

Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 09 Issue 5 Wednesday, May 6, 2015



Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for May ...read on page D16

Lafayette Juniors Kitchen Tour Highlights Diversity in Design

By Catherine Kauder



The center island's butcher block-style walnut counter warms up the kitchen in the Birrell's downtown Lafayette home.

Photos Ohlen Alexander

The Lafayette Juniors Kitchen Tour returns Saturday, May 16 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. This year's tour features six creatively designed kitchens that reflect the diverse styles and needs of their Lafayette homeowners.

Tour goers will get a look at a mid-century modern kitchen that was recently featured as a "Kitchen of the Week" on Houzz.com. Nestled in the Hidden Valley neighborhood of Lafayette, the

house was designed by Fred Langhorst, an apprentice of Frank Lloyd Wright who worked in the Bay Area in the 1940s and early '50s.

Homeowner Debra Szidon fell in love with the house while searching for a mid-century home in the East Bay in 2012. A transplant from the Boston area and an interior designer, Szidon appreciated the organic architecture of the home, which includes the original redwood trim, concrete floors, exposed

brick walls in the family room and floor-to-ceiling windows that bathe the house in light.

"We really wanted to make sure we had the quintessential California home," says Szidon.

Since the kitchen is the first thing visitors see when they enter the home, Szidon wanted to make sure the room was welcoming as well as practical.

... continued on page D6



Debra Szidon's mid-century modern kitchen in Lafayette was recently featured as a "Kitchen of the Week" on Houzz.com.



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City	Last reported:	LOWEST AMOUNT:	HIGHEST AMOUNT:
LAFAYETTE	15	\$872,000	\$2,550,000
MORAGA	17	\$280,000	\$1,640,000
ORINDA	22	\$540,000	\$3,800,000

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

LAFAYETTE

- 839 Ava Court, \$1,555,000, 3 Bdrms, 2564 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 3-17-15;
Previous Sale: \$627,500, 10-30-98
- 109 Camelia Lane, \$1,000,000, 3-3-15;
Previous Sale: \$550,000, 11-18-13
- 1135 Camino Vallecito, \$1,400,000, 3 Bdrms, 2502 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 2-27-15;
Previous Sale: \$1,050,000, 12-07-12
- 12 Cerro Encantado, \$977,000, 4 Bdrms, 1848 SqFt, 1926 YrBlt, 3-16-15;
Previous Sale: \$1,129,500, 03-26-14
- 1829 Del Rio Drive, \$872,000, 4 Bdrms, 1830 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 3-23-15;
Previous Sale: \$720,000, 09-23-04
- 1100 Dunsyre Drive, \$1,235,000, 3 Bdrms, 3223 SqFt, 2002 YrBlt, 3-20-15;
Previous Sale: \$95,000, 06-27-00
- 3469 Monroe Avenue, \$1,130,000, 3 Bdrms, 1348 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 3-24-15
- 2 Quail Run, \$1,525,000, 2 Bdrms, 2222 SqFt, 1977 YrBlt, 3-20-15;
Previous Sale: \$975,000, 06-25-13
- 1230 Quandt Road, \$949,000, 3 Bdrms, 1269 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 3-24-15;
Previous Sale: \$670,000, 06-01-11
- 10 Rancho Diablo Road, \$1,215,000, 3 Bdrms, 2342 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 3-17-15
- 1314 Reliez Valley Road, \$1,159,000, 4 Bdrms, 2405 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 3-16-15;
Previous Sale: \$465,000, 06-19-98
- 64 Rohrer Drive, \$1,290,000, 3 Bdrms, 2126 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 3-13-15;
Previous Sale: \$890,000, 06-17-04
- 313527 South Silver Springs Road, \$1,900,000, 4 Bdrms, 2306 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 3-19-15;
Previous Sale: \$1,250,000, 03-03-09
- 31 Tiana Terrace, \$2,550,000, 4 Bdrms, 4079 SqFt, 1999 YrBlt, 3-23-15;
Previous Sale: \$400,000, 04-30-99
- 1190 Woodborough Road, \$1,975,000, 3 Bdrms, 3557 SqFt, 1991 YrBlt, 3-24-15;
Previous Sale: \$1,400,000, 08-23-01

MORAGA

- 2067 Ascot Drive #243, \$280,000, 1 Bdrms, 790 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 3-11-15;
Previous Sale: \$110,000, 04-21-99
- 661 Augusta Drive, \$610,000, 3 Bdrms, 2148 SqFt, 1976 YrBlt, 3-20-15;
Previous Sale: \$97,500, 04-13-77
- 67 Buckingham Drive, \$1,182,000, 4 Bdrms, 1987 SqFt, 1968 YrBlt, 3-2-15
- 236 Calle La Montana, \$1,200,000, 4 Bdrms, 1942 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 3-24-15;
Previous Sale: \$895,000, 06-03-09
- 778 Crossbrook Drive, \$1,150,000, 4 Bdrms, 2213 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 2-27-15
- 1003 Del Rio Way, \$1,225,000, 4 Bdrms, 2097 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 3-13-15;
Previous Sale: \$398,000, 03-20-92
- 155 Draeger Drive, \$1,640,000, 5 Bdrms, 4459 SqFt, 1994 YrBlt, 3-19-15
- 7 Gloria Court, \$1,180,000, 3 Bdrms, 2091 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 3-24-15;
Previous Sale: \$1,100,000, 01-26-06
- 65 Greenfield Drive, \$1,384,000, 5 Bdrms, 2374 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 3-3-15;
Previous Sale: \$1,200,000, 10-05-05
- 90 Greenfield Drive, \$900,000, 3 Bdrms, 1786 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 3-6-15;
Previous Sale: \$630,000, 01-23-15

... continued on page D15

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Lafayette Juniors Kitchen Tour Highlights Diversity in Design

... continued from page D1



This kitchen's Italian subway tile backsplash, white fireclay sink and slightly weathered cabinet hardware lend it a farmhouse touch.

She knocked down a wall that separated the kitchen from the eating area to make a larger, more open space. A nine-foot-long center island makes the kitchen an ideal place for entertaining, cooking and her three busy children to do homework.

The cabinets are painted in a lacquered bluish-green color and accented with textured warm bronze drawer pulls. A sunburst pendant light over the dining table and a brass light fixture above the island made from a kit by New York designer Lindsey Adelman are perfect complements to the mid-century modern style of the kitchen.

A minimalist at heart, Szidon removed the upper cabinets in the kitchen and stores her plates and glasses in the drawers under the island within easy reach of her kids. Both the countertops and the top of the dining table are made of Silestone, a synthetic quartz that is durable and low-maintenance. The wallpaper in the kitchen looks like grasscloth, but is actually made of vinyl and can be easily wiped clean.

"There is a lot of texture in this kitchen which goes hand in hand with the materials in this home," she says.

In the downtown section of Lafayette, Jocelyn Birrell didn't have to go very far to find her dream kitchen – she bought the house she grew up in and gave it a fresh revamp.

Birrell and her husband purchased the home from her mother in 2008 and recently renovated the ranch-style house to make space for their two young children. Now almost double its original 1,600-square-foot size, the home has a spacious, airy kitchen that is open to the adjoining rooms and gives them a view of the backyard through the glass doors and windows spanning the back of the house.

"We both wanted a big space to cook and a place for the kids to be," she says. "The fact that we could cook and see everything was important to us."

The transitional kitchen features shaker style cabinets painted a creamy off-white. Gray slate countertops with white veining provide a contrast of color, while the center island's butcher block-style walnut counter warms up the room. Above

the island hang two industrial-inspired glass and metal pendants from Hudson Valley Lighting.

The kitchen also has a 48-inch Wolf range with six burners and an infrared griddle. An Italian subway tile backsplash, white fireclay sink and slightly weathered cabinet hardware lend the kitchen a farmhouse touch.

Next to the kitchen, a large pantry and mudroom feature a beverage refrigerator, built-in bench with coat hooks, storage cubbies and additional counter space where the Birrells can store smaller countertop appliances like their toaster and coffee maker.

These two kitchens can be visited on the 16th annual tour along with four others that showcase contemporary, modern cottage, classic with a bohemian twist and European traditional styles.

Tour tickets are \$40 (\$35 tax deductible), with a box lunch available for \$15. Tickets can be purchased at www.lafayettejuniors.org and at Premier Kitchens in Lafayette.

Also featured on this year's kitchen tour is the launch of the new Lafayette Juniors cookbook "Small Bites & Cool Drinks." This collection of recipes from Juniors members and local restaurants will be for sale for the first time on the day of the tour at Premier Kitchens and the luncheon site for \$15. The book will be available after the tour at local businesses including Venture Quality Goods, The Storyteller Bookstore and Diablo Foods.

The beneficiaries of this year's tour are Ruby's Place, Boys & Girls Club of Diablo Valley, Las Trampas, Trinity Center Walnut Creek, and VESTIA. Each of these nonprofit organizations provides exceptional support to children, families and seniors in Contra Costa and neighboring East Bay counties.



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Stylish Solutions

How to Execute the Perfect Blue and White Vignette

By Ann McDonald



There are several ways to display blue and white. Here we paired a hand painted vessel with historic column fragments by looking to patina on the columns and brush strokes on the china. The contrast and simplicity is incredibly striking on one client's console table, which is a 17th century French Boulle.

Photos courtesy Couture Chateau LLC

This past week was the High Point Furniture Market where two times a year designers and manufacturers descend upon North Carolina for over 11 million square feet of inspiration, new product introductions and educational seminars. Each market has its own personality and flair. What is trending this spring? Gorgeous accessories including, of course, the ever-appropriate blue and white combination.

As you make your home summer-ready, I wanted to share how to make beautiful accessory vignettes mixing, in this case, all manner of blues with whites. Note that whatever we do with blue, you can substitute any

manner of color or pattern (think black, purple, green, gray and even a rich yellow) and pair it with whites. The same rules of grouping apply.

I like building accessory collections over time instead of trying to purchase items in one swoop. This helps with budgets and especially once my team and I exit the project, clients have marching orders for their travels. "I'm building a collection" is the perfect reason to pay for packing and freight home for a gorgeous antique cachepot from France. Having an eye toward building collections over time also means if you are an estate sale junkie, you can hunt with purpose. This works at local discount home stores as well.

Recently on an accessories buy for a photo shoot, we spent \$109 including tax at Home Goods and found five pieces of blue and white, including four ginger jars! I call that hugely successful. We joked it was less expensive than the morning coffee run when everyone is in the studio.

Keep your eyes sharp and when you find items you love add them to your rotation. These vignettes work beautifully on bookshelves that need a summer cleanse, console tables, dining tables or even bedside tables holding fresh flowers.

Remember to complete the look in the space you are refreshing by attending to things like summer slipcovers or fresh pillows (see last month's article in the online archives). I recently swapped out my dining table color scheme from green and yellow to blue and white for the summer. The dining chairs are getting new seat slipcovers in washed linen for easy care over the summer entertaining months. Geometric blue and white pillows, which made an appearance for a bridal shower, are being reintroduced into the dining room as seat accent pillows. Remember to rotate, rotate, rotate! Everything can become fresh in your home with different placement.

Here are your five 'must dos' to create 'wow-worthy' vignettes:

1) Symmetry in numbers, not in placement. What do I mean? On my entry hall table, there are two small round flat-lidded pots and two large ginger jars. The small-lidded pots are a pair but are not displayed in

symmetrical composition. There is enough movement to stay interesting, but not so much variation that it's overwhelming.

2) Vary circumference, material and height. One of the biggest mistakes people make is purchasing items that are sort of similar. They might fall into the trap of buying items that are four different heights, but they are all ginger jars. My challenge to you is to mix up those items. Add white stemmed ceramic artichokes, an oversized ceramic lamp, a pierced ceramic-lidded jar and an antique plate displayed on a holder.

3) Mix in one unexpected color. With blue and white I like to add a sand or beige. It balances without competing. Add some simple textured rounds in beige and off-white to a collection. ... continued on page D14



This pair is a great addition for accessory vignettes because it has pattern and color mix. They made a splash with "Client A" for only \$20 each.

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Hidden Valley Split-Level With Lush Private Yard

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Gorgeous new stone patio and private, rustic setting located in back yard.

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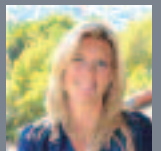
Recently remodeled throughout; this approx. 2800 square foot home boasts 3 good size bedrooms all on the same level and 3 updated full baths. The state-of-the-art Chef's kitchen with large island and eat-in breakfast nook also opens up to the adjacent Family Room with limestone artisan crafted fireplaces. A Gracious Dining Room and Inviting Living Room upstairs are wonderful places to relax and entertain. Downstairs includes a smart bonus/rumpus room and bedroom; perfect for teenagers, guests, or an Au pair. The outside is as charming as it is inside with fresh landscaping, rock walls, fruit trees, outdoor patio off the kitchen and family room perfect for dining Al Fresco. All this in a fabulous central Orinda Location zoned for Sleepy Hollow School.



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Spacious View home featuring 5 bedrooms and 3 bathrooms. Large fenced backyard for play, pets and gardening.

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Stylish Solutions

How to Execute the Perfect Blue and White Vignette

... continued from page D10



My entry hall of blue and white, shown here, makes me smile every time I pass. There is something whimsical and cheerful about it. I do have another console in place where keys and mail land. Find a space that makes you smile and have some fun experimenting.

4) Add something living. Please, with the bounty and beauty of summer, use fresh flowers or a potted blooming plant. One of my favorite things to do is use a blue and white cachepot with a blooming potted plant. Once the blooms start to fail, rotate it out to the garden and bring in another. It's a sweet budget buster for the garden as well.

5) Unlike jewelry where taking one piece off is de rigueur, sometimes with collections of blue and white, more is more. Not always, but sometimes. In my own home I have spaces that are very uncluttered and others, like my entry hall, which are more, say, packed with joy.

Make sure you are following me on Instagram at <https://instagram.com/annlmcDonald/> and on my blog as my team and I will be in New York City at the end of May bringing the stylish suburbanite design insider tips from Kips Bay Decorator Show House and the International Contemporary Furniture Faire.

Blessings this May!



These were found at Home Goods. The chain link look was a big hit for "Client H." The deep cobalt looks gorgeous with black accents in their home.



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



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Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

... continued from page D2

MORAGA ... continued

- 30 Hardie Drive, \$1,133,000, 5 Bdrms, 2570 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 3-2-15
 93 Miramonte Drive, \$500,000, 2 Bdrms, 1134 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 3-16-15;
 Previous Sale: \$360,000, 05-28-03
 367 Redfield Place, \$1,070,000, 4 Bdrms, 2259 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 3-19-15
 394 Redfield Place, \$1,330,000, 4 Bdrms, 2667 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 3-18-15;
 Previous Sale: \$490,000, 07-24-96
 162 Selborne Way, \$978,000, 4 Bdrms, 1837 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 3-3-15
 112 Via Joaquin, \$590,000, 2 Bdrms, 1354 SqFt, 1980 YrBlt, 2-27-15;
 Previous Sale: \$220,000, 08-10-89
 56 Wandel Drive, \$1,250,000, 4 Bdrms, 2178 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 3-4-15;
 Previous Sale: \$410,000, 06-02-98

ORINDA

- 73 Brookwood Road #10, \$540,000, 2 Bdrms, 1020 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 3-19-15;
 Previous Sale: \$139,500, 06-20-89
 49 Camino Lenada, \$1,237,000, 2 Bdrms, 2846 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 3-2-15
 285 Camino Pablo, \$723,000, 3 Bdrms, 1485 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 3-16-15;
 Previous Sale: \$703,000, 01-22-08
 1 Carisbrook Drive, \$1,105,000, 3 Bdrms, 1710 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 3-13-15
 500 Dalewood Drive, \$1,545,000, 4 Bdrms, 2907 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 3-19-15
 73 El Gavilan Road, \$2,500,000, 3 Bdrms, 3773 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 3-6-15;
 Previous Sale: \$1,300,000, 07-01-04
 3 Hazel Tree Ridge, \$1,065,000, 3-24-15
 2 Jack Tree Knoll, \$1,406,500, 3-6-15

- 9 La Sombra Court, \$1,155,000, 3 Bdrms, 1689 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 3-24-15
 8 Lind Court, \$1,337,500, 3 Bdrms, 1899 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 3-10-15;
 Previous Sale: \$885,000, 05-15-03
 7 Los Conejos, \$1,415,000, 3 Bdrms, 1973 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 3-17-15;
 Previous Sale: \$1,150,000, 11-01-13
 33 Marston Road, \$720,000, 4 Bdrms, 3267 SqFt, 1981 YrBlt, 3-9-15
 19 Mira Loma Road, \$853,500, 2 Bdrms, 1535 SqFt, 1946 YrBlt, 3-4-15;
 Previous Sale: \$750,000, 09-21-05
 81 Muth Drive, \$920,000, 4 Bdrms, 1978 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 3-3-15
 150 Ravenhill Road, \$1,030,000, 3 Bdrms, 2793 SqFt, 1983 YrBlt, 3-5-15;
 Previous Sale: \$747,000, 05-24-04
 425 Ridge Gate Road, \$1,950,000, 3 Bdrms, 2684 SqFt, 1980 YrBlt, 3-24-15;
 Previous Sale: \$1,207,000, 08-07-03
 16 Ridge Lane, \$1,310,000, 3 Bdrms, 3148 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 3-5-15;
 Previous Sale: \$329,500, 02-25-87
 92 Sandhill Road, \$3,800,000, 3-19-15
 266 Sundown Terrace, \$1,999,000, 4 Bdrms, 3427 SqFt, 1987 YrBlt, 2-27-15;
 Previous Sale: \$870,000, 06-22-93
 66 Tara Road, \$975,000, 3 Bdrms, 1404 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 3-24-15;
 Previous Sale: \$600,000, 01-06-12
 44 Via Floreado, \$1,350,000, 3 Bdrms, 2028 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 3-16-15;
 Previous Sale: \$430,000, 10-20-89
 412 Wovenwood, \$999,000, 3 Bdrms, 2284 SqFt, 1981 YrBlt, 3-6-15;
 Previous Sale: \$440,000, 09-28-99

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1st time on market in 32 years! Exquisitely renovated classic ranch in heart of Sleepy Hollow. Hardwood floors, wood windows, three fireplaces. Fabulous kitchen opening to warm family room. Four spacious bedrooms, three baths. Cabana/party room. Beautiful private setting with fenced solar heated salt water pool, extensive lawn and gardens.

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Giving Dreams an Address



Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for May

By Cynthia Brian

"May the sun bring you new energy by day, may the moon softly restore you by night, may the rain wash away your worries, may the breeze blow new strength into your being, may you walk gently through the world and know its beauty all the days of your life." – An Apache Blessing



A bed head garden is wild and free.

Photos Cynthia Brian



Mulberries will be ripe soon. Get your baskets ready for the harvest.

May! What a glorious month, perhaps the most fragrant feast for our senses of the entire year. With only one evening of April rain, nature blossomed into May magnificence lavishing the landscape with color, texture, birdsong, and a painter's palette of picturesque pleasures. Elegant and dainty bearded iris spread their alluring colors and intoxicating scents along driveways and paths. Azaleas and rhododendrons sparkle in the moonlight. Now is the time to experiment with new plants to lift our zapped spirits to new heights. If you like azaleas as I do, this is the time to get them into the ground after they have completed their spring flowering.

I planted a sampling of new azalea releases from J Berry Nursery including Fuchsia Parasol, Orchid Showers, Pink Ribbons and Pink Jewel. These rebloomers are set to offer a big show in late summer or early fall.

In the 2015 Garden Trends Report, a new phenomenon in gardening was reported that I found intriguing. It's called the "bed head" garden. President of Garden Media Group, Susan McCoy commented, "Purposefully un-styled outdoor spaces are the result of intentionally working within the natural landscape. This casual landscape style expresses an effortless personality with an 'anything goes' attitude." ... continued on next page



Petunias and succulents are flattering together in a rock garden.



Oregon Grape is an excellent deer-proof shrub in the landscape.

The wild look of this new garden fashion will be of interest to those of us who are harried, hurried or interested in embracing a more natural, environmentally sustainable garden. Colors are whatever thrives, plantings are in drifts, maintenance is low, hardscapes are minimal, earthy-born or recycled elements, and the result is lush, overgrown and messy, yet beautiful. Seems like a great fit for these crazy, hectic times.

Grab your gloves, shears, shovel and a bucket. We have work to do outside before the play days begin. And we all look forward to the amusements of the season!



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Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for May

... continued from page D17

CUT BACK your daffodils. The foliage should be very dry and crispy now, meaning that plenty of nutrients have gone to next year's blossoms. Time to clean up.

DEADHEAD all spring blooming flowers such as pansies and primroses. Petunias planted amongst your succulents will be especially beautiful in a rock garden.

CLEAN ponds, fountains and bird feeders with non-toxic detergents for a fresh start. Make sure your recirculating pump is working effectively.

ELIMINATE any standing water from gutters, pot saucers or old tires to reduce breeding of mosquitoes.

MOW the top portion of leggy ground covers including Vinca Major and ivy.

ADD dandelions, calendula and lemons to your daily food intake for a boost of vitamins A and C. Colds and flu are still rampant.



Pots of azaleas to be planted in the May garden.

SEED for summer blooming annuals – cosmos, marigolds, sunflowers and zinnias.

COMPOST all of your green trimmings. Add raked leaves as well as eggshells, shredded newspaper, vegetable peels and wood ashes. Turn your compost pile or bin often and keep moist.

FEED azaleas, rhododendrons and camellias with a fertilizer for acid lovers after they have finished blooming. Continue to pour your coffee grinds mixed with water around the plants for an extra boost of energy.

PLANT tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, squash, beets, carrots, peas, and cabbage. Also get summer blooming bulbs including gladiolas, lilies and dahlias into the ground now.

DEADHEAD roses as blooms fade for continuous flowers throughout the year. Make sure to cut a few stems to cheer up your indoor spaces.

PLAN to include more drought tolerant species to your landscape, including succulents.

PICK UP the petals of fallen camellias as the season comes to an end. Leaving the flowers on the ground leads to diseased plants.

GROW South African clivia as a houseplant in indirect sunlight or as a shade garden attraction. Their shiny deep green foliage and bright orange, yellow and white lily-like flowers encourage gazing.

PLANT an Oregon Grape as a deer-proof perennial shrub. The blue berries are prominent in May, and the leaves turn amber in the fall.

... continued on next page



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IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR

Time to Prune - Proper pruning is essential in developing a tree with a strong structure and desirable form. Trees that receive the appropriate pruning measures while they are young will require little corrective pruning when they mature.

Proper technique is essential. Each cut has the potential to change the growth of the tree. Poor pruning can cause damage that lasts for the life of the tree.

So don't wait until it's too late, have a complete inspection by a Certified Arborist at Advance Tree Service and Landscaping.

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PRUNE spring-flowering clematis after the blooms are spent.

SPRUCE up your decks and patios by growing herbs and flowers in one container.

PICK mulberries as they turn from red to deep purple. You'll have to work fast, or the birds will do the picking for you.

RAKE lawns to help with de-thatching. Aerate with a garden fork to help water penetrate.

VISIT me at the Be the Star You Are!® booth at the Moraga Faire on May 9 to pick up your free hollyhock seeds and potpourri. Make a \$95 tax-deductible donation in the name of your mom or grandmother to have a case of brand new books valued at \$720 donated in her honor to the library or school of her choice. She's worth it! <http://www.bethestaryouare.org/donate.htm>

BUY six packs of annual color for both sun and shade gardens. Most retailers are featuring big sales at the moment, and these small packs add a big punch to your growing garden.

DESIGN a "bed head" garden area and give yourself a labor break.

TRANSPLANT any small trees or shrubs into desired areas before the end of the month.

KEEP doors closed on garages and sheds, or you may invite a slithery serpent to snoop.

LAVISH mom with a pot of pretties, perhaps dahlias, and delphiniums on Mother's Day and thank her for being the wonderful woman she is.

May you walk gently through the world and know its beauty all the days of your life!

May Blessings!

Happy Gardening,
Happy Growing.

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ORINDA



New Listing

5 Dover Court Classic Orinda single level home on private, quiet cul-de-sac w/views. 4bd/2ba, apx. 2161sf on .56 acre lot. Spacious eat-in kitchen. Drought sensitive landscape.

\$1,279,000

ORINDA



New Listing

98 Barbara Road Sophisticated updating w/modern flair! Sleek kitchen w/American walnut cabinetry. Updated baths, new carpet, limestone finishes, hdwd flrs. Tropical wood deck, patio, views of hills.

\$1,400,000

ORINDA



New Listing

9 La Fond Appealing large family home w/ideal functional floor plan on one level. Enjoy kitchen/fam rm opening to flat yard. Super amenities + attractive finishes. On "in-demand" cul-de-sac street.

\$1,495,000

ORINDA



New Listing

129 Lombardy Lane 1st time on market in 32 yrs! Exquisitely renovated classic ranch w/ hdwd flrs, wood windows, 3 fireplaces. Fabulous kitchen/family rm. 4 spacious bdrms, 3 ba. Extensive lawn/gardens.

\$1,765,000

ORINDA



New Listing

82 Sleepy Hollow Lane Custom Sleepy Hollow traditional, private fenced corner lot w/beautiful front & back landscaped yards, Chef's kitchen opens to family rm w/beautiful bay window, custom built-in cabinetry.

\$1,850,000

ORINDA



New Price

134 Crestview Drive Private Orinda Hills renovated 1948 Spanish retreat w/apx. 4000sf, 4+bd/3.5ba on sun-splashed apx. two acre setting. Outdoor kitchen, large level yard & near top-rated Orinda schools.

\$2,750,000

ORINDA



New Listing

531 Miner Road Not your typical Orinda rancher! Stunning 4+bed/4.5 bath 2-story contemporary home has walls of glass and high vaulted ceilings. Large .78 acre yard with flat grass & a pool.

\$2,825,000

MORAGA



New Listing

96 Devin Drive Gracious 4bd/2ba, 2,346 sf cul de sac rancher on half acre lot. Great flr pln, hdwd flrs & dual pane windows. Indoor/outdoor entertaining - big yard off fam rm & pool. Top schools!

\$1,179,000

MORAGA



187 Cypress Point Way Exceptional MCC 5bd/3.5ba home, rebuilt in 2002, 2 master suites, great cul-de-sac location close to club amenities, trail & town.

\$1,395,000

LAFAYETTE



New Listing

3436 Springhill Road Charming sophisticated Springhill area home of apx. 2500sf. 4 bdrms + huge ofc or 2nd family rm. Designer touches! Walk to Springhill Elementary/Acalanes High - great commute location.

\$1,438,000

LAFAYETTE



New Listing

3471 St. Mary's Road Custom home apx. 3045sf on lovely .70ac lot. 4bd/3ba, updated kitchen, theater/family rm plus separate billiard room. In-law/au-pair, walk to town, schools & Lafayette Trail.

\$1,550,000

LAFAYETTE



4161 Coralee Lane Custom built by current owners, a well loved family home of great spaces w/large rooms, abundance of windows. Easy access outdoors to lawn, pool, decks & tons of beauty.

\$1,595,000

LAFAYETTE



New Listing

3921 Happy Valley Road Fabulous gated estate in sought after Happy Valley. New staging, road, ret. walls & price. Pano views, oaks, granite kit., hdwd flrs. Pool, low maint. yd. Au pair/ in-law possibility.

\$2,595,000

LAFAYETTE



New Listing

4038 Happy Valley Road Happy Valley 2 acre estate, exquisite priv. setting, views, level yard, stylish beaut. updates, walls of glass, high ceilings, dramatic 2 story living. Lrg fam rm, 2 offices, great schools.

\$2,695,000

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.

\$3,696,000

WALNUT CREEK



New Listing

1081 Camino Verde Circle Immaculate Quail Ridge townhome w/completely remodeled kitchen, granite counters, high end appliances, hdwd flrs, large office loft, formal dining rm & eat-in kitchen.

\$749,000



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