

# LAMORINDA WEEKLY

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**Lafayette's DOGTOWN DOWNTOWN**  
**SATURDAY APRIL 11 10AM-1PM**  
**DOG PARADE 10AM**  
**ACTIVITIES • CONTESTS**  
 Lafayette Library and Learning Center  
[www.LLFCF.org/dogtown/](http://www.LLFCF.org/dogtown/)



New calves on the Sperry Ranch in Moraga enter a chute before branding.

Photo Andy Schreck

## Springtime on the Suburban Ranch

By Diane Claytor

On a warm Saturday morning, while many Lamorindans were out enjoying the sunshine, four recently-born calves on the Sperry Ranch were perhaps not as happy. They were being branded, which is done for both identification and as a theft deterrent. According to Susan Sperry, who has lived on the Moraga ranch for more than 60 years, branding doesn't really hurt the animals. "It's like placing your hand on a hot stove," she explained. "It only hurts for a minute or two."

In 1944, Sperry's father, Gordon Frazell, bought the 80-acre ranch located on the eastern border of Moraga. A house painter by trade, Sperry's father spent weekends building his family house on the property – the house now occupied by Susan Sperry's younger daughter.

Sperry and her late husband built a house just up the hill from her father's (where she currently lives) and her older daughter recently built one up the hill from that. Sperry's sister also built a house on the property. Other than her years away at college, Sperry has lived most of her life on the ranch.

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## County Animal Services in Transition

*With a change in leadership at hand, many spoke about the future of the department*

By Nick Marnell



Deputy director Rick Golphin comforts Chewy, impounded due to abuse and neglect. Photo Andy Schreck

One by one the women walked to the dais. Each woman, an animal rights advocate or a volunteer at the Martinez animal shelter, lashed out at the Board of Supervisors over the perform-

ance and the direction of the Contra Costa County Animal Services Department. They demanded that the county hire a proactive director, and that the director employ No Kill methods and

put greater efforts into marketing and public education.

"The next time you walk through our shelter, look into the animals' eyes," volunteer Debbie Rodriguez told the supervisors at that December meeting. "They're counting on us humans to use our brains and creativity to get them out alive."

"Things sometimes don't move quickly enough for them," said Cindy Smith, volunteer program manager, though she acknowledged some of the volunteers' complaints, including the lack of marketing, the difficulty navigating the department website and the need for more public service announcements.

"We've come a long way since 2005, when we moved into this new building," said Smith. "We do have a Facebook presence, Instagram is coming, and we'll be getting a new adoption truck." She stressed the need to do a better job of telling people about adoption. "Because as long as people bring us animals, and pass up animals for adoption, our euthanasia rate will be difficult to drop."

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**Public Meetings**

**City Council**

Monday, April 13, 7 p.m.  
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,  
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

**Planning Commission**

Monday, April 20, 7 p.m.  
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,  
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

**Design Review**

Monday, April 13, 7 p.m.  
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,  
Arts & Science Discovery Center,  
3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

**School Board Meetings**

**Acalanes Union High School District**  
Wednesday, April 15, 7:30 p.m.  
AUHSD Board Room  
1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette  
www.acalanes.k12.ca.us

**Lafayette School District**

Wednesday, April 15, 7 p.m.  
Regular Board Meeting  
Stanley Middle School 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 March 15-28:**

- Abandoned Vehicle**  
3500 block Silver Springs Rd
- Alarms** 60
- 911 calls** 7
- Battery**  
Safeway  
3400 block Moraga Bl  
1000 block Via Media
- Burglary, Auto**  
1000 block Carol Ln  
1100 block Vacation Dr  
Lafayette Park Hotel (3)  
Acalanes High School  
600 block Los Palos Dr
- Burglary, Residential**  
800 block Rosedale Av
- Burglary, Commercial**  
Springhill Elementary School
- Drunk in Public**  
7-11
- DUI**  
Deer Hill/Happy Valley Rds  
3500 block Mt Diablo Bl
- Fare Evasion**  
Pleasant Hill Rd/Mt Diablo Bl
- Fire/EMS Response**  
30 block Lafayette Cir  
4000 block Mt Diablo Bl  
Pleasant Hill Rd/Hwy 24  
3600 block Happy Valley Rd  
1200 block Monticello Rd
- Forgery**  
3300 block Mt Diablo Bl  
1000 block Walnut Dr
- Grand Theft**  
3500 block Happy Valley Rd  
1100 block Laurel Dr
- Harassment**  
1300 block Sunset Lp
- Hit & Run**  
3500 block Mt Diablo Bl  
Ace Hardware  
Pleasant Hill/Hwy 24  
Moraga Rd/Wilkinson Ln  
Mt Diablo Bl/Risa Rd  
Safeway (2)
- ID Theft**  
3100 block Stanley Bl  
3200 block Nogales Ct  
4000 block Valente Ct  
1000 block Via Baja
- Litter**  
3300 block Mt Diablo Bl
- Loud Party**  
1200 block Summit Rd  
1100 via Media  
3600 block Mt Diablo Bl  
20 block White Oak Dr
- Missing Adult**  
900 block Village Center
- Neighbor Dispute**  
3500 block Sundale Rd  
3300 block Moraga Bl
- Panhandling**  
Safeway
- Petty Theft**  
3200 block Mt Diablo Bl

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## Possible Parking, Housing on City-owned Land

By Cathy Tyson

Looking for an exchange of ideas about a potential parking garage and workforce housing at city-owned 949 Moraga Road, Matt Branagh of Branagh Development presented some preliminary concepts to the Design Review Commission to evaluate its feasibility. The fate of this parcel was undecided until a volunteer task force was set up in 2014 to find the highest, best and most fiscally responsible use of the property. After much deliberation, the task force decided the best options for the site would be parking or affordable housing, or both. It also said the site could be developed as a boutique hotel. Since parking funds were used to purchase the land, parking needs to be incorporated into whatever the city ultimately selects.

In a February letter to the mayor and city council, Branagh wrote, “We have been aware of the city’s desire to use 949 Moraga Road for affordable housing and public parking and believe that we can partner with the city to achieve those goals.”

Branagh asked the city for a 90-day non-exclusive window to flesh out options at the site, as a possible unique solution to transfer the required affordable housing obligation from another project across town – a 60,000-square-foot office building purchased with other investors on 4.5 acres behind the currently under construction Woodbury condominiums. The investors are considering options to build residential condominiums on that site.

At the first of a few workshops,

Branagh, along with architect Scott Thomsen of Ward-Young Architecture, and urban design expert Renee Chow of Studio Urbis presented preliminary concepts to the Design Review Commission. They were looking for feedback and direction on a two level parking garage at the rear of the 0.74-acre property, with multi-story workforce housing and a possible senior center at street level fronting Moraga Road.

The study session focused on business points that would need solutions before any development could happen. Looking to create a win-win situation, Branagh commented that the site has “a lot of potential.” He has been making a good faith effort footing the bill for professionals to design a way to develop the property creatively.

While the 0.74-acre parcel may have potential, it was clear that getting in and out from Moraga Road is going to be a challenge. Branagh explored other options for ingress and egress with neighboring property owners on East Street or via Brook Street and was not optimistic that either option was viable.

With challenging parking and not fantastic pedestrian access for seniors, commissioners suggested something more youth-oriented for the ground level of the housing structure. Analyzing all the nearby businesses, residential buildings, and Lafayette Elementary School, the development team determined that the key to living well is not having an entrance on Moraga Road, but rather through a



Image courtesy Branagh Development

landscaped courtyard.

One option discussed is a two-way left-turn lane in the center of Moraga Road. With average daily traffic counts of approximately 20,000 trips a day on the thoroughfare, commissioners were mindful to encourage uses like all-day employee parking at the garage, to minimize additional cars on that road.

The parcel is sandwiched between predominantly retail uses to the north, professional offices and multi-family projects nearby and to the south, with Lafayette Elementary

School across the street. Very preliminary plans for the mixed-use project include 22 to 24 affordable housing units and a garage that could accommodate about 80 cars.

The developer’s next step will be to respond to commentary by the Design Review commissioners and return at a future date with further refinements. Branagh is optimistic: “We are excited about unlocking the opportunities of 949 Moraga Road and are still looking into its potential, which we believe is an opportunity for parking and workforce housing.”

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**Heads up for Dogtown this Saturday**

By Cathy Tyson



Artist Winston Smith and the three Dogs.

Photo Central Services

Mature residents will recognize the beloved smiling icons of the now defunct hot dog chain that will be visiting Lafayette's Dogtown Downtown this Saturday, April 11. Although the last of the Bay Area restaurants closed in 1986, the 10-foot-tall grinning dachshunds wearing bow ties and chef's hats are still with us. Age and California's sunshine have been a little hard on the pooches, so current owner of three dog heads, John Law, initiated a Kickstarter campaign that garnered over \$51,000 from 818 backers to pay for extensive refurbishment, complete with customized interior structural supports to replace the rusted out framing and professional paint and fiberglass work from top notch auto painters.

When talking about tracking down the dog head owner, organizer extraordinaire of the Dogtown Downtown event and executive director of the Chamber of Commerce, Jay Lifson, joked: "I stalked him online." He had heard about them and wanted to see if they could make an appearance. Turns out, Law is happy to share the pups – Manny, Moe and Jack, also known as the "Holy Dogminican Order" – at public events, gratis. The head float will be available for photos, but some may have their facelifts only

partially complete. It's no small feat to bring back the luxurious shine to their coats and spruce up their attire.

Saturday's Dogtown event starts at 10 a.m. with a dog parade strolling from Plaza Park to the Library. This second annual celebration of all things dog will include working dogs and canine agility demonstrations, dog competitions, creative crafts and more. Proud pooch owners who bear a resemblance to their furry friends are invited to compete in the "Looks Most Like Owner" event. Dog lovers are invited to partake in the best costume, best of show and best dog-owner team trick – kind of like the Westminster Kennel Club show-down, but way more casual and fun. There will also be veterinary specialists offering advice inside the Library; well-behaved dogs are welcome.

Thinking about adoption? Both the Animal Rescue Foundation and Contra Costa Animal Services will be offering pet adoptions. There will also be a special reading by author Dorothy Hinshaw Patent of her heartwarming book, "Saving Audi: A pit bull puppy gets a second chance." The event runs from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and is sponsored by the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce, the Lafayette Library and Learning Center and the City of Lafayette.

**Litigation Dilemma Over Wight House**

Who will sue?

By Cathy Tyson

The drama surrounding the controversial large home at the end of Monticello Road puts the Lafayette City Council in a very awkward position.

"The Wights have been very explicit; if we deny the project there will be litigation," said Council Member Don Tatzin, adding that based on correspondence from the neighbors "there is a reasonable basis to conclude that if we approve the project there will be litigation." He requested a closed session in the near future, to bring all the city council members up to speed and explore the issues.

With only three of the five city council members in attendance on

March 23, they were hesitant to make a final decision, but Mayor Brandt Andersson did direct staff to prepare a revised Mitigated Negative Declaration and to make changes to the Construction Management Plan. All agreed that it would be best to review the findings at a later date when all five are present.

Neighbors continued to express their concern about vehicle traffic – preferring one vehicle at a time on the street, but the Construction Management Plan isn't entirely clear about the number of trips per day and applicability of restrictions for large or small trucks, as well as standard-sized car trips. ... continued on page A9

**Security Camera Town Hall**

Somebody's watching you

Learn best practices, get questions answered and pick up general information about home and neighborhood security cameras at an upcoming Town Hall sponsored by the Lafayette Police Department and the Crime Prevention Commission. The second annual Residential Community and Homeowner Security Camera System meeting will be held at 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 21 at the Lafayette Veterans Memorial Center, 3780 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

According to Lafayette Police

Chief Eric Christensen, home and car burglaries have fallen and police are catching bad guys like never before, benefitting from effective cameras to deter and solve crimes. "Since we embarked on this engagement over the past few years, the number of residential communities and homeowners who have installed cameras have grown – and it has tangibly and positively impacted the crime situation in the city," said Cam Burks, chair of the Lafayette Crime Prevention Commission. C. Tyson

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**ALAIN PINEL**



## Moraga

### Public Meetings

#### Town Council

Wednesday, April 8, 7 p.m.  
Wednesday, April 22, 7 p.m.  
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School,  
1010 Camino Pablo

#### Planning Commission

Monday, April 20, 7 p.m.  
Moraga Library, 1500 St. Mary's Rd.

#### Design Review

Monday, April 13, canceled  
Monday, April 27, 7 p.m.  
Moraga Library, 1500 St. Mary's Rd.

#### School Board Meeting Moraga School District

Tuesday, April 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

Attempted burglary, 3/24/15  
Knucklehead would-be burglars attempted to rob a home on Country Club Drive while it was occupied. Homeowners were alerted at 9:45 a.m. with the shattering of a rear sliding glass door. One yell from residents made the suspect and an accomplice flee in a newer red Chevy Camaro. The vehicle was sighted by Orinda PD and was involved in a brief high-speed pursuit, but the suspects evaded capture. Nothing was taken, but the homeowners' glass door was ruined.

Fraudulent use of credit card, 3/24/15  
A Miramonte Drive resident found a mysterious charge for \$45.35 at Drugstore.com on her Macy's American Express card in February. The reporting person already closed the account, but presumably wanted to document the theft. The incident is under investigation by the American Express Fraud Department.

Possession of paraphernalia, 3/27/15  
Two suspicious suspects, a man and woman, were shopping at Safeway at 7 a.m. and were possibly under the influence of drugs. Cops located the pair in the parking lot, where the male admitted to having syringes on his person. A search turned up a single pill, the generic version of Xanax, in a plastic bag. The male was arrested for possession of paraphernalia and possession of a controlled substance – which are both misdemeanors. The woman was released at the scene.

Road rage, 3/30/15  
There was a collision involving a vehicle and a bicyclist on Moraga Way. The cyclist then vandalized the vehicle and assaulted the driver. The driver refused prosecution against the cyclist. Unfortunately the police report had no further details.

Missing jewelry 3/27/15  
A Devin Drive resident reported that three cloth rolls of jewelry worth approximately \$10,000 was last seen in August of last year and just discovered missing on March 27. Who done it? The incident is under investigation at this time.

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### Gary Bernie & Ken Ryerson

## Winemaking in Moraga

Does the town need to regulate?

By Sophie Braccini

Town staff has discussed the issue of how to regulate the few bonded commercial wineries in Moraga since 2012. Unlike 'hobby winemakers' who produce less than 160 cases of wine a year, or the residents who grow grapes in their backyards, the central question for these types of commercial operations is whether they are compatible with a residential neighborhood.

On March 23, Planning Director Ellen Clark brought a report to the Moraga Town Council and asked for direction to continue the discussion process. The council indicated that a dialogue should happen between the winemakers and their neighbors to define and address difficulties. Whether or not specific regulations will be needed remains to be decided.

The response at the meeting was mostly positive. But there was an undercurrent of tension between larger winemakers and their neighbors.

According to the staff report, there are 15 home-based vineyards in Moraga that convert grapes into wine. Most of them are non-commercial, producing less than 200 gallons of wine per year. The owners take their grapes to a professional facility to have them processed. Typical lot sizes of these hobby winemakers are between 15,000 square feet and 2.5 acres. These do not require state li-

censing and are not bonded. Council members thought that these operations did not need to be regulated beyond what is presently in the code.

There are three active home-based commercial wineries in Moraga: Bullfrog Creek Vineyard, Captain Vineyards and Parkmon Vineyards. A fourth winery located on Rheem Boulevard is no longer bonded. The largest winery produces 1,000 cases a year, the smallest 600. By comparison, smaller wineries in Napa County are defined as selling less than 10,000 cases a year, according to Rural Migration News. The U.S. has seven wineries that produce more than 10 million cases of wine a year.

Although Lamorinda winemakers are seeking to get an American Viticulture Area (AVA) certification, the ones present at the meeting said they do not intend to grow beyond their small scale.

These wineries are currently regulated under the Moraga municipal code that defines what a home-based business in a residential area can and cannot do. "Per Moraga municipal code there should be no exterior evidence, no alteration of the character of the neighborhood, and no creation of a parking or traffic problem," said Ben Noble, the consultant the town hired to work on this issue. He added

that staff thinks that the current regulations are not appropriate for the larger wineries, and recommends working with the community to address their context.

Staff identified the following problems: the visibility of some of the equipment especially at the time of harvest; the increased traffic due to events on the properties; more deliveries and pick-up than is usual on a residential property; parking issues; and spraying of chemicals in the vineyards.

Bonded winemakers Sal and Susan Captain presented their model of winemaking and refuted staff's report issue by issue. They explained that they limit the number of events and do not invite more than 20 people at a time, none of their equipment is visible from the street, they run the only green-certified winery in Contra Costa County and have trained their vines to use very little water through dry-farming. They also said they never spray chemicals.

However, one of their neighbors, Gerald Bloomer, said that there are substantial challenges involved in running a business in a residential area, and he felt more regulations were needed.

Councilmember Dave Trotter cautioned his colleagues that more regulations could kill a budding in-

dustry that was adding to the character and the appeal of the town. He preferred focusing on increasing the dialogue between the winemakers and their neighbors. Vice mayor Mike Metcalf asked staff to get cues from the regulations in place in similarly small local winemaking regions, such as the Russian River area, because it was clear to him that neither staff nor the planning commission in charge of discussing future regulations had any experience in this area.

Mayor Roger Wykle expressed concern how the dialogue between parties would be organized. Clark said that formal meetings could be organized and that discussion would also occur during planning commission meetings. The mayor said that before thinking about regulating, staff should focus on the defining the problems that need to be solved. At the time of the meeting, no data was available to document neighbors' discontent, and the council asked that a system be set in place to record complaints. "I don't see a lot of regulations required," added the mayor.

Susan Captain called for a community-wide discussion. "My solution is to bring all parties together and resolve these issues in a spirit of cooperation, communication and good will," she said.

## Party-House Drama Unfolds During Council Meeting

More regulation to come

By Sophie Braccini

The topic was not on the March 25 meeting agenda, but neighbors organized to raise the Moraga Town Council's awareness of it. On otherwise peaceful Wandel Drive, a small residential street that connects Larch Avenue and Sanders Drive, number 14 has become party central for a group of Saint Mary's College students. Families with small children as well as longtime residents listed their grievances at the meeting until a Saint Mary's student and resident of the infamous house came to apologize and offered to open a dialogue.

Seven years ago, the council adopted an unruly party ordinance after neighbors on Thune Avenue rallied to have students renting three houses on their street brought under control. At the time, the penalty was raised to \$1,000 if the same person was cited twice over a 180-day period, and it was decided that property owners could become liable for the fine.

"This is an enormous disturbance and only warnings have been issued," said Jennifer Berk, who lives on Wan-

del next to the students' house with her family, including two young daughters. She believes that the high turnover at the rental is the reason a stream of warnings has not stopped the behavior. Fanny Wilson, a Saint Mary's graduate who now lives across from the house in question, listed a string of nuisances from students partying on the roof, to litter all along the road, to damage to her property.

Julie Strong asked the council for help while Jerome Sibert resubmitted a 2008 petition that neighbors signed to get some order. The neighbors reported having reached out to the police and to the college. They proposed different measures such as authorizing that only two non-related adults could live together in a residential district, or registering the legal

tenants of a rental with the police, or having the police send copies of any violations to the property owner and to the college.

Dino Walter, a student resident at 14 Wandel, apologized to the neighbors and the town for the past behavior and called for a conversation so both groups of residents could live side by side in peace.

The council could not discuss the issue since it was not formally on the agenda. At the end of the meeting, Councilmember Dave Trotter asked Chief of Police Bob Priebe if he thought this topic needed to be revisited. After the meeting the chief explained that the 2008 ordinance gave his force tools that proved efficient on Thune. "We have a turnover problem in the (police) department," he said, "so sometimes newer officers do not

have the knowledge of the situation when they respond to a call. This situation has been creating stress for the Wandel neighborhood and we let them down. There was no ill intent."

Priebe added that his department has taken steps to be more consistent, and will send letters to the owners sooner in the process. He added that he met with the college's dean of students and director of community life, and came up with several ideas to ensure earlier intervention. The chief will also look into possible changes to the existing regulation. "We know we can work this out and will try to be more proactive," he said.

The council members decided this item was a high priority and should be agendised in the near future.

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**MORAGA TRIATHLON  
 SATURDAY, APRIL 25  
 VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**



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# New Recreation Facility Faces Open Space Regulation Stumbling Blocks

By Sophie Braccini

Kevin and Sunshine Welch asked the Moraga Town Council March 25 to support their plan to renovate the old Moraga Swim and Tennis Club (MTSC), after years of vacancy, by considering a modification of the use permitted for the site and waiving application fees. Confronted with amending the definition of a conditional use within Moraga Open Space Ordinance (MOSO) territory, the council decided to postpone the decision until further study of the code is conducted.

The once popular MTSC located at 1161 Larch Ave. has been for sale by its owners, the Gongs, who ran the club. The couple has not been able to attract any buyers for the 26-plus acre property. One reason may be the land is protected by the voter-approved MOSO and therefore limited to the construction of some five new homes. The Olympic-sized pool, the seven tennis courts, the clubhouse and other amenities are still on the property, unused.

The Welchses, who own Adventure Day Camp, proposed taking over the property and turning it into a facility that would not only house their summer camp business, but could be sublet to the town's recreation department to increase the variety of recreational options offered to the public.

Unfortunately, the zoning adopted by the town after the MOSO

was approved stipulates that recreation activities are authorized on MOSO land only if operated by a nonprofit organization.

Assistant Planner Brian Horn noted that MTSC was a for-profit entity and that the operation had been a legal non-compliant entity. Former Moraga council member and mayor Karen Mendonca, whose home is located directly across from the club's entrance, spoke against changing the MOSO language. "To change the current MOSO language to include for-profit businesses seems, to me, to be ill-advised," said Mendonca. "This proposed new language would affect all MOSO properties in Moraga ... and would forever change the character and traditional use of the parcel located at 1161 Larch Ave."

Her husband, Clay Serrahn, and a neighbor Andrew Baxter expressed their concern over the risk of overflow parking and increased traffic along Larch.

The plan Kevin Welch presented included minor changes to the current footprint of the club. It involved renovating the pool and the clubhouse, replacing two of the tennis courts with a 14,000-square-foot synthetic turf field, and transforming two additional tennis courts into multi-use courts. The Welchses would use the premises for their summer camp, Adventure Day Camp, which they have man-

aged for years, as well as for a pre-school, an after-school program for kids in kindergarten through ninth grade and various day classes for people of all ages. The Welchses have met with the town's planning and recreation departments, and proposed renting facilities to the town for its recreation programs at a discount. In turn, they asked the town to waive application fees that can become quite substantial.

In their report, planning staff indicated that application fees depend on the amount of staff work needed. Staff added that it was too early to determine if the waiver request would be a good idea or not.

As far as MOSO is concerned, the council members asked that more study be done. "The staff report does not include ... the actual text of the MOSO so we can see how it applies to this application," said Councilmember Trotter.

All council members indicated that they supported the idea presented by the Welchses and would support this project, but could not approve either request before gathering more information. After the meeting, Horn indicated that the project would likely be brought back to the council at the beginning of May with a more detailed analysis of the MOSO and zoning ordinance.

## Do you have a person in mind for the Town of Moraga to honor as 2015 Citizen of the Year?

A celebration dinner will be held on **Saturday, May 16** at the Soda Center of Saint Mary's College to honor the winner! The deadline for submitting nominations is **Friday, April 17**. **Send your nomination to Lamorinda Weekly:**

Email: [nominations@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:nominations@lamorindaweekly.com)

Mail: Lamorinda Weekly  
 Attn: Citizen of Year nomination  
 P.O. Box 6133  
 Moraga, CA 94556

Sponsors for Moraga's Citizen of the Year event are Lamorinda Sun, Saint Mary's College, Lamorinda Weekly, Moraga Chamber of Commerce and Kiwanis of Moraga Valley.

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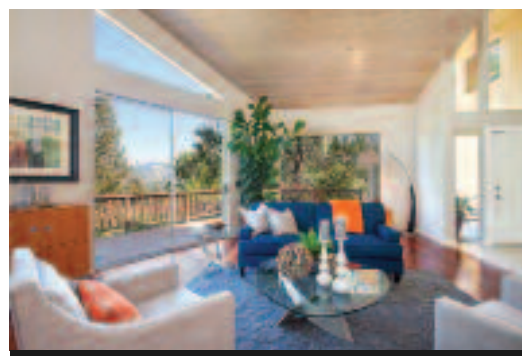
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# Orinda

## Public Meetings

### City Council

Tuesday, April 21, 7 p.m.  
Auditorium, Orinda Library,  
26 Orinda Way

### Planning Commission

Tuesday, April 14, 7 p.m.  
Auditorium, Orinda Library,  
26 Orinda Way

### School Board Meeting Orinda Union School District

Monday, April 13, 6 p.m.  
OUSD Office, 8 Altarinda Road,  
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



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Walnut Creek  
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## Orinda Farmers' Market Now Open

By Laurie Snyder

The Bee Man. The Egg People. The Jam Lady. The names may sound like a list of Hollywood super powered movie villains, but to Orindans, they are old friends who magically appear with truckloads of tasty treats at the Village Square on Orinda Way every Saturday morning from April through November.

The annual tradition contin-

ued April 4 as the Orinda Farmers' Market kicked off its 2015 season with vendors offering organic meats, fresh produce and brightly colored floral bouquets. Excited chatter reverberated throughout the marketplace as Orindans ogled, nibbled and shopped, their work week woes falling away with each beat of the toe-tapping live music provided by the Simmons Family Bluegrass Band.

Vendors slated to make their products available during the 2015 farmers' market season in Orinda include: Steve Gentry – the Bee Man, a fourth generation Orindan who is as beloved for his support of the Wagner Ranch Nature Area as he is for his healthful honey products; Ratto Farms, established in 1898; Dale Simmons' Lone Oak Ranch with its pomegranate juice, nuts and organic citrus; Great Valley Poultry – the Egg People who offer cage free and organic eggs; Cottage Kitchen with locally sourced fruit products from Barbara, the Jam Lady; La Crêpe À Moi; Rose Lane Farms; the Pacheco family's Achadinha Cheese Company from Petaluma; and Billie Espinosa's Body by Bees with its natural bath and body wares.

The market will be open every Saturday for the next eight months, including on Orinda Action Day April 18. To learn more and receive recipe tips, visit: www.facebook.com/OrindaFarmersMarket.



Sun, smiles and a taste of Paris. La crêpe à moi did a brisk business on opening day of the Orinda Farmers' Market April 4.



What could be better than good music and a lovely spring day? Shopping for goodies at the Orinda Farmers' Market while listening to the live strains of the Simmons Family Bluegrass Band. Photos Ohlen Alexander

## ORINDA POLICE

<b>Alarms</b>	52
<b>Battery</b>	
Safeway	
<b>Burglary, Residential</b>	
30 block Sanborn Rd	
10 block Southwood Dr	
10 block Los Amigos	
<b>Burglary, Auto</b>	
Orinda Theater	
10 block Southwaite Ct	
Theatre Square	
<b>911 calls</b>	10
<b>Coroner's Case</b>	
10 block Irwin Wy	
<b>Disturbance</b>	
70 block Van Ripper	
<b>DUI</b>	
Miramonte High School	
Village Square	
<b>Police/Fire/EMS</b>	
20 block Marston Rd	
Camino Sobrante/Orinda Wy	
<b>Harassment</b>	
10 block La Fond Ln	
<b>Hit &amp; Run</b>	
Camino Pablo/Camino Encinas	
<b>ID Theft</b>	
Reported to PD	
<b>Loitering</b>	
Theatre Square	
<b>Loud Music</b>	
Miramonte High School	
<b>Loud Noise</b>	
Martha Rd/Glorietta Bl	
<b>Theft, Petty</b>	
reported to PD	
10 block Theatre Square	

## Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report March 15-28

<b>Theft, Grand</b>	
20 block Redcoach Ln	
<b>Missing Adult</b>	
reported at PD	
Location unknown	
<b>Panhandling</b>	
Safeway	
Camino Pablo/Hwy 24	
<b>Promiscuous Shooting</b>	
200 block Courtney Ln	
<b>Prowler Heard</b>	
10 block Ivy Dr	
<b>Public Nuisance</b>	
Hwy 24/Camino Pablo	
<b>Reckless Driving</b>	
Camino Pablo/Manzanita Dr	
Lomas Cantadas/Las Piedras	
Moraga Wy/Glorietta Bl (2)	
Monte Vista/Camino Pablo	
<b>Runaway Juvenile</b>	
30 block Ramona Dr	
20 block El Verano	
<b>Shoplifting</b>	
Safeway	
<b>Susp. Circumstances</b>	5
<b>Suspicious Subject</b>	14
<b>Suspicious Vehicle</b>	17
<b>Traffic Stops</b>	52
<b>Tamper with Vehicle</b>	
500 block Miner Rd	
<b>Unwanted Guest</b>	
Orinda Library	
<b>Vandalism</b>	
10 block St Stephens Dr	
Miramonte High School	
10 block Orinda Wy	
30 block Orinda Wy	
20 block La Cuesta Rd	

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### Just Sold in March

621 St. Marys Rd., Lafayette

841 Gail Ct., Walnut Creek (represented buyer)

172 Belle Ave., Pleasant Hill

130 St. Marys Ct., Martinez

S. Silver Springs, Lafayette



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## Lend a Hand, Orinda

Volunteers urgently needed for Orinda Action Day, April 18

By Laurie Snyder



Image provided

Orindans have a chance to work side by side to better their beloved city by turning out in force for Orinda Action Day April 18. Sponsored by the Orinda Community Foundation in partnership with the City of Orinda, the annual "show your civic pride" event has been made possible over the years by the good works of hundreds of volunteers, resulting in cleaner creek banks, thoroughly Windexed windows, freshly painted city building walls, and litter-free streets. Candid photographs have preserved images of tired Orindans, beaming goofy smiles powered by the satisfaction of teamwork done well – and the knowledge that their efforts would make life a little nicer for their neighbors.

There is literally always something for everyone at these annual volunteer fests. Teens earn community service hours, gardeners get to show off their green thumbs

and neat freaks have the chance to scour and scrub to their hearts' content. Planned 2015 projects include the kid-friendly Crossroads cleanup; the chance to channel one's inner Lady Bird Johnson by weeding and mulching with flower enthusiasts; a Girl Scout-led cleanup from the historic bridge to Orinda Park; the Rotary Club's beautification of the area between the Orinda Park and the Shell station; tidying things from Shell to north BART; the Orinda Teen Advisory Council's cleanup from south BART to the Theatre; Kindergym and community center window washing; the kid-friendly St. Stephen's Trail to Bryant Way cleanup; Del Rey Girl Scout-led litter pickups at the library, community center and park; tidying the Camino Sobrante trail; a San Pablo Creek spruce up with Nancy Turtle's fourth grade Girl Scouts; Friends of Wagner Ranch nature center projects; Brookwood Road and Canyon Ranch initiatives; and general event setup, food service and teardown.

Even those who aren't as spry as in days gone by are welcome and needed. Whether high fiving tuckered tots, feeding hungry volunteers at the cleanup after party, or applauding a plucky planter for sprucing up the Highway 24 off ramp, anyone who loves Orinda can make a truly positive difference at Orinda Action Day. So be there or be square.

**What:** Orinda Action Day and Volunteer Fair  
**When:** Saturday, April 18, 9 a.m. to noon  
**Where:** Orinda Library Plaza (check-in at 9 a.m.)  
**Information:** orindafoundation@gmail.com  
**Signup:** www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0d4baba629a02-orinda3

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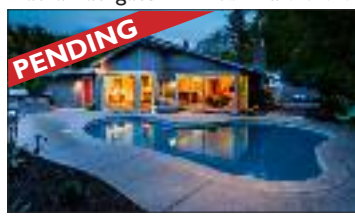
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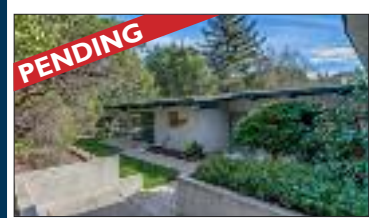
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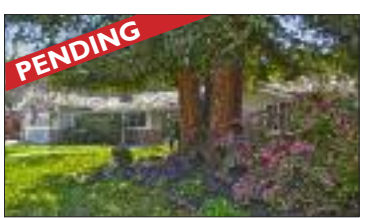
**ORINDA \$1,595,000**  
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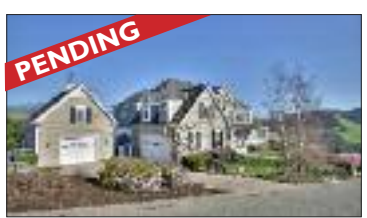
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 6/3. Orinda Contemporary. Vaulted ceilings, HW floors, chef's kit, beautiful outdoor spaces w/ views of the hills.  
 Nancy Stryker CalBRE#01290021



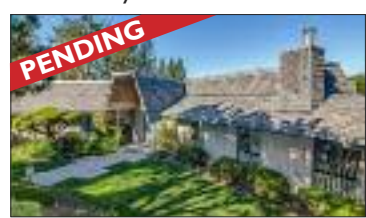
**ORINDA \$1,495,000**  
 5/3. Eichler-esque home with Integrated guest/aupaire/in-law unit on lower level w/ own entrnc.  
 David Pierce CalBRE# 00964185



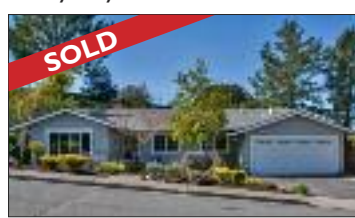
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## Fire Districts

### Public Meetings

#### Moraga-Orinda Fire District

Board of Directors  
Wednesday, April 15, 7 p.m.  
Moraga Library Community Room  
1500 St. Mary's Road, Moraga  
For meeting times and agendas,  
visit [www.mofd.org](http://www.mofd.org)

#### ConFire Board of Directors

Tuesday, April 14, 1:30 p.m.  
Board Chamber room 107,  
Administration Building,  
651 Pine St., Martinez  
For meeting times and agendas,  
visit <http://alturl.com/5p9pu>.

Emergency response information  
and training:

Lamorinda Community  
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[www.lamorindacert.org](http://www.lamorindacert.org)

# Flame Out, Lamorinda

By Nick Marnell



Trees that once overhung this home were removed and a clean, open landscape was developed. Leaves are not allowed to collect in the roof valleys and rain gutters.

Photos Dennis Rein, MOFD

Here we go again.

"I always hate to say it's going to be a bad fire season because we have all heard that same thing for so many years. But I am going to say it anyway," said Contra Costa County Fire Protection District Chief Jeff Carman. "I worry a lot about the Lafayette area of our district, with all of the wildland-urban interface area and high-

value properties." Moraga-Orinda Fire District Chief Stephen Healy hardly disagrees. "We're sending out our weed abatement notices even earlier this year to give people more time to clear out the problem areas," he said. Robert Marshall, ConFire fire marshal, said the district will push earlier weed abatement this year as well.

Indeed, the fuels are dry this year, thanks to this fourth consecutive year of severely limited rainfall. "Hot, dry summers are the norm here," said ConFire's George Laing, fire prevention captain. "In April, things start drying out. By July, the brush fires begin. In August, the trees start to burn. The real fires hit in September and October. This year, we've had several brush fires in the district already."

While both Lamorinda fire districts carry the responsibility of protecting property from fires, the most important person that can protect property from a wildfire is the property owner. One of the time-honored methods of property protection is to surround the property with defensible space – the space between the property and the wildland fire area that creates a buffer to slow down an on-rushing fire. According to Laing, the easiest and most basic thing that a property owner can do is to control and abate the weeds.

MOFD requires, through ordinance, a defensible space of 100 feet from a structure but not beyond the property line. "Call us," said Dennis Rein, emergency preparedness coordinator. "We'll come out to your home and do a free assessment of your property." Marshall said that ConFire offers Lafayette residents that same courtesy. The goal in each district is to allow firefighters to stop fires spreading from open space areas to homes and properties.

This year comes with an added wrinkle, thanks to the recent state-mandated 25 percent water cutback. Residents will have to reduce water usage, but at the same time keep their outdoor plants from drying out and creating a fire hazard. Susie Bernhard of McDonnell Nursery in Orinda suggests plants that require low to mod-

erate water, yet remain fire resistant, like yarrow, coreopsis and lantana. "They won't burst into flames," she said.

"The community deserves a lot of credit for its vigilance and caution," said Healy. He specifically praised the lack of fireworks, and the fact that people are not cutting their lawns during periods of high fire danger. MOFD fire marshal Kathy Leonard noted that the Wilder developers brought in over 1,000 sheep to graze the vegetation away. Regarding Lafayette residents' prevention efforts, "I give them a B-plus," said Laing.

Healy said that, since 1988, a vegetation fire has not destroyed a home in the district. It will take a concerted effort of the entire community to extend that streak another year.



Oak trees have been thinned, dead material cleaned out of the trees and ground, and fuels that could carry fire to the tops of these trees have been removed.

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## Springtime on the Suburban Ranch

... continued from page A1



One of the Sperry's recently branded calves.

Widowed in 1986, the Moraga elementary and middle school teacher of 37 years married Sam Sperry, a municipal bond attorney, five years later. Together with Frazell, they continued to work the ranch on weekends. "We were the ranch hands and Gordon was the manager," Sam Sperry said. And since everyone had full-time jobs, working the ranch "was more like a hobby," he added.

There's always something to do when you live on a ranch. Most of their time is spent mending fences, fixing or replacing water pipes, and weeding. One of the biggest problems in the area is water, which comes from springs. The ranch is located outside the town boundaries, so the 18 houses on their road are on both private water and private sewer systems. The Sperrys have reserve water tanks and use grey water to water the fields, but last year, for the first time, Susan Sperry stated that they had to truck in water. "Cows drink a lot of water in the summer and not having enough also affects the grass, which the cows eat. We've had to reduce our herd because of the lack of water," she said.

The Sperrys currently have eight cows and one bull, in addition to six calves. They're expecting another two calves to be born within the com-

ing weeks. "We were only able to brand four of the calves," Sam Sperry explained, "because one was too small and slid through the machine and one – our rambunctious, hyperactive girl – was too fast, broke down the gate and got away." She didn't go too far – just far enough so they were unable to catch and brand her.

The calves are usually sold on consignment through an auction house in mid-summer, but the cows and bull are full-time residents at the ranch. To regulate the months of birthing calves, the bull is kept in the barn from September through the first of January. During that time, Susan Sperry noted, they bring him hay twice a day. The bull was born on the ranch and, she said, is "pretty frisky. He's been known to jump the fence. One time, he got out and my 5-year-old grandson and I used the 'Hansel and Gretel' method to lure him back." They put out some alfalfa, drove about 20 feet, put out more alfalfa and kept repeating the process. The bull followed the alfalfa and made his way home.

The Sperrys, a warm, affable couple who laugh easily, live less than three miles from central Moraga, although it seems like a world away. It's easy to understand why they love it so

much. Riding with Sam Sperry in their four-wheel drive off-road vehicle to the top of the property as he points out the ranch's features, his pride is apparent. The views of Mt. Diablo, downtown Walnut Creek and Concord and even the South Bay, are breathtaking. "It's a lovely place to live," he said, "but not without its challenges."

Both Sperrys are now retired and enjoy having their very own family compound, with four of their eight grandchildren as next door neighbors. They still mend fences and are always on the lookout for pipe leaks and, of course, they still brand their calves every year. As Susan Sperry said, "I go for walks with my friends who tell me about the books they're reading and the great restaurant meals they've enjoyed. I tell them about snaking out a sewer line or chasing a calf."



A calf enters the chute on its way to be branded. Photos A. Scheck





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**Letters to the Editor**

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. Visit www.lamorindaweekly.com for submission guidelines. email: letters@lamorindaweekly.com; Regular mail: Lamorinda Weekly, P.O.Box 6133, Moraga, CA 94570

Editor:

The 1986 Moraga Open Space Ordinance (MOSO) is cherished and considered sacrosanct by most Moragans as a needed protection for Moraga's open space. The Moraga Town Council (MTC) is now considering amending and weakening one of MOSO's existing provisions.

At the MTC meeting on March 25, a request by Adventure Day Camp (ADC) was considered for: 1) a permit fee waiver and 2) a zoning ordinance text amendment for "Conditional Uses" within the Moraga Open Space District (MOSO) (Municipal Code 8.52.110(B)). This requested language change to MOSO is a prerequisite in order for ADC to proceed with its permit process to establish a for-profit recreation business, to be located in a quiet residential neighborhood at the former Moraga Tennis and Swim Club, at a planned activity level that is well beyond any previous recreational activities that have occurred at that location during the last quarter century. Moreover, according to the staff report, such a text amendment could apply to ALL MOSO-zoned land and, potentially, to all zoned non-MOSO open space as well. One neighbor, my spouse, and I gave public comment on this topic and asked that the Council deny these two requests.

During Council deliberations, it seemed that all members of the Moraga Town Council were open to seriously considering approval of the requested text amendment to MOSO. Such council action will put Moraga's open space provisions—provisions that most Moragans have come to enjoy and respect—at risk. Such text amendments should be vigorously opposed. Fortunately, the Council had insufficient information to come to an immediate decision and will need to reconsider this request at a future council meeting, probably in April or May.

Please review the meeting audio recording on this topic (between 1:41:50 and 2:56:50) at: [http://www.moraga.ca.us/council/meetings/2015/032515/TC-32515\\_LARGE%20recorder.MP3](http://www.moraga.ca.us/council/meetings/2015/032515/TC-32515_LARGE%20recorder.MP3)

I encourage those residents who value Moraga's open space to write to all five council members and tell them that you do not want MOSO's provisions weakened in any way. All concerned citizens should also attend the council meeting when this item returns to Council and express their concerns during public comment.

Clay Serrahn  
Moraga

Editor:

Your report on the Design Review Meeting for the Lenox project behind Trader Joe's in Lafayette seemed to suggest that the review of this project has been taking an excessive amount of time. In the first meeting, the developer presented an eight-unit very large project that pushed the boundaries of the lot. The development would have ruined a number properties adjacent and ruined the neighborhood as well. He was asked to reduce the impact. The second presentation was not much different than the first, eight very large units. It was tweaked a bit and parking was improved a bit, but essentially nothing changed.

At the last presentation, the eight units suddenly morphed to 11, with the original eight units not very different in size from the first presentation. Parking changed, but the building would still go property line to property line. Looking up at this project from any of the surrounding areas (except Trader Joe's, where it would visually be blocked from Mt. Diablo) it would look like an Ocean Liner went aground here.

The developer needs to consider the effect this development will have on the neighborhood, especially the individual neighbors on Bickerstaff, the parking and the traffic. This project needs to be smaller and less intrusive. I understand the developer would like to maximize his profit, but certainly, not at the expense of the neighborhood.

Leonard Dorin  
Lafayette

Lafayette

**Litigation Dilemma Over Wight House**

... continued from page A3

Their preference is to avoid having multiple pickups lined up on Monticello, waiting for a large truck to descend the steep access road to the parcel. Flagger are supposed to be regulating who is coming up and down, but there are still questions remaining about queuing up, vehicle count and more.

Peter Clark, president of the Happy Valley Improvement Association, found the potential approval of a 10,000-square-foot home on a protected ridgeline aggravating and noted, "Neighbors who attended the meeting sat in disgusted silence, too polite to shout out or throw things."

Urging the city council in a recent

letter to deny the project, Colby Powell, with the support of over 110 Glen Neighborhood families stated, "I cannot fathom a reason why the city should allow construction of a 10,000-square-foot home on a ridge-line in Lafayette. I believe it's too large, and the extent of its impacts are not known."

"The property is not an island of stability in a sea of turbulence," said Donn Walklet, a neighbor who has a professional background in earth science, explaining that the parcel is in an area of highly unstable, steeply sloping hillsides.

Representing the Glen Neighborhood Association, attorney Edward

Shaffer of the Archer Norris law firm, wrote a 14-page letter commenting on the project, pointing out an array of issues including CEQA—the California Environmental Quality Act – to defects in the Mitigated Negative Declaration and more.

Attorney David Bowie, who represents Steve and Linda Wight, didn't respond to requests for comment.

At the moment, it looks like there are no easy options for the all-volunteer city council. The one thing that is for sure is the drama will continue to play out, and not everyone will be happy with the outcome.

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## Business

# Two Businessmen Start a New Chapter of Their Lives in Lafayette

By Sophie Braccini



Farshid Ramani at Red Carpet Flooring  
Photo Sophie Braccini

Abdullah "Zee" Azizi and Farshid Ramani recently opened new businesses on opposite sides of Mt. Diablo Boulevard. To the east, Azizi purchased Ace Auto Care at the end of 2014. While Ramani, to the west, opened Red Carpet Flooring in March. Azizi is fresh out of the military; Ramani is a seasoned business owner. Both chose Lafayette to start new chapters in their lives.

Azizi, 27, returned to the U.S. in 2014 after begin stationed in Afghanistan. A month later he bought Ace Auto Care. He thought owning a business would help him readapt to civilian life. "The two worlds (military and civilian) are



Abdullah "Zee" Azizi and his father (standing) at Ace Auto Care  
Photos provided

very far apart," he says. "Many people think that (the military) is very stressful, but it's not. Everything is set for you. You know what's next. The struggle is different. There, it is very basic; you try to survive as a human being. Here, the struggle is trying to make a living. It is more stressful."

Azizi moved from Afghanistan to the U.S. with his family in 2007. A year later, after finishing high school, he joined the military, where he put his love of languages and linguistics to good use. "I loved being in the military; you are exposed to many different cultures," he says. "For me, being so new to this country I met with

Americans from all over, not just California, and in Afghanistan I met people from all over the world. Of course, it was dangerous where I was," he says, "but it's human nature, you adjust, and you do get used to it. You accept your situation; anything in your life you accept it."

The military reinforced the family values that he already had, he says, and he is bringing them to his business. "What we do defines us," he explains. "When you are deployed you can lose your life any second; what is left of you is what you did." In the auto shop, he believes that the same values of dignity and truth are just as important. "To me it is important to tell the truth so I can go to sleep at night," he says. "It's how I prioritize my life."

Azizi partnered with his father, who is an experienced mechanic, as was his grandfather. "All the technicians who work here are certified," he says, "and all our repairs are guaranteed for one year or 12,000 miles." He offers discounts to students, seniors and military personnel.

Close to Postino, on the western side of Mt. Diablo Boulevard, Ramani operates his flooring company with a similar ethic. When difficult economic times hit, Ramani decided to move his Concord business and his 20 years of expertise closer to his Moraga home and opened Lafayette's Red Carpet Flooring.

"I wanted to be part of the community

here," he says. "There are certain values that people take seriously here that match the way I've always worked." For example, Ramani goes beyond legal recycling requirements when replacing old flooring. He seeks economical brands that have environmentally friendly surfaces that are going to be safe for children. He also gives 1 percent of his profits to the Lamorinda school districts.

"I work with businesses, apartment managers, as well as individual homeowners," he says. He often offers design ideas to his clients since the array of choices for flooring nowadays is so vast, from hardwood to recycled wood, scratch-resistant laminate to natural or water-resistant LVT tiles.

The showroom on Mt. Diablo Boulevard opened in mid-March and gives clients a good idea of flooring options. "My wife has been a real estate agent in Orinda for many years," he says. "For us, having repeat customers and growing our businesses through word of mouth is the way to go."

Ace Auto Care – 3430 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette – (925) 284-5550 – aceautocare.net  
Red Carpet Flooring – 3561 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette – (925) 691-9000 – redcarpetfloorings.com

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

## business briefs

### Two New Restaurants in Lafayette

**Rancho Cantina:** 3616 Mt Diablo Blvd., Lafayette - <http://www.ranchocantina.com>

**The Hideout Kitchen & Cafe:** 3400 Mt Diablo Blvd., Lafayette - (925) 900-8861



The front patio of Rancho Cantina in Lafayette

Photo S. Braccini



JB Balingit and wife, Astrid, in front of their new restaurant, The Hideout.

Photo provided

Lafayette continues to provide new culinary experiences for Lamorinda patrons. Two new restaurants opened recently that are worth a stop. Next to Jennifer Perlmutter Gallery, across from Diablo Foods on Mt. Diablo Boulevard, Rancho Cantina has an original Californian flair. The owners chose a mix of the Spanish, Mexican and native Californian influences that gave birth to Rancho style cooking. Some dishes come directly from the adobe brick oven to the table, such as the house special chicken. Patrons will also find some Mexican restaurant favorites such as carne asada or enchiladas. Take a short drive east on Mt. Diablo

and you'll reach The Hideout Kitchen & Cafe, not far from Brown Avenue in the former Giardino's location. Enjoy brunches including waffles, sandwiches and omelets; lunch items such as pulled pork sandwiches, salads and other entrees; and dinner options including a rack of lamb or wild mushroom Bolognese.

### Creekside Partners Joins Forces with Wiiken & Gorman

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Creekside Partners, an independent, boutique wealth management firm based in Lafayette, announced it has joined forces with investment advisory firm Wiiken & Gorman. Creekside Partners now has five senior-level investment experts: Rick Ashburn and Andy Hempeck, who founded Creekside Partners, as well as Paula Wiiken, Michael Gorman and Teresa Coleman of Wiiken & Gorman. The firm offers expanded financial planning expertise, enhanced portfolio management expertise, and new investments in technology, resulting in improved communication and reporting to clients. Creekside Partners will continue to have office locations in Lafayette and Petaluma.

### Moraga Employee of the Month Kim Polen



From left: Kathe Nelson, Kevin Reneau, Kim Polen and Roger Gregory  
Photo provided

Kim Polen, who has been serving Lamorinda and other East Bay seniors for the past six years as a caregiver for Senior Helpers, has been named the Moraga Employee of the Month for March. Polen's regular duties for her clients include driving and cooking, medication reminders, housekeeping and assisting with ambulation and exercise. For many clients she also provides assistance with bathing and dressing and other personal care. She has worked with several notable Moraga clients in-

If you have a business brief to share, please contact  
Sophie Braccini at [sophie@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:sophie@lamorindaweekly.com)

cluding Bruce Cunningham, a former Moraga Citizen of the Year who passed away in 2014. "Kim is not just competent and compassionate, but she's also very, very reliable," said Kevin Reneau, owner of Senior Helpers. "Her clients know they can always count on her and she has become part of so many families because of the love she shows to their family members." Polen will be presented with her award and gift cards to Safeway and Ristorante Amoroma in Moraga at the Moraga Rotary luncheon on April 21.

### Shelby's Celebrates Anniversary

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In March, Shelby's restaurant in Orinda celebrated its 10th anniversary under new management, and 20 years in Theatre Square.

### News from the Three Chambers of Commerce

#### Lafayette

Save the date for Earth Day in Lafayette from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, April 26 sponsored by Sustainable Lafayette, the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce, the Lafayette Library and Learning Center, and the City of Lafayette. This year's theme: transportation. For more information, visit <http://www.sustainablelafayette.org/our-events/earth-day-festival>.

#### Moraga

Moraga Chamber Mixer at 5:30 p.m. April 28 at the Serbian Church, 1700 School St., sponsored by Moraga Rotary, the Lion's Club and RecycleSmart.org.

#### Orinda

Orinda Trivia Bee at 5 p.m. Friday, April 24. Orinda Rotary and Orinda Chamber of Commerce jointly sponsor the Trivia Bee. Teams of six compete for the title in a multiple round trivia competition. Attendees come dressed in costume and decorate tables in keeping with the chosen theme for their team. The event takes place at the Orinda Masonic Lodge, 9 Altarinda Rd. in Orinda. For information, contact Candy Kattenberg at [info@orindachamber.org](mailto:info@orindachamber.org).

The State of the City Luncheon is scheduled from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 29 at the Orinda Country Club. Orinda Mayor Steve Glazer will provide an update on all of the latest issues facing the community. For information, visit [orindarotary.org](http://orindarotary.org).

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Giving Dreams an Address

## County Animal Services in Transition

... continued from page A1

Not so, says Stefani Buzzard, president of No Kill Contra Costa, an advocacy group critical of the operation of the Martinez shelter. "It's a conveyor belt to death," she said.

Buzzard prefers the county hire a director who is not entrenched in the traditional shelter model. She would like the director to comprehensively implement the No Kill equation, which includes reducing the number of animals coming into the shelter, improving the care of animals at the shelter and increasing the number of positive outcomes. "A 90 percent save rate is realistic," she said, referring to the percentage of shelter animals adopted, returned to their owners or acquired by rescue groups, or neutered and released, as with feral cats.

She outlined some of the programs she would implement to achieve that rate. "Double the number of volunteers," said Buzzard. "Make the animals more adoptable with better training. More public outreach. And build better relationships with rescue organizations."

Nathan Winograd, director of the Oakland-based No Kill Advocacy Center, noted that the Austin, Texas public shelter, serving a population similar in size to Contra Costa County, with an intake of 18,000 animals a year, reports a 90 percent save rate. "It's because of the decisions made by the people running it," he said. He stressed the need for the department to be proactive with the public, especially at the time of intake. "Before accepting a surrender, ask what the problem is," said Winograd. "It may be a problem that can be fixed."



The outcome that everyone desires: Maya is headed to a new home.

Photo Andy Scheck

"The No Kill movement says there is a home for every animal," said Noell Crosse, Animal Services humane education coordinator. "I agree with the No Kill frustration, that no healthy or treatable animal should die. But what is healthy and treatable? If a dog stops eating, starts biting the walls, rescue groups don't want it. I don't know what the answer is."

Crosse pointed to the importance of public education. "We're not a petting zoo," she said. "Call us what we really are: the dog pound. I want people to know that this is not the place to send their animals. A life in a shelter is not the life that animals were meant to lead."

"Our field staff takes every opportunity to support citizens' maintaining their pets as opposed to surrendering them," said deputy director Rick Golphin. But he explained that the department cannot turn away animals, with pit bull and Chihuahua breeds totaling nearly 50 percent of the dog intake. Those breeds are rarely accepted by rescue groups.

"The most successful shelters have a major partner to address that group of animals that the rescue groups don't take," said Golphin, highlighting the Reno shelter, which teams with the Nevada Humane Society to assist with adoptions. "I pre-

fer to stay away from terms like No Kill," he said. "Just do the best job that you can do."

The Animal Services department is charged with both protecting the public and taking care of animals as humanely and ethically as possible. A staff of 78, including veterinary technicians, field officers and administration, plus over 250 volunteers, carry out the department responsibilities from a 38,000 square foot center in Martinez and a satellite shelter in Pinole. Animal Services reported a 2014 intake of 11,000 cats and dogs, down from 15,000 five years ago, along with a save rate of 69 percent last year, up from 59 percent in 2010. "We deal with a serious animal overpopulation, and we have got to stop society from looking at animals as disposable commodities," said Glenn Howell, who retired in January after managing the department for 11 years.

Howell, rehired as interim director, encouraged the incoming director to be open and to keep up the positive momentum. "We do many things very well," he said. "Our highly regarded medical program is second to none. And I'm proud of our expanded field service."

County administrator David Twa and the human resources department continue to vet applicants for Animal Services director. "There are no set criteria," said Twa. "We've received applications from a wide range of candidates who embrace diverse approaches to animal services." He also stressed the need for increased public education and outreach, a standard agreed upon by nearly every person interviewed for this article.

"If Contra Costa County hires the right director who, rather than blaming the public, engages the public, the department will succeed," said Winograd.

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# From Three Floors Down

*A bad fall leads Moraga woman back up to the top*

By Chris Lavin



Amy Morosini of Moraga was the last person she ever thought would start running marathons and triathlons after a traumatic brain injury. But she has medals to prove it. The key she is wearing around her neck was designed by Jennifer Montana, 49ers quarterback Joe Montana's wife, and is called the "Endure Key." Morosini wears it always. Photo Chris Lavin

In 1997, Amy Morosini “fell” from the window of a third-floor apartment in San Francisco. She may have been pushed out by her then boyfriend. The only thing police could come up with for their report was “suspicious circumstances.” Amy herself couldn’t help much because, well, she had fallen three floors onto the ground, cracked her head open, incurred 20-something other bone fractures and ruptured several internal organs. She lay in a coma. Giving a report at the time was not exactly possible.

She almost died. When Morosini woke up, she had no idea what had happened. And it was right then, precisely right then, that her new world began.

“There is something about my story that needs to be told,” said Morosini, looking thoughtful and quite beautiful as she picked up her coffee cup in her immaculate Moraga home. She looked out the window onto the hills. She is speaking in public about her recovery, and she was featured in last month’s Prevention magazine. She’s now doing so much volunteer work that her kids, on their way to school in the morning, shout back, “Have a good day helping people, Mom!” The first time they said that, she said, she knew she was doing the right thing with her life, all around.

Morosini is the mother of three boys, happily married, but her past cannot be shed entirely. She had awoken in the hospital not being able to move, with doctors all around her saying she would need multiple surgeries to walk, to think, to write, to speak, in order to live a normal life. What they didn’t tell her – because at the time little was known about Traumatic Brain Injury or TBI – is that the emotional and psychological journey of putting Humpty Dumpty back together has little to do with the shell. Most of getting it back together, Morosini says now, is recognizing the emotional effects and actual physical trauma to the brain that makes something like walking again seem like a piece of cake.

“Everybody, including me, was focused on fixing what had happened to my body,” Morosini said. “So the doctors (who performed many surgeries) put my physical self back together, and that’s what I was focused on, too, but I didn’t realize that was only the beginning.” All those things, she said, were only Step One.

“The mental health journey is longer,” she said.

Morosini found that she was, as she says, throwing wide curves from the pitcher’s mound that weren’t going over the plate. What she intended wasn’t what came out of her mouth. “My mind was a Ferrari, but it comes out as a Ford,” she said about her newfound mental

acuity. “I had lost the ability to write and speak, and it’s still with me almost all the time.” Emotionally, until she learned how to control it, that resulted in being so happy about something good that she would excitedly call everybody and tell them about how great she felt, or else when something bad happened it was the worst thing ever, and now everything was terrible. “I was all over the map,” Morosini said. “It was either the best thing ever or the worst thing ever.”

And one of the worst things, she says, and most would agree, is that the medical establishment started learning a lot when the United States declared war on Afghanistan and Iraq and suddenly thousands of soldiers were coming home with TBIs caused by explosions.

“We’ve learned a lot, rather unfortunately,” Morosini says now. “We have so many veterans coming home and going through what I’m still going through.”

Morosini decided to do something about it, to help. She regularly volunteers at the Veteran’s Administration Hospital in Martinez and focuses on TBI patients. She also found a mentor, an unexpected hero of her world she did not expect to relate to – Scott Rigsby, who was the first person to become an Ironman athlete with two prosthetic legs.

“I said, ‘I wish I could do what you do,’ and he said, and I’ll never forget this, ‘Why can’t you?’” Morosini said. “And I thought: I have no excuse. If he can do it, anybody can.”

Enter Amy Morosini the Athlete. She started running – and she hated running in high school, even when she was a sports star – but she’s running now and loving it. It helped her to kick alcohol, she says, which led her to dropping extra unwanted pounds. She has completed marathons and Ironman events, placing in many, and she’s still running. She is the last person to have thought that a collection of ribbons and medals would be hanging from her arm.

“I still can’t believe it,” she said, looking at her plethora of awards.

As if that were not enough, Morosini is writing a book and, working with a ghostwriter, hopes to offer free copies for any veteran coming home with TBI. She is part of a unique publishing format that isn’t self-published but published when enough people order the book – a sort of reverse standard publication model. You can find her project at <https://pubslush.com/project/4429>, or get a link on her website, [www.TBIchick.com](http://www.TBIchick.com).

“I’m in a really good place right now,” she said. “I’m ready to write this book.”



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## A Resurgence of Vinyl Brings Young and 'Less Young' Collectors Together

By Uma Unni



Acalanes High School sophomore Meghan Wolf shows off her vinyl LP record by Bastille. Photo Uma Unni

involvement in the resurgence of vinyl, Cameron dismisses the idea that they alone can claim credit with a solid "No." He concedes that hipsters are trendy, but argues that if they were truly behind the resurgence of vinyl, "the shine would have faded five years ago," pointing to the hipster movement's tendency to flit from trend to trend without lingering on any one interest for too long. Vinyl's resurgence has continued for nearly seven years now, reaching a peak in 2014, when vinyl sales exceeded the previous year's by 49 percent.

This increased demand is both a blessing and a curse to the aging vinyl industry. While the surge in vinyl sales has kept the last remaining vinyl manufacturers afloat, it also puts a huge strain on the antiquated vinyl manufacturing industry. The last vinyl press was built in 1982, and most of the old presses were stripped for parts years ago, when vinyl appeared to be taking its last breath. Now, relatively few presses remain, and most are in poor condition after decades of disuse. In addition, the supply of polyvinyl chloride – the raw substance that is pressed into vinyl records – is limited. Over 90 percent of the polyvinyl chloride used in vinyl records is supplied by a single company, Thai Plastic & Chemicals, in Long Beach, Calif. Polyvinyl chloride manufacturers and vinyl presses alike are struggling under the huge burden of music producers who want to move in on the vinyl business again.

The range of music available on vinyl is also increasing. While the classics like The Beatles and The Rolling Stones are naturally present, there are also many new music producers releasing albums on vinyl as well as on iTunes and CD. Alongside Miles Davis and The Beach Boys, vinyl buyers can find Katy Perry, Bruno Mars and Kelly Clarkson.

For those interested in starting or adding to their vinyl collections, a big day in the vinyl world approaches: Record Store Day. On April 18, record shops will offer various titles, including exclusive and limited edition releases that will only be available in physical stores. Artists will also be releasing albums on vinyl as a sort of "first look" for vinyl enthusiasts who take the time to visit a record store on the 18th. Cameron encourages vinyl enthusiasts to stop by Rasputin Records on April 18. "We've got so much planned."

Whether vinyl's resurgence is driven by the hipster movement or an inevitable return to high sound quality, the medium holds irresistible appeal for music lovers of every generation. As Cameron puts it, "Once someone really listens to vinyl, they fall in love with the sound. That's why you see old and new collectors click. It's like an instant community."

As for the hipster movement's in-

causes behind this resurgence are a subject of controversy. Many see the hipster movement as responsible for vinyl's newfound popularity. The hipster movement, which is a youth movement that emphasizes the pursuit of individual interests and disregard for mainstream popular culture, took an interest in vinyl records in 2008. Since then, this interest has grown to the point where youth shops like Urban Outfitters stock small vinyl collections and sell entry-level turntables in most of their stores. The fact that Urban Outfitters stocks vinyl certainly corroborates the theory that hipsters are the driving force behind vinyl's newfound popularity.

However, older music enthusiasts disagree. Moraga resident Thor Cameron, general manager at Rasputin Records in Berkeley, says "record collecting is a passion that comes in waves." His argument is that vinyl records will continue to draw in members of each generation as a virtue of the medium's richer timbre, which digital music simply cannot replicate. The rich sound draws in a wide range of music lovers. "I have kids who tell me they just got their first turntable for their birthday, some older true believers, and people who got rid of their record collection years ago, and are trying to replace it, up-and-coming mix DJs, etcetera," says Cameron. Meghan Wolf, an Acalanes High School sophomore, is one of these newer vinyl enthusiasts. After being introduced to vinyl by her older sister, Wolf fell in love with the medium. "I like how simple it is," she explains. "There's something about vinyl that just attracts my attention." Wolf denies that she's a hipster—but then again, a central part of the hipster movement is to reject the label "hipster."

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# Andy Warhol Exhibit at SMC Museum of Art

By A.K. Carroll



Andy Warhol, Fiesta Pig, 1979, Screenprint on Arches 88 paper, 21 1/2 x 30 1/2 inches  
Collection of the Saint Mary's College Museum of Art, Gift of the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Inc.

The face of Marilyn Monroe. A can of Campbell's soup. A single image reproduced in negative, utilizing striking strokes and colors. These are but a few of the iconic signs of Andy Warhol, a leading figure in the pop art movement whose work is as singular as it is widespread. A renowned and often controversial artist, Warhol worked with multiple media including drawing, painting, photography and printmaking, leaving behind an extensive and highly prized collection of work.

Some of those pieces have made their way to the permanent collection of Saint Mary's College, and from April 19 to June 14 the curators of the Saint Mary's College Museum of Art will be showing "Andy Warhol: Prints, Polaroids and Pop," a selection of Warhol's work gifted from the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts Inc.

When Warhol unexpectedly died in 1987, much of his work was left for the creation of a foundation that would advance the visual arts.

"(The foundation) is basically in charge of Andy Warhol's estate," said Kyla Porter Tynes, gallery manager at SMC. "Anything that's Andy Warhol that's in public domain." Taking charge of these items includes caring for them, preserving them, loaning them out and making them accessible

to the public.

In an effort to preserve and enhance Warhol's creative legacy, the foundation developed a grant-making program that would allow for deeper engagement, a wider reach and proper care of his work. One of the places this is happening is in the Hearst Gallery at SMC.

In 2008, the Hearst Gallery received its first gift from the Andy Warhol Foundation, 152 black and white photographs and Polaroid prints (taken from the Andy Warhol Photographic Legacy Program). Dated between 1976 and 1986, the photographs include Central Park views, bridges, catwalks, nude figures, and images of Dolly Parton, Gianni Versace, R.C. Gorman, Antonio Lopez, Denise Hale, Yves Saint Laurent, Ron Reagan, Jr., Steve Rubell, Kenneth Jay Lane, other celebrities and fashionistas. The pieces were last shown at SMC in 2010.

The upcoming exhibit celebrates a second gift made possible through the foundation's grant-making program - seven screenprints made between 1985-1986, including Sitting Bull from the Cowboys and Indians series, the much-loved Fiesta Pig, Hans Christian Andersen, from Warhol's favorite writers series, and an accompanying illustration for an Andersen fairy tale.

"A lot of times screenprints are less valuable, but for Warhol his prints are just as valuable as his original works of art because he was so prolific," said Tynes.

None of the prints are numbered, which is unique of Warhol's work and indicates these were likely first prints in which the artist was able to experiment with various media and colors. One is a countercultural portrait of a transvestite, another a signed original work of art.

"This is part of Andy Warhol's first dabbling in color," said Tynes. "So these are really important works for him."

Along with the seven screenprints, the SMC MoA will also showcase 15-20 pieces from the first foundation gift. The museum is open Wednesday through Sunday 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (It is closed between exhibits, March 22-April 18). Admission is \$5 for adults (with concessions for veterans, youth, staff and students) and open to everyone.

"What's so great for us," said Tynes, "is the fact that the Warhol Foundation has given these to us, but that we're able to share them with the public." Warhol was adamant about the proliferation of the artistic spirit, something that can reach each of us. "The community is really the most important thing."



Andy Warhol, Hans Christian Andersen, 1987, Screenprint on Lenox Museum Board, 40 x 40 1/8 inches  
Collection of the Saint Mary's College Museum of Art, Gift of the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Inc.



Andy Warhol, Sitting Bull, 1986, Screenprint on Lenox Museum Board 36 x 36 inches, Collection of the Saint Mary's College Museum of Art, Gift of the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Inc.

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# One Week Showing of 'The Miracle of Bern' in Orinda

By Sophie Braccini



Image provided

When Richard Lubanski returns home, he is a disconnected man who tries to regain his place and authority as the head of the family. Of course, things have changed. His wife, Christa, is managing a cafe and has been able to raise and feed her family. His daughter, Ingrid, and son Bruno are strong-willed teenagers. His second son, Matthias, was born a few months after he left. He never knew he existed.

Matthias, 11, is a sweet kid passionate about soccer, and he is a huge fan of Helmut Rahn, a talented but turbulent soccer player known as "The Boss." Rahn is selected to the national team and soon leaves for Bern, Switzerland, where the World Cup will take place. Rahn has chosen Matthias as his mascot.

As the story unfolds, Richard almost loses ground with his family and with the society around him as his incomprehension and his inability to communicate settles over the household. Christa does not appear in many scenes, but she is a pivotal character, understanding and compassionate.

Meanwhile, the German team is plagued with doubts and difficulties, and has to battle its own demons. An important part of the movie is the moment when a supporter says, "We lost the war; we will lose the final also."

There is no need to be a soccer fan to be deeply touched by this film. A father estranged from his family manages to find his way back into their hearts when he finally opens up and shows the depth of his suffering. A sports team galvanizes a whole country as it shows everyone the path to regained pride.

Released in Germany in 2003, the film was an enormous commercial success. It accurately captures the atmosphere in Europe during the '50s as it rises from ruin. The actors are solid. Louis Klamroth, who plays young Matthias, is excellent, and Peter Lohmeyer, who plays Richard, is his father in real life and a well-known German actor.

The film will open for a one-week engagement beginning April 17 at the Orinda Theatre as part of the International Film Showcase. For information, visit [lamorindatheatres.com](http://lamorindatheatres.com).

A very positive and emotional film, "The Miracle of Bern (Das Wunder von Bern)" by director Sönke Wortmann, which opens April 17 at the Orinda Theatre, is set in 1954 Germany – a country still very much affected by World War II. It is a tale of redemption and rebirth. Two stories intertwine: The German national soccer team is on its way to the World Cup while a father returns home after 12 years in a Siberian prison camp.

The movie is built on a historical backdrop. In 1954 Russian authorities released the last German prisoners of war. Three million of them were captured at the end of WWII. Russians considered them responsible for the atrocities that were committed by the Wehrmacht against Russian populations in the Soviet Union. The soldiers were sent to forced labor camps, like Russian political prisoners. The Soviet authorities estimated that 300,000 soldiers died in the camps while German estimates were 1 million.

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### Family Focus

## Two Tips for Improving Family Communication

By Margie Ryerson, MFT

As adults we try to learn as much as we can about our computers, smartphones, tablets, televisions and sound systems in order to be able to use them effectively. Many of us attempt to learn a new language, or a skill such as carpentry, golf or bridge. These learning experiences enhance our lives and contribute to our sense of mastery and well-being.

By contrast, learning to communicate effectively may seem like a tedious task, along the lines of learning to floss our teeth effectively or figuring out how to remove carpet stains. Boring! So I offer you just two of many possible tips to consider in the hope that seeing the word "communicate" here won't make your eyes glaze over.

**First tip:** Take a positive approach. It would be highly unusual not to have occasional adverse reactions to family members' words, behaviors or attitudes. Many people choose to complain to the person (or about the person), rather than taking the more positive approach of asking for what they would like. Complaining or criticizing often sets up an angry and defensive reaction from the other person. Here are a few examples from families I have worked with (names have been changed, of course), and some better alternatives:

**Mom to daughter:**

"Carly, you always leave your

clothes scattered around the house. I'm sick of telling you to clean up after yourself."

Better: "Carly, please remember to pick up your clothes before you go to bed. You know I appreciate it."

Better yet: Establish a system where once you have told Carly specifically what you would like each day, she knows there is a consequence for not complying – without your having to mention it repeatedly.

**Dad to son:**

"Brian, this is the third D you've gotten on a math quiz this quarter. If you put as much effort into math as you do on your Xbox games, I'm sure you would do much better."

Better: "Brian, I see that you have been trying hard to keep up with all the work in school this quarter. It's not easy, I know. I see that your grades in math are much lower than usual. Do you want any help from me or a tutor?"

Better yet: Have a policy for screen time, so that homework and studying come first. Only allow screen time for necessary breaks or as a reward for effort. Your child may lack self-discipline to moderate his usage, so you need to form an agreement and establish consequences. If he is still receiving D's, insist on providing him with help. You can make it a forced choice: "Do you want me to help you or for us to arrange for a tutor?"

**Mom to Dad:**

"John, why can't you be on time to take the kids to their practices? It's bad enough when you keep me waiting so much, but I hate it when the kids are late too."

Better: "John, it's nice that you're willing to take the kids to their practices on weekends, but can you please be sure to get them there on time since it's really important to them?"

Better yet: If the children are old enough, have them ask their dad directly to please get them there on time.

**Dad to Mom:**

"Kelly, you left all the lights on in the house again before you left. It's such a waste and you don't seem to care about our utility bills."

Better: "Kelly, our electric bill was high last month. Please remem-

ber to turn off the lights when you go out."

Better yet: Invest in a remote system so you both can monitor the lights.

The "better yet" ideas are just in case they can work. If they won't, even framing messages differently can make a huge difference.

**Second tip:** Delay your response when necessary. Sometimes matters aren't as simple as the above examples and require more thought and discussion. When someone in your family is angry or frustrated with you, think about how you react. Do you immediately become defensive and argue back?

If, for example, your daughter tells you she is upset that you embarrassed her in front of her friends because of something you said, do you instantly take offense? Perhaps you took your daughter and her friends to a concert, and you went out of your way to be sure they got to attend and have a good time. You might then feel hurt or resentful to hear criticism after all of your good efforts.

As difficult as it may be, it is very helpful to put your immediate feelings aside. *Delay your response.* Ask your daughter what made her feel this way? Then show her that you understand her point of view. *You don't need to agree with someone's point of view in order to show you understand it.* Once your daughter confirms that you are accurate in your understanding, then you can begin the process of trying to resolve the issue together.

By being open to listening fully before responding, you can facilitate easier communication and good will within your family.



Margie Ryerson, MFT, is an author and marriage and family therapist in Orinda and Walnut Creek. Contact her at (925) 376-9323 or [margierye@yahoo.com](mailto:margierye@yahoo.com).

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Photo Roughing It Day Camps



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#### The Crucible's most exciting youth camps yet! (Oakland)

Sparks will fly and imaginations soar at The Crucible's hands-on summer camps! Perfect for creative kids ages 8-17, weeklong programs are offered in blacksmithing, ceramics, jewelry making, welding and much more. Full-day and half-day programs are available. Dates: June 22 – Aug. 7 Times: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (aftercare available) Phone: (510) 444-0919 Website: http://thecrucible.org/

Thank you Advertisers! Lamorinda Weekly.

### sewnow! Fashion Design & Sewing Camps

Kids & Teens - Beginner to Advanced - Half or Full Day - Spring & Summer

Learn to design like a pro, sew your own fashions, and make new friends!

Design and make your own unique fashion items: totes, skirts, beach wear, Fashion Kit designs and more. Model in our fashion show! Additional Full Day options this year! Teens, Kids, and Juniors (2nd/3rd grade).



For more information email, call, or visit: [www.sewnow.com](http://www.sewnow.com)  
sewnow! 3534 Golden Gate Way, Lafayette (925) 283-7396 info@sewnow.com

### ART ROOM! Summer Camps!

(June 15th-Aug. 14th)  
Full Day and Half Day Art Camps  
ages 5 to Teen welcome!

- ☀ Multicultural Art
- ☀ Mixed Media
- ☀ Outdoor Art
- ☀ Clay
- ☀ & More!!!

www.theart-room.com (925) 299-1515 50 Lafayette Circle

### Shakespeare for Kids Summer Camp

Ages 6-14 | July 6-17th  
Tudor Faire, Feast and Dramatic Production  
Register today!



www.shakespeareforkids.us

“The Crucible is a great creative, educational, inspiring, environment for a teen.”  
-Chela R.

## Summer Camps

**Blacksmithing, ceramics, welding, glass blowing, wood carving, robots & kinetics** and much more.

Hands-on, creative fun making art while learning real-world skills.

### Weekly Camps: June 22-Aug 7

Mornings: 9 am-12 noon  
Afternoons: 1-4 pm  
Aftercare available

Ages 8-17

1260 7th Street, Oakland  
(510) 444-0919  
[TheCrucible.org](http://TheCrucible.org)

SUMMER CAMPS 2015

Half-Day Camps

The Lamorinda Weekly Summer Camp listings are not paid advertising. Our intent is to provide a useful reference guide. In the event we have inadvertently printed misinformation, please let us know. LW is not liable for errors or omissions.

# The Writing Studio

A Summer Camp for Young Writers July 6 - Aug 7

Join THE WRITING STUDIO this summer as our young writers step into a world of CREATIVE STORYTELLING and ESSAY-BASED EXPOSITORY WRITING PROJECTS.

Students will learn proper sentence structure, organizational skills, the elements of a five-paragraph essay, creative use of descriptive words, correct grammar, usage, and so much more.

CAMP YOUNG WRITERS will be open to elementary and middle school students from July 6-August 7, 1 pm-4 pm. Weekly theme-based projects consist of classroom instruction and one-on-one sessions. Fee for the four-week program is \$425. For further information, contact [lafayettewritingstudio@comcast.net](mailto:lafayettewritingstudio@comcast.net) or call 925-385-0211. Learn about our year-long program at [www.lafayettewritingstudio.com](http://www.lafayettewritingstudio.com).



**THE WRITING STUDIO**  
Where Words Come to Life

3455 Golden Gate Way, Suite A, Lafayette (925) 385-0211

## Spanish Immersion Camps

- ★ Week-long day camps
- ★ Choose from a variety of kid-friendly themes
- ★ Option for full or half day, with before and after care
- ★ Experienced, dynamic teachers

Join us for storytelling, music, art, games & TONS of FUN - in español!

Visit us at our NEW Lafayette location! Camps include fieldtrips to the reservoir!

[www.vivaelespanol.org](http://www.vivaelespanol.org) • 925-962-9177  
Lafayette • Pleasanton • And schools all over the Bay Area

# Amazing Summer Math Camps

- **The Wide World of Sports Statistics**  
Play sports and calculate your statistics
- **Conquer Common Core Math**  
Clarify/review current year's math and prepare for the next
- **Classes to Attack Algebra**  
Prepare for all levels of algebra from pre-algebra to algebra II through games, art and humorous lectures
- **Get a Jump on Geometry:**  
A fun, hands on class for high school students

\*\*\*\* **Warning** – These classes might trick students into believing that math is fun \*\*\*\*

If you have further questions feel free to contact Michael at [m.adler@sbcglobal.net](mailto:m.adler@sbcglobal.net)

Classes taught by teacher & experienced math instructor, Michael Adler

To enroll contact the Moraga Parks and Rec. Department at [www.moraga.ca.us](http://www.moraga.ca.us) or call (925) 888-7036

Want a great tutor who is fun? Individual/small group summer or year round tutoring available [m.adler@sbcglobal.net](mailto:m.adler@sbcglobal.net)



THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA BOTANICAL GARDEN

## UC Botanical Garden's Science Day Camp

- ☘ nature journals
- ☘ animal studies
- ☘ edible gardening
- ☘ plant science
- ☘ crafts & more!

**JUNE 15 - AUGUST 14**  
Weekly sessions 9am - 2pm  
Aftercare available 2 - 4pm  
\$290/\$270 members  
Only 12 campers per week.

CALL (510) 643-2755 BOTANICALGARDEN.BERKELEY.EDU

# Summer @ Saklan Your passport to the world!

**LEARNING • LANGUAGE • LAUGHTER**  
Culture, Language, and Summer Fun! AGES 3-11 SAKLAN.ORG

# SUMMER CAMPS 2015

## ACADEMIC/LANGUAGE/SCIENCE

### Amazing Math Classes (Moraga)

Weeklong sessions taught by experienced, funny teachers through the Moraga Parks and Recreation Department. Sessions include elementary school math and science, sports and statistics, algebra I, high school geometry, and algebra II. Contact head teacher Michael Adler or Moraga Parks and Rec Department. Individual or small group tutoring also available. Phone: (925) 888-7036 Email: [m.adler@sbcglobal.net](mailto:m.adler@sbcglobal.net) Website: [www.moraga.ca.us](http://www.moraga.ca.us)

### Green Stuff at UC Botanical Garden (Berkeley)

Have your child spend a magical week in the UC Botanical Garden at Berkeley. Plant science, garden tastings, animal hunts, botany journals, nature crafts and so much more. Celebrating 25 years and voted "Best Camp - Nature, Animals & Science" Parents' Press 2014. Green Stuff is a small camp where each child gets very personal attention. Ages 5-11. Cost: \$290 non-members; \$270 members. Only 12 campers per week. Dates: June 15 - Aug. 14 Phone: (510) 643-2755 Website: [www.botanicalgarden.berkeley.edu](http://www.botanicalgarden.berkeley.edu)

### Orinda Academy (Orinda)

Algebra I and II, geometry, U.S. history, English and ESL for international students. Personalized instruction with 9:1 student-to-teacher ratio. Orinda Academy classes meet state requirements for credit and are UC-approved. Dates: June 22 - Aug. 7 (Mon. - Fri. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.) Phone: (925) 254-7553 Website: [www.orindaacademy.org](http://www.orindaacademy.org)

### Saklan School (Moraga)

Summer @ Saklan provides culture, language and summer fun for ages 3-11. Mornings on campus are filled with enrichment in Mandarin, French, Japanese, Spanish and Italian. Afternoons are packed with summer fun, including field trips, swimming, art and music. Three-week sessions 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Full or half days, with extended care available. Mini Campers, ages 3-5 and Explorers, ages 6-11. Dates: June 8 - Aug. 7 Phone: (925) 376-7900 Website: [www.saklan.org](http://www.saklan.org)

### Spanish Immersion with Viva el Español (Lafayette)

Learn or improve Spanish language skills through games, music, arts and crafts, and cooking! During each weeklong camp students learn vocabulary related to a specific kid-friendly theme such as Explosive Science or South American Adventure. Half day 9 a.m. to noon, full day 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Phone: (925) 962-9177 Website: [www.vivaelespanol.org](http://www.vivaelespanol.org)

### Summer Bridge Math (Moraga)

This program, intended to be both fun and educational, is designed to reinforce previous math concepts, while introducing future ones. Manipulatives and interactive problem solving will be a part of each session. Groups will consist of no more than seven students and will meet four times over the summer. Mr. Lorie will lead the sessions. Dates: various dates and times are available Website: [www.lorietutors.com](http://www.lorietutors.com)

### The Writing Studio - Camp Young Writers (Lafayette)

A summer camp for young writers that provides both writing instruction and one-on-one sessions for grades 4-9. Writers step into a world of storytelling and essay-based expository writing, developing strong writing skills in the process. Dates: July 6 - Aug. 7 Phone: (925) 385-0211 Website: [www.lafayettewritingstudio.com](http://www.lafayettewritingstudio.com)

## SPORTS

### Bay Area Adventure Camp's Multi-Sports Camp (Orinda & Walnut Creek)

Our All Sports summer camp is designed for boys and girls ages 5-14 with a true interest in a variety of sports and recreational activities. Flag football, basketball and soccer are available every day with beginner lacrosse (no pads, no contact), baseball and kickball available depending on numbers of kids selecting those sports. Dates: June - August Time: 9 a.m. to noon; Monday - Thursday only Phone: (925) 276-2325 Website: [www.bayareaadventurecamp.com](http://www.bayareaadventurecamp.com)

### Cougar Youth Football Camp (Moraga)

The Cougar Youth Football Camp directed by Head Coach Kevin Macy for grades 4-8 is held at Campolindo High School. All equipment is supplied; T-shirt is included. Registration forms can be found at [campofootball.net](http://campofootball.net). Dates: July 6-17 (Monday - Friday, 1:30 to 5 p.m.) Website: [www.campofootball.net](http://www.campofootball.net)

### Jr. Tennis Camps (Orinda & Moraga)

Elevate your game and take it to the next level! For participants ages 4-18. Enjoy making new friends, having fun, working hard and developing tennis skills. Maximum teacher to student ratio of 1:8 for all groups. Camps located at Orinda Parks and Recreation and Saint Mary's College! Dates: June 15 - Aug. 21 Website: [www.OrindaTennis.com](http://www.OrindaTennis.com)

### Lafayette Boys' Basketball Association (Lafayette)

Basketball Summer Camp held at Acalanes High School for boys entering fourth to eighth grade. Improve your basketball skills as well as have fun with Acalanes coaches and players! Dates: June 29 - July 3; July 6-10; July 13-17 Cost: \$150 per week. Come for one week or all three weeks. Email: [LBBASummerCamp@aol.com](mailto:LBBASummerCamp@aol.com)

### Miramonte Swim Club (MSC) (Orinda)

2015 Swim Team, Spring Stroke Clinics, and Junior Gator Learn-to-Swim program open for registration. Phone: (925) 247-8110 Website: [www.msclgators.org](http://www.msclgators.org)

### Oakland Strokes (San Pablo Reservoir or Oakland Estuary)

The Oakland Strokes summer program is a half-day summer camp open to any child sixth through 12th grade. The program is a "learn to row" program, focused on taking kids from never rowing, to being proficient, and teaching the basics and includes conditioning. Dates: Various one-week sessions starting June 22 Email: [oaklandstrokes@gmail.com](mailto:oaklandstrokes@gmail.com) Website: [www.oaklandstrokes.org](http://www.oaklandstrokes.org)

# 2015 Bay Area Equine Vet Camp

Featuring noted veterinarian, specialist surgeon, and author **Jamie Textor, DVM, PhD**

**GIDDY UP AND GET A HEAD START IN EQUINE VETERINARY MEDICINE!**

August 1-7, 2015 • 8am-5pm  
Bay Area Equestrian Club Stables  
Walnut Creek, CA USA (San Francisco Bay Area)  
For highly motivated students  
Middle School • High School • Undergrads

**REGISTER TODAY!**  
[www.baeclub.org](http://www.baeclub.org)

The only equine veterinary camp in Northern California! Commuter & Residential options available.

2015 BAE Vet Camp incorporates STEM (science, technology, engineering & math), art, writing, music—and fun!

Expert mentors and exclusive workshops at:

- UC Davis, School of Veterinary Medicine
- UC Berkeley
- Stanford University Red Barn Equestrian Center
- Peninsula Equine Medical Center
- Bay Area Equestrian Club Stables
- Bojars Ranch & Sherman Ranch

Gain practical and clinical veterinary experience and hours working side-by-side with a veterinarian, while helping rehabilitate Bay Area Equestrian Club rescue horses.

Limited to 50 students; registration closes July 15, 2015

WATCH THE 2014 VET CAMP MOVIE!

**BAY AREA EQUINE VET**

[www.baeclub.org](http://www.baeclub.org) • [baevet@gmail.com](mailto:baevet@gmail.com) • 925.922.2908

SUMMER CAMPS 2015 Half-Day Camps

# SUMMER CAMPS 2015

## SPORTS ... continued

### Roughing It - Hello Horse Camp (Moraga)

One-week, half-day introductory English riding camp for third-10th graders. This afternoon program offers beginning riding lessons and horsemanship, animal care, crafts and more! Campers learn the fundamentals of English horseback riding in daily lessons at our exclusive Moraga riding site. Full-day horse programs also available. Dates: one-week sessions run June 22-Aug. 14  
Phone: (925) 283-3795  
Email: camp@roughingit.com  
Website: www.roughingit.com/horse

### Sienna Ranch (Lafayette)

Lamorinda's own ranch camp experience. Camp choices include activities in nature immersion, primitive arts, survival skills, horse riding and care, farm animal interaction, archery, carpentry and more. Serving campers ages 4-14, Sienna Ranch offers weeklong, full-day or half-day camp options. All adult, professional staff and an amazing, convenient location. Dates: various dates and times available  
Phone: (925) 283-6311  
Website: www.siennaranch.net

### SMC Summer Camps (Moraga)

SMC offers 40-plus sports camps on one of the most picturesque campuses on the West Coast. Saint Mary's offers boys and girls overnight, day, team, and specialty camps for ages 4-18. Early Bird and extended care available depending on camp. Summer 2015 offers all sports, baseball, basketball, lacrosse, running, soccer, softball, tennis and volleyball camps. Email: smccamps@stmarys-ca.edu. Dates: various dates and times available  
Phone: (925) 631-4FUN (4386)  
Website: www.smcgaels.com, click "camps"



**43rd Year**

### Lamorinda's Hometown Camp

Lafayette Reservoir • Ages 4-16  
FREE Home Transportation • Free Extended Care

Win a Week of Camp! Sign Up @  
[www.roughingit.com/lamorinda/](http://www.roughingit.com/lamorinda/)



[www.roughingit.com](http://www.roughingit.com)

# Cougar Football

EST.  1996

## FULL GEAR YOUTH FOOTBALL CAMP

INSTRUCTOR: KEVIN MACY, HEAD FOOTBALL COACH  
AT CAMPOLINDO HIGH SCHOOL

GRADES 4 - 8, SEPARATED BY GRADE

DATES: July 6 thru July 17 (M - F) TIMES: 1:30 - 5:00 P.M.  
FEES: \$320 (T-shirt included)



FOR REGISTRATION FORMS, CONTACT:  
925/280-3950 x-5163, kmacy@acalanes.k12.ca.us  
or download registration form at [campfootball.net](http://campfootball.net)

# Lafayette Boy's Basketball Association (LBBA)

## Summer Camp at Acalanes High School

Join us and improve your basketball skills as well as have fun with Acalanes coaches and players! Registration open for boys entering 4th to 8th grade Dates are: June 29th to July 3rd, July 6th to 10th, July 13th to 17th Come for one week or all three weeks!

\$150 per week

For flyer and registration form email: [LBBASummerCamp@aol.com](mailto:LBBASummerCamp@aol.com)



# Oakland Strokes Summer Rowing Camps

Rowing Camps for Boys and Girls Ages 12 - 17

### Learn to Row Crew!

Our summer program is designed to provide an enjoyable but very real introduction to the great sport of rowing. We use these introductory camps as a recruiting program for all of our rowing teams. They provide excellent training for beginning rowers in rowing technique, teamwork, physical fitness and endurance. Within a week rowers will gain enough experience to compete in their very first race, an exciting experience for all! Classes now available on the San Pablo Reservoir or Oakland Estuary.

### One Week Introductory Sessions (8:30 - 11:30am)

June 22 <sup>nd</sup> - 26 <sup>th</sup>	(Intermediate* 10:30am - 1:30pm)
June 29 <sup>th</sup> - July 3 <sup>rd</sup>	(Intermediate* 10:30am - 1:30pm)
July 6 <sup>th</sup> - 10 <sup>th</sup>	(Intermediate* 10:30am - 1:30pm)
July 13 <sup>th</sup> - 17 <sup>th</sup>	(Intermediate* 10:30am - 1:30pm)
July 20 <sup>th</sup> - 24 <sup>th</sup>	(Intermediate* 10:30am - 1:30pm)
July 27 <sup>th</sup> - 31 <sup>st</sup>	(Intermediate* 10:30am - 1:30pm)

\*Intermediate sessions available to athletes who have completed a prior one week introductory session or our middle school program

Ideal for students entering 9th or 10th grade!

Learn More & Sign Up!  
[www.oaklandstrokes.org](http://www.oaklandstrokes.org)



# CALIFORNIA SHAKESPEARE THEATER

## 2- OR 4-WEEK SUMMER CAMPS



Locations in Oakland, Piedmont and Lafayette

**NO ORDINARY SUMMER CAMP**

**REGISTER NOW!**  
[www.SummerShakespeareCamp.org](http://www.SummerShakespeareCamp.org)

# BAY AREA ADVENTURE CAMPS 2015

The ultimate summer adventure day camp experience in the east bay.

New in Orinda



### Bay Area Adventurers

Campers enjoy a new and exciting summer adventure everyday. The road to summer adventure fun includes instruction by professional bay area Instructors, all admissions to attractions and activities, transportation and memories to last a lifetime. 8:30am - 4:30pm.

### Film, Photo, Skateboard, or Sports

- Plus Adventure Day Camp

Campers enjoy a morning of photography education, movie making, skateboard/scooter fun or classic sports camp activities and then head off to an afternoon of adventure fun like Six Flags, Horseback Riding, Sky High Sports, Bowling, Movies, Swimming and more. And there's an all day trip on Fridays to Waterworld. 9am - 4pm M-Fri. Also available as a Half Day (M-Th) Sports only camp.

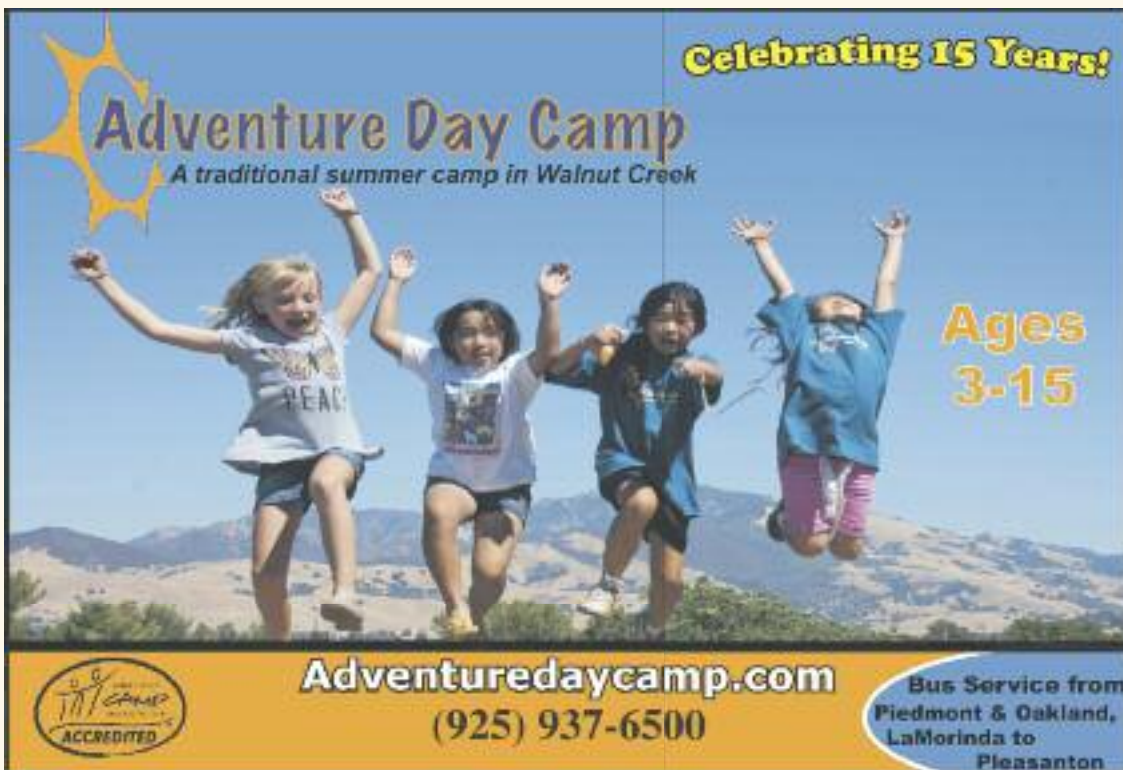
<http://bayareaadventurecamp.com> (925) 276-2325  
for more details and sign up soon to reserve your spot in the summer fun.

- Windsurfing
- Paddle Boarding
- Horseback Riding
- Archery
- Indoor Skydiving
- Six Flags
- Waterworld
- Sea Kayaking
- ...and much more.

Celebrating 15 Years!

# Adventure Day Camp

A traditional summer camp in Walnut Creek



Ages 3-15

[Adventuredaycamp.com](http://Adventuredaycamp.com)  
(925) 937-6500

Bus Service from Piedmont & Oakland, LaMorinda to Pleasanton

VACATION BIBLE CAMP 2015



Register at [LOPC.org](http://LOPC.org)

JUNE 15-19

**LET'S MOVE**

From bored to passionate, from selfish to giving,  
from unfocused to wide awake.



4-years-old through 4th grade.

**LAFAYETTE-ORINDA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
49 Knox Dr., Lafayette | 925-283-8722 | [LOPC.org](http://LOPC.org)  
Sunday Services: 9:00 & 11:00 a.m.

Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church



**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**  
**June 22-26**  
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

Put on your climbing gear and get ready for an exciting adventure exploring God's power and promises. On our trek we'll discover glacier games, carabiner crafts and mountain top treats! Anchor at the exploration station or rock out to our live band! This base camp is cool! Register on our website. Don't miss this epic expedition!

**Camp cost: \$70 per child**  
Children must be 4 years old through entering 5th grade.

 10 Moraga Valley Lane  
Moraga, CA 94556  
925-376-4800

Register online!  
[www.mvpctoday.org](http://www.mvpctoday.org)

**SUMMER CAMPS 2015**

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOLS**

**Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church (Moraga)**

Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church's "Son Mountain High Adventures" Vacation Bible School, an expedition powered by God! For children who are 4 years old (by June 22) to those entering fifth grade in the fall.

Dates: June 22-26; 9 a.m. to noon  
Cost: \$70 per child  
Phone: (925) 376-4800  
Website and Registration: [www.mvpctoday.org](http://www.mvpctoday.org).

**Lafayette United Methodist Church (Lafayette)**

Lasers! Gyroscopes! Telescopes! Fusion! Fission! SonSparks Lab is exploration and imagination – featuring music, skits, crafts, games, snacks and adventure. For kids in preschool through eighth grade. Special program for middle-schoolers includes field trips to serve at CC Food Bank, Monument Crisis Center, etc. All children welcome. Cost: \$60/child. Dates: June 22-26; 9 a.m. to noon  
Phone: (925) 284-4765  
Email: [office@thelumc.org](mailto:office@thelumc.org),  
Website: [www.thelumc.org](http://www.thelumc.org)

**Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church (Lafayette)**

At 2015 Vacation Bible Camp, we want kids to move. From bored to passionate, from selfish to giving, from unfocused to wide awake. Through stories, songs, games and more, we'll learn that whenever Jesus meets someone, they change direction and make a move. For 4-year-olds through completed fourth graders.

Dates: June 15-19, afternoon  
Cost: \$60/child (after May 1, \$75)  
Phone: (925) 283-8722 x234  
E-mail: [ryan@LOPC.org](mailto:ryan@LOPC.org)  
Website: [www.LOPC.org](http://www.LOPC.org)

**Christian Adventure Camp (Moraga)**

Your kids (grades 1-6) will love a weeklong quality adventure of fun-filled days discovering how much God loves them! Games, skits, music, crafts and more!

Cost: free – we don't want cost to be prohibitive, donations only as able.  
Dates: July 20-24; 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Phone: (925) 376-3550  
Website: [www.willowspringchurch.com](http://www.willowspringchurch.com)

**VARIETY CAMPS**

**Chinese Dinner Summer Camp (Lafayette, Moraga)**

Cooking with Kids Foundation's summer camps through the Lafayette and Moraga Parks and Recreation programs. Your kids will fall in love with healthy cooking. Two-hour classes for kids, ages 4-10.

Lafayette Community Center: July 20 -24 ; Cost: \$255.  
Register at [www.LafayetteRec.org](http://www.LafayetteRec.org)  
Moraga Hacienda de las Flores: July 27 -31, Cost: \$258.  
Register at (925) 888-7036  
Website: [www.cwkf.org](http://www.cwkf.org)

**City of Lafayette - Recreation Summer Camps (Lafayette)**

Soccer, cheerleading, cooking, dance, fencing, Mad Science, Spanish, engineering, LEGOs, tennis, Critters-N-Clay, music, robotics, hip-hop, RC car racing, basketball, golf, chess and more!

Dates: various dates and times available  
Phone: (925) 284-2232  
Website: [www.LafayetteRec.org](http://www.LafayetteRec.org)

**City of Orinda Recreation Camps (Orinda)**

A variety of half-day camps offered for ages 3-15: Orinda Kids (OK) Camp, Orinda Summer Enrichment Program – Rainforest Adventure, art, babysitting, carpentry, dance, engineering, gymnastics, musical theater (including Frozen, Junglebook, Wicked, Little Mermaid, Annie and Tangled), Nature Camp and various sports including basketball, baseball, flag football and more!

Dates: June 10 - Aug. 23  
Phone: (925) 254-2445  
Website: [www.cityoforinda.org](http://www.cityoforinda.org)

**Moraga Parks and Recreation Summer Camps (Moraga)**

Parks make life better ... and so do summer camps! A variety of camps are offered through the Moraga Parks and Recreation Department: Camp Hacienda, Breakaway Camp (tween day trips), Bricks 4 Kidz, IncrediFlix, Kindercool, Skyhawks Sports, math, public speaking, art, writing and much more! Registration is currently open.

Dates: various dates and times available  
Phone: (925) 888-7045  
Website: [www.moraga.ca.us](http://www.moraga.ca.us)

**Chinese Dinner Summer Camp**

*We make your kids fall in LOVE with healthy cooking.*

<b>Lafayette</b>	<b>Moraga</b>
Pot stickers - almond cookies	or Moraga Hacienda de las Flores
Lafayette Community Center:	
<b>July 20-24; Class \$255.</b>	<b>July 27-31, Class: \$258.</b>
register: <a href="http://www.LafayetteRec.org">www.LafayetteRec.org</a>	Register: (925) 888-7036




2 hour classes, ages 4 - 10 yrs.  
Find more information at [www.cwkf.org](http://www.cwkf.org)

**SonSpark Labs Day Camp**

June 22 - June 26, 9 am - 12 Noon  
Ages 3 - 12 Cost: \$60/each

**Lafayette United Methodist Church**  
955 Moraga Road, Lafayette  
Registration forms available online at: [www.thelumc.org](http://www.thelumc.org)  
E-mail: [office@thelumc.org](mailto:office@thelumc.org)  
Call: 925-284-4765

*Crafts, music, games, skits, stories, and snacks! Everyone is welcome. Bring your friends. Middle School Kids do special service projects!*



**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

July 20 – 24  
9:00am - 1:00pm

Willow Spring Community Church  
1689 School Street  
Moraga



Theme: **Agency D-3**

Grades 1 – 6

Your kids will love a week-long quality adventure of fun-filled days discovering how much God loves them!  
Games, Skits, Music, Crafts, and more!

Call: 925-376-3550  
Register at: [www.willowspringchurch.com](http://www.willowspringchurch.com)

Cost: **FREE**  
Donations only as able

# 'Shrek The Musical Jr.' at OIS

Submitted by Jeanette Lipp



Orinda Intermediate School's Shrek Duloc cast and crew, taken on the first day of rehearsals. Photo provided

Orinda Intermediate School's spring musical "Shrek The Musical Jr." opens April 30 at the Bulldog Theater. It's a "big bright beautiful world" in this hilarious stage spectacle based on the Oscar-winning DreamWorks Animation smash hit film. This show features a host of over-the-top characters in a dazzling adventure story.

In a faraway kingdom, the green ogre Shrek finds his swamp invaded

by banished fairytale misfits, runaways who've been cast off by Lord Farquaad, a tiny terror with big ambitions. When Shrek sets off with a wise-cracking donkey to confront Farquaad, he's handed a task – if he rescues feisty Princess Fiona from the Dragon-guarded tower, his swamp will be returned to him. But, a fairy tale wouldn't be complete without unexpected twists and turns along the way. Part romance and part twisted

fairy tale, "Shrek Jr." is an irreverently fun show for the whole family.

The production is directed and produced by Bay Area Children's Theatre (BACT) as part of their Education Program. Rachel Robinson serves as director with Annie Clark as music director and choreographer. In reference to the production, Robinson notes, "Hidden underneath 'Shrek: The Musical's' fluffy exterior, is a surprisingly compelling story about what it means to defy convention and discover your true self. It is my hope that every student in the cast of 'Shrek' has come to feel empowered to express his or her own unique flair. I have always believed that actors are some of the bravest people in the world. It takes true fearlessness to get up on stage in front of a room full of people and just throw yourself into a role. It is exciting, inspiring, and a true reminder that what makes us special really does make us strong."

There are two casts, which include approximately 60 OIS students along with an additional 14 OIS students serving on tech crew. Performances will run April 30 to May 2 at the OIS Bulldog Theater. The performance lasts a total of 90 minutes, including one intermission. For show time information and to purchase tickets, visit [www.showtix4u.com](http://www.showtix4u.com). Tickets are also available at OIS Theater one half hour prior to show times.

# JM ECO Gears Up for Earth Week April 16-22

By Hillary Hoppock



Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School art teacher Moose Wesler worked with students, teachers, parents and community members to complete the "Continents of the World" mural. Photo provided

The Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School Environmental Club led a successful campaign to help save 1,352 sea turtles this fall and sponsored a "Continents of the World" ecology mural on the JM science building. This spring the JM ECO club will cap off the school year with campus-wide Earth Week events April 16-22, based on an "AWAREness" theme.

With every dollar raised saving a baby sea turtle, ECO club students organized a homeroom competition that netted \$1,352 and placed JM as the top school across the country participating in the contest to raise funds for the SEE Turtle organization. All species of sea turtles targeted for this support are listed as critical or endangered.

In 2014, the ECO club approached JM art teacher Moose Wesler about an environmentally themed mural for the school's science building. Wesler worked with the ECO club to develop the concept of the world's continents shaped by renderings of animals specific to each continent. She used ECO students'

animal drawings to design the mural, and with help from students, teachers, parents and community members completed the "Continents of the World" mural in December. Wesler previously used student art to create and complete both the Ancient Egypt mural on the sixth grade Core building in 2011 and the Carol Robak Teacher Memorial mural on the JM gymnasium in 2012.

To fund the mural, JM ECO used accumulated savings from the school-wide food waste diversion program developed four years ago by JM science teacher Kim Lockett. The school's three waste sorting stations operate daily at brunch and lunch to successfully divert 300 pounds of food per week. Along with other Bay Area schools and restaurants, JM's food waste goes to the Emeryville Waste Water Treatment Plant to be converted through a digestive process to energy to power the plant fully.

For the annual JM Earth Week, ECO club students plan, prepare and manage all-school lunchtime activities for a week to encourage the stu-

dent body to reflect and take action on environmental challenges. This year's "AWARE" theme involves an (A) awareness scavenger hunt; (W) waste sites mapping and geotagging on a "Litterati" website ([litterati.org](http://litterati.org)); (A) art to create mini-turtles from walnuts and fabric; (R) recycle and reuse T-shirts to make new flags for the JM garden; and an (E) earth pledge on the school's blacktop outside the gym for students to commit to earth-healthy practices in their daily lives. Students who participate every day in Earth Week events receive an earth-themed snow cone.

JM ECO is in its sixth year and continues to involve students, staff and the community in events and activities to raise consciousness and offer opportunities for earth "wise" action. As noted in the Jane Goodall quote in the upper right corner of JM's newest mural: "You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you. What you do makes a difference and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make."

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# In Memory

## Margaret de Vries

(Alexanderina Margaret Milne)

July 22, 1929 – March 26, 2015



Margaret was an active member of the Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church where she served on several committees over the years. The ones most dear to her heart were the Stephen's Ministry where she came alongside people to love, listen, pray and support them during their times of need and the Women's Bible Study where she was a long time leader on

Tuesday mornings. Margaret was also a former Bible Study Fellowship (BSF) leader in the Bay Area and former member of Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church.

Margaret has been known for the beautiful hats she would wear on Sunday mornings and for her great sense of humor. She was also known for the lovely luncheons and fun gatherings she would host at her home. She was quite proud of the abundant and colorful flowers that she nurtured around her home.

Young Margaret was very involved in the Salvation Army in Detroit, Mich., and attributed her strong faith from those early roots. Although aspiring to be a nurse, Margaret left her life in Detroit when she became engaged to John J. de Vries whom she met at Hope Reformed Church while visiting her father in Los Angeles.

During her years in Los Angeles, Margaret volunteered in her children's schools and the family church as well as at Harbor General Hospital in San Pedro.

She was preceded in death by her daughter, Linda Keil on July 6, 1991 and most recently by her husband, John J. de Vries Sr. on Aug. 10, 2014, whom she married on Feb. 11, 1949. She and John had been residents of Moraga since 1971.

Margaret's greatest joy was her family. She was a dedicated mother to her daughter, Heather Alcantar and to her son, John de Vries Jr. as well as to her sons-in-law, Tim Alcantar and Timothy Keil and her daughter-in-law, Sonia de Vries, and honorary daughter-in-law, Laura Keil. She was a jubilant and loving grandmother to Katherine Keil, Aimee Keil Hauptman and husband Joe, Jordan Alcantar, Eric Alcantar, Michelle de Vries and Jonathan de Vries.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Margaret's honor to:  
Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church  
10 Moraga Valley Lane, Moraga, CA 94556 or  
Salvation Army  
2794 Garden Street, Oakland, CA 94601

# Community Service

## Donation from "Mountain Jack" Ingram Benefits East Bay Hikers and Their Dogs

Submitted by Carolyn Jones

Hikers, joggers, bicyclists and even dogs now have a place to rest and enjoy fresh drinking water on a popular Contra Costa County trail, thanks to a donation from an avid outdoorsman and former Lafayette resident who died in 2007.

John "Mountain Jack" Ingram, who passed away in December 2007 at age 81, left \$50,000 to the Regional Parks Foundation as a tribute to his parents, Stuart and Venita Ingram, who were longtime Lafayette residents.

In honor of Ingram and his parents, the Regional Parks Foundation and East Bay Regional Park District dedicated a bench under a shady tree, a water fountain for humans and dogs, and a plaque embedded in a rock at the Olympic Boulevard Staging Area of the Lafayette-Moraga Regional Trail near downtown Lafayette.

The dedication, which drew park officials as well as Ingram family and friends from throughout the East Bay and as far away as Oregon, occurred March 13 at the

Olympic staging area, which is the northern end of the picturesque, winding 7.6-mile paved trail.

Ingram grew up in Lafayette and was in one of the first classes to graduate from Acalanes High School. He served in the Navy on two aircraft carriers in the South Pacific, and worked for many years for Auto Week magazine.

He loved skiing and hiking, leading hundreds on mountain adventures in the East Bay and Sierra Nevada. Among his many contributions to Northern California out-

door life, he helped establish the Bay Area Ridge Trail, which so far includes more than 350 miles of stunning vistas and challenging terrain across the Bay Area's hilltops.

For more information about the Bay Area Ridge Trail, go to: <http://www.ridgetrail.org/>. To learn more about the Lafayette-Moraga Trail, visit: [http://www.ebparks.org/parks/trails/lafayette\\_moraga](http://www.ebparks.org/parks/trails/lafayette_moraga).

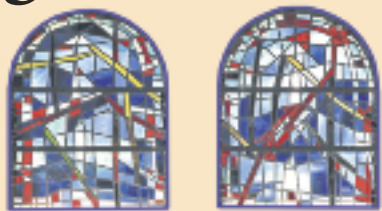
The East Bay Regional Park District is a system of beautiful public parks and trails in Alameda



John Ingram Photo provided and Contra Costa counties east of San Francisco Bay, established in 1934. The system comprises 119,000 acres in 65 parks including over 1,250 miles of trails for hiking, biking, horseback riding and nature learning.

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 may be sent to [storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com) with the subject header In Service to the Community.

## Lamorinda's Religious Services



### Lafayette United Methodist Church



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

<b>Worship</b>	Sunday	10 am
<b>Children &amp; Teen Faith Formation</b>	Sunday	10 am
<b>Teen Fellowship</b>	Sunday	6 pm

Opportunities for Worship, Love, Service



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

► **SEEDLINGS Preschool**, M-F.

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

LAFAYETTE-ORINDA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
**LOPC.org**



### Worship the Lord

& Celebrate Our 25<sup>th</sup> Year of Building Hope in Mexico

one service & lunch  
April 12<sup>th</sup>, 9:30am

MORAGA VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
10 Moraga Valley Lane • www.mvpc.today.org • 925-376-4800

### ORINDA CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH

#### Curing The Incurable

Learn how prayer can heal cancer, rheumatoid arthritis, anorexia.

Apr. 10, 7:30 p.m. Orinda Library

www.christianscienceorinda.org 254-4212

### Willow Spring Community Church

Loving God Loving People

Come and Meet our New Pastor

**Sundays:** 9:15am Adult Sunday School Classes  
10:15am Pre-Service Fellowship (Free Coffee & Bagels)  
10:45am Contemporary Worship Service

**Wednesdays:** 10:00am Community Bible Study

1689 School Street, Moraga (925) 376-3550

www.willow.springchurch.net

### Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church

433 Moraga Way, Orinda, 254-3422  
www.holyshepherd.org



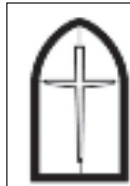
8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship  
9:40 a.m. Education for all ages  
10:45 a.m. Contemporary Worship  
Coffee Fellowship at 9:30 and 11:45 a.m.  
Childcare available for ages 5 and younger

### SAINT GILES' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

9am Sunday School & Communion Service in the SMC Chapel



stgiles-moraga.org  
(925) 376-5770  
traditional liturgy + inclusive theology



### St Stephen's Episcopal Church

66 St. Stephen's Drive, Orinda  
254-3770. www.ststephenorinda.org  
Sunday 8am, 10am

### The Orinda Community Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ  
10 Irwin Way, Orinda | 925.254.4906 | www.orindachurch.org

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

Join us Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

Sunday School 10:00 a.m

### St. Anselm's Episcopal Church

A Loving Community

**Sunday Services: 8 and 10 AM**

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

## ◆ Not to be missed ◆ Not to be missed ◆

### ART

**Lafayette Art Gallery's current exhibit "Trending"** will be open through May 2, with a free reception from 5 to 7 p.m. Friday, April 10. The Gallery is located at The Forge, 3420 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. Gallery hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday – Saturday; 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday. Closed on Monday. For more info, call (925) 284-2788 or visit www.lafayetteartgallery.com.

**Bedford Gallery's next exhibition, "The Object and the Void: West Coast Metal Sculpture,"** will run through April 12. This show gathers works from renowned artists Bella Feldman, Linda Fleming, Yoshitomo Saito and Clay Jensen. The exhibition will feature both large and small scale works, made using techniques from cast bronze to cut steel, demonstrating the artists' masterful command of their media.

**The Moraga Art Gallery announces a new show** entitled "Transitions" featuring the one-of-a-kind, Asia-accented jewelry of Lafayette's own master jeweler K. de Groot, and a collection of Raku and pit-fired pottery by guest artist Mary Leigh Miller of Moraga. The show opens April 18 and will run until May 30. The public is invited to attend an opening reception from 5 to 7 p.m. on Saturday, April 18 to see the exhibit, have some wine, meet the artists, and enjoy the company of other Lamorinda art lovers.

### MUSIC

**Pacific Chamber Symphony presents "An Italian Feast"** at 7:30 p.m. Friday, April 17 at the Lafayette Library Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd. The Orchestra's 26th season closes with Karl Ditters von Dittersdorf's Symphony No. 1 in C, "The Four Ages of Man" and Felix Mendelssohn's "Italian" Symphony No. 4 with Ron Blais, trumpet soloist. Tickets \$10-35 at www.brownpapertickets.com or 1 (800) 838-3006.

**WomenSing presents Treble Voices Now New Music Festival** from noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, April 18, at Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Drive, Lafayette. WomenSing and Quinteto Latino present the first public reading of a jointly commissioned new work by Jose-Luis Hurtado. Free. For more info, go to <http://womensing.org/concerts/current-season/> or call (925) 798-4875 or email [info@womensing.org](mailto:info@womensing.org).

**Pianopalooza! At 4 p.m. Sunday, April 26, three** Bay Area pianists – David Olachea, Randy Creighton and Martin Morley – present the finest in piano literature on an outstanding 9-foot concert grand on loan from Oakland's Piedmont Piano Company. Works by Chopin, Alkan, Prokofiev, Scriabin, Ravel, Ginastera, Gershwin and Creighton. Free. Our Savior's Lutheran Church Concert Series, 1035 Carol Lane in Lafayette. For info, visit [www.oslc.net](http://www.oslc.net) or call (925) 283-3722.

**WomenSing's Choral Composers Symposium and Workshop.** Words into Music Symposium Friday, April 27, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saint Mary's College (Hagerty Lounge), Moraga, and the Youth Inspiring Youth Composers Workshop, Saturday, April 28, 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Lafayette Events Center, Lafayette. The choral composition panel features composers Libby Larsen and Sandra Milliken, poet Francisco Alarcon and conductor Martin Benvenuto. Free, reservations required. For luncheon or panel discussion time reservations, email [info@womensing.org](mailto:info@womensing.org) no later than Wednesday, April 25. For more info, visit [www.womensing.org](http://www.womensing.org) or call (925) 974-9169 or email [info@womensing.org](mailto:info@womensing.org).

**Fifth Annual Lafayette Community Music Festival** - Town Hall's signature acoustic music event – at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, May 2. This year's line up: Other People's Money, Mark Stanley From Rock Island, Pat Nevins, Kiki Stack's All-Stars, Clive Worsley & Friends, Mike Miller. Tickets: \$30 advance; \$35 at the door.

**Voci Women's Vocal Ensemble, directed by Anne Hege,** presents "Women with a Vision: The Lasting Influence of Hildegard von Bingen and Nadia Boulanger," a concert celebrating the roles that two great female composers have played in shaping the course of music and the trajectory of new music at 4 p.m. Sunday, May 3 at St. Perpetua

Catholic Parish, 3445 Hamlin Rd. Lafayette. Tickets: \$25 suggested donation at the door; \$20 advance; \$15 students. For advanced tickets, visit [brownpapertickets.com](http://brownpapertickets.com) or [www.vocisings.com](http://www.vocisings.com). For info, call (510) 531-8714.

**Maestro David Morales and The Cantare Con Vivo Chamber Ensemble** join with the renowned Bay Area instrumental ensemble Quijjeremá for Music of Latin America May 6 at Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Drive, Lafayette. The audience will be treated to a concert filled with stirring selections from various South and Central American countries, the Caribbean Islands and Mexico. The history of a great people that dominate our hemisphere will come alive through their music, narration and pictures. Tickets: \$25 General, \$20 Senior, \$10 Youth. For tickets visit [www.cantareconvivo.org](http://www.cantareconvivo.org) or call the CCV office at (510) 836-0789.

### THEATER

**Crosslight Theater will kick off its first production** since being formed in January 2015 by the merger of Contra Costa Christian Theater and Center Stage of Diablo Valley with "Seussical the Musical" for seven shows over two weekends in April at Walnut Creek's Del Valle Theater, located at 1630 Tice Valley Blvd. This imaginative, energetic, engaging production features the singing, dancing and acting talents of 30 local actors and is sure to delight adults and children alike. For tickets and showtimes visit [www.crosslighttheater.org](http://www.crosslighttheater.org) or [www.lesherartscenter.org](http://www.lesherartscenter.org).

**The Acalanes DramaDons present "The Rimers of Eldritch,"** directed by Ed Meehan. The highly imaginative and affecting drama, with a political bite, runs at 7 p.m. April 29 and 30, and May 1 and 2 in the Acalanes Performing Arts Center Little Theatre. Advance ticket sales available through the AHS Web store and on campus during lunch. Limited ticket sales are available at the door. All proceeds benefit Acalanes Performing Arts Boosters-Drama. Tickets: \$10 adults; \$7 students and seniors. For more info, visit <http://dramadons.org/>.

**"Shrek The Musical JR" at Orinda Intermediate School,** 4:30 and 7:30 p.m. April 30 and May 1 and 5 p.m. May 2 at 80 Ivy Drive, Orinda. Ticket prices range from \$3 - \$10 and are available for advance purchase at [www.showtix4u.com](http://www.showtix4u.com). Tickets will also be sold at the door. (See story page B9)

**The Acalanes High School DramaDons theater group** presents "Hamlet," a fast-paced adaptation of Shakespeare's greatest tragedy by Bay Area playwright/director Jon Tracy explores the bonds of youth and the influence that their elders exert on them, May 2-5, 7:30 p.m. Tickets: \$10 general; \$7 students/seniors at [www.dramadons.org](http://www.dramadons.org) or at the door.

### LECTURE & LITERATURE

**First Friday Forum will feature Ken Wiseman,** executive director of the Parks Forward Commission speaking on "Parks Forward: A New Project to Protect State Parks in California" at 1:30 p.m. Friday, April 10 in the Sanctuary of Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Drive, Lafayette (second Friday because of Good Friday) with refreshments at 1 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Free.

**Documentary Photographer Matt Herron will speak** at Orinda Community Church, 10 Irwin Way, Orinda, at 11:30 a.m. and again at 2:30 p.m. April 12 about his experience covering the Civil Rights movement in the Deep South during the summer of 1964. Herron, a photojournalist since 1962 covered the struggle for Life, Look, Time, Newsweek, and the Saturday Evening Post magazines, and also provided pictures for the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee. His recent book, "Mississippi Eyes," documents the process of social change in the South. Free. For more info, call (925) 254-8754.

**The Storytelling Association of California** (<http://www.storiesaac.org>) presents a family friendly festival of oral narratives, poetry, workshops, music and more from 6:30 to 9 p.m. April 24, from 9:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. April 25, and from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. April 26 at the Orinda Community Center, 28 Orinda Way. For more info, call (510) 869-4946 or email [info@bayareastorytelling.org](mailto:info@bayareastorytelling.org).

### KIDS, PARENTS & TEENS

**2015 Poul Anderson Writing Contest - open to all students** who reside and/or attend high school in Orinda. Entry categories are science fiction, essay/memoir, poetry and short story. Students may submit one entry in any of the four categories for a total of not more than three entries. Submission deadline is noon on Friday, April 17. If you have any questions about the contest, email [contest@friendsoftheorindalibrary.com](mailto:contest@friendsoftheorindalibrary.com).

**Contra Costa Jewish Day School, Temple Isaiah, PJ Library,** The Jewish Federation of the East Bay present Shadow puppetry and music with Daniel Barash, The Shadow Puppet Workshop from 3:30 to 5 p.m. on Sunday, April 26 at Contra Costa Jewish Day School, 955 Risa Road, Lafayette. Celebrating Yom Ha'atzmaut, Israel's Independence Day. Free. For info, visit <https://www.facebook.com/events/1506615376221150/>.

### EARTH DAY FESTIVITIES

**Wildlife/Earth Day Festival from noon to 4:30 p.m.** Sunday, April 19 at the Nature Area of Wagner Ranch Elementary School, 350 Camino Pablo in Orinda. Entertainment by an Earth Tribute Band and student musicians, photo contest (info at [fvma.org](http://fvma.org)), participate in arts and crafts, live raptors for viewing and education, bee display, student recycling projects, solar project displays and more. Food and drinks will be available for purchase. Free.

**Lafayette's 10th annual Earth Day Festival** from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, April 26 at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center. This special anniversary event, hosted by Sustainable Lafayette, Lafayette Chamber of Commerce, Lafayette Library and the City of Lafayette, will focus on green transportation options and feature hundreds of Lafayette community members arriving at the event on foot, bikes, skateboards and other self-propelled means to enjoy food, fun, entertainment, and discover the latest ideas and approaches for living a more sustainable life. The Earth Day Festival will also feature live music, art, storytelling, a scavenger hunt and conservation-themed displays. For more info, visit [www.sustainable-lafayette.org](http://www.sustainable-lafayette.org).

### OTHER

**10th annual Sudden Oak Death Blitz survey** by UC-sponsored volunteers to provide data for academic analyses can come to the Garden Room at the Orinda Library, 26 Orinda Way, at 10 a.m. Saturday, April 11 for a one-hour session on SOD and the Blitz leaf collection protocol with UC professor and SOD Blitz founder Dr. Matteo Garbelotto, then collect leaves from areas and at times of your choosing through Sunday, April 12. Visit [www.sodblitz.org](http://www.sodblitz.org) for more info. For space and material planning purposes, email William Hudson at [willhh@gmail.com](mailto:willhh@gmail.com) if you plan to come.

**Second annual Dogtown Downtown from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.** Saturday, April 11. Dog Parade at 10 a.m. from the Lafayette Plaza Park to the Lafayette Library and Learning Center. In addition to the parade there will be demonstrations, exhibits and contests. (See story page A3)

**The Orinda Starlight Village Players (ORSVP)** is holding season auditions at 3 p.m. Sunday, April 12 at the Orinda Community Center Park Amphitheater and at 7 p.m. Monday, April 13 in the Orinda Community Center carpentry room. You will be asked to read from scripts provided. For more info, call Jill at (925) 528-9225 or email [info@orsvp.org](mailto:info@orsvp.org).

**Remember, Renew and Refill: a Journey Through Grief** – a workshop and luncheon to honor lost loved ones from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Saturday, April 18 at Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church, 10 Moraga Valley Lane, Moraga. Opening and Closing Speakers will be Dianne West, executive director of Moraga Royale, and author Diane Shore. Breakout sessions will be led by Jeffrey Ismael, bereavement services manager for Vitas Hospice, and Marilyn Hunt, LMFT. Free. Reservations are requested: (925) 376-4800 ext. 285 or [www.mvpc.today.org](http://www.mvpc.today.org).

... continued on next page

Please submit events to:  
[calendar@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:calendar@lamorindaweekly.com)

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**OTHER ... continued**

**“From the Bridge to the Ballot Box,”** a 40-minute film celebrating the unsung heroes of the 1960s Civil Rights Movement, will be presented at 5 p.m. Saturday, April 18 in the parish hall at St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church, Orinda. The film is a part of the Southern Poverty Law Center’s outreach in Teaching Tolerance. After the film, Bettie Fikes, who was a teenaged organizer in Selma with the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee, will join youth in a discussion of the film. Pizza will be served. Fikes will present a musical performance in the sanctuary beginning at 7 p.m. Free.

**Orinda Action Day 2015 is Saturday, April 18.** Check in starting 9 a.m. at Orinda Library Plaza. Volunteers receive free T-shirts, as available. Report back to Library Plaza after project completion (11:30 a.m. to noon) for pizza and celebration. Lend a hand! RSVP at [www.orindaassociation.org](http://www.orindaassociation.org) (go to volunteer tab) to indicate which project you prefer. If representing a group, state group name and number of participants expected.

**Annual Moraga Beautiful event will be held rain or shine Saturday, April 18** from 9 a.m. to noon at Moraga Commons Park. Volunteers should meet at the park and wear old clothes for weeding and the beautification of the park picnic benches. The town will supply gloves, brushes and stain. Individuals and groups welcome! Call (925) 888-7045 for more information.

**Be the Star You Are Book Bash Blowout** from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, April 25 (after the Triathlon) at 5A Rent A Space, 455 Moraga Rd., Moraga. Hundreds of brand new books priced from 99 cents. Spend \$19.99 and receive a free new book. Free kid crafts, entertainment, snacks, giveaways, author signings. Proceeds benefit BTSYA literacy charity. For info, visit [http://btsya.com/events\\_calendar.html](http://btsya.com/events_calendar.html).

## Lamorinda Weekly

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**Contact us:**  
Letters to the editor (max 350 words): [letters@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:letters@lamorindaweekly.com)  
Sport events/stories/pictures: [sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com)  
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General interest stories/Community Service: [storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com)

**Publishers/Owners:**  
Andy and Wendy Scheck; [andy@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:andy@lamorindaweekly.com), [wendy@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:wendy@lamorindaweekly.com)

**Editor:** Jennifer Wake; [jennifer@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:jennifer@lamorindaweekly.com)

**Sports Editor:** Caitlin Mitchell; [sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com)

**Advertising:** 925-377-0977, Wendy Scheck; [wendy@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:wendy@lamorindaweekly.com)

**Staff Writers:**  
Sophie Braccini; [sophie@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:sophie@lamorindaweekly.com), Cathy Tyson; [cathy@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:cathy@lamorindaweekly.com);  
Laurie Snyder; [laurie@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:laurie@lamorindaweekly.com), Cathy Dausman; [cathy.d@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:cathy.d@lamorindaweekly.com),  
Nick Marnell; [nick@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:nick@lamorindaweekly.com)  
Digging Deep: Cynthia Brian; [cynthia@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:cynthia@lamorindaweekly.com)  
Food: Susie Iventosch; [suziventosch@gmail.com](mailto:suziventosch@gmail.com)

**Contributing Writers:** Conrad Bassett, Moya Stone, Michael Sakoda, Marissa Harnett, Lou Fancher, Chris Lavin, Amanda Kuehn Carroll, Diane Claytor, Scott Wu, Lauren Kim, Uma Unni, Spencer Silva, Karl Buscheck, Ryan McKinley, Zoe Portnoff, Barry Hunau (cartoonist), Derek Zembrak (Film Critic)

**Calendar Editor:** Jaya Griggs

**Photos:** Tod Fierner, Ohlen Alexander, Gint Federas

**Layout/Graphics:** Andy Scheck. Printed in CA.

**Mailing address:**

**Lamorinda Weekly**, P.O. Box 6133, Moraga, CA 94570-6133

Phone: 925-377-0977; Fax: 1-800-690-8136

email: [info@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:info@lamorindaweekly.com) website: [www.lamorindaweekly.com](http://www.lamorindaweekly.com)

## Not to be missed

### GARDEN

**JF Kapnek's 12th Annual Family 5k/1k Fun Run** at 9 a.m. Sunday, April 26 at Miramonte High School in Orinda. There will be face painting, crafts, brunch, Zimbabwean food, African band, free T-shirt, fun run, prizes and more. To register, go to [Active.com](http://Active.com) (keyword: KAPNEK).

**Registrations are being accepted for the Moraga Classic Car Show.** Area residents who own classic cars are invited to participate in the 7th annual Moraga Classic Car Show, which takes place from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, May 9 as part of the 2015 Moraga Community Faire. The \$30 registration fee includes an entry ribbon, lunch for two, a commemorative photo, and a chance for owners to display their restoration work to the public. Prizes will be awarded. The registration deadline is May 1. To register, go to [www.moragachamber.org/faire](http://www.moragachamber.org/faire) or call Gloria at (925) 247-4473 or Jason at (925) 788-3889.

### SENIORS

**Discovering Opera: Mozart's The Magic Flute.** The story of Mozart's last opera is a curious combination of the noble Tamino's search for enlightenment and the low comedy of his sidekick Papageno, not to mention the wicked queen, the sage elder, the damsel in distress, and the fantastical forest creatures that he meets along the way. It's all set to some of Mozart's greatest music, with some of the highest high notes and lowest low notes that you will ever hear in opera. Lecturer Bradford Wade will give a guided tour of The Magic Flute, with a description of the plot interspersed with musical examples from 1:30 to 3 p.m. Thursday, April 9 in the Lafayette Library, Community Hall. Free for Senior Services members; \$10 non-members

**Sons In Retirement - Branch 116 welcomes guests** to socialize at monthly luncheons beginning at 11:30 a.m. Monday, April 20 at Walnut Creek Elks Lodge, 1475 Creekside Drive. The speaker, Jane Kreidler, outreach coordinator, Contractors State License Board, will share her experiences to help seniors recognize scams and provide steps to proactively resist fraud. Lunch is \$15. Guests are welcome. For reservations, call (925) 322-1160.

**Avoiding Falls Presentation by Anne Randolph,** Physical Therapist. Falls are a threat to your health and independence. Learn how to gain increased balance, avoid falls, and remain self-sufficient. 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 22 in the Sequoia Room, Lafayette Community Center. Cost per class: free for members; \$10 non-members.

**Get Organized by Creating a Home Inventory, Gaining Control of Paper Clutter.** Find out why and what you should inventory, how much value is potentially being overlooked, and the importance of leaving an organized, documented digital legacy for your loved ones. Learn how to set up an efficient, simple filing system, and tips on how to take control of the paper clutter once and for all from 10:30 a.m. to noon Wednesday, April 29 in the Cedar Room, Lafayette Community Center. Free for Senior Services members; \$10 non-members.

**Moraga Gardens Farm Annual Plant Sale** from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays through April 19, 1290 Moraga Way (between the fire station and School Street). Many varieties of heirloom and hybrid tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, herb starts offered for sale to the Lamorinda backyard gardener. For info, contact [curtinm@gmail.com](mailto:curtinm@gmail.com).

**The Lafayette Garden Club will meet from 9:30 a.m. to noon** Thursday, April 9 in the Lafayette Veterans Memorial Hall, 3780 Mt. Diablo Blvd., and will feature Rosemary Loveall presenting "Companion Planting with Herbs." Loveall is owner of Morningsun Herb Farm in the countryside of Vacaville. With degrees in both forestry and environmental horticulture, she operates this specialty nursery where she propagates and sells over 600 varieties of herbs and many unusual landscape perennials. For info, email [cpoetzsch@gmail.com](mailto:cpoetzsch@gmail.com).

**Montelindo Garden Club Meeting** will be at 9 a.m. Friday, April 17 at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 66 St. Stephens Drive, Orinda. James (Doc) Hale, a wildlife biologist, naturalist and ethno biologist will discuss wildlife in the East Bay. For info, visit [Montelindogarden.com](http://Montelindogarden.com). Visitors welcome.

**Lafayette Community Garden presents Irrigation Efficiency** from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Saturday, April 25, 3932 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. Seth Wright, a landscape contractor with 20 years experience in the landscape industry, is now specializing in irrigation efficiency. In this class, he will cover spray to drip conversions, EBMUD and CCWD rebate programs, as well as emitter layout and scheduling. He will emphasize landscape and lawn care during the drought, but will also address issues of edible gardens. This class is free. However, a \$5 donation is appreciated to support education programs. To register or for more info, visit [www.lafayettecommunitygarden.org](http://www.lafayettecommunitygarden.org).

**The Moraga Junior Women's Club, celebrating their 45th anniversary** as an organization, presents the 10th "Through the Garden Gate" garden tour from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, May 3, rain or shine, through five beautiful gardens in Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda. For info, visit [www.moragajuniors.org](http://www.moragajuniors.org).

**The Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour is a free, self-guided tour** of 30 Alameda and Contra Costa county gardens that will take place from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, May 3. Pre-registration is required: Register at: [www.bringingbackthenatives.net](http://www.bringingbackthenatives.net). (See story page D1)

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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](mailto:lamorindasunrise@gmail.com)

**April 10:** Our speaker will be Ben Ho. Ben is a Coordinator, Search and Rescue for the California State Office of Emergency Services.

**April 17:** Come and learn more about Rotary and Lamorinda Sunrise and our exciting plans for the future at our Club Assembly!

*Please join us for a great speaker and breakfast!!*

**Lafayette Rotary Club**

**Step in on a Thursday and join us for our lunch meeting.** Thursday at noon Oakwood Athletic Club, 4000 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette.

**April 9:** We will meet at the new Merrill Garden Retirement Homes, 1010 2nd St, Lafayette for a tour and lunch.

**April 16:** Chief of Police Eric Christensen will talk about Lafayette's crimes in 2014.

[www.rotarylafayette.org](http://www.rotarylafayette.org)

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## Looking Good in Lamorinda Fashion Refresh for Spring

By Moya Stone



Ball gown designed by Charles James in 1953. Part of the High Style exhibit at the Legion of Honor in San Francisco. Photo courtesy the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco

Thanks to the unseasonably warm weather, my spring wardrobe has been in rotation since January and it's starting to feel a bit dull. I say, time for a fashion refresh. How about you?

Spring 2015 has a 1970s flavor with a return of the bohemian scene. Looks this season include maxi dresses, button-down shirts in white or denim, and a favorite of mine, the A-line skirt – a flattering and an easy choice to dress up or down. Since we haven't seen this silhouette in over a decade it's looking quite sharp. Accessorize any of these boho basics with a kerchief scarf, silver jewelry and a floppy hat, and we have simple chic.

Talking '70s, according to Specialtees Boutique in Lafayette high-waisted jeans and bell bottoms are back. Specialtees carries popular brands such as J Brand, Mother, Joes, and AG. As for prints, they're in – all of them: florals, polka dots and stripes, but perhaps not all in one outfit.

**Take Tea in a Hat:** It's the season of hats and what better an event to sport one than Susan Leech's Taking Tea in the English Manner. Leech is the proprietor of Orinda Village Antiques and for years now she has been offering presentations on the English tea ceremony. A British-born interior decorator, Leech knows all the dos and don'ts of tea traditions as well as setting a fine-looking table. While serving a full afternoon tea including tea sandwiches and scones, Leech discusses the history of tea and all the fascinating customs of tea taking from around the world. She uses antique table settings from her store to create a charming and rare ambiance. Leech's tea presentations are popular with people from around the Bay Area, school children, and various organizations including the Stanford Women's Club of the East Bay.

Orinda resident Laura Kaufman says that she and other club members enjoyed coming up with vintage outfits appropriate for an elegant afternoon tea. "Several of us had items that belonged to mothers or grandmothers," says Kaufman. "Traditions such as wearing gloves and using formal table manners seem so far behind us now, though still familiar. We felt like we were inside Downton Abbey." Contact Susan Leech for more information at (925) 254-2206.

**Fashion Field Trip:** Local fashionables

and museum goers are abuzz about the current exhibit at the San Francisco Fine Arts Museums Legion of Honor. "High Style: The Brooklyn Museum Costume Collection" offers a broad and balanced view of women's fashions from the early to mid-20th century. The 125 selected pieces come from the vast collection at the Brooklyn Museum and include ball gowns and party dresses, sportswear and accessories. Examples to drool over are of French couture by Christian Dior, Jeanne Lanvin and Madeleine Vionnet as well as ready-to-wear by American designers Bonnie Cashin, Claire McCardell and Gilbert Adrian, among others. One room is dedicated to Charles James, a British expat who was known in the 1950s for hobnobbing with socialites and designing their ball gowns. It's a rare treat to view such impeccable craftsmanship up close. High Style is a must-see for anyone at all interested in fashion. On view now through July 19. For information, visit <https://legionofhonor.famsf.org/highstyle>.

**Vintage Finds:** If you find yourself in need of a hat or you're looking for some authentic '70s threads, check out the Alameda Point Vintage Fashion Faire coming up May 15 and 16 at 2701 Monarch Street in Alameda. Fifty dealers offer for sale vintage clothing and accessories from Victorian to 1980s for men, women and children. Friday night is the VIP Early Buy Party with cocktails for sale and a Fabulous Fifties Costume Contest. Check out the website for more information: <http://alamedapointantiquesfaire.com/blog/vintage-fashion>.

Refresh for spring and go forth in style.

Moya Stone is a fashion writer and blogger at <http://overdressedforlife.com/>.



From left: Orinda residents Elva Rust, her daughter Barbara Ward, and Linda Landau  
Photo Laura Kaufman

## Tis the Season for a Special Strawberry Shortcake

By Susie Iventosch



Fluffy yellow cake with mascarpone-lemon curd cream and strawberries Photo Susie Iventosch

It's definitely strawberry season as we roll into April and May and I just picked up a pint of really nice, sweet and juicy strawberries for this dessert! This yellow cake is very light and airy which makes a wonderful palette for the amazing whipped cream concoction. The cream is made with just a bit of mascarpone cheese, which helps the whipped cream hold longer, and then blended with lemon curd to give it a zestier taste than just plain whipping cream. This topping would be wonderful in place of plain whipped cream for regular strawberry shortcake, too.

### Cake

#### INGREDIENTS

- 1 stick unsalted butter, room temperature
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 3 large eggs
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 2 cups cake flour (not self-rising)
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ¾ cup milk

#### DIRECTIONS

Line the bottoms of two 8-inch cake pans with waxed paper or parchment. Spray sides with cooking spray.

In a bowl, mix dries (flour, baking powder and salt) together and set aside.

In a large mixing bowl, beat butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Add eggs, one at a time, beating well after each. Add dries and milk alternately, beginning and ending with dries.

Pour evenly into the cake pans and bake at 350 F for approximately 18-20 minutes, or until cake tester comes out clean.

### Lemon Curd with Mascarpone and Whipped Cream

#### INGREDIENTS

- 2 large eggs
- 6 tablespoons granulated sugar
- 6 tablespoons fresh-squeezed lemon juice
- ¼ teaspoon lemon zest
- 1 cup heavy whipping cream
- 4 ounces mascarpone cheese

#### DIRECTIONS

Whisk eggs, sugar, lemon juice and zest in a small saucepan. Cook over medium heat, stirring all the while, until mixture begins to thicken. Sauce should be thick enough to coat a spoon. Remove from heat and cool completely. (If the lemon curd is lumpy, strain before chilling).

Meanwhile, while lemon curd is cooling, beat heavy cream in a large bowl until stiff peaks form. Refrigerate until ready to use.

In another bowl, beat mascarpone cheese until soft and creamy. Slowly add ¼ cup of the cooled lemon curd until well blended. Add the remaining lemon curd to this mixture, so that all of the lemon curd is incorporated into the mascarpone. Gently fold this lemon-curd mixture into the whipped cream until blended.

### Strawberries

1 pint strawberries, cleaned. Slice berries, but leave a few of the smaller ones whole for the top of the cake.

#### Assembly

Place one layer of cake on your cake plate. Spread half of the filling over the top and then arrange a bed of sliced strawberries over the cream. Place the second layer of cake over berries and spread remaining filling over the top. Arrange remaining sliced berries on top with just a few whole berries\* in the very center.

Refrigerate until ready to serve.

\*I used too many whole berries on top, and would prefer to have used more sliced berries. It makes it easier to serve and to eat with the berries sliced!

Susie Iventosch is the author of Tax Bites and Tasty Morsels, which can be found at Across the Way in Moraga, [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com), and [www.taxbites.net](http://www.taxbites.net). Susie can be reached at [suziventosch@gmail.com](mailto:suziventosch@gmail.com).

**This recipe can be found on our website:**

[www.lamorindaweekly.com](http://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.



You can find most of the recipes published in the *Lamorinda Weekly* on our website. Click Food tab. [www.lamorindaweekly.com](http://www.lamorindaweekly.com)

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# LAMORINDA SPORTS

## Lamorinda Teams in Transition Vie for DFAL Title

By Spencer Silva



The 2015 Acalanes Baseball Team looks to win back the NCS Division III Title. Photos Gint Federas

Last spring marked the first time since 2008 that baseball teams outside of Lamorinda won the NCS championship in both Division II and Division III.

The Miramonte Mats (4-4, 0-2 DFAL) boast one of the DFAL's best pitching tandems in senior Connor Jackson, a Cal commit, and junior James Vaccaro, a USC commit. Preventing runs has been a strength early in the season, but they've struggled on offense. Head coach Vince Dell'Aquila says his hitters have been swinging the bats better of late, however, especially third baseman Erik Nyman and center fielder Garrett Johnson.

Last season, the Mats lost to eventual Division III champion Tamalpais 2-0 in the second round of NCS. Dell'Aquila thinks both the DFAL and NCS will come down to which team gets hot at the right time. "When four or five players come on a bit at the end, that's when you have a shot at NCS," he explained "it's been a good formula for us in the past. You gotta stick out games 18 through 24 and then win a few more after that."

The Mats will travel to Fort Bragg for a tournament, which will serve as a tune up for regular season play.

When asked about the DFAL landscape in 2015, "parity" was the first word that came to mind for Dell'Aquila: "When people say 'parity,' what they usually mean is the competition is weak. In the

DFAL, it's the opposite — if you don't bring your A-game, you're going to lose."

After winning consecutive NCS titles in 2012 and 2013, the Acalanes Dons (6-6, 2-0 DFAL) had a disappointing season in 2014 — at least by their standards. Like Miramonte, they lost to eventual champion Tamalpais in NCS. They're 2-0 in the DFAL so far, securing wins over Las Lomas and Dougherty Valley.

Boston College commit and staff ace Zach Stromberg is the team's anchor. The lefty is an extremely tough draw for opposing lineups, but is one of only two starting seniors on a young team — two-way pitcher/outfielder Doug Nimura is other starting senior. The development of freshman Gavin Shipp will be another key to the Dons' success.

The biggest obstacle facing the team in the early season has been health. Head coach Justin Santich-Hughes is proud of how his team has performed in spite of its personnel limitations: "We have not had our full starting line up on the field once this year ... It is a huge credit to the guys on our team to have done as well as we have thus far."

The Dons recently returned from the San Diego Lions Tournament, which culls teams from all over California and is among the best high school tournaments in the country. The team went 0-4, but Santich-Hughes thinks the experi-

ence the team gained against high-level competition will benefit his team in DFAL play.

Campolindo (4-4, 1-1 DFAL) has been a dominant force in the DFAL for years, but they're a team currently in transition. Max Luckhurst resigned after a successful 16-year tenure as head coach, which included a four-year stretch from 2010-2013 when the team won consecutive NCS titles.

First year head coach Wayne Franklin didn't comment on the coaching transition, other than saying that it most likely has not been a subtle one for his players. Overall, the team is young, but junior Max Flower and seniors Ben Skinner and Connor McNally represent a strong core of veteran talent. All three are committed to playing at the next level. Flower is committed to Cal, Skinner to Harvard and McNally to Utah.

McNally, who has started since his freshman year, has been sidelined with a groin injury and hasn't played a game. His return will be a major boon to the lineup, and with a young pitching staff, the Cougars will need to score a lot of runs to make a deep run into NCS. Franklin is encouraging his team to approach the season "not like they're playing for me," but like "they're playing for a championship."



Miramonte played Dublin last week.



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## Campolindo Season Ends in State Finals

By Michael Sakoda



Austin Clarke Photos Gint Federas

The Campolindo boys' basketball team finished their historic season in the CIF Division III state championship game. After an incredible season, the Cougars' season came to an end in a heartbreaking 57-70 loss to Damien at Haas Pavilion on March 27.

"From the beginning of the year, we knew we had a good team, but we didn't know we had a great team," said Austin Clarke, who posted 15 points, eight rebounds and a steal in the loss. "One more win would have been nice, but just to be here was a really special thing."

The size advantage was clear at warmups. Scott Chen and Sean Yamamoto, who make up Campolindo's starting backcourt, are 5'6" and 5'7" respectively. Damien boasts a starting lineup of three 6'4" guards, a 6'5" forward, and a 6'6" center.

Despite this disadvantage, Campolindo kept the game close. The Cougars trailed by four at the end of the first quarter and went on a 6-0 run in the second to take a 20-19 lead. After three quarters, they were still down by four. However, Damien pulled away in the fourth, outscoring Campo 31-22 to take the title.

"The loss is obviously heartbreaking," said Chris Hansen, who had 25 points, 14 rebounds. "But we've never been here before, and I think it sets the tone for the younger guys. It tells them that they can get back here, no matter what people think at the beginning of the year."

Campolindo started the season strong and continued to improve throughout.

"This is a true team," said head coach Matt Watson of the team's successful season. "They never cared who the high scorer was. It was all about the team. When you get guys that understand that, you just start cruising."

The Cougars (28-5; 12-0 DFAL) stunned tough competition early in the preseason, win-

ning the Gridley Invitational Tournament and the Modesto Christian Tournament.

Campo surged through the DFAL, beating opponents by an average of 18.6 points per game. Their record earned them the No. 4 seed in the NCS playoffs where they trounced De Anza 83-55 and upended Albany 65-50 before losing to eventual champion, Bishop O'Dowd, in the semifinals on March 4.

A tested Cougars team captured the No. 2 seed in the Northern Region of the CIF State Tournament, and began their title hunt on March 14, beating Sacred Heart Cathedral 79-65. Campolindo knocked off No. 3 Sierra 73-61 on March 17, and then the team moved on to survive another test against defending Northern Region champion Drake to advance to the state finals.

Campo graduates six players this year — Chen who handed out a game-high five assists against Damien; Sean Smith, who's committed to Simpson College; Scott Fox; Pat Duryea; Tiger Garcia, who got Campo's offense rolling in the first half; and two-time DFAL MVP, Hansen.

"I couldn't be more proud of what they've done, what they accomplished all year," said Watson. "I know we lost this game, but these guys are winners, so I don't feel like we lost."



Scott Chen



Sean Yamamoto

## DFAL Honors Winter Sport Athletes

### Girls' Basketball:



Sabrina Ionescu Emma Godfrey Haley Van Dyke

- Miramonte**  
Sabrina Ionescu Most Valuable Player  
Keana Delos Santos First Team  
Uriah Howard First Team  
Rachelle Louie Second Team  
Clair Steel Honorable Mention  
Jordyn Bryant Honorable Mention
- Acalanes**  
Emma Godfrey First Team  
Brooke Panfli Second Team  
Julia Lyons Honorable Mention
- Campolindo**  
Haley Van Dyke Honorable Mention  
Ashley Thoms Honorable Mention

### Acalanes

- Caroline Clark Most Valuable Player  
Morgan Rogers First Team  
Katherine Torchio First Team  
Katharine Larson First Team  
Kierra Karwec Second Team  
Sophia Giordano Second Team  
Emily Smith Second Team  
Lexie Silva Honorable Mention  
Emma Starr Honorable Mention  
Allison Merrill Honorable Mention  
Regan McQuain Honorable Mention
- Campolindo**  
Vanessa Larson Most Valuable Def. Player  
Bridget Coleman First Team  
Samantha Vankoll First Team  
AJ Morgan Second Team  
Emily Parish Second Team  
Melissa Wilson Honorable Mention  
Bailey Yuen Honorable Mention  
Emily Holbrook Honorable Mention

### Boys' Soccer:



Joseph Wang Pat Ramm Seth Kofman

### Boys' Basketball:



Eddy Ionescu Joey Hewitt Chris Hansen

- Miramonte:**  
Eddy Ionescu Honorable Mention  
Jake Linares Honorable Mention  
Jackson Werger Honorable Mention
- Acalanes:**  
Joey Hewitt First Team
- Campolindo:**  
Chris Hansen Most Valuable Player  
Austin Clarke First Team  
Sean Yakamoto Second Team  
Scott Chen Honorable Mention

### Miramonte

- Joseph Wang First Team  
Garrett Johnson First Team  
Reece Roberts Second Team  
Clay Haskell Second Team  
Aaron Roybal Honorable Mention  
Porter Haet Honorable Mention  
Sam Pinto Honorable Mention
- Acalanes**  
Pat Ramm First Team  
Zach Kramer Second Team  
Ian Franklin Honorable Mention  
Eric Sirott Honorable Mention  
Drew Wondolowski Honorable Mention

### Girls' Soccer:



Ceci Gee Caroline Clark Vanessa Larson

- Miramonte**  
Ceci Gee Most Valuable Off. Player  
Gina Crosetti First Team  
Kelly McKeen Second Team  
Kathryn Tuemmer Honorable Mention  
Samantha DeVecchi Honorable Mention  
Emma Nushi Honorable Mention

- Seth Kofman Most Valuable Player  
Jeremy Raine Most Valuable Off. Player  
Sam Larson Most Valuable Def. Player  
Jacob Buchanan First Team  
Ryan Rossi First Team  
Kai Weyland First Team  
Shea Danforth Second Team  
Amir Aliakbari Second Team  
Matty Ringquist Second Team  
Kyle O'Connell Honorable Mention  
Tucker Clark Honorable Mention  
John-John Adranly Honorable Mention

*Editor's note: Thank you to Gint Federas for capturing all these athletes during the winter season.*

## Classified • Classified • Classified • Classified • Classified • Classified • Classified

**Garage Sale**

**Miramonte Gardens Community Garage sale**  
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# Strong Start for Golf Team

Submitted by Gary O'Neill

The Campolindo boys' golf team is off to a strong start. The varsity team is undefeated in dual matches to start the season, posting six straight wins.

On March 23, the team traveled to the Meadow Club in Fairfax to play against other high schools. Campolindo edged out Foothill by five strokes to take top honors at the 25-team tournament for the first time ever.

"This was the best performance by the Campolindo golf team that I have witnessed in my twelve year tenure, and that is saying something as I have had the pleasure of coaching some very good teams," said head coach Steve Robinson.

Austin Fischer and Will Lagomarsino led the team on the challenging Meadow course, shooting even par 71's. Mitch DiRaimondo followed with 74, Robert Young with 75 and Ryan Burnett with 78.



From left: Mitch DiRaimondo, Austin Fischer, Will Lagomarsino, Ryan Burnett and Robert Young.

# Orinda Aquatics Takes Win

Submitted by Jon Wheeler



Orinda Aquatics Senior Group swimmers and coaches

Photo provided

Swimmers from the Orinda Aquatics Senior Group attended the annual Juanita Allington Senior Championship meet held in Clovis from Feb. 26-March 1. With two charter buses carrying 91 swimmers and three coaches, the team departed Lamorinda for four days

packed with swimming trials, finals and lots of relays. Over the course of the weekend, the team posted nearly 400 best times, including 14 new sectional times. Orinda Aquatics scored nearly 1,000 points to win the 40-team meet.

# Magic Show in Vegas

Submitted by Greg Davis



Back row, from left: Mitzy Ramirez, Kaitlin DeVries, Vanessa Jones, Molly Davis, Anya Li, Vanessa Vaisnor, Kierra Krawec, Holland McDonald, Jackie Nichols, Mia Grillo, Lauren Van Stralen, coach Haris Obic; front row: Sophia Giordano, Annie Midthun, Emily Smith, Molly Ikeya, Rachel Brickman, Keeley Murphy

After playing against each other during the high school soccer season, the California Magic U15 girls' team united once again as a team.

After a warmup tournament in early February, the girls entered the Las Vegas Players Showcase 2015 tournament on March 20-22. Despite facing the No. 1 team from Arizona and another from New Mexico, the Magic girls brought home the tournament championship, going unde-

feated in five games over three days while outscoring opponents 8-3.

After a 1-1 tie in regulation, Magic won the championship on penalty kicks 6-5.

"Our players were physically drained during the final match but they played with a full emotional tank and a lot of heart allowing them to achieve their goal of a tournament win. I am very proud of these girls," said head coach Haris Obic.

# Beating the Best

Submitted by Corinna Sassano



The Lamorinda Soccer Club U16 girls' team played in the Players College Showcase in Las Vegas from March 20-March 23. Competing in the TOP flight division

against some of the top teams in California, the team's trip included a 2-1 victory over the No. 1 team in the nation, SURF from San Diego.

# Stomping the Competition

Submitted by Kwon Lee



Lamorinda's Abbie Lee helped the NorCal Valley Stompers 14U softball team win the ASA Spring Swing tournament on March 22 in Antelope. The team of athletes from across the East Bay faced a tough Sunday lineup and closed out the championship game with a dominating 11-0 win.

# Team USA

Submitted by Meredith Lewis



Adrian Jacobs, a local soccer player for the California Magic club, played for Team USA in the 2015 FC Barcelona Escola International Soccer Tournament from March 29-April 2. Jacobs, an 11-year-old, scored seven goals and had six assists for Team USA Fromacio Red U12. The team finished in fourth place out of 32 teams.

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# Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 09 Issue 3 Wednesday, April 8, 2015



*Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for April ...read on page D13*

## Saving Water In The Garden Can Be Magical

By Sophie Braccini



*A flagstone path meanders through this native backyard oasis.*

*Photo provided*

Adding your house to the list of East Bay homes featured in the May 3 Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour says a lot about pride of a job well done. Lafayette residents Sandy and Richard Brehmer transformed their garden into a native beauty one and a half years ago. In the beautiful 7,000 square foot space, they enjoy the outdoors more now than they ever have before.

When the Brehmers decided to replace their lawn, they took a hard look at the large flat surface and thought it was time to create something a little more interesting.

"For years we had been concerned about our water bill," remembers Richard Brehmer. "At one point it reached \$600 and our very large lawn was not even as beautiful as Sandy would have liked it to be."

A neighbor had already "gone native."

"We liked what she had done a lot, and we asked her the name of her landscape architect," says Sandy Brehmer.

Roxy Wolosenko, owner of Roxy Designs, came over and started imagining how to transform the Brehmer's level space into something more remarkable. Wolosenko focuses on drought-resistant

landscaping "because it just makes sense to plant what is naturally thriving in an area," she says. "I create gardens that are about 80 percent native, adding plants that are drought tolerant, but from other regions. Not everything flowers at the same time and it makes for a more interesting display."

Although they had several discussions about concepts and plants, the Brehmers gave carte blanche to Wolosenko.

First, she created a new backbone for the garden. Wolosenko constructed berms and flagstone alleyways meandering between them. Each berm is different from the others and offers a different visual presentation. Large grasses sit next to flowers or cacti-like plants. Large purple bushes planted alongside colorful ground cover. Wolosenko and the Brehmers chose rocks to place among the plants, creating a more natural look.

Their garden invites discovery. When the Brehmers' grandchildren come to visit, they love to explore the pathways. A few quiet areas of the garden are perfect for reading. There, when Richard Brehmer isn't enjoying a book, he is observing the wildlife that now populates his garden. "I watch the bees on their daily forage for nectar, and the hummingbirds that now come all the time," he says with a peaceful smile.

Wolosenko says she loves the moment plants arrive in their pots on a site. "Immediately the insects start showing up, and the magic begins," she says.

... continued on page D4



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City	Last reported:	LOWEST AMOUNT:	HIGHEST AMOUNT:
LAFAYETTE	9	\$505,000	\$2,900,000
MORAGA	4	\$400,000	\$1,130,000
ORINDA	6	\$412,500	\$1,962,500

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

- 11 Amber Lane, \$1,550,000, 4 Bdrms, 4739 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 2-20-15; Previous Sale: \$275,000, 01-06-97
- 1166 Crescenta Court, \$1,125,000, 3 Bdrms, 1542 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 2-18-15; Previous Sale: \$735,000, 08-28-07
- 3723 Crestmont Place, \$1,525,000, 3 Bdrms, 2991 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 2-20-15; Previous Sale: \$1,625,000, 10-20-06
- 933 Diablo Drive, \$890,000, 3 Bdrms, 1619 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 2-20-15; Previous Sale: \$725,000, 01-21-04
- 3250 Marlene Drive, \$505,000, 3 Bdrms, 1160 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 2-26-15; Previous Sale: \$296,000, 07-11-01
- 1536 Pleasant Hill Road, \$800,000, 4 Bdrms, 2815 SqFt, 1939 YrBlt, 2-23-15; Previous Sale: \$264,000, 07-22-88
- 3190 Somerset Drive, \$1,255,000, 3 Bdrms, 1720 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 2-18-15
- 3954 South Peardale Drive, \$2,900,000, 4 Bdrms, 4033 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt, 2-18-15; Previous Sale: \$2,600,000, 07-01-08
- 1106 Upper Happy Valley Road, \$1,680,000, 3 Bdrms, 1828 SqFt, 1939 YrBlt, 2-17-15; Previous Sale: \$956,000, 03-11-14

### MORAGA

- 124 Ascot Court #B, \$435,000, 2 Bdrms, 1233 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 2-26-15; Previous Sale: \$344,000, 04-07-04
- 2024 Donald Drive, \$930,000, 3 Bdrms, 1441 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 2-23-15; Previous Sale: \$565,000, 11-30-00
- 114 Merion Terrace, \$1,130,000, 3 Bdrms, 2828 SqFt, 1988 YrBlt, 2-20-15; Previous Sale: \$755,000, 01-28-11
- 110 Miramonte Drive, \$400,000, 2 Bdrms, 1514 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 2-19-15

### ORINDA

- 4300 El Nido Ranch Road, \$1,150,000, 3 Bdrms, 2299 SqFt, 1977 YrBlt, 2-26-15; Previous Sale: \$30,000, 11-02-77
- 75 Estates Drive, \$1,499,000, 4 Bdrms, 3068 SqFt, 1976 YrBlt, 2-17-15; Previous Sale: \$1,310,000, 10-08-04
- 89 La Espiral, \$1,075,000, 3 Bdrms, 2456 SqFt, 1980 YrBlt, 2-25-15; Previous Sale: \$1,097,000, 08-30-07
- 547 Miner Road, \$412,500, 3 Bdrms, 2499 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 2-24-15; Previous Sale: \$825,000, 04-28-00
- 246 Overhill Road, \$1,962,500, 5 Bdrms, 3633 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 2-19-15; Previous Sale: \$459,000, 08-09-96
- 28 Via Moraga, \$609,500, 4 Bdrms, 2655 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 2-17-15; Previous Sale: \$1,400,000, 10-16-14

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# Saving Water In the Garden Can Be Magical

... continued from page D1



From left: Julie Lienert (Roxy Designs), Sandy Brehmer, Richard Brehmer, Roxy Wolosenko

Sandy Brehmer also enjoys her new garden, especially on their new flagstone terrace shaded by a trellis.

Although changing their backyard so dramatically was more expensive than replacing their lawn, they did it “because it felt like the right thing to do,” says Richard Brehmer, referring to the drought.

During these dry times, the East Bay Municipal Utility District is offering incentives to help people re-

duce their water use in the garden. The Water Smart program includes a rebate of up to \$2,500 for single-family homeowners. There is up to \$20,000 for commercial and multi-family units to convert lawns to sustainable landscaping or to install other water saving measures. “Outside water use represents 60 percent of a single family’s water use, and lawns require a lot of water to stay green,” says EBMUD Public Information Representative Nelsy Rodriguez. She believes that this summer is the perfect time to let lawns dry up and to replace it in the fall with drought resistant plants.

Gov. Jerry Brown signed an executive order April 1 requiring cities and water districts to cut water use by 25 percent compared to 2013 levels or face fines of up to \$10,000 a day this summer. “EBMUD’s board of directors will meet in June to approve the budget for the next two years,” says Rodriguez. “Besides raising the rates, they may consider penalties for those residents whose water use is significantly above average.” Rodriguez adds that there is already a state restriction in place that limits lawn watering to only twice a week, before 6 a.m. or after 10 p.m. In EBMUD’s service area, a typical family of three uses about 280 gallons daily indoors and out.

The process to get rebates is simple, she explains: Go to the agency’s website at EBMUD.com and register before beginning any changes to your garden. EBMUD



Photos provided

representatives will visit the residence. Then after the improvements have been made and documented, homeowners get the rebate.

The free May 3 Bringing Back the Natives Tour features several workshops. It is a great opportunity to see different drought-resistant native gardens, to get inspired and to learn. Besides the Brehmers’ home, two gardens in Moraga and three in Orinda are among the 30 East Bay homes featured on the tour.

To receive the catalog that includes addresses of the homes, registration is required and it ends April 25. To register, visit <http://www.bringingbackthenatives.net/>.



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## Stylish Solutions

# Spruce Up for Spring

By Ann McDonald



*Don't be afraid to mix fabrics, shapes, colors and sizes. Refer to your inspiration photo, make a list and do it. Photos courtesy Couture Chateau llc*

This month stylish suburbanites all over Lamorinda are looking at their tired family rooms, bedrooms and other spaces, and wondering what they can do to bring some beauty and love into their homes without breaking the bank.

I have a time-honored strategy involving gathering and arranging pillows and accessories when clients want a refresh without a complete remodel. This is how I teach my design assistants to create beautifully layered spaces. There are many who think decorating and design are out of their natural bent, but let me assure you, there are ways even the most non-aesthetic of the family bunch can bring style into a dated room.

The truth is I have a very simple three-pronged strategy to make spaces look layered and more expensive. You can do this! When spaces are highly matched, they provide less movement for real life. While I love a gorgeous hotel suite, the bland match and lack of layers, even



*This is a great example of an inspiration photo. It has color variation: blues, greens, whites, yellows; texture variation: flat tablecloth, petals, rougher greenery, thistles; and scale variation: flowers.*

in textures can prove boring. Who wants a boring spring home? Not me! I also need spaces that work for real people sitting and sleeping in real bedrooms. That means if one pillow gets moved, it can't mean disaster for the design. This strategy helps tremendously with movement.

First, we find a layered and expensive looking inspiration photo. These inspiration photos are typically not designed spaces, but rather live floral arrangements or natural landscapes, where layers are expressed differently than in decorating shots. This keeps us from shopping a look and equips design assistants and clients with the ability to generate their unique look while developing their design eye.

Second, we set a budget. Trust me, even billionaires have budgets. Typical pillow costs at local discount home stores range from \$25 to \$60, plus tax. For three pillows, you can reasonably set a \$100 budget, for five pillows consider \$200 so you can purchase a show stopper and for larger more luxurious spaces, think about \$300 and up. The same is true of accessories.

Third, we shop with and from lists. Don't be fooled. Most designers and decorators who head out for free-fall inspiration do just that and waste a ton of time and money doing it. You don't walk into a sports store, throw out your hands and declare, "Inspire me!" without knowing what sports equipment you need. Why on earth would you do that for your home? Lists, inspiration, and budgets protect you.

Now that you have that three-pronged strategy at

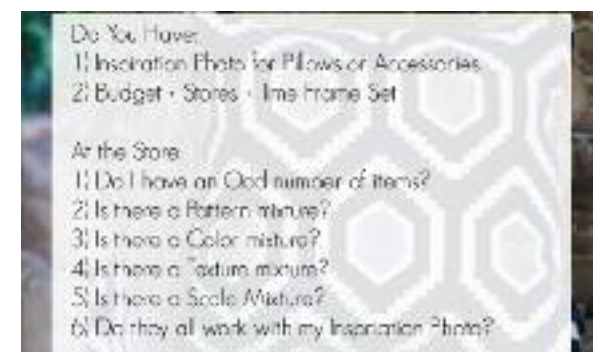
### When Pillow Shopping:

- 1) Bring an inspiration photo
- 2) DON'T match fabrics + pattern
- 3) DO match the inspiration photo
- 4) THIS helps you gather unique pillows that look mismatched in store but GREAT in the room

hand, here's how to create expensive and fresh updates using pillows and accessories. Use this in your family rooms, bedrooms, even rental properties (our example) and kid's apartments.

**1) Get comfortable with odd numbers.** I have dear clients who are very symmetrical in nature, but even a pair of something can use an anchor in the middle. If you have two candlesticks on the fireplace, add something simple in the middle and create an odd number on the mantle.

**2) Work the pattern mix.** In our Tahoe rental example, we have floral, applique, geometric, striped and solid pillows. If you went out without a list or inspiration photo, it is highly unlikely you would put all those pillows into your cart. When you shop from a nature-inspired photo, however, and pull each item with reference to the photo alone (not your design thoughts), you get home with a glorious mix that works. ... continued on page D12



*Make a list, and stick to it.*



**Patricia Battersby**

925-330-6663

pb@patriciabattersby.com

BREA 00854469

**Ashley Battersby**

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## Stylish Solutions

# Spruce Up for Spring

... continued from page D8



When you have a darker space or winter feel and need the update for spring, after you switch out pillows and accessories, bring your floral arrangements up to date, too. Don't forget the details. Here we pulled in the spring color yellow and did a simple but strong floral to match.

**3) Shop the color wheel.** We constantly talk about undertones (see previous articles in the Lamorinda Weekly online archives for more about this). You can mix rusts, reds, blues, greens and shades of white because their undertones are similar.

**4) Develop a feel for textures.** Don't be afraid to use a sweater type pillow in your spring decor. Mix it with wool, linen, cotton and applique for an expensive looking grouping. By consistently going back to our inspiration photo, we were comfortable picking up a nubby linen solid blue with applique (similar to the thistle) and mixing it with the white cable sweater pillow (similar to the flower petals).

**5) Mix shapes and sizes.** You can incorporate everything from oblong to oversized. Play with the arrangements and have some fun. The best part? When people sit and move pillows, it's OK! There is no 'perfect' arrangement. Like people at a dinner party, it's the mix that makes the fun.

As a final note, if your room has a winter bent, gather your floral from a spring color and match strongly. We used a yellow stripe in Hudson Bay Blankets at a rental cabin in Lake Tahoe and added a striking simple floral in the same yellow.

Have a great time shopping, stylish suburbanites,

and do let me know how it goes! Share with friends and shop with flair.

Blessings this April.



Ann McDonald, IIDA, NAPO, is the Founder/CEO of Couture Chateau, a luxury interior design firm in Orinda. For a complete blog post including other design ideas, visit [www.couturechateau.com/blog](http://www.couturechateau.com/blog)

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# Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for April

By Cynthia Brian

*"Nothing is so beautiful as spring – when weeds, in wheels, shoot long, and lovely, and lush ..."* – Gerard Manley Hopkins



*This peony has blossoms the size of dinner plates.*

*Photo Cynthia Brian*

**P**oppies and lupines dot the green hillsides and roadways. The skies are azure blue, the weather is wickedly warm, turkeys hobble and gobble in neighborhoods. Spring is in full swing.

As it always is every April, my orchards and hills are carpeted with weeds. This year I sprinkled seeds of mustard throughout my landscape as a cover crop to heighten the nitrogen levels in the soil. A sea of yellow waves in the wind, greeting me on my morning walks. Large black crows call my casa their casa. The birds are back, splashing in the fountain outside my office alongside the occasional red-tailed hawk popping in for a drink. A covey of quail with their baby chicks darting behind them munch insects and dandelions around my lawn. The rebirth of nature recharges my energy and makes me grateful to be alive in our bucolic rural locale.

This week I received my East Bay Municipal Utility District home water report with my water score and this congratulatory note: "Way to go, WaterSaver! You ranked in the top 20 percent!" While the American average usage according to the Environmental Protection Agency is 400 gallons per day, we used only 147 gallons per day versus the average EBMUD household of three at 280 gallons per day. Households in the top 20 percent used an average of 213 gallons per day. I'm using 29 percent less water than the previous 12 months, perhaps putting me in the top 10 percent of water savers. But I'm scared of what will happen when summer comes. The drought is real and it will affect each of us. I plan on watering by hand with a hose as much as possible as this will save approximately 33 percent more than turning on the sprinklers.

... continued on page D14

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# Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for April

... continued from page D13

Soaker hoses will be great assets for water conservation in my vegetable and herb gardens. I will only be planting a smattering of color spots with specimens I am certain can withstand less moisture. Any extra water used for washing or rinsing dishes and bodies is collected and used in my patio pots. What are your plans to keep your garden alive through the forthcoming hot weather while conserving H2O?

**CHECK** your irrigation system and consider investing in newer drip or weather based controllers.

**START** seeds in any recycled container from plastic cups to coconut hulls. Drill a hole in the bottom, add good potting soil, and you are ready to roll. If you plant in orange rind halves, you can plant the entire "container" in the ground.

**SAVE** water by placing a bowl under your colander when washing greens and vegetables in the sink. Dump the water in the garden.

**SCRUB** your outdoor furniture and organize your patio. Spring is here and it's time to start the party planning.

**FRESHEN** your curb appeal with fragrant flowering plants such as star jasmine that will welcome guests with their heady spring perfume.

**EMPTY** any standing water in saucers, old tires, buckets, gutters or barrels. Mosquitoes are already on the prowl. If you have a pond and want free mosquito fish, contact Vector Control at (925) 685-9301. Vector Control is also your resource for problems with skunks or yellow jackets.

**WATCH** for holes of voles in your lawn and garden. Voles are extremely destructive and non-discriminating when it comes to eating everything and anything growing. For major infestations, call in the professional eradicators.

**BRIGHTEN** your garden with drought tolerant succulents. With so many shapes, sizes, textures and colors, you'll be able to create a palette of striking performance that requires minimal moisture.

**CUT** and turn into the soil any cover crops you planted last fall to add nitrogen and nutrients. Clover, mustard and fava beans are ready to be tilled.

**CASCADE** lantana from retaining walls and containers for long-lasting color that attracts beneficial bees and butterflies.

**TRELLIS** thornless lady banksia roses or purple wisteria for a glorious spring mix that will continue to delight year after year.

**VISIT** the Moraga Gardens plant sale from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays through April 19 for a wide variety of home-grown-from-seed vegetables, herbs and other plants. Each four-inch pot is only \$3. Address is 1370 Moraga Way, Moraga.

**SHEAR** and shape conifers, removing any dead or diseased branches.

**FERTILIZE** roses, lawns and all perennials.

**DIVIDE**, transplant or share iris, delphinium, daylily, and chrysanthemum with friends.

**RE-SEED** lawns with clover or high quality grass seed for a thicker, lush mat.

**TAKE** any moveable houseplants outdoors to give them a good shower and thorough drink. Put them on your lawn when you wash and water them, giving your grass a bath as well.



Purple lantana cascades over a container.

Photos Cynthia Brian



Mustard flowers and leaves are delicious in salads and the entire plant is good for the ground.



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*Vole holes in the lawn must be dealt with to eradicate these destructive creatures.*

**THANKS** for all the wonderful comments about my last Digging Deep column, Paradise Found. Special thanks to Lamorinda Weekly reader, Sydney, who shares this tip about growing her 65-year-old spectacular peony: When winters are mild, put ice cubes around the base of your peonies. Prune stems low to a bud in January. Fertilize with fish emulsion and deadhead after blooms are spent in April.

**COME** to the Be the Star You Are!® charity Book Bash Blow Out on April 25 at 5A Rent A Space in Moraga to buy brand new books at discount prices. Pick up your free seed packets and complimentary potpourri when you say you read the Lamorinda Weekly! For information, visit <http://ow.ly/K3zXG>.

**PRAY** for April showers!

Enjoy the beauty and scents of springtime. May all your weeds be flowers. Continue being water savvy and garden smart.

Happy Gardening, Happy Growing.



*Cynthia Brian relishes the spring wisteria vines.*

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Cynthia Brian  
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**\$1,549,000**

## LAFAYETTE



**0 Pleasant Hill Road** Spectacular .43 acre lot w/pano views of Mt. Diablo & city lights. Tranquil building site set back from road. Next to 1494 P.H. Rd. Formerly an almond orchard. Acalanes School district.

**\$360,000**

## LAFAYETTE



**3354 Sweet Drive** Fantastic opportunity in Lafayette. Sweet home with incredible view. Live in as-is or expand. 3bd/1.5ba + room for office or playroom. Sweeping views of the valley & Mt. Diablo.

**\$849,000**

## LAFAYETTE



**928 Oak Street** Incredible opportunity to live/work within walking distance to all that Lafayette has to offer. Completely updated kitchen & baths w/beautiful hdwd flrs. Detached bonus space downstairs.

**\$899,000**

## LAFAYETTE



**7 Maloyan Lane** Gracious H.V. English Tudor at end of cul de sac features 4bd+ home ofc, 2.5ba, traditional flrpln w/kitchen/fam rm level out to dream bkdy w/flat lawn, pool, spa, sport crt & play area.

**\$2,250,000**

## LAFAYETTE



**3911 Happy Valley Road** Estate style living w/vintage charm yet thoughtfully updated. Gorgeous 1.5ac property boasts 5bd/7ba main home (incl. in law qtrs), detached 1bd guest home, pool, tennis court & views.

**\$2,995,000**

## LAFAYETTE



**23 Sessions Road** Gated English Manor 12.18 acre 5bd/6ba Estate. Grand foyer, living, family rms + "Club" rm, deluxe kitchen, dramatic solarium + executive office. Gorgeous grounds w/lap pool/lawns, views.

**\$3,895,000**

## DIABLO



**2611 Caballo Ranchero Dr.** Down a private tree lined drive a rare one of a kind Diablo property on almost level 1.55 acres with 7th fairway frontage. Perfect for building dream estate or updating.

**\$1,600,000**

## PLEASANT HILL



**20 Whitfield Court** Great 2.58 acre parcel at top of knoll with views of Mount Diablo & ideal privacy. Truly special setting sites for development zoned R-10 & R-15. Wonderful opportunity for investment.

**\$1,950,000**

## SAN RAMON



**2 Lone Tree Lane** Lease Rental. Model 3bd/2.5ba home on cul de sac. Close to schools, freeway, business park. Many builder extras. Small tot park across street. New paint & carpeting. Outstanding home!

**\$3,950/month**

## WALNUT CREEK



**0 Brodia Way Lot D** Fabulous .92 acre lot in prestigious Walnut Creek neighborhood of La Casa Via. Expansive views of valley, hills & Mt. Diablo. All utilities underground in street. Build your dream home!

**\$575,000**



## THE VILLAGE ASSOCIATES:

Ashley Battersby  
 Patricia Battersby  
 Joan Cleveland  
 Shannon Conner  
 Joan Eggers  
 Linda Ehrlich  
 Joan Evans  
 Linda S. Friedman  
 Marianne Greene  
 Dexter Honens II  
 Anne Knight  
 Susan Zeh Layng  
 Art Lehman  
 Charles Levine  
 Erin Martin  
 April Matthews  
 Karen Murphy  
 Ben Olsen  
 Sue Olsen  
 Tara Rochlin  
 Jaime Roder  
 Altie Schmitt  
 Judy Schoenrock  
 Ann Sharf  
 Amy Rose Smith  
 Molly Smith  
 Jeff Snell  
 Lynda Snell  
 Clark Thompson  
 Angie Evans Traxinger  
 Ignacio Vega  
 Terri Bates Walker  
 Ann Ward  
 Dan Weil  
 Margaret Zucker



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93 Moraga Way, Suite 103 • Orinda, CA 94563 • Phone: (925) 254-0505

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