd
Reliez Station Rd/Pleasant Hill Rd
2nd St/Golden Gate Wy

Grand Theft

3400 block Black Hawk Rd
1900 block Marion Ct

ID Theft

30 block Circle Creek Ct
3300 block Springhill Rd

Petty Theft

700 block St Mary's Rd
3500 block Mt Diablo Bl
900 block Almanor Ct
800 block Rosedale Av
3600 block Baker Ln

Promiscuous Shooting

3200 block Elvia St
3800 block Happy Valley Rd
900 block Janet Ln
Moraga Rd
3800 block Mt Diablo Bl

Prowler

1000 block Willow Dr

Public Nuisance

Pleasant Hill Rd/Olympic Bl
Lafayette Library
3500 block Mt Diablo Bl
McGraw Ln/Reliez Valley Rd
3700 block Sundale Rd
Upper Happy Valley Rd/
S Peardale Dr
1400 block Sunset Lp
N Thompson Rd/Deer Hill Rd
1000 block Windsor Dr

Reckless Driving

Pleasant Hill Rd/Deer Hill Rd
Hwy 24/1st St
Mt Diablo Bl/Dolores Dr

Reliez Station Rd/Glenside Dr (2)
Acalanes HS

St Mary's Rd/Glenside Dr (2)
Pleasant Hill Rd/Green
Valley Dr (2)
Pleasant Hill Rd/Taylor Bl

Shoplifting

3500 block Golden Gate Wy
3300 block Mt Diablo Bl
Safeway

Suspicious

Circumstances 16
Vehicle 38
Subject 29

Traffic Stops

208

Vandalism

Stanley Middle
3400 block School St

Vehicle Theft

1600 block Springbrook Rd
Safeway
900 block Moraga Rd
10 block Gable Ln

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City Council Accepts ALS Ice Bucket Challenge

In what turned out to be the shortest meeting ever, all five members of the Lafayette City Council responded to Matt Chaney's request for them to take the ubiquitous ice bucket challenge. "Thanks for step-

ping up," said Chaney, who has been very active in the community and living with ALS, or amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, since 2001.

Holding to protocol, mayor Don Tatzin called the meeting to order – with a motion to adopt the agenda, which was seconded and enthusiastically approved by all. The five-some, along with Chaney, then took their buckets (decorated with Love Lafayette bumper stickers) and doused themselves.

City clerk Joanne Robbins said they took the challenge seriously – she was in attendance to keep the checks they wrote to the ALS Association dry. The challenge continues, with the Lafayette City Council daring both Moraga and Orinda councils to also step up. *C. Tyson*



From left: Matt Chaney, Mike Anderson, Brandt Andersson, Don Tatzin, Traci Reilly, and Mark Mitchell

Photo Andy Scheck

KB Condos Almost Ready to Break Ground

By Cathy Tyson



Image provided

After four meetings and a site visit finalizing design details, KB Home is squared away to receive the final approval on design development for the project it has been working on since 2010. This structure will house 69 condominium units on a 1.5 acre parcel at the terminus of Dewing Avenue – now the parking area just behind Panda Express.

"This is the last approval from the City," said planning and building services manager Niroop Srivatsa. "The next steps are to fulfill all the conditions of approval and submit plans for a building permit." A resolution is slated to be finalized for the design development plans, with conditions, at the Sept. 22 meeting of the Design Review Commission.

Hurdles for this particular milestone focused on architectural and landscape plans which include vehicle and pedestrian access, public art, windows, building materials, balcony design and improving the connection with the public realm. Part of the site fronts Happy Valley Creek, so the city was concerned about clearly identifying what will be a public space with

amenities, along with an easily identifiable walkway that links city sidewalks to the nearby BART station. The developer will use the same reddish decorative pavers found on downtown sidewalks to send that message.

The process to get to this point has seen some delays, and at the onset, a fair amount of public comment. KB Home filed an application for a specific plan amendment in 2010. The resulting zoning change

amended the BART block specific plan for a building over three stories and 35 feet in height; it also included a land use change from office to residential use.

Then came rejection. Public hearings were held in 2012, and in June the Design Review Commission could not make the findings to support the project. Commissioners were clear that the applicant should consider a number of its recommendations that could lead to future

approval – primarily, shrinking the building.

A few months later, the Planning Commission conducted more public hearings, finally voting to adopt the denial of the building application, again finding that the building was too tall.

Following that, the City Council, in October, 2012, received revised architectural plans showing that the top story of the building had been eliminated. ... continued on next page

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Goodbye Septic Tanks, Hello Sewer Line

By Cathy Tyson

“You can now flush with confidence,” says Lafayette City Council member Mike Anderson. He’s referring to the restroom facility at city-owned Buckeye Fields, also known as Chaney Fields, home of Lafayette Little League. The park used to have a septic tank, but it’s now hooked up to the recently extended Central Contra Costa Sanitary line.

Because there was no room for leach lines when the fields were constructed, the restrooms had septic tanks that unfortunately, due to the amount of users, had to be pumped sometimes up to twice per week – at

a cost of almost \$20,000 per year to the City of Lafayette. The tanks were fully enclosed, according to Jennifer Russell, parks, trails and recreation director, “so odors were never an issue.”

Negotiating over a period of roughly 10 years, City Manager Steven Falk worked with neighbors in the immediate area who were also on septic systems and with the Central Contra Costa Sanitary District to split the cost of extending the line further down St. Mary’s Road. Over time, public works director Ron Lefler expects a substantial savings for the city.

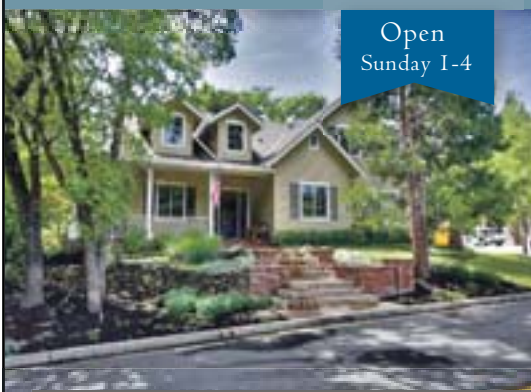
KB Condos Almost Ready to Break Ground

... continued from page A2

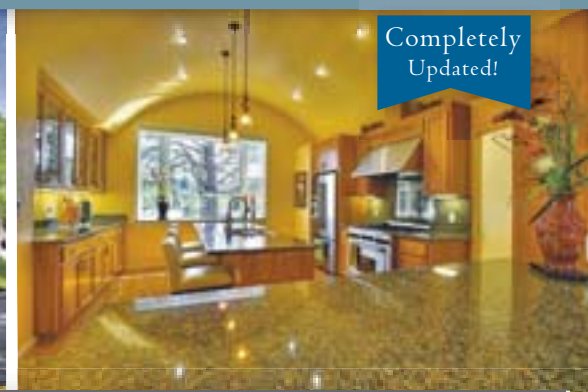
Still, concerns lingered about the aesthetics of the building, so the council referred the revised plans back to the planning and design review commissions for comment. A sticking point with many citizens during the hearings was the height of the building, which in its final iteration is 55 feet tall, after the developer agreed to take off the top story – which is shorter than the adjacent Town Center brown shingled apartments. KB describes the height as “three and four stories over podium parking.”

Ultimately the new lower height, while still substantial, was approved. “The increase in height is compensated by the provision of three public outdoor spaces, a landscaped area between the building and Happy Valley Creek, a new pedestrian corridor along the south building façade and a community park where these two spaces meet,” states the City Council resolution that was adopted on Nov. 26, 2012. KB Home did not reply to request for comment on when ground-breaking will occur.

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Moraga Civic News

Public Meetings

Town Council

Wednesday, Sept. 10, 7 p.m.
 Wednesday, Sept. 24, 7 p.m.
 Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School,
 1010 Camino Pablo

Planning Commission

Thursday, Sept. 18, 7 p.m.
 Moraga Library, 1500 St. Mary's Rd.

Design Review

Monday, Sept. 22, 7 p.m.
 Moraga Library, 1500 St. Mary's Rd.

School Board Meeting

Moraga School District
 Tuesday, Oct. 14, 7:30 p.m.
 Joaquin Moraga Intermediate
 School Auditorium
 1010 Camino Pablo, Moraga
 www.moraga.k12.ca.us
 See also AUHSD meeting page A2

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



Moraga Police Department

D.U.I. 8/30/14 A 52-year-old Orinda resident was pulled over on Moraga Way at 6 p.m., after an officer observed the driver go through a nearby parking lot, park, then drink a beer while in the driver's seat. Arresting officer noted "the subject displayed objective signs of intoxication." After flunking field sobriety tests, the driver was taken to Moraga Police Department and then on to the Main Detention Facility in Martinez.

Gas hose goes bye-bye, 8/29/14 An adult customer put gas in her car at the Arco station on Moraga Road, then drove away from the pump with the hose still attached to her car. The hose disconnect function worked, so the hose separated from the pump without gas being spilled or the pump being damaged. The customer noticed her car's newest appendage and returned to the service station to supply the owner with insurance information and her license plate number.

Deceased person, 8/29/14 Cops responded to an apartment on a report of a possible overdose. The subject was lying in the kitchen and was pronounced dead at the scene. A number of hypodermic needles, a quantity of unknown pills and suspected heroin were found. The Coroner responded and removed the subject; cause of death is unknown, pending an autopsy.

Contraband on campus, 8/28/14 Moraga police received a head's up from Saint Mary's College public safety officers who had discovered a student who was in possession of a knife and suspected marijuana while on campus. The parties were interviewed and cops took possession of the items; the case was sent to the District Attorney's office for prosecution.

Elder fraud, 8/25/14 An 84-year-old Camino Ricardo grandma received a phone call from an unknown person who she believed was her grandson. The caller said he was involved in a traffic collision in



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No Local Plastic Bag Ban

The Moraga Town Council unanimously rejected the adoption of a local ban on single-use plastic bags Aug. 27. Within two days of the council's vote, a bag ban bill passed both houses of the state legislature and now sits on the governor's desk. Governor Jerry Brown has indicated that he intends to sign into law a statewide ban on disposable plastic bags that would go into effect on July 1, 2015. *S. Braccini*

Learning from a Neighbor

By Sophie Braccini



Moraga residents visit Pleasant Hill teen center. Photo Sophie Braccini

Remember school field trips? Though curriculum-related, you'd get to go places, learn new things, and the usual school rules would be somewhat relaxed. That's exactly what happened to the 20 or so Moragans – members of the Town Council and various committees and commissions – who traveled to Pleasant Hill in August to visit their neighbor's recreation and sports facilities. Late on a warm afternoon, they pranced around and marveled at what a difference \$28 million in bond revenue can make.

At a subsequent Town Council meeting, Councilmember Dave Trotter noted that what had been done there was of a magnitude that Moraga could never rival, but that interesting lessons could be learned.

For a few months now, Moraga's Ad Hoc Facilities Subcommittee has been meeting to define a sports and recreation plan for the town. What makes it more appealing than just another plan is the prospect of high de-

veloper fees that could fall into the town's coffers within a year or two that would be primarily dedicated to recreation. So it made some sense to go see what others do when manna comes their way, either by virtue of a ballot box or other means.

"We passed Measure E, our bond measure for the park and recreation facilities, with a 75.7 percent rate of approval in 2009," explained Pleasant Hill Recreation District general manager Bob Berggren. "The measure produced \$28 million, and we ended up paying about \$33 million, with the last piece, Pleasant Hill Oaks Park, being dedicated this summer." In Pleasant Hill there is a parks and recreation district that pre-dates the city, and includes areas outside of the city. Its revenue comes from property tax and fees for services, not sales tax. Measure E funded a new senior center, teen center, community center, and the

expansion of a large sports field.

The tour started with the teen center, a modern and open 5,000 square foot facility set in a park and directly connected to the city pool, where teens can hang out after school and during the summer and relax in a safe environment, engage in organized activities, and even get homework help.

Going from good to great, the group walked to the nearby senior center. Boasting 23,000 square feet, the center opens on an ample lobby that can serve for pre-reception activities. It includes a complete kitchen, computer room, game room, meeting rooms, a large dance floor and a café. "Seniors pay to participate in most of the activities," said Berggren, "the fees cover about 56 percent of our cost." Pleasant Hill is known for its extensive senior services, including a travel program that offers a different trip every week.

Going from great to lavish, the group of already impressed Moragans climbed back in their cars to go discover the city's new community center. The impressive 21,800 square foot center is open to the whole pop-

ulation for events, classes, and weddings, among many other things. Berggren said that rental of the facility is developing nicely, including that of the great room, which features vaulted ceilings and can host 400 people. The community center also houses a preschool operated by the school district.

As the afternoon faded and the air gently cooled, the visit ended at Pleasant Oaks Park, which offers romantic views of Mt. Diablo. The last Measure E project, the new field is set where an older sports field was already in operation but needed new irrigation and grass. The all-natural turf accommodates five baseball/softball fields and numerous soccer fields.

Trotter asked why a gym had not been part of the package. Berggren explained that the project had been designed to bring something to every member of the population and the money could only be stretched so far. The Moragans left with some signs of envy, even though they realized that Moraga is very different from Pleasant Hill.

(City data 2012)	Moraga	Pleasant Hill
Population	17,000	34,000
Median age	42	40.7
Median income	\$114,256	\$72,814
Number of homes	5,722	14,000
% owner occupied	84%	64%
Median home value	\$795,502	\$468,231

The Town of Moraga's total revenue is about \$8 million, of which \$3 million come from property tax. In contrast, the budget of the Pleasant Hill Recreation District alone is in excess of \$8 million; on the revenue side about \$5 million come from property taxes and \$3 million from charges for services. (Figures are from audited 2013 city reports.)

Texas and was arrested for D.U.I. Alleged grandson requested money, and unfortunately grandma sent \$1,700 via Western Union. It turns out that her actual grandson had not been in a recent accident or arrested in Texas.

Grand theft, 8/23/14 A Del Rio Way resident came to the police department to report that an unknown suspect had removed several items from an unoccupied home. Apparently thieves took \$2,000 worth of staging furniture that was at the home while the house was for sale.

The following additional crimes were reported in Moraga between Aug. 26 and Sept. 2:

- Danger to Self** Ascot Dr
- Identity Theft** Dolores Ct
- Vandalism** Ascot Dr
- Lost Property** Country Club Dr
- False Alarm** Calle La Mesa Canyon Rd
- Domestic Disturbance** School St
- Prostitution** Moraga Rd
- Suspicious Circumstances** Center St
- Residential Burglary** Birchwood Dr
- Center St
- Miramonte Dr
- Center St
- La Quinta
- Ascot Dr



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Massage Parlor Issue Comes to Moraga

By Sophie Braccini

Moraga police arrested 52-year-old Situ Li, of San Leandro, on Aug. 28 for misdemeanor solicitation of prostitution after an investigation into possible illicit activities occurring at Wonderful Spa, a massage parlor located at 450 Center St. in the Rheem Shopping Center.

Similar activities in Lafayette a couple of years ago sparked an ordinance that requires all employees of massage establishments in that city to be licensed by the state.

"An officer from the County

Sheriff went to investigate undercover after a resident expressed concerns to us," said Sergeant Brian South, who is in charge of the investigation for the Moraga Police Department. According to South, Li was an employee of Wonderful Spa, which is located between the post office and Tuesday Morning. She was booked at the Moraga Police Department and released on a signed Promise to Appear.

South said that the investigation is ongoing and includes possible use permit violations by the

business owners.

Moraga does not have a specific regulation for massage parlors. Typically, cities that encounter this kind of problem craft and enforce rules that include a requirement for employees to be licensed; they also often add restrictions on the operating hours of such businesses. Town Manager Jill Keimach indicated that it is in the town's interest to address this issue, but that it's too early in the investigation to say in what direction the Town Council will decide to go.

Infusion of Contemporary Design for Rancho Laguna II

By Sophie Braccini

Summerhill Homes met with Moraga's Design Review Board on Aug. 25 to present the design for the 27 homes they are approved to build along Rheem Boulevard and the hills above. The three types of homes, with different color schemes and

seven different elevations, were conceived with a classical base, but Summerhill Homes' architect, the Dahlin Group, proposed multiple modernistic features creating a refreshing new style for Moraga.

Design Review Board members

had a few concerns, but mostly praised the effort to create something different but well integrated with the site.

The large single-family homes will have a lot going for them, including great views of open space.

... continued on page A13

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ORINDA \$1,349,000

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Kata Kish | 925.258.1111



ORINDA \$1,295,000

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Orinda Civic News

Public Meetings

City Council

Tuesday, Sept. 16, 7 p.m.
Auditorium, Orinda Library,
26 Orinda Way

Planning Commission

Tuesday, Sept. 23, 7 p.m.
Auditorium, Orinda Library,
26 Orinda Way

Finance Advisory

Committee

Wednesday, Sept. 24, 6:30 p.m.
Sarge Littlehale Community Room,
22 Orinda Way

School Board Meeting

Orinda Union School District

Monday, Oct. 13, 6 p.m.
OUSD Office, Vintage Building
25 Orinda Way, Suite 200
www.orindaschools.org
See also AUHSD meeting page A2

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



Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report, Aug. 17-30

Alarms	78
Assault/Deadly Weapon	
Hwy 24/Wilder	
911 Calls	18
Battery	
10 block Crescent Dr	
Auto Burglary	
Bevmo	
70 block La Cresta Rd	
50 block Bobolink Rd	
60 block Overhill Rd	
Residential Burglary	
10 block Patricia Rd	
80 block El Gavilan	
Disturbance	
Orinda Theatre (juvenile)	
DUI	
Rheem Bl/Carolyn Ct	
Hit & Run	
Safeway	
Bear Creek Rd/Camino Pablo	
Moraga Wy/Brookwood Rd	
500 block Tahos Rd	
Indecent Exposure	
Camino Pablo/Moraga Wy	
Petty Theft	
100 block Overhill Rd	
60 block Bates Bl	
Tara Rd/Overhill Rd	
Sanborn Rd/Moraga Wy	
200 block Courtney Ln	
Safeway	
10 block Camino Sobrante	
60 block Brookwood Rd	
Grand Theft	
100 block Spring Rd	
Reckless Driving	
10 block Orinda Wy	
San Pablo Dam Rd/Bear Creek	
Moraga Wy/Glorietta Bl	
Shoplifting	
20 block Orinda Way	
Bevmo	
Safeway (2)	
Suspicious	
Person	6
Circumstances	9
Vehicle	28
Traffic Stops	190
Vandalism	
70 block Loma Vista Dr	
20 block Tarabrook Dr	
Vehicle Theft	
60 block La Cresta Rd	

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Four Candidates Compete for Three School Board Seats

By Laurie Snyder

Three seats are opening on the Orinda Union School District board of trustees. Four accomplished, passionate professionals are running in November, 2014. Each has direct experience volunteering for and sending at least one child through Orinda's schools.

Carol A. Brown

A native of Concord, Carol Brown is a 22-year Orinda resident who advanced through the publishing industry from book editing to marketing before leaving to work at a non-profit agency engaged in finding homes for hard to place foster kids. A former board member for Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children, she continues to volunteer as a child advocate for CASA while leading a team of eight other volunteers who support abused and neglected children. "We have such a nice comfortable life where we are that it often doesn't occur to us that a child down the street could be in danger. These kids have had everything go against them, and have been violated in so many ways. I advocate in court for one particular child at a time, working with his or her therapist and school teachers, often getting to know the child I represent much more deeply than can a social worker who's overburdened. It's the best thing I've ever done outside of having my own kids."

Jason Kaune

The son of a naval officer, Jason Kaune experienced firsthand Amer-

ica's uneven public school landscape while being transferred with his family from one military base to another. Ultimately a product of Orinda's schools, he served as a student member of the Acalanes School Board before heading for Yale and earning graduate degrees from the Harvard University John F. Kennedy School of Government and University of California, Hastings College of the Law. He has worked for Nielsen Merksamer since 1996, and was admitted to the California State Bar in 1999. Currently a partner specializing in political law and ethics, he has advised clients regarding land use, tax and other ballot measures. While chairing the board at St. Stephen's, he helped the church create a legacy fund and retire a capital deficit. In 2014, he also volunteered with Fix Orinda Roads, the committee which helped secure passage of the Measure J roads improvement bond in June. "You have to look at the long term and project."

Julie Rossiter

The only incumbent running, Julie Rossiter was first elected to the OUSD board in 2010, and served as president in 2013. A graduate of the State University of New York at Stony Brook and the University of Southern California's School of Law, she was admitted to the California State Bar in 1991. A business litigator and employment lawyer in the 1990s with Ervin, Cohen & Jessup of Bev-

erly Hills and Stanislaw Ashbaugh, LLP in Seattle, she practiced for seven years before her son was born. Currently on the boards of the Miramonte Parents Club and Friends of the Orinda Library, the 10-year Orinda resident has also been the Acalanes Union School District parcel tax representative for Measures A (2010) and B (2014). "It has been a great privilege serving on the school board and working with so many talented and committed people in this community. I look forward to continuing to work collaboratively to accomplish the board's primary goal: providing Orinda students with the highest quality education."

Hillary Weiner

A graduate of Emory University and the University of California, Hastings College of the Law, Hillary Weiner was admitted to the California State Bar in 1999. While working as a senior associate with Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP, she practiced pharmaceutical and medical device product liability law until becoming a full-time mother. After moving from San

Francisco to Orinda with her family four years ago, she joined Temple Isaiah's early childhood task force, and helped to start a Tot Shabbat program. As her children grew, she refocused her volunteerism toward Glorietta Elementary, becoming co-president of the Parents' Club in 2013-14. Currently, she also volunteers with the Children's Health Guild to raise funds in support of the UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland and the George Mark Children's House, America's first freestanding pediatric palliative care service. "I'm someone who brings people together whether through entertaining or schools, or getting my kids together with other people. I'm a listener. I pride myself on being someone who brings community together."

Asked for one to two words each would use to best describe himself or herself, all modestly required prodding until eventually choosing the following: Brown – compassionate; Kaune – kind and fair; Rossiter – pragmatic; and Weiner – a community builder.

OUSD Board Campaign Websites

Carol A. Brown: carolbrown4schoolboard.org
Jason Kaune: jasonkaune.com
Julie Rossiter: julierossiter.org
Hillary Weiner: hillaryweiner.com

Save the Date! OUSD School Board Candidate Forum:
Oct. 16, sponsored by the Orinda Association.

OUSD Board Candidates Talk Common Core

By Laurie Snyder

The four candidates for the Orinda Union School District board shared their views recently on issues ranging from budgets to school building conditions. Here are their thoughts on one issue likely to shape the victors' tenure.

OUSD board members, teachers, parents and the community must "really understand what Common Core means, figure out how we can implement while retaining local control, and then do so in a way that our kids can have accelerated learning," said Hillary Weiner. The overall idea is good – enabling children "to explain how they're coming up with an answer instead of just rote memorization. One of the bad things, though, is that Common Core doesn't allow for differentiation," and is worrisome in terms of acceleration with students in math. She also wonders whether Common Core could end up taking away too much local control.

Weiner has also been pondering the potential impact of another projected change. "If our testing will be on a tablet format, we need to make sure our kids are educated on and comfortable with the required technology so that they'll be able to succeed when taking the test. If this is what it's going to be, we need to ensure that our teachers have the resources they need to implement the appropriate technology."

"One of the things I like about Common Core is that it's more interested in teaching children how to think than what to think," said Carol Brown. "We need students to learn how to read a newspaper article and ask questions about it." In addition to learning to drill down, she said, "We can't move forward unless we're all learning English and math, and are required to learn about our country's history and our responsibilities as citizens. She agrees that the math standards may be problematic, and said

the board will need to respond. "We're a community that sends al-

most all of our kids to college, but the best colleges require much more math

than what the Common Core calls for." ... continued on page A13

HILLARY WEINER

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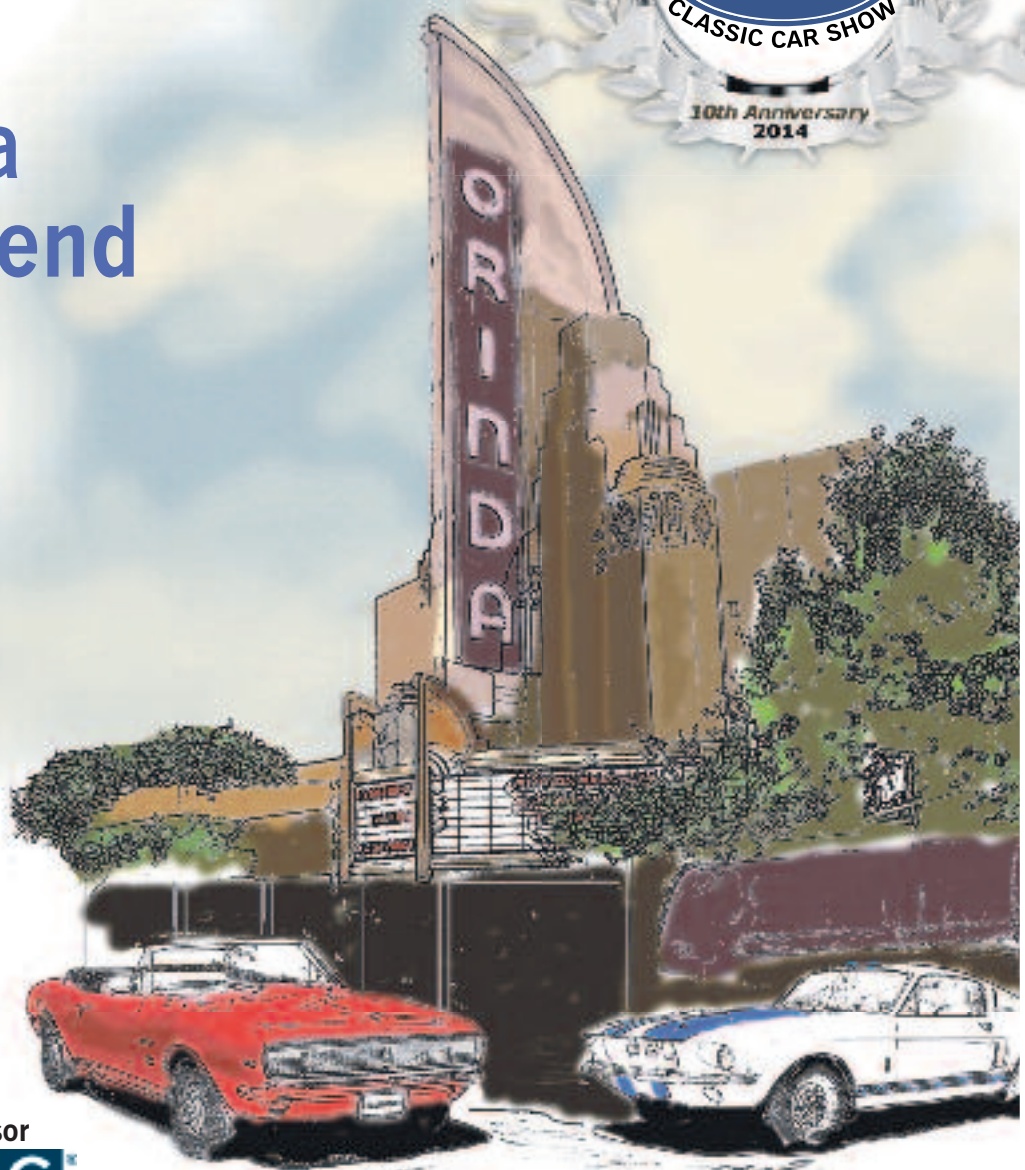


The 10th Annual Orinda Classic Car Show Weekend

**Friday Night Pre-Party,
September 12th, 6:30pm
“DANCING WITH THE CARS”**

**Saturday,
September 13th, 10am–3pm
ORINDA CLASSIC CAR SHOW**

**Sunday,
September 14th, 5:30pm and 7:45pm
“SPEED ON THE SCREEN”**



**Enter Your Car and Make Party Reservations
Today at www.OrindaCarShow.com**

These events benefit the Seniors Around Town transportation program, Educational Foundation of Orinda, and other local charities. We would like to thank our partners for helping make these events happen: Orinda Association, Orinda Rotary, Orinda Historical Society, Orinda Country Club, Orinda Chamber of Commerce, Educational Foundation of Orinda, Orinda Arts Council, and Seniors Around Town.

Enjoy vintage and modern exotic cars and motorcycles, food, music, and more! The show will be held in Orinda Village on Orinda Way and the 16th fairway of Orinda Country Club.

Join us as a spectator or to show your car or motorcycle! Register online today!

Event Schedule

Friday, September 12th, 6:30pm

“DANCING WITH THE CARS” FRIDAY NIGHT PRE-PARTY

The presenting sponsor for this event is **Mechanics Bank**.

Rebels with a Cause

This fantastic 50's party at Orinda Library Plaza includes a special retrospective car display of hotrods, ragtops and glass packs – plus liberal libations, a deluxe diner-style dinner menu from Shelby's, silent and live auctions and, of course, dancing! Reserve your tickets now!

Proceeds of this event benefit EFO, Orinda Rotary, Orinda Arts Council, Orinda Chamber of Commerce and other non-profit community partners.

**Buy your tickets at:
www.OrindaCarShow.com
Space is limited so don't wait.
NO WALK-INS WILL BE ALLOWED.**

Saturday

Free Admission

September 13th, 10am - 3pm

10TH ANNUAL ORINDA CLASSIC CAR SHOW

The presenting sponsor for this event is **Orinda Motors**.

- The show will be held in Orinda Village around Orinda Motors and on Orinda Way.
- This year's car show will expand again to include the 16th fairway at Orinda Country Club with food and beverages served on the fairway!!!
- 200+ Classic and modern exotic cars as well as unique motorcycles
- Lamorinda Idol Winners Performance at Noon
- There will be a Special Exhibit of outstanding Porsches from the 1950s to today as well as a 50th Anniversary Corral of Mustangs
- Shaded seating for over 100 to enjoy lunch and refreshments from the Car Show BBQ Booth and Orinda County Club Fairway Grill
- Loard's Ice Cream and Candy
- Ride in the Parade of Classic Cars at 3pm
- Buy a 2014 Car Show T-Shirt and Commemorative 10th Anniversary Poster

Proceeds benefit local charities: Seniors Around Town, Educational Foundation of Orinda, Orinda Historical Society Museum, Orinda Association, and other local charities

Sunday

September 14th, 5:30 and 7:45pm

“SPEED ON THE SCREEN” The Blues Brothers and Duel

The presenting sponsor for this event is **Flying A Gasoline**.

Wrap up a great Car Show Weekend with two classics at the art deco Orinda Theatre! From the great shopping mall car chase in *The Blues Brothers* to the out of control trucker and in your gut fear in *Duel*. A great pairing. **Tickets available for \$10 for each showing at the Car Show or at the door. Or, buy online at OrindaCarShow.com for only \$8. Beer and Wine included.**

See a Special Exhibit of outstanding Porsches from the 1950's to today!



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- Vintage Office Building, Orinda Way
- Pine Grove Business Center, Santa Maria Way



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Opening Night Schedule:

Thursday Sept. 11th at 5:30 PM

Reception: 5:30PM with catering provided by Shelby's of Orinda
Wine: Kendall Jackson (*Official Wine Sponsor*); Vodka: Tito Handmade Vodka (*Official Vodka Sponsor*); Beer: Ale Industries (*Official Beer Sponsor*); Rum: Papa's Pilar Rum (*Official Rum Sponsor*)
Opening Night Short: Jerome's Bouquet 7:00PM,
Opening Night Film: An Evergreen Christmas 7:15PM



Aspiring musician Evergreen Lee thought it would be a quick trip home: a funeral, a few well wishers, hang around for a couple days to help her grandfather and younger brother, then head back to Los Angeles. What she didn't expect to find in tiny Balsam Falls, TN was an impending estate tax jeopardizing her family's home and a large Christmas tree conglomerate with their sights on the family farm. Now, Evergreen must choose ...



Special Event:
Kramer vs. Kramer
Saturday Sept. 13th at 7:00PM at Orinda Theatre \$12

A just-divorced man must learn to care for his son on his own, and then must fight in court to keep custody of him. Starring Dustin Hoffman and Meryl Streep Oscar-Nominee Justin Henry will be in attendance



See Featured Films, Documentaries, Relationship Shorts, Drama Shorts, Celebrity Shorts, Comedy Shorts, Documentary Shorts, Bay Area Showcase, Sapporo Shorts Showcase at the Rheem Theatre, Moraga, Orinda Theatre, Orinda and Castro Theatre, San Francisco

Ticket Prices

General admission	\$12.00
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Opening Night Movie Only	\$20.00
Closing Night Film and Cocktail Hour	\$15.00

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CALIFORNIA REAL ESTATE PREVIEW

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Mapping Orinda's Road to Improvement

By Laurie Snyder

Dennis Fay is a roads scholar – literally. With a master's degree in transportation engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and over four decades in that field – including as executive director of the Alameda County Congestion Management Agency (now the Alameda County Transportation Commission), the 20-year Orinda resident understands firsthand the challenges of maintaining roads in California's shifting geological and budgetary landscapes.

Currently chair of the Orinda Citizens' Infrastructure Oversight Commission, he has been a member since CIOC's inception, and enjoys volunteering with his fellow Orindans. "They're a very dedicated group of people willing to put in the time to try to understand transportation issues. They bring thoughtfulness to the deliberation, asking questions about why we do things the way we do and whether or not we need to look at issues differently."

Fay is also a fan of residents for passing back-to-back infrastructure

initiatives. Measure L, a half cent sales tax given a thumbs-up in 2012, "showed the willingness of the voters to put money behind their demands for improved roads. As we began to use the money, it showed residents they could trust the city to spend these types of funds wisely."

In June, Orindans supported Measure J with 75 percent of the vote – well above the 66 percent needed for the measure's passage. "That's pretty remarkable," he said. Seasoned pollsters told Fay that most initiatives face defeat right from the start. On average, 20 percent automatically vote against any ballot measure – regardless of the issue. So, when Measure J garnered 75 of the 80 percent available, Orindans were clearly declaring in Henny Youngman-like fashion, "Take my pothole. Please!"

To that end, on Sept. 2, the Orinda City Council approved criteria for selecting roads to be repaired via Measures L and J.

One yardstick to be used is Pavement Condition Index. Orinda's worst roads currently have PCIs of 1 to 25,

including parts of Lost Valley Road labeled 5, 6 or 7. Once repaved, segments will receive scores of 100. There is a margin of error of plus or minus five, however, because up to four specially trained people will assess PCI – each a human being with a slightly different eye.

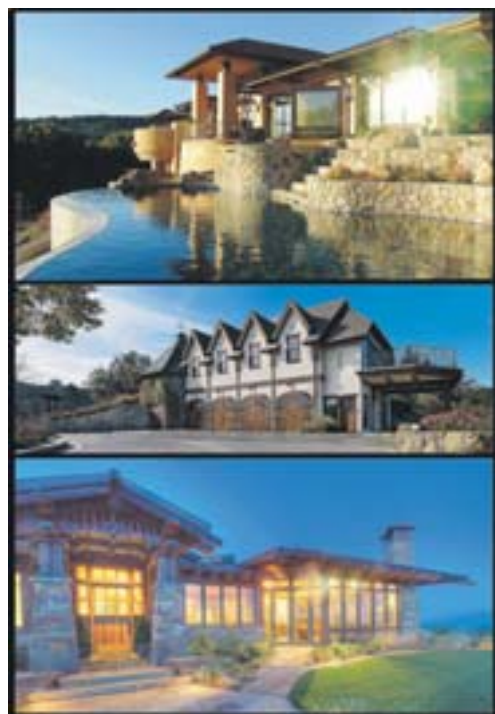
In addition, storm drainage could also alter priorities. A study underway should make it easier for engineers to predict which drains and roads might be at risk and prioritize accordingly, but if Mother Nature decides to send another Tarabrookian deluge, certain streets could be pushed off the to-do list to facilitate emergency repairs.

However, with California's current drought, that doesn't appear likely. So, a long list of work is projected through October. Segments of Lost Valley and Charles Hill roads will receive attention under Measure L, and several arterials and collectors will be repaved separately from Measure L.

By the time the terms of both measures expire, said Fay, "We're going to get at all of the roads in Orinda that are in really terrible shape."

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 <p>MORAGA \$345,000 2/1. Fresh & Bright Condo! Light, spacious rooms, balcony, great location! New paint/carpet! Suzanne Geoffrion CalBRE#01878803</p>	 <p>ORINDA \$1,775,000 5/3.1. Spectacular in Lafayette! Beautiful custom built home located in the coveted Greenhill's neighborhood. Van Drent/McKay CalBRE# 01051129/01902466</p>	 <p>MORAGA \$995,000 4/2. Great Moraga Home! 2016 sf on flat .46 acre lot in St. Mary's Gardens, great floor plan, terrific yard! Elena Hood CalBRE#01221247</p>	 <p>MORAGA \$1,125,000 4/2.5. Gorgeous contemporary. Spacious rooms. Back yard oasis with pool. Valley view. Rick & Nancy Booth CalBRE#01388020/01341390</p>	 <p>LAFAYETTE \$850,000 4/2. First time on market! Charming home on .45 acres. New hardwood floors, new paint, and fresh new landscaping. Chad Morrison CalBRE#01905614</p>	
 <p>LAFAYETTE \$1,799,000 6/4. Spacious Custom Home! 5112 sqft on .31 acre lot on a cul-de-sac, large bonus room, gourmet kitchen. Elena Hood CalBRE#01221247</p>	 <p>MORAGA \$799,000 2/3.5. Lovely MCC Townhome. 2,353 apprx SF, 2 car garage, 2 story, Extended FR & Laundry. Jason Evans CalBRE#01887768</p>	 <p>LAFAYETTE \$995,000 3/2. Situated on a quiet culdesac, this quintessential Lafayette rancher is convenient to BART and downtown. Bev Arnold CalBRE#01154860</p>	 <p>LAFAYETTE \$1,525,000 4/3. Cape Cod in Burton Valley. Exceptional quality & charm throughout. Ideal location. Gorgeous private yard Must see! Susan Schlicher CalBRE#01395579</p>	 <p>ORINDA \$1,375,000 4/3. Private, light & bright single story home with level yard & Mt. Diablo views. Close to downtown. Maram Bata CalBRE#01435229</p>	

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Letters to the Editor

Share your thoughts with our community! Opinions in Letters to the Editor are the express views of the writer and not necessarily those of the Lamorinda Weekly. All published letters will include the writer's name and city/town of residence -- we will only accept letters from those who live in, or own a business in, the communities comprising Lamorinda (please give us your phone number for verification purposes only). Letters should be 350 words or less; letters of up to 500 words will be accepted on a space-available basis.
email: letters@lamorindaweekly.com; Regular mail: Lamorinda Weekly, P.O.Box 6133, Moraga, CA 94570

Editor:

I am writing regarding the City Ventures proposed development on Country Club Drive. Now that the story poles are entirely erected, at least on the exterior of the property, a couple of design defects can be better visualized.

1. This is a development of significant size which will affect the immediate neighborhood forever. Developments of this kind as a real estate matter provide for resident parking. This development does not adequately address parking. The solution as proposed and accepted by the town is to widen Country Club Drive, thereby having all overflow parking on the street. Well designed projects do not inflict their project limitations on their neighbors: I.e. their overflow parking is restricted to their own property. See the design of Camino Peral and adjacent streets as examples.

2. The setback rule as approved at some level for the town is to interpret the setbacks for the adjacent properties (beginning with the fire station) to be determined by the edge of their parking lot; not the edge of the improvements on the property. This is not consistent with standard real estate practice. For instance, if this logic were continued all residential development in Moraga could be construed to virtually be the edge of the property line, as adjacent properties have driveways and often expanded parking pads for RV's, etc.

3. The justification by the town to proceed for this development as designed has been to point to the Moraga Specific Plan, which permits high density construction at this site. Experts have claimed that the intent was to anticipate another office building or a retirement home so as to avoid parking and traffic issues with the design so-far approved. To be consistent with the plan however, the minimum number of units on this site would be 36.76: reasonably meaning "37," as was pointed out the to Design Review Board by the town's own consultant during a public meeting. In other words, the town is employing "discretion" to restrict the number to 36.

The design review board's plan for this site is an abuse of their discretion. If you can erect 36 units instead of 37, why can you not simply erect 25 units, the number which would make the development consistent with the neighborhood and substantially resolve parking, aesthetic and traffic issues? So far, the problem here is not City Ventures, who have acted honorably to find some compromise. It is the town of Moraga, its politics and other things.

Gerry Tanner
Moraga

Editor:

My wife and I gratefully thank the many people of Lamorinda that have endured the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge and those who donated for ALS research. Our son Jean-Pierre Lescure (Campolindo 1984), an avid outdoor person became a victim of ALS at 46 and now, two years later, is faced with having to use a wheelchair for any mobility. The worst is yet to come, greater difficulty with speech, swallowing and breathing, then total paralysis. As the parents of a ALS victim, it is very difficult to watch your child face a dreadful death.

It is most likely a cure or even medication, if found by research now, will be too late for Jean-Pierre but your donations will eventually benefit someone else. Keep in mind that you do not have to endure the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge to make a donation.

Keith and Suzeline Lescure
Moraga

Editor:

Deafening silence.
Over our long holiday weekend Israel announced it has seized almost 1000 acres of land inhabited and farmed by Palestinians for over 1000 years.

The UN, Britain, France, and Egypt have all condemned this, the largest Israeli land grab in 30 years. The US has expressed "concern" but continues to give Israel over 8 million dollars each day in military aid
We could use that money right here in America creating jobs and repairing our crumbling infrastructure. Instead we are enabling the merciless killing of more innocent civilians and the destruction of Gazan homes and infrastructure, estimated at 6 billion dollars.

As of this writing, not one US Senator or Congressman has even commented on the seizure -- a gross and inhumane violation of international law. Apparently their fear of the Israeli lobby trumps their interest in humanitarian justice. Our silence is deafening and can only serve to lower our standing in the international community. Money can buy elections but it should not be allowed to undermine our commitment to freedom, liberty and humanitarian justice.

Forrest J. Cioppa
Moraga

Editor:

The community social engineers seem incapable of allowing ordinary folks to just enjoy any available life simplifications - especially, those not tapping our pocket books (or adding new unwanted home chores).

The latest such intrusion - banning plastic grocery bags! Presumably, basing this latest campaign on a TV show of masses of bags floating on/contaminating an ocean surface somewhere.

What is ignored is the great utility of such containers. Not only for groceries, but a wide range of other products. And most important, the after market utility the bags provide in numerous home applications. Applications, which virtually no brown paper bag counterpart, can possibly satisfy.

In this reader's home, the little cotton plastic bag storage bag in the kitchen, is visited numerous times daily to "get a plastic", for some immediate need. Needs, that no brown paper bag can accommodate. E.g., holding fruit freshly picked from our home orchard, collecting trash for the brown recycle waste barrel (and its daily accumulation of waste for the weekly collection) - plus of course, transporting perishables to the "blue waste barrel". And finally, holding surplus clothing for curbside charitable organization collections.

The fact that our kitchen cotton bag (used to collect the bags), often is always near empty - is constant proof of the secondary use the bags enjoy, once home with store purchases.

Donald Lively
Lafayette

ORINDA ELECTION

Editor:

Please support Hillary Weiner for a seat on the OUSD school board on November 4th.

With children in school together for the past five years, we have admired Hillary's keen interest in education issues and her commitment to school volunteerism, most recently serving as president of the Glorietta Parent's Club. Hillary is a steady and thoughtful leader who thinks objectively and analytically. She understands that effective leadership requires an inclusive approach to building relationships with the school community and its many partners.

As a member of the board, Hillary will respect and value the views of her fellow board members and the governance process. Hillary's temperament and attitude will enable her to find common ground and build bridges on controversial and contentious issues. She will govern pragmatically and with an appreciation for the limited human and financial resources available to the district. Most importantly, Hillary's overriding concern will always be the best interests of all OUSD students.

Our family will have three children in Orinda schools for years to come. We hope that our children will be fortunate enough to have Hillary serving on the OUSD school board.

Jason and Jennifer Lurie
Orinda

Editor:

While the majority of Orindans were busy tending to their families and careers, our City Council intentionally allowed Eden Housing's Monteverde Apartments to exceed the 35 foot height limit delineated in our General Plan. In case you were wondering if this apartment building would solve a problem for Orinda's empty nesters, Eden is legally prohibited from giving preferential treatment to current Orinda residents in the renter selection process. I encourage you to look at this structure on 2 Irwin Way (across the street from Safeway) and decide for yourself if it conforms to the semi-rural character of Orinda described in our General Plan.

Meanwhile, Fountainhead Montessori Preschool, a respected and popular fixture in Orinda, had undergone an extensive Planning Commission review of its plan to relocate to the former Phair's building site. The plan was approved by a 5-2 vote, with the then-chairman one of the no votes. This approval was appealed by an Orinda resident and City Council overturned the Planning Commission's decision. A Public Records Act request by concerned citizens revealed numerous e-mails involving a developer and several Orinda decision makers regarding a future, large commercial development on this very property, including recommendations on raising the height limit without revising the General Plan so as to increase profitability. This is all very consistent with the 4th Cycle Housing Element adopted by City Council in 2013 after considerable public turmoil due to its blatant pro-developer verbiage which remained in the final draft despite Council and Staff's pledge to remove it.

If you believe that a small group of influential insiders should not determine Orinda's future, that issues such as crime are more important than encouraging high-rise development, and that our semi-rural character is precious, please join me in voting for only Eve Phillips in the City Council Election.

Bruce London
Orinda

Editor:

If Lionel Ritchie was an Orinda voter ... he would be changing his tune.

Once. Twice. Three times a lady!
But a 20-year rule seems a bit shady.
The fourth bore is done.
It's time to have fun.

So why are you really running again, Amy?

Is dispensing millions as MTC Chair,
Really the reason that you care?
Or is it sidekicks, Baltodano and Orr,
Who need your coattails to stay on board?
Thank you, Ms Worth, but no more can one bear.

With libraries and tunnels, you did shine.
It's your development actions that fall out-of-line.
With high-density housing, Montessori, and such,
Semi-rural Orinda finds that you've grown out-of-touch.
For Miramonte's own, Eve Phillips, it's time.

Owen Murphy
Orinda

... continued on next page

Civic News Fire Districts

An Expectation of Inconvenience

By Nick Marnell

The mere mention of the word overtime in the context of the fire service can bring on arrhythmia. Management does not want to force overtime on its firefighters. In many cases the firefighters do not want to work so much overtime. The public has reacted with outrage over firefighter overtime pay. But overtime is a fact of firefighting life, and it has lately morphed from a nuisance to a near crisis.

“One of the first things I tell our recruits is to prepare to give up your evenings, weekends and holidays,” said Moraga-Orinda Fire District chief Stephen Healy. “And you’ll be missing a lot of birthdays and special family occasions. I advise them that this job has a built-in expectation of inconvenience, which includes working overtime.”

Both MOFD and the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District use a constant staffing model, covering a week with three 56-hour shifts of three-person engine companies per fire station. All 56 hours are paid at regular time. (Additionally, ConFire employs three training captains and MOFD staffs its own ambulances.) ConFire has 26 vacancies for its 210 positions while MOFD is two short of a complete staff of 57. Filling those open slots and absences requires overtime. In fiscal year 2013-14, ConFire paid \$9.5 million in overtime; MOFD, \$1.5 million.

“You don’t down-staff to cover vacancies,” said Vince Wells, Local 1230 president. “But I get concerned when overtime is so excessive that the firefighters don’t want to work and you’re forcing them to.” And they are forced to, though they may trade off their shifts. Turning down mandatory overtime outright is a refusal of a direct order and is subject to disciplinary action.

ConFire chief Jeff Carman is also concerned that his firefighters are working excessive mandatory overtime. “They’re sometimes working 120 consecutive hours in order to keep our companies in service,” he said. “I worry about a wrong decision or an injury.”

Some fire districts carry extra people on the books for fill-in, but that business model is more expensive. “It’s 26 percent cheaper to pay overtime than to add personnel,”

said Carman, though the district has just completed a training academy and has scheduled one more this fall to help fill vacancies. Healy said that the payroll percentage saved by paying overtime is similar in his district.

“I’d much rather the districts hire more firefighters,” said Wells, who noted that in the East Contra Costa County Fire Protection District, the firefighters have had enough. “Because of the demands of excessive overtime, the district is closing a station. The situation was jeopardizing the health and safety of the firefighters.”

Both Lamorinda fire agencies maintain a list of personnel available to work voluntary overtime, but the ConFire list is not long enough to fill the vacancies.

“I’m thinking I’m getting off at 8 (a.m.), but I get a notice of a mandatory and I’m not going anywhere,” said ConFire captain Maurice Howell. “That’s because only 18 guys signed up for 27 openings. There’s no one to relieve you.”

Howell said he was warned early in his career about the overtime trap. “I’ve been mando’d on my kid’s birthday,” said the Lafayette resident. “But to me, the biggest thing? The family dinners missed.” He said it is a challenge to spend quality time at home. “The wife acts as a single parent. I try to parent by phone, but it’s not the same. I try to make the most of my days off with the family, but my wife has a routine of her own. I come home, and I disrupt it.”

“It takes a strong spouse,” added MOFD captain Tony Perry. “The spouse is part of the process. I will tell you, this job is affecting a new relationship I’m in.”

Second jobs are no longer as prevalent among firefighters. “This is my second job,” said Howell, who worked more than 3,600 hours in 2013. After their July pay cut, many MOFD firefighters count on the overtime. “I’m one of the highest paid firefighters in the district, and I still need the overtime,” said Perry. “We’re grateful to have it.”

“But to go home to our families after a shift, that’s what it’s all about,” said Howell. “The money doesn’t hurt, but there’s nothing like sleeping at home.”



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Moraga-Orinda Fire District Board of Directors Meetings

Next meeting:
Wednesday, Sept. 17
check website for updates
(Go to www.mofd.org as the meeting date approaches for location and more information)

Contra Costa Board of Supervisors Meetings

Next meeting:
TBA
Board Chamber room 107, Administration Building, 651 Pine St. Martinez
(Agenda at <http://ca-contra-costa-county2.civicplus.com/4664/Board-Meeting-Agendas-and-Videos>)

Letters to the Editor

... continued

Editor:

The 2014 election for city council is the most important city council election since Orinda became an incorporated city 30 years ago. Orinda was such a great place to live then. Residents did not have to worry that our city government would pass regulations that would destroy our semi-rural environment. Now, we have Monteverde towering over North Orinda because our building height limits were ignored by the current City Council. What's next? Increased high-density development is taking hold with our current City Council members, affecting every aspect of our community.

Ask yourself: Is living in Orinda better or worse than four, eight, or 10 years ago? For the city's residents, a more appealing Orinda is vital. Eve Phillips and Linda Delehunt, both candidates for the Orinda City Council in 2014, will help assure that Orinda -- again -- becomes a great place to live. They will support what the people want, not the interests of big development.

Orinda needs new leadership.

Ms. Phillips and Ms. Delehunt, if elected to the city council, will protect the quality of Orinda's schools, help end the intolerable parking and traffic conditions that bedevil the downtown area, protect residents' views of the scenic hills, fix the roads, and enforce Orinda's 35-foot height limit for buildings.

When casting your ballot for city council, please vote for Eve Phillips and Linda Delehunt. The city you protect will be your own.

Sandra Wooten
Orinda

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American Kitchen Opens in Lafayette

By Sophie Braccini



From left: Chef Allan Rivera and Victor Ivry in front of their new Lafayette restaurant, American Kitchen. Photo Sohie Braccini

American Kitchen is Victor Ivry's new baby. The Orinda resident, sports coach and commercial real estate professional, who entered the restaurant business four years ago with the opening of Table 24, and later Barbacoa, in Theatre Square with partner Michael Karp, recently opened American Kitchen in Lafayette. Ivry has a new partner in this venture, eclectic chef Allan Rivera, and is taking full advantage of the completely renovated 80-year-old cottage, and its shaded grounds, on Lafayette Circle. American Kitchen brings distinctive dishes and flavors gathered from across the United States, contrasting with the prevalent California vibe of

the burgeoning food mecca.

The charming and relaxed atmosphere quickly drew curious patrons and Rivera started sending out the food he loves – a mix of traditional regional foods from the Deep South, the mid-Atlantic, Midwest and Northeast. As Rivera puts it, he pulls from the whole breadth of American comfort food.

In college Rivera studied philosophy and pre-law, but after graduating he decided that law school wasn't for him and instead traveled the country to find himself. He always had a love of cooking, born in the family kitchen that mixed Italian and Puerto Rican origins with the flavors of New York. When presented with the opportunity

to start a restaurant in Hawaii, he jumped at the chance and hasn't stopped cooking since.

Watching him at work in his kitchen, it seems clear that he has found his calling. A gourmet who enjoys the good things in life, he likes to experiment and try new twists on old favorites. We found Rivera and his team creating a new brine and spice mix for the brisket that will become the house pastrami, and preparing house-smoked salmon.

American Kitchen began serving breakfast and lunch on Aug. 25, and added dinner hours a few days later. "We are starting with a dinner menu that pulls some elements from the lunch menu. With a new restaurant, you want to do things and you want to do them well, before you expand," explains Rivera. "As the teams get trained and patrons' preferences become clear, we will modify the menu to follow our clients' inclination."

Appetizers include deep fried sweet pickles and quick-roasted olives; among the entrées are pastrami on rye, a "true cod" slider with fennel slaw, burgers, salads, and homemade chorizo that adds a delicious, smoky flavor to a mussels and frites dish that's bound to become a favorite. "We make our own chorizo and we will brine our own sauerkraut," says Rivera. Since everything is made right there, Rivera can cater to different dietary needs from vegetarian to gluten or dairy free. "You just have to ask," he says.

Sitting on the patio after a lunch service, Ivry enjoys a moment's respite before debriefing with the team and talking finance with the local investors who have helped him manifest his dream. "This is the best patio in town," he says. Although he retains part-ownership of Barbacoa and Table 24, Ivry is thrilled to be creating something new and exciting. "We work very hard here, but this is casual and comfortable," says the

man who has a reputation for asking 110 percent from his crew.

"I love the excitement of the day-to-day, and everyday is an opportunity to win people over," says Ivry, who concludes with something his mother told him when he opened Table 24. "You won't be judged by who comes to your restaurant, you will be judged by who returns to your restaurant." Ivry is sure that with great

food, great service and a beautiful, intimate location, he has the winning formula that will make people want to come back over and over again.

American Kitchen
71 Lafayette Circle, Lafayette
(925) 385-0352

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

business briefs

Theaters for Sale

Just as the 17th Annual California Independent Film Festival gears up for opening night comes word that the two different owners of the Rheem Theatre and Orinda Theatre Square are putting up "For Sale" signs. In Orinda, GLL Properties is selling Theatre Square after completely turning the center around during its eight years of management. And in Moraga, Mahesh Puri wants to sell the property that encompasses the theater and shops all the way to Ristorante Amoroma. Commercial real estate broker Dave Schnayer said that Puri is asking \$4.75 million for the property. Derek Zemrak, co-founder of the California Annual Independent Film Festival Association that leases and operates both theaters, said that he and his team are planning to continue to manage the businesses as usual.

The Secret Phrase is "Orinda-mazing"

ECHO GROVE

2 Theatre Square, #112, Orinda

(925) 253-1266, www.echogrovestore.com

Orinda's newest gift shop has announced a fun fall promotion that reflects the store's appreciation for the warm welcome it has received from the city. Starting Sept. 1, shoppers who say the secret phrase will be rewarded with a free handmade charm. The charms are custom designed and handmade exclusively for Echo Grove by one of its favorite makers. They can be attached to backpacks, key chains, charm bracelets, or wine glasses. No purchase is necessary, and the charms will not be available for purchase, so the only way to get them is to utter the secret phrase. September's secret phrase is "Orinda-mazing." The first two charms highlight a "back to school" spirit. One features the Miramonte Matadors logo and the second charm bears a small detail of the historic Orinda Union School. Subsequent charms will feature Orinda landmarks, events, people and other images that honor Orinda, its history and community. "Our hope is that people get excited about collecting the charms and we continue issuing a new design throughout 2015," said Echo Grove co-owner Margaret Doty.



Lafayette Family Opens Food Truck

By Zoe Portnoff



From left: Alex, Isabelle, Tina, and Tom Tankka Photos provided

What do you get when you cross a food truck with a frozen treat? Izzy's Frozen Ice Cream Custard and Treats, a new venture by a Lafayette family. You can try izzy's frozen dessert straight from the truck at the Lafayette Art and Wine Festival Sept. 20-21.

Tina Tankka's interest in opening a food truck stems from her passion for creating gourmet food and her catering experience. From home dinner parties, to contributing food and service to Lafayette Library and Learning Center community events, Cal Shakes, and local schools, Tankka prides herself on an experience in taste, quality ingredients and presentation. She is joined in her business by her husband, Tom, and her two

daughters, Alex and Isabelle, for whom the company, izzy's Frozen Ice Cream Custard and Treats, is named.

"I loved the idea of the mobility of a food truck, allowing me to offer

my custard ice cream to many people," says Tankka.

Izzy's Frozen Ice Cream Custard and Treats serves gourmet frozen ice cream custard, a delicious concoction distinguished from ice cream by a single additional ingredient – egg yolk – that creates a creamier, richer texture. And since the dessert is prepared at the place of sale, rather than stored, consumers are guaranteed a fresh treat.

Frozen ice cream custard was invented in 1919, when two ice cream makers on Coney Island discovered that adding egg yolk to their recipe created a unique texture, and also helped their ice cream stay at a cooler temperature.

Simply put, "It's ice cream at its finest," says Tankka.



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News from the Chambers of Commerce

Lafayette

The Art & Wine Festival is just around the corner! The annual event will be open from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 20, and from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 21 in downtown Lafayette. The festival offers non-stop music and dancing, unique wine and beer offerings, food choices everywhere, original fine art and crafts. New this year, local artists will create original pieces of art to the rhythms of the Fiesta Stage (see article page A1). The fair is family and dog friendly and features a large Kids Zone. For more information, go to <http://lafayettefestival.com>.

Moraga

Shred Event next to 5A Rent A Space, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 13, 455 Moraga Rd. - \$5/Banker Box size.

Orinda

Don't miss the 10th Annual Orinda Classic Car Show, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 13. Go to www.orindacarshow.com for information about this and other events taking place during the Classic Car Show Weekend.

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

Civic News Moraga

Infusion of Contemporary Design for Rancho Laguna II

... continued from page A5

The architectural choices of the Dahlin Group are commensurate with higher-end homes – wood, stone, crafty architectural details, with some modern simplifications and integration of indoor and outdoor spaces that will appeal to young, affluent families.

In its report, staff called out some details it found to be at odds with the rest of the design: a flat roof above a bedroom and optional porch, a tower rising above the ridgeline, cable elements supporting a flat roof above an entry that staff found to be too industrial-looking. Board members reacted positively to the design as a whole, and opinions were divided about the modern elements; some liked the roofs they found appealing and interesting, but not the cables, and vice versa. The board's decisions are based on approved design guidelines to which every project in town must conform.

Two neighbors on Birchwood Drive asked questions about the

landscape. Now the hills are bare – the result of years of grazing – and the residents were concerned that creating rows of trees along the road that will serve the development would look odd. The board recommended that the developer smooth the landscaping and integrate it seamlessly into the natural surroundings.

The board also approved the installation of wood fences along the back yards of the properties that will be built on Rheem Boulevard to give homeowners some privacy – the entrances to these homes will be from a private road and their back yards will be seen from the boulevard. Board member John Glover cited the Sonsara development, where thick, varied landscaping between the fencing and Camino Ricardo creates a pleasant feel for passers-by.

Final approval by the Design Review Board is expected in the coming months.

Civic News Orinda

OUSD Board Candidates Talk Common Core

... continued from page A6

Aware that some are concerned about losing local control, Brown observed that “most people are not trained in education theory. While OUSD needs to have a say in setting its own curriculum, when it comes to how to teach a child, I need to trust the experts – the teachers.”

Jason Kaune said Common Core reached his radar earlier than many other parents because he has corporate clients who were required to start building tools to address the standards before they became a national concern. “Like most changes, there is good and bad. Teachers seem to appreciate how Common Core will let them innovate and change the way they teach. Math may be problematic, but you have to just manage that change, and make sure that kids who can advance have the opportunity to do so.” Having seen the implementation level long enough, he believes that “some making it a flashpoint read a lot into it. It has become a symbol for people upset with change. I view Common Core favorably – weaving flexibility in so that our country's students learn what they need to learn. A thoughtful process of rethinking what you do and trying to do it better is a good thing.” He is concerned, however,

about the apparent de-emphasis on social studies and civics. “Civic Education has to be at the heart of education.”

“Going deeper into subject matter to create true understanding of concepts will be more useful than just learning a formula,” said Julie Rossiter. “If students can get to that actual level of understanding and learn how to reason, rather than just broadly mastering historical facts, they might be better able to apply their learning in later life.”

But she too is uncertain where Common Core will lead. “At our last meeting, we had a lot of board policies to be revised. Math is a work in progress. We need to make sure that we teach in the best possible way, and ensure that kids coming out of our district can take the highest level of math at whatever high school they attend. In the past, you could have certain kids skip pre-algebra for geometry. Now you can't do that. You can't just eliminate an entire level.” She feels OUSD must offer acceleration options at middle and high school levels, and has urged the board to enact a policy enabling students departing Orinda's middle school to take calculus rather than pre-calculus.

From Front Page

New Art Form Makes Debut Spin at Art and Wine Festival

... continued from page A1

He and fellow artist Bill Carmel walked into the Jennifer Perlmutter Gallery in Lafayette and spoke to Perlmutter, pitching the idea of a collaboration at the Art and Wine Festival. Perlmutter was enchanted, so her gallery is generously donating the canvases and organizing the artists. She describes the upcoming exhibition as “exactly the kind of community/art hybrid event that I love to share.”

Unfortunately Barry had existing plans to visit England during the days the festival is being held, so Carmel, along with other artists

including Kaleo Ching and Judy Chamberlin, will be doing the trAction painting, but on a smaller vertical surface. Because the festival is so popular, there just isn't room to do the large-scale bicycle version; attendees can watch the process as it develops to produce the bright, musically inspired pieces.

All of the artists are donating their time and talent to produce these one-of-a-kind works. Perlmutter will also have larger trAction art from Barry, along with other pieces from a variety of artists on display in the Perlmutter

Gallery, across from Diablo Foods for those who would like to take a peek or purchase.

Artists are slated to be painting from 12:30 to 6 p.m. on both Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 20 and 21, at the Fiesta Stage tucked into the small street just past the The Cooperage American Grille off of Lafayette Circle. For more information on John Barry and his unconventional art of skainting (skating painting), go to www.traction-painting.com. Complete details about the Art and Wine Festival can be found at www.lafayettefestival.com.

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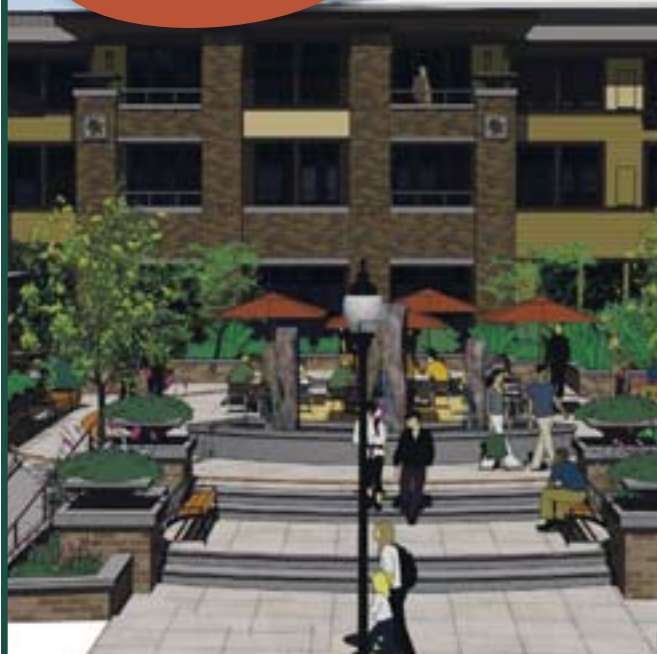
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Civic News Lamorinda

Meet the Candidates for High School Governing Board

By Cathy Tyson

Four candidates are seeking three available seats on the Acalanes Union High School District governing board. It will be up to voters in Lafayette, Moraga, Orinda, and Walnut Creek to decide who will win the non-paid, non-partisan four-year positions. Watching over 5,416 students in grades 9-12 at Acalanes, Campolindo, Las Lomas, and Miramonte high schools, along with the adult education and alternative schools, isn't easy. The board acts as the legislative body for the district, establishing policies and goals. Some of the issues board members deal with include conference with legal counsel about existing litigation in closed session, field trip requests, textbook adoption and discussion with union representatives, use of pesticides on campus, staff development and the budget. The district ranks in the top 4 percent of all high schools in the U.S.

The lucky winners will get to donate their time on the first and third Wednesdays of each month at the district office in Lafayette, where the public is always welcome to attend and weigh in on issues of concern. The next board meeting will be on Sept. 17. The agenda is always available online three days prior to the meeting.

There are two incumbents, Susie Epstein and Nancy Kendzierski, running, and two new contenders, Kristen Correll and Robert Hockett; the candidates are presented here in alphabetical order.



Photo provided

Kristen Correll and her family moved to Moraga from Texas six years ago; she's been very involved in her kids' education since her arrival. She and her husband Charles have four children, two have graduated from Miramonte, one is currently a senior there and one is a sophomore at Campolindo. She has a background in education, with a doctorate in curriculum from the University of Houston. The family has been busy with a variety of sports teams during their tenure. Her board service credits include Town Hall Theatre Company and Miramonte High School, and she is a special education parent representative for the Moraga School District.

When asked about the biggest issues facing the AUHSD governing board, she cited two main concerns. First is Common Core and how that is implemented. The second is the budget, "Obviously there is a limited amount of money, I want to look carefully at how we are spending it." She wants to continue to provide in the fu-

ture the great education that her kids received, and stressed the need to provide professional development for teachers.



Photo provided

Susie Epstein has served on the governing board since 2010. She was a board member of the Miramonte Parents Club from 2010 to 2013 and has held a variety of positions supporting Orinda schools – funding campaigns for Del Rey, Orinda Intermediate School and for Miramonte High School; she was also a classroom volunteer. She has two kids who have gone through our public school system. She says her favorite day of the year is graduation day, when she has had the privilege of handing diplomas to hundreds of graduating seniors for each of the past four years. She was awarded the Su Stauffer Friends of Education award, Acalanes Union High School District in 2010. She attended the University of Colorado, Boulder. For more information, see her website at www.susieepstein.com.

When asked about the biggest issue that's facing the district, she replied, "The biggest issue we face right now is implementing the transition to Common Core. In addition to curriculum changes, we will be moving to a new set of assessments and we'll need to communicate to students and parents how these differ from previous tests and scores." She added, "While Common Core is a challenge, it is also an exciting time as we are on the verge of delivering 21st century instruction. Teachers are integrating Common Core into their curriculum, working collaboratively and using technology to make the courses come alive for the students."



Photo Cathy Tyson

Robert Hockett is a retired teacher who now lives in Walnut Creek. He was born and raised in Lafayette and graduated from Acalanes High School. For 33 years he was a dedicated teacher of U.S. History and American Government in

Yucca Valley, which is about 30 miles north of Palm Springs. He also served on the city council for Yucca Valley. Upon his retirement in 2007 he came back to the area. He says he loved teaching and the opportunity to impact young people's lives; he's a big believer in public education, enjoys reading and jogs every day. He graduated and received his teaching credential from Chico State University.

He believes the biggest issue facing the district is providing a quality education within the existing budget framework. He feels that should include music, the arts and sports. As a teacher with years of hands-on experience, he believes maintaining high quality staff is also critically important. He has realized through his many years of teaching and dealing directly with students, that they need an advocate.



Photo Cathy Tyson

Nancy Kendzierski was appointed to the governing board last September. She's married and has two sons; the elder has graduated from Campolindo, and her younger son is a junior. She received a computer science degree, summa cum laude from Iowa State University. She currently is serving on the executive board of the Moraga Education Foundation, and is the auditor of the Las Trampas Creek Council of PTAs. She was also the treasurer of the AUHSD Measure A parcel tax campaign for the May, 2014 election. She has a long history of donating her time at a wide variety of volunteer positions at Los Perales, Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School, the Moraga School District and Campolindo High School.

Kendzierski feels the most important thing for the district is to continue "our strong academic performance with the move to Common Core and new assessments. The district is well-positioned to carry out this multi-year process given our excellent teachers, staff, and administration, plus our invaluable supportive community."

She added, "However, I believe the biggest issue facing the district is to maintain fiscal stability through this process, given the state's current level of funding for education, the many changes with the move to the Local Control Funding Formula, and the significant pension cost increases to school districts recently passed by the legislature. In addition to state funding, we must explore and be open to identifying additional funding opportunities and especially cost improvements."

Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 4.

From Front Page

Film Festival Opens in Lamorinda This Weekend

... continued from page A1

The casts and crews of films featured in the festival include many people who are well-known in the film industry, says Zemrak. "The independent films attract young professionals on their way up, as well as well-recognized professionals who want to support stories they believe in," he explains.

The film "Cas & Dylan" illustrates that idea perfectly, showcasing seasoned actor Richard Dreyfuss with talented young actress Tatiana Maslany. The two embark on an improbable and unexpected road trip across Canada that will make viewers feel better about humanity. The closing movie, "Putzel," is a sweet Jewish comedy that hints at Woody Allen's world. "Mom, Murder and Me" has action, mystery and is beautifully filmed in San Francisco.

But a film festival is about more

than main feature films. Once again the CAIFF will feature thought-provoking documentaries, some of them by our Lamorinda neighbors. Lafayette's Ellie Marks is the associate producer of "Mobilize," which presents the science, the facts and the debate regarding the link between cell phone use and brain tumors. Also showing is "Breathe in Life," the story of Laura Cryan Zellmer, a Moraga mom who was diagnosed as an infant with Cystic Fibrosis. The film is her letter to her son. (Read the related article in our archive, <http://www.lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue0813/pdf/Two-Extraordinary-Lamorinda-Women-Direct-and-Produce-Two-CAIFF-Films.pdf>.)

Other documentaries include "Liv and Ingmar," the love story encompassing the 42-year and 12-film-long relationship between actress Liv

Ullmann and master filmmaker Ingmar Bergman. Told entirely from Ullmann's point of view, this biopic of an extraordinary relationship is constructed as a collage of images and sounds from the timeless Ullmann-Bergman films, including behind-the-scenes footage, still photographs, passages from Ullmann's book "Changing," and Bergman's love letters to Ullmann.

In this election year, you will also want to see "True Son," the story of 22-year-old Michael Tubbs who decided in 2012 to run for the Stockton City Council to reinvent his hometown, building his campaign from the ground up. Also a beautiful documentary is "Thrown for a Loss: The Story of the 1963 Mallards," about the Pittsburg, Calif., Pop Warner football team headed to play in the 1963 national championships for the 12-14

age group, and have a pre-game breakfast with President John F. Kennedy at the White House. His assassination changed those plans. Team members attended Kennedy's funeral instead before going on to win the championship. Zemrak said that some of the players, as well as the director, plan to come to the showing of the movie.

"Citizen Hearst" tells the story of William Randolph Hearst, his empire and his impact on today's media – a fitting documentary for the Rheem Theatre since rumor has it that Donald Rheem, who was friends with Hearst, built this theater to rival his friend's in Hearst Castle. "Starring Adam West" will be a hit with anyone who loved him in "Batman." The eye-opening documentary focuses on the cruelty of Hollywood and the actor's real character.

And of course, a festival would not be a festival without shorts. Shorts are often the first films of young filmmakers who don't have budgets for full-length features. A short is an art form in its own right. In a few minutes, you have to tell a story, send a message, express a thought, and transmit a vision. It's like a short poem, the quintessence of a new talent. CAIFF presents the shorts in different categories: Relationships, Drama, Celebrity Shorts (celebrities often give a few days to young talent they believe in), Comedy, and East Bay Showcase. Each showing presents five to eight movies that are three minutes to a half-hour long.

Tickets and a complete program are available online at caiff.org. For those shows that might be sold out, up to 20 tickets will be available in the 'rush line' just before the start.

The Amazing Race, Lafayette-Style



By Cathy Tyson



Contestants ready for adventure on the first LPIE Amazing Race.

Photo Warren Lane

With a can-do attitude, comfortable sneakers, smartphones and a list of supplies that included water, a first aid kit, a football and a variety of crazy items just to throw off participants, 32 brave souls, eight teams of four people each, got started on the Amazing Race, a fundraiser for the Lafayette Partners in Education (LPIE). As contestants were poised and ready to run, the race officially began with a welcome and review of specific instructions by Mark Gundacker at the Acalanes High School flag pole. What followed was a chaotic search for the first clue, leading participants on a mad dash to find four T-shirts of the same color to designate their team. However, there were a total of 32 shirts spread out randomly and hidden all over the Acalanes High School football stadium – a not so subtle heads-up about the remainder of the event.

The premise of both the TV show and the fundraiser is for teams to race around the world, or in this case Lafayette, and complete unusual tasks; when each task is completed, teams get their next clue and so on to the finish line. Thanks to the deep pockets of network television – winners crossing the line first on TV receive \$1 million. In Lafayette, winners – spoiler alert, mentioned at the end of this story – get to “enjoy the glory of it all,” says one of the organizers, Suzy Pak, and of course bragging rights.

Gundacker spelled out the information teams received in each envelope, route information, detours the team had to participate in and road blocks which are only done by one team member. Conveniently there were four road blocks, one per team member. Similar to the television show, despite specific instructions, some folks neglected to fully grasp

what was being requested and had to repeat portions of a challenge or take a time penalty.

Teams with names like “What Was I Thinking?” and “Let’s Get it Done” paid to play with all the proceeds benefitting LPIE. Teams that were completely stuck could phone an organizer who would sell them a clue for an additional \$50 donation to LPIE.

The Amazing Race fundraiser event started out four years ago at Springhill Elementary School, growing in popularity, and this year spreading to include all Lafayette schools. Organizers spent months planning, carefully wording instructions and rustling up support from generous merchants. LPIE is run by parent volunteers to expand educational opportunities for students from kindergarten through senior year at Acalanes. The educational foundation consistently supports and enriches the education of kids in Lafayette with funds going to science, math, music, art, technology, foreign language and more. Some residents may be more familiar with the group’s prior name, LASF or Lafayette Art and Science Foundation which changed in 2010 to LPIE.

Once T-shirts were found, competitors had to complete a three-legged style walk (actually five-legged walk) that linked all four team members around the track, with the T-shirts tied around ankles – definitely a learning curve there – then on to kick field goals, apparently a job many middle-aged parents weren’t familiar with. At this point, team teal T-shirt was off to an early lead.

In what turned out to be a very full afternoon, teams had tasks all over town; one task cleverly had them look for a message somewhere on Golden Gate Way.

... continued on page B10

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Willard Dixon, *The Avenues*, 2014, oil on canvas, 27 x 54 inches, Courtesy the Artist

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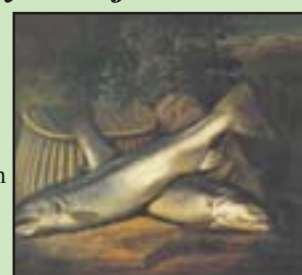


Edward S. Curtis, *Bear Bull – Blackfoot*, 1926, photogravure on Japanese vellum, 15 x 11 inches, Collection of Roger Epperson

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No Match for This Crowd

By Nick Marnell



Online dating has been destigmatized and business is booming.

Match.com, an online dating site, purchased OKCupid, a rival, for \$50 million in 2011. Zoosk, an online dating app, filed for a \$100 million IPO in April. Tinder, a much less formal connection app, claims 10 million ephemeral matches per day.

According to a 2013 Pew Research Report, 59 percent of all Internet users agreed with the statement that "online dating is a good way to meet people," up from the 44 percent who said so in 2005. But the biggest stunner in the report: 3 percent of adults 50-64 years old met their partner online.

With a demographic sporting a 3 percent matchmaking success rate, this reporter decided to take his chances, and jump into the morass.

The first thing I did was search for pictures of myself from five years ago to post in my profile. But I was told that was not the way to go. To be as fair as the rest of the participants, I should use photos at least 10-15 years old.

I determined to not interact with any woman who used the word "must" in her profile: "Must like dogs." "Must love to dance." Must move to the next candidate. A few other buzz words forced me to hit delete: "Generous." "Enjoys the finer things in life." Of course, once a woman of that ilk saw that I earned a newspaper reporter's salary, I was never in jeopardy of having her respond anyway.

So I clicked through the profiles, and every so often one struck me. I would write the lady a nice email about how much I enjoyed reading her profile and how well written it was. After about a half dozen non-responses, it dawned on me that the women were looking for a boyfriend, not an editor.

I wanted to keep it simple and meet someone from Lamorinda. In

the category that I chose – women aged 50-63 – the site selected 11 women from Moraga, 11 from Orinda and 42 from Lafayette, which made me think about moving to Lafayette.

My first get together was with a teacher from Benicia. We met at a café and one of the first comments she made was that I looked just like my photos. Considering that I am the most non-photogenic person in Lamorinda, I wasn't sure how to take that. She appeared to be in shock; honest photos online are apparently a rare occurrence. Nothing developed with her; she was just looking for a "friend."

I went on a date with a professional woman from San Ramon who looked a bit like Cameron Diaz. We met at a café in Lafayette but a woman whom I knew came to our table and said hello and made a big fuss over me. My date was not impressed. Things did not work out with her either.

A few days later, I received an email from a woman in Lafayette who worked for the county. She commented that my profile sounded like it was written by a reporter. And she still wanted to get to know me. We exchanged emails and agreed to go out for a glass of wine. But I found out that even scheduled dates are like most other things on an online dating site: not quite as they appear.

When I wrote to confirm our plans, I received this message from her: "Oh, sorry, I'm taking off to Tahoe. Maybe we can get together when I return." Maybe not.

Frankly, navigating the online dating scene is work. The number of dead ends, the contacts with no photos, the hidden profiles – it's enough to make me head to my Moraga coffee shop and ask the woman whom I've had a crush on for months if she'd go to an Oakland A's game with me.

The chances that she says yes have got to be at least 3 percent.

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

"My surgeon says I'll need physical and occupational therapy. I'm retired—why do I need occupational therapy?" David, 73

I met David during pre-surgery tours of ManorCare Walnut Creek and Tice Valley. He was finally having a knee replacement after years of discomfort and increasing pain. David's question isn't uncommon, most patients new to rehab have questions about the different therapy disciplines they'll be working with at ManorCare. Orthopedic patients like David will participate in an intensive rehab program including both physical and occupational therapy (PT and OT, respectively).

Your PT program has four main components: Pain management and reduction, neurological rehabilitation, range of motion, and increased strength and endurance. Your PT is trained in multiple modalities of pain management, including electrical stimulation therapy, or E-stim. E-stim is one way to enhance your recovery and decrease pain associated with injury, surgery or nerve damage. You will work on walking, transfers (getting out of bed!), stairs and exercises specific to your recovery needs.

Like the PT program, your OT sessions will be based on comprehensive evaluations of your prior level of function, current level of function, and ultimate goals for "graduating" and going home. As I explained to David and others with similar questions, the "occupational" in OT refers to the tasks required for living, not for a specific job. Your Occupational Therapist will work with you to adapt your environment should you need to (i.e. utilizing a shower chair or a reacher). You'll learn how to safely perform Activities of Daily Living (things like bathing, dressing, managing a kitchen, homemaking) both during your recovery and after you have gone home so that you can get back to your life safely and successfully.

While David doesn't need Speech Therapy, this discipline is part of some treatment programs. A Speech Language Pathologist focuses on diseases of communication and speech. Depending on your needs, a SLP will work on cognitive exercises, swallowing techniques, or determining helpful communication techniques both for you and for those communicating with you.

David's individual treatment program included both PT and OT. His PT helped him learn how to navigate stairs and long distances without injuring his new joint. His OT taught him how to safely get dressed, take a shower and live as independently as possible in his home. I called David at home to check in, and he tells me that he is strong and independent! The best thing he told me: "I couldn't have done it without Joe and Maria". Joe was his PT and Maria his OT. This is the best part of my job: hearing how great people are doing after they graduate and go back to their lives.

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9/11 Remembrance and Candlelight Vigil

Submitted by Jim Minder



Photo Doug Kohen

With the goal to never forget the events that happened on Sept. 11, 2001, The Lafayette Flag Brigade will be holding its 13th Annual 9/11 Remembrance and Candlelight Vigil from 4 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 11 at the El Curtola Bridge, Highway 24 overcrossing near the 680 Freeway in Lafayette. The event, which is held annually to honor those lost during attacks at the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and on Flight 93, will include a large flag display, the Travis Air Force Base Honor

Guard and their Flag Folding Ceremony, local Blue Star Moms and Operation Postcard, as well as the Lafayette Boy Scouts color guard. There will also be a special 13th anniversary music program, and historical artifacts will be on display. The candlelight vigil will begin at dusk. This is a family oriented, educational, and non-political event, where all groups are welcome. Free 9/11 commemorative flags for children. For more information, visit www.neverforget911.com.



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Canyon Post Office on Slow Road to Closure

By Chris Lavin



Nola Clifford, 7, shouts her support for the Canyon Post Office with a print made by local artist Jeanne Lorenz. Photos Chris Lavin

It just might be the beginning of an end to an era: Canyon Post Office, the small community post office just outside Moraga that has been open for business since the old-growth redwoods started getting cleared at the turn of the last century, is now in the cross-hairs of the U.S. Postal Service. It has been downsized, and is on its way to full closure.

Likely starting this month, the post office will lose its longtime postmaster Elena Tyrell. A part-time contract employee will put up the mail and open the window for abbreviated hours.

"The loss of a career employee behind the counter of our post office will be detrimental to the coherence of our community," said Jonathan Goodwin, a 22-year Canyon resident who serves as the community liaison with fire and police agencies. "Because we lack home delivery and have to go personally to the post office to get our mail, if the person behind the counter has a long-term position here and comes to understand the life of the community, they can add a lot to it. But if that person is just here temporarily, clocking in and clocking out, we lose that connective link."

For the past decade, the USPS has been shutting down hundreds of post offices across the country. At a meeting with Canyon residents two weeks ago, officials said that declining revenues, coupled with higher worker costs, made small post offices infeasible.

"We don't intend to downsize your service," said Gus Ruiz, the spokesperson for the Bay-Valley area of the postal system, which covers Moraga and Canyon. "We are simply reorganizing it," he told the

full quarter of Canyon's 270-member community who showed up for the meeting.

Longtime postmaster (and resident) Tyrell has been given notice that she will lose her job as of Dec. 1. She has already been relocated to the Sunol office in preparation for downsizing, which could happen as early as this month.

"I'm so sad," Tyrell said at the community meeting, when she had to abruptly leave before she sobbed. She was born and raised in Canyon. Every single person who lives in town knows her, and that is not an exaggeration. Even 2-year-old Daphne Heylin, or 7-year-old Nola Clifford, could not be consoled. "I don't want the post office to close!" Nola said.

The closure of the Canyon post office is felt not only locally. When told of the imminent downsizing and move toward closure, Anne Hawkins of Burton Valley in Lafayette objected strongly.

"That is the biggest mistake," she said. "I love that post office." She goes there during the holidays to send Christmas presents. "It has become too easy to discount the value in a small community with a bit of independence. It's too convenient to conglomerate with no thought of social repercussions. Communities like that are small, but they are meaningful."

Postmaster Tyrell is pivotal in the somewhat brief history of the post office. Even her mother, Virginia Menge, was the postmaster once. At the office's 90th birthday celebration (yes, held at the post office) in 2012, Tyrell gave a brief oral history of the Canyon office, then confirmed something she said with her mother. Looking down at the

redwood bench that had been freshly restored, where Menge was sitting, she asked, "Right, Mom?" Mom nodded.

Coincidentally, Menge herself just turned 90, and her birthday party was held in the grove at Canyon School, the only other public institution in Canyon. Just about everybody came. Many parked at the post office, and walked over.

To paint Canyon as an isolated community, however, is not accurate. Dozens of commuters drive from Moraga, Lafayette and Orinda to San Francisco, Oakland and other East Bay cities through the artery of Pinehurst Road, ending up on Highway 13 and beyond. Yet Canyon itself has no mail delivery, no cell phone service, and no cable. Goodwin, the fire liaison, managed to get a call box put in that goes directly to the Moraga-Orinda Fire District, mainly because of the sharp curve in front of the office on Pinehurst that should be labeled "accident waiting to happen," particularly at night.

"We have our issues," he said. "But the closure of the post office should not be one of them."



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Postmaster Elena Tyrell prepares to post the mail dropped in the box in the morning.

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For the Love of a School

Parents, grandparents, and preschool alumni pitch in for a new roof at Mulberry Tree

By Sophie Braccini



From left: Susie Allison and Cathy Harris climb on a play structure at Mulberry Tree Preschool to take a look at the new roof.
Photo Sophie Braccini

It feels cool inside the Mulberry Tree Preschool these days, even when the sun beats down on the charming round building that sits next to the Moraga Commons on St. Mary's Road. The cool effect is a by-product of the badly needed roof restoration that happened last month. The new white flat roof was a big expense, but the community of parents and alumni got together to help underwrite the expense, showing their support for this little Moraga institution.

"We only had a short period of time to raise the money, we ran different scenarios and decided to simply spread the word to current parents and alumni," Parents Enrichment Committee co-chair Cathy Harris explains. "We just laid down the facts and asked for help."

The effort Harris spearheaded was a community project, and she says this was her first nonprofit fundraising effort for a school. The preschool had also never done fundraising before.

Mulberry Tree Preschool was

founded in 1972 and is one of the oldest Lamorinda preschools. The round building was constructed with the children in mind and belongs to the preschool, but the land is leased from the Town of Moraga. When director Susie Allison noticed last March that the roof was leaking, she knew it was the school's financial responsibility to repair it. "We had a tar and pebble roof that probably dated to the construction of the building," says Allison. "My husband sealed the roof so we could sustain classes during the winter; but we knew that major repair was in order."

Within a few weeks of spreading the word, almost half of the \$33,000 needed to repair the roof was raised. "Parents donated, but also grandparents, and 20 percent of our donors were alumni parents who do not have kids in the school anymore," says Harris. "That's because there is so much love for this school."

Since some of the beams had dry rot, and the school was closed in August, all the beams were cut back and angled, the dry rot was removed

and/or repaired, and the old roof was removed and replaced by a new polyvinyl chloride (PVC) roof. "It was all done within a week," Allison says.

Both of Harris' sons attended the preschool last year. She says the school turned her shy and reserved first born into an independent and confident kindergartner at Los Perales Elementary School this fall, and her turbulent second son finds a great outlet at Mulberry Tree, which offers boundaries for his energy. Concepts like conscious discipline are started early at 2 years old, giving students the vocabulary and the responsibility to exercise self-discipline. Harris also believes that the friendships parents form add to the attachment to the preschool.

"This preschool is such a warm nurturing place for our children," says Harris. "It is a safe traditional nursery school program that balances real academics, creativity and playtime."

For more information about Mulberry Tree, go to www.mulberry-treepreschool.com.

Swiss Movie 'Lovely Louise' Opens in Orinda Sept. 19

By Sophie Braccini



Annemarie Düringer portrays lovely Louise.

Photo provided

Annemarie Düringer was lovely when she was young; the Swiss actress who is playing Louise in the upcoming International Film Showcase screening of "Lovely Louise" at Orinda Theatre is still amazingly charming in her late 80s, obviously as strong as the character she portrays. "Lovely Louise" is an endearing bittersweet comedy, but don't get fooled by the title; Louise is not as lovely inside as she is outside, and the frail woman has more than one trick up her sleeve.

In the movie directed by Bettina Oberli, Louise and her son André are living a peaceful and somewhat mediocre life together, frozen in time, and mostly devoted to the reminiscence of Louise's budding Holly-

wood career that she gave up to take care of André, played by Stefan Kurt. The lovely sepiapicture is smashed to smithereens with the arrival of Bill (Stanley Townsend), a character who first appears to be one of Louise's fans.

The three main characters, starting with Louise, are cast to perfection, but André's transformation needs special mention. It could be shown in any acting class under the title: How to go from dull to seductive, or How to show the transformation of a character from half-dead to vibrant.

To an American audience, the Swiss-German film may run at a pace that can be a bit frustrating at times. Audience members should take the opportunity to relax and let the slower

pace of life win them over. Enjoy this movie for what it is: a poignant slice of life, bittersweet but hopeful, that leaves no unpleasant after taste, just a gentle smile and the desire to dance through life following a lighter beat.

"Lovely Louise" will play at the Orinda Theatre for one week beginning Sept. 19. For showtimes, visit <http://lamorindatheatre.com>. This showing is part of the International Film Showcase that screens distinguished foreign films each month that have been highlighted at festivals or abroad, and have never been commercially released in the area; some will never be available to rent or download. For more information about the showcase, visit <http://internationalshowcase.org/>.

Understanding Early Decision in College Admission

By Elizabeth LaScala, PhD

Early Decision is an application program offered by many colleges and universities that provides an early admission decision in exchange for the student's commitment to enroll. A student may only apply ED to one college, and, if admitted ED, a student must withdraw all other applications and enroll at the ED school. This is common knowledge for most families in our savvy communities.

What is not commonly understood is that ED is an enrollment management strategy that always benefits colleges and only sometimes benefits students. ED is a way for colleges to secure 'high yield' students (full pay or nearly full pay students who will definitely enroll) for their entering classes. In contrast to the guaranteed admission that comes with each ED acceptance, schools must accept 3-5 students in Regular Decision in order to secure the enrollment of one definite full-pay student. Although each ED acceptance reduces the entering freshman class by one seat, colleges can reduce their numbers of Regular Decision offers as many as five-fold.

Colleges who offer the ED option consider one of three outcomes when students apply ED: acceptance, deferral and denial. If *accepted*, the student is expected to enroll. When *deferred*, or *denied*, the student is released from the ED commitment and can pursue other options – including ED at another school. Students who are *deferred* will be considered again in the Regular Decision application review.

In past years it was commonly believed that only highly competitive students (who were convinced that a particular school was their very best match academically and socially) should apply as an ED applicant. More recently, as colleges increasingly struggle to build enrollment with students who are both likely to come and full pay, applicants who are "reasonably competitive" may benefit from the ED option. ED may be an

especially attractive option for those who do not require financial assistance or may acquire assistance via athletic or merit awards.

So let's take an example. One highly selective university, "Selective U," offers institutional aid largely in the form of grants to the most exceptional students (top 15 percent of the students in their applicant pool) and the merit aid averages only around \$10k-\$12k. One of my students this year is considering applying ED to this university. Her ACT score of 34, places her right at the 75th percentile for this college's median range of the ACT (middle 50 percent of applicants who were admitted last cycle). That means she does not reach the 85th percentile where Selective U tends to give grants. Other academic and extracurricular achievements may influence admission as well, but not the average aid award. The student's GPA at end of junior year is a weighted 4.3 with four AP classes in her senior year. Her three SAT subject tests are good, but not outstanding (low 700s for math and science, 690 for social science). Her extracurricular record is exceptional at the local level, but not at the regional level or higher.

Since this family needs an annual merit award of at least \$25,000 to afford the college, this student should not apply ED to this university. Instead, the student should apply more broadly to slightly less selective colleges that are known to be generous with merit aid and choose among her options in the spring. The student should also apply to public universities honors programs and consider our in-state UC system as well.

The family's financial profile includes an income of \$230,000 and home ownership in an affluent area (with mortgage). With the help of a family financial advisor, other factors considered in this analysis included two younger siblings who plan to attend college, 529 plan contributions,

the age of the parents, the parents' nest egg for retirement and current as well as planned 401K contributions.

This type of analysis should precede the compilation of a college list for all but the wealthiest of families. It helps a family to determine if a student should apply to any particular college, not just ED to elite Selective U. Most of my clients must face the question: can they flow cash to the tune of about \$65,000 per year (total COA) for four college years and still build assets to fund the "golden years" which can stretch well into the 90s. Funding the long life that lies ahead for most parents is the biggest challenge to take into account, since the child going off to college has a lifetime of earnings to build upon.

In sum, only if a family can well-afford to pay for college with existing cash flow (income in excess of current expenses which can be diverted to college costs), while still funding retirement and setting aside enough money to support younger siblings' education, and/or care of aging parents, should ED be considered a reasonable option.



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

Young Designers Sport Their Fashions at Recent Show

Submitted by Susan Goldie



Sewnow designers model their Summer Fashion Sewing Camp creations for a sold-out audience at the 'WE Go' fashion show on Aug. 24 at the LLLC Community Hall. Photo provided

The Community Hall of the Lafayette Library was packed Aug. 24 with a very enthusiastic audience who welcomed 27 Sewnow summer camp designers to the runway. Modeling personal designs they created at the Sewnow fashion studio this summer, styles ranged from simple A-line skirts in summer brights to sophisticated knit sportswear from advanced campers attending the new

Fashion Kit program. A highlight after the show was shopping in the Young Designer Boutique where Fashion Biz campers Grace Corrigan (Grace's Quiltsters), Catie Foley (Catie's Convertibles), Abigail Crinks and Ilana Rubin (partners of Zips and Clips) displayed and sold innovative new fashion products they prototyped, branded and produced this summer.

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Out and About

A few great event options just outside of Lamorinda

By Lou Fancher



Ryan Drummond and Tom Homsley in Center Rep's "Life Could Be A Dream." Photo Kevin Berne

There were some great outdoor events outside of Lamorinda in August, but September is all about what's in. If you're looking for something to do just beyond our borders later this month, consider this: Go Chabot in Oakland, Dream Downtown in Walnut Creek, and Rapture, Blister, Burn in Berkeley.

At the **Chabot Space and Science Center**, you might already know that you can leap to the moon in a space roadster, touch the sun, venture into a black hole with an interstellar robot and expose yourself to 360 degrees of laser light while achieving fusion with the iconic tunes of Led Zepplin, Pink Floyd, and other rock and roll titans. But if you are truly lucky, the science center's Sept. 26 Night Hike will not be sold out and you can wander the redwoods from 6 to 9 p.m. while the sun sets. Prefer hobnobbing in high heels? The Starlight Gala on Sept. 20 benefits science education with next-gen energy from 6:30 to 10 p.m. at the Rotunda Building at 300 Frank Ogawa Plaza in Downtown Oakland. For complete information, visit www.chabot-space.org/index.htm.

Any time you can catch a theater performance featuring Bay Area actor Ryan Drummond, do it. Gangly and gregarious as "Denny" in **Center Rep's** frizzy "Life Could Be A Dream," Drummond and his doo-wop Dreamers croon '60s hits while hoping to enter the Big

Whopper Radio contest. Writer/Director Roger Bean is like a roundabout in a musical theater city, with multiple avenues shooting off his creative energy and most often leading to award land. Have fun, leave your feminist sensitivities at home, just play. At Leshar Center through Oct. 5. Tickets and info: <http://www.centerrep.org/season1415/lifecouldbeadream.php>.

Aurora Theatre Company's 23rd season opens in Berkeley with a raw, revealing new play for adults. Director Desdemona Chiang splits her time between Seattle and the Bay Area, but there's nothing halfway about playwright Gina Gionfriddo's no-holds barred excavation, "Rapture, Blister, Burn." "Why can't we have it all?" and "Do we really want it if we get it?" could be the play's soundtrack. "Catherine" is a stellar academic and media's maven after linking Internet porn and the events of 9-11. "Gwen" has the man (and the kids) Catherine left behind. Is watching the two characters duke it out funny, sad, tragic, rigorous, splintering, synthesizing and deeply moving? Sure is: because it's Aurora Theatre Company. For over two decades, the integrity and keen eye of Artistic Director Tom Ross has filled the stage - lined on three sides with avid theatergoers - hopeful and hankering for more. Tickets and info: https://auroratheatre.org/index.php?option=com_theatre&view=show&id=99.

Unique Korean Ensemble to Play at SMC

By Amanda Kuehn Carroll



Korean ensemble JUL

Photo provided

"A living, breathing life form." This is how Martin Rokeach, composer and professor of music at Saint Mary's College describes the music of JUL, a Korean ensemble of three female musicians who play the gayageum, a traditional Korean instrument resembling a zither. The oldest of Korea's instruments, traditional gayageum music is still widely played.

Less common is the contemporary twist that JUL brings to its performances. With respective backgrounds in both traditional Korean music and modern composition, the members of the ensemble frequently commission new work to promote their vision of bringing new sound from an old instrument.

"They're very adventurous," said Jean Ahn, composer and faculty member at UC Berkeley. Ahn learned of JUL in 2012, when she met ensemble member Hyosung Jeong, who was a visiting scholar at UC Berkeley. Ahn and Jeong formed a connection.

Jeong grew interested in a Bay Area performance. It was a tall order to fly the trio to California, but it will be possible thanks to a grant from the Arts Council Korea. UC Berkeley invited JUL for a concert on Saturday, Sept. 13 at the Center for New Music, a place for local composers and musicians. It will be a portrait

concert of Ahn's compositions.

JUL will also give a concert at Saint Mary's College the following Sunday. "We wanted to introduce them to a local community," said Ahn, who is an associate of Rokeach. When Rokeach learned of the opportunity to host such a unique ensemble he was very excited.

JUL will be playing four songs during their Sunday concert. Two will be traditional pieces and two more contemporary. One will be an original composition by Ahn. "The music I chose to be performed in Moraga is more accessible, more public friendly," said Ahn. "It is based on Korean popular songs, so it has a melody, something easy for people to understand."

"The tamber is beautiful and the melodies are seductive," said Rokeach. "We have lots of classical musicians who would be willing to come and perform, but this opportunity is really rare. We are really delighted to present this."

JUL, which is comprised of members Hyosung Jeong, Suhyoen Cho and Jinkyoun Kim, has given composer series concerts since 2011 and has two recordings of contemporary music. The Moraga concert will take place at 3 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 14 in the Soda Center and is free of charge.

Community Service

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

Girl Scouts Earn Silver Award

Submitted by Janene Goodman



From left, front row: Anna Cain, Susie Bush, Jamie Wendt, and Isabella Wentzel; back row: Molly Wendt (leader), Olivia Cannizzo, Cate Goodman, Serena Singh, Janene Goodman (leader), Nicole Palamountain, Mindy Bush (leader), Olivia Heyman, Cate Combi, Deanna Wentzel (leader), Margot Zoger, Sophia Douglas, and Theresa Nevins Photo provided

The girls of Lafayette Girl Scout Troop 31488 recently completed the work required for their Silver Award. They brought the documentary "Finding Kind" to the Lamorinda community this past fall. The screening was the final part of a two-year journey which included many hours of hard work, fundraising and marketing. The troop began their project in sixth grade when they completed their Media Journey by exploring how women and girls can be negatively portrayed in the media and the lasting effects of such images. They then decided to participate in "Operation Beautiful" with a goal of spreading the word that "We are all beautiful. You are enough ... just the way you

are!" The girls made simple, anonymous messages which they distributed in local stores. They then broke off into small groups where they created their own videos covering the lasting effects of bullying. After much fundraising, educating and marketing, they were able to bring the award-winning documentary "Finding Kind" to Lafayette at the end of last year. The film explores the "mean girl" phenomenon and the lifelong emotional scars caused by girls mistreating each other. It promotes uniting to take a stand against this behavior and, instead, be kind to each other. The screenings of the film were a huge success with approximately 400 girls and parents attending.

Lafayette Boy Scout Troop 224 Completes Three Philmont Treks

Submitted by Claire Phillips



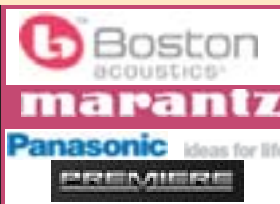
Troop 224 Boy Scouts on Philmont Trek.

Photo provided

This summer, 22 Scouts and nine adults from Lafayette Boy Scout Troop 224 had the adventure of a lifetime on a 12-day trek through the Philmont Scout Ranch in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains in New Mexico. Philmont is one of four national Boy Scout high adventure camps, and conquering Philmont is considered to be the peak of Scouting experiences. The Scouts from Troop 224, who went in three separate treks, covered upwards of 80 miles during their trek, with elevations ranging from 6,000 to almost 12,000 feet. In addition to hiking, they experienced activities such as horseback riding, rock climbing, tomahawk throwing and

shooting with .50 caliber black powder rifles. The Scouts are responsible for carrying their supplies for two weeks in their own backpacks, as well as shared items for their crew. Part of each trip also includes a conservation project to benefit the 214 square mile Scout ranch. As one leader commented, the Troop 224 Scouts became a "lean, mean, backpacking machine," and all agreed it was a highlight of their Scouting experiences. Troop 224 of Lafayette, which recently celebrated its 60th anniversary, is a boy-led troop with a full schedule of events and trips throughout the year. For more information, visit www.troop224lafayette.com.

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Uniting Lamorinda's Past and Present

Fandango scheduled for Sept. 13 at Frank Lloyd Wright House in Orinda

By Laurie Snyder



The joy of work done and relaxation begun. "The Fandango," painted by Charles Christian Nahl in 1873, depicts Californios dancing at a fiesta as vaqueros finish branding their cattle. Oil on canvas, E.B. Crocker Collection.

Image used with special permission from the Crocker Art Museum.

"The present is the ever moving shadow that divides yesterday from tomorrow. In that lies hope." – Frank Lloyd Wright

Like a modern day Brigadoon, Orinda will vanish into the ether Sept. 13 as history lovers embark on a magical journey bridging the past to the city's future. It is on that evening that the Friends of the Joaquin Moraga Adobe hope to resurrect one of the region's grandest traditions – the Fandango – and re-engage it in the hearts and minds of Lamorindans for decades to come.

The Adobe Friends will hold their very special event at the historic Frank Lloyd Wright Buehler House to help raise funds for the restoration of Contra Costa County's oldest surviving building – the Joaquin Moraga Adobe. Built sometime around 1841 by Don Joaquin Moraga at what is now 24 Adobe Lane in Orinda, the structure has fallen into such disrepair over the years that it is no longer accessible to the general public. The Friends hope not only to halt its decline, but ultimately transform it into a learning center.

"The elegant gardens of the Frank Lloyd Wright Buehler House will provide the backdrop for this unique evening," said FJMA president, Kent Long. "The Buehler House is one of only two Frank Lloyd Wright homes in the Bay Area." Over the years, its doors have been opened to the public only a handful of times – most often for charitable events or for members of heritage societies and the media.

Wright birthed the house in 1948 for the late Maynard and Kate Buehler, one of just 60 Usonian or "New World" homes built by the architectural icon beginning in the mid-1930s. The interior, for which Wright also designed furniture, evokes an intimate connection to the outdoors – more than three acres of Orinda's spectacular landscape made all the more extraordinary by the presence of an exquisite Japanese teahouse created by Henry Matsutani, designer of the famed Japanese Gardens at Golden Gate Park.

It is in the midst of this modernity where guests will be time warped

back through Lamorinda's storied beginnings to experience two of the region's key periods in history. Specially guided tours of the Wright House interior will begin with a champagne reception at 5 p.m. General admission visitors will then learn more about plans for the adobe's restoration and experience a contemporary Fandango, including Spanish dances performed by the Baile Folclorico de San Panchos, as they explore Wright House grounds from 7 to 10 p.m.

The Fandango, originally a mid-18th century style of dance in Spain and Portugal, became something far more special during California's Rancho and Gold Rush periods – multi-day, colorful events filled with games, good food and electrifying horse races held in honor of births, baptisms, weddings, holidays, or just simply in celebration of hard work done well during difficult times. Evenings sparkled with women garbed in their most gorgeous attire, gliding gracefully across the dance floor in the arms of gallant soldiers and other young men. The first dance tradition-

ally began with the lady of the house, who then invited others to join her. The second often involved stylized movements of fans and skirts.

The builder of Orinda's adobe, Don Joaquin Moraga, is said to have hosted such joyous affairs that ranchers and their families traveled from as far away as the Central Valley to kick up their heels at his home. His spirit and those of his family are sure to be on hand and roaming the Wright House grounds with the Adobe Friends and their fellow Fandango attendees. Bobbie Landers, a member of Orinda's first city council and former mayor, who was one of the three Orindans who brainstormed Orinda's now regionally cherished Fourth of July celebration, has worked tirelessly to save the adobe. She hopes Lamorindans and other Bay Area residents will turn out to help make history at the 2014 Wright House celebration.

To learn more about the adobe's history, visit the Lamorinda Weekly's archives. To purchase tickets to the Fandango and experience the past becoming prologue, visit www.moragaadobe.org.

The Fandango – About the Image Accompanying This Article

So integral to California's beginnings were Spanish dances that, when Charles Christian Nahl was commissioned by California Supreme Court Justice Edwin Bryant Crocker to create five paintings, he chose to preserve one of the most colorful in oil – the Fandango.

"The Fandango," created in 1873 "reminisces about life on a rancho in California after Mexico won independence from Spain in 1821. It depicts Californios (Mexicans living in California) enjoying a fiesta," according to the curators of Sacramento's Crocker Art Museum. "In the center foreground of the painting, a couple dances the Fandango, a dance that originated in Spain, while in the distance vaqueros round up cattle for branding."

Often described by historians as one of California's first major painters, the German-born Nahl trained initially with his etcher-engraver father, studied in Paris with Horace Vernet and Paul Delaroche, and then emigrated to America in 1849 before heading west where he successfully mined California's vibrant cultural landscape to become a respected chronicler of the Gold Rush era. He depicted "Miners in the Sierra" (1851) and a "Fire in San Francisco Bay" (1856) before creating "The Patriotic Race" (1870), "Sunday Morning in the Mines" (1872), "The Fandango," and other paintings for Crocker.

To learn more, visit the Crocker Art Museum: crockerartmuseum.org.

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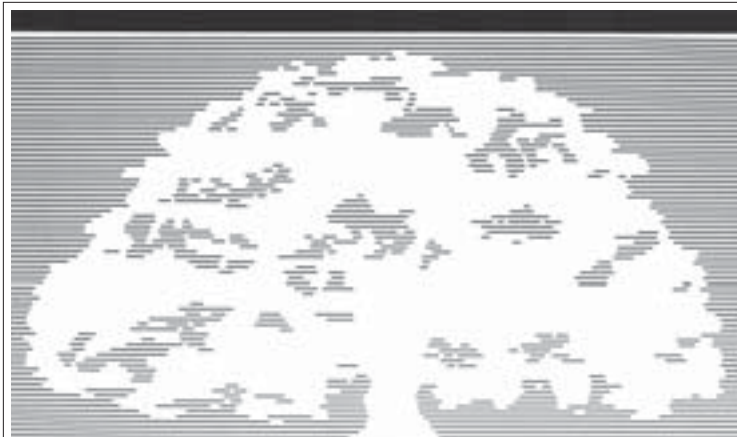
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Share Your Celebrations and Remembrances

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.

Lamorinda's Religious Services



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



8:30 a.m. Traditions Worship Service
9:50 a.m. Education for all ages
10:45 a.m. Contemporary Worship Service
Coffee Fellowship at 9:30 and 11:45 a.m.
Childcare available for ages 5 and younger

SAINT GILES EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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



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

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

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

The Orinda Community Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

10 Irwin Way, Orinda | 925.254.4906 | www.orindachurch.org

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

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

St. Anselm's Episcopal Church

A Loving Community

Sunday Services: 8 and 10 AM

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

Lafayette United Methodist Church

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

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

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

► SEEDLINGS Preschool, M-F

► LOPC: Where everyone is welcome, nobody is perfect & anything is possible with God.



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LOPC.org

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Reading Room/Bookstore M - F 11 - 4; Sat 11 - 2

www.christianscienceorinda.org

St Stephen's Episcopal Church

66 St. Stephen's Drive, Orinda
254-3770. www.ststephensorinda.org

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5:30p.m. Casual Eucharist



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Wednesdays: 10:00am Community Bible Study
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www.willowspringchurch.net

◆ Not to be missed ◆ Not to be missed ◆

ART

The Moraga Art Gallery's new show entitled "ALEGRIA - Happiness and Art" highlights the bright, colorful figurative paintings by Angelica Samame, and the bold line and form featured in ceramics by Cuong Ta. The show runs through Oct. 25 at 522 Center Street, Rheem Shopping Center, in Moraga. It is open Wednesday through Sunday from noon to 5 p.m. For more info, visit www.moragaartgallery.com or call (925) 376-5407.

The Orinda Library October Art Gallery exhibit for September will include paintings by Geoffrey Meridith and Krista Borst, sculptures by Lisa Lee, and gnomes by Carey Carpenter. The library gallery is located at 26 Orinda Way in Orinda.

Jennifer Perlmutter Gallery presents a new show, "Heart of Modernism - Young Sun Bai." The show runs from Sept. 13 to Oct. 25, with an opening reception from 5 to 7 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 13, 3620 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. For info, visit www.jenniferperlmuttergellery.com.

Saint Mary's College Museum of Art exhibition, "The Native American Collection of Roger Epperson," features additional works from Epperson's collection not yet exhibited. 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 smarys-ca.edu/museum.

MUSIC

Voci Women's Vocal Ensemble, directed by Anne Hege, will be holding auditions for experienced choral singers in all voice parts through Sept. 13. Voci is a 24-voice, auditioned ensemble, which performs classical music from a wide variety of historical periods that rehearses Wednesday evenings from 7:30 to 10 p.m. in Orinda. Additional retreats and/or rehearsals are scheduled during the season. The audition consists of the performance of a prepared solo piece a cappella and various ear-training and sight-singing exercises. For more info or to schedule an audition, contact artistic director Anne Hege at anne@annehege.com. To learn more about Voci, visit www.vocisings.com.

Saint Mary's College presents Gayaguem Ensemble JUL, with three musicians from Korea featuring sanjo and Korean dance music along with a U.S. premiere by Bay Area composer Jean Ahn at 3 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 14 in the Soda Center, Saint Mary's College of California. Free. (See story page B6)

Diablo Women's Chorale welcomes new members for its 2014 fall season. The December concert, "Holiday Sweet," will feature a sweet mix of contemporary songs. Open rehearsal from 7 to 9 p.m. Monday, Sept. 15 at Saint Matthew Lutheran Church, 399 Wiget Lane, Walnut Creek. Contact director Mary Sorenson at marysorenson2@gmail.com to schedule an informal audition. For more info, visit www.diablowomenschorale.org.

Explore the world of Mexican folk music with Cascada de Flores from 10:15 to 11:15 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 23 in the Community Hall of the Lafayette Library and Learning Center. Children and families sing, dance, and meet sweet characters in beautiful traditional songs sung in Spanish and English. Celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month. Free.

The award winning Gold Coast Chamber Players welcome back violinist Juliana Athayde with concerts at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 26 and at 3 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 28 at the Community Hall at the Lafayette Library. The program features the tuneful string sextet by Dvorak and the epic Souvenir de Florence for strings by Tchaikovsky. Tickets include complimentary champagne, a pre-concert talk 30 minutes prior to each concert and a reception with the musicians. For tickets, visit www.gcplayers.org or call (925) 283-3728.

THEATER

Town Hall Theatre is excited to kick-off their 2014-15 Main Stage season with Stephen Sondheim's classic musical "Company." Winner of seven Tony awards and seven Drama Desk awards, "Company" focuses on Robert, a confirmed bachelor celebrating his 35th birthday, surrounded by friends showing him the pros (and cons) of married life. Rated PG-13 for mild drug use and language. "Company" runs from Sept. 13 to Oct. 11, with previews on Sept. 11 and 12. For tickets, prices and showtimes, contact Town Hall Theatre Box Office at (925) 283-1557, or online at www.TownHallTheatre.com.

LECTURE & LITERATURE

The Lafayette Library and Learning Center's Distinguished Speaker Series presents author Paul Madonna at 6:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 19 in the Library's Community Hall. Madonna writes and draws "All Over Coffee," the weekly series published in the San Francisco Chronicle and on TheRumpus.net and is the author of two books, "All Over Coffee" (City Lights 2007), and "Everything is its own reward" (City Lights 2011), which won the 2011 NCBR Recognition Award for Best Book. He is the Comics Editor for TheRumpus.net, has taught drawing at the University of San Francisco, and frequently lectures on creative practice. He holds a BFA from Carnegie Mellon University, and was the first (ever!) Art Intern at MAD Magazine, for which he proudly received no money. Tickets: \$20 at tinyurl/LLLCFPaulMadonna. The next LLLC Distinguished Speaker Series will feature New York Times Bestselling author Anthony Marra at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 25.

KIDS, PARENTS & TEENS

Free family movie night at 7 p.m. Friday, Sept. 12 at Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Drive, in Lafayette. Watch "Frozen" and sing along; snacks provided. For info, visit LOPC.org.

Zimbabwe CARE Family Festival benefiting JF Kapnek Pediatric AIDS Fund Zimbabwe will be from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 20 at the Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Drive, Lafayette. Bring your entire family to learn, play and experience authentic African culture. Learn an African dance, taste Zimbabwean food, experience African music, games, crafts, cuisine, face painting, and a few big surprises. Kids helping Kids ... We'll be building toys to send to The JF Kapnek Preschools in Zimbabwe, serving orphans and children affected by AIDS. We will also be collecting used preschool toys for The Kapnek Preschools. Free. For info, email Info@JFKapnekTrust.org.

OTHER

Join film historian and movie reviewer Jan Wahl to celebrate the big screen. Chuckle at barely repeatable behind-the-scenes scoops on Hollywood's classic stars like Gregory Peck, Ben Affleck, Meryl Streep and more! 3 to 5 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 11 at Aegis of Moraga 950 Country Club Drive in Moraga. Space is limited. Kindly RSVP by calling Nancy Robinson at (925) 297-6760 or emailing nancy.robinson@aegisliving.com.

Local residents can donate blood at the Second Annual City of Lafayette Blood Drive on Monday, Sept. 15. The Red Cross blood mobile will be parked outside the city offices at Desco Plaza, 3675 Mt. Diablo Blvd. from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. All presenting donors will receive a limited edition T-shirt. Powell's Sweet Shoppe and Susie Cakes of Lafayette are providing donations. Make your appointment by visiting http://www.redcrossblood.org/ and enter the code: Lafayette or call 1-800-REDCROSS (1-800-733-2767).

Lafayette Chamber of Commerce presents the Lafayette Art and Wine Festival 2014 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 20 and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 21 in downtown Lafayette. The family friendly two-day award-winning art, wine and music festival will have four stages, 20 tribute bands, more than 260 artists, and a KidZone. Easy access. Food, wine, and beer available; no admission charge. For more info see http://lafayettefestival.com or call (925) 284-7404 or email info@lafayettefestival.com.

2014 Firefighter Career Expo is being held at the DFFJAC Firefighter Candidate Testing Centers from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday Sept. 20 at FCTC Livermore, 526 Commerce Way, Livermore. Meet fire department recruiters, try the Candidate Physical Ability Test, find out what to expect on the written test and learn more about a career in the fire service. For more info and to RSVP, visit www.cffjac.org or call (916)648-1717.

Lafayette Community Garden and Outdoor Learning Center September 2014 Classes and Activities. All In a Jar - Canning Basics with Penny Porter from 3:30 to 5 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 21. Come and have fun learning the basics on water bath canning for high-acid foods. We will discuss the best foods for this process, the tools you need and the do's and don'ts. Register for classes at www.lafayettecommunitygarden.org.

The Lafayette Flag Brigade's 13th Annual 9/11 Remembrance and Candlelight Vigil from 4 to 8 p.m. at El Curtola Bridge. Never forget 9/11 with the largest overpass flag display in the state, and other family-oriented, educational and non-political activities including a music program, historical artifacts on display, and the candlelight vigil at dusk. For more info, visit www.nevereverforget911.com.

Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary breakfast speakers on Fridays in September include John Coleman, director, EBMUD Board, "Water Usage and its Challenges," Sept. 12; and Steve Falk, city manager, City of Lafayette, "Lafayette—Its Community Future and Promise," Sept. 19. All meetings start at 7 a.m. at the Lafayette Park Hotel. For more info about the Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary Group and its initiatives, visit www.lamorindasunrise.org.

Join 5A and neighbor businesses in a "Shred Fest" to support Moraga Lion's Club from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 13 at 489 Moraga Rd. All donations welcome. \$5/per bankers box. Call (925) 631-7000 for more details.

Orinda's Classic Car Show from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Sept 13 will feature everything from eye-popping engine designs to sleek, classics from the 1920s. For more info, visit www.orindacarshow.com.

How to Leverage Social Media events from 8 to 9 a.m. Wednesday, Sept. 17 at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center. Learn about social media tools (e.g. Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Google+, LinkedIn) and get tips for integrating social media efforts with traditional marketing and event networking strategies. Free, but space is limited. Online registration: www.trylafayettefirst.org/register-workshops.

Laptop Lounge presents Laptop Lounge Comedy Corner, featuring a night of sketch comedy, improv, and stand up featuring the Ready Or Not Improv players and headliner, Los Angeles comedian Matt Rath from 5:30 to 9 p.m. Friday, Sept. 19 at Laptop Lounge, 1701 N. California Blvd., Walnut Creek. Cost: \$15. Comedy is PG-13. For more info, see http://www.laptoplounge.biz/laptoplounge-comedy-corner, call (925) 482-8300 or email community@laptoplounge.biz.

... continued on next page

Please submit events to:
calendar@
lamorindaweekly.com

Not to be missed

OTHER ... continued

Join Friends of Orinda Creeks in the annual beach and inland watershed cleanup right here in Orinda at 9 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 20 in the parking lot next to Vintage House, 25 Orinda Way. Bring sunscreen, gloves, and wear long pants and sturdy shoes. All other equipment will be provided. For further information, contact Jim Luini at (925) 254-6208.

Toast to Moraga - 40th Anniversary Celebration from 6 to 8 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 27 at the Moraga Commons Park. Pre-registration required; deadline is Sept. 12. Join the community for a picnic-style (bring your own), dinner in the park to celebrate the Town of Moraga's 40th anniversary of incorporation. Celebrate by sharing a meal with friends, family and neighbors. Reserve your table early; each 6-foot table comes with six chairs and a bottle of sparkling juice for \$35. (You can reserve as many tables as you like). Register Online or download the application form. For more info and to register, visit www.moraga.ca.us/BookingRetrieve.aspx?ID=224022.

Stephen Ministry Workshop at the Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 27. The Stephen Ministry provides one-on-one Christian care for those who are experiencing difficulties with life's challenges. For more info and to register, visit www.stephenministry.org/workshop or call Stephen Ministries at (314) 428-2600. Admission: \$15 for individuals/\$50 for groups of four or more.

Grab your running or walking shoes, your family and friends and join Las Trampas for the 5th Annual Walk n' Roll on Saturday, Sept. 27. This family-friendly event is a 1 mile or 5K run, stroll or roll along the Lafayette Moraga Trail that runs behind Las Trampas. Registration is \$25/person and children under 8 are free. This is a very special day for Las Trampas clients so if you're not able to attend, please consider sponsoring one or more clients' \$25 registration fee. Entry fee includes an event T-shirt, refreshments, light brunch, carnival games, free raffle with prizes, and live entertainment.

Calling All Armed Forces Veterans. Interested in Learning More about the American Legion and Lafayette Post 517? In Celebration of Oktoberfest please join there will be a dinner Oct. 1: social at 5:30 p.m. and dinner at 6:30 p.m. at 3780 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Lafayette. For reservations, call (925) 284-2201.

Women Unleashed from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 7 at ARF in Walnut Creek. You deserve a "girls night in" at ARF surrounded by precious pups and cute cats! Enjoy complimentary wine, martinis, and appetizers while you browse and shop for bling, purses, scarves, clothing, beauty products, and other items especially for women. Cost: \$20 per

person. Childcare for ages 3-12 available for \$5 per child.

Lafayette Juniors 21st Annual Rummage Sale from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 4. Special early bird entrance fee: \$3 per adult from 7 to 8 a.m. Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Drive in Lafayette. Pre-loved designer clothes, baby and kid clothes, toys, and gear, furniture, household goods, and much more. For info, visit www.lafayettejuniors.org.

Serbian Food Festival from noon to 10 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 4 at the Holy Trinity Serbian Orthodox Church, 1700 School St. Moraga. Live Serbian music, delicious home-made pastries, Sarma, Kobasice, Cevapcici, Raznici, pork and lamb and barbecued ox.

Contra Costa County AARP Tax-Aide is looking for volunteers to become members of a team providing free tax preparation for individuals of all ages. Tax-Aide volunteer positions include tax counselors who are trained by Tax-Aide and certified by the IRS and client facilitators who schedule appointments and assist clients at tax sites. Orientation is in November and classes for tax counselors start January, 2015. If interested, call LaVerne Gordon at (925) 726-3199 for information and to apply.

POLITICAL GATHERINGS

Local Democratic Candidate Information Night Hosted by the Lamorinda Democratic Club from 7 to 9 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 11. Come and meet many of the Democratic candidates for local city councils, school boards and regional districts in the Lamorinda area.

Lamorinda Republican Women Federated welcomes Pleasant Hill City Council member Jack Weir as the luncheon speaker at noon Thursday, Sept. 18 at the Orinda Country Club. Social at 11:15 a.m.; lunch at noon. Cost: \$25 per/person. For reservations and info, phone Elsie Euing at (925) 254-8617 or email reservations@lamorindarepublicanwomen.org. Payment online at www.LaMorindaRepublicanWomen.org.

Moraga Candidates Night at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 1 at the Holy Trinity Cultural Center, 1700 School St., Moraga. Hear the Town Council candidates: Dave Trotter, Ken Chew, and Teresa Onoda. Bring your questions!

SENIORS

Sons In Retirement Las Trampas Branch 116 luncheon meeting at Walnut Creek Elks Lodge, 1475 Creekside Dr. will feature speaker Bill Andrew, manager, Marine Transportation, Chevron Shipping LLC at 11:30 a.m. Monday, Sept. 15. He will discuss a history of Somali piracy and tactics, and maritime and military response and current piracy threats. For reservations, call (925) 322-1160 by Wednesday, Sept. 10. Lunch is \$15.

For info about SIR activities for retired men, please visit www.Branch116.org.

Informational meeting regarding a new Men's Slow Pitch Softball League, for seniors ages 68 years and up in Lamorinda is scheduled at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 16 at Buckeye Fields Meeting Room, 711 St. Mary's Rd., Lafayette. This new Lamorinda team for players with varying levels of experience focuses on fun, camaraderie and safety. Games in this recreational league will be Wednesdays, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., with practices Mondays, 9 to 10:30 a.m. Teams played will be Walnut Creek, Pleasant Hill and Concord. For more information, please contact Alan Cupples at alkanije@aol.com or (925) 876-9974. Please write "Softball" in subject line of email.

GARDEN

Lafayette Garden Club, Thursday, Sept. 11 meeting and program: "Urban Farmgirls," a SF garden design firm will present a special program on vertical gardening and succulent wreaths. "Urban Farmgirls" is a creative, full-service gardening company that specializes in earth-friendly alternative garden solutions. Guests welcome! Coffee starts at 9:30 a.m. to noon at the Lafayette Veterans Memorial Hall, 3780 Mt. Diablo Blvd. For info, email cpoetzsch@gmail.com.

Moraga Garden Club meets the third Thursday of each month September to May at the Holy Trinity Cultural Center, 1700 School St., Moraga. Social hour at 9:30 a.m., meeting at 10 a.m. The Sept. 18 meeting will feature speaker, Jolene Adams, President of the American Rose Society. Her topic is "Feeding your roses - when and what. Rose diseases - prevention and cure." Guests are welcome.

Montelindo Garden Club meeting (third Friday, September thru May) will be at 9 a.m. Friday, Sept. 19 at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 66 St. Stephens Drive, Orinda. Visitors welcome. Topic: "Roots Demystified, Change Your Garden Habits to Help Roots Thrive" with speaker Robert Kourik. For info, visit www.robertkourik.com or www.montelindogarden.com.

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.



Please join us at our new location **THE LAFAYETTE PARK HOTEL** on Friday mornings at 7am. For more info, please email us at lamorindasunrise@gmail.com

September 12:
John Coleman, Director, EBMUD Board will discuss "Water Usage and its Challenges"

September 19:
Lafayette City Manager, Steve Falk will update us about what's happening in Lafayette!

Please join us for breakfast and a great speaker!

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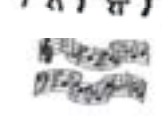
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Moraga Peach Recipe Contest Turned Upside Down

By Susie Iventosch



Moraga Peach Recipe Contest grand prize winners Juliann Hall, 11, and brother Jonathan, 7.

Photo Erika Boehnke

The results from the Moraga Peach Recipe Contest are in and oh, my, are they ever delicious recipes! They are very pretty, too, with the beautiful, ripe peach color in all its splendor.

This year, the grand prize winners were quite young ... Juliann Hall, 11, and her brother, Jonathan, 7, of Orinda. They created an amazing peach upside-down cake that literally "took the cake" in this year's contest. I made their recipe for a dinner party last Friday and all of my guests loved it!

Juliann and Jonathan heard about the Peach Recipe Contest one day at the Moraga Farmers' Market and Juliann thought, "What a fun thing to do!"

Jonathan told me that they thought about the contest for about a week and decided it would be

easier to do it together.

"I didn't do much of the cooking, because I usually help my grandpa, but I made some of the decisions," he pointed out.

So, together they found this recipe on the Internet and with the help of their grandmother, Beverly Hall, they baked their award-winning upside-down cake!

Juliann said she was present at the Farmers' Market when they announced that she and her brother had won the Grand Prize.

"I was so excited that I was shaking," she remarked.

Jonathan, who was also present at the announcement of the winners, said, "When I found out we won, I had goosebumps and I almost had a heart attack!"

I am so happy he didn't, because I look forward to seeing more of their dishes in future recipe contests! They are considering making a dish for the upcoming Pear and Wine Festival Pear Recipe Contest.

"It would be fun to do it again next year," Jonathan said. "There is also an apple and pear contest coming up that we are going to do, but we're still deciding what to make."

So far, Jonathan's favorite thing to make is cranberry smoothies. "I make them with cranberry juice, chocolate syrup and six ice cubes ... and if you want it really thick, just add more ice!"

The Hall siblings won a \$100 gift certificate to Williams Sonoma for their efforts, but have not yet



Juliann and Jonathan Hall's Peach Upside-down Cake

Photo Susie Iventosch

spent it or quite yet decided what they want to purchase with it.

Their mom, Massai Hall, said, "They might give me the \$100 gift certificate and trade it in for \$100 from their dad, so they can add to their bee hives."

So far, they say their hives have not yet produced honey, but they are hoping they will this next year.

Other category winners: Gwen Prichard, for her Curry Quinoa Peach Salad; Teresa Goodfello for her Healthy Peach Crostata; Bob Newsted for Bob and Nicole's Peach Tart; and AJ and Cyril Russell for their Gluten-free Peach Upside-down Cake. For recipes and photos, please visit our website: www.lamorindaweekly.com.

More Upcoming Recipe Contests ...

Don't forget the **Moraga Pear and Wine Festival Pear Recipe Contest**, to be held at the festival from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 27. Visit the Town of Moraga website (<http://www.moraga.ca.us>) for an application form and more information on the festival and the recipe contest.

Also, the Friends of the Wagner Ranch Nature Area will be hosting **The 5th Annual Olive Festival** on Sunday, Oct. 12 and they are sponsoring an **Olive Recipe Contest** as part of the festivities. Please visit their website for more information about the festival and the recipe contest at <http://www.fwrna.org/>.

Juliann and Jonathan Hall's Peach Upside-down Cake

INGREDIENTS

3/4 cup butter softened, divided
1/2 cup packed brown sugar
2 cups sliced peeled fresh peaches
3/4 cup sugar
1 egg
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
1-1/4 cups all-purpose flour
1-1/4 teaspoons baking powder
1/4 teaspoon salt
1/2 cup milk

DIRECTIONS

1. Melt 1/4 cup butter, pour into an ungreased 9-inch round baking pan. Sprinkle with brown sugar. Arrange peach slices in a single layer over sugar.
2. In a large bowl, cream sugar and remaining butter until light and fluffy. Beat in the egg and vanilla. Combine the flour, baking powder, and salt. Add to creamed mixture, alternately with milk, beating well after each addition. Spoon over peaches.
3. Bake at 350 degrees for 45-50 minutes or until toothpick inserted near the center comes out clean.

Cool for 10 minutes before inverting onto a serving plate, peaches side up! Enjoy!

The Amazing Race, Lafayette-Style

... continued from page B1



Bit of a learning curve on the five-legged walk around the Acalanes High School track.

Participants literally had to look up the answer, as it was posted on the Park Theater marquee that read, "Have you made time to paint today," which could mean any number of things - heading to a paint store, perhaps. Actually, teams were meant to head to the shop Color Me Mine to paint a tile.

While taking a break to enjoy an adult beverage would have been refreshing, the teams labored on at The Cooperage. The newish restaurant donated all the booze and ingredients to whip up one of their signature gin and tonic cocktails, which includes flowers, mint and fruit. Teams had to

make a "perfect" - or nearly perfect - LPIE G&T. "We're putting them right to work," said co-owner Merilee McCormick. The drink was checked, and if it didn't pass muster, teams had to try again.

Another brainy task includes completing bingo - yes, the classic

game - but in Mandarin at Stanley Middle School. A word was given out in English, which a team member had to look up in a Mandarin/English dictionary and see if it was on their particular bingo card. While at the school, different team members had to complete an art and a science proj-

ect. LPIE helps fund Mandarin language class as well as some of the art and science offerings at the school.

Rolling in exhausted for dinner at Mangia restaurant, the winning team - which included Liz and Zach Radding, and Lisa and Gary Roth - all had to jump on the official Amazing Race mat to win.



On the El Curtola Bridge, participants had to find the next clue with binoculars; it was at the Vespa dealership.
Photos Warren Lane

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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.

LAMORINDA SPORTS

SMC Women's Soccer Looks to Improve

By Michael Sakoda



Caroline Beaulne has been a leader this season for the Gaels.

Photos Tod Fierner

After a hot start, the Saint Mary's women's soccer team has suffered its first setback of the season—two consecutive losses.

The Gaels (3-3) opened their season with a pair of shutouts at home, besting Albany 2-0 on Aug. 22, and St. Joseph's 4-0 on Aug. 24. After faltering at Oregon 0-2 on Aug. 29, the team rallied, posting a 4-2 victory at Oregon State on Aug. 31.

"We showed a lot of character to come back and beat Oregon State," said head coach Kai Edwards. "We scored four goals on a Sunday, away, which is very difficult to do."

Part of the Gaels' early season success must be credited to the team's nine returning starters.

"We only have to teach a couple players our philosophies and our ideas, and that has allowed us to focus on refining and elevating the level of the kids who returned," said Edwards.

Among those returners are last season's All-WCC performers—juniors Caroline Beaulne and Cassidee Lynch.

"Cassidee's a leader on and off the field; she does things the way they're supposed to be done all the time," Edwards said. "Caroline is one of the best attacking players in the country; she has the ability to beat players one-on-one, and her technical talent makes it very hard for teams to defend her."

Beaulne said she's trying to shoulder some responsibility. "The All-WCC Honorable Mention last year motivates me a lot. I feel like I have to help lead my team," she said.

But this past weekend was a tough one for Saint Mary's, as they dropped a home game 0-4 to Cal last

Friday, and a heartbreaker, 1-2 at Nevada on Sunday. Still, the 3-3 mark is a better pace than that of a year ago.

As the Gaels look to bounce back against Idaho this Friday, Edward's said the focus doesn't change. "Teams change; standards don't.

... continued on page C3



Vicki Shimkus has recorded one goal and three assists so far.




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Lamorinda Kids 'Tri' New Sport

Sixth annual NorCal Kids Triathlon a success

By Scott Wu

Many of the first-time competitors at the 2014 NorCal Kids Triathlon created fun memories while participating in a new sport.

With competitors ranging from as young as 5 to as old as high school age, this year's event was a success. The race was held at Miramonte High School on Aug. 30, a sunny Saturday, where kids first swam, then biked, and finished with a run.

Although initially a local event, this year's race attracted competitors from as far away as Sunnyvale and American Canyon. Sophia Burge-mass, a Sunnyvale triathlete, had a very straightforward reason as to why she decided to register for this year's competition. "My mom wanted me to do it, and I just thought it'd be fun," said Sophia.

Event director Charlie Vollmar has always been impressed with the attitudes and determination of the

participants. "This event gets bigger every year, and it's amazing to see the enthusiasm from the kids involved," Vollmar said.

Vollmar has done a great job of offering young athletes the opportunity to get a taste of a popular, yet strenuous race. The triathlon, which has existed as an Olympic sport since 1920, is often reserved for older competitors. This event is one of the few opportunities for kids to participate in the entire Bay Area.

In addition to the new racers, there were also many athletes returning. Ryan and Norah Thompson, both 9 years old, have competed before, and they enjoyed it so much they decided to come back. "We've done it in previous years, and have had a very fun, great time with the competition," said their mother, Sarah.

Young participants echo the

same sentiment. "I've done the event for two years, and I really love each of the different events," said 7-year-old Carter McAfee.

For many triathletes, there are stronger legs of the race than others. Many swimmers enter the triathlon, which includes a 200-yard swim.

"My favorite event is definitely the biking, but I like everything, especially the competition as a whole," said Charlie Bliss, who finished second in the 9-10 age group.

At the finish line, staff members helped kids recover with fresh fruit, water, and Gatorade. Anxious parents and friends waited to take pictures of the competitors' achievements. All finishers were given medals to validate their hard work and effort. The top three finishers from each age group were given special medals in recognition of their excellence.

Submitted by Rebecca Metz

Team "KMO" won the relay event for 5-6 year olds at the 2014 NorCal Kids Triathlon.

From left: Milla Ohrbach, Kaia Kelly, and Olivia Metz



Campo Coach Departs After 16 Years

By Nick Marnell

After 16 years with the Campolindo High School baseball program, head coach Max Luckhurst resigned on Aug. 22.

"I just felt like I needed to make a change," said Luckhurst. "It was time for me to turn the program over to someone else." He did not elaborate, saying that he felt uncomfortable drawing attention from the team onto himself. Luckhurst confirmed that he is not leaving to take another coaching position; he will remain at the school as an instructional assistant in the special education department.

"It's a blow to our program," said athletic director Tom Renno. "You talk about successful. Max ran one of the most successful programs in California."

In his 14 years as head coach, Luckhurst's Cougars won four North Coast Section II championships. The team also won a title in 2000 while he was assistant coach.

Luckhurst noted that to date, 42 of his players went on to play college baseball, including 19 players

awarded college scholarships. Two players made it to the major leagues: Jeff Stevens, who pitched for the Chicago Cubs in 2009, and Aaron Poreda, on the Texas Rangers' current 40-man roster.

"I was really sorry to hear this," said Poreda. "Max was a class act. He brought us up from nothing, and he taught us how to be good teammates. He turned even the tedium of our conditioning drills into team bonding events."

UC Berkeley's Matt Ladrech, who pitched Campolindo to its 2012 and 2013 championships, remembered Luckhurst as a mentor. "He wasn't just a coach," he said. "Max always looked after us, and it was great to always have him available on campus."

"We were fortunate to have him," said Campolindo principal John Walker. "Max did an outstanding job of developing teams and players of great character. He'll continue to fill that important role with us in special education."

Submit stories to sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com

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A Growing List of Wins

Submitted by Greg Davis



Back row, from left: Mitzy Ramirez, Mia Grillo, Keeley Murphy, Jackie Nichols, Kierra Krawec, Vanessa Vaisnor, Lauren van Stralen, Molly Davis, Emily Smith, coach Haris Obic; front row: Kate Minden, Molly Ikeya, Holland McDonald, Annie Midthun, Kaitlin DeVries Photo provided

The California Magic U15 girls added another championship to their growing list of summer tournament wins on Aug. 9-11. The team won the Mustang Stampede Tournament after playing five games in three days and finishing 4-1. The girls outscored opponents 18-5. "The girls achieved their goals this weekend improving their play in specific areas that they have been working hard to master," said coach Haris Obic.

Faster than Lightning

Submitted by Corinna Sassano



Photo Zillay Dao

Lamorinda Soccer Club's U13 girls' Navy team won the Folsom Summer Invitational on Aug. 11. The team beat Folsom Lightning in the finals 2-0.



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SMC Women's Soccer Looks to Improve

... continued from page C1



Julia McDonald

Photo Tod Fierner

We have prepared this week as we do every week, working as hard as we can and as smart as we can."

A player that will help keep the standards up this season is senior Vicki Shimkus, who fought through injury much of last season.

"Vicki will have a much greater statistical impact than she had last year," said Edwards. "She already has one goal, three assists, and there were two goals (at Oregon State) that her movement off the ball created."

As for the season, the team and coaches are set on making the NCAA tournament which they missed last year, after finishing with a 6-14 record (2-7 WCC; eighth in the conference).

"With the great start we've been motivated to keep going, to make it to the NCAA tournament and win as many games as possible," said Beaulne. "But we're going to have to work hard."

Edwards said if his team can finish in the top five of the WCC this year, making the tournament could be a very real possibility.

"Being fifth (in the WCC) would be a good natural progression from where we were, and it would put us in contention for the NCAA tournament," said Edwards. "It's something we have to go earn. Every game is a challenge, and no one's going to give us anything."

Magic Boys Win Tournament

Submitted by Greg Davis



Photo provided

The California Magic U11 boys' soccer team won the Walnut Creek Soccer Club's Summerfest Tournament championship in the gold division on Aug. 23-24. An exciting championship game was tied 2-2 after double overtime, but the

Magic boys won on penalty kicks, 7-6.

"I'm very proud of the boys as they showed great team culture throughout the tournament along with a great competitive spirit on the field," said head coach Jasko Begovic.

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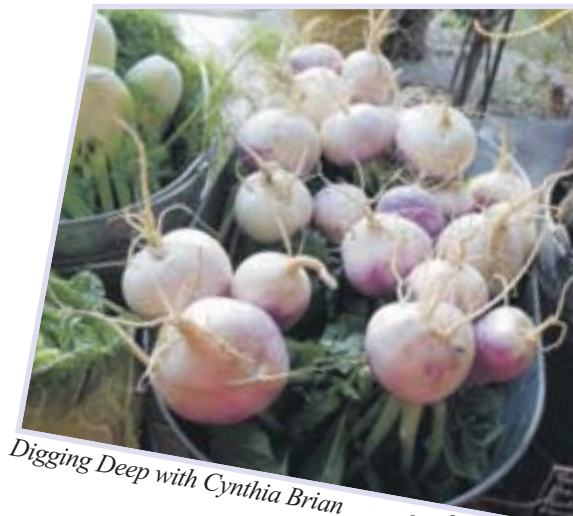
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Lamorinda OUR HOMES

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

You’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.



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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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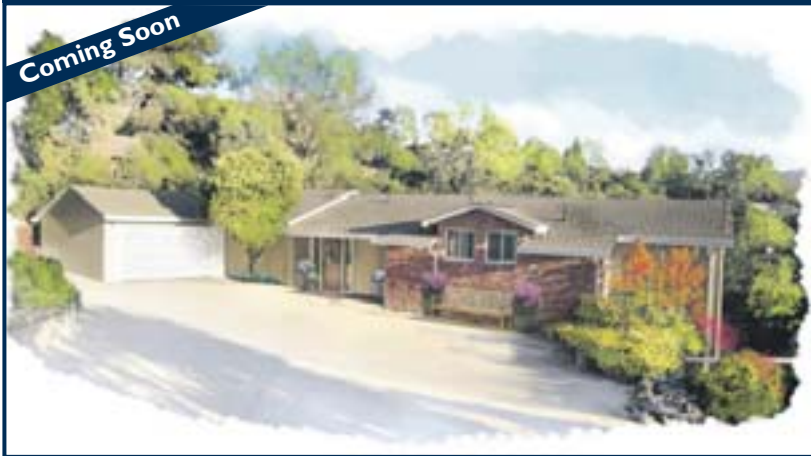
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Studious Feng Shui for Fall

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

Coming Soon – A New Addition to the Lafayette Landscape!



Coming soon to Lafayette is rare, new construction within a small enclave of homes at the edge of the Reliez Valley -- centrally located with superb commute access, as well as within walking distance to Springhill Elementary and Acalanes High School.

The first home is an expansive 3500± sq. ft., single-level floor plan with 4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, plus an office. Designed from the ground up for the contemporary living needs of today's families and those who entertain. It features dramatic, spacious central living areas with seamless integration of the kitchen and family room. A large, level backyard complements the home, framed by beautiful oaks and rolling hills. Extraordinarily efficient use of space allows for a sumptuous master suite, and well-proportioned secondary bedrooms.

Built by Lafayette's TT Construction and Engineering, the home exhibits an exceptional level of craftsmanship that is rarely seen in today's marketplace.

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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, email 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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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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Cynthia Brian

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ORINDA



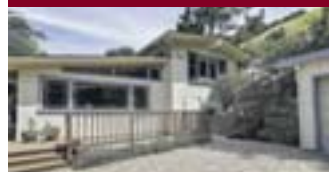
19 Mira Loma Road A delightful 3bd/2ba of apx. 1715sf built in 1940's represents traditional properties built on the knolls overlooking the Club. Naturally light & bright. Walk to town, Lake Cascade or the Club. **\$875,000**

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



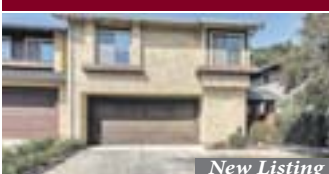
93 David Drive Spacious 4bd/2.5ba, oversized Family Room, lots of windows & large level yard with pool. **\$1,250,000**

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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