

Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 08 Issue 18 Wednesday, November 5, 2014



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

Award-Winning Lamorinda Garden Designs

By Cathy Dausman



Beauty abounds in Lamorinda gardens; the East Bay chapter of the California Landscape Contractors Association says it's so. Lamorindan Steve Lambert of Garden Lights Landscaping Development entered six landscape projects for consideration – five in Orinda and one in Lafayette – and garnered a total of seven awards, from second place to Sweepstakes in the categories of large, small or custom residential design and building, special effects lighting, and sustainable landscape.

CLCA awards are handed out in 15 categories, from landscape design construction and maintenance on both residential and commercial properties. Each project is reviewed and judged anonymously by industry experts from outside the area.

Lambert is most proud of his Sustainable Landscape award. "This was the first time I've ever entered a project in this category," he said. But Lambert is no stranger to the contest criteria; two years ago he helped judge the CLCA North Coast Chapter submissions. *Lamorinda Weekly* spoke with three of the owners who won the contractor's awards.

Kathy Dickinson learned just recently that her project won the Sweepstakes Award. Her family has lived in their hillside Orinda residence for 15 years; she said her outdoors is a "pretty challenging environment" because of the wind.

"It's a very natural setting with about 20 oak trees," Dickinson explained, and it has an overabundance of gophers and moles. The family's first attempt at landscaping was to plant vegetation the deer wouldn't eat.

"That was a fool's choice," she laughed, having learned since that deer will eat practically anything. They were unsure whether to simply give up or to install fencing. Dickinson asked Lambert to infuse their yard with color and protect their oaks.

He planted a combination of native and drought-tolerant Mediterranean-style plants.

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Sweepstakes Award winner for Sustainable Landscape: Kathy Dickinson says her yard has "a very natural setting."

Photos courtesy Garden Lights Landscape Development

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Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

| City | Last reported: | LOWEST AMOUNT: | HIGHEST AMOUNT: |
|-----------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| LAFAYETTE | 17 | \$705,000 | \$2,875,000 |
| MORAGA | 7 | \$600,000 | \$1,327,000 |
| ORINDA | 15 | \$385,000 | \$3,580,000 |

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

LAFAYETTE

1023 Ameno Court, \$1,078,000, 4 Bdrms, 2098 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 10-8-14

63 Bacon Court, \$1,065,000, 4 Bdrms, 1664 SqFt, 1968 YrBlt, 9-29-14;

Previous Sale: \$404,000, 06-27-96

23 Benthill Court, \$1,385,000, 4 Bdrms, 3437 SqFt, 1989 YrBlt, 10-1-14;

Previous Sale: \$665,000, 02-10-95

3328 Betty Lane, \$970,000, 4 Bdrms, 2519 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 9-30-14;

Previous Sale: \$530,000, 08-02-00

867 Birdhaven Court, \$1,025,000, 3 Bdrms, 1286 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 9-26-14

3219 Camino Colorados, \$800,000, 3 Bdrms, 1440 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 9-30-14;

Previous Sale: \$64,000, 02-21-86

3329 Helen Lane, \$1,050,000, 3 Bdrms, 1651 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 9-26-14;

Previous Sale: \$330,500, 03-28-91

3742 Highland Road, \$1,140,000, 4 Bdrms, 2567 SqFt, 1953 YrBlt, 9-30-14

3648 Mosswood Drive, \$1,005,000, 3 Bdrms, 2167 SqFt, 1947 YrBlt, 9-30-14

3325 North Lucille Lane, \$880,000, 3 Bdrms, 1829 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 10-6-14

3827 Quail Ridge Road, \$1,310,000, 4 Bdrms, 2969 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 10-7-14

1336 Reliez Valley Road, \$2,125,000, 4 Bdrms, 3676 SqFt, 1945 YrBlt, 10-7-14;

Previous Sale: \$2,125,000, 10-07-14

23 Sanford Lane, \$2,875,000, 4 Bdrms, 4250 SqFt, 2005 YrBlt, 10-2-14;

Previous Sale: \$2,825,000, 06-05-06

14 Shreve Lane, \$779,500, 9-29-14

1097 Sierra Vista Way, \$980,000, 5 Bdrms, 2013 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 9-29-14;

Previous Sale: \$316,500, 08-13-93

3353 Victoria Avenue, \$1,600,000, 4 Bdrms, 2461 SqFt, 1939 YrBlt, 9-30-14;

Previous Sale: \$665,000, 06-22-01

3589 Walnut Street #C, \$705,000, 2 Bdrms, 1518 SqFt, 1979 YrBlt, 10-9-14;

Previous Sale: \$565,000, 06-11-09

MORAGA

655 Augusta Drive, \$780,000, 2 Bdrms, 2352 SqFt, 1976 YrBlt, 9-25-14;

Previous Sale: \$765,000, 08-20-04

883 Augusta Drive, \$637,500, 2 Bdrms, 1743 SqFt, 1979 YrBlt, 10-1-14

4 Berkshire Street, \$770,000, 2 Bdrms, 2142 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 10-1-14;

Previous Sale: \$425,000, 05-12-99

787 Crossbrook Drive, \$975,000, 4 Bdrms, 2404 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 9-26-14;

Previous Sale: \$99,000, 03-31-76

93 David Drive, \$1,327,000, 4 Bdrms, 2575 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 10-7-14;

Previous Sale: \$325,000, 10-02-86

117 Miramonte Drive, \$600,000, 2 Bdrms, 1514 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 10-9-14;

Previous Sale: \$429,000, 12-17-10

19 Tamarisk, \$775,000, 3 Bdrms, 1819 SqFt, 1985 YrBlt, 9-26-14;

Previous Sale: \$415,000, 04-30-90

ORINDA

3 Debra Court, \$1,050,000, 4 Bdrms, 1692 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 10-2-14

79 Donald Drive, \$2,100,000, 6 Bdrms, 5408 SqFt, 1991 YrBlt, 10-8-14;

Previous Sale: \$2,000,000, 12-30-09

43 Hazel Tree Ridge, \$385,000, 9-30-14

47 Hazel Tree Ridge, \$385,000, 9-29-14

54 Heather Lane, \$1,100,000, 3 Bdrms, 1877 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 9-30-14;











































Previous Sale: \$427,000, 12-30-88

... continued on page D8



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Our Lamorinda and Walnut Creek Sales

| JUST LISTED | PENDING | PENDING | PENDING | PENDING | PENDING | SOLD | SOLD |
|--|--|--|--|---|---|---|---|
|  115 Draeger Dr. SOLD |  419 Costello Dr.* SOLD |  21 Williams Dr.* SOLD |  1421 Eagle Point Ct.* SOLD |  1930 Parkside Dr.* SOLD |  2 Loma Linda Ct.* SOLD |  624 Augusta Dr. SOLD |  3023 Rohrer Dr. SOLD |
|  3838 Happy Valley Rd. SOLD |  592 Michael Lane SOLD |  15 Blackberry Ct. SOLD |  529 Morecroft Dr. SOLD |  750 Los Palos Dr. SOLD |  1082 Juanita Dr. SOLD |  326 Lowell Lane East SOLD |  3380 Reliez Highland Rd. SOLD |
|  3742 Sundale Rd. SOLD |  46 Ardilla Rd. SOLD |  467 Florence Dr. SOLD |  52 Miner Rd. SOLD |  63 Bates Blvd. SOLD |  7808 Stoneleaf Rd. SOLD |  959 4th St. SOLD |  3390 Orchard Valley Lane SOLD |
|  614 Lancaster Dr.* SOLD |  616 Lancaster Dr.* SOLD |  100 Underhill Rd.* SOLD |  990 Stow Lane* SOLD |  39 Greentree Ct.* SOLD |  3911 Leroy Way* SOLD |  7239 Valley Trails* SOLD |  304 Castle Glen Rd.* SOLD |
|  3539 Wilkinson Lane* |  3606 Mosswood Dr.* |  1011 Winton Dr.* |  523 Miner Rd.* SOLD |  3230 Burton Ct.* SOLD |  2905 Hillsdale Dr.* |  1106 Upper Happy Valley* |  3374 Moraga Blvd.* |
| | | |  3340 Rowland Dr.* |  52 Lancaster Ct.* | | | |

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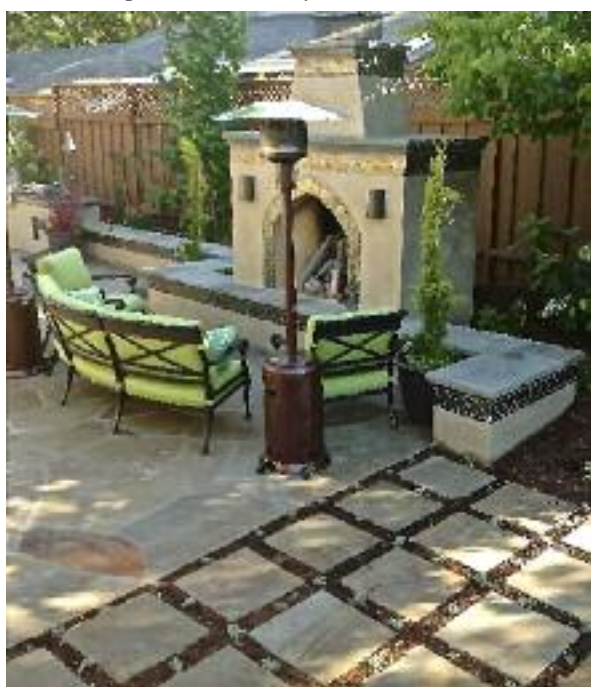


Award-Winning Lamorinda Garden Designs

... continued from page D1



The inconspicuous fencing almost disappears visually but still keeps the deer at bay.



First Place winner, Large Residential Installation: Subdued Moroccan influences show themselves in the Bishopp residence outdoors. Glassy tiles, a material Lambert's crew found, add sheen to the vertical surfaces.

Lambert also installed a series of rock walls to prevent slides. The result, Dickinson said, was a "more stable" back yard; one which her family is "very pleased to use."

"We use the [sunny] lower part to sit and read," she said.

Darlene Davidge calls her award-winning yard "really unique." The yard won a first place in the Small Residential Design/Build installation category. Her first attempt to remodel a portion of her yard was about eight years ago. Davidge, an artist who works in oils, mosaics and ceramics, had already built and designed an outdoor fountain and bird cage. She wanted to give their yard an outdoor living room feel, and gave Lambert "a crummy space" and free reign.

Lambert incorporated the fountain and bird cage in his project, and installed a fire pit and retaining wall. The three open areas became an outdoor living room, bedroom and dining room. Furniture colors of turquoise and orange play tricks in the outdoor light, and while the top of the fire pit and retaining wall looks like marble, it is actually concrete. Davidge credits fellow artist and friend Murphy Adams with her suggestion to outline the fire pit arch with mosaic tile.

The Davidge family, which includes grown children, finds the garden area a peaceful sanctuary. The splash of the fountain, the sights and sounds of the finches and humming birds, the smell of flowers and the sizzle of dinner on the grill makes their new yard a place they don't ever want to leave. "It's almost



First Place winner, Small Residential Design/Build Installation: Turquoise mosaics and lime green umbrella and pillows enliven the horizontal surfaces in Darlene Davidge's yard. Although it appears to be marble, it is actually concrete.

a problem," she admits wryly, calling Lambert "incredibly talented."

When Emma Bishopp's family purchased their mid-century Lafayette ranch house 12 years ago it had been completely remodeled inside and out. But Bishopp hoped to update the yard by giving it a Moroccan feel, minus anything that might make the look too dated. "A lot of landscapers have a style [of their own]," Bishopp explained. "I wanted my own... individual look."

Bishopp knew Lambert after having worked with him previously and having seen his work elsewhere. The finished product, which won first place in the large residential installation category was a complete hard and soft backyard re-landscaping surrounding a pool. It contains

both a fire pit and a fireplace. Lambert began by taking out some diseased trees, which opened up the available space. He removed a play structure, installed stone bench seating around an outdoor fireplace kitchen, and added a patio around the pool. But Bishopp put her foot down when Lambert suggested gas torches for low-light ambiance near the fire pit. "I have three girls," Bishopp said. "I wanted spotlights and nanny cams!"

The garden improvements have radically changed the way the family uses their back yard, Bishopp said. She adds that Lambert was "lovely to work with."

"It's nice to support a local family [who does] quality work," she said.

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Gratitude, the Metal Element, and Autumn Feng Shui

By Michele Duffy

“When you are grateful, fear disappears and abundance appears.” – Anthony Robbins



A proper round mirror (water symbol) is placed over the fireplace in this Orinda home's "Completion" area to create balance.
Photos provided

Autumn is upon us and gratitude in feng shui is closely interwoven with the “Completion” area of the Feng Shui Bagua, which also rules “Creativity, Children and Joy.”

The “Completion” area of your home is the right middle area or quadrant from the front entrance (see Feng Shui Bagua map). The Metal element – represented by metal sculptures, frames, abstract metal art, round objects, and metallic, white, or grey colors – is fully awakened in autumn and rules our gratitude for an abundant harvest. The metal element is not often discussed in feng shui but when properly activated it is regarded as a cure for negative energies, especially in the health and financial areas.

The harvest is a time of gathering the fruits of our labor and taking stock of what worked, who helped us, as much as what is no longer needed or what we might be wise to let go. Many people play significant roles in whether or not the completion of our harvest is bountiful, abundant and meaningful. This area is also ruled by children, which

represent the “completion” of a loving union; when we consider how fearless children are we can understand why joy and creativity is also represented in this area.

Part of “completion” involves intentionally and creatively thanking those who we are grateful for, and whether it is a hand written note, a small token, a dozen fresh eggs from your chickens, a dinner out, a prepared meal delivered, or a gift basket, completing the cycle of your own harvest with appropriate gratitude toward others ensures that a new cycle of abundance will be greatly favored.

Place images in metal frames that depict harvest, sunsets, the heavens, joy, and creativity in this middle right completion area. This is also an appropriate spot for all of the children's portraits and photos that we most certainly removed from the master bedroom, which due to your good feng shui application has transformed into an adult sanctuary. The noisy TV, musical instruments, or your musical devices of choice (metal) can all be placed here as well.

... continued on page D11



Overview: 4 bedrooms, 3.5 bathrooms, 5,200+ sq. feet, and 3-car garage on 5+ acre lot (per owner)

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Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

...continued from Page D2

ORINDA ... continued

- 33 La Noria, \$3,580,000, 4 Bdrms, 4517 SqFt, 1933 YrBlt, 9-25-14;
Previous Sale: \$3,200,000, 06-17-14
- 36 Linda Vista, \$1,400,000, 4 Bdrms, 2548 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 9-26-14;
Previous Sale: \$1,430,000, 05-02-08
- 523 Miner Road, \$1,595,000, 4 Bdrms, 3182 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 10-1-14
- 440 Moraga Way, \$1,178,000, 4 Bdrms, 3345 SqFt, 1946 YrBlt, 10-6-14
- 7 Orchard Road, \$1,629,000, 3 Bdrms, 2135 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 10-6-14
- 58 Persimmon Walk, \$1,377,000, 10-1-14
- 20 Snow Court, \$1,380,000, 5 Bdrms, 4216 SqFt, 1988 YrBlt, 10-8-14;
Previous Sale: \$490,000, 05-20-92
- 6 Valencia Road, \$1,625,000, 5 Bdrms, 2796 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 10-9-14;
Previous Sale: \$1,220,000, 10-28-03
- 10 Valley Drive, \$1,100,000, 3 Bdrms, 1902 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 10-6-14;
Previous Sale: \$357,000, 05-24-94
- 19 Via Hermosa, \$2,450,000, 4 Bdrms, 3176 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt, 10-7-14;
Previous Sale: \$810,000, 10-08-98



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Jim Colhoun Presents 1166 Camino Vallecito, Lafayette

This home enjoys a superb Upper Happy Valley location on a private half-acre lot with valley views. The home was completely remodeled last year with new hardwood floors, a new kitchen with top-grade appliances and Caesarstone counters. The large living room has a beautiful wood vaulted ceiling with fireplace and the formal dining room features views across the Lafayette hills. The master bedroom is spacious and features a separate sitting area with a fireplace and large closets. The master bathroom is entirely new with a beautiful tub and separate shower. The backyard features a lawn and second patio for enjoying your outdoor morning coffee with a sunny southern exposure. Contact Jim Colhoun at 925.200.2795 for more information or to schedule a private showing.



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89 Davis Rd, Suite 100, Orinda

Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for November

By Cynthia Brian

"There is a harmony in autumn, and a luster in its sky." – Percy Bysshe Shelley



Rake and grind fallen leaves to add to compost pile. Note the daffodils already sprouting.



Prepare for a wet winter by installing Rain Chains, a pretty alternative to downspouts.

Photos Cynthia Brian

Chains, a pretty alternative to downspouts.

With the approach of Thanksgiving, it is finally feeling like autumn with cooler and crisper air, changing of the leaves, and chrysanthemums blooming. I picked my first bouquet of narcissi of the season on Oct. 10, a full month earlier than last year. Our climate is changing and as gardeners we struggle to keep pace. November is the best time to begin planting spring blooming bulbs. Once the ground chills to about 55 degrees, start the process of planting naturalizing narcissi as well as other bulbs in well-drained sandy loam where they'll receive at least six hours of sunlight daily. With our dense, nutrition

lacking clay soil, we need to amend with sand, peat moss, and compost before digging the holes. All flower bulbs require neutral pH soil around 7.0 in order to develop a strong root system that supports flowers. Mother Nature is busy spreading her wild seeds via the wind, birds, animal fur, and even our stocking feet. Most flowers need the next few colder months to rest and germinate. Before the geese head south, walk around your yard to ponder what you'll want to improve, include, edit, or change for the spring. Our year of outdoor work is winding down as our celebration of gratitude approaches. Get ready for a respite!

- **PROTECT** plant roots by mulching your garden.
- **GRIND** fallen leaves with a mower to reduce particle size and increase decomposition time.
- **TURN** the soil in your vegetable garden, pull out any unwanted growers such as mint, add buckets of compost, and plant a nitrogen-rich cover crop like fava beans or clover. Blanket the ground with straw and continue mulching until planting time in spring.
- **SUPPRESS** weeds while enriching the soil by laying newspaper (three or four sheets) on your bare earth. The newspaper will biodegrade and the zinc in the ink adds nutrients to the mulch. Cover with straw, leaves, or wood chips to continue adding nutrients.
- **DIG** up bulbets of mother bulbs with numerous offshoots. Separate and replant in other areas.
- **SOAK** ranunculus and anemone tubers in tepid water overnight or for at least three or four hours before planting three inches deep and six inches apart in well-draining soil in full sunlight.
- **PLANT** spring bulbs beginning this month. Tulips and crocus need to be refrigerated for at least four weeks before being dug. Make sure to remove all fruit or vegetables from the fridge to discourage rotting from ethylene gases. Keep all bulbs away from sunlight and in a dark place before planting. For blooms that last throughout the spring season, stagger planting days for daffodils, Dutch iris, muscari, scilla, and galanthus.

... continued on page D10

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Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for November

... continued from page D9

- **CHECK** out an attractive alternative to downspouts with the solid copper Rain Chains. With several styles and sizes to suit every home, you now have the ability to direct water to your garden and at the same time enhance the beauty of your exteriors. Visit www.rainchainsdirect.com or call (310) 702-9529 for more information.
- **FORCE** hardy flower bulbs of amaryllis, freesias, and paperwhites for Christmas blooming by potting them in sterile, neutral pH potting soil in an area where they will enjoy a temperature of 72-82 degrees Fahrenheit with good air circulation and low humidity. Give them a big drink of warm water, tamp down the soil, and do not water again until green sprouts. Amaryllis sprout spectacular shows within eight weeks.
- **DEER** proof your bulb garden with a collection of allium, fritillaria, English Bluebell, brodiaea, narcissus, crocus, anemone, hyacinth, and peony for a floral display that lasts from April through July.
- **CUT** stalks of peonies to ground level and discard the cuttings as they are not good for compost. If your peonies didn't bloom, they may be planted too deep. Dig them up this month, rework the soil, and replant ½ inch higher than soil level.
- **WASH** patio furniture, pads, pillows, and accessories before covering or storing to avoid mildew, mice migrations, rust, and rot.
- **GROUP** gaillardia and chrysanthemums along with grasses in a barrel for fabulous fall color. The National Garden Bureau has named Gaillardia "the" perennial to grow for 2015.
- **LOWER** mower height as lawn growth slows. Reduce irrigation time, but continue to water until the rains arrive as grass needs the strength to be healthy for winter. If you didn't fertilize in October, fertilizer now with an organic fall blend.
- **GUARD** against an unexpected frost by watering deeply and covering susceptible shrubs with burlap, fabric, or blankets the afternoon before the cold arrives.
- **COLLECT** rainwater in barrels or large garbage cans to use on your plants. (Fingers crossed that it does rain soon.)
- **REDUCE** your garden workout by seeking out plants that are identified as "compact." Look for tags that say dwarf, patio, knee-high, tiny, or baby in the variety name. If a plant tag says "perfect for cut flowers" it will grow to be too large for a small space.
- **ADD** artistic value to your landscape with hanging baskets, mirrors, lighting, antique wrought iron furniture, statuary, and water features.
- **CELEBRATE** a month of gratitude with an arrangement of roses and anemones in warm sunset shades.
- **DECORATE** for Thanksgiving with pumpkins around your outdoor seating areas.



Clean vegetable garden and amend with soil, compost, straw, leaves and a cover crop.



A barrel planted with gaillardia and chrysanthemums is a fall feature.

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Get creative with your outdoor space by hanging a mirror and twine a vine around it.



Wash patio furniture before covering or storing.



Happy gardening and happy growing!
Cynthia Brian

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I am available as a speaker, designer, and consultant.

Gratitude, the Metal Element, and Autumn Feng Shui

... continued from page D6

Since the metal element is also closely linked with heaven and the divine, utilizing the metal element in feng shui is often thought to distinguish those who are merely average in success (mundane), from those who are linking the divine and conducting the metal element to generate help from the divine.

Since earth generates and creates metal, square shapes or yellow ceramic pots work perfectly. Metal also produces the water element which can be represented with wavy shapes, black color or a watery scene; water is closely associated with money, wealth and prosperity. Do not dull the clarity that the metal element delivers with the wood element. Limit the number of plants in this area, definitely no cactus here, and no wood frames.

If you are feeling overwhelmed or panicked about completing tasks with joy, or creativity is lacking with projects, or your ability to express yourself is thwarted, just go to the right middle area from your front door and look around to see if there is an abundance of the fire element. Remove or subdue as much of the fire element here; for example, remove candles, spherical and triangle shapes, red objects or art. Why do we want to minimize fire here? Because fire is not the friend of metal and melts it. If you have a fireplace in this area, a round (metal) mirror, symbolizing the water element over the fireplace will be an effective cure or adjustment since water puts fire out.

Before this Thanksgiving arrives express yourself appropriately and thank in a myriad of creative ways those who have helped you along the way – including your own children!



Michele Duffy, BTB M.F.S. is an Orinda resident who, since 1999, enjoys creating “Space as Medicine” Feng Shui one space at a time, as well as hiking in nature, cooking, spending time with her family; Canyon Ranch Feng Shui Master, International Feng Shui Guild (IFSG) Red Ribbon Professional. For more info, visit www.mandalafengshui.com, email spaceharmony@gmail.com, or call (520) 647-4887.



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1142 Glen Road

Stunning NEW single level 5bd/4.5ba 4510 sq. ft. traditional on flat .79 acre lot in popular Happy Valley Glen. Exquisite millwork, chef's kitchen. Walk to downtown Lafayette & BART. Top schools.

\$3,495,000

LAFAYETTE



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