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Fans cheer as Beatles tribute band The Sun Kings close out the 19th annual Lafayette Art & Wine Festival on Sunday afternoon.

Photo Gint Fedaras

Destination Downtown for Rockin' Good Time

By Cathy Tyson

Maybe it should be called the Art & Wine and food and music festival? Yes, the event featured lots of art and crafty items, and who doesn't enjoy a glass of wine or pint of beer with pals on a late-summer afternoon? During the two-day extravaganza 450 bottles and 150 kegs were enjoyed, but organizers also did a fantastic job of putting together a crowd-pleasing music lineup that

was the star of the weekend. It's the delightful smell of grilled food that hits you first as you close in on the Art & Wine Festival from BART or a distant parking spot. Food trucks galore contributed to a heady summer mix with everything from pulled pork tacos to lobster roll sliders and Korean barbecue, and restaurants along the boulevard filled with cus-

tomers spilling out onto the sidewalks. Continuous music played, spread out over four stages. At the Bank of the West stage on Saturday afternoon the Bay Bridge Beat, featuring a fantastic horn section and some very creative arrangements of popular tunes, provided a much needed respite to festival goers. Note: comfortable shoes were a must. ... continued on page A12

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The Hills Are Alive – With the Sound of Paving

Orinda's challenging roads maintenance environment

By Laurie Snyder

“Roads in a standard community – where things are fairly flat with sandier soil – can last 20 years or more,” says Dennis Fay. “They’re not going to last 20 years here because of our terrain and our soil.” Fay, chair of the Orinda Citizens’ Infrastructure Oversight Commission, sat down recently for a two-part series about Orinda’s road conditions.

“Part of the problem is that our roads were built by the county or by developers a long, long time ago, and in many places there just is not good sound base material. Plus, there’s a lot of clay in the soil. It expands in the wintertime when it gets wet, and then contracts in the summer when it dries out. We get cracks in the road bed, and the water gets in there because it has to flow during the summer. When it flows, it takes some of the soil with it and undermines the road. That puts a lot of stress on the pavement and the foundations in Orinda,” Fay explains.

The damage is aggravated further because Orinda’s hills are very much alive, shimmying and sliding during earthquakes and every rainy season. ... continued on page A11

Orinda Intermediate School Neighborhood Meeting Tomorrow Night

The City of Orinda is inviting residents to learn about upcoming projects along Ivy Drive and Coral Drive at a special meeting Sept. 25. “We’re hoping to apply for grant funds to support improvements, and are reaching out to residents living near the Orinda Intermediate School for their input,” says Daniel Chavarria, associate engineer with the city’s department of public works.

This is the second of two public meetings. Roughly 650 of the residents most likely to be impacted by the proposed sidewalk were invited to the first on Sept. 4, which was lightly attended due to a conflict with Del Rey Elementary’s back-to-school night.

The city hopes to have more OIS neighbors in attendance tomorrow night. The forum will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Orinda Library Auditorium, 26 Orinda Way. “The safety of children and anyone who wants to walk on the street is at stake,” said Chavarria.

If you are unable to attend the meeting and have questions or would like to provide input, please contact Chavarria at (925) 253-4219 or dchavarria@cityoforinda.org.

please...



...thanks

Life in Lamorinda B1-B12

Lamorinda's history of domestic violence prevention - page B3



Sports C1-C3

Catch up on Lamorinda football preseason results before league play on Friday - page C2



Our Homes D1-D12

How to refresh your fall decor - page D7





Lafayette Civic News

Public Meetings

City Council

Tuesday, Oct. 14, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Planning Commission

Monday, Oct. 6, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Design Review

Tuesday, Oct. 14, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Arts & Science Discovery Center,
3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

School Board Meetings

Acalanes Union High School District
Wednesday, Oct. 1, 7:30 p.m.
AUHSD Board Room
1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette
www.acalanes.k12.ca.us

Lafayette School District

Wednesday, Oct. 8, 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. 31 to Sept. 13

Alarms 64
911 Calls 17
Animal Cruelty Trader Joe's
Battery

3400 block Monroe Av
Brandishing Weapon
10 block Rancho Diablo Rd
Burglary, Auto
Golden Gate Plaza
Glenside Dr/St Mary's Rd (2)
3500 block Brook St
4100 block Los Arabis Dr
Bentley School
4000 block Canyon Rd
3500 block Mt Diablo Bl
3300 block Deer Hill Rd
1000 block 2nd St (2)
1100 block Nogales St

Burglary, Commercial
3300 block Mt Diablo Bl
Disturbance
Mt Diablo Bl/Dewing Av
DUI
Mt Diablo Bl/Mountain View Dr
Embezzlement
70 block Lafayette Cr
Grand Theft
500 block Silverado Dr
1300 block El Curtola Bl
3000 block Camino Diablo
3400 block Mt Diablo Bl

Harassment
900 block Paulson Ct
3500 block Moraga Bl
Lafayette Park Hotel
Hit & Run
800 block Moraga Rd
1300 block El Curtola Bl
3000 block Camino Diablo
Mt Diablo Bl/Happy Valley Rd
Roundup Lounge
Bickerstaff St/Dewing Av

Missing Adult
1000 block S Thompson Rd (2)
3400 block Mt Diablo Bl
3600 block Robertson Rd
Panhandling
3500 block Mt Diablo Bl
Petty Theft
30 block Lafayette Cr
1100 block Via Roble
10 block Greenvalley Dr
Acalanes High School
3800 block Happy Valley Rd
1000 block Brown Av
3100 block Plymouth Rd

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No Drama for Housing Element

By Cathy Tyson

With very little hoopla and a couple of supportive public comments, the Lafayette Planning Commission recommended that the City Council send the current administrative draft of the Housing Element to the state for its review. After an extensive public outreach effort last spring, with community workshops hosted by mayor Don Tatzin, not a single person at the commission's Sept. 15 meeting came forward with a complaint or negative comment.

State law requires that cities examine the housing needs in their community, and come up with an eight-year plan to address what the state considers a way to accommodate the jurisdiction's fair share of housing needs.

The next cycle runs from 2014 to 2022. Lafayette has until Jan. 31 to submit an adopted Housing Element; by submitting the administrative draft early in the process, careful to point out this will be a streamlined review, meeting that deadline shouldn't be a problem. The state's Department of Housing and Community Development has 60 days to review the draft, which then comes back to the city for further discussion, if needed, and adoption.

Consultant Diana Elrod pointed out the many benefits of providing the state with a streamlined review of the draft housing element, which highlights those sections that have materially changed since the last adopted Housing Element in 2011. She received positive feedback for

her extensive work thus far; commissioner Will Lovitt called it "focused, meticulous and careful - I'm always impressed."

Key elements of the Housing Element include an inventory of adequate sites and assessments of goals, policies and programs. The proposed document includes some new programs: offering incentives to encourage rehabilitation of deteriorating multi-family housing, conversion of illegally converted residential units, and green building incentives.

As Lafayette becomes more and more built out, it's a significant challenge to ensure that there's an inventory of adequate sites that have the correct zoning to allow for housing at all economic levels to be built.

The Association of Bay Area

Governments looks at existing need and projected need for housing; the total projected need is 400 housing units for the cycle that starts in 2014. Those units are divided into categories that include very low income, low income, moderate income and above moderate income - with an average yearly need of 57 housing units.

City staff compiled a list of vacant and underutilized parcels downtown to determine what land was available for development. The state does not require cities to actually build the housing necessary to meet the community's need, however it does require that each community adopt policies and programs to support housing development.

... continued on next page

Local Little Leaguers Win Championship



Lafayette Little League's 11-year-old All Star team had a civic double-header at the Lafayette City Council meeting Sept. 8. After a quick reminder from mayor Don Tatzin to take off their hats, the team led a full house in the Pledge of Allegiance. The talented players are the first team in Lafayette history to win the Northern California Division 2 State Championship. Each of the players got a special certificate of recognition and handshake from the mayor. *C. Tyson*

Photo courtesy Julie Davidson

Promiscuous Shooting
3200 block Walnut Ln
1700 block Reliez Valley Rd

Prowler
3500 block Herman Dr

Public Nuisance
10 block Charles Ct
Acalanes High School
Lindsey Ct/Buchan Dr
1100 block Upper Happy Valley Rd
1100 block Garden Ln
Highland Rd/Mosswood Dr
Mt Diablo Bl/Moraga Rd
10 block Charles Ct

Road Rage
Stanley Bl/Pleasant Hill Rd

Reckless Driving
Oak Hill Rd/Hwy 24
Pleasant Hill Rd/Hwy 24
Deer Hill Rd/Happy Valley Rd
Echo Springs Rd/Reliez Valley Rd
Pleasant Hill Rd/Stanley Bl
Springhill Rd/Pleasant Hill Rd

Shoplifting
Safeway (3)
CVS

Suspicious Circumstances 7
Vehicle 30
Subject 28
Traffic Stops 150

Trespass
1100 block Glen Rd
Springhill Elementary
1000 block 2nd St
Burton Valley Elementary

Vandalism
3200 block Camino Diablo
3200 block Marlene Dr
3200 block School St
900 block Dewing Av
Stanley Bl/Vacation Dr
Brown Av/Deerhill Rd
1100 block Nogales St
1000 block Leland Dr

Vehicle Theft
Brook St/Dewing Av



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Should the City Charge for Parking?

By Cathy Tyson



Photo Cathy Tyson

With La Fiesta Square about to install parking meters, city leaders expressed concern early this month about the overall parking situation downtown and the possibility of metering spaces in public lots in Lafayette. The all-volunteer Parking Ordinance Committee did its homework on the matter and suggested some options. However, because Lafayette City Council members wanted to bring business owners in on the discussion and give the Lafayette school board time to develop a firm picture of the district's needs, a decision about meters was continued until the Sept. 22 council meeting.

Up for discussion is the private lease over half of the public lot at Uncle Yu's, the lot at the old library, the newest of the city-owned lots at 949 Moraga Road, and the lot at the gazebo on Golden Gate Way.

Each lot has a unique set of restrictions and encumbrances. For example, the eastern half of the Uncle Yu's lot is public while the western side is for Uncle Yu's customers; the restaurant leases the spaces for a monthly fee. The entire 21-space lot at the gazebo is currently leased to private businesses during business hours.

The old library hasn't been designated – but many drivers use the parking lot, especially parents picking up and dropping off students. A recommendation on the building's future use was also slated to be on this week's council agenda – it's likely to impact the currently free parking there.

Across the street from the old library is a parcel the city purchased, at 949 Moraga Road, using revenue from existing parking meters ear-

marked to provide free parking. Historically the city has leased spaces within public lots to businesses, and reserved those spots for customers usually because the businesses were unable to meet the parking requirements imposed by the city.

When parking meters were first installed roughly 20 years ago, it was controversial. To sweeten the deal at that time, the city made an oral agreement with the business community that fees charged for on-street parking would be used to buy free off-street parking.

Fee or free? The Parking Ordinance Committee was asked to make recommendations. "The committee agrees that the time has come to charge for public off street parking," noted the staff report prepared by police chief Eric Christensen, planning and building services director Niroop Srivatsa, and city engineer Tony Coe. Their report also explained that not all lots serve the same purpose and therefore should be assessed and priced based on the type and duration of usage.

Recommendations include a suggested maximum of four hours of parking at the old library at \$1 per hour; if approved, this could bring in \$44,500 annually after paying for meter installation.

The 949 Moraga Road lot is used by many as all day parking. It was suggested the city invest in credit card meters with a starting price of \$2 per day to park at this lot. Unfortunately the discussion about the fate of these lots took place after press deadline. Curious residents can check out what happened at <http://www.ci.lafayette.ca.us/index.aspx?page=350>.

No Drama for Housing Element

... continued from page A2

Two women had comments for the planning commissioners. Mary Fenelon is involved with a number of organizations and faith groups that focus on affordable housing. She cited the desperate need for housing and the growing homeless population in Contra Costa County, where 40 percent of the homeless

are children.

Gwen Watson, who chairs the Social Justice Alliance of the Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County, stated, "Housing is one of our most important issues." She noted that there are currently 100 people on the waiting list for the Winter Nights rotating shelter.



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Moraga Civic News

Public Meetings

Town Council

Wednesday, Sept. 24, 7 p.m. canceled
 Wednesday, Oct. 8, 7 p.m.
 Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School,
 1010 Camino Pablo

Planning Commission

Monday, Oct. 6, 7 p.m.
 Moraga Library, 1500 St. Mary's Rd.

Design Review

Tuesday, Oct. 14, 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

Not so civil dispute, 9/11/14 A neighbor on Via Joaquin yelled at the person next door and his son about his car being towed. The reporting person witnessed the car being towed but had no part in making it happen. The subject was advised to contact the homeowners association and to attend the next meeting. The yeller was also advised to "stay away from the reporting person's residence or face arrest for trespassing."

Black backpack found, 9/11/14 It had been placed near a tree at the Rheem Shopping Center all day. Only clothes and some personal items were found inside but, alas, no identification. See Moraga police if it belongs to you.

Car versus pedestrian, 9/13/14 A car backing out of a parking spot on Moraga Way struck a pedestrian who was walking southbound through the parking lot. She complained of pain to her wrist and pain to her left hip – she was taken by the fire department to the hospital. No mention of which party didn't see the other.

Loud party, 9/13/14 Apparently school is back in session. The clock had yet to strike midnight, but it was time for Cinderellas and all the fellas to wrap it up. It was 11:45 p.m. when police responded to Eileen Court to check on a loud party. Approximately 40 people left the house and the party hosts were issued a Town of Moraga Party Ordinance warning notice. Wow, say that three times fast.



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Meet the Candidates: Chew, Onoda, Trotter

By Sophie Braccini

Three candidates for two seats on the Moraga Town Council are seeking your vote this November. Incumbents Ken Chew and David Trotter are seeking re-election for a third 4-year term, while Teresa Onoda is running for the first time. The Town Council is comprised of five Moraga residents who volunteer their time in service to their community. The candidates recently shared their thoughts on a variety of issues.

Why are they running?

Both Chew and Trotter say that they love Moraga, have proven track records on the Town Council, and are proud of the town's balanced budget and frugal spending over the last eight years.

Chew points out that he championed the establishment of the Climate Action Plan, while Trotter credits his persistence and tenacity, in part, to the work that led to the passage of Measure K and the restoration of Moraga's roads.

Onoda believes that the town is at a tipping point and that the completion of the many proposed developments could change its character. She wants to preserve the quality of life for Moraga residents.

Development and the Moraga Center Specific Plan

Onoda believes that there is a problem with the implementation of the Moraga Center Specific Plan. "It is too dense," she states, adding that the cumulative impacts of proposed development projects, especially on



Ken Chew

schools and roads, needs to be better understood.

Trotter and Chew served on the Town Council that approved the Moraga Center Specific Plan. Trotter supports the planned 620 units. "The Camino Ricardo project went through with great collaborative effort, this is a successful piece of the puzzle," he says. "The total build up is subject to a traffic budget, it cannot exceed the projected traffic from a single-family residential development of about 334 units." He explains that the plan will have to include a mix of different types of housing with different traffic impacts.

Chew says he is not concerned with the implementation of the Moraga Center Specific Plan because overall it abides by the town's General Plan and every project will be individually scrutinized. "There will be plenty of opportunity to make sure that each project conforms to the



Teresa Onoda

General Plan," he states.

Finance and Asset Management

Chew says that he is concerned that the town has not saved enough for a complete asset replacement plan. The town owns several buildings, police vehicles, and equipment, among other things. "When it breaks, we replace it, but if we want to implement such a plan fully, it will take a lot of money," he says. Chew thinks that the Palos Colorados development fees, several million dollars likely to land in town coffers in 2015, could be used in part to fund an asset replacement plan.

Onoda says she favors conservative management of the town's money. "Moraga has to continue to be managed with a balanced budget," she says. She applauds the work that was done with Measure K and promises that she will make sure that all the money is used for infrastructure maintenance.



Dave Trotter

Trotter promises to continue to push budgetary frugality. "We cut the spending by \$1 million during the recession when I was mayor; the town lives within its means," he states, adding that he will continue to make sure that money from Measure K will be used only for the roads.

Economic Development

Trotter notes improvements in the occupancy rates at Moraga's shopping centers. "What Gayle Somers is doing (HomeMade Kitchen Café and Bakery) is a great example of people investing in the community and finding a niche," he says, adding that there are still unmet needs for things such as a sports bar and student housing.

Chew believes that Moraga has made a lot of progress in the last eight years; processes for businesses have been streamlined and town staff is more supportive.

... continued on page A11

Moraga Celebrates!

Daylong Pear and Wine Festival followed by Toast to Moraga

Festivities begin with the 16th annual Pear and Wine Festival at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 27 at Moraga Commons Park. This family-friendly event features DJ RyanO, wine tasting, pear pies, jumpies, food, informational booths, youth performances and the famous Pear Recipe Contest. For details go to www.moraga.ca.us or call (925) 888-7045.

The Pear and Wine Festival wraps up around 4 p.m. and will be followed at 6:30 p.m. by the Toast to Moraga 40th Anniversary Celebration. The event is a bring-your-own picnic dinner in the park; the deadline to reserve a table was Sept. 18.

Next Up

The Moraga Historical Society is organizing a dinner Oct. 18 to celebrate the incorporation of the Town of Moraga. For more information and reservations contact Susan Sperry at (925) 376-3053.



Identity theft, 9/05/14 A Tharp Drive resident discovered, after a credit check, that there was a possible unauthorized application for a credit card. There has been no financial loss at this time and the fraudulent account has been closed.

Minor traffic incident, 9/16/14 The reporting person said he had been involved in a minor non-injury accident on Campolindo Drive. While stopping for a vehicle that was parking, another car rear-ended him, resulting in minor damage. Bumped driver just wanted to document the incident.

In addition, the following crimes were reported in Moraga Sept. 9 through Sept. 16:

False Alarm

- Calle La Mesa
- Carter Dr
- St. Andrews Dr
- Buckingham Dr
- Alta Mesa Ct
- Augusta Dr

Car Towed

- Dickenson Dr

Welfare Check

- Natalie Dr

Traffic Incident

- Moraga Rd

Danger to Self

- Ascot Dr (2)
- Cypress Point Wy



Livable Moraga Road Community Workshop: Corridor Concept Review and Segment 3 Options

Monday, September 29, from 7:00 to 9:00pm, Hacienda de las Flores, La Sala Building, 2100 Donald Drive.

Come and share your comments on corridor-wide improvements for Moraga Road from the Commons to Campolindo, including new pedestrian and bike facilities, and intersection improvements to improve the connectivity, safety and beauty of the corridor. You will also have the chance to weigh in on options for vehicle lanes, bicycle lanes, parking and pedestrian paths in the area between Donald Drive and Corliss Drive, and decide how the needs of motorists, walkers and cyclists can best be balanced in this area.

To Learn More, visit:
 www.moraga.ca.us/livablemoragaroad
 or contact Ellen Clark, Planning Director at 925-888-7041 eclark@moraga.ca.us, for more information.

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SATURDAY, 9/27, 10AM-4PM

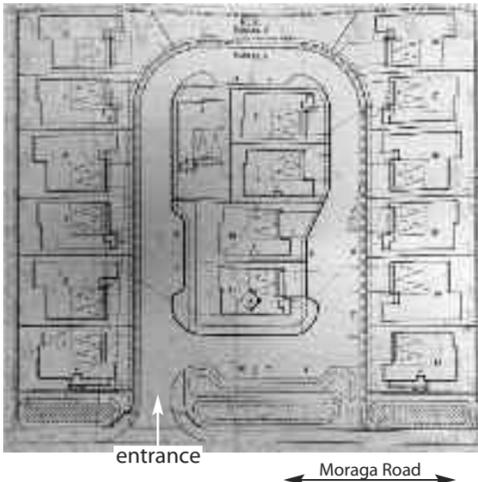
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Via Moraga Appeal: Concept Approved

By Sophie Braccini



The plan for 17 single-family homes, tightly packed on two acres along Moraga Road across from the Rheem Shopping Center, represents something new in town. Via Moraga features detached, two-story homes on small lots; existing developments of similar density have attached duplex or triplex homes. The project was recently approved by the Moraga Town Council on a 3-2 vote.

When Signature Homes' Via Moraga development was approved by the Planning Commission earlier this year, Councilmember Mike Metcalf and the developer lodged appeals. Revised plans were presented to the Town Council Sept. 10 that satisfied both appellants. The project won approval despite opposition from Councilmember David Trotter and vice mayor Roger Wykle, who were concerned about the height of the structures and view shed protection of the Rheem Ridge.

The owner of the property, which has been vacant for many years, studied multiple scenarios ranging from a boutique hotel to apartment buildings. In their July deci-

sion, planning commissioners approved a project that was three years in the making.

The commission's approval came with a requirement that the developer configure the lots with a single entryway on Moraga Road instead of the two that had been proposed – the rationale was that with only one entrance, the project would have less impact on the roadway from both traffic and visual perspectives. The developer's appeal asked for the second access point to be reinstated but, after working with town staff in preparation for the council meeting, Signature Homes came up with a new proposal that included only one entrance on Moraga Road and considerably increased the setback of the middle front lot.

Metcalf's appeal arose from his concern over a "wall effect" created by two-story homes close together along the scenic corridor. When he saw the new plan he indicated that he was ready to approve the project.

Trotter and Wykle wanted to see either a computer-simulated rendition or new story poles erected to represent the revised plan before the council voted on final approval. Metcalf and Councilmember Phil Arth said that they didn't need further study to grant approval, leaving mayor Ken Chew as the swing vote.

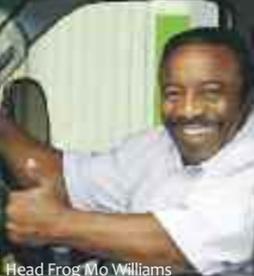
Chew said that the project had been sufficiently studied by both the Design Review Board and the Planning Commission during the years it took to create a final draft, and he was confident that the visual impact along the scenic corridor had been taken into account as required by the town's General Plan. With Trotter and Wykle opposed, the council voted to approve the project.

Next steps include consideration of a general development plan and tentative subdivision map by the Planning Commission at meetings that will be open to the public. Important aspects such as how pedestrians might cross Moraga Road – a topic that many residents expressed concern about during earlier sessions – will be studied. The schedule for these hearings has not yet been set.

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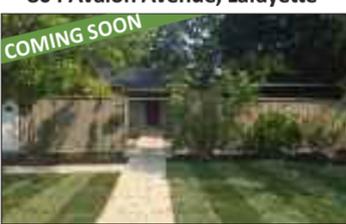
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Offered at \$1,100,000 by Jim Colhoun
 925.200.2795.

CalBRE 01029160

29 Longridge Road, Orinda

COMING SOON



Old world charm at its best...This custom home was built in 1936 and boasts an ideal floor plan with 2958 sq. ft., 4 bedrooms plus office, 3 remodeled baths plus powder room, gourmet kitchen, office, hard carved wood trim, open beamed ceilings, wooded view, shop, 3 car garage and so much more!

Offered by Ruth Eddy for \$1,100,000.

CalBRE#01313819

3217 Laurel Ave, Oakland

COMING SOON



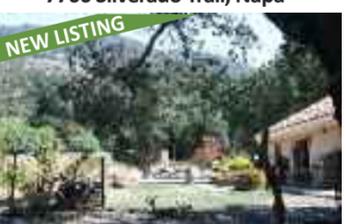
This 2/1, 863 SF, sweet traditional starter home is in the Laurel District. Remodeled in 2004, it features hardwood floors, granite counters, a great yard with deck, parking, and 1-car garage. Centrally located. Close to 580 Freeway, Express bus to SF, BART.

Offered at \$315,000 by Maureen Caldwell-Meurer.

CalBRE#01909766

7766 Silverado Trail, Napa

NEW LISTING



An amazing opportunity awaits at this incredible estate property overlooking neighboring vineyards. The charming cottage sits on nearly 2-1/2 acres with magnificent oaks, a seasonal creek and exceptional stone wall. Alongside the home is a wonderful pool and at the eastern edge is a massive building site of over 10,000sf with engineered plans.

Offered at \$1,289,000 by Janine Hunt.

CalBRE#01909766

1128 Larch Avenue, Moraga

NEW LISTING



Set back from the street, this single-level 4BR/3BA home features a private location with hilltop views on a 1.16 acre lot. Classic hardwood floors throughout lead to a large family room. Separate detached office or workshop building would be ideal for an artist studio.

Offered at \$1,069,000 by Jim Colhoun.

CalBRE 01029160

4211 Elario Dr. Concord

NEW LISTING



Beautiful custom home, down a private lane with 4 BR and 3 baths, 1 bedroom and bath on the street level. Its 2604 SF includes spacious living, family and dining rooms, high ceilings and custom features. It also features a slate patio and deck for entertaining, citrus trees and RV parking. Dead end street with a walk to Lime Ridge open space.

Offered at \$659,950 by Tina Van Arsdale.

CalBRE 01259271

TIP OF THE WEEK

Moraga and Orinda have had a slight increase in the number of sales so far this year, as compared to last year, and Lafayette has had a slight dip (after a banner year in 2013). However, all three towns have had an increase in average sales price of detached homes, so the market is still going strong!

Our agents have represented buyers in other parts of the Bay Area as well, and home prices there are increasing too. Here is a sampling of homes we helped buyers purchase in local and neighboring communities:

640 Quail Crest Drive, Walnut Creek	\$1,450,000	Jim Colhoun
616 Miner Road, Orinda	\$1,210,000	Julie Georgiou
1173 Grizzly Peak Bl., Berkeley	\$875,000	Ruth Eddy
3017 Lester Avenue, Martinez	\$790,000	Dana Fillinger
126 Danvers Court, Oakley	\$369,000	Tina Van Arsdale
702 Waterford Place, Pinole	\$235,000	Sheri Wedlake

Meet our Featured Agents ...

 Julie Georgiou 925.200.8246 salesbyjulie@gmail.com CalBRE#01043977	 Tina Van Arsdale 925.640.2355 vanarsdale@aol.com CalBRE#01259271	 Janine Hunt 510.409.6266 janine.hunt@bhghome.com CalBRE#01909766	 Dana Fillinger 925.588.6409 dana.fillinger@bhghome.com CalBRE# 01731662	 Regina Englehart, Broker-Manager 925.876.9076 regina.englehart@bhghome.com CalBRE# 01308462
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Orinda

Civic News

Public Meetings

City Council

Special Meeting:
Tuesday, Sept. 30, 7 p.m.
Regular Meeting:
Tuesday, Oct. 2, 7 p.m.
Auditorium, Orinda Library,
26 Orinda Way

Planning Commission

Tuesday, Oct. 14, 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



Maureen Wilbur

Direct: (925)253-6311 | Maureen@MaureenWilbur.com | www.MaureenWilbur.com

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Beacon Ridge Executive Townhome

Gated Community with 112 homes, pool, tennis courts, walking/hiking trails, Lafayette Schools ~Walnut Creek address but is really Lafayette!

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473 Beacon Ridge Lane has very few steps to enter. Front door entry, master bedroom suite and interior garage entry are on the main level of the home. The **POINTE Model** with 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, large balcony with filtered hill views, updated kitchen, fresh paint, new furnace, new carpet, some new lighting, and partially finished bonus area. **Offered at \$789,000**



OUSD Board Candidates Talk Arts, Libraries and Learning

By Laurie Snyder

Each candidate for the Orinda Union School District Board of Trustees has budget management experience. All agree that, while sometimes helpful in mitigating funding shortfalls, the cuts U.S. schools make to the arts and other "soft" programs when struggling through economic crises ultimately are detrimental to America's long-term health.

"Do we have enough elementary level arts?" asks Julie Rossiter. "Not necessarily. There are so many requirements for other subjects that kids need, but school shouldn't just be about language arts and math. It should be about creating well rounded kids."

"Each child has a different way of expressing himself or herself," says Hillary Weiner. "It's critical for all kids to have some other outlet than just the basic core subjects. The same is true of having physical edu-

cation programs at the schools." "My mother-in-law and older son are artists so I know the power of the arts," says Jason Kaune. "My son has this creativity; not every child has that, and that's fine. It's not a 'soft' ability. It's a talent like mathematics or sports."

"Corporations are hiring more liberal arts majors because they know how to think," says Carol Brown. "The arts and humanities are critical for learning. They teach us about the humanity of the other, and that informs everything we do in life."

On Libraries and Reading

"Books are essential," says Kaune. "The first thing you want your children to do is to enjoy picking up a book and see the world through it. Even though libraries are changing in the 21st century, they're still the heart of the community and school. Even in tough budgetary

times, libraries are important to a full education."

"Ideally, I think the adoption of cost-saving, digitized textbooks should progress more rapidly in high schools and colleges, but libraries are also important, whether in our community or schools," says Rossiter. "My mother was an elementary school librarian for 25 years. When you're lying in bed with your child at night reading, having the book there is really important."

"Books are life giving. I don't think you get that same life from a glowing screen," says Brown. "I used a Kindle for book club, but

eventually realized that I wasn't remembering the books. I've since learned through Scientific American that you remember a book better when you have it in your hands and are turning the pages."

"Personally, I now read on the Kindle," says Weiner. "But technology has its place. With bookstores and libraries, you glance through the shelves and your eyes settle on books you might not have otherwise read, and there's something to be said about going through a book and making notes. You don't get the same perspective when you're online."

Council and School Board Candidates to Discuss Orinda's Most Pressing Issues

Orinda City Council Candidate Forum: 7 p.m. on Oct. 6
OUSD Board of Trustees Candidate Forum: 7 p.m. on Oct. 16
Location: Orinda Library Auditorium. Sponsor: Orinda Association.

<p>Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report, Aug. 31 to Sept. 13</p>	Alarms 78	Disturbance	Panhandling Safeway	Hwy 24/Oak Hill Rd
	911 Calls 16	60 block El Toyonal	Promiscuous Shooting	Glorietta Bl/Moraga Via
	Battery Orchard Rd/Scenic Dr	10 block Orinda Wy	20 block Greenwood Ct	Suicide Attempt
	Burglary, Auto	10 block Rich Acres Rd	Public Nuisance	Estabueno Dr
	Starbucks	Health & Safety Violation	100 block Rheem Bl	Suspicious Person 6
	Reported to Police Dept	Orinda Park Pool	10 block Linda Vista	Circumstances 6
	10 block Orchard Rd	Hit & Run	El Caminito/Camino Sobrante	Vehicle 23
	400 block Wovenwood Dr	Bear Bridge Rd/Tappan Ln	Moraga Wy/Ivy Dr	Traffic Stops 215
	10 block Orinda Wy	10 block La Noria	Reckless Driving	Trespass
	Burglary, Residential	Shell station	Moraga Wy/Brookwood Rd	10 block Frogs Leap Wy
10 block Wanda Ln	Missing Adult	San Pablo Dam Rd/Bear Creek Rd	Vandalism	
Counterfeit	200 block Crest View Dr	Glorietta Bl/Glorietta Ct	100 block Fiesta Cr	
50 block Acadia Dr	100 block Village Sq	Glorietta Bl/Moraga Wy		
Custody Violation	Petty Theft	Moraga Wy/Overhill Rd		
500 block Moraga Wy	200 block The Knoll			

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Carol4SchoolBoard@gmail.com

925.351.9144

Paid for by Carol Brown for OUSD School Board 2014 FPPC #1368834



Jason is a product and parent of our Orinda schools, running as an **experienced consensus builder** who will bring independent thinking and fiscal prudence to the school board.

He has been **endorsed by city leaders, parents, teachers and others.** See more at [JasonKaune.com!](http://JasonKaune.com)



Orinda Union School District Seeking Applicants to Serve on Measure B Parcel Tax Oversight Committee

The Orinda Union School District seeks applicants to serve on its Measure B Parcel Tax Oversight Committee. Members must be able to serve a four-year term. The committee meets twice annually during normal business hours. The primary objective and purpose of the Committee is to ensure that the parcel tax proceeds are spent for their authorized purpose and to report annually to the Board of Trustees and the public regarding the expenditure of such funds.

If you are interested in serving on the committee, please submit an application to the Superintendent's Office, Orinda Union School District, 8 Altarinda Road, Orinda, CA 94563, via email to kfrenklach@orinda.k12.ca.us, or by fax to (925) 254-5261.

Applications are available on the district website: www.orindaschools.org or by email from kfrenklach@orinda.k12.ca.us

Application Deadline:
Tuesday, October 14, 2014, by Noon



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For Orinda School Board

HillaryWeiner.com

Paid for by Hillary Weiner for Orinda School Board 2014. FPPC Committee #1368663



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Soul Support – The Orinda Park and Recreation Foundation

By Laurie Snyder



Looking out of their windows, Orinda Union School District administrators will see kids at play in Pine Grove Park. Adjacent to the new OUSD administration building on Altarinda Road, Orinda's newest park features restrooms, a tot lot and improved turf. The public is invited to a special ribbon cutting ceremony Sept. 30 at 5 p.m. Photo Ohlen Alexander

If you look up 'recreation,' it's defined as anything boosting the human spirit – sports, music, reading, hiking, biking – landscaping," says Bill Wadsworth, a Miramonte High School graduate who has lived in Orinda with his wife for 35 years. A children's book author, Ginger Wadsworth volunteers for the Orinda Library Paws to Read program while Bill serves as the president of the Orinda Park and Recreation Foundation – one of the city's most impactful, unsung nonprofits.

Founded in 1975 as the Orinda Foundation, the name changed during the 1980s, but the mission remained: "To aid and contribute to the City of Orinda's recreational and community service activities related to parks, open space, beautification efforts, and community recreational improvements." An astounding 100 percent of funds raised support this mission. The foundation can do this because it is entirely volunteer run. To date, it has raised \$1.5 million.

"We divvy up responsibilities, have 10 meetings a year, and keep those to an hour-and-a-half. It's rewarding to work with others for a common purpose. You can sit there and have ideas by yourself all day long and not think of the obvious. You develop new friendships, and are energized by others' ideas," says Wadsworth.

The Orinda Park and Recreation Foundation was started by average folks who noticed a need and decided to fix it. When the Orinda Union School opted to sell its school on Orinda Way in the mid-1970s, Orindans launched a tax exempt organization and purchased the historic structure plus three adjoining acres, creating the Orinda Community Center and Park. The group then improved those facilities, and set more milestones.

Raising over \$600,000 to buy 111 acres for the Orinda Oaks Open Space Preserve, picnic areas and trails, volunteers partnered with the Muir Heritage Land Trust to save six additional acres. The foundation helped restore and provide San Pablo Creek access to schools, helped build Lamorinda's Skateboard Park, launched Moonlight Movies, and continues bettering the community in collaboration with the Orinda Association, Art in Public Places Committee, Community Foundation, and Rotary.

Next up – buying and installing defibrillators at sports fields and creating maps for Orinda's trail system. "Providing our community with the ability to participate in something restorative and recreational is important," says Wadsworth. For more information, go to www.oprfoundation.org.

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 5/3. Beautifully appointed home in popular Moraga Place. Updates and attn to detail throughout.
 Vlatka Bathgate CalBRE#01390784



MORAGA \$1,075,000
 5/2.5. Close to K-8 top rated Moraga schools. Great floor plan. Lovely backyard w/ patio & gardens.
 Elena Hood CalBRE#01221247



MORAGA \$1,125,000
 4/2.5. Gorgeous contemporary. Spacious rooms. Back yard oasis with pool. Valley view.
 Rick & Nancy Booth CalBRE#01388020/01341390



ORINDA \$1,500,000
 4/4. Fabulous remodel, steps from downtown Orinda & blocks from BART & freeway. Huge, fun yard!
 Soraya Golesorkhi CalBRE#01771736



LAFAYETTE \$989,000
 3/2. Inspiring Views. Remodeled rancher with large flat yard and big open spaces perfect for entertaining.
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ORINDA \$3,900,000
 4/4.2. Rare opportunity to buy newer estate plus two adjacent lots. Gated, wine cellar, gorgeous grounds w/pool & more!
 Elena Hood CalBRE#01221247



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



LAFAYETTE \$2,550,000
 5/4.5. High end custom home w/wine cellar, gourmet kitchen, outdoor patio w/built in BBQ, putting green & more!
 The Beaubelle Group CalBRE#00678426



MORAGA \$1,049,000
 3/2. Lovely Ranch Campo, Cul-De-Sac, Hardwood, Upgraded Bath, in Laundry, Grass Lawn, Pavers.
 Jason Evans CalBRE#01887768



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 5/3.1. Spectacular in Lafayette! Beautiful custom built home located in the coveted Greenhill's neighborhood.
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 3/3. Pristine 1 Level Mid-Century Custom w/ a cool Art Deco vibe in the heart of Glorietta.
 Patti Camras CalBRE#01156248



LAFAYETTE \$899,000
 3/2. Situated on a quiet culdesac, this quintessential Lafayette rancher is convenient to BART and downtown.
 Bev Arnold CalBRE#01154860



ORINDA \$850,000
 3/2. Charming home amongst the trees. Large family room, enclosed yard. Newly painted. Must see.
 David Pierce CalBRE# 00964185



ORINDA \$3,550,000
 4/3. By Appt. Only. Serene contemporary villa built in 1990 on 1.3 ac with amazing gardens, vistas & privacy.
 The Hattersley's CalBRE# 01181995/00445794

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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 a road fan, a Moraga road fan. If you rode with me in my car, you'd see me smiling as I bump along Sanders Drive over that rouged up road. I'd tell you how happy I am when I see those big heavy trucks roll into town one after another at 8 in the morning. And I'd tell you that I feel like telling every driver and curb construction guy how grateful I am that they are here in Moraga. We have worked long and hard for this! I don't care if it takes a bit longer to get through town, or if the streets are messy, because in a short while, they'll be smooth, black, and quiet!

If you are a road fan too, join me in cheering the road teams - and all the Moraga voters who said yes to paying one more penny in sales tax. Long live our roads!

Ellen Beans
Moraga

Editor:

Question: Why did the deer cross the road? Answer: Because it wasn't chicken.

It's that time of year when many deer are crossing many Lamorinda roads; time for drivers to be cautious.

A neighbor was rear-ended on Moraga Road when she had to brake to avoid hitting a buck. The car behind her was following too close and/or too fast. Perhaps it is time to consider changing the speed limit on the Rheem-to-Lafayette stretch of Moraga Road, with its several blind curves, from 35 mph to 25 mph.

From the last 35 mph sign at the top of the hill to the first 25 mph sign at the bottom of the hill it is roughly 1.2 miles. At 35 mph it would take approximately 2.1 minutes to drive that distance; at 25 mph it would take approximately 2.9 minutes. While Lamorindans are a busy bunch, perhaps we could sacrifice .8 minute per drive, if we could avoid a few injuries to drivers, deer, and autos.

Edward C. Hartman
Moraga

Elections

Editor:

It is with great pleasure and honor that we endorse Ken Chew for a third term on the Moraga Town Council. We have known Ken for more than 8 years and are pleased that he is seeking a third term. His service to the Town is marked by selfless dedication to all sectors of the community. What we value most is his readiness to listen and hear out all sides to an issue. And when he makes his decision, we can be confident that he weighed all the pros and cons of an issue and decided for the good of Moraga.

Ken is not captive to vested interests who seek to inject negativity into Moraga politics. He shuns forces who seek to polarize the groups in the community and then actively pit them against one another.

We have not always agreed, but Ken has always listened. It has always been clear that Ken is not a person who will fight for special interests. He will not be defined by the narrow and exclusive political agenda of the few. He actively seeks out both sides to an issue in an effort to make an informed decision. As a trained engineer, facts and accuracy are the tools of his trade. In service to Moraga, his integrity requires that he represent everyone in the community ... not just the loudest in the room who consistently advocate a selfish point of view.

Parity, Integrity, Steadfastness, Reliability ... hallmarks of Ken Chew's service to Moraga. Re-elect Ken Chew!

Sonny and Amalia Ebarle
Moraga

Editor:

I am writing this letter to urge my fellow Lamorinda citizens to support and re-elect Kathy Famulener to the Moraga Orinda Fire District Board. Kathy has worked collaboratively with all stakeholders within the MOFD to ensure we continue to deliver high levels of service in an economically sustainable way. She has spent her career in public safety and understands the community's need for high quality fire and EMS response. In her time as a Board member she has been a valuable asset. She has worked tirelessly to help solve our fiscal challenges in an equitable manner. Kathy is supported by our firefighters, her fellow board members, a broad coalition of local/countywide leaders, and grateful Moraga residents. Please support her election campaign and vote to keep her on our Fire Board.

Mark DeWeese
Moraga

Editor:

MOFD has never found a dollar it couldn't spend.

MOFD just announced that because it has experienced a windfall property tax revenue increase of 8 percent, it will increase its staffing for the rest of the fire season from 17 to 19 firefighters; equivalent to 5.6 firefighters per 10,000 population. ConFire has never had more than about 1.5 firefighters per 10,000 population and, so far, the County has never burned up.

MOFD's tax revenue today is about 2.2 times what it was when it was established in 1997. That is about twice the increase of costs indexed by inflation. On top of this, while spending 240 million tax dollars over those 17 years, they have also accrued about \$100 million of debt and unfunded employee benefit liabilities.

So what do they do when they receive an extra \$400,000 in tax revenues they did not expect? They rush out to spend it in the name of public safety. Back in 2009 they did just the opposite (while running a million dollar deficit) telling the public that extra staffing during red flag days was not really an effective way to spend money they did not have.

What can we do about this? Maybe get someone who understands finance on the Board? MOFD currently has two attorneys on the board (Weil and Famulener). In December Brad Barber (a tax attorney) will be replacing John Wyro (a real estate developer). Do we really need a third attorney? In Moraga, Nathan Bell (a Harvard MBA) is challenging Famulener for the fifth seat on the Board. Maybe a finance guy would be a better choice. It is up to the Moraga voters.

Steve Cohn
Orinda

Editor:

As a former school board member in Orinda, I know what qualities to look for in a school board candidate: a focus on the best education for all students, past experience volunteering in the public schools, and an ability to collaborate well with other board members, with no personal agenda.

Being on a school board is hard work, especially when the state is always finding creative ways to cut school funding. I think it's important to have continuity on boards, as well as new ideas, because there is a steep learning curve, and it takes time to understand the many issues a board faces.

Julie Rossiter on the Orinda Union School District board and Susie Epstein on the Acalanes School District board have both done an excellent job. They are dedicated, collaborative, and focused on students. I have known both of them for many years, both as school board members and on the Friends of the Orinda Library board.

I highly recommend both Susie Epstein and Julie Rossiter for reelection to their respective boards in November. They will continue to serve our communities well in maintaining excellence in our schools.

Linda Landau
Orinda

Editor:

In our two years as Glorietta Parents' Club Presidents, we became quite familiar with the Orinda Union School District and its School Board. Our former leadership roles, along with our relationships with the District and Board, give us a unique perspective on what type of candidate would make a successful and valuable Orinda School Board member. Hillary Weiner is that candidate.

Hillary is dedicated to ensuring that Orinda students receive a stellar educational experience, putting politics and special agendas aside, and focusing first and foremost on our youth.

Hillary's multi-leveled involvement within OUSD distinguishes her as a candidate. Her personal experience as an OUSD parent, her community volunteerism, and her leadership roles in education make her uniquely well qualified to take a seat on the Orinda School Board.

Hillary has three children attending OUSD schools, allowing her to be intimately familiar with the current educational issues our schools face and the experiences of our children enrolled at those schools. She has a proven record of dedication to our schools and community through her willingness to, year after year, serve in whatever volunteer role was most needed at Glorietta. These volunteer roles allowed her to learn what parents, teachers and students value most in education. Hillary also has behind-the-scenes knowledge and leadership experience from having served as a Glorietta Parents' Club President. In this role, she proved that she can serve as a strong voice advocating for our students, working at the District level to ask probing questions and thoughtfully consider varying opinions. There could not have been a more well-suited parent to step into that leadership role, and there is certainly no more exceptional candidate to serve on the Orinda School Board.

We feel so fortunate to have a candidate like Hillary step up to represent the best interests of our Orinda students, and we strongly encourage voters to elect her to the Orinda School Board this November.

Darien Destino and Julie Chinn
Orinda

Editor:

I am writing in support of Kristen Correll, a candidate for the AUHSD School Board in the upcoming election November 4th. I have been a resident of Orinda since August 2003. My son is a senior at Miramonte High School and My daughter graduated in June 2013 from Miramonte. I have worked with Kristen at many school and Parents' Club functions and we have become close personal friends over the last five years.

With four children, each of whom have different learning styles and needs, Kristen understands the importance of educating the whole child and creating an environment that fosters and develops well-balanced, confident individuals. In addition, Kristen has over 25 years of experience in education, as a teacher, an administrator and an education specialist. She therefore understands the value and challenges of providing programs for the broad spectrum of students in school - advanced, average and special needs. I strongly believe that Kristen will be a valuable addition to the AUHSD School Board, not only because of her experience but because she is compassionate, even-tempered and capable of working with others in a responsible and measured way. While she stands up for her beliefs, she also appreciates all sides of an issue and will effectively resolve conflicts with compromise and reason.

With the introduction of Common Core and continued budget cuts from the state, Kristen will bring intellectual depth and professional breadth to the Board. As both an educator and a parent, and with children who have attended both Miramonte and Campolindo, I am confident that Kristen will effectively balance the interests of the district's staff, students and parent communities.

Sharon Noble
Orinda

Editor:

Orinda is fortunate to have Carlos Baltodano as a candidate for its City Council. I well know that he is a very caring and responsible citizen of Orinda, as I am his neighbor. His deep love of Orinda has been quite evident to me in our 10 years of "back fence" conversations.

Carlos is extremely well-qualified for the City Council. He spent 6 years on the Orinda Planning Commission, including serving as its Chairman. His bachelor's degree from U.C. Berkeley is in architecture, and his master's degree there is in City Planning. His entire career has been in public service, during which he helped develop the Orinda Dept. of Building Inspection.

Carlos is also very attuned to the recent chief concerns of Orinda residents. He would address our growing crime problem by backing the City's acquisition of license plate cameras at all entry points, similar to those that Lafayette now has in place. He would

address the traffic congestion problem in Orinda's downtown, which he knows is related to its parking problems. Too many non-Orindans use our streets for BART parking, as Orinda is the last Contra Costa BART stop before the Caldecott Tunnel back-up of traffic.

Carlos sees that responsive City Council work requires greater communication between Orinda residents and their Council members. To address this, Carlos has pledged to hold weekly "open-door" sessions with Orindans in which they may air their views to him on any topic of public interest. That's quite a commitment, and speaks volumes about Carlos' desire to excel at the job.

I'm proud to be Carlos' friend and neighbor, and I invite any of your readers or staff to follow up with me to ask specific questions or get further background. I'd be pleased to respond.

Best regards,
Ted Parker
Orinda

Editor:

I strongly endorse Bob Thompson for Orinda City Council.

I have served with Bob for over six years on the city Finance Advisory Committee (FAC). He is thorough, deeply understands financial issues, emphasizes fiscal soundness, and is very collaborative and respectful of all viewpoints. Bob has extensive community service experience.

I know that Bob will bring this wisdom and approach to the two key issues facing Orinda: (1) maintaining the city's strong fiscal position in light of rising police expense and employee health care costs and (2) fostering a community consensus on how to improve our sad and tired downtown. Orinda home values have begun to lag comparable properties in Lafayette, as young families prefer the vitality and options next door.

Bob Thompson understands these two issues and the need for balanced and collaborative approaches to both. Please join me in voting for Bob Thompson for Orinda City Council!

Carol Penskar
Orinda

Editor:

I am writing to encourage the voters of Orinda to elect Robert Thompson to the City Council.

I have known Bob for over a decade through his leadership in various community organizations, from the Scouts, to his church, to service on the Orinda Finance Advisory Committee, and have always been impressed with his strong financial skills, careful planning, balanced judgment, thoughtfulness, courtesy and civility. Bob has over 37 years of experience working in finance as an investment advisor and has a strong set of analytical and financial skills that will be a great addition to the Orinda City Council. In his professional life, evaluating and avoiding financial risk is a major part of what he does. His service on the Finance Advisory Committee shows his dedication to sound municipal finance in Orinda.

Bob cares deeply about Orinda, and maintaining the qualities that have made this community a very special place. He will work to preserve those qualities -- but he is also open to careful planning for the kind of changes in the city (especially the downtown area) that will improve what we already enjoy and not detract from it. Bob is committed to doing what is necessary to keep our crime rates low and our municipal finances in balance. He will work to continue to improve our infrastructure, especially our roads and storm sewers. He is also dedicated to giving all members of the community an opportunity for meaningful input into decision making.

Please join me supporting Robert Thompson for the Orinda City Council.

Brad Barber
Orinda

Editor:

He really listens!

That's a key reason why I'm supporting Carlos Baltodano for Orinda City Council. I first witnessed Carlos' listening skills 10 years ago when he was Contra Costa County's Director of Building Inspection and I was the Lamorinda community liaison for the late County Supervisor Gayle Uilkema. During interactions with county residents, Carlos was consistently polite and attentive to their concerns and objections. He never lost his cool and did his best to resolve disputes in a manner that was never dictatorial or heavy-handed. The supervisor appreciated his commitment to providing true public service.

After his retirement from the county, Carlos continued that commitment as a member for six years of Orinda's Planning Commission, which he completed last year as chair of the commission. Again, Carlos listened attentively to the concerns of applicants and appellants and based his decisions and votes on facts and what he believed was fair and in the best interest of the public and the community.

Carlos continues to utilize his skills and experience as a building safety consultant. Currently, the firm with which he's associated is contracted with the City of American Canyon. Following last month's earthquake centered close to that community, Carlos is helping with the process of identifying damage and rebuilding homes and other buildings.

Combine Carlos Baltodano's extensive experience in service to city and county governments with his ability and desire to listen to people and help them and you have the candidate uniquely qualified to serve the residents of Orinda as a member of our City Council. Please visit his web site, carlosfororindacouncil.com, learn about his priorities and plans, and join me in supporting him now and voting for Carlos Baltodano on November 4.

Mark Roberts
Orinda

Join our Public Forum

If you have significant knowledge about an issue facing Lamorinda or one of its cities that requires more than the 350 words to which we must limit Letters to the Editor, don't despair! You can submit your letter to our Public Forum section. Just send your letter to letters@lamorindaweekly.com and let us know you'd like to be considered for the Public Forum.

Civic News Fire Districts

MOFD Division 1 Race: Public vs. Private

By Nick Marnell



Kathleen Famulener



Nathan Bell Photos provided

The Moraga-Orinda Fire District board of directors is charged with policing the relationship between the taxpayers who fund the district and the management that runs it. In November voters in MOFD Division 1 will choose between incumbent Kathleen Famulener and challenger Nathan Bell for their division director. The differences between the candidates are palpable.

"If understanding how to fight fires is required, then, no, I'm not qualified for the job," said Bell. "But if it's about managing a \$20 million operation, then I'm extremely qualified." The Harvard Business School graduate and private equity professional stressed his experience running companies, including chairing five boards and negotiating with four unions. He then threw down the gauntlet.

"I don't think it's healthy to have public employees managing public companies," he said.

That characterization defines Bell's opponent. "I come from a large family experienced in public service, including both fire and police departments," said Famulener, deputy district attorney of Alameda County since 1977. "I understand both public service and public safety. And I understand transparency in dealing with the public." She talked about her seven years on the board of De La Salle High School where she helped develop a 15-year business strategy, which is what she said she intends to do at MOFD.

"My main goal was to finish the labor contract," she said, speaking of her first year on the MOFD board. "Now I want to develop a 15-year

strategic plan with the firefighters' union."

The new labor contract, ratified in April, allows the district to replace up to 12 firefighters with single-role paramedics at a much lower pay scale. "I am supportive of going to the single-role paramedics, as soon as possible," said Bell. "If we do, it's highly unlikely that the firefighters will ever get their jobs back," countered Famulener. "I'm not in favor of the single-role model. We live in a high danger zone and we need our firefighters. We shouldn't be getting rid of them."

Famulener praised the district for doing a good job despite staffing cuts this year from 19 to 17 firefighters on duty each day. "But we must get back to 19," she said. (The district approved a temporary staffing increase to 19 through this year's fire season.)

"I value my home," said Bell. "I do want a quick response time. But we already have good coverage." He noted that the only way to fairly assess the situation is to do an analysis of comparables of other districts. "What are our revenues per firefighter? What about fire coverage per population? We must find out what we are judging ourselves against," he said.

The proposed fire station 46, a joint venture with the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District, brought out nuanced differences between candidates. "Financially, we'll be way ahead," said Famulener. "But from a public safety perspective, I don't know. I'll hold off on my opinion until I see all of the facts."

"My concern is the financial stability of ConFire," said the challenger. "What happens if they don't fund it? Do you want to get into bed with a

weak partner? You do need to be concerned about the response times in north Orinda. But I would hold my nose and vote for it."

Neither candidate believes that a tax increase is necessary to cover the MOFD unfunded pension liability. "Raising taxes is akin to raising a white flag," said Bell. "Our tax base is sufficient. As homes continue to turn over, our tax base will grow significantly." Famulener agreed. "We will be able to take care of the unfunded liability problem from within our tax base," she said.

Two distinct views on district finances arose. Bell focused on financial management. "The financials are not straightforward," he said. "They show a \$30 million debt, but if you look at the footnotes, it's \$90 million. To build up \$90 million in unfunded liabilities? That's not prudent financial management."

"We're one of the wealthiest communities and our firefighters have the lowest pay of any neighboring agency. We should be taking better care of our first responders," said the incumbent.

"I am honored to be the first woman on the board. I've shown myself to be a strong, hard working female leader," said Famulener. "I hope the voters keep me in office."

"I am a completely private citizen. I'm not a public employee," said Bell. "My opponent is a public employee, and I do not think that is the proper profile of a member of a public governing board."

MOFD Division 1 roughly encompasses an area south and east of a line along Canyon Road, Moraga Road and St. Mary's Road in Moraga. A map of MOFD Division 1 is available at www.mofd.org/board/directors; then click on *Division 1 Map*.



Moraga-Orinda Fire District Board of Directors Meetings

Next meeting:
Wednesday, Oct. 1
check website for updates
 (Go to www.mofd.org as the meeting date approaches for location and more information)

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ConFire Ambulance Proposal Passes First Test

By Nick Marnell

Two fire agencies in Contra Costa County provide their own emergency ambulance service. Jeff Carman, chief of the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District, wants to make it three. But Carman does not envision a model similar to the service provided by the Moraga-Orinda Fire District or the San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District; he intends to pitch for the entire county ambulance contract, up for renewal next year. On Sept. 9 he made his case before the Board of Supervisors, acting as the ConFire board of directors, which gave him thumbs up to bid on the deal.

Carman based the financial calculations of his proposal on a presentation by The Ludwig Group, a Missouri-based fire and emergency medical services consultant. If ConFire won the ambulance contract, the report projected that the district will collect \$31.6 million in additional annual revenue. After \$29.3 million in expenses, the district would realize nearly \$2.3 million in excess revenue over expenses. "That was using conservative numbers," said company principal Gary Ludwig. "We used the highest payroll figures, the largest number of ambulances and the lowest collection rate per transport." He added that in the second year, ConFire could count on \$7.5 million more in federally backed reimbursements under the Ground Emergency Medical Transport program.

"Your estimates are too high," cautioned Supervisor John Gioia, who noted that Los Angeles County

receives only \$7.5 million annually in GEMT funds, as does Sacramento. "This report does not establish to me that this project makes money. The level of detail here does not provide certainty that it will not be a drain on the general fund."

American Medical Response holds the current county ambulance service contract and is a likely competitor in the bidding for the new one. Erik Rohde, AMR general manager for Contra Costa County, expressed skepticism over ConFire's proposed business model. "The plan overestimates the revenue and understates the expenses," he said. "It also calls for a reduction in the number of ambulances by nine. The system will be understaffed."

Despite the warnings, the supervisors voted 4-0 (Mary Piepho absent) for Carman to proceed with responding to the county request for proposals. The RFP process is expected to commence in January.

"I intend to take Ludwig's information and refine it," said Carman. "I will be sure to have the information be as specific as it can get by the time the RFP comes out."



ConFire Board of Directors' Meeting

Next meeting:
Wednesday, Oct. 1
check website for updates
 Board Chamber room 107,
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 (Agenda at <http://alturl.com/5p9pu>)

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New GM for Moraga Country Club

By Sophie Braccini



Moraga Country Club's new general manager, Andrew Scott, and longtime assistant general manager Kathe Foster. Photo Sophie Braccini

The job fits Andrew Scott like a glove. Moraga Country Club's new general manager is a man with vast experience, in both private sports clubs and homeowners associations, who plans to put his business acumen to good use and increase member services without necessarily raising dues.

Scott comes to Moraga from southern California where he most recently managed San Diego's Crosby National Golf Club, among others. "I paid for my education working at sports clubs and continued after I graduated," says the University of Michigan alumnus who studied filmmaking and economics. Scott has more than 20 years of club management experience under his belt. He also spent four years as an adjunct professor in the Collins College of Hospitality Management at Cal Poly Pomona.

A tall, elegant man with smooth manners and well-crafted discourse, Scott looks and talks the part. "I've been managing private clubs that were primarily in affluent communities, ranging from swim and tennis clubs, to homeowners clubs, to fully amenitized country clubs," says Scott, who believes that managing private clubs has unique characteristics in the world of hospitality. "Generally in private clubs members have a much stronger emotional tie to the club and its amenities; for them, it is a home away from home," he says, "so you cultivate a very close, socially intimate relationship with your clientele." After only two weeks at MCC, Scott's already had dinner at two members' homes. "There is a genuine affection that exists between client and service provider," he adds.

Scott says that he was interested in MCC because it is a fully amenitized country club with stable operations but key challenges that his skill set is appropriately suited for. "The challenges are to balance the interest of the homeowner members and the non-homeowner members, to create value for all, and to advance the food and beverage program in concert with the high level of activity that already exists in tennis, swimming and golf," he explains.

With 531 homes at MCC there is a big need for maintenance and safety, while the non-homeowner members focus more on sports, so-

cial activities and food service. One of the first things Scott noticed, he says, is that the club's food revenue doesn't correlate to its high sports activity. "According to my experience, (the food revenue) should be substantially higher," he confidently asserts. "At this club there is a tradition of people bringing their own food and beverages, and we would like to attract them to the services provided by the club," which he says is ready to provide all of the casual and fine dining that members could want.

Scott has great respect for new chef Kevin Able. "He is very talented, very meticulous. I'd love to grow the food program not only in terms of revenue, but also in community recognition and prestige, and one of the ways we are going to do that is the introduction of our new wine pairing dinners," he explains. As a members' privilege, "It's a great way to create 'esprit de corps' among members," he believes, "and to celebrate the marriage of food and wine." Scott also plans to introduce public, signature events such as a wine fair paired with Able's food.

Also on Scott's agenda is the development of the club's social calendar and looking into the possibility of adding a day spa to the clubhouse. "I have considerable experience in the realm of for-profit clubs," he adds. "One of the things that I would like to bring to this club is a level of business acumen, allowing us to reinvest in the club without necessarily increasing the cost to the members. MCC is a nonprofit club, but you can still apply these same principles." He cites as an example the Santa Ynez Canyon Club in Pacific Palisades, which he managed for seven years, where profits allowed him to remodel the club and add a fitness center without increasing dues.

Moraga Country Club

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

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business briefs

Brown Avenue Businesses Prep a Party

Rallying around the Lafayette Art Gallery, in the historic Forge building at 3424 Mt. Diablo Blvd., businesses on Brown Avenue are planning an informational celebration to raise awareness about the eastern part of Mt. Diablo Boulevard at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 8. Dave Roberson of Bonehead's Texas BBQ, slated to open soon in the former location of Bo's Barbecue, will offer a sampling of his dishes and the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce is providing wine and sponsoring a raffle – donated prizes include artwork and handmade items.

Acalanes Grad Wins Entrepreneur Award BetaVersity.com

Blake Marggraff, who graduated from Acalanes High School in 2011, recently won the St. Louis qualifying competition for the Entrepreneurs' Organization's Global Student Entrepreneur Award. Marggraff, now a senior at Washington University, is the founder of BetaVersity, a program that designs physical and virtual environments for learning-by-doing in order to keep STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) students engaged and interested through the completion of their studies. Marggraff will compete for the title of Global Student Entrepreneur of the Year in April, 2015. The Global Student Entrepreneur Award program recognizes entrepreneurs who are running profitable businesses while still in school.

Lamorinda Residents Achieve High Score Ameriprise

100 Pringle Ave., Suite 420, Walnut Creek
Tatia MacKinnon and Rosemary Galloway, two financial advisors with Ameriprise Financial, both ranked in the top 25 percent of all Ameriprise advisors in a client relationship study. The study was conducted by a third party research organization.

News from the Chambers of Commerce

Lafayette

Ribbon-cutting for East Bay Shoulder Clinic & Sports Rehabilitation, Inc. at 5 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 9, 3717 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Suite 100.

Moraga

Don't miss the chamber meeting featuring Jack Clark, the most successful coach in American rugby history and an accomplished corporate speaker, at 8 a.m. on Friday, Oct. 3 at the Hacienda de las Flores, 2100 Donald Drive – free to all chamber members and their guests. Clark, a Moraga resident, has compiled an overall Cal record of 618-90-5 and led the Bears to 22 national championships since becoming Cal's rugby coach in 1984.

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

Civic News Moraga

Meet the Candidates: Chew, Onoda, Trotter

... continued from page A4

“We attracted some very good sales tax generators, like TJ Maxx, Orchard and Home Goods,” he says.

Onoda says that the community is educated and sophisticated and that the shopping and dining scene should reflect the population. She is looking forward to fostering the creation of a more friendly public space. “As an artist I see things that others do not,” she says.

Open Space Preservation

Trotter and Onoda favor strengthening the rules that regulate ridgeline and hillside development in Moraga to ensure consistency in the way development decisions are made. Chew says that there is a town council subcommittee currently working on possible language and suggestions to clarify and improve on the protection of open space and ridge lines, and development on slopes. “I look forward to receiving these recommendations,” he says.

Recreation and the Rheem Theatre

Onoda believes that the Palos Colorados money should primarily go to recreation. “We have to look at the entire population and decide what makes most sense,” she says. With the Rheem Theatre now for sale, she thinks that the building can remain a theater or become something else.

Trotter believes, and has advocated for years, that the town needs a community gym. He notes that the Hacienda de las Flores is destined to become a community center, after some improvements. He believes that the Rheem Theatre is one of the defining and vibrant symbols of Moraga and local government has a legitimate role to play in its preservation.

Chew would rather look at existing facilities rather than constructing new ones, and save developer fees for existing asset replacement and maintenance. As far as the Rheem Theatre is concerned, he believes the town should continue to support the theater and ensure that a long term solution is found.

Teresa Onoda is a recognized painter who often uses Moraga’s beautiful landscape as her inspiration. She was an art teacher before moving to town with her family in 1989; her children were ages 4 and 6 at the time. Onoda launched the Preserve Lamorinda Open Space Art Show in 1990 to support the ultimately successful battle against a golf course that was planned for the Palos Colorados development. She was appointed to the Moraga Planning Commission a year and a half ago. If elected, Onoda would be the only woman on the Town Council and she believes that her presence would make that elected body more representative of the town’s population.

David Trotter is an attorney and partner at Bowles & Verna LLP, a law firm in Walnut Creek. His practice includes civil litigation, land use planning, environmental and real estate law. He served on the Moraga Planning Commission for more than six years in the ‘90s. He and his wife raised four children in Moraga.

Ken Chew is a native of Malaysia and came to the United States as a student. He holds a degree in civil and environmental engineering. Chew works for the California Department of Transportation in Oakland, where he is in charge of project management control. He and his wife raised two sons in Moraga. Prior to running for Town Council he served on the Moraga Planning Commission.

Candidates Night

Learn more about the candidates at the Moraga Citizens Network’s Candidates Night, starting at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 1 at the Holy Trinity Cultural Center, 1700 School St. in Moraga. A video of the debate will be available the next day on our website, www.lamorindaweekly.com.

Civic News Orinda

The Hills Are Alive – With the Sound of Paving

... continued from page A1

City leaders constantly battle “a dynamic where it just plain costs more to keep the roads up.” Even if Orinda did have better soil, its roads would still deteriorate from heavy equipment use and simple aging. “Asphalt loses its elasticity over time.”

But with a daunting 92 miles of roads to maintain on a budget that remains elfin despite voters passing measures L and J, repairs simply cannot be made everywhere by the city overnight. “It’s the poorest rich city in the Bay Area. Per capita, the sales tax revenue that reaches city hall is very small,” says Fay. Most of that revenue is produced when residents buy cars – unlike the City of Walnut Creek, which has Macy’s and Target. Putting it further into perspective, Orinda’s budget is roughly \$10 million per year – the same amount generated by the average Indian casino for the city in which it operates.

“So we’re doing triage, and we’re starting with the most heav-

ily traveled roads first to deliver the most benefit for the most people as quickly as possible. We will do all of the worst segments of all of the residential roads with worst defined as a Pavement Condition Index of 25 or less. A single street could have a PCI of 10 in one area and 45 in another. We will do the 10, but not the 45. That will have to wait for additional funding.”

Orinda residents are likely to feel blessed by this round’s sound of street music. The city’s public works department has been experimenting with a new technique on certain roads – digging down as deep as two feet, churning up material, and introducing hard concrete before repaving. “So now you’ve got a road that’s got a really solid base with a new top over it.”

Read part one of this series, published Sept. 10, in our online archive at www.lamorindaweekly.com.

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Civic News Lamorinda

Transportation Wish List Requests Wanted

By Cathy Tyson

You don't need a crystal ball to look into the next quarter of a century and see continued county-wide growth fueling more traffic and congestion. At a recent meeting hosted by the Contra Costa Transportation Authority, or CCTA, the presentation underscored this point via colorful graphs that illustrated expected increases in population, households and jobs within the county.

The CCTA plans, funds, and delivers transportation infrastructure that connects communities throughout Contra Costa County; it's in the midst of updating the Countywide Transportation Plan for the next 25 years and is looking for public input at a series of meetings.

Residents are probably familiar with CCTA's high profile projects, such as the fourth bore of the Caldecott Tunnel, but may not be aware of other projects to reduce traffic congestion, including the butterfly bridge at Treat Boulevard, improved bike and pedestrian access to BART, and new carpool lanes on I-680.

Right now CCTA leaders are

gathering suggestions. "We want to take your ideas," said Dave Hudson at the Veterans Hall meeting on Sept. 10. Knowing up front that there simply isn't capacity to accommodate the projected increase in traffic, and seeking solutions that help get California to the 2035 goal for reduced greenhouse gases – focusing on transit is a no-brainer.

Lafayette mayor Don Tatzin outlined CCTA goals, research and smart phone technologies that could help build transportation solutions. "What should be on the list that isn't?" asked Tatzin.

What followed was a range of polite comments covering a wide variety of topics, from having a third BART tube under the bay to smart stop lights on Mt. Diablo Boulevard.

A number of people discussed having more funding for bicycle transit. A fellow from Bike East Bay explained that increasing bike access offers several benefits – it gets more cars off the road which decreases traffic, reduces greenhouse emissions, and lowers health care costs via rider

fitness. He also pointed out it's the cheapest bang for the project buck – improving bike paths is very economical, compared to widening a freeway or extending BART service.

Other topics included feeder lots with adequate parking and shuttles to BART; a trolley, similar to Walnut Creek's Free Ride, that would run up and down Mt. Diablo Boulevard; and express BART trains.

Rather ironic that almost everyone in attendance arrived via single occupancy vehicle to the planning workshop. For those who missed the meeting, the CCTA is still looking for suggestions and bright ideas; simply visit www.KeepContraCostaMoving.net and let your voice be heard. If you'd rather have paper, the survey can be mailed to you – just call (925) 256-4720 or email 2014CTP@ccta.net.

The organization believes that the future success of the county lies in the ability to ensure safe, reliable mobility for all. To take a peek at the draft Countywide Transportation Plan, go to www.ccta.net/funding/our_future.

From Front Page

Destination Downtown for Rockin' Good Time

... continued from page A1



Photo Gint Federas

With a near perfect layout – shade, plus a Sierra Nevada beer tent, grilled sausage tent, porta potties not far away, chairs and room for an asphalt dance floor, who wouldn't want to set a spell and listen to "Sledgehammer," "Kiss," and "In a Cold Sweat?"

Later in the afternoon cover bands Stealin' Chicago and Night Moves had amazing energy and

played many crowd favorites. Talented Santana tribute band Zebop enchanted the crowd at the large Fiesta stage, near The Cooperage, with Latin classics. Lead guitarist Antonio Marquez, possibly separated at birth from Carlos Santana judging by his soulful delivery on lead guitar, was accompanied by a rocking percussion section complete with timbales, congas and talented singer Alfredo Lazo on lead vocals. Following Zebop on stage was cleverly named nine-piece band East Bay Mudd, who really got the crowd moving with their danceable, upbeat rhythm and blues songs, and yet another fantastic horn section. Wrapping up the day was Foreverland – a 14-piece tribute band to Michael Jackson – on the Fiesta stage, which featured a slamming horn section and four vocalists who covered MJ complete with funky dance moves.

It takes a village to put on an event this big: members of the Chamber of Commerce and a bevy of volunteers from a variety of groups including the Acalanes cheer-leading squad, who were at the Kids Zone, and lots of student volunteers kept the event rolling along – even tending the doggie cooling stations. Some very professional kids from Stanley Middle School's Opportunity Knocks program were minding the bike valet parking area – probably the best way, along with BART or walking, to get to the event.

Presented by the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce, the festival is a fundraiser that supports the chamber's many programs, Lafayette Partners in Education and other local nonprofit entities.

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Giving Dreams an Address

New Bike Law Protects Local Cyclists

By Sophie Braccini



Photo Andy Scheck

With Lamorinda's hilly terrain, certain roads can be difficult for drivers to navigate, but these roads can go from tricky to treacherous when motorists share them with bicyclists. "We've had some serious conflicts with the large number of bicyclists on Canyon Road," says Moraga Chief of Police Bob Priebe. "Unfortunately conflicts between cyclists and motorists sometimes become serious, and we've had a car push a bicyclist off the road."

Last week California Gov. Jerry Brown signed the Three Feet for Safety Act that requires motorists to pass a bicycle at a distance of no less than 3 feet, and states that if a motorist does not have enough space to pass the bicycle due to traffic or roadway conditions, the driver should slow to a speed that is reasonable and prudent, and may pass only when doing so will not endanger the safety of the cyclist.

Local bike groups and law enforcement agencies believe the new law will reduce the number of inci-

dents involving these types of vehicles.

"This is an important step in protecting cyclists and making sure their rights will be respected," says Brad Crane of BikeLafayette – a new Sustainable Lafayette group that aims to bring bicyclists of all ages, abilities and interest together to encourage and celebrate cycling. "Now the police will have something to enforce. This will hopefully increase the level of safety and respect bicycles get from cars."

Crane says most motorists in Lamorinda are very courteous with bicyclists and give them the right of way, but there are still some dangerous situations on large arterials, when cars and trucks are moving fast, and sometimes vehicles make right turns without seeing bicycles coming up the bike lane. "There is a gray area between motorists and cyclists and how they merge and behave at stop signs," he says. "There is still a need for more rules to protect bicyclists involved in

incidents with motorists." He believes motorists who injure or even sometimes kill a bicyclist are often not prosecuted if the event is classified as an incident and not a violation.

The new state law will be enforced only if an officer observes an infringement.

"Only if an officer sees the infraction, can he file a violation," says Priebe. The fine is set at \$35, but Priebe warns that county and state taxes are added to that amount. If a bicyclist is injured in a collision, and the driver is in violation of the Three Feet for Safety Act, the fine rises to \$220. Priebe also reminds bicyclists that they should be following the same rules as other vehicles: stopping at stop signs, obeying traffic lights, and riding on the right side of the road.

For specific information about the Three Feet for Safety Act, visit <http://www.dmv.ca.gov/pubs/vctop/d11/vc21760.htm>.



Olympic Corridor Trail Connector Study:

Connecting the Iron Horse Regional Trail and Lafayette-Moraga Trail

Contra Costa County, the City of Lafayette and the City of Walnut Creek are investigating adding a bike and pedestrian path that would connect the Lafayette-Moraga Trail to the Iron Horse Regional Trail. Different options and routes are under consideration. For more information, or to participate in the study, go to <http://www.co.contra-costa.ca.us/4560/Olympic-Corridor-Trail-Connector-Study/trailconnectorstudy>.

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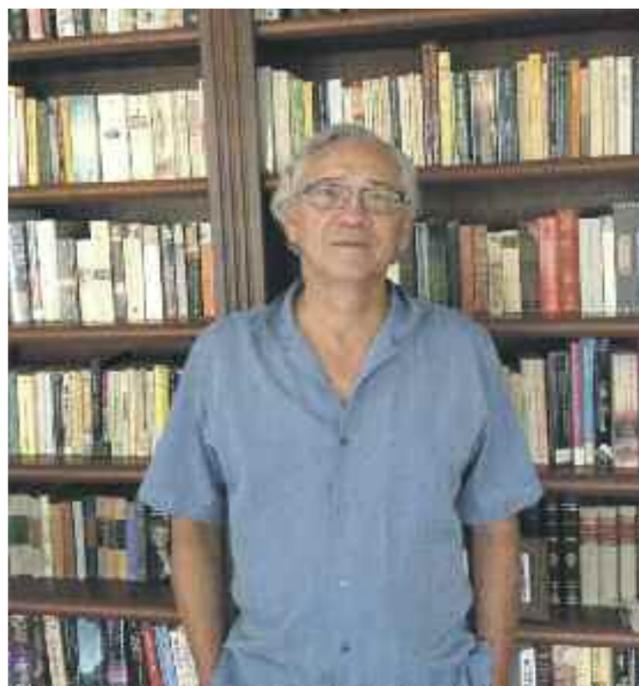
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Local Author

Orinda retiree merges his passion for writing with the world of self-publishing

By Ryan McKinley



Author Don Maker at his Orinda home.

Photo Ryan McKinley

Don Maker started trying to write poetry and short stories when he was about 8 years old, but said it wasn't until around 10 years ago that he really got serious about writing, when he retired from a life in advertising and began to follow his passion. "When I retired and started teaching I had more time to work on writing," he said.

Maker's first book, "Zenobia," is a historical fiction novel about a Syrian queen, set during the Roman Empire. The novel took Maker six months of research before he felt he could start writing. "I researched to get a real picture of the society and of the time. Writing historical fiction is a depiction of an era. You're not just talking about a specific event in time; [it's] the people and human reactions you're trying to capture," Maker said.

Not one to repeat himself, the Orinda author chose a young adult novel for his next project. "Miranda's Magic (Volume 1)" focuses on a

young girl's increasing magical powers as she learns more about science. It was inspired by Maker's time as a high school teacher. "I wanted to write a book to get young people interested in science," he said. "I found out what students had to take in the eighth grade and I based the book on the school's science curriculum."

Maker's spent months studying eighth grade science. "The old saying 'you can only write what you know,' it's true. But if you don't know [something] what do you do? You spend a year researching and learning about it."

The strenuous research aspect of Maker's writing process stems from his years working as a marketing writer. "In technical writing you try to focus on every minute detail," he said. "You spend a lot of time making sure you really know what you're writing about, which is how I got into a researching habit."

When it came time to publish,

Maker decided on self-publishing under the name Metacognition Press, instead of using traditional companies. Maker sought the advice of fellow writers when deciding what publishing path to take. "I'm a member of the local chapter of the California Writers Club and their members are very knowledgeable about the industry. The publishing world's changing; many writers are getting out of traditional publishing."

To build the finished product Maker created the cover and interior design, the marketing, purchased the ISBN numbers, and funded it all with his own money. "I enjoy self-publishing," Maker said. "You have total control."

While Maker did the majority of the work, he stresses that self-publishing is not a completely solo venture. "You can't do it all on your own," Maker said. "I've been an editor and writer all my professional life. I have an online writing group and we edit each other's work, and I had the wonderful people from the California Writers Club help me."

As for the future, Maker is hard at work on a number of projects. Later this year his semi-autobiographical historical fiction novel, "The Grindstone," will be released. He is researching a two-volume book called "Shakespeares and the Crown," co-authoring a book with his daughter called "The Handicapped Horse" and has planned three more "Miranda's Magic" novels.

Maker's advice for aspiring writers? "Join a large and reputable writing group, such as California Writer's Club, but there are certainly many others. Writing is like any other profession; you have to keep studying and working at it."

You can learn more about the author on his website at donmaker.yolasite.com. Readers can find his books on Amazon.com.



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'Company' The Musical at Town Hall Theatre

By Sophie Braccini



From left: Marta (Giana Gambardella), Bobby (Derek Travis Collard), and April (Jade Shojae) Photo Stu Selland

Lafayette's theater scene recently expanded its range masterfully with the opening season musical "Company." Town Hall Theatre's new director Joel Roster took a risk with this fully-choreographed live musical production, but the large cast pulls it together with grace and impeccable professionalism. Some great voices – including one that is of operatic quality – as well as outrageous acting and smashing dancing make "Company" a success that will draw crowds in.

"Company," with music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim, was nominated for a record 14 Tony awards when it opened on Broadway in the '70s, yet the story has not aged a bit. In fact, everyone in the audience, whether married, previously married, or not yet married, will find it relevant and thought provoking. Five married couples interact with 35-year-old bachelor Bobby, who questions his own choice of the single life and free-

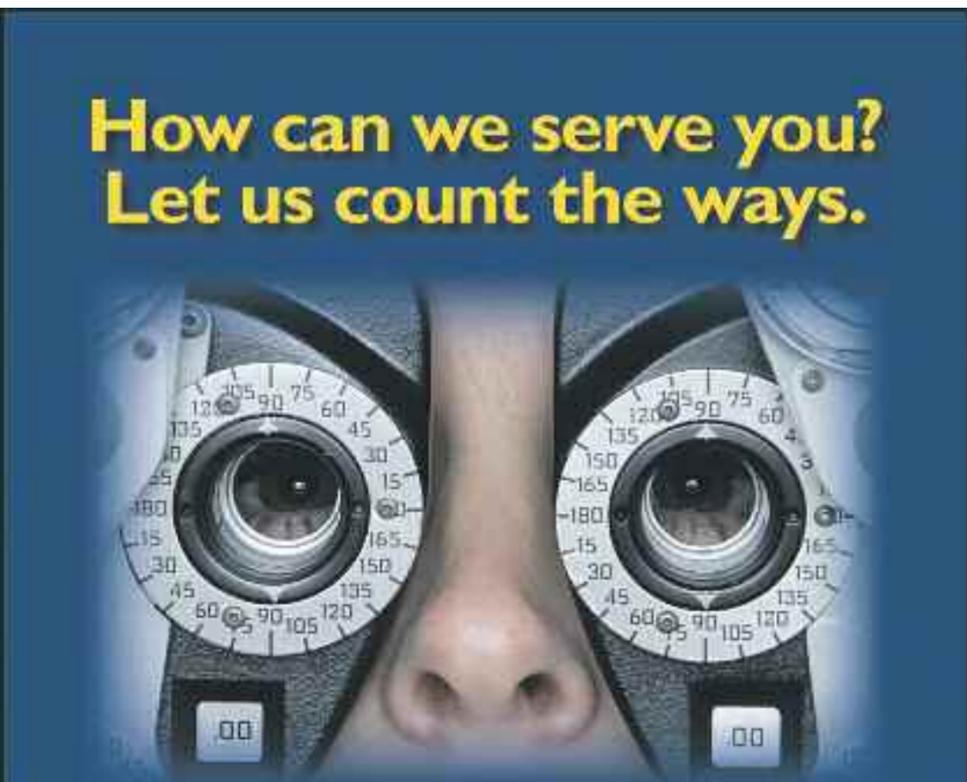
dom, while his friends strip away their own marriages. Sometimes very funny, sometimes bittersweet, the text itself is impeccably crafted and interesting.

The cast for "Company" introduces many newcomers to Town Hall Theatre. First is Derek Travis Collard who plays Bobby. Tall and slender, Collard is a musical actor who has credits in the Bay Area and beyond. The entire play rests on this central character, and Collard develops a range of emotion and a growing presence that pushes the quality of the play to a high level. He looks somewhat older than his 35-year-old character, but his energy, acting performance and vocal mastery more than compensate for this.

Speaking of vocals, a special mention goes to Megan Stetson (Jenny), who must have been classically trained in opera. Listening to her vibrato when she sings a solo piece is enchanting.

... continued on next page

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Even One Is Too Many

Lamorinda's history of domestic violence prevention and response

By Laurie Snyder

"Too many women continue to live in fear in their own homes ... and too many families have had to mourn the loss of their loved ones. It has to end - because even one is too many." - President Barack Obama

When Myra Belfiore sat down at a Junior League meeting in the late 1970s, she knew only that she would be learning about how one nonprofit was helping others. Junior Leaguers have been hearing such talks in towns across America since 1901, and holding mother-daughter teas to raise funds for the arts and hospitals since the 1930s.

But as Marya Grambs began speaking, Belfiore realized that she and her fellow Lamorindans were being asked to open a door that many Americans would prefer stay shut. Grambs founded the first domestic violence shelter on the West Coast, La Casa de las Madres, and headed C-A-L-L, the forerunner of the Battered Women's Alternative (BWA) and STAND! For Families Free of Violence. Back then, one of every two American women could expect to be battered, and C-A-L-L was confronting the epidemic with just one telephone line and three volunteers.

"The woman sitting on either side of me, could it be?" Belfiore looked - and wondered at a statistic she had never heard before. By the time Grambs finished, she says, "Our chapter members were anxious to volunteer."

"Women in Lamorinda knew what they were hearing was wrong, and knew they were in a position to help," says Orinda City Council and Junior League member Amy Worth. "They had the resources and time. Motivated by altruism, they also had credibility. Law enforcement was still grappling with how to handle battery, and government wasn't even addressing the need for trauma care. They used their financial and political resources to bring people together in a way that had never happened before."

By 1977, one of the area's first domestic violence hotlines was housed at an inconspicuous apartment on Mt. Diablo Boulevard in Lafayette. By 1978, the Bechtel Wives Club was on board. BWA applied for larger and larger grants and opened its first emergency shelter in 1979. By 1981, Junior Leaguers were preparing policy papers to help local officials grasp the impact of violence on county residents. "They created an organization that was nimble and could adapt as they learned more

about the issue," says Worth. "BWA added therapy services for children - and for the abusers."

"It takes about three times for an abused woman to leave," Belfiore explains. "She leaves and comes back, and leaves and comes back before she is finally able to say, 'This is the straw.'" She recalls one former client who endured episode after episode of abuse - until she realized the violence was also affecting her son. "He was starting to think it was okay to hit women. That's when she got out."

In 1985, Moraga resident Rollie Mullin took the helm at BWA. "Rollie was one of the finest women I have ever known," says former Junior League president, Marsha Servetnick. A former math teacher, she was deeply spiritual and quietly persuasive. "Rollie helped BWA to become family centered, growing its budget from \$500,000 to \$2.5 million." Thanks to a major gift from Dean and Margaret Lesher, BWA was able to make more apartments available for women and children in crisis by launching the Margaret Lesher Transitional House and Employment Center.

Servetnick, who served on the boards of both BWA and the Animal Rescue Foundation, also helped advance the movement. Dubbed "the mother of the Rebuilding Lives Luncheon," she borrowed the fundraising idea from a friend in Seattle. "We told people, 'There's no need to buy a new dress or a suit. You'll be in by 11:30 and out by 1.'" That first RBL took place on Nov. 4, 1993. Today, it is an important source of funding for STAND! - and a life-affirming event in which men and women stand side by side to say, "We will end domestic violence in our lifetime."

Belfiore and Servetnick have the following message for anyone experiencing domestic violence: "There are people in your community with open arms who will help you. Don't be afraid. Reach out to your neighbor, reach out to the agency. You're a beautiful human being. You don't deserve to be hit."

For more information about the annual Rebuilding Lives Luncheon Oct. 9, visit: www.standffov.org.

You Can Break the Cycle of Violence:

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Look Around:

- 1 out of every 4 women will experience domestic violence in her lifetime.
- Nearly one-third of female homicide victims listed in police records were killed by an intimate partner.
- Up to 60 percent of perpetrators who batter their partners also abuse children in the household.
- Boys who grow up witnessing domestic violence are twice as likely to abuse their own partners or children later in life.
- Prior to domestic violence incidents in which the victim or perpetrator was murdered, up to 80 percent of the men involved had physically abused the woman beforehand.
- 1 of every 12 women and 1 of every 45 men have been stalked - 81 percent of those stalked by a current or former partner were also physically assaulted by that partner with 31 percent also sexually assaulted.

Source: Domestic Violence Fact Sheet, National Coalition Against Domestic Violence: www.ncadv.org.

'Company' The Musical at Town Hall Theatre

... continued from page B2

The play also works very well visually. With choreography directed by Jennifer Perry, Collard, with his long-legged streamlined silhouette, dances with grace, and so do his partners during the play's several group dance routines. There is also a very realistic karate duel between Megan Ihle (Sarah) and her husband, played by Vince Perry (Harry). And Roster set the piano on stage, with music director Margaret Halbig playing all evening long while the actors use the piano as a prop, turning around it, and sometimes even sitting on it.

All 14 performers have strong acting and singing skills. Susie Shepard (Amy) performs one of the funniest scenes as the hysterical bride-to-be. Shepard has a great sense of comedic timing and pushes her script to the maximum effect. On a completely different note, Jill Gould (Joanne) gives a chilling interpretation of the rich alcoholic wife; her desperation filters through her singing voice. It will give you goose bumps.

"Company" runs through Oct. 11 at Town Hall Theatre, 3535 School St., Lafayette. For more information, visit www.townhalltheatre.com.



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Lamorinda's Specialties of the House

A Preponderance of Pizza

By Amanda Kuehn Carroll



Photo Amanda Kuehn Carroll

It's been a long day at work, traffic was a terror, the kids are hungry and you don't feel like cooking. You would, in fact, rather do anything else. It's a pizza kind of night. But where do you go? Who do you call? Never fear. There are pizzas of all varieties to be had in the Lamorinda area. From artisanal thin crust topped with caramelized onions and drizzled in truffle oil to a good old pepperoni from the shop at the corner, local pizza is where it's at.

Locally owned and operated, **Lamorinda Pizza** in Moraga's Rheem Center is happy to please. Topped with fresh veggies, high quality Molinari meats and Grande Italian cheeses, Lamorinda's hand-rolled pizza crusts are anything but ordinary. Specializing in East Coast thin crusts, Lamorinda Pizza offers the traditional Meat Lovers, Combination and Spicy Hawaiian, as well as more adventurous sausage and pesto, spinach and artichoke options. Or you can build your own. Offering casual dine-in, takeout and delivery, customer service is a key part of the business. You can even order online. It doesn't get much simpler than that. Lamorinda Pizza is located at 382 Park St. in Moraga. For information, call (925) 376-4040 or visit www.lamorindapizza.com.

If "family friendly" is what you're looking for, look no farther than Orinda's **Village Pizza**. Opened in 1984, Village Pizza has established a local, small town feel that isn't going anywhere. Their combination pizza is the most popular order, but

according to Morgan Gunn, manager for 20-plus years, "Everyone has their own favorites." Gunn's personal favorite is the chicken pesto with garlic, though he said that it really depends on his mood. He might just as soon opt for a chorizo-topped Mexi, a Putanesca with anchovy or one of the feta cheese specials. From the checkered tables to the open kitchen, you'll be sure to feel at home sitting down at Village Pizza. Village Pizza is located at 19 Orinda Way in Orinda. Call (925) 254 1200 or visit villagepizzaorinda.com for info.

With a name like **Pizza Antica**, you would expect to see tables topped with crispy crusts and parmesan-powdered breadsticks, but this local restaurant does much more than pizza. For over a decade Pizza Antica has provided the people of Lamorinda with a family-style restaurant with upscale dining. "You can get pizza," said manager Heather Butler, "and the

pizza is great. But you could just as easily order a steak and a glass of cab." Pizza Antica emphasizes the use of local, organic and seasonal ingredients. They're currently featuring roasted corn and heirloom tomatoes, which are beautifully paired with bacon, basil and arugula or caramelized onions and white truffle oil. There's a three cheese with shaved broccoli and pancetta, as well as a fennel sausage with Portobello mushrooms and roasted onions. If it's a pizza night out, you can even bring the kids. Pizza Antica has a menu especially for them. Pizza Antica is located at 3600 Mt. Diablo Blvd. in Lafayette. For more information, call (925) 299-0500 or go online to www.pizzaantica.com.

Say Pah-cheese! If you like your pizza to be more of a "pie" then you're sure to love the deep-dish of **Paxti's** Chicago-style pizza. Started in Palo Alto in 2004, Paxti's was opened by partners Bill Freeman and Francisco "Paxti" Azpiroz. The two had a dream to bring together delicious pizza and family hospitality. Though they specialize in deep-dish, they also offer pan crust, thin crust, whole wheat and gluten free – all made from scratch and each with their own specialties. From the basil-garlic-parmesan of the Bianco Verde to the garlic fennel sausage of the Matt Cann, it's hard to go wrong no matter what you choose. You can even order online if you're hungry or in a hurry. Paxti's is located at 3577 Mt. Diablo Blvd. in Lafayette. Call (925) 299-0700 or visit www.patxispizza.com for more info. Buon appetito!



Pizza Antica

Photo Andy Scheck

Cal Shakes Wraps Season with 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'

By Lou Fancher



Erika Chong Shuch (Hippolyta, Titania), Daisuke Tsuji (Oberon, Theseus) and Danny Scheie (Puck, Snug) in "A Midsummer Night's Dream," directed by Shana Cooper. Photo Kevin Berne

Love is a dirty battleground. Love is splendid.

The dichotomous words are never more true than in California Shakespeare Theater's season closing "A Midsummer Night's Dream."

Artistry is easily found in director Shana Cooper's brash take on William Shakespeare's tale of fairies who control mortals struggling with uncontrollable love passions. Vaulting through the play's two acts, Cooper is unafraid – perhaps roiling purists, but thrilling fans of non-conformity – to follow a line from the play and explore how "so quick bright things come to confusion."

"Dream" famously has a father rejecting a daughter, two fairies fighting, two female friends intermittently in love with each other's lovers, two men who war and waver in their romantic affiliations (all this largely due to intoxicating, poisonous flowers), six bumbling misfits in an oh-so amateur acting troupe, a fickle moon, a forest, a spritely protagonist/instigator named *Puck* and a wedding. The tan-

gle of interweaving tales belies a simple story: Love is a dirty battleground. Love is splendid.

Nestled within the confusion of love's impulse, Cooper and her collaborators explode with creativity.

Set design by Nina Ball is magical, with an opening backdrop that resembles white parachute material with webbing, or the backside of packing tape – and wood chips covering the entire stage. Rolling up the backdrop early in the production reveals terrific, gauzy tulle backing that floats, cloud-like for the duration. Operating under the tutu-like material cleverly positions the action in the very non-ethereal land of legs, a near-private, earthbound place where sensation burns, things churn, and there's risk of a swift kick. A scaffold of branches, a chopped-wood wall, and most hilariously (especially when turned upside down), a sheet of plastic with a hole cut out of it are like super heroes; performing a sure purpose and looking fantastic while doing so.

And then there are Katherine

O'Neill's costumes; wicked and wonderful in palette and performance. Swathed in tones from muted mud to shining silver to bawdy red to creamy white, characters' colors tell the messy to marvelous story at the heart of the comedy. Imagination runs rampant, with *Bottom*, an "ass" in steel-studded black boots and fishnets, an asthma inhaler, bodacious braziers for ladies, a tinsel-wigged lion and more.

Erika Chong Shuch does double duty and earns twofold bravos as movement director and the fairy queen *Titania*. Paired perfectly with Cooper, Shuch's choreography establishes momentum in the play's opening scene – a cross between mud wrestling and carnal coupling – and continues the cathartic kinetics with ever-escalating physicality. Vertical feats shine: with a character's well-crafted dive off a step ladder, intricate but never obtrusive partnering and a glorious, towering moment of theater, when Shuch "grows" to cartoon-like proportions on the shoulders of the ensemble.

The sheer bravado of the cast doesn't preclude their sensitivity, with Daisuke Tsuji (*Oberon*) striking a balance between other- and this-worldliness that could escape recognition, but shouldn't, due his masterful subtlety. Danny Scheie (*Puck* and other roles), a Cal Shakes favorite, is expectedly funny, so it's almost a pleasant surprise that Margo Hall (*Bottom*) steals the comedic brass ring playing a narcissistic "actor" and braying "ass." If a few of the ensemble and transitional scenes lag – a carnival-like dance scene, the play-within-a-play near the end – there's not a weak element in the individual actors. Special shout outs: Tristan Cunningham

(*Hermia*) has astonishing power; mixing rage, revenge, jealousy and humor – often, while hooked on another character's shoulders or flinging herself into the air or rolling in wood chips. James Carpenter (*Gegeus* and other roles) continues to be one of the Bay Area's finest actors. Shuch, smart and smacking with female ferocity, manages to be warm and win hearts.

Half nightmare, half dream: Love is a dirty battleground. Love is splendid.

"A Midsummer Night's Dream" will be playing through Sept. 28 at California Shakespeare Theater, the Bruns Amphitheater, 100 California Shakespeare Theater Way (off Highway 24), Orinda. For information, call (510) 548-9666 or visit www.calshakes.org.

The Great Tragedies: Mike Daisey Takes on Shakespeare Oct. 2-12

Submitted by Marilyn Langbehn

Created especially for Cal Shakes' 40th anniversary, master storyteller Mike Daisey will share hilarious and thought-provoking takes on "Romeo and Juliet," "Hamlet," "Macbeth," and "King Lear" – each presented on separate evenings for eight performances only, Oct. 2-12 at the Bruns Amphitheater. Each evening is unique and can be viewed independently; all four together form an epic oral accounting of triumph and folly told with Daisey's dark and hilarious intensity.

Cal Shakes Artistic Director Jonathan Moscone says, "I love the way Mike takes aspects of our culture on – he's fearless, fiercely articulate, but like a jazz musician, working from a theme – in this case, Shakespeare, and wrestling with it with the entirety of his wit and intellect, right in front of your eyes. The Theater of Mike Daisey is fully, undeniably alive, and I am thrilled to have him explore Shakespeare's great tragedies on our stage."

Daisey has been called "the master storyteller" and "one of the finest solo performers of his generation" by The New York Times for his groundbreaking monologues which weave together autobiography, gonzo journalism, and unscripted performance to tell hilarious and heartbreaking stories that cut to the bone, exposing secret histories and unexpected connections. His controversial work, "The Agony and the Ecstasy of Steve Jobs," was recognized as one of the year's best theater pieces by The New York Times, Wall Street Journal, The Washington Post, Seattle Times, Seattle Weekly, San Jose Mercury News, and The San Francisco Bay Guardian.

For information, visit http://www.calshakes.org/v4/ourplays/2014/2014_mikedaisey.html.



Mike Daisey

Photo Ursa Waz

The Saklan School Unveils 60th Anniversary Sculpture

Submitted by Christine Kuckuk



From left: Ada Martin, Head of School Peter Metzger and 60th Anniversary co-chair Kay Long-Martin
Photo provided

There was an extra level of excitement at the start of the Saklan school year. At the school's annual back to school barbecue, students, parents and faculty all gathered around in the school parking lot to hear about the "surprise" to be announced by head of school, Peter Metzger. "It's Saklan's birthday and Saklan is 60 years old," exclaimed Metzger as children sang "Happy Birthday" to the school and celebrated with 60 candles on two birthday cakes. But there was another surprise unveiled; a 60th Anniversary sculpture of the school's mascot, the "Saklan Sun," created by alumni parents Paul Barendregt and Dan Fahrner. During their time as parents at the Saklan School, Barendregt and Fahrner teamed up many times to create unique items for donation to the school's annual auctions. Although the sculpture contained a few bright spots, Barendregt explained that over time, the sculpture will patina to a pleasant rust color.

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Lamorinda Idol Finals Winners

Submitted by Esther Becker



K-2 Soloist winner Natalie Schroeder Photo Tom Ramlan

The ninth annual Lamorinda Idol Finals took place Sept. 7 at the Orinda Theatre. In the finals, 34 soloists and 11 groups performed in grade-level categories. Awards were given to the winner in each of six grade categories: K-2 solo; 3-5 solo; middle school solo; high school solo; and groups for K-5, middle school and high school. The show was emceed by NBC Bay Area's Diane Dwyer and Amy Hollyfield from ABC7 News.

Winners were selected by a panel of distinguished judges who are musical professionals in the Bay Area combined with audience votes. One winner was selected for the category of overall Audience Award. Cash prizes were awarded to each winner.

Winners were:

- K-2 soloists: Natalie Schroeder
- 3-5 soloists: Neijla Ackdoe-Pagey
- 6-8 soloists: Jennifer McFarlane
- 9-12 soloists: Lucy Clearwater
- K-5 groups: Rainbow Harmony (Amelia Chen, Kaitlyn Roach)
- 6-8 groups: Team Voce (Gianna Capozzi, Isabell Capozzi)
- 9-12 groups: Maritza & Tosca (Maritza Grillo, Tosca Maltzman)
- Audience Award: Grace Barmmer

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Celebrations

Campo Alum Megan Caldwell Granted 2014 Health for America Fellowship

Submitted by Kat Clark

Megan Caldwell, Campolindo High School Class of 2008, is a recipient of the prestigious Health for America Fellowship. As part of a team of four Fellows, Caldwell was chosen from a national pool of applicants that included alumni of Brown, Harvard, Columbia, Yale, Stanford, Cornell, MIT, and dozens of other universities across the country. The Health for America Fellowship grants young leaders from diverse



academic backgrounds the opportunity to delve deeply into real-world healthcare needs. In partnership with Discover Bank, Christiana Care Health System, Start It Up Delaware, and the Delaware Community Foundation, the 2014-15 HFA Fellows will work together over the course of one year to create and implement a health solution to advance patient care. Fellows will meet with physicians, thought leaders, and community members to identify areas that need the most improvement, specifically within the treatment of chronic heart failure. Caldwell was selected based on her experience as a health policy consultant for Booz Allen Hamilton and her demonstrated initiative, leadership, and altruism in the non-profit sector.

While a student at Indiana University, Caldwell majored in policy analysis and Near Eastern language and culture, studying Arabic for five semesters. She completed her Bachelor of Science in public affairs with honors notation and authored a thesis on Conflict and Underdevelopment in the Third World. She interned with the Department of Homeland Security in the summer of 2010 and worked as a state office intern for Senator Dianne Feinstein during the summer of 2009. Her current work as a senior consultant at Booz Allen Hamilton gives her the opportunity to mediate and implement mergers, analyze legislation and regulations, and identify ways for clients to lead health reform efforts.

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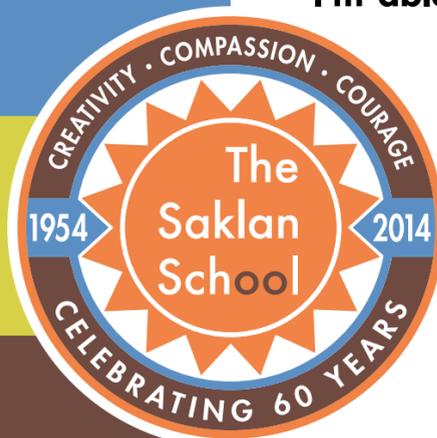
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Lynn's Top Five

What's an Estate Plan and Why You Need One!

By Lynn Ballou, CFP®

Over the years we've nagged, cajoled and tirelessly encouraged clients to worry about many things. But not many topics elicit as much dragging of the proverbial feet and uncertainty as Estate Planning. We've been asked everything from: *Do you think I really need an estate plan? If I just put my kid's names on all my accounts, isn't that enough? Since I'm married, doesn't everything just go to my spouse? To Oh, and by the way, what the heck IS an estate plan?* As a Certified Financial Planner it's my pleasure to be able to collaborate with some of the best estate planning attorneys in the business, two of whom have graciously participated in this column. So, even if you are ready for a more advanced estate planning discussion, I think this article will give you some great ideas for next steps in your own planning.

What is an estate plan? An estate plan is a series of written documents that outlines your intent for the care of you, your family, and your assets during your life and the distribution of your assets at your death. Think about what a broad topic that is and you start to understand the complexities that can arise. Everything from how to care for me and my assets if I'm alive but lack physical or mental capacity, to where my assets

go when I pass away, and how that distribution should happen. As I warn my children regularly, my estate plan gives me the power to still have some control over things even after I'm long gone!

Is a will alone sufficient? "After-death planning can be done with a living trust or a will," according to Annette Knox, estate planning attorney specialist in Walnut Creek. She adds "With a will, you risk having to pass assets through an expensive and public probate. However, sometimes clients may not want a trust, or may not own real property or have sufficient assets to warrant a trust. Sometimes they want the court oversight in passing their assets at death. In those unusual cases, a will alone may be a viable option."

How could I benefit by including a living trust in my estate plan? Nancy Gibbons, a Walnut Creek-based attorney who specializes in estate planning, shares: "Typically, a revocable trust is a 'will substitute' and it provides a continuing authority to manage trust assets after a person becomes incapacitated or dies since you name successor trustees. This allows the successor trustee to transfer and manage assets without having to go through a probate proceeding in court." Other types of trusts can also

be created within your estate plan. For example, we hear a lot about special needs trusts these days. In my next column, I'll go into detail about these unique trusts and the planning opportunities they offer.

What are the "must haves" for every estate plan? Annette reminded me that the most important part of estate planning starts with a conversation. "I think it is most important to start with a discussion with each other and your attorney about your goals and your family dynamics so that proper planning can be done to preserve the family relationships. So you first must have that conversation." From a practical standpoint, both attorneys advise that a well-crafted estate plan should include not only a will and living trust, but also a comprehensive review of beneficiary designations, advanced health care directives and durable powers of attorney. Nancy added that another "must have" really pertains to keeping your plan current. For example, she says, "Too often, we find people have an old, outdated trust or an 'unfunded' trust. Since we have a historic high \$5.34 million exemption, many clients have stale, older trusts that split the estate when the first spouse passes away. These 'bypass' trusts may no longer be appropriate and clients

should get a review to determine if they need to change the structure of their trusts."

What are "powers" in estate planning? We all hear about powers of this and that as they pertain to estate planning. Annette clarifies some of this terminology for us as follows: "Defined, a power is the right, ability, or authority to do something. In estate planning, we plan for our incapacity or death. To protect our estates, our families and our relationships, we must give powers to persons we trust to carry out our wishes or to provide for our needs in the event we cannot do so ourselves. A trust or will typically contains a list of powers for the trustee or executor for that purpose. The California Probate Code also defines the powers and duties of trustees and executors. California law is very concerned with protection of the rights of beneficiaries and creditors of an estate, so the powers and duties under California law reflect this concern."

Bottom line: Each of us has an estate plan even if we do nothing. But that estate plan will not be one of our choosing – it will be handled by the government. If you want a say in what happens if you become incapacitated and at your death, hire a great attorney who specializes in estate

planning so that you can create an estate plan of *your* design. And then, revisit your plan from time to time, but mostly just get on with your life and enjoy!



Lynn Ballou is a CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ professional and co-owner of Ballou Plum Wealth Advisors, LLC, a Registered Investment Advisory (RIA) firm in Lafayette. Lynn is also a Registered Principal and Branch Manager with LPL Financial (LPL). The opinions voiced in this material are for general information only and not intended to provide specific advice or recommendation for any individual. Financial Planning offered through Ballou Plum Wealth Advisors, A Registered Investment Advisor and a separate entity. Securities offered through LPL Financial, member FINRA/SIPC. You can reach Lynn at lynn@ballouplum.com.

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.

Cub Scout Pack 200 Complete Summer Overnight

Submitted by Charles Reagan



Photo provided

Cub Scout Pack 200 of Lafayette wrapped-up summertime scouting activities with a family overnight camping trip to the hills above Lake Chabot in Alameda County. Camping trip activities included flag ceremonies, hiking, outdoor games, outdoor barbecue, and a great scout-built campfire that included s'mores, songs, skits, and jokes. The accompanying

photo shows scouts taking a rest during the hike at a downed tree found at a trail switchback. Participating Pack 200 scouts included: Naoto Wantanabe, Ethan Lee, Amir Schmuecker, Dylan Potter, Chase Reagan, Sam Hafner, Cameron Bodel, Bradley Bodel, Tice Hardin, Matt Colvin, Cole Reagan, Cole Mason, and Andrew Bodel.

Seniors Donate School Supplies to Springhill

Submitted by Rochelle Holbrook



Photo provided

After a successful school supply drive, Atria Lafayette Senior Living residents recently delivered the items to Springhill Elementary School. From left: Springhill Elementary School

principal Patrick Gargiulo and Atria Lafayette Senior Living Ambassador residents Mary Alter and Mary McGuire.

Orinda Boy Scout Troop 57 Honors Four New Eagle Scouts

Submitted by Steve Tennant



From left: Dennis Finger, Cole Sitar, Ryan Sitar, and Christopher Tennant

Photo provided

Orinda's Boy Scout Troop 57 announced that three Miramonte High School seniors – Dennis Finger, Cole Sitar and Ryan Sitar – and USC School of Cinematic Arts freshman Christopher Tennant achieved Scouting's highest rank of Eagle Scout, which was celebrated at an Eagle Court of Honor Sept. 7 at Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church in Orinda.

To become an Eagle, the candidate must earn a minimum of 21 merit badges, including 13 Eagle-required badges, demonstrate leadership and scout spirit, and successfully complete an Eagle service project that benefits the community: Dennis Finger refurbished a section of trail in the Wagner Ranch Nature Area. He supervised a group of more than 25 scouts, adult leaders and family in clearing the trail, transporting gravel and materials, and finally placing a layer of gravel on the trail. Cole Sitar rebuilt a dilapidated bocce ball court at Orinda Oaks Park. Thanks to the hard work of many scouts

and scout leaders, the court took shape over three weekends last September, and is now fully functional for bocce tournaments by the residents of Orinda. Ryan Sitar designed and constructed a propagation greenhouse in the Del Rey Elementary School garden and repaired a garden shed. With help from Scouts, friends, and family over the course of four weeks, the greenhouse was built and the shed was refinished. And Christopher Tennant built a display system for students' plaques in the Miramonte Public Speaking classroom. He led a loyal team of Scouts and helpers over four days to paint a wall and trophy case, and install aluminum channels that now display 158 plaques the Public Speaking program has collected over the past 30 years.

To learn more about Troop 57, visit www.orindatroup57.com or contact the Troop Committee Chair, Steve Tennant, at (925) 788-1092.

150 Sun Dresses Donated to Girls in Haiti and African Countries

Submitted by Sue Renno



Photo provided

Members of the Lafayette United Methodist Church recently sewed over 150 sun dresses to be given to girls in Haiti and African countries. Member Jeanette Shearer

made over 75 of the items. Dresses will be blessed at a Sunday worship service at 10 a.m. Sept. 28, 955 Moraga Road, followed at 11:30 a.m. with a free community luncheon.

Looking Good in Lamorinda Stylin' for Fall 2014

By Moya Stone

WOMEN Unleashed

Celebrating Sisterhood



Women Unleashed fundraiser for Tony La Russa's ARF.

Photos provided

Trends for this season include many classics, such as tweeds. One of my favorites, lightweight tweeds in dresses and skirts are investment pieces that are great for our warmish autumns and can be worn year after year. Draped trousers are another classic look (think Katharine Hepburn). Paired with a fitted blouse or tucked in sweater, these full-legged pants go from office to meeting to dinner in style and comfort. Dresses continue to please the ladies and flouncy silhouettes are the new twist. Flutter sleeves, fuller skirts and lightweight fabrics create a youthful easy-going style just right for local chores and events.

Julie Rubio from J. Colleen in Lafayette tells me that scarves are still a big accessory item. "A beautiful scarf is a must," she says and I agree. They add a touch of panache to any outfit. We

continue our love affair with jewelry but the statement necklace has been replaced by delicate short and long chains. J. Colleen has a line by Hollywood designer Michelle Mirkovich called Divinity Jewelry. Hand beaded earrings and necklaces with added charms, the collection is popular with celebrities and locals alike.

In addition to great fashions, J. Colleen is currently featuring a photo exhibition by local Bay Area photographer Daniel Grant. Titled My Affair with Diana, this exhibit recently showed at SF MOMA and highlights photos of women taken with the vintage toy camera called Diana. The Diana has a plastic lens which produces a blurred, artistic quality currently favored by some photographers. Grant's exhibit runs at J. Colleen now through the end of October.

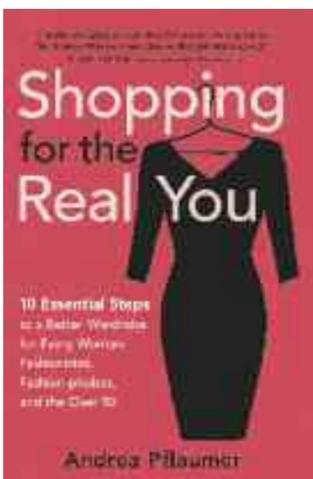
Catch fashion stylist and author Andrea Pflaumer at the re-fashioned Orinda Books at 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 2. She'll be reading from her new book, "Shopping for the Real You: Ten Essential Steps to a Better Wardrobe for Every Woman." Pflaumer says that her book is a primer on the basic principles of choosing clothing, "... we provide a variety of ways to analyze your features, body, personality, and lifestyle, so that you make intelligent shopping choices."

Before you head over to Orinda Books start your evening a little early with Women Unleashed, a fundraiser for Tony La Russa's Animal Rescue Foundation from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Oct. 2 at ARF headquarters in Walnut Creek. Expect complimentary drinks and appetizers, blood pressure checks, massages, makeup demos, and shopping. Local boutiques will have for sale this season's hottest in purses, scarves, and jewelry plus clothing and makeup. So moms can relax, Kids Club will offer supervised child care with fun activities. Tickets for Women Unleashed are \$20 and Kid's Club is \$5 per child. For information, visit <http://www.arf.net/about/events/2014/women-unleashed.php>.

Go forth in style. Moya Stone is a fashion writer and blogger at: www.overdressedforlife.com.



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Andrea Pflaumer appearing at Orinda Books.

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ART

Jennifer Perlmutter Gallery presents a new show, "Heart of Modernism - Young Sun Bai." The show runs through Oct. 25, at 3620 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. For info, visit www.jenniferperlmuttergallery.com.

Rossmoor Art and Wine from 1 to 5 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 6. Wine tastings and local artist exhibits at the Rossmoor Event Center: \$30 general admission includes an event wine tasting glass, a stylish wine tote and hors d'oeuvres. Purchase tickets online: www.HospiceEastBay.org/ArtandWine.

Moraga Country Club Art Exhibit Featuring landscapes from "Around the Club" runs through Nov. 16 at the Moraga Country Club, 1600 St. Andrews Dr., Moraga. For info, visit www.moragacc.com.

Now showing in the Town Hall Theatre Art Gallery, "It Takes Two," features the work of two local artists, Bill Klapproth and JoAnn Lieberman. Klapproth's photography clearly demonstrates his on-going passion for the parts of our world that are most fragile, threatened and worthy of preservation. Lieberman's mixed media acrylic paintings reflect her fascination with texture and color. Though it is the colors that first catch the viewer's attention, a closer look reveals many layers of paint, paper and fabric. "It Takes Two" runs through Oct. 10 at Town Hall Theatre, 3535 School St., Lafayette. For info, call (925) 283-1557.

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.

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 stmarys-ca.edu/museum.

MUSIC

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 through Oct. 11. For tickets, prices and showtimes, contact Town Hall Theatre Box Office at (925) 283-1557, or online at www.TownHallTheatre.com. (See story page B2)

LECTURE & LITERATURE

Rev. Deborah Moldow, United Nations International Day of Peace Committee Co-Chair and UN Representative of the World Peace Prayer Society will be the distinguished guest

lecturer at the Annual Interfaith Speaker Event of Center for Engaged Religious Pluralism at Saint Mary's College of California. Rev. Moldow will deliver a speech on "Interfaith Engagement and the Emerging Culture of Peace" at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 1 in the Soda Center. Free and open to the public. For more information, contact Cherie Grant at Saint Mary's College: grant@stmarys-ca.edu or (925) 631-4074.

First annual Book Club Book Swap from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 9 in the Lafayette Library courtyard. Grab your book buddies and copies of your favorite book club book for a swap. It's a great way to meet other book club members in the community, get book ideas or just share a glass of wine and say hello. Cost: \$10 per person. Please RSVP online at tinyurl.com/friends-bookswap, although walk-ins welcome.

KIDS, PARENTS & TEENS

Kick Off Fire Prevention Week With The Moraga-Orinda Fire District at the Moraga-Orinda Fire District's Fall Open House and Pancake Breakfast from 8 a.m. to noon Saturday, Oct. 4, at Station 41 - 1280 Moraga Way, Moraga. Kids and adults can meet their local firefighters, tour the fire trucks, and gather important fire safety and disaster preparedness information from MOFD and other local agencies. Smokey the Bear and Sparky the Fire Dog will make special guest appearances throughout the day. We will have a child ID and fingerprinting station, a bounce house, popcorn and much more! For more information, please contact the Moraga-Orinda Fire District at (925) 258-4599, or visit www.mofd.org.

The Lafayette Library and Learning Center will be hosting its 2nd Annual Teen Battle of the Bands on Saturday, Oct. 11. In this exciting event, teen bands will battle it out on stage in front of their friends and peers alike for cash and other prizes. The doors open at 2:45 p.m. and the show will begin at 3 p.m. Radio station Live 105 will take on hosting duties and have a table with games for attendees. The Guitar Center will also have a table and raffle for a free set of guitar lessons. The library's own Bookmark Café will be present to sell food and beverages. Raffle prizes will be randomly awarded to audience members between each set. For more information, visit TinyURL.com/LafayetteBotB or call (925)385-2280.

In celebration of Teen Read Week, Contra Costa County Library invites teens to "Read Your Fines Away." Teens in grades 6-12 have the opportunity to clear late charges from their library card accounts during the week of Oct. 13-19. Contra Costa County Library wants every teen to use their library. "Read Your Fines Away" is an easy, no-cost program for teens to return books, CD's, movies and anything else they may have checked out. As an added feature, teens can have overdue fines removed from their library account by reading in the library for one hour. Each teen must bring his or her library card or valid ID to participate. Visit the library's website at ccclib.org or contact your local Contra Costa County Library for more details. Click on the calendar to find out when the "Read Your Fines Away" is happening in your community!

Glorietta Elementary School will be hosting its annual fall carnival - the FunFest - from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 18. Kids of all ages will enjoy the games and activities - famous cakewalk, rock climbing wall, pumpkin decorating, dunk booth, Go-Karting and many more! Delicious food will be available all day. And don't forget to stop by the "Bootique" for some amazing crafts and baked goods. Bring your friends and family to this fun-filled day - Glorietta Elementary School at 15 Martha Road, Orinda.

OTHER

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.

Everyone's welcome at the 20th Annual Middle Eastern Food Festival from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 27 and from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 28 at St. John the Evangelist Orthodox Church, 501 Moraga Way, Orinda. There will be games, food, live entertainment, folk dancing, crafts and Middle Eastern heritage exhibits and discussions. Cost: \$2 for adults; children under 12 free. For info, visit www.stjohnnorinda.org or call (925) 258-4255.

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.

MVPC is proud to have been selected to host the National Introductory Workshop, which allows people to get a flavor of Stephen Ministry to take back to their congregations. This program is interdenominational and open to people of all faiths. The workshop is from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 27 at Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church, 10 Moraga Valley Ln. For more information and to register www.stephenministry.org/workshop or call Stephen Ministries at (314)428-2600. Admission \$15 for individuals/\$50 for groups of four or more.

Moraga Pear and Wine Festival from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Commons Park on Saturday, Sept. 27. Celebrate Moraga's pear history with entertainment and activities: wine tasting with the Lamorinda Winegrowers Association, grape stomping, Lamorinda Theatre Academy performance, pear pies, jumpies, pie eating and recipe contests, food, wine & beer, vendors, community booths, ARF Mobile Adoption, and more. Free. Pick up free seeds, potpourri, and garden book marks at the Be the Star You Are! booth from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 27. Participate in the community story game.

Come join us at Lafayette Creek Day from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 28 at the Lafayette Community Park Ball fields, 480 St. Mary's Rd. featuring trash and invasive plant removal, tours, and educational booths and talks. For info, email lafayette.creeks@gmail.com.

Calling All Armed Forces Veterans - Interested in Learning More about the American Legion and Lafayette Post 517? In Celebration of Oktoberfest please join us for dinner Oct. 1, Social at 5:30 p.m., dinner at 6:30 p.m. at 3780 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Lafayette. Reservations: (925) 284-201

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.

Women Unleashed from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 7 at ARF in Walnut Creek. (See story page B7)

Saint Mary's College of California presents the SMC One Planet Film Festival 2014. Running from Sept. 9 to Nov. 18, the festival is a free film series focusing on sustainability and is sponsored by the college's department of Environmental and Earth Science. "Economics of Happiness" 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 7; "Addicted to Plastic" 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 21.

... continued on next page

please...



...thanks

Please submit events to:
calendar@lamorindaweekly.com

◆ Not to be missed ◆ Not to be missed ◆

OTHER ... continued

How would you like to be part of a new organization of businesses here in Orinda and be a charter member of an international service organization? We are looking for the movers and shakers in our business community to join an informal meeting to determine the best time and place for a new club to meet that is convenient for current business owners and managers. The first meeting will be held at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 9 at First Republic Bank in Orinda. If you have questions or want to be put on the mailing list please contact Dick Burkhalter at (925) 254-2222.

Burton Valley Elementary PTA-sponsored Red Cross Blood Drive from 8:15 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. Friday, Oct. 10 in the multi-purpose room. Walk-ins are welcome; appointments are recommended and minimize wait-time. To make an appointment visit www.redcrossblood.org and enter sponsor code: BURTON or contact Becky Bearce at rebeccabearce@gmail.com.

The Alzheimer's Association's Walk to End Alzheimer's is a united movement to reclaim the future for millions. Walk to End Alzheimer's will take place on Oct. 18 at Heather Farm Park in Walnut Creek. Nearly 1,400 people from Contra Costa and Alameda County are expected at this year's event to raise awareness and funds to fight Alzheimer's disease.

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 IRS and

Client Facilitators who schedule appointment and assist clients at tax sites. Orientation is in Nov. 2014 and classes for tax counselors start in Jan. 2015. If interested, call LaVerne Gordon at (925) 726-3199 for information and to apply.

POLITICAL GATHERINGS

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!

If you strive to be an informed voter you will want to participate in the program hosted by the Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette branch of American Association of University Women (AAUW). At this meeting, the League of Women Voters will present the pros and cons of the propositions that are on the ballot, and provide materials with more specific information about each issue so you can make an informed choice at the polls from 9:30 to 11 a.m. on Oct. 21 at Holy Trinity Serbian Orthodox Church, 1700 School Street in Moraga. Free coffee and tea will help you wake up and think clearly! For info, contact Diane Bell-Rettger at dbellrettger@gmail.com. For info about the AAUW-OML Branch, go to <http://oml-ca.aauw.net/>.

SENIORS

Sons In Retirement - Las Trampas Branch 116- luncheon meeting at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday Oct. 15 at Walnut Creek Elks Lodge, 1475 Creekside Dr. featuring guest speaker Barbara Casados, a tri-valley native, mother of three young boys and the founder of

Capes4Heroes. Guests are welcome. Lunch: \$15. Reservations can be made by calling (925) 322-1160.

GARDEN

The Lafayette Garden Club October meeting will be held from 10 a.m. to noon Thursday, Oct. 9; coffee at 9:30 a.m. Janet Miller will be speaking on the subject of "Winter Gardening." Janet has been a Master Gardener since 2008 and has an extensive background in the Biointensive method of small-scale farming and backyard gardening. The meeting will be held at the Lafayette Veterans Memorial Hall, 3780 Mt. Diablo Blvd and is open to guests. For info, email cpoetzsch@gmail.com.

Gardening for Native Bees - 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 4 at the East Bay Wilds Native Plant Nursery, 1972 A 36th Ave., Oakland. Would you like to find out how to attract native bees to your garden, and to learn about, and be able to purchase, beautiful native bee-attracting plants? This workshop will be led by native bee expert Sarah Leon-Guero and native plant expert Pete Villeux. Cost: \$30 and registration is required.

The Walnut Creek Garden Club will hold its monthly meeting at 9:30 a.m. Monday, Oct. 13 at the Gardens at Heather Farm, 1540 Marchbanks Road, Walnut Creek. Business Meeting at 9:30 a.m.; 10:30 Social Time; 11 a.m. program featuring Alexander Lindsay Museum staff member who will talk about the importance of bats in our neighborhoods and what we can do to sustain the bat community. You do not need to be a gardener to join the WCGC. For info, email mlittle44@gmail.com.

Noted Film Critic Screens Top Docs in Lafayette

By Franette Armstrong



Michael Fox lecturing last semester. Photo provided whenever Michael Fox comes to town, movies are bound to follow and that will be the case in October as he once again brings the Academy Award nominees for Best Documentary to Osher Lifelong Learning Institute students at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center.

Each week beginning Oct. 2, participants will watch, and then discuss one of the five 2014 "top doc" finalists - "The Square," "Cutie and the Boxer," "20 Feet from Stardom," "The Act of Killing," and "Dirty Wars."

Wherever Michael Fox teaches, he screens to full classes, which begs the question: Why take a film course when we can just wait for the movies to come out on streaming video?

"There's great power in viewing films with others you know you'll be discussing them with," he said. "We all bring our own experiences and that can help others see aspects of a film that we might not notice on our own."

"Documentaries let us see how a message can be delivered via the felt presence of the camera or lack of it, the music, the point of view, and the editing - what is left out visually and factually and what's included," Fox said. "Every film uses different techniques. The director might begin with an intention, but once the film is in the cutting room, that can fall away and the only thing that matters is the storytelling - the need to balance informa-

tion, emotion, and entertainment." Some films are so powerful the content can't help but drive the discussion, Fox said. "We try to get past that and look at what the filmmaker did to provoke us, how the way the story is told affects how we react to it."

It's perhaps unsurprising that Fox focuses on "reality" films - he has a degree in finance and a master's in business administration. "When I was in college I fell in love with foreign films and eventually it became clear to me that my career would somehow involve movies."

Fox began writing reviews for a free paper when he first moved to San Francisco from Chicago, and now he can look back over 25 years as a film critic for more than 50 regional and national media outlets including KQED, The San Francisco Chronicle, and Variety. He juries film festivals and is a member of the San Francisco Film Critics Circle. He lives in San Francisco with his wife and their film-savvy cat and, in addition to reviewing movies, teaches OLLI film classes around the Bay.

For more information about the Top Docs class, go to olli.berkeley.edu or call (510) 642-9934.

Fall 2014 OLLI Classes in Lafayette

Three new courses from UC Berkeley's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute begin Sept. 30 at Lafayette Library and Learning Center, 3491 Mount Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. For more information, go to olli.berkeley.edu or call (510) 642-9934.

History of the Symphony, Part 2 continues John Prescott's popular course in classical music exploring composers from Mozart to Sibelius. Part 1 not a prerequisite. Tuesdays, 1 to 3 p.m., Sept. 30-Nov. 4.

The Good Fight—The Spanish Civil War examines the influence of the war from 1939 to present through literature, art, film, and historical record with UC Berkeley's Alex Saragoza. Thursdays, 10 a.m. to noon, Oct. 2-Nov. 6.

Top Docs: The 2014 Academy Award Nominees. Film Critic Michael Fox screens the top five documentary films of 2014 and leads class discussion. Thursdays, 1 to 3 p.m., Oct. 2-30.

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Middle Eastern Festival

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Saturday, Sept. 27, 10-8 • Sunday, Sept. 28., 11-7

Sponsored by St. John the Evangelist Orthodox Church
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Fun & Games for Children of All Ages

For information: www.stjohnorinda.org - or call 925-258-4255

Calling All Armed Forces Veterans

Interested in Learning More about the American Legion and Lafayette Post 517?

In Celebration of Oktoberfest
Please join us for Dinner: October 1st

Social at 5:30pm - Dinner at 6:30pm
\$12 per person
Reservations: 925-284-2201
Deadline to Reserve: Sunday September 28th
3780 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Lafayette

Holy Trinity Serbian Orthodox Church
1700 SCHOOL STREET, MORAGA, CA

INVITES YOU TO OUR ANNUAL Serbian Food Festival

Saturday, Oct. 4, 2014
12 Noon - 10:00 pm

◆ SARMA ◆ KOBASICE ◆ CEVAPCICI ◆ RAZNICI
◆ PORK & LAMB ◆ BEVERAGES ◆ OTHER FAVORITES

Special Feature - BBQ Ox

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DELICIOUS HOME-MADE PASTRIES
OTHER ASSORTED PASTRIES

LIVE SERBIAN MUSIC
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Service Clubs Announcements

Rotary

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 26:
Lamorinda Sunrise member, Marty Cryan and his family will share their journey as they 'Expose Themselves'!

October 3:
Shari Blindt, Executive Director of Common Hope will share their mission to promote hope and opportunity in Guatemala

Please join us for a great speaker and breakfast!!

Lamorinda Weekly
is an independent publication, produced by and for the residents of Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda, CA

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Stir Things Up at Orinda's 'Art of Mixology' Contest

By Susie Iventosch



Sharon Zezima and Kal Deutsch created this craft cocktail, Dos Posos.

Photos Susie Iventosch

For some craft cocktail fun, put the "Art of Mixology" contest on your calendar! The Orinda Arts Council is partnering with Orinda Theatre Square to host the first annual craft cocktail competition and tasting on Oct. 25.

The event will be held in the plaza at Theatre Square, from 4:30 to 7 p.m., and will feature 20 or so different craft cocktails. Table 24 and Barbacoa will be selling sliders and tacos in the plaza during the event. Proceeds from the fundraiser will benefit the various arts programs that the Orinda Arts Council supports.

The contest is open to local area bartenders, who will be competing in the professional division, but there is an amateur division as well, so those of you who have a special drink you'd like to try out on the crowd can do so. The entry deadline is Sept. 25, so

you'd better hurry!

There will be cash prizes of \$500, \$250 and \$100 for the professional division, which will be judged by a panel of judges, and trophies for the amateur division. The amateurs will be judged by attendees via mobile app, and there will be an Audience Choice for the professional entries, also selected via mobile app by the crowd.

"Craft cocktails are all the rage right now in restaurants and bars, but they are really expensive at \$15 per drink," said Kal Deutsch, vice president of communications for the Orinda Arts Council. "This event will give people an opportunity to taste a wide variety of craft cocktail samples all for \$45!"

Deutsch said attendees will also receive an e-book recipe collection from the event within a week or so of



These Pakora (Indian vegetable fritters) are great when dipped in Apple Mint Chutney or Yogurt Raita.

the competition date.

Deutsch and his wife, Sharon Zezima, created a special cocktail called Dos Posos. It's made with Pimm's No. 1, cucumber slices, hard cider, lemon juice and agave syrup.

"If I weren't on the Arts Council, this is one I'd enter into the contest," he said.

He was kind enough to share their recipe with the rest of us, so we can try it at home. His sister-in-law, Carolyn Zezima, who is a California Culinary Academy graduate and president of NYC Foodscape, a food systems and urban agriculture consulting

business, gave him her recipe for Pakora (Indian vegetable fritters) with Apple Mint Chutney and Yogurt Raita, as the perfect accompaniment to Dos Posos.

We made Dos Posos and Pakora at home for dinner guests, and they complemented each other well. The Pakora were absolutely delicious served with the homemade chutney and yogurt sauce.

Deutsch said the event will have a taxi station for anyone wanting to take a taxi home, and is a very short walking distance to BART.

For more information about purchasing tickets or entering the contest, please visit: <http://OrindaArts.org/Mixology>

For more information about Carolyn Zezima, please visit her blog at: <http://blog.nycfoodscape.com/?p=255>

Also, remember the Moraga Pear & Wine Festival is coming up on Sept. 27! There is a recipe contest as part of the festivities.

Pakora (Indian Vegetable Fritters) with Apple Mint Chutney and Yogurt Raita

(Recipes by Carolyn Zezima)

INGREDIENTS

3 cups chickpea flour
2/3 cup brown rice flour
2 teaspoons cumin seed
1/2 teaspoon mustard seed
1 teaspoon oregano
1 teaspoon cayenne
1 teaspoon coriander powder
2 teaspoons turmeric
1 teaspoon white pepper
1 1/2 teaspoons salt
1/4 teaspoon baking soda
3 cups water (approx.)
1 large onion, chopped
2 scallions, thinly sliced
1/4 cup cilantro, chopped
1 cup frozen or fresh cooked peas
2/3 cup cooked cauliflower (or turnips or white potatoes), cut in 1/2-inch pieces, par boiled
2/3 cup cooked spinach, chopped
Coconut oil for frying

DIRECTIONS

Combine the chickpea flour and brown rice flour in a large mixing bowl.

Toast the cumin seeds and the mustard seeds in a small sauté pan over medium heat until you can start to smell the aroma and the pan just begins to smoke. Grind together in a spice or coffee grinder. Combine in a small bowl with the other spices, salt and baking soda.

Add spices to flour mixture and combine thoroughly.

Add water gradually, until mixture forms a thick paste.

Stir in vegetables until fully combined.

Pour oil in a large, deep skillet until it reaches 2 inches from the top, or in a deep fryer. Heat over medium high heat to about 350 degrees or until a small amount of the mixture sizzles immediately when dropped into the oil. (Susie's note: We sautéed the fritters for about 3 minutes a side, in a large skillet in a little bit of oil, instead of deep frying them, and they turned out great.)

Drop over-heaping tablespoons of the mixture into the oil and fry until golden brown, turning after about 3 or 4 minutes and frying another 2 to 3 minutes each.

Drain excess oil on paper towels.

Serve with Apple Mint Chutney and Yogurt Raita (recipes follow).

Makes about 20-30 fritters.

Apple Mint Chutney

INGREDIENTS

1 tablespoon butter or oil
1/2 onion, chopped into 1/2-inch pieces
2 apples, peeled and chopped into 3/4-inch pieces
1 inch piece fresh ginger, peeled
1/3 cup apple cider vinegar
2 tablespoons white sugar
2 tablespoons brown sugar
1/2 teaspoon white pepper
1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
1/4 teaspoon cardamom
1/4 teaspoon salt
1/8 teaspoon nutmeg
1 scallion, thinly sliced
1/4 cup fresh mint, chopped
1 tablespoon lemon juice

DIRECTIONS

Heat butter or oil in medium sauce pan over medium high heat.

Sauté onions for about 5 minutes until soft and translucent.

Stir in chopped apple, sauté for about 2 minutes.

Add cider vinegar and spices, stir well.

Cover, bring to boil, reduce heat to low and simmer for 35-45 minutes until apples are soft and the liquid is reduced and syrupy. Keep an eye on the liquid, add water as needed to keep moist.

Remove the ginger piece and stir in mint and lemon juice.

Keep in refrigerator until ready to use. Serve with pakora.

Makes about 1 1/2 cups chutney.

Yogurt Raita

INGREDIENTS

1 cup yogurt (I prefer sheep's milk but any Greek style will work)
1/4 teaspoon white pepper
1/2 teaspoon cumin powder
1 tablespoon fresh mint, finely chopped
1 scallion, thinly sliced (optional)
2 teaspoons lemon juice
Salt, to taste
Mint leaf, for garnish

DIRECTIONS

Combine ingredients in a small bowl.

Add salt to taste, let sit in refrigerator for one hour or until ready to use.

Garnish with mint leaf and serve with pakora.

Makes about 1 cup raita.

Dos Posos Craft Cocktail

Recipe by Sharon Zezima and Kal Deutsch

INGREDIENTS

750ml Pimms #1 liqueur (available at specialty liquor stores like BevMo)
Cucumber
Hard cider (traditional tart and dry; not flavored)
Fresh lemon juice
Agave syrup
Seltzer

DIRECTIONS

Cut the cucumber into thin slices. Pour the Pimms #1 into a pitcher and add the cucumber slices. Let the pitcher stand for 48 hours to infuse. After 48 hours, remove the cucumbers.

Combine:

2 ounces infused Pimms #1

1 ounce lemon juice

4 ounces hard cider

1 teaspoon of agave (you can adjust to your preference for sweetness)

Splash of seltzer

Combine ingredients and pour over ice. Garnish with a cucumber slice.

Susie Iventosch is the author of Tax Bites and Tasty Morsels, which can be found at Across the Way in Moraga, www.amazon.com, and www.taxbites.net. Susie can be reached at suziventosch@gmail.com.

This recipe can be found on our website: www.lamorindaweekly.com. If you would like to share your favorite recipe with Susie please contact her by email or call our office at (925) 377-0977.



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LAMORINDA SPORTS

Injured Team Looks to Improve

By Michael Sakoda



Senior Rachel Gillcrisp is a leader on the young team.

After wrapping up their 2013 campaign with a record of 18-9, good for third place in the WCC, the Saint Mary's volleyball team has gotten off to a tough start, as injuries have hindered what might have been another strong season for the Gaels.

Despite projections to repeat as the conference's third best team, the Gaels will open WCC play Thursday with the worst record in the conference. Saint Mary's (4-6) opened the year winning four of their first seven matches but have been on a three game skid since, losing to Teaxs A&M, Long Beach State, and California.

The team lost key performers, Jordan Shaw, Kristina Graven, and Sarah Reams to graduation and is now down All-WCC preseason selection, Madelyn Hutson.

"We're trying to replace a lot," said head coach Rob Browning. "Madelyn had surgery on her foot about a month ago and is out for the season, so we're trying to replace four starters, really."

In addition to these losses, the Gaels have lost other key players. Redshirt-freshman Nicole Powers has sat out all year with a foot injury. All-WCC First Team performer Dallas Dodd, who led the WCC in assists per set a year ago (11.49) while serving up 38 aces (second-best in the WCC), is suffering from an injury. Seniors Natalie Loos and Samantha Tinsley are also dealing with injuries that Browning described as, "limiting," leaving the Gaels to rely heavily on an inexperienced group of players.

"The team has performed really well at times," said Browning. "But we're not doing that on a consistent basis, which is not at all surprising given our youth and inexperience.

shine a light on everything we need to work on in conference," she said. "The most important thing right now is finding our identity as a team, how we can play together, how we come back from tough situations, what it means when we play well."

The team is rallying around each other, and despite her injury, Hutson is continuing to lead her teammates.

"She's always there at practice, a leader from the bench," said Gillcrisp. "Even though we lose her physically, she's there doing everything she can to have an impact."

But the WCC is a ruthless conference, and Browning knows his team will need to be ready for the challenges ahead.

"In the past, we've been clearly one of the top two or three teams in the conference; this year, we're not," he said. "We're certainly capable of beating every team in our conference, but we're going to have to show up every day, every single match against every single team."

With an improving freshman class (Mary Hernandez, Clare Powers, Agnieszka Kudziela, Madi Wilkerson and Alexis Salmons) and incredible senior leadership, the Gaels press forward, unfazed by what has been anything but the ideal start to their year.

"We still haven't played our best, even in games we've won," said Gillcrisp. "We're continuing to figure things out, and we're continuing to make progress every day. Because of that progress, I expect great things from us."

Photo Gint Federas
Consistency is something that comes with experience more than anything else."

Like their coach, senior Rachel Gillcrisp and the rest of her teammates aren't letting the early struggles keep their spirits down.

"If anything, these losses just



First Team All-WCC selection Dalas Dodd is one of many injured players for SMC.

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Lamorinda Football Begins League Play

By Michael Sakoda



Ryan Anderson leads the Mats down field.

Lamorinda's high school football teams are preparing for DFAL play, which starts Friday.

After a rocky start, **Miramonte** got back on track Sept. 19, beating Alameda 34-20. The Mats had opened 0-3, dropping games to Pinole Valley (22-33), Saint Mary's (6-17) and Windsor (27-50).

"We're just young and inexperienced," said head coach Jack Schram. "The good thing is we were in every game. In the first two games we had potential game-tying touchdowns dropped in the fourth quarter."

But with junior Ryan Anderson growing more confident as the Mats' starting quarterback, glimpses of what-could-be have not escaped Schram.

"When we put drives together, we look great, as good as last year's team," Schram said. "But we have to get more consistent in everything we do, and build on it."

The Mats host Alhambra on Friday.

Campolindo has gotten off to a 4-0 start despite head coach Kevin Macy's preseason concerns. The Cougars have looked sharp, taking down Heritage (56-31), Menlo-Atherton (35-3), Washington (49-7) and Napa (52-27).

Campo's past success has largely depended on their ability to move the ball through the air, but with so many question marks in the offensive line and at receiver, Macy was worried about how his team would fair coming out of the gate. However, those concerns have been mitigated as his team hasn't disappointed.

"We knew what Tyler Petite was going to do [at tight end], but it's been the other kids, Caleb Whalen and Max Flower, at wide receiver positions that have been key," he said.

The make-shift offensive line has played well since getting Ryan Geisreiter back from mononucleosis. The strong play from Sterling Strother and Chase Abbott has helped as well. Jack Stephen's flourishing under center, and this team looks every bit as strong as those of past years.

The Cougars look to continue their winning ways as they visit Dublin on Friday.

Acalanes has done exactly what head coach Mike Ivankovich wanted them to do—open the year strong. The Dons own a 3-1 record so far, notching wins over Castro Valley (49-21), Encinal (44-15), and Tennyson (47-33), after their lone, two-point loss to Antioch (30-28) to start the year.



Nick Fadelli (20) carries the ball while Tyler Petite (8) looks to block.



Quarterback Casey Harrington's offense averages 42 points per game.

"Our defense has improved significantly," said Ivankovich. "But we haven't faced the pass-heavy teams we'll see in the league, so we'll definitely get tested."

As Ivankovich predicted, the Dons' offense, led by quarterback Casey Harrington, has been superb, averaging 42 points per game through their first four games.

"Offensively, we've been really dynamic," said Ivankovich. "[Moving forward] we're hoping to maintain that balance, establish the run game early, and continue to build on what we've been doing defensively."

The Dons have a bye this week and open DFAL play at Alhambra on October 3.

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Girls' High School Tennis

Swinging Strong

By Marissa Harnett



Jessalyn Simon-Parker

Photo Gint Federas

The Lamorinda high school girls' tennis teams have been working hard since August, refining their strokes and strategies. Their efforts are beginning to be tested in league play, which started last week.

Miramonte (6-1) has started strong, defeating their first two league opponents, Alhambra and Dublin, 9-0.

Coach Michael McCollum acknowledges that the competition will only get tougher. "It sure looks like Dougherty Valley is the best team in NorCal and could very well defend their NCS title. Acalanes will certainly have a strong group making the DFAL one of the power conferences in NorCal," he said.

As in years past, Miramonte enjoys deep talent. "We have a very experienced team with eight seniors, led by captains Taylor James, Cece Andrews and Jen Stanten," McCollum explained. Two all-conference juniors, three all-conference sophomores, and three solid freshmen round out the squad.

Miramonte looks to best last year's quarter-final finish in NCS. "The Mats look forward to returning to the NCS team tournament and we hope to reach the semis," McCollum said.

Campolindo heads into a second year of rebuilding after graduating seven seniors. In 2013, the Cougars lost 13 seniors, but still finished fourth in the league.

"We ended the year in the middle of DFAL [standings]," coach Steve Robinson said. "The girls did improve steadily throughout the year which is always our goal."

This year, Campo will concentrate on gaining experience and getting better. "[Because] this year's team is still young and inexperienced, the team will look to returning seniors and varsity players Emma Price, Sophia

Marino, Grace Roberts, and Nicole Finney to provide leadership and mentoring for the younger players," Robinson continued.

Coach Sunun Faulkner added, "As a re-building team, making the team spirit, being a "family," and being a good citizen while improving the skills are more of the focus rather than just winning matches."

Despite being young, Campo is off to a great start, winning their first two league matches against Dublin (8-1) and Alhambra (9-0).

Acalanes' team is built of 12 returning varsity players, four top junior varsity players who moved up, and two "very strong" freshmen who were added. "Our more seasoned seniors and juniors are already showing great leadership potential, which will just add to the cohesiveness and spirit of this already positive group of girls," said head coach Ellie Kann.

Last year, Acalanes (0-5) finished 10-8 overall and earned the No. 12 seed in their first showing in the North Coast Section tournament in more than a decade. Last year, junior Isabella von Ebbe led the Dons, placing fourth overall in singles in the NCS.

The Dons struggled with consistency in their doubles line, however. Kann explained, "This year our talent will be more evenly distributed from top to bottom. We hope to work on learning more doubles strategies and establish consistent[ly] strong doubles partners."

So far this season, the Dons have faced stiff competition. They suffered a regular season loss to Las Lomas, 2-7. While the team sustained some early losses, the coaches remain unfazed.

"We expect to be competitive this season with the depth and versatility of our players," Kann said.



Quinn Harrington

Karate Chop the Competition

Submitted by Thomas Westernoff



Brothers Logan and Trevor Simpson returned from the Fiestas International Karate Championships in Los Angeles with trophies recognizing their top finishes. Logan took first in Kata and Kumite. Trevor took first place in his Kata division.

Photo provided

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Campo Frosh Take Title

Submitted by May Lo Yick



Back row, from left: Terra Murray, Grace Huber, Kate Miles, Jessica Thomas, Grace Schmidt, Payton Fraser, Ashley Mulakaluri, Emily Barlow, coach Daniella Inzerillo; front row: Jillian Yick, Isabel Artiaga, Sophie Hein, Mia Schaffel

Photo provided

The Campolindo freshman girls' volleyball team earned a thrilling 25-16, 21-25, 15-13 win over Monte Vista to take first place in the 16-team Dougherty Valley Tour-

namment on Sept. 13. To reach the finals, Campo beat Berkeley, College Park, Alhambra, Amador Valley and Acalanes, all in two-set matches.

Mats Win Rival's Tourney

Submitted by April Murphy



Front row, from left: Lava Fleischauer, Frankie Veverka, Kelly Murphy, Skylar Savar, Clair Manrique, Nicole LeCour; back row: coach Noel Murphy, Kelly Peyovich, Kylie Morrison, Megan Miller, Brigid Berndt, Kendall Hemming, MC Metherd, Lucy Conner, Cassie Zulch, Sophie Smith, Aoife Tejada

Photo provided

The Miramonte girls' junior varsity water polo team has started its season strong. The Mats took first place in the

2014 Acalanes Invitational Water Polo Tournament on Sept. 12-13.

Water Polo Top Honors

Submitted by James Vazquez-Azpiri



Ginny (third from the left) and Ava (red cap) stand with their teammates. Photo provided

Ginny Vazquez-Azpiri and Ava Donlevy earned USA Water Polo 2014 Junior Olympic All-American first and

second team honors, respectively. The girls compete on the 10U Lamorinda water polo team.

Back-to-Back Champs

Submitted by Matt Hansen



Back row, from left: Coach Billal Samy, Nickolas Geannacopulos, Seji Minowada, Owen Hansen, Jamiel Liu, Brett Donat, Andrew Sturgeon, Kade Shipp, Ben Clark, Emilio Heredia, Giovanni Sponzilli, Joel Kofman; front row: Renn Strandberg, Christian Ramsey, Edward Danielyan, Kellen Clancy, Thomas Boyden, Sean Donovan, Erik Voss, Kai Digrande

Photo provided

The Lamorinda United U13 boys repeated their success at the Walnut Creek Summerfest tournament on Aug. 23-24. The team won the tournament last year and finished as champions again this year.

session-style game earned them a 1-0 victory over their rivals, Walnut Creek Arsenal.

Lamorinda came out firing on the first day, defeating Pittsburg Youth 3-0 and Alternativo Futbol Brasil 10-0. The next day United's pos-

After going 3-0 in pool play, the team earned the top seed in its bracket. After giving up a goal minutes into the game, the U13 boys fought back to equalize by halftime. United dominated the second half and scored a second goal to beat the Richmond Sol Cobras 2-1.

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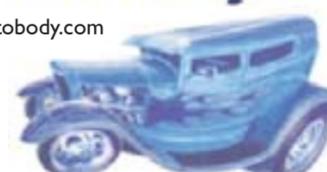


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Lamorinda Weekly Volume 08 Issue 15 Wednesday, September 24, 2014

Frank Lloyd Wright House in Orinda a Structural Symphony

By Laurie Snyder

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"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.

... continued on page D4



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

... continued on page D7

Rare, Brand New Construction in Lafayette!

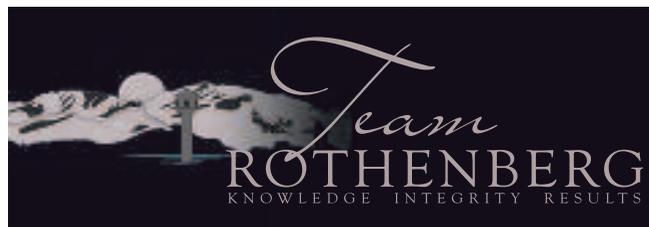


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Frank Lloyd Wright House in Orinda a Structural Symphony

... continued from page D1



“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

... continued from page D4



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

...continued from Page D2

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?

... continued on page D8

Natural Fall Décor

... continued from page D7

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.

... continued on page D10



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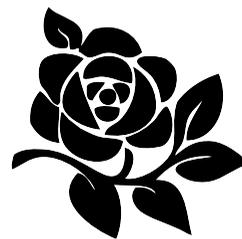
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MORAGA GARDEN CENTER

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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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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