

Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 08 Issue 15 Wednesday, September 24, 2014

Frank Lloyd Wright House in Orinda a Structural Symphony

By Laurie Snyder

“No house should ever be on a hill or on anything. It should be of the hill. Belonging to it. Hill and house should live together each the happier for each other.” – Frank Lloyd Wright



“Buildings, too, are children of the Earth and Sun.” – Frank Lloyd Wright

Photo Ohlen Alexander

It is alchemy. It is water becoming wine. It is transcendence – that intense moment of mindfulness when you are one with all that is around you – and hear the whisper of something greater than yourself.

“It” is Lamorinda’s Wright-Buehler House and Gardens in Orinda, and it is unlike any other Frank Lloyd Wright House experi-

ence anywhere, say Wright scholars.

The first thing noticeable upon arrival is the size of the main house. It seems *small*. A fairly nondescript cinder block structure, it is dwarfed by a stand of old growth redwoods, silent sentinels atop a sharply sloping creek bank, swaddled in lush ivy groundcover.

But as visitors make their way through the close hallway into the

living room, the experience is so astonishing that it paralyzes. A subtly lit, slanted, gold leaf-covered ceiling sweeps from a position just barely above the visitor’s head up across the octagonal space. The windows, designed to eliminate structural intrusions, simultaneously lengthen until reaching a one-and-one-half story visually explosive wall of glass.

The effect propels the mind for-

ward across a Zen koi pond out to the formal, massive Japanese garden on the property’s south lawn. Said a recent visiting Chinese architect, “You could start your own religion in this home.”

The History

“That ceiling grabs all of the light and holds it,” explains Arthur Dyson, dean emeritus of the Frank Lloyd Wright School of Architecture who first worked with Wright as a Taliesin apprentice. The use of gold leaf and other design techniques, he says, were heavily influenced by Wright’s time in Japan.

Lighting from “unexpected sources,” is “filtered and thrown from the planters up and down from the soffit while the lights on the back of the banquette seating shoot up, not down.” And because that seating faces the fireplace, “you’re also seeing the flames dance. It’s luminescent,” Dyson says. The dining room, with its own abundant glass, further intensifies the effect.

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Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for October ...read on page D9



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Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

City	Last reported:	LOWEST AMOUNT:	HIGHEST AMOUNT:
LAFAYETTE	16	\$710,000	\$2,005,000
MORAGA	15	\$333,000	\$1,737,500
ORINDA	18	\$550,000	\$2,250,000

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

- 9 Dianne Court, \$1,135,000, 5 Bdrms, 3336 SqFt, 1976 YrBl, 8-27-14
 3349 Helen Lane, \$1,010,000, 3 Bdrms, 1710 SqFt, 1952 YrBl, 8-27-14
 3216 Judith Lane, \$925,000, 3 Bdrms, 1969 SqFt, 1959 YrBl, 8-27-14;
 Previous Sale: \$833,000, 06-11-13
 1035 Los Arabis Lane, \$1,050,000, 3 Bdrms, 2344 SqFt, 1953 YrBl, 8-28-14;
 Previous Sale: \$66,500, 01-12-73
 3237 Lucas Circle, \$1,100,000, 4 Bdrms, 1779 SqFt, 1963 YrBl, 8-14-14
 1408 Meadowlark Court, \$2,005,000, 4 Bdrms, 3442 SqFt, 1958 YrBl, 8-20-14;
 Previous Sale: \$1,925,000, 12-27-07
 3346 Moraga Boulevard, \$1,200,000, 3 Bdrms, 1450 SqFt, 1938 YrBl, 8-28-14;
 Previous Sale: \$800,000, 07-01-04
 3403 Mountain Springs Road, \$1,110,000, 3 Bdrms, 3293 SqFt, 1966 YrBl, 8-26-14
 811 Mountain View Drive, \$1,900,000, 4 Bdrms, 2476 SqFt, 1962 YrBl, 8-22-14;
 Previous Sale: \$595,000, 01-31-02
 3356 North Lucille Lane, \$1,105,000, 4 Bdrms, 2080 SqFt, 1954 YrBl, 8-21-14;
 Previous Sale: \$588,000, 06-01-01
 3390 Orchard Valley Lane, \$710,000, 3 Bdrms, 912 SqFt, 1953 YrBl, 8-19-14;
 Previous Sale: \$284,000, 07-06-00
 851 Paradise Court, \$1,175,000, 3 Bdrms, 1646 SqFt, 1955 YrBl, 8-27-14;
 Previous Sale: \$1,066,000, 04-10-13
 21 Shreve Lane, \$755,000, 4 Bdrms, 1962 SqFt, 2013 YrBl, 8-13-14
 3276 Vals Lane, \$1,275,000, 3 Bdrms, 1833 SqFt, 1951 YrBl, 8-15-14;
 Previous Sale: \$930,000, 10-30-09
 705 Wee Donegal, \$850,000, 4 Bdrms, 2190 SqFt, 1980 YrBl, 8-18-14;
 Previous Sale: \$246,000, 03-04-88
 3361 Woodview Drive, \$935,000, 3 Bdrms, 2129 SqFt, 1977 YrBl, 8-15-14;
 Previous Sale: \$439,000, 05-17-99

MORAGA

- 1907 Ascot Drive, \$620,000, 2 Bdrms, 1478 SqFt, 1973 YrBl, 8-27-14;
 Previous Sale: \$289,500, 06-07-99
 2063 Ascot Drive #117, \$333,000, 2 Bdrms, 1068 SqFt, 1971 YrBl, 8-14-14;
 Previous Sale: \$176,000, 07-24-12
 16 Benedita Place, \$720,000, 3 Bdrms, 2095 SqFt, 1984 YrBl, 8-15-14
 3886 Campolindo Drive, \$1,050,000, 4 Bdrms, 2339 SqFt, 1972 YrBl, 8-26-14;
 Previous Sale: \$51,500, 07-19-72
 173 Fernwood Drive, \$1,631,000, 3 Bdrms, 3004 SqFt, 1968 YrBl, 8-15-14;
 Previous Sale: \$993,000, 04-06-10
 80 Hardie Drive, \$1,230,000, 5 Bdrms, 2630 SqFt, 1964 YrBl, 8-15-14
 144 Hazelwood Place, \$1,650,000, 5 Bdrms, 3220 SqFt, 1968 YrBl, 8-15-14;
 Previous Sale: \$199,000, 01-20-83

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Frank Lloyd Wright House in Orinda a Structural Symphony

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“The space within becomes the reality of the building,” said Wright, who defined space as “the breath of art.”

Purchased in 2013 by arts supporter, Gerald Shmavonian, the home was designed by Wright in 1948 per a commission by Maynard P. Buehler and his wife, Katherine. “Mr. Buehler was a building contractor himself, and made sure each part was inspected as it came in,” observes Shmavonian. Buehler also invented rifle scope mounts and similar devices still respected by firearms experts today.

Eighty-one at the time, Wright was actively involved but able to visit Orinda only twice due to other pressing projects. Walter Olds, a senior Taliesin apprentice, served as Wright’s eyes and ears on the build from October 1948 to April 1949. In 2006, the Wright-Buehler House was added to the National Registry of Historic Places – “the work of a master” from the Modern Movement.

Visitors arrive via a western-facing, Cherokee red-tinted concrete walk – above which redwood siding is punctuated by clerestory cutouts – the geometric motif customized for the Buehlers’ home. “Wright strongly believed that decoration was not an addition to be made after the fact, but was integral,” writes Carol Roland, author of the Wright-Buehler House application for placement on the National Registry of Historic Places. Even the carport was vital.

Additions Stay True to Wright’s Vision

After Wright’s main work was completed, Katherine Buehler asked Olds to add two smaller structures to the complex – a children’s playhouse and a guest house. The simple, rectangular, one-and-one-half-story structure was “sited on the rear slope above the creek” and originally “opened onto the pool terrace,” notes Roland, and offered views of the property’s gazebo area.

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“Every architect is – necessarily – a great poet. He must be a great original interpreter of his time, his day, his age,” said Wright. This gold leaf ceiling infuses the room with light.

Photos Ohlen Alexander



Gerald Shmavonian (right), hosted a Fandango at his Wright-Buehler House and Gardens recently to help save Orinda’s historic Joaquin Moraga Adobe. From left: Debra Batiste, Ron Batiste, Sharifah Manusia, Jane Kenoyer. A fundraiser is also being planned at the Wright House for the Orinda Intermediate School.

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Frank Lloyd Wright House in Orinda a Structural Symphony

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This glade is flanked by 8-foot tall sculptures of China's first emperor, Chin Shi Huang, and General Wang Yi. Photo Ohlen Alexander

The Buehlers also asked for a workshop, which was “fitted with cabinets and drawers custom designed to Buehler’s specifications.”

The Buehlers refined their privacy during the 1950s by purchasing two lots south of their property line. In the 1960s, they engaged Henry Matsutani to create a formal Shin garden. Famed for revitalizing Golden Gate Park’s Japanese Tea Garden, Matsutani built the garden “on the contouring designed by Wright,” according to Roland. He diverted water from two creeks which still converge today to create a large, rock-lined pond

with an 8-foot high waterfall, accessible via an arched bridge, and added a 13-foot hexagonal wooden gazebo above “for serving tea and viewing the pond or circular western glade,” which is flanked by 8-foot tall sculptures of China’s first emperor, Chin Shi Huang, and General Wang Yi. A second, even more impressive, fieldstone-lined waterfall on the property’s Moraga Way border feeds into the winding creek from a 16-foot drop.

In 1992, the aging Matsutani and Maynard Buehler collaborated one final time – erecting a traditional, rectangular, sukiya-style tea house to the southeast. Reached via an arched concrete and log bridge over a Zen dry bed creek and sheltered by old growth native oaks, the tea house is a single screened room which opens via sliding panels onto an elevated platform.

Each building on the property keeps within Wright’s vision, underscoring the interconnectedness with nature that transcends the norm. “The Buehler building is a symphony,” says Dyson. “So many details so well worked out.”

Fire and Rebirth

The Buehlers lived graciously in their Wright space for nearly 50 years, making only minimal tweaks until 1994. A faulty space heater sparked a fire, seriously damaging the hallway and bedroom wing. Olds came to the rescue, overseeing the home’s restoration from 1995 to 1997.

“Throughout the rehabilitation substantial attention was paid to the replication of details, including securing redwood of similar grain and quality to that used in the original construction” and replacing the gold leaf which had been damaged, according to Roland. *The New York Times* praised the Buehlers for saving the home and Olds for his faithful attention to detail.

Jim Colhoun Presents

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Set back from the street, this single-level four bedroom home features a private location with hilltop views on a 1.16 acre lot. Classic hardwood floors throughout the home lead to a large family room. There is a formal dining room and an eat-in kitchen with french doors to the backyard. Outside, there is a separate detached office or workshop building which would be ideal for an artist studio.

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Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

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MORAGA ... continued

- 105 La Quinta Street, \$820,000, 3 Bdrms, 1962 SqFt, 1982 YrBlt, 8-15-14;
Previous Sale: \$800,000, 04-06-05
- 651 Moraga Road #16, \$428,000, 3 Bdrms, 1394 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 8-15-14;
Previous Sale: \$320,000, 08-13-12
- 736 Moraga Road, \$835,000, 3 Bdrms, 2136 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 8-14-14
- 219 Rheem Boulevard, \$810,000, 3 Bdrms, 1514 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 8-13-14;
Previous Sale: \$283,000, 04-30-97
- 21 Ross Drive, \$775,000, 3 Bdrms, 1499 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 8-26-14
- 50 San Pablo Court, \$1,737,500, 4 Bdrms, 3085 SqFt, 1975 YrBlt, 8-15-14;
Previous Sale: \$1,475,000, 11-27-07
- 4 Wandel Drive, \$945,000, 3 Bdrms, 1525 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 8-19-14;
Previous Sale: \$314,000, 11-17-94
- 502 Woodminster Drive, \$380,000, 2 Bdrms, 1474 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 8-20-14;
Previous Sale: \$587,500, 06-24-08

ORINDA

- 51 Camino Don Miguel, \$550,000, 3 Bdrms, 2316 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 8-28-14;
Previous Sale: \$700,000, 09-11-07
- 108 Canon Drive, \$1,093,000, 4 Bdrms, 2209 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 8-22-14;
Previous Sale: \$950,000, 08-20-04
- 13 Crestview Court, \$1,585,000, 4 Bdrms, 3018 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 8-20-14;
Previous Sale: \$1,230,000, 08-01-12
- 54 Diablo View Drive, \$940,000, 2 Bdrms, 1656 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 8-19-14;
Previous Sale: \$880,000, 03-04-08
- 16 Dolores Way, \$803,000, 3 Bdrms, 1621 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 8-22-14
- 8 Dover Court, \$1,910,000, 4 Bdrms, 3319 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 8-22-14;
Previous Sale: \$355,000, 02-09-87
- 4290 El Nido Ranch Road, \$1,150,000, 3 Bdrms, 2594 SqFt, 1977 YrBlt, 8-15-14
- 32 Estabueno Drive, \$1,330,500, 4 Bdrms, 2675 SqFt, 1953 YrBlt, 8-27-14
- 39 Honey Hill Road, \$1,325,000, 4 Bdrms, 2788 SqFt, 1976 YrBlt, 8-19-14;
Previous Sale: \$525,000, 05-29-97
- 46 Ivy Drive, \$875,000, 2 Bdrms, 1225 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 8-20-14;
Previous Sale: \$315,000, 12-17-93
- 105 Las Vegas Road, \$850,000, 3 Bdrms, 1898 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 8-19-14;
Previous Sale: \$912,000, 02-25-05
- 176 Lombardy Lane, \$2,062,500, 5 Bdrms, 3930 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 8-26-14;
Previous Sale: \$795,000, 04-05-99
- 18 Monte Vista Road, \$650,000, 3 Bdrms, 1588 SqFt, 1942 YrBlt, 8-13-14;
Previous Sale: \$300,000, 03-25-99
- 90 Mossbridge Lane, \$2,250,000, 5 Bdrms, 4154 SqFt, 1989 YrBlt, 8-15-14;
Previous Sale: \$225,000, 11-30-88
- 285 Orchard Road, \$1,225,000, 3 Bdrms, 1845 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt, 8-22-14;
Previous Sale: \$1,025,000, 08-31-10
- 10 Rita Way, \$1,300,000, 3 Bdrms, 2215 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 8-20-14;
Previous Sale: \$500,000, 06-19-98
- 56 Via Floreado, \$1,893,000, 5 Bdrms, 4248 SqFt, 1989 YrBlt, 8-28-14;
Previous Sale: \$1,830,000, 08-14-08
- 19 Warford Terrace, \$1,210,000, 3 Bdrms, 1670 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 8-20-14;
Previous Sale: \$720,000, 07-06-01

Stylish Solutions

Natural Fall Décor

By Ann McDonald



Simple use of orange accents like these tables for an outdoor covered patio alludes to the fall without being too over the top. Easily covered at other times of the year with table cloths, they are a great addition and work with most color combinations including blue and white. The natural rope was purchased at Ace Hardware and takes the lantern from OK to current for less than \$10. Now when hanging, it looks more purposeful. Details make the difference. Photos courtesy Couture Chateau LLC

Have you ever wondered how to integrate those fall colors into your décor? With every season change, clients engage us to refresh what we call their design foundations – the larger more permanent portions of a room or space – with trend accessories, smaller items paying homage to seasons and holidays and display tips to maximize look with minimum effort. This week I wanted to share some stylish solutions we use that are easy to implement and bring aesthetics up a notch.

Two ingredients for this secret sauce? Edit fiercely and calendar it.

Let me explain by example. I will use areas from my own home including a kitchen shelving unit which I change according to season and a rental property that has very traditional bones to walk you through how we make it easy.

1) Calendar it! Yes, my team and I generate seasonal decorating calendars. You calendar your bills and children's schedules, golf outings and even spin class, so why not your decorating?

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Natural Fall Décor

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By getting practical, we can budget and rotate accessories. It doesn't have to be over the top, but I always tell clients if you have waited until November to think about holiday décor, you will overspend by at least 25 percent and "under wow" by the same amount.

We use two systems: Google Calendar and icalendar, both of which will sync with your cell phones. I love getting the reminder in September that my clients' holiday color selections are due so I can pre-order ribbon at discount prices in bulk. It's fun to be ahead of the game. It also keeps clients from overspending on whims when swayed by displays at local home stores.

The calendar forces order. Since we are in the fall right now I will give you a pass for this year, but I suggest at least six weeks prior to a decorative seasonal change for best planning. This way you can take advantage of online sales, no rush shipping and plan for storage so the items can be used again in some form next year.

To boot? Your Pinterest app will be a source of fun, not stress! No last minute glue guns or rushing to the craft store for one more pumpkin.

2) Find a thread, sometimes literally! In my kitchen shelving example, to keep from taking the space too over the top for fall, I chose to focus on the color cream. As the background of the antique tile which served as one of our inspirations for the overall design, I focused on finding vessels and pots that were simple and similarly colored. Many would have picked up on the orange to tie it into the fall holidays but sometimes the "theme" color is just too much. I didn't want it to look kitschy, I wanted it to look elegant and un-rehearsed, more natural, less contrived.

Because it is still warm in California most falls I use simple greenery instead of bunches of flowers or dried hay stalks. There is a place for those to be sure, but on my every day open shelving the food items are enough to provide the same type of visual without being over the top.

3) Work in threes: three colors, three textures, three types. If you look at the shelves, this fall even though brass and rose gold are everywhere, I still love the patina of unpolished silver. It's elegant without being fussy. It's also easily sourced from thrift or antique stores at relatively inexpensive prices. My team and I literally removed every item off the shelves, dusted well and then started editing fiercely with our three-fold focus for fall: silver, natural woven materials and cream pottery. I calendared, budgeted and purchased several pottery items online and had them shipped to the house so there were several to choose



from without traipsing from shop to shop (which I have admittedly done before).

The baskets store napkins, tableware and other sundries used often which are not quite pretty enough to display openly. Even my sons and husband know to close the basket lids when putting or clearing items away, making the no fuss look relatively easy to maintain.

This is where **edit fiercely** comes to play. Be brutal. The difference between a "wow" space and mediocre one is the edit. Leave room for life and people (the real décor in a space) and space for your eyes to rest, especially on open shelving. I give a pass to library book shelves but in your kitchen or family room, the less is more look drastically brings up any aesthetic.

Just like jewelry, consider removing one accessory before you call it complete!

4) Pick something unanticipated. This can be a color, an accessory item or even a small furniture piece. I do love whimsy in design as it keeps spaces from looking too stuffy, just do so in small quantities. In the table setting example, we used an unexpected light blue plate as an accent color and a unique custom fabric for a napkin instead of the traditional fall rust colors. The plates are Faux Bois English China ordered online.

In the library example, we used small cubes made from Kilim rugs and deliberately mismatched them. By doing so, it provides the eye with visual stimulation. A slight variance adds energy to a space. Because these cubes were less than \$100 each, as a fall decorative piece, they work.

In closing, have some fun this fall. Think outside the box of a pile of hay and dried stalks from the grocery store and punch your aesthetic up a notch!



Here I pulled from the tile which was a color inspiration for the kitchen and we ordered white serveware for the fall, then combined it with silver and natural baskets.

Photos Peter Medilek



Photo Peter Medilek



Ann McDonald, IIDA, NAPO, is the Founder/CEO of Couture Chateau, a luxury interior design firm in Orinda. If you are interested in chatting with us about your holiday décor, we have a few VIP Days still open. Visit

<http://www.couturechateau.com/vipday> or give us a call at (925) 386-0720.

Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for October

By Cynthia Brian

"Delicious autumn! My very soul is wedded to it, and if I were a bird I would fly about the earth seeking the successive autumns." – George Elliot



A plethora of blanket flowers and daisies adorn the autumn landscape. Photos Cynthia Brian

Fall is back! Our local trees are changing their coats from various colors of green to yellow, orange, red, gold, and brown. The weather is still warm during the day with cooler nights, offering gardeners the perfect opportunity to purchase and plant their favorite autumn trees, shrubs, and natives from well-stocked nurseries. As children and teens prepare costumes for Halloween, pumpkin patches welcome family exploration. Our vegetable gardens take their final bow and it's time to prepare the soil for winter crops. Garlic, onions, and cool season greens including lettuce, spinach, chard, and mustard along with beets, turnips, parsnips, and other root vegetables are ready to be planted. It's delicious autumn – and don't you just wish you *were* a bird?

- **PRUNE** vines, summer perennials, berry canes, and cut back out-of-bound ground covers.
- **AERATE** lawns and fertilize. Re-seed grass or install sod.
- **PLANT** winter annuals in October as the sun is still warming our days. Selections include cinerarias, primroses, violas, pansies, cyclamen, and ornamental cabbage.
- **ADD** an architectural texture to your landscape with the drought tolerant grasses such as Mexican Feather Grass, Red or White Fountain Grass, and Rattlesnake Grass.
- **CONTROL** snails and slugs with bowls of beer, Slugo, or Deadline.
- **EXTEND** the life of your Jack O'Lanterns by coating the cut sides with petroleum jelly.

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Advance Tree Service

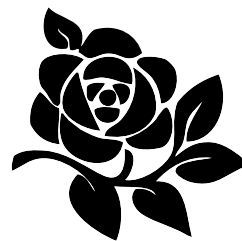
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MORAGA GARDEN CENTER

Annual Fall Sale Ends Oct. 31st

5 Gallon
Roses
reg. \$30⁰⁰
now \$15⁰⁰

up to
20% Off
California
Natives

up to
50% Off
General Nursery
Stock,
selected items

Subject to stock on hand. Free Plants with Purchase

Moraga Garden Center
located at the Moraga Shopping Center
925-376-1810

9am-5pm
7 days a week

Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for October

... continued from page D9

- **TRANSITION** indoor plants that you have summered on the patio to the inside by repotting if necessary. Clean the top of the soil, inspect for insects, dispose of dead leaves, and water thoroughly before placing in a sunny interior.
- **PROTECT** tender plants from a frosty night by covering with a sheet, blanket, or other non-plastic material.
- **TUCK** favorite spring blooming bulbs into your landscape beginning at the end of October through January. Dutch Iris and Daffodils are both deer and gopher resistant.
- **DIVIDE** calla lilies, daylilies, daisies, and naked ladies every few years for best blooms.
- **GATHER** pine needles from the base of pine trees to use as mulch around acid loving plants such as roses, azaleas, rhododendrons, fuchsias, camellias, and gardenias.
- **BURSTS** of color for the autumn garden are found with plumbago, gerbera, society garlic, sea lavender, salvia, penstemon, and hollyhock.
- **DEADHEAD** roses weekly for continuous blooms until hard pruning in January.
- **COLLECT** rose petals early in the morning to dry for potpourri and sachets.
- **CUT** asparagus stalks to within 3 or 4 inches from the ground.
- **CREATE** Pinterest boards or use apps to help you keep garden design ideas handy. Start now to think about your spring wish list.
- **RAKE** leaves to add to a compost pile or bin along with food scraps, egg shells, coffee grinds, tea bags, newspaper, and other organic matter. Within a few months, you'll have a nutrient rich amendment for your soil.
- **IDENTIFY** trees you'll love to include in your yard by perusing a new book, "Landscaping with Trees" by Scott Zanon. Even though it profiles trees for residential and commercial properties in the Midwest, most of the specimens grow well in our area including maples, buckeyes, crabapples, dogwoods, magnolias, and many more.
- **REMOVE** leaves and fallen debris promptly from ponds and water features to keep the water clean.
- **COLLECT** seeds from your nasturtiums, cosmos, zinnias, marigolds, dahlias, and other annuals. Allow the pods to dry in a paper bag. Store in a cool, dark, dry place (shed, garage, closet) until next spring.
- **WATER** indoor plants once a month with a solution of 2 tablespoons of vinegar to a gallon of water to reduce salt build up and soil alkalinity.
- **SCATTER** seeds of lupine, California poppy, bachelor button, and larkspur. Scratch the soil to cover the seeds, discouraging birds and squirrels from dining.
- **KEEP** bird feeders full and fountains fresh as incentives for our feathered friends to become permanent bug eating residents.
- **TRELLIS** climbing vines. Potato vine, jasmine, honeysuckle, pink bower vine, and sweet potato vine make colorful, sweet smelling privacy screens.
- **REDUCE** irrigation to once a week and once the rain begins, turn off your automatic sprinklers.
- **PICK** up **FREE** seeds, potpourri, and garden book marks at the Be the Star You Are!® booth at the Moraga Pear and Wine Festival from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 27. Participate in the story game and say hello to me. Sponsored by Lamorinda Weekly and Napa Valley Wealth Management.
- **FERTILIZE** evergreen shrubs, vines, and conifers immediately if you didn't do so in September.
- **ENCOURAGE** red-tip photinia to be dense and bushy by sculpting and maintaining a height and width of 6 to 8 feet. If you don't prune regularly, photinia become unmanageable 20-foot trees.
- **CHECK** olive harvests for grub and maggot larvae. Only treatment for this pest is a pheromone trap.
- **SEEK** certified or experienced arborists to prune your favorite specimen trees. Remove a tree that has become too large for the space, intruding on foundations, or blocking views. Replace with appropriate sized trees, perhaps one that boasts autumn color.



Gourds and pumpkins signal the advent of autumn celebrations..



Purple blooms on the potato vine climb a trellis offering privacy and beauty.



Maintain waterfalls, ponds, and fountains throughout the season as dropped leaves clog the system.

Remember that fire season is still in full swing, so be cautious with outdoor grilling and open flames. Be vigilant about keeping a defensible perimeter around your property. Enjoy the final days of our Indian summer.

Happy gardening and happy growing!



Cynthia Brian

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Vegetables • Containers • Statuary & Fountains
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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



16 Rich Acres Fabulous architect designed 4bd/3ba contemporary nestled on gorgeous tranquil .7ac w/ expansive patio, lrg level yd +view. Soaring ceiling, hdwd flrs, granite kitchen opens to family rm. **\$1,075,000**

ORINDA



641 Cross Ridge Court Great one level detached sought-after patio home w/delightful spaces inside & out. Ideal courtyard directly off family rm/kitchen. Privacy, convenience & all Orindawoods has to offer. **\$1,250,000**

ORINDA



7 La Encinal Move in ready 4bd/3ba w/large rooms + great light, abundance of windows. Vaulted ceils, hdwd flrs + updated kitchen & baths. Fam. rm off kit. opens to level area. Great deluxe master suite. **\$1,250,000**

ORINDA



345 Camino Sobrante All New Decks! Updated 4bd/3ba, 3301sf contemp. on .55ac in primo country club loc. Spacious great rm, updated kit.; hdwd flrs; lower lvl guest apt w/priv. entr; close to BART & Top Schools. **\$1,295,000**

ORINDA



5 Estates Drive Classic Orinda 4bd/3ba, 2630sf home with spacious master & walk-in closet. Warm hardwoods & crown molding throughout living, dining, & family rooms. Charming courtyard. **\$1,295,000**

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



26 Coachwood Terrace Elegance, views, privacy & custom designer detail finishes. Featuring 3 bedrooms, den, 3 baths w/apx. 2794sf on 1ac. Limestone patio, pool, koi pond, oaks, redwoods & crepe myrtle trees. **\$1,995,000**

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



51 Rheem Blvd. Classic true New England 6bd/5ba 4000 sq. ft. traditional. Formal living & dining rooms. All rooms shine with style, grace & sophistication. Private, tranquil, beautiful. **\$2,798,000**

MORAGA



1345 Rimer Drive Great curb appeal, 1-level Camino Woods home. Kitchen open to family room. Lots of hardwood floors, large master suite. Minutes from elementary & middle school. **\$1,095,000**

MORAGA



15 Idlewood Court One story, 4bd/2ba, 2250sf w/hardwood throughout, some duals. Pagoda w/power on upper level, waterfall/pond, .4ac. Border of Moraga/Orinda. Walk to Miramonte High, close to shopping. **\$1,175,000**

LAFAYETTE



1239 Quandt Road Charming rancher w/enchanting yard. 4bd/2ba - 1944sf - .23ac. Hrdwd flrs, crown moldings, cute kitchen w/white cabs/granite. Spacious family rm. Shutters. Private master suite w/vaulted ceiling. **\$1,030,000**

LAFAYETTE



3921 Happy Valley Road Stunning 4600+sf custom 4bd/3.5ba gated estate on 1 acre in heart of H.V. Pool, pano views. Hdwd flrs, cherry kit. w/island open to FR, library, elevator. Close to top rated schools, commute. **\$2,795,000**

PLEASANT HILL



536 Odin Drive Wonderful 4bd/2ba home with fenced-in level park-like yard. Fabulous neighborhood, walk to schools, trails, restaurants. **\$589,000**

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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Sunday Open Homes



Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for October

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Tuck the multihued gerbera into your landscape for instant color.









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