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May 9th 11am-4pm
This Saturday!
2015 MORAGA COMMUNITY FAIRE & CAR SHOW
Rheem Shopping Center
See inside for more details



Students from the first and second period wood technology class gather around their Make-A-Wish chair. Teacher Michele Murphy stands to the right of the group. Photo Cathy Tyson

Giving Back While Building Skills

By Cathy Tyson

Smart eighth-graders at Stanley Middle School are giving back to the community in a truly constructive way. Students in Michele Murphy’s wood technology class built a custom-made Adirondack chair to raise money for the Make-A-Wish Foundation. The chair will be raffled off at the school open house during the first week in June. The cedar charity chair, personalized with the Make-A-Wish star logo is in addition to students’ own handcrafted chairs that will go home when complete. They all pitched in when they had extra classroom time to build the Make-A-Wish chair.

Creating something this intricate takes work, even with the help of computer-aided design, or CAD. “The students have used not only traditional woodworking machines but also modern technology,” said Murphy. “They have personalized the chair using a CNC (computer numeric controls) machine, designed it on a computer and then built it in the wood shop.”

Her hands-on class is project oriented, with an emphasis on following directions and working in sequential order. Murphy took woodshop in high school and enjoyed it, back when it was a rarity for a girl to be in the class. “Title IX changed all that,” she said. ...continued on page A12

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Why Are the Station 46 Negotiations Taking So Long?

By Nick Marnell



Site of proposed fire station 46 at 1035 Lorinda Lane in Lafayette Photo A. Schek

Some mergers take just months to complete, like the recent formation of the Kraft Heinz Company between Kraft Foods and ketchup maker H.J. Heinz. Some take longer. The Contra Costa County Fire Protection District board of directors in June authorized Fire Chief Jeff Carman to negotiate a contract with the Moraga-Orinda Fire District to build and operate fire station 46, a joint venture to replace MOFD’s aging station 43 in north Orinda and ConFire’s closed station 16 in western Lafayette. An agreement has yet to be reached.

Frustration with the station 46 negotiations boiled over at the April 20

Lafayette Emergency Services Task Force meeting. “Here we sit, after 18 months, with no fire station,” said Jim Fajardo, task force member. “The taxes continue to be paid, our marbles are all in this basket. At what point do we go back to the initial suggestions, and not hold our breath waiting for this?”

“Our residents are asking us what is going on,” said co-chair Traci Reilly, a Lafayette city council member. The city, unhappy with the closure of station 16, created the task force in 2013 to investigate alternative delivery of its fire and emergency medical service, and the initial options discussed included secession from ConFire and merging with MOFD. “All of us around the table are getting impatient,” said task force member Peter Clark. “It doesn’t seem to be that complex of a problem.”

“From my perspective, it is complex,” said Carman. “It’s a 40-year, \$200 million contract, and you can’t just pull one down from the shelf.” He explained that in substance, both districts are in agreement with the deal, but language changes need to be resolved, because each lawyer sometimes writes language that is not agreeable to the other side. Carman used the example of purchasing new equipment.

What will the equipment be able to do, and who decides? He also pointed out that, since ConFire has agreed to pay half of the station 46 operating costs, what happens if MOFD’s costs rise more than ConFire’s? “We are trying to leave very little to the imagination,” said the chief. “This isn’t a competition. We just want to make sure our agencies and our customers are protected well into the future.”

... continued on page A8

Life in Lamorinda B1-B10

Wagner Ranch Maker Faire celebrates technology, engineering – page B7.



Sports C1-C3

Campo boys’ volleyball extend winning streak – page C1.



Our Homes D1-D20

The spring design trend: blue and white – page D10.





Public Meetings

City Council

Monday, May 11, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Planning Commission

Monday, May 18, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Design Review

Monday, May 11, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Arts & Science Discovery Center,
3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

School Board Meetings

Acalanes Union High School District
Wednesday, May 6, 7:30 p.m.
AUHSD Board Room
1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette
www.acalanes.k12.ca.us

Lafayette School District

Wednesday, May 13, 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

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An Ounce of Prevention

Security cameras take a bite out of crime

By Cathy Tyson

The numbers tell the story. With a 19 percent overall reduction in all crimes, and residential burglaries down 21 percent in 2014, the Lafayette Police Department's prevention strategy is working.

And it only gets better. So far in 2015, residential burglaries are down an astonishing 70 percent. How is this possible? According to the chief of police, vice mayor Traci Reilly and Cam Burks of the Crime Prevention Commission (CPC), what's making this little slice of semi-rural paradise an undesirable place for crooks is a combination of alert neighbors and layers of security cameras within the city limits.

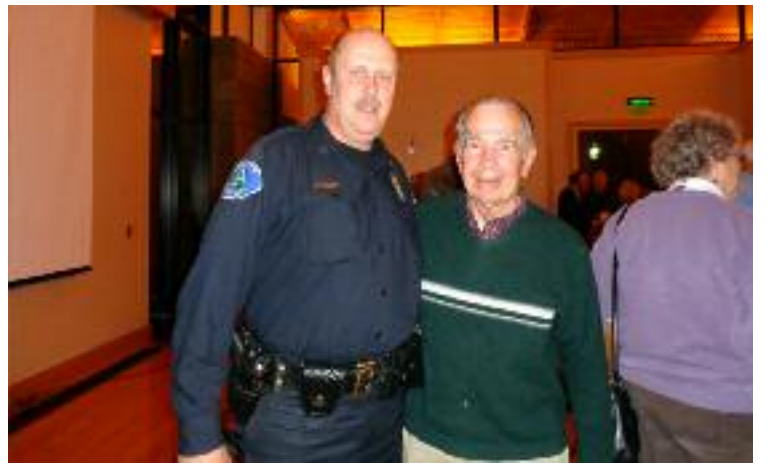
The trio came together to address a recent special meeting of the Crime Prevention Commission. Reilly, who

is also a graduate of the first citizen's police academy, welcomed a full house to the Lafayette Veterans Memorial Center for an informative session on crime prevention and security cameras.

Burks was up next. He talked about how communication is critical, adding that there have been substantial advancements in the technology of camera systems, making them a cost-effective tool for the city as well as neighborhoods and individual homeowners. The city council asked the CPC to look into the cost and effectiveness of surveillance options last year. After extensive research, the group recommended fixed motion activated cameras "as the best way to go," said Burk. The Commission meets every fourth Wednesday, and the public is encouraged to attend.

The charismatic headliner of the meeting, also known as Lafayette's chief of police, Eric Christensen, was entertaining and informative, delivering real-life local crime drama and a fair amount of laughter. Before describing how the layers of camera security are working together and best practices, the chief got off to a solid start by asking, "If you're a criminal, can you leave now?"

"This is America – land of opportunity; unfortunately criminals are opportunists," said the chief. He explained that it all starts with personal responsibility, such as not leaving valuables in plain view in a car, and locking doors. "If you leave your laptop in your car overnight – should you be shocked if it disappears?" he asked.



Chief of Police Eric Christensen and chair of the Emergency Preparedness Commission, Fred Lothrop, at the Veterans Hall Security Camera Town Hall meeting.

There were 48 residential burglaries in Lafayette last year and a whopping 1,769 false alarms. "What criminal would stick around, with a loud audible alarm blaring?" asked Christensen, although he added that sometimes it's the housekeeper, or the homeowner's kids who trigger activation.

With 95 percent of crimes in Lafayette involving a vehicle, "we spend a lot of time hunting cars," said Christensen. Police want to get the word out among the criminal community that this is a less than ideal choice of robbery location.

A powerful presentation of images of actual robberies in town, complete with suspects' clear license plate pictures, highlighted the effectiveness of the interaction of home, neighborhood and city cameras. Pictures also offer a concrete level of proof to help prosecute suspects. The combination of home security cameras, neighbor-

hood cameras at locations where there is only one way in and out, along with cameras the city has placed at key locations work together to garner indisputable evidence.

Wrapping up the talk, Christensen reminded residents that police also offer home-away watch. If a resident is away on vacation, the police will check your home's doors and windows, and send a daily text to homeowners that all is well. He added that they would not be watering plants or feeding the cat.

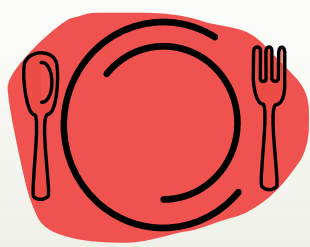
A woman spoke up during the question and answer period, explaining that about 40 of the 50 homes in her neighborhood contributed \$100 per household, which covers all the equipment of a camera security system and two years of monthly service. "We have a picture of every car that enters the neighborhood," she said. "I can't say enough about it." She feels that for \$50 per year she sleeps better at night.



Lafayette Police Department Incident Summary Report April 12-25

- Abandoned Vehicle**
Mariposa Rd/Mt View Dr
Deer Hill/Pleasant Hill Rds
Old Tunnel/Pleasant Hill Rds
800 block Moraga Rd
OConnor Dr/Moraga Rd
- Alarms** 91
- Animal Cruelty**
Oakwood Athletic
- 911 calls** 17
- Battery**
1000 block Via Media
- Burglary, Auto**
El Charro Restaurant
Springhill Elementary
Oakwood Athletic Club (2)
- Burglary, Residential**
3400 block Monroe Av
1000 block Via Roble
- Burglary, Commercial**
Acalanes High School
- Civil Problem**
1000 block Aileen St
- Disturbing the Peace**
600 block Burton Dr
- Police/Fire/EMS Response**
3500 block Golden Gate Way
3400 block Silver Springs Ct
Olympic Bl/Reliez Station Rd
- Forgery**
Springhill Elementary
- Grand Theft**
1000 block 2nd St
- Harassment**
Trader Joe's
- Hit & Run**
Las Huertas Rd/James Pl
Safeway
Oak Hill/Deer Hill Rds
- Identity Theft**
800 block Risa Rd
1000 block Serano Ct
3700 block Mosswood Dr
- Intoxicated Subject**
Safeway
- Indecent Exposure**
Library
- Loud Party**
20 block Reliez Valley Ct
1000 block Leland Dr
700 block Las Trampas Rd
- Loud Noise**
900 block Diablo Dr
Diablo/Hawthorne Drs
Mt Diablo Bl/Risa Rd (2)

- Panhandling**
3400 block Mt Diablo Bl
- Petty Theft**
3200 block Old Tunnel Rd
600 block Huntleigh Dr
900 block S. Thompson Rd
30 block Chapel Dr
4100 block Hidden Valley Rd
Safeway
- Public Nuisance**
BART, Lafayette (2)
Acalanes High School
3300 block Beechwood Dr
3300 block Rossi St
- Promiscuous Shooting**
700 block Old Jonas Hill Rd
1500 block Rancho View Dr
- Reckless Driving**
Olympic Bl/Pleasant Hill Rd
Pleasant Hill Rd/Deer Hill Rd
Taylor Bl/Withers Av
700 block Glenside Dr
Deer Hill/Pleasant Hill Rds
Postino Restaurant
Stanley Bl/Vacation Dr
- Shoplifting**
3500 block Mt Diablo Bl
Safeway
- Stolen Vehicle Recovery**
900 block Almanor Ct
- Susp. Circumstances** 9
- Suspicious Vehicle** 29
- Suspicious Subject** 19
- Terrorist Threats**
1000 block 2nd St
- Throw From Moving Vehicle**
Acalanes High School
1200 block Hillview Ln
- Traffic Stops** 192
- Trespass**
1000 block Sierra Vista Wy
- Unwanted Guest**
McDonalds
Taco Bell
3300 block Betty Ln
- Vandalism**
3500 block Brock Street
900 block Paulson Ct
3300 block Mt Diablo Bl
500 block McBride Dr
- Vehicle Theft**
3100 block Somerset Dr
3500 block Mt Diablo Bl
3400 block Mt Diablo Bl
- Warrant Arrest**
Happy Valley Rd/Mt Diablo Bl



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5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

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Live Music

Stroll & Taste
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

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Dessert & Coffee
8:30 - 9:00 p.m.

Lafayette Plaza Reception

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Big Turnout, Concerns at Homeowners' Annual Meeting

By Cathy Tyson



Mayor Brandt Andersson and Assemblywoman Catharine Baker taking questions at the annual Lafayette Homeowners Council meeting. Photo C. Tyson

Many members of the Lafayette Homeowners Council aren't thrilled with the direction the city is going. "In recent years, a lot has changed in our little town, and not all the changes have been positive," wrote LHC President Jenny Kallio in a letter to encourage attendance at its April 23 meeting. At the meeting, she acknowledged that while some things are clearly better, she concluded that "with improvements come more of everything" – parking troubles, traffic, and development. The LHC is a nonprofit organization founded in 1984, made up of representatives of neighborhood associations as well as concerned individuals, to be an advocate for homeowners' interests.

After his introduction at a crowded Community Hall, Mayor Brandt Andersson gave the State of the City address and responded to the LHC's concerns. Recently elected Assemblywoman Catharine Baker, who represents District 16, which includes Lafayette, also reviewed the work she's been doing.

The mayor looked both forward and back in time. He has the unique perspective of having been mayor five years ago, in 2010, as well as for 2015. He reminisced about changes that occurred over the years, calling the opening of the new Lafayette Library and Learning Center, "an enormous success, rewriting the role of the local library." He also mentioned other pressing concerns from a handful of years ago: police costs, the fire

station, failed roads and problematic state finances.

Looking ahead, he said he feels the budget is in much better shape, and the city will soon completely address the road repair backlog. He explained that now instead of putting every extra dollar toward road repair, the city can potentially spend money on other projects. That's the reasoning behind the Community Conversations – getting input about citizens' priorities.

Although there was one more Community Conversation scheduled at the time of the meeting, Andersson didn't want to keep the audience in suspense. The most popular suggestions from residents are to preserve open space, add more resources for police and make improvements to the Park Theater, either civic or private, as well as the revitalization of that area.

It's unclear if any of the night's discussion swayed LHC members. Although Andersson pointed out that there are over 10,000 parking spaces in the downtown area, the problem is many are in segregated small lots out of sight. He said the city is in negotiations with a parking management company to address the situation with technology.

The city's new transportation planner, Austin Lee, presented the final scope of work for a comprehensive downtown congestion study at last week's city council meeting that, if approved, will study congestion and ultimately come up with a preferred solution. ... continued on page A9

Musical Saturday in the Park

By Cathy Tyson



Photo Andy Scheck

Those community-minded Rotarians are at it again. This Saturday, May 9 they will be showcasing the talents of local musicians at the Lafayette Reservoir stage in an effort to raise money to support Lamorinda and Bay Area schools with new instruments for their music programs. What better way to spend a Saturday than enjoying complimentary music, surrounded by nature while enjoying a frozen treat or burger?

The annual Concert at the Res, now in its 24th year, was conceived by longtime resident and Rotary member Dick Holt, who is proud of "Lafayette's great reputation for supporting the music community." The fundraiser party hosts musicians young and old, from junior high students in Stanley Middle School's Symphonic Band to the legendary Big Band of Rossmoor that features the talents of senior members like Frank Como and music students in their teens.

Not only do the Rotarians host the show, they also built the stage where the musicians will be playing. In years past, the hard working volunteers would construct and take down a temporary stage to put on the event. After many years, it became unsustainable, so Rotary members looked

for a more long-term solution that could also be used by the public. Community support at concerts also helped fund the construction of the new permanent stage.

Performing this year with the Stanley Band are invited guests from Oakland's Westlake Middle School Band, the Acalanes High School Jazz Ensemble, the Bentley Jazz Ensemble, and the Dominant Seven Jazz Combo. Together they will provide music from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. What's music without dancing? Back again this year: the Lamorinda Theatre Academy Dancers and the Town Hall Theatre Troupe.

Organizers thought of everything. The stage is adjacent to a shady picnic area on the east side of the reservoir, and for those who may need a little help getting from the parking lot to the venue about 150 feet away up a slight incline, golf cart rides are available, along with comfortable chairs set up near the stage.

Don't miss the best free concert that gives back to the community this weekend in Lamorinda. How often do you get to double dip – enjoy the show while supporting local music programs via a Popsicle or a raffle ticket. It's a family-friendly win-win.

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Moraga

Public Meetings

Town Council

Wednesday, May 13, 7 p.m.
Wednesday, May 27, 7 p.m.
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School,
1010 Camino Pablo

Planning Commission

Monday, May 11, 7 p.m.
Moraga Library, 1500 St. Mary's Rd.

Design Review

Monday, May 18, 7 p.m.
Moraga Library, 1500 St. Mary's Rd.

School Board Meeting Moraga School District

Tuesday, May 12, 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

Residential burglary, 4/21/15 A Carr drive homeowner reported to police that sometime between 9:20 a.m. and 1:15 p.m. an unknown person entered the home and removed financial documents and a variety of jewelry. No witnesses or leads at this time.

Possession with intent to inhale, 4/22/15 It wasn't even 9 a.m. when cops responded to Canyon Road on a report of a person huffing from an aerosol can and having difficulty breathing. The subject had four empty bottles of aerosol dusting spray that had been recently used next to him. The subject was flailing his arms and had a difficult time trying to stand. The subject was placed under arrest and booked at the Martinez Detention Facility for possession of toluene with intent to inhale, public intoxication and two counts of misdemeanor probation violation.

Feeling OK? 4/22/15 Police were called to check on the welfare of a suspicious male subject at the town's main shopping area. He was experiencing both a mental and a medical issue. He was transported by the fire department to Kaiser in Walnut Creek for treatment.

Open container, 4/22/15 Upon making a traffic stop of a car on Sanders Drive near Canyon Road, police noticed the strong smell of marijuana coming from the inside of the car. Turns out, the driver was also in possession of an open container of an undisclosed alcoholic beverage. The passenger, who is a juvenile, was released from the scene to a parent. The driver was issued a written promise to appear and released from the scene with his vehicle.

Commercial burglary, 4/24/15 While a Country Club Drive business was closed, an unknown subject smashed the glass to a side door and gained entry. About \$550 in cash and checks were stolen from two locations within the business. Sadly no readable fingerprints were located. Hopefully the business has insurance.

Bike mystery, 4/26/15 Cops had a report of a suspicious person on the Lafayette-Moraga Trail who was riding a bike while pushing a second bike, something you don't see every

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A New Future for the Hacienda de las Flores

By Sophie Braccini

Councilmember Dave Trotter called the process to transform the Hacienda de las Flores one of the most interesting things he's worked on over his eight years on the Moraga Town Council. The April 22 council meeting hearing was indeed the beginning of a process that could completely change the property from a charming but often sleeping beauty, to a vibrant world-class destination.

The idea came a few months ago when Moraga resident Joao Magalhaes proposed asking top architectural firms to study different uses at the Hacienda de las Flores through a public-private partnership. Magalhaes suggested transforming the town property by possibly adding a boutique hotel or a restaurant, or a wine storing and tasting facility, as well as preserving some public use. Council members agreed that the property is a financial challenge and in need of extensive updating. Since the town does not have the means to renovate the property alone, or the tools to make it

more profitable, a request for proposal was sent to five architectural firms. Two responded.

The council interviewed Gould Evans and HKS Architects, which were competing for the chance to create the new design concept. The selection process was on merit only and not based on a specific design or compensation package.

During its presentation, HKS, which has more than 1,000 employees, 20 offices around the world, and a very strong presence in the international luxury hospitality market, showcased some of its previous achievements. The firm said it would engage the community in online and live outreach and do a market study to see what could be supported by the local economy. Afterward, HKS would select a developer that would want to partner with the town of Moraga to develop the concept.

Gould Evans also presented some of its past achievements, including projects similar in scale to the Ha-

cienda, such as local wineries and public-private recreation facilities. Pacific Union Development Company, a developer that had worked with Gould Evans on U.C. Berkeley's Maxwell Family Field and Garage, expressed an interest in the Hacienda. The firm said Pacific Union could be included in the feasibility study from the onset. Gould Evans is a 40-year-old firm with five main U.S. locations, including one in San Francisco. It employs 110 associates.

Both firms responded to questions from council. Particular emphasis was put on the outreach to develop a concept that would get a wide support of all the stakeholders, on the importance of preserving the historic character of the building, on the challenges that the Hacienda carries, such as deferred maintenance, lack of parking, inclusion in a single family residence neighborhood, and on the firms' experience with a public-private partnership.

The two firms sketched different

ideas for the Hacienda including a wine cave for receptions, a small hotel and the restoration of the original pool at the Pavilion. Both firms were careful to state that they would involve the community in the decisions. As for the public-private partnership, they both explained that it would be the town's responsibility to craft the rules and policies to allow operators to conduct their business and generate revenue, while preserving the community center use.

Both firms impressed the council members, but the elected officials liked that Gould Evans was working with Pacific Union, and the developer had already expressed an interest in the project.

Staff will negotiate with Gould Evans and bring back a contract for council's approval. If all goes according to plan, Gould Evans will conduct meetings this spring and summer to reach a final design decision by the end of September.

Not One, But Two Roundabouts on St. Mary's Road

By Sophie Braccini

Despite opposition by council members Teresa Onoda and Dave Trotter, the Moraga Town Council directed staff April 22 to pursue funding opportunities for two roundabouts — one at the intersection of St. Mary's Road at Rheem Boulevard and one at Bollinger Canyon and St. Mary's roads.

In her report to the council, Senior Civil Engineer Laurie Sugang recapped seven years of study and recommendations that were made to improve the safety and congestion at the two intersections. Sugang reported that several collisions had taken place at those intersections due to the lack of visibility, the steep change of grade and a deep "S" curve.

Consultant Ron Boyle of Omni-Means, which specializes in interchange, roadway and roundabout design, explained that roundabouts would serve this challenging area well. He added that roundabouts have proven safety benefits and that the state was considering making the study of them a mandatory option for all intersection improvements. "The main reason is the safety aspect," he said. He explained that the new configuration would calm traffic, shorten

the crossing distance for pedestrians and keep traffic moving, thus reducing greenhouse gas emissions. "It also can create a sense of place," added Boyle.

While the roundabouts won't change the current footprint of the roads by much, there will be minor encroachments of some rights of way. The big question, of course, is cost. The total project preliminary capital

cost is estimated to be approximately \$6.5 million. Sugang explained that there are grants available for such road safety projects and that there are also other sources of funding, for example with the Contra Costa Transportation Authority. Vice Mayor Mike Metcalf, who is the town representative to CCTA, confirmed that this project is exactly the type the agency promotes.

When Mayor Roger Wykle asked how Omni-Means would handle traffic during the construction project, Boyle said part of the cost would go to constructing a temporary roadway. "It will be inconvenient, but it can be done," he said.

Barry Behr, a resident on Joseph Drive off Bollinger Canyon, said he was delighted to see this forthcoming project. ... continued on page A8

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Moraga Citizen of the Year Graig Crossley

By Sophie Braccini



Graig Crossley at his Moraga home

Photo Sophie Braccini

Service to others and strength of character are the two qualifiers that first come to mind when thinking about the 2015 Moraga Citizen of the Year, Graig Crossley. He's led his life wanting to be useful to others – first as a teenager, serving his country in a time of war, and then as an educator in Richmond, as a Scoutmaster, and mostly in Moraga serving the community through his volunteer activities. Rather than letting a serious injury he suffered in the Vietnam War define him, he had the fortitude to choose life, and his actions command respect.

Raised mostly in California, Crossley also spent four years in Missouri and as a senior in high school he spent a year in Heidelberg, Germany.

After finishing his first year at Chico State, he enlisted in the Marine Corps and was sent to Vietnam. "I didn't want to be drafted, so I decided it would be better to enlist on my own terms," says Crossley, whose father also served in the Marine Corps during World War II. Crossley was retired for medical reasons in October 1969, after losing both legs during an attack.

"One day in the hospital I heard a man who was laughing while talking with friends; he had lost both legs and had only one arm left," remembers Crossley. "I said to myself, what's my problem? I have two arms. I used him as an inspiration." Crossley returned to Chico State for a semester then spent a year at the University of Heidelberg where he met his wife,

Sibylla. He graduated from CSU Chico in 1972. He continued studying, earning an MBA from Golden Gate University and became an administrator before deciding on a career in teaching. He got his credential from San Francisco State University to teach social science, history, and government in high school. He taught at Richmond High School for 18 years. "I had a sense that I was needed there," he remembers. "Lots of the kids out there had situations you would not wish on anyone."

Crossley remembers that many of the kids were not academically inclined, but he made sure they had an opportunity to learn and he pushed them. He remembers many of his students, including some he taught German to three times a week before school, went on to college and made good lives for themselves. "Those kinds of things made it worthwhile," he says.

Since Crossley moved to Moraga to raise his two sons with his wife, a preschool teacher at Mulberry Tree, he has volunteered with the town. "I wanted to give back to the community," he says. He served on the Parks and Recreation Commission in 1981 and was elected to the Town Council in 1982. "I figured I could do a better job (in politics decision making) than

the people that had sent me to Vietnam," he says, "and I decided to start at the local level."

On the council where he served for 10 years, twice as mayor, Crossley developed an image as someone looking out for the public purse. During his tenure, some important topics were decided, such as letting go of the Gateway option. "It would have been a roadway from (Highway) 24 (in Orinda, where the Wilder development is located), going through the golf course," he remembers. The initial plan was that the freeway would run through Burton Valley and connect to Highway 24 next to Pleasant Hill Road. "At the time Lafayette had already gotten rid of their portion of the right of way," he adds.

Crossley recently returned to the transportation discussion when he chaired the Climate Action Committee, which focused on reducing the town's carbon footprint. "I wanted a balanced document to come out of it that would not mandate residents to do something," he says.

Other projects Crossley participated in included the dedication of the Moraga Commons Park and the construction of the band shell. It is only fitting that now, as a Moraga Valley Kiwanian, he is helping replace the floor of that same band shell.

After his tenure on the council, Crossley ran for a position on the Board of Supervisors but was defeated. He redirected his energy toward Scout Troop 246 where he became Scoutmaster, and both his sons earned their Eagle Scout distinction. In addition to Kiwanis, Crossley now volunteers on the Park and Hacienda foundations and continues to come regularly to council meetings where he is not shy about sharing his two cents with the council.

Crossley does not let his disability stand in the way of what he wants to do, but he says it was not an easy journey. "It took 10 to 15 years for me to be relatively comfortable talking about it," he says. He served on the town's Americans with Disabilities Act committee but recommended sun-setting it. He is happy that the town decided to build an accessible path at the Commons, even if the cost seemed outrageous to him. But he highlights that it will be useful to many different groups in town: people pushing strollers, or residents with a cane or a walker. He hopes that undergrounding electrical lines along Moraga Road will free up space to construct a continuous safe sidewalk for users of every age and mobility.

... continued on page A9

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Orinda

Public Meetings

City Council

Tuesday, May 19, 7 p.m.
Auditorium, Orinda Library,
26 Orinda Way

Planning Commission

Tuesday, May 12, 7 p.m.
Auditorium, Orinda Library,
26 Orinda Way

Citizens' Infrastructure Oversight Commission

Wednesday, May 13, 6:30 p.m.
Sarge Littlehale Community Room,
22 Orinda Way

School Board Meeting Orinda Union School District

Monday, May 11, 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



Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report April 12-25

- Abandoned Vehicle**
10 block Mira Loma
10 block Orinda Wy
- Alarms** 61
- 911 calls** (includes hang-ups) 13
- Barking Dog**
10 block Lost Valley
- Burglary, Auto**
30 block Los Dedos Rd
60 block Lombardy Ln
80 block Tiger Tail Ct
100 block Ardiith Dr
- Burglary, Residential**
10 block North Ln
- Civil Disturbance**
10 block Mira Loma
- Credit Card Fraud**
Bank of America
- Dependent Child**
Moraga Wy/Ardor Dr
Valley View Dr/Moraga Wy
- Domestic Disturbance**
10 block Kittiwake Rd
- Police/Fire/EMS Response**
10 block Muth Dr
10 block Camino Sobrante (2)
- Fraud**
90 block La Cuesta Rd
- Grand Theft**
20 block Orinda Wy
- Petty Theft**
10 block Hacienda Cr
50 block Acacia Dr
- Forgery**
reported to Police Dept
- Health & Safety Violation**
200 block Camino Sobrante
Brookwood/Spring Rds
- Hit & Run**
Theatre Square
10 block Camino Sobrante
- Identity Theft**
10 block Sanborn Rd
Reported to Orinda PD
10 block Southwaite
- Loud Noise**
10 block Los Cerros
- Loud Party**
Orchard Rd/Valley Dr
50 block Brookside Rd
10 block Gardiner Ct
- Missing Adult**
reported to Police Dept
- Panhandling**
Orinda Post Office
- Public Nuisance**
Hawkridge Terr
10 block Vashell Wy
- Reckless Driving**
Lombardy/Tarry Lns
Holy Shepherd Church
Moraga Wy/Monte Veda Dr
Wagner Ranch Elementary
Camino Pablo/Claremont Av
Camino Sobrante/Miner Rd
Moraga Wy/Ivy Dr
Camino Pablo/Bear Cr Rd
- Susp. Circumstances** 11
- Suspicious Vehicle** 25
- Suspicious Subject** 11
- Traffic Stops** 148
- Trespass**
Safeway
- Unwanted Guest**
10 block Theatre Sq
- Vehicle Theft**
Camino Pablo/Orinda Wy
Theatre Square
- Weapon at School**
Miramonte High School



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Orinda City Council Adopts Housing Element and Environmental Impact Report

Multi-family development zoning also to be reduced at Santa Maria site

By Laurie Snyder

On April 21, after months of public hearings, workshops and other city governing body meetings – a fair number of which lasted four or five hours with Orinda residents speaking in favor of or against items as minute as punctuation in a document and as sweeping as their personal ideas of what the City of Orinda should look like in two decades – the Orinda City Council adopted a revised Housing Element for the city's General Plan, along with its related Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

According to the staff report, the "final key consideration" that council needed to ponder before making a decision to adopt its revised Housing Element or not was the "selection of a site to ... zone to accommodate a portion of the Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) for 48 dwelling units at the State default density of up to 20 units per acre."

Council members reached this point after deliberating for months

regarding the pros and cons of three possible RNHA locations (see "Public Comment Period Open for Orinda's Housing Element and EIR" in the Lamorinda Weekly's November 2014 online archives). After receiving often intense input from numerous Orinda residents, business owners, school leaders, et. al., the majority of council members expressed a preference for Alternative 1 (the Santa Maria site) at their April 7 meeting. Council then reaffirmed its selection of the Santa Maria site on April 21.

As part of this process, council signaled its intent to decrease any future multi-family development that could be planned for the Santa Maria site by reducing both the number of acres which could be impacted (from 3.2 to 2.4 acres) and the number of housing units which could be placed there (from 80 to 48). In response to one commenter who fretted over a future marred by "stack and pack housing" on the Santa Maria

site, Mayor Steve Glazer reiterated that no construction is currently planned for the site, that the property owner – the Archdiocese of Oakland – was still in charge of making any decisions regarding whether or not to allow development of the site, and that any development proposed for the site down the road would face a rigorous public review process. He also pointedly reiterated that council's latest action reduced the impact of any future development on the site by decreasing both the number of housing units that could be built at Santa Maria (if the archdiocese were even to allow such development), as well as the size of the acreage that could be developed.

After council sifted through a list of possible final tweaks to what was the eighth draft of the revised Housing Element, Glazer closed the deliberations. Expressing satisfaction with the opportunity to "preserve almost an acre of open space" while having a Hous-

ing Element "in place for an eight-year cycle" rather than a four-year period, Council Member Dean Orr made the motion for council to adopt its revised Housing Element and related EIR. After receiving a second by Vice Mayor Victoria Smith, council then approved its fifth cycle Housing Element 4 to 1 with Council Member Eve Phillips voting no.

Staff has since sent the council-approved documents to the California Department of Housing and Community Development for certification. HCD has 90 days to review and approve or reject Orinda's proposed changes to the Housing Element of its General Plan. According to recent city communications, the "2.4-acre area will be delineated through a public hearing process amending the General Plan Land Use Map and Zoning Map. Per the adopted Housing Element, the City has two years to process the amendment on the Santa Maria site."

International Finance Association Applauds Orinda's Transparent Fiscal Management

By Laurie Snyder



The City of Orinda's finance team recently received high marks from the Government Finance Officers Association. From left: Jennie Flores, Norma Costa, Linda Thompson, and Finance Director Susan Mahoney
Photo Ohlen Alexander

Last month, the Orinda City Council received word that another major agency thinks city leaders and staff are doing an excellent job of managing finances and ensuring transparency with Orinda's business operations. On April 9, the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) awarded the City of Orinda's Finance Department a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting.

"The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting," according to Tonya Gilmore, the city's public information officer. "Its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management."

The award was presented to City Finance Director Susan Mahoney and

her team – Norma Costa, Jennie Flores and Linda Thompson – in recognition of their work on Orinda's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR), which provides more detailed information about the city's financial health than is found in standard budget documents.

The Chicago-based GFOA is a nonprofit professional association made up of roughly 17,500 government finance professionals. Its CAFR certificate program was launched in 1945 "to encourage and assist state and local governments to go beyond the minimum requirements of generally accepted accounting principles to prepare comprehensive annual financial reports that evidence the spirit of transparency and full disclosure and then to recognize individual governments that succeed in achieving that goal," according to the GFOA's website (www.gfoa.org).

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Orinda Mayor Updates State of the City

By Nick Marnell



Steve Glazer Photo Andy Schreck

As part of his State of the City Address, Orinda Mayor Steve Glazer outlined how his city goes

about doing business at an April 29 Rotary Club luncheon at the Orinda Country Club. Glazer conducted a slide presentation that explained the transparency of the public process, and he focused on what is being done to improve the condition of Orinda roads, which he said are not yet at an appropriate standard.

"I read the latest report on the road conditions of 100 cities in our region and unfortunately Orinda is in the bottom five," said Glazer. "I say this is going to be the last year we are ever going to be in the bottom five."

Thanks to funds received from a sales tax increase and from the pas-

sage of Measures J and L, Orinda will repair 31 street segments this year at a cost of \$11 million. "This will be the largest road repair effort in the history of our city," said the mayor.

But he noted that the road work is far from done. "We passed \$20 million in bonds last June, and that along with the sales tax should get us about 60 percent of the way to finishing the roads," he said. "After we get done with this work in the spring, I am confident, as we continue to work through our spending of that money in a public transparent way, that we'll build the confidence of the voters so we can go back and get more money."

Orinda Community Foundation Seeks Applicants for Board Position

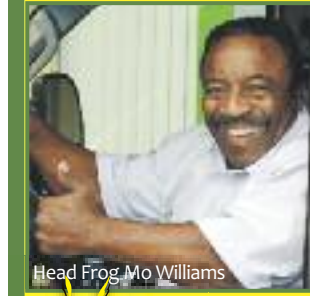
The Orinda Community Foundation (OCF) is searching for a new member for its board of trustees, and is encouraging civic-minded Orindans to apply for this important leadership role.

OCF was founded "for the principal purpose of supporting community events, programs, projects, visual and performing arts, and community related partnerships in Orinda. It serves to facilitate and develop philanthropy, engage in grant making, and to take other actions for the benefit of the Orinda community," according to OCF by-laws. Orindans see the fruit of the all-volunteer board's labor at the annual Fourth of July Parade, summer concerts in the park, the installation of sculptures and other works of art in public spaces, the NorCal Kids Triathlon, Orinda Action Day, and in many other ways large and small.

According to OCF's executive director Dick Westin, the foundation has generated more than \$150,000 to benefit Orinda and its residents since the organization was established five years ago. "We hope to do more in the coming years with your support and the support of the community," he said.

For information or to apply for the single board vacancy, call Sue Severson at (925) 254-1679, or email: orindafoundation@gmail.com. The deadline to apply is May 30. L. Snyder

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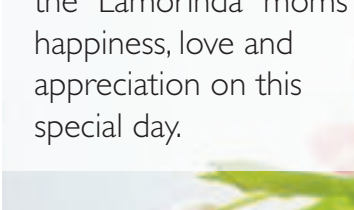
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Finola Fellner CalBRE#01428834



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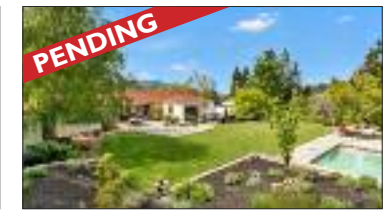
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Fire Districts

Public Meetings

Moraga-Orinda Fire District

Board of Directors
Wednesday, May 6, 7 p.m.
Moraga Library Community Room
1500 St. Mary's Road, Moraga
For meeting times and agendas,
visit www.mofd.org

ConFire Board of Directors

Tuesday, May 12, 1:30 p.m.
Board Chamber room 107,
Administration Building,
651 Pine St., Martinez
For meeting times and agendas,
visit <http://alturl.com/5p9pu>.

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Moraga Town Center Developer Threatens MOFD

By Nick Marnell

Newport Beach-based City Ventures, LLC, developer of the proposed Moraga Town Center Homes project, warned the Moraga-Orinda Fire District that it will pursue "any and all relief that may be available" against the district if it continues to oppose the development, which is to be built on property adjacent to the district's training facility at fire station 41. In an April 8 letter from the company's law firm to the MOFD board and Fire Chief Stephen Healy, City Ventures accused the district of trying to intentionally devalue the property by raising illegitimate concerns about the project for the purpose of acquiring the property under eminent domain; the company said it viewed the district's actions as constituting an inverse condemnation of the property. "If the district wants to condemn the property then they should just go ahead and do it," said Charity Wagner, City Ventures' director of development.

"That is not the intent of MOFD," said Alex Evans, district board president.

MOFD has long been concerned about the compatibility of residential units built adjacent to its training facility. In a 2008 letter from district counsel regarding the Moraga Center

Specific Plan, MOFD alerted the town that "The station's operation and noise may not be compatible with the proposed residential use."

The district again informed the town in 2014 of its concerns regarding the close proximity of the Town Center residential units to its training facility. MOFD cited noise during necessary night drills; water from fire hoses traveling across the property line; and privacy issues, since six of the proposed units have rear windows that face the training facility. The district also asked that a deed restriction be recorded on each home in the project, outlining and serving notice of the training facility activity and fire station operations.

In a letter to Moraga city manager

Jill Keimach, district counsel said that MOFD has no intention of either acquiring any portion of the Town Center property or devaluing the property for purposes of acquiring it. At its April 29 meeting the MOFD board prepared a letter to the Moraga town council, stressing that the district remains opposed to the Town Center project because of the incompatibility with its training facility.

Director Fred Weil said that he favored structuring the letter around existing general plan policy. "It's helpful to us, and it's going to be helpful to the council, to be able to look at a vision of the general plan and say, 'Does this project meet this policy statement?'" said Weil. "Grant the appeal if it doesn't meet it and go back

and try again." Three Moraga residents, including one-time MOFD director Dick Olsen, filed an appeal against the Town Center project because, among other reasons, it did not conform to the Moraga General Plan. Their appeal, continued twice from Jan. 28, is to be heard May 13.

The board voted 4-0 in favor of presenting the letter to the town council at the May 13 council meeting, with Evans abstaining. "I don't completely agree with the board's position on this," he said. "But I'm not going to vote no and try to undermine it." He would not elaborate later on what specifically he didn't agree with. "I'm not going to get into that," said Evans, nor would he comment on why he opposed the board's action in general.

Front page

Why Are the Station 46 Negotiations Taking So Long?

... continued from page A1

But Clark continued to push back. "It's a mathematical fact that every month this is delayed saves ConFire \$100,000," he said, referring to the estimated \$2 million annual operating cost of the station, which is to be split evenly between districts. "It doesn't save me anything," said Carman. "If I could get the station on the street tomorrow morning I've got the money to do it and I'm ready to go." Supervisor Candace Andersen confirmed that it wasn't about the money. "Absolutely not," she said. "My greatest priority as ConFire director is to get a fire station built in western Lafayette."

Also scrutinized was MOFD's performance. "There is significant opposition to this, from Orinda's point of view," said Orinda resident Richard Nelson. The grass roots Committee to Save Our Honey Hill Fire Station circulated a petition against building the new station, claiming that station 46 will increase response times in north Orinda.

"A total of 100 citizens have signed that petition," said MOFD director Steve Anderson. "Out of 7,000 voters, tell me, is that significant?" He said that the petition drive has not

been a factor in holding up the merger; Carman confirmed that the drive has not stalled the ConFire efforts either.

MOFD Chief Stephen Healy acknowledged that the Honey Hill opposition has added to the amount of time he's had to spend on the agreement. "They've asked for a sophisticated analysis, which made for a lot more work than I thought," he said. "But I'm glad we did it." Healy hired a company to update a report on response times in the north Orinda area, and the report will be available to the public at upcoming station 46 workshops.

Though the firefighters' union initially balked at the staffing model proposed for station 46 Vince Wells, Local 1230 president, said that the union is not holding up the deal. "It's not us," he said. "We're anxiously awaiting to look at the contract ourselves. I don't know what the districts have put on paper."

Neither MOFD lead counsel John Bakker nor county counsel Sharon Anderson responded to a request seeking reasons for the delay in the negotiation. "I wouldn't really say it's delayed," said MOFD board president Alex Evans, whose division in-

cludes station 43. "I would say it's complicated and these things take a long time."

"If lawyers want to get something done they can work night and day to get it done," said Clark. Task force member Jim Cunha agreed. "Sending stuff back and forth can take an eternity," he said. "Did you ever think about everyone sitting down in the same room?" Carman said that in the next couple of weeks the lawyers, board representatives and chiefs plan to do that very thing.

Once a tentative agreement is negotiated, MOFD plans to conduct public meetings in Moraga and Orinda to explain the financial and operational details of the joint venture. When asked by the task force to confirm a date that a tentative agreement might be reached, Carman indicated June or July.

"This contract will outlast my tenure at ConFire and I don't want someone to inherit my mistakes," said Carman. "So while I recognize that this is moving slower than I'd hoped, I am confident that we are covering all our bases."

"It's moving at the pace it needs to move."



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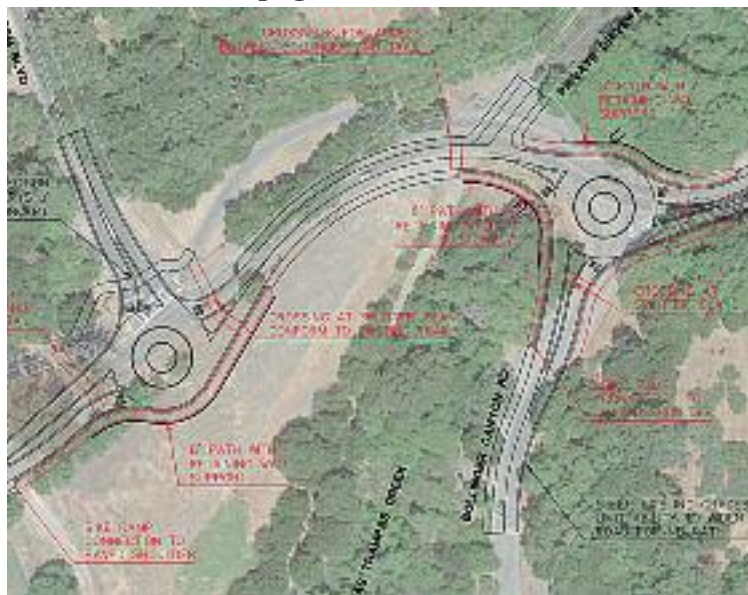
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Moraga

Not One, But Two Roundabouts on St. Mary's Road

... continued from page A4



Two proposed roundabouts along St. Mary's Road He was involved in an accident at the intersection of St. Mary's Road and Rheem Boulevard two months ago. "This intersection is a real crapshoot," he said. He felt that the college and its 3,500 students was the reason for the road's high traffic. "The college is working on its new master plan," he said, "and I hope they will contribute to the improvements of the intersection." Since the construction of the

Image provided

roundabouts will take some time, Behr asked for some immediate improvements to be done including removal of a eucalyptus tree that is blocking the view of oncoming traffic.

Councilmember Dave Trotter, who lives off Bollinger Canyon as well, made a case against the roundabout at Bollinger Canyon. "This is a solution in search of a problem," he said. "I don't see a problem there." Trotter

added he has made safe ingress and egress at this intersection for years and that simple vegetation cutbacks and maintenance would improve the visibility sufficiently without spending millions of taxpayer dollars. He was neutral regarding the Rheem/St. Mary's roundabout.

Vice Mayor Metcalf and Mayor Wykle supported the project. And Councilmember Phil Arth, who also lives off Bollinger Canyon, supported Trotter's view but agreed that the Rheem and St. Mary's intersection was dangerous. "Let's go for the grant money," he concluded.

Councilmember Teresa Onoda said that she had very little personal experience at these intersections, since she lives in a different part of town. From her discussion with a resident in that area, however, she concluded that there was not a problem. "I say if we don't have to spend the money, don't spend the money," she said. Her comment included the Rheem/St. Mary's intersection.

Following the 3-2 vote, staff will now pursue grant or other funding options for the double roundabout project.

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Giving Dreams an Address

Lafayette

Big Turnout, Concerns at Homeowners' Annual Meeting

... continued from page A3

Baker was sworn in on Dec. 1, 2014 and reported that she is serving on a number of committees including Transportation, Higher Education, Privacy and Consumer Protection, and more. She received a hearty round of applause about her first actions in office – refusing to take the per diem payment, which could total up to \$60,000 per year for expenses travelling back and forth to Sacramento from her home. Her issue was that legislators get paid whether they are working in Sacramento or at home in their districts. She's also not taking a "company car" – happy to drive the family minivan and forgoing a state-paid phone.

She has introduced legislation to reduce BART strikes, which will be up for a hearing on May 6. Her position is that there is a no-strike provision in BART workers' contracts. During the

negotiation phase of a new contract, while their current contract has expired, employees still receive same pay and health care benefits; her bill requires "they have to honor the terms of the old contract," including the no-strike provision. Attendees at the meeting thought this was a great idea.

A civil question and answer period wrapped up the meeting. Questions included a fellow asking if Sacramento is squeezing local government. Others expressed concern about private parking meters, which Andersson responded to, explaining that the La Fiesta parking area is a private lot, and the city is not involved in the revenue generated or enforcement. He noted that the owner understands the meters are not popular. Other questions included money spent on security technology and affordable housing.



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:

In the 40 years we've lived in Orinda, we've seen the traffic go from bad to worse to outrageous. Every morning and evening, Moraga Way is a parking lot. That said, I can only sit and wonder at the some of the major housing proposals that our landlocked neighbor Moraga is contemplating.

Every new development in Moraga impacts the traffic in Orinda and Lafayette (I'm guessing Moraga Road through Lafayette is a parking lot also).

I notice in the article in the current Weekly that the MCSP contains plans for 630 new housing units, plus space for office, retail, and entertainment. ... I wonder how many more cars that will add to Moraga Way and Moraga Road? Then there's the planned development on the hills between St. Marys and Rheem. ...

I wonder, is the effect on traffic in Orinda and Lafayette even remotely a consideration when these projects are discussed?

Lastly, at what point is enough, enough????

Ralph Johnson
Orinda

Moraga Citizen of the Year Graig Crossley

... continued from page A5

"I've known Graig for 35 years," says Al Dessayer, who will be one of those speaking at the May 16 celebration dinner. "We were on the council for 10 years; we are very close friends. He's always been a very active and positive volunteer with the town, willing to help others. He is very deserving of being Citizen of the Year."

Tickets for this 37th annual Moraga Citizen of the Year event, scheduled May 16 at the Saint Mary's College Soda Center, are \$50 per person. For early banquet reservations, email Kathe@MoragaChamber.org or go to moragachamber.org.

How Are Citizens of the Year Selected?

The Moraga Valley Kiwanis has organized the Moraga Citizen of the Year celebration for years. Every year residents are asked to nominate the people they think should be recognized by sending a letter to either Lamorinda Weekly or the Contra Costa Times-Sun edition. Before a vote is cast, all nominations are collected and discussed by six people representing the Moraga Valley Kiwanis, Saint Mary's College, the Chamber of Commerce, the Times and Lamorinda Weekly, as well as the prior Citizen of the Year. This year's nominees were Graig Crossley, Linda Deschambault, Judy Dinkle, Colleen Lund, Bobbie Preston and Larry Swindle.

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Business

Lafayette's Rancho Cantina Brings Diners Back to Culinary Roots

By A.K. Carroll



Photos A.K. Carroll

Before Moraga became home to Saint Mary's College or Orinda built Theatre Square, before the completion of the Caldecott Tunnel or the creation of Lafayette Community Park, the wild west of Lamorinda was divided into ranchos – tracts of land used to raise cattle, sheep and horses. Ranchos were places of arduous work and generous hospitality – and are the inspiration for the entrees and ambiance of Rancho Cantina, Lafayette's most recent dining destination.

Rancho Cantina takes Lamorindans back to the culinary roots of the region, blending the traditions, culture and recipes of Spanish conquistadors and Mexican rancheros, the original Californios, for an eating experience that is truly "auténtico." Before you make it through the swinging wood gates or under the branding iron archway, you'll be greeted with a smile of hearty hospitality, if not from a staff member, then by one of the owners themselves.

Julie Mitchell and Erik Peterson have been mapping out the cantina for over two years. When early plans for a French restaurant fell

through, they shifted their focus to something historically local. Mitchell herself is a seventh generation Californian, with a father and brother who both ranch cattle and another brother who farms, supplying many of the ingredients used in the cantina's dishes. They hired a seasoned consultant and veteran head designer, pulling in Jaliscan executive chef Jorge Hernandez (formerly of Left Bank) and veteran servers from Lake Chalet and other local restaurants, striving for quality at every corner.

"What we're doing isn't earth-shattering," said Peterson, "but it is new. What is Rancho? It's a culture, a heritage, a cuisine. This place is an homage to the rancheros and their contribution to California."

With its reclaimed Salinas Valley barn wood, leather-backed bar stools, Mexican tiling and big open windows, the upscale saloon is cozy, but polished – as suitable for date night as it is for a family meal. An open kitchen and visible wood-fired grill connect creator and consumer, eliminating traditional dining as tortillas flip before your eyes. Ample outdoor seating

(and the promise of future heat lamps) invites you to come in for a drink and linger into the evening.

An old rancho saying, "It is better to arrive at the right time than it is to be invited," suggests that all are welcome to the Rancho table. This is reflected in the restaurant's long benches, spacious bar, and community-style seating, as well as its menu, which offers more small plates than it does entrees. On the whole, the selection is blissfully simple, with just over a dozen options ranging from Tostones de Papas Fritas, mashed and fried potato medallions with a tender interior encased in a crisp coating and served with fire-roasted salsa, to the Guisado de Carne y Nopal, a traditional rancho stew of tender slow-braised pork, soft strips of cactus, chunks of potato and California peppers, served with corn tortillas. It's one of Peterson's favorites.

The kitchen is still experimenting, offering a velvety fresh guacamole, garlic-herbed mission olives, fire-roasted and verde salsas, and a house-made hot sauce potent with habaños. More familiar Mexican offerings, like the chicken enchiladas, sit side-by-side with crispy California fish tacos, beer-battered and fried, served with cabbage slaw and the same spicy aioli that brightens Rancho's grilled shrimp. Adobe Brick Chicken marinated in herbs and served with crunchy fennel slaw and a Meyer lemon crema provides food enough to share, though you might want it all for yourself. Entrees come with traditional rancho pink beans and rice, staple sides to flesh out a meal. The menu also offers \$5 options for "niños" and vegetarian alternatives, including a grilled asparagus salad and grilled portobello and poblano quesadillas.

In true Cantina style, the restaurant features a full bar (heavy on tequila) and a drink menu that includes local beers, imported bottles, a modest selection of wines and rancho-inspired



cocktails, such as the Rancho Sour, made with Lunazul blanco tequila, house-made jalapeño syrup, fresh lime and pineapple juice, Herbsaint liqueur and an egg white and The Spicy Banderero, made with Xicaru Mezcal, fresh lime, cilantro, jalapeño and agave.

Rancho Cantina celebrates the "golden days" of the rancho period – a time of fiestas and music, land wealth, laughter and leisure. Pull up a chair and have a seat at the table.

Rancho Cantina

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

business briefs

Gypsea Bungalow: A Unique Boutique in Downtown Lafayette

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From left, Pam Lewerenz and Danya Stehr glow on the opening day of their new store, Gypsea Bungalow. Photo Sophie Braccini

On Gypsea Bungalow's opening day May 1, the charming store and private outside patio were already busy with curious shoppers, and a line formed quickly at the counter where Danya Stehr and Pam Lewerenz, the two business partners, were working the cash register, delighted and surprised by this early rush. The two ladies have been friends for some 25 years. They met in San Francisco when they were still dating the men who later became their husbands. One lives in Orinda, the other in Lafayette, where they are raising their families, both with children in their teens. "Ten years ago we started a custom cupcake business together," says Stehr, "so we knew we worked well together." This time, the two are realizing a long-time dream: having a store that's like the charming boutique you discover on vacation that makes you want to buy everything inside. "Everything that's in here are things we love, that we've found elsewhere and could not find

here, or have discovered while traveling," says Lewerenz. The choice of gifts for self or loved ones is wide, from tabletop items, to accessories for the home, a limited but charming collection of women's and men's clothing, as well as jewelry and an assortment of new and upcoming brands. The store is located off the street, behind ResCare HomeCare and has available parking. "We are a destination boutique," explains Stehr, adding that the two of them looked for a long time before finding the perfect location. The private shaded patio is available for parties and a few are already scheduled.

Moraga Employee of the Month for April



From left: Kevin Reneau, Marty McInturf and Jay Ingram
Photo provided

Marty McInturf, who has worked tirelessly as Moraga's town clerk for the past six years, has been named the April Moraga Employee of the Month. McInturf is the primary liaison between the town government and the public, recording all activities and decisions of the Town Council. She has produced over 120 town

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

newsletters during her tenure, keeping the citizens of Moraga well informed on the latest information. "Marty is an extremely dedicated employee, often is not only the last person in the office to leave, but takes work home with her," said Jay Ingram, Moraga's director of parks and recreation. The Moraga Rotary and Chamber of Commerce will award McInturf with gift cards to Safeway and to Ristorante Amaroma in Moraga at an upcoming luncheon in May.

News from the three Chambers of Commerce Lafayette

The 13th annual Taste of Lafayette will be from 5:30 to 9 p.m. Tuesday, May 19. Tickets for the classic event that tours diners around town to sample food and drinks at favorite and new restaurants are available online at lafayettechamber.org.

Ribbon cutting for the Hideout Kitchen and Cafe at 5 p.m. Thursday, May 14 at 3406 Mt. Diablo Blvd. (behind the Soccer Post).

Ribbon Cutting for Behymer & Steel Chiropractic at 5 p.m. Thursday May 21, 1043 Stuart Ave. #10

May mixer from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, May 27 at Lafayette Physical Therapy, 3468 Mt. Diablo Blvd. suite B110.

Moraga

Moraga Community Faire and Classic Car Show from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, May 9 at the Rheem Shopping Center (see story page B1)

Orinda

The Orinda Restaurant Tour: Dining Al Fresco is scheduled from 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, May 12 throughout and about Theatre Square in downtown Orinda with most of the Orinda restaurants providing samples of some of their finest offerings to tour participants. Music by The Rippers will accompany the diners along their easy walk. Pie and coffee service from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Tickets for the event are available at orindachamber.org.

New Playground At Los Perales a Community Project

By Sophie Braccini



Cathy Harris, left, and Sara Mooradian help with construction of the new playground at Los Perales Elementary School. Standing immediately behind them, Kiwanis Past President Jason Evans gives them moral support. Photo Sophie Braccini

When some parents see a way to improve something at their children's school, they do not linger complaining about it, they take action. Los Perales Elementary School mom Sara Mooradian did just that. Noticing that the higher-grade playground was in a state of disrepair and constant need of fixing, Mooradian asked the school principal Amy Black if she could start a campaign to replace the structure. The project was launched and managed by a team of parent volunteers, and on April 24-26 the new equipment was built with the help of many other community members. Inaugurated on May 1, it is now open for fourth and fifth graders to enjoy.

"The old playground had dry rot and was falling to pieces," says Cathy Harris, a Los Perales mom involved in the project. "Sara started a playground committee that put together a fundraiser." The group's main fundraiser was a tile wall. Each child who purchased a tile individually painted it with the help of Color Me Mine. The wall memorializes the children's passage in the school. The playground tile wall raised \$22,000.

A group got together to choose the right model for the kids. "We chose the same vendor, Miracle Play System, which provided the play structure at Rancho Laguna Park and the two playgrounds at Rheem Elementary," says Mooradian, who has a second- and a fourth-grader at the school. "We wanted to finish the project this year so the fifth graders could enjoy it. The student council has this great program called Friday Freeze, selling fruit Popsicles on Friday for \$2, and they gave \$1,000 of the money they raised toward the

project." "It was amazing to see the community getting together for our kids," said Principal Black. "We started talking about it with Sara a year ago when she was PTA president. The project was approved by the school district board, the parents raised most of the money, the school district contributed, the PTA reserve was used, and the whole community got together to build it." The business community contributed as well with SummerHill Homes being a major donor, Allied Waste also making a donation, OSH and Quickrete providing concrete, Safeway feeding volunteers and Starbucks giving them coffee.

On the morning when construction started, a group of Kiwanians, parents and community members gathered with hired construction workers and started putting together what looked like a huge jigsaw puzzle with pieces stretching over more than 100 square yards. Then the rain came in and somewhat delayed construction, but the volunteers came back, close to 100 in all. "I think it was a bigger job than we anticipated," commented Harris after the construction was completed. "Saturday was very muddy and the bobcat machine got stuck in the mud for an hour. We thought we were going to finish on Sunday, but we ran out of time. All of the volunteers were amazing. We finally made it across the finish line on Monday evening."

The new large playground is about the same size as the old one, but with many more fun activities for kids, such as a DNA climber, a climbing wall, bongo steps, slides, bridges and a lot of shade. It is approved for children ages 5 to 12.

Another Moraga Valley Kiwanis Project

Being a construction worker must be a requirement to join the Moraga Valley Kiwanis Club, considering the number of building community projects the volunteers are tackling. In the weeks preceding the Los Perales playground project, service group members worked on the replacement of the hardwood floor of the band shell in the Moraga Commons Park. The floor had deteriorated to a point where there was concern about losing performers through the cracks. The first weekend, Saint Mary's students earned community service points by helping demolish the old floor, and the following weekend, Kiwanians built a brand new redwood floor for the popular venue, under the supervision of Andy Boggeri of AB Construction.

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Front page
Giving Back While Building Skills
 ... continued from page A1



A woodworking teacher for 25 years now, Murphy has spent the last four of those years at Stanley.

"Girls are very comfortable in this class and encourage other girls to take it. We have 21st century technology at Stanley that is a true representation of what the industry uses. This exposure to CAD, CNC and powerful machinery can lead to so many different career paths. They learn about engineering, programming, creative arts, mathematics, carpentry and wood working," said the instructor.

"Most importantly they are so proud of their work." To understand the bigger picture and limitless possibilities of the field, Murphy took the students on a field trip to Autodesk in San Francisco to explore the amazing world of innovative design. The company is a leader in engineering, 3D design and entertainment software that is used in everything from architecture to manufacturing to media and beyond. Students reported back that it was "really cool" and "fun."

Looking around the organized, massive classroom filled with wood, band saws, miter saws and the very impressive ShopBot – a tool for cutting, carving, drilling or machining all kinds of things based on computer designs – the support that the community has provided to keep the wood technology class thriving is apparent. Judging by the engaged kids who claim this is their favorite class, the investment seems to be paying off.

The sturdy chair just needs a bit more sanding, stain and varnish to be ready for its debut. Once complete, it will be on display in the school's library.

Murphy has a special connection to the Make-A-Wish Foundation, which grants the wish of a child diagnosed with a life-threatening medical condition; her nephew was granted a wish. The wood technology kids are thrilled that they are able to help a sick child's wish come true. When asked how much they hope to raise for the charity, the kids all chimed in: "As much as we can."

Raffle tickets are \$5 each, and are available at the Stanley school office until May 21. The night of the open house, May 14, tickets will be sold in the library, the wood shop as well as the office.



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A True Family Focus at the Moraga Community Faire, May 9

By Sophie Braccini



Ron and Cory Schumacker leaning against Cory's '69 Chevy pickup.

Photo Sophie Braccini

This year the annual Moraga Community Faire will be held the day before Mother's Day and the organizers will have gifts and treats, large and small, for all the moms in our lives. But the Classic Car Show, as part of the fair, will have a father-son focus: Moraga Motors owner and show co-sponsor Ron Schumacker and his son, Cory, will be showing the '69 Chevy pickup that they have completely renovated over the past six years.

With a mechanic and car repair shop owner for a father, Cory Schumacker has always been around cars and was always interested in learning how they worked. Since the age of 7 or 8 he started taking things apart, starting with his first bike. Ron Schumacker noticed his son's curiosity and started to look for something bigger and more interesting that his son could sink his teeth into.

He spotted the Chevy pickup for sale by the son of the truck's original owner. "My father found it on Craigslist and asked me if I had an interest," says 20-year-old Cory Schumacker, who works with his father at Moraga Motors. "I got my '69 Chevy pickup truck when I was 14."

The classic truck had only 100,000 miles on it, "but it was barely running," remembers the young man with a smile.

Ron Schumacker is quite proud of his son's natural abilities to understand how things work, and by his dad's side, Cory learned quickly by doing. Every weekend, they would

come to Moraga Motors where the truck was parked and together they started taking things apart and making both small and big changes.

"One of the first things I did was I lowered it," says the younger Schumacker. He wanted to improve the truck's stability. "With the new suspension it handles a lot better." He also decided to replace the original engine and transmission, although they were still functioning. Since Cory wanted to use the truck as his main vehicle when he turned 16, he wanted a newer engine that would be more gas efficient, and a manual transmission because he likes driving a stick shift.

The Schumackers took the truck to a specialized shop to do all the bodywork, to have the dents removed and to have the truck repainted to its original green. With wood trim along the side and classic side mirrors, the pickup has been brought back to life.

Cory Schumacker also took the seats out of a '97 Chevy Tahoe and drilled some new holes to make new seating very comfortable inside. He uses this as his commuter car, but the '69 Chevy pickup will stay his forever. He still works on it, tunes it, and thinks of new additions. "I always liked the early '60s and '70's cars. I like their style; they are simple and well-made," he says.

As co-sponsors of the car show, the Schumackers will help set up and stage the event, run the contest and hand out 12 trophies. "There is a lot that's involved in the car show," says

Ron Schumacker.

The Community Faire will also be ripe with opportunities to learn about locally grown herbs, new recycling options, and other "green" oriented activities. Those taking a bus to reach the busy grounds get a raffle ticket and a chance at prizes.

Local winemakers will be returning to the fair, and Moraga artist Jaya Griggs will be back this year offering watercolor pet portraits while you wait. And in typical country fair style, Mayor Roger Wykle has volunteered to be a target at the dunk tank, as well as other local celebrities.

There will be many games and activities for kids, from a climbing wall to a bounce house and carnival games. Moraga-owned food trucks will be on site for hungry patrons.

The Moraga Community Faire will be from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, May 9 at the Rheem Shopping Center. For more information, visit moragachamber.org/faire.

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Saint Mary's Fair Trade Festival Focuses on Social Justice

By Sophie Braccini



Saint Mary's administrators, staff and students as well as local community members attended the April 24 Fair Trade and Social Justice Festival at SMC. From left: Program Administrator Cherie Grant, Vice President for Mission Carole Swain, Moraga Councilmember Teresa Onoda, Asst. Director Justice Education and Immersions Nick Van Santen and Professor Caroline Doran
Photo Sophie Braccini

The Saint Mary's College Ferragiaro Hall quad on April 24 was filled with about 20 booths showcasing local vendors and companies that deal in fair trade practices during the SMC Fair Trade and Social Justice Festival.

Fair trade is a practice that began in the 1980s when missionaries decided to act as intermediaries between producers and end-users when they realized the small percentage of the final price the impoverished growers or makers were receiving. Saint Mary's was one of the first colleges in Northern California to earn fair trade status for its practice with its vendors. "This is a great avenue for us at Saint Mary's because we talk a lot about social justice," says Nick Van Santen, the new assistant director of justice education and immersions, "and this is one of those moments when we get to show it tangibly."

Van Santen defines fair trade as an economic system. "The difference here is between free trade and fair trade," he explains. "It does not deal with organics or sustainable practices, even though they often come together."

Professor Caroline Doran, who

teaches business ethics and social responsibility in the School of Economics and Business Administration, was at the festival to educate students and community members about the economics and dynamics of fair trade. "The companies that certify fair trade status do a good job," said Doran, who has been studying fair trade in Europe and the U.S. for years. "The big players in this market are not always those you would think about. For example, Starbucks is one of the biggest distributors of fair trade coffee."

Van Santen hinted that the town of Moraga should try to be certified as a fair trade town. Moraga Town Council member Teresa Onoda, who was volunteering at a booth offering fair trade chocolate, thought that was an interesting idea. "I'd like to learn more about it," she said. Onoda invited Van Santen to make a presentation to the town in the future.

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Mats Public Speakers Take Sixth at State Championships

Named Congress Champion for third straight year

Submitted by Kristen Plant



Photo provided

Thirty-six Miramonte High School Public Speakers, seven parent judges/chaperones, and two teachers enjoyed laughter and learning at the California High School Speech Association's State Championships April 17-19 at Vista Murietta High School in Murietta, Calif. The Mats earned sixth place out of 360 schools and claimed the Congress Champion for the third year in a row. "Our students epitomized good

sportsmanship and camaraderie," said Miramonte teacher and public speaking head coach Kristen Plant. "They endured 14-hour days of competition with good cheer and appreciation of this special opportunity. We could not have done it without the support of Miramonte staff, students and parents. We are particularly grateful for the generous sponsorship of the Educational Foundation of Orinda."

Special commendation to our semi-finalists and finalists:

- Sean McFeely – 1st in Congressional Debate and a \$250 prize
- Ray Barrie-Kivel – 1st place Presiding Officer in Congressional Debate and a \$250 prize
- Bryan Wang – 2nd in National Extemporaneous Speaking
- Owen Chang – 3rd in International Extemporaneous
- Daniel Ginsburg – 4th in International Extemporaneous
- Aaron Baum – 6th in National Extemporaneous
- Liam Madsen – 8th in Original Prose and Poetry
- Jonathan Zhou – 9th in National Extemporaneous
- Fatima Hasanain – 10th in National Extemporaneous
- Marcel Bollag – 11th in Original Advocacy
- Alex Jang – 13th in International Extemporaneous
- Max Han – 17th in Congressional Debate
- Konnie Guo – 18th in Original Advocacy
- Bryan Wang and Aaron Baum -- octafinalists in Public Forum Debate
- Kelly Zheng and Anna Miskelley -- double octafinalists in Public Forum Debate

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Miramonte Teacher One of Four 2015-16 Contra Costa County Teacher of the Year Finalists

By Diane Claytor



Miramonte High School teacher Paul Fitzgerald

Photo provided

Miramonte High School history and psychology teacher Paul Fitzgerald has been teaching for 40 years. That's 40 years of reading and grading the papers and tests of teenagers (with their hormones and angst), and working with parents and administrators. You would think, after all this time, he would be burned out, tired and ready to walk away. You would be wrong! Fitzgerald, one of four finalists for the 2015-16 Contra Costa County Teacher of the Year award, appears to be as enthusiastic and passionate about teaching today as he likely was 40 years ago – maybe even more so.

The Bay Area native and UC Berkeley graduate has spent the last 18 years at Miramonte. Prior to that, Fitzgerald taught in Denver, Chicago and Costa Mesa, Calif. He learned early in his career that high schoolers, no matter how unmotivated they may appear, really want to do well. "You have to reach them where they are," Fitzgerald explained. "If kids think they have a chance of doing better, they're going to take it. They do care. Not every student is in the same place at the same time so we, as teachers, have to find where they are and learn how to reach them. I read about a school where no student receives a failing grade. Their report card simply states 'not there yet.' If someone flunks a test, it just means they haven't passed it yet."

Fitzgerald adopted these philosophies and ran with them. "What this means to me is that I, as a teacher,

have to find a way to get that student to better understand the material. I set the bar very high in my classes," Fitzgerald said, "and I give my students a lot of opportunities to reach it." If a student needs to rewrite an essay three times with Fitzgerald reviewing the first two drafts, that's fine with him. If a student needs to meet with him during lunch or after school to work on or finish an assignment, Fitzgerald is there. "If they're willing to put in the extra time and effort, I'm willing to be there for them. I want them to find ways to succeed," he noted. "My ultimate goal is to teach them how to learn."

Richard DuFour, an "education guru," according to Fitzgerald, and one of the principals Fitzgerald worked under in Chicago, authored "Professional Learning Communities at Work," where he advises teachers to "focus on learning rather than teaching ... and hold yourself accountable for results." Fitzgerald bought into this concept immediately. "Just giving a kid back a test doesn't tell him/her anything," he said. "Every teacher should look at the bottom line. What did I do wrong? What could I do better?"

Following this theory resulted in improved test scores for his kids; while teaching in Chicago, Fitzgerald received national recognition for the increased AP test scores of his students. He was invited by the College Board to give workshops to other AP European history teachers and his curriculum became a national model

for this subject area. He still leads these workshops during the summer.

At Miramonte, Fitzgerald teaches AP European history to sophomores and psychology to seniors. Sarah Rockwood, editor of Miramonte's student newspaper, wrote, "Fitzgerald's trademark of continuously finding connections between the past and present, and illustrating how the former always impacts the latter, has made his class especially intriguing to students." And Miramonte Principal Julie Parks said that Fitzgerald "is everything you look for in a teacher: collaborative, innovative and powerfully student-centered. He is an inspiration to students and staff alike."

"There are so many outstanding teachers in this community," Fitzgerald said. "They are hardworking, idealistic and collaborative. I am truly honored to have been nominated for this very prestigious award."

Contra Costa County began recognizing outstanding teachers in 1972, establishing the Teachers of the Year program, which is directed by the County Office of Education. It is open to all K-12 teachers in public and private schools. The selection process involves both in-person observations of the nominees by a committee of education specialists followed by a personal interview with each of the district's Teacher of the Year representatives. Two winners will be announced in September; they will then compete in the state Teacher of the Year program. The three other finalists included Dawn Foote (Nunn Elementary School, Brentwood), Maria McClain (Deer Valley High School, Antioch) and Kate Perry (St. Patrick-St. Vincent High School, Vallejo).

The following Lamorinda teachers were nominated by their districts to be 2015-16 Contra Costa County Teacher of the Year representatives: Vickie Hilty, Orinda Union School District, Sleepy Hollow Elementary; Juanita McSweeney, Lafayette School District, Happy Valley Elementary; and Don Read, Moraga School District, Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School.



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Worried About Your Memory and What to Do?

By Linda Fodrini-Johnson, MA, MFT, CMC

If you find yourself forgetting names, places, dates or appointments, you might think you have a dementia like Alzheimer's. You may seek answers from lots of different people or the Internet. You may also put it on the back burner and chalk it up to stress or overworking.

Professional care managers can help guide you to resources that will evaluate your situation. They will give you hope and direction that will allow you to be more proactive while reversing and reducing the symptoms that are worrying you.

All of us forget at times. We drive past the exit we wanted, we forget the name of a neighbor we have known for years, or we go to the market and buy everything but the milk we needed! Stress, dehydration, multitasking, being a caregiver or many other situations can all contribute to forgetfulness.

The positive point of getting an early diagnosis, such as Alzheimer's, is that you could then be a candidate for medications that can help preserve some of your function. It can also give you a chance to change lifestyles, eat healthy foods, stay engaged and exercise more. You can design the care you want and make legal and financial decisions to support your wishes.

10 Early Signs and Symptoms of Alzheimer's:

1. Memory loss that disrupts daily life;
2. Challenges in planning or solving problems;
3. Difficulty completing familiar tasks at home, at work or leisure;
4. Confusion with time or place;

5. Trouble understanding visual images and spatial relationships;
6. New problems speaking or writing words;
7. Misplacing things and losing the ability to retrace steps;
8. Decreased or poor judgment;
9. Withdrawal from work or social activities; and
10. Changes in mood and personality.

Source: Alzheimer's Association (www.alz.org)

A professional care manager can be your conduit to good solid answers, proactive planning, resources that respect your values and fit your budget while considering your current and future needs.

Some memory loss can be attributed to other illnesses such as depression, vitamin deficiencies, thyroid problems and many other medical diagnoses. We advise going to your physician with your symptoms early on. Don't be fearful of the diagnosis; be proactive and take charge to have the highest quality of life possible.

We perform memory screenings in the Eldercare Services office at no charge. If this simple test shows any evidence of cognitive changes, we will give you a report for your physician and refer you to a local neuropsychologist, Alzheimer's center or hospital diagnostic center for further testing.

Call for an appointment – the test will not exceed 15 minutes. It is confidential and administered by one of our certified professional care managers who have backgrounds in health and human services fields such

as counseling, psychology, nursing and social work.

Please join me for my next class, "Dementia Behaviors: Strategies & Solutions," from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Thursday, June 4 held at our office, 1808 Tice Valley Blvd., Walnut Creek. This class will give you the tools on how to have conversations about overall needs when denial is present, and we will discuss the different types of dementia.

Advance registration is requested, and the class is limited in size, so be sure to make your reservation early. Call (925) 937-2018 today and ask for Lindsay.



Linda Fodrini-Johnson is the founder and executive director of **Eldercare Services**; she is a licensed Marriage, Family and Child Counselor, and a certified Care Manager. **Eldercare Services** is full-service care management and home care company that has been providing care management, home care, counseling, support groups and education to Bay Area families since 1989. For information, visit www.EldercareAnswers.com.

Glorietta Elementary's Production of Disney's 'The Little Mermaid Jr.' Opens May 15

Submitted by Hillary Weiner



Glorietta Elementary School cast of "The Little Mermaid Jr."

Photo provided

Glorietta Elementary School presents its spring musical, Disney's "The Little Mermaid Jr." on May 15 and 16. Based on the Disney film and the Hans Christian Anderson story, "The Little Mermaid Jr." is a journey "under the sea" with Ariel and her aquatic friends. This tale of a magical underwater kingdom follows a beautiful young mermaid, Ariel, as she tries to leave her ocean home and her fins and live in the world above. Ariel's adventures include defying her father, King Triton, making a deal

with the evil sea witch, Ursula, and her romantic encounters with Prince Eric to convince him that her enchanting voice is the one he has been seeking. The score includes hit Disney songs such as "Part of Your World," "She's in Love," and the Oscar-winning "Under the Sea."

The production is directed by music teacher Ron Pickett, with the assistance of parent producers Betsy Shandalov, Susan Jordan and Kathryn Ishizu. There are two student casts, comprised of approximately 90 students along with a

student tech crew. The production is primarily funded by parent contributions and the Glorietta Parents Club, with additional support from Orinda Arts Council and EFO. "The Little Mermaid Jr." takes place at Glorietta Elementary School, 15 Martha Road, at 4 and 7 p.m. Friday, May 15 and at 3 and 7 p.m. Saturday, May 16. Tickets for the Friday and Saturday performances (all reserved seating) will be available in advance online at www.showtix4u.com. Tickets may also be available at the door prior to the show.

San Francisco Opera Orchestra Musicians Star in 'Whirlwind'



The Gold Coast Chamber Players having fun. Photo provided

The woodwinds will take center stage with works by Robert Schumann, Johann Nepomuk Hummel and a little-known German composer, August Klughardt, during the Gold Coast Chamber Players' 2014-15 season finale, "Whirlwind," at 3 p.m. Sunday, May 17 at the Lafayette Library Community Hall. Klughardt's Schil-

flieder (Reed Songs) was written in the romantic spirit of Franz Liszt, while Hummel's Septet bridges the Classical and Romantic eras. Robert Schumann's Adagio and Allegro for Horn and Piano will feature hornist Kevin Rivard and pianist Yana Reznik. A pre-concert talk at 2:30 p.m. will start the afternoon.

"Woodwinds, in this case, flute, oboe and French horn add tremendous variety of color and dynamic range to our program," said GCCP Artistic Director and Violist Pamela Freund-Striplen. "So much of the chamber music repertoire centers on strings and piano but this program offers a fantastic range of tone color. Each instrument has its own inherent character. The oboe, with its plaintive expressive quality is often used for the most emotional moments in a film. Oboist Mingjia Liu is recognized for his charismatic performing skill and 'singing ability' on the instrument – in fact, his last appearance with GCCP was so well received, we had our largest audience to date – selling out of even standing room! The French horn is a brass instrument and is well suited to epic moments. Kevin is a sensitive musician, and while he could blow the walls down, he isn't likely to! The flute is a beautiful balance for the oboe and horn and adds a lightness and sprightliness to overall color."

... continued on next page

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‘The 100-Year-Old Man Who Climbed Out the Window and Disappeared’

A funny, lighthearted International Film Showcase film

By Sophie Braccini

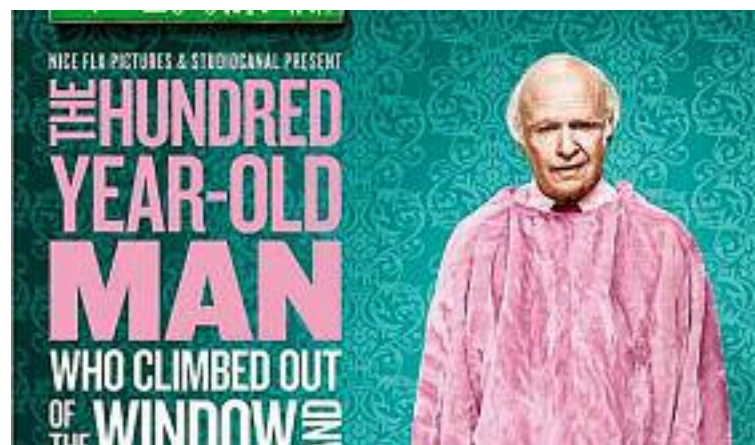


Image provided

The Orinda International Film Showcase has featured some great films recently, including “Timbuktu,” “The Miracle of Bern” and the exceptional “Tangerines.” This month’s Swedish film, “The 100-Year-Old Man Who Climbed Out the Window and Disappeared,” may not be as profound, but it is light and fun, with an international historic backdrop many will enjoy.

The film opens in a decent retirement home in Sweden where a quite sane but bored old man, Allan Karlsson, is waiting for his 100th birthday celebration to begin. For whatever reason – maybe the smell of spring coming through the window or the sound of kids playing in a nearby playground – our old loner clumsily climbs out the window and disappears into the scenery.

The movie, based on the 2009 novel by Jonas Jonasson, is directed by Felix Herngren and follows the adventures of this Swedish Forrest Gump accompanied by the quirky characters that congregate around him as his journey spins out of control.

Along the way, flashbacks take the audience to earlier periods of Karlsson’s life. In spite of humble and challenging beginnings, the man who loves explosives and hard alcohol has an amazing life, meeting many of the major political figures of the 20th century. He interacts with Francisco Franco, Harry Truman, Joseph Stalin, Ronald Reagan, Mikhail Gorbachov and Mao Tse Dong, and is sometimes the involuntary catalyst to major historic events. He is involved in the development of the

atom bomb and international espionage, always with a mix of candor and a lack of scruples that leads to zany and ironical situations.

The old man’s journey can be viewed as a parable of the 20th century, with its craziness, its materialist pursuit and moral shortcomings, ending on an optimist note, just by chance.

During his contemporary adventure, he meets and befriends a group of crazy and cheeky characters. One is an elephant that helps him fight a gang of criminals who are chasing him and avoid a police force that manages to track him more by chance than wit.

History buffs should set aside their desire for pointed accuracy and simply enjoy the caricatures of world leaders presented in the movie. Of course all of Karlsson’s adventures, past or present, are highly improbable. But the rhythm of the movie draws the spectator into a funny spiral filled with pure delight.

Robert Gustafsson plays the role of Allan Karlsson, both as a young man and as the elderly version of himself. That may be the only off-key note of this film as the makeup of the older man is too pasty and not very convincing. Mia Skäringer plays Gunnilla, the only notable feminine character that adds a charming sweetness to the film.

“The 100-Year-Old Man” will open for one week starting May 15 at the Orinda Theatre. For more information, visit lamorindatheatre.com/index_orinda.asp or http://internationalshowcase.org.

San Francisco Opera Orchestra Musicians Star in ‘Whirlwind’

... continued from page B4

Whirlwind features several prominent San Francisco Opera Orchestra members, including Flutist and Piccoloist Stephanie McNab, Principal Oboe Mingjia Liu, and Principal Horn, Rivard. Supporting players include Freund-Striplen, Jennifer Culp, cello (formerly of the Kronos Quartet), Mark Wallace, bass, and Yana Reznik, piano. These musicians are part of the core ensemble and offer a strong musical connection.

“One of the signature aspects of a Gold Coast is the vibrant collaboration between the musicians. By carefully matching performers and programs this musical chemistry is always apparent. ‘Whirlwind’ adds another layer of connectivity by showcasing musicians from SF Opera orchestra who play together regularly and under the many challenging cir-

cumstances they encounter throughout the opera season,” said Freund-Striplen. “Some of the musicians have been playing together for over 25 years, and others for only a few. What is always thrilling for the audience is to see and hear great performers coming together in a slightly new configuration – great things always happen on stage, after all it is *live* music and being a part of this electric experience is what keeps people coming back.”

The Gold Coast Chamber Players are known for their engaging and vibrant performances. Seating is limited, so reserve early to avoid disappointment. Ticket price includes complimentary champagne, the pre-concert talk and a reception with the musicians following the performance. Tickets are available at www.gcplayers.org and by phone at (925) 283-3728. *J. Wake*



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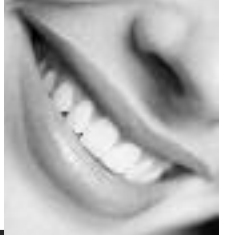
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Community Service

We are pleased to make space available whenever possible for some of Lamorinda's dedicated community service organizations to submit news and information about their activities. Submissions may be sent to storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com with the subject header In Service to the Community.

Ten Exceptional Local Women Honored with AAUW OML Scholarships

Submitted by Sandra Fox-Sohner and Mary Ann McLeod



Madeline Wilson experiences the virtual reality headset. Photo provided

enriched their school community by participating in tech and science clubs, athletic teams, and musical programs. Chabot Space and Science Museum, Sister 2 Sister, Benioff Children's Hospital, Contra Costa Animal Shelter and Performers for Progress are local community projects that benefitted from their service. The 2015 AAUW -OML Scholarships were awarded to Maritza Grillo (Miramonte High School), Morgan Matranga (Campolindo High School) and Casey Everitt (Acalanes High School).

Yadira Guerrero-Garcia, a senior at Saint Mary's College, was awarded the Community Service Scholarship because she demonstrated leadership potential. She founded the Ballet Folklorico Guadalupano to develop cultural awareness on campus. A member of the Santiago Community, Yadira organized service trips and served people through food drives, senior center visits, mentoring children and assisting single mothers.

MJ Marggraff, commercial pilot and mission support for Virgin Galactic inspired the scholarship winners, their families and friends, and the AAUW members with her stories of learning to fly, conquering her fears, and following her passion. She shared what it takes to have the 'New Right Stuff' from her world of aviation, sub-orbital space flight preparation, and from recent interviews of astronauts from the International Space Station (ISS). One highlight of her presentation was the video taken of her enjoying arduous space training in the NASTAR flight simulator, a centrifuge where she experienced 5G, five times the normal force of gravity. She encouraged all scholarship winners to do what it takes to follow their dreams.

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The Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette branch of the Association of University Women honored 10 remarkable young women from Lamorinda schools April 19 with Tech Trek camp scholarships and college scholarships. AAUW's mission is to break down barriers for women and girls by promoting education and equity.

Six middle school girls, passionate about science and math, were awarded with full scholarships to the science and math Tech Trek Camp that will be held on the Stanford campus this July. In addition, \$5,000 and \$1,000 community service scholarships were awarded to three high school young women and a \$5,000 graduate studies scholarship was awarded to a Saint Mary's College student.

The six AAUW OML 2015 Tech Trek scholarship winners are Madeline House and April Lindblad from Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School, Sophia Kofoed and Caroline Ruppert from Orinda Intermediate School, and Samantha Swan and Madeline Wilson from Stanley Middle School.

These Tech Trek scholarship winners wowed the April Awards Ceremony attendees with their

presentations describing their curiosity and love of science. Their interests and activities include curing disease, studying the universe, researching marine biology, solving environmental problems, engineering games and electronics, building robots, working with 3-D printers, and computer coding. These girls will shape our future. They were chosen after a rigorous process of being nominated by their teachers, completing an application, and being interviewed by a team of three AAUW OML members. Teachers nominated 44 Lamorinda girls in total, and several teachers attended the award ceremony to honor the six scholarship winners.

The goals of AAUW's High School and College Scholarships are to encourage local young women graduates who demonstrate academic excellence and weave a commitment to community service into their lives. The average GPA for 14 applicants was 4.1. The four awardees described their stories of growth and life lessons learned through community service to attendees at this AAUW OML annual celebration.

The three high school awardees

Preschoolers Visit Moraga Royale

Submitted by Jennifer Gerst



Photo provided

An enthusiastic group of 3-year-old preschoolers visited Moraga Royale recently. Residents were treated to special songs by the group from Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church Nurtury Preschool. The chil-

den even invited the residents to join in some rhythm stick activities, and pretty soon, tapping could be heard throughout the building! These young students from Miss Jennifer's class also brought colorful flowers in

hand-painted pots to give to the residents. The children had a wonderful afternoon getting to know these surrogate grandparents, and the residents were blessed by the youngsters' enthusiasm.



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Local Resident Delivers Original Hampton Score to Ben-Gurion University

Submitted by Andrew Lavin



GU President Prof. Rivka Carmi, left, receives the original score of jazz legend Lionel Hampton's "King David Suite" April 22 from Maurice "Mo" Levich, Lafayette's Generations in Jazz Foundation co-founder and musical director of The Big Band of Rossmoor. Photo provided

The original score of the "King David Suite," composed by jazz legend Lionel Hampton as a tribute to his friend David Ben-Gurion and commemorating the emergence of Israel, was donated to the Ben-Gurion Archives on the Ben-Gurion University of the Negev Sede Boqer campus April 22.

The King David Suite, composed by Hampton in the 1953 with orchestration by Big Band of Rossmoor composer and arranger Frank Como, is a "third stream" work combining jazz and classical elements in a symphony that was performed by orchestras in 19 countries. Efforts are under way to perform the work again.

The only score was thought to be lost in a 1997 fire that completely gutted Hampton's New York apartment. It was rediscovered only a few years ago in the possession of Hampton's arranger, Como, with Hampton's original notes and comments.

Como's original King David score was presented to BGU President Rivka Carmi in her office by his band-mate Maurice "Mo" Levich, Lafayette's Generations in Jazz co-founder and musical director of The Big Band of Rossmoor, which performs big band jazz with members ranging in ages from the teens to the high 90s.

"I'm extremely excited and honored on behalf of Frank Como to bring this historic piece of music to the Ben-Gurion Archives where people can see and study it," says Levich. "The music lives on as a survivor of time and fire and we hope that the reformed Lionel Hampton Big Band, featuring vibraphonist Jason Marsalis, will move forward to perform it with symphonies in the future."

To listen to the music and see more pictures, visit thebigbandofrossmoor.org.

Los Perales Students 'Walk and Roll' to School

Submitted by Merrylee Landau



Students line up for a bike safety check at Los Perales Elementary School April 29. From left: Matt Sharp, Rachel Erickson, Colby Webster, James Erickson, Teagan Phipps, Brandon Lorie and Colleen Phipps Photo Merrylee Landau

Walk and Roll Wednesday is coming to the Los Perales Elementary School Moraga neighborhood this month and Los Perales students have been busy learning about bicycle and pedestrian safety. Lieutenant Jon King of the Moraga Police Department presented an assembly on April 20 to the first- through fifth-graders, emphasizing the Safe Routes to School Four E's Activities (Education, Encouragement, Enforcement

and Evaluation). On April 29 Sharp Bicycle of Lafayette provided a bike safety check and helmet inspection on campus. Now the students are ready to 'walk and roll.' On May 13, 20 and 27, students, parents and teachers are encouraged to get out of their cars and either walk or ride their bike to school. If you happen to be in this neighborhood on one of these days, please slow down and share the road!

Maker Faire Inspires and Excites Wagner Ranch Students

By Sonya Grover and Sharon Murphy



Dr. Andrew Anagnost, right, with daughter Eloise on the far left, her little sister, Giselle, and Amelia Chen watch a car powered with rubber bands race away from them. Dr. Anagnost, Autodesk's senior VP of industry strategy and marketing, is one of the parents on Wagner Ranch's technology committee. Photo provided

Besides the occasional whoosh of stomp rockets and the accompanying outbursts of delight, little broke the quiet concentration of 150 students intent on creating, crafting, building, and, yes, learning at an Autodesk-sponsored Maker Faire held at Wagner Ranch Elementary School in Orinda.

Originally founded in the Bay Area by Make magazine and now held all over the world, Maker Faires celebrate technology and engineering, as well as arts, crafts, hobbies, and really any kind of do-it-yourself project. They bring together tech enthusiasts, crafters, teachers, artists, engineers and families to explore and play. The Wagner Ranch fourth and fifth graders were thrilled with their experience.

Echoing the kids' enthusiasm, Wagner Ranch's principal, Adam Seville, commented, "This is what the future of education can look like. The maker movement is a growing and exciting trend in education. It's an opportunity to connect some of our most fundamental human traits – the inspiration to build, create and make – with some of our most current and growing technologies. To see students so authentically engaged in the process of creating, designing and experimenting is very exciting."

Held the same week as Earth Day, Autodesk's Wagner Ranch Maker Faire launched a futuristic theme, "2030 Challenge: Sea, Space, and

Land." Challenging students to think about emerging trends and the future state of the world, this Maker Faire posed questions such as "How will sea life adapt to a changing environment?" and "What housing, food, and transportation might be needed to live on Mars in 2030?" Autodesk's goal was to introduce students not only to complex questions about the earth's future, but also to inspire interest in design and digital fabrication processes and innovation.

At various stations in the school's gym, students made sea creatures with 123D Sculpt+, created space colonies in TinkerCAD (a 3D design tool) to export into Minecraft, assembled all-terrain Mars rovers using cardboard and rubber bands, designed art with Sketchbook Express to create iron-on decals for reusable tote bags, crafted solar jars using light-sensitive solar cells and Mason jars, built rockets for the ever-popular stomp rocket design challenge, and much more.

"My favorite thing was seeing the 3D printers working," said Thomas Nelson, a fourth grader. "The melting plastic was awesome. We even got to see how to fix a 3D printer by changing what the computer says to it." Abby Ruppert, another fourth grader, was intrigued with rocket design. "The rockets were cool. You have to seal up every hole so the air doesn't get in. We launched them. We stomped on the bottles and the rockets

went up!"

Thomas Nelson was inspired by his experience. "I learned how to make a model submarine on a 3D printer. I want to be an engineer and design stuff to build. Hopefully, I'll get to use a 3D printer." Abby Ruppert too took away the main lesson of the day noting, "It was cool figuring out how people make things. I want to try it!"

This local Maker Faire grew out of discussions held by the school's Technology Committee. Consisting of four parents, two teachers, the principal and the Parents' Club co-presidents, the committee formed last year to assist in crafting a technology strategy for the school and district. Their strategy includes the purchase and maintenance of various devices (iPads and laptops), as well as brainstorming ways to promote and integrate STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) learning in the classroom and beyond, such as planning parent education nights and founding after-school coding clubs. All Orinda elementary school technology purchases are funded by the various Parents' Clubs. The state and district provide no funds to purchase computers, tablets, and other devices.

Over 20 Autodesk employees assisted with this event and many parent volunteers were also on hand to help with the projects. Orinda United School District's superintendent, Dr. Joe Jaconnette, also took part in the event, as well as OUSD's technology coach, Patsy Templeton, and technology director, Raymond Mar.

John Skidgel, head of Wagner Ranch's Technology Committee, commented, "Several years from now when some of these kids embark on careers in design and engineering, they'll have this event to remember as an eye opener. It's our hope that events such as this will inspire our kids to start tomorrow's Apple, Tesla or Google."

If you'd like to experience a similar event but on a much larger scale, you can attend the 10th Annual Bay Area Maker Faire – the "Greatest Show (and Tell) on Earth" – May 16 and 17 at the San Mateo County Event Center. Tickets for entry are required.

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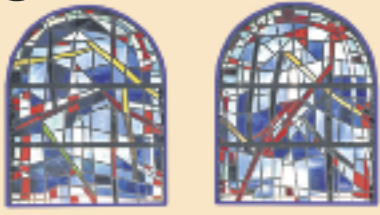
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ART

The Lafayette Art Gallery's new show, "Spring It On Me," will run through June 28, with an artists' reception from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Friday, May 8 at the Gallery, 3420 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Suite A, Lafayette. The featured artists are Judy Feins, Jill Landau and Lauri Moffet-Fehlberg. For more info, visit www.lafayettegallery.net.

Saint Mary's College Museum of Art presents for new exhibitions: "Visual Language: Mystery and Meaning" through June 21; "River Passage: New Work by Danae Mattes" May 25 - Sept. 6; "Andy Warhol: Prints, Polaroids and Pop" through June 14; and "The Darker Side of William Keith: Late Paintings" through Sept. 6. Museum admission: \$5 adults; members and K-12 graders free; free parking. For info, call (925) 631-4379 or visit stmarys-ca.edu/museum.

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 will run until May 30. For info, visit www.moragaartgallery.com or call (925) 376-5407.

Lireille Gallery of Contemporary Jewelry and Art will exhibit new paintings by Oakland artist Ani Lucia Thompkins May 12 through June 20, with a reception for the artist from 6 to 8 p.m. on Friday, June 5. Contact the gallery for more information at (510) 547-3455, or visit the artist's website at http://anilucia.com.

MUSIC

Maestro David Morales and The Cantare Con Vivo Chamber Ensemble join with the renowned Bay Area instrumental ensemble Quijeremá 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 or call the CCV office at (510) 836-0789.

Treat yourself to SMC Jazz Band's lively concert of up-tempo numbers, dance tunes, and instrumental and vocal jazz soloists at 8 p.m. Friday, May 8 at Saint Mary's Soda Activity Center: Moraga Room, 1928 St. Mary's Rd., Moraga. Tickets, sold at the door of event: \$5 general; \$2 SMC community and seniors.

The Contra Costa Chamber Orchestra closes its 2014-15 season with an unusual program, "Some Assembly Required," featuring the full group as well as the brass, wind, and string sections performing separately. The performances are at 7:30 p.m. Friday, May 8 at Alhambra High School, Martinez, and at 2 p.m. May 10 at El Campanil Theatre, Antioch and the Leshar Center for the Arts, Walnut Creek. Tickets: \$5-30 depending on location.

The Lafayette Rotary Club's Annual Concert at the Res will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, May 9 at the new permanent stage at the Lafayette Reservoir. The free event showcases and raises money for local school music programs. Performing will be the Stanley Symphonic Band, the Acalanes Wind Ensemble, the Big Band of Rossmoor, the Bentley School Jazz combo and a special guest band from Oakland Westlake Middle School. You can pack a picnic and don't forget your beach chairs and blankets. Once you have parked, walk east (to your left) toward the reservoir trail. The stage is about 150 feet from the parking lot. (See story page Ax)

Music ranging from Rachmaninoff to Godzilla will be performed by Maestro Duane Carroll and the Contra Costa Wind Symphony in a concert

billed as "Sublime to Silly" at 8 p.m. May 12 at Leshar Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek. Tickets (\$10-\$25) are on sale at the Leshar Center at (925) 943-7469 or www.lesherartscenter.org.

THEATER

Saint Mary's College Dance Company presents Tabula Rasa at 8 p.m. May 6-9 in LeFevre Theatre at Saint Mary's College. Tabula Rasa will feature stunning performers, diverse dance styles, and a wide range of inspiring and thought-provoking themes which include political participation, summoning the rain, sleep and dreams, homelessness, and our connection to the moon. Tickets: \$15 general; \$10 seniors and non-SMC students; \$5 SMC community.

Town Hall Theatre presents the comedy "Moon Over Buffalo" by Ken Ludwig and directed by Scott Fryer May 23-June 15; previews: May 21 and 22. For show times and tickets go to www.townhalltheatre.com or call (925) 283-1557.

LECTURE & LITERATURE

SMC Creative Writing Reading Series features Marilyn Abildskov and Jeff Chon at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 6 in the Soda Center, Claeys Lounge. Marilyn Abildskov is the author of The Men in My Country, a memoir set in Japan. Jeff Chon received his MFA from Saint Mary's College in 2014. He is the Editor-in-Chief of The East Bay Review.

A Cosmic Voyage: A Sophisticated Primer about the History of the World - a presentation by Dr. Ron Olowin from 7 to 9 p.m. May 6, 14 and 20 in the Religious Resource Center St. Perpetua Church, 3445 Hamlin Rd., Lafayette.

League of Women Voters of Diablo Valley discussion, "Human Trafficking: What are the facts and solutions?" from 3 to 4 p.m. Saturday, May 9 at the Lafayette Community Center. Human trafficking is a staggering \$9.8 billion industry in the U.S. Today, it is considered one of the fastest growing criminal industries in the world, with every state in the U.S. and 167 countries reporting incidents of human trafficking. Speaker: Adriana Fruechtel, director of education and outreach for Break Free Education, powered by 3Strands Global, which educates and raises awareness about the incidence, prevalence and pervasiveness of human trafficking. Come share, discuss and learn. Light refreshments served.

"How to Soar in the New Phase of Your Family Life: The Launch and Empty Nest" - a presentation led by Christine Roslund, MFT, at 7 p.m. Tuesday, May 12 at Orinda Library Gallery Room. Roslund, a licensed Marriage Family Therapist, and Certified Professional Coach with nearly 20 years of client experience will share ways you can prepare and support your teen who is leaving home, what obstacles to watch out for and ways to overcome them. She will also discuss ways you can prepare yourself for the transition or empty nest. Free.

Many Faces of Skin Cancer from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 20 at the Walnut Creek Library, 1644 N. Broadway, Walnut Creek. This event focuses on one of the most preventable cancers. Join an engaging panel of medical experts as they offer insight into the latest information on prevention, early detection, risk factors and treatment options. Admission and refreshments free. Register by calling (925) 677-7287 or email calskin-cancer@gmail.com. Sponsors: Diablo Valley Oncology, Cancer Support Community and American Cancer Society.

OTHER

The Moraga Community Faire & Car Show will be held from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, May 9 in the town's Rheem Valley Shopping Center, offering a wonderful opportunity for a "family fun day" on the day before Mother's Day with a climbing wall, bounce house, carnival games, music, arts and crafts, local food

trucks, a dunk tank, local wine and amazing classic cars. Free to attend, the Faire is organized and sponsored by the Moraga Chamber of Commerce; visit www.moragachamber.org/faire. (See story page B1)

Community Concern for Cats invites you to meet our adoptable kittens and cats from 1 to 4 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, May 9-10 at Pet Food Express in Lafayette and Pleasant Hill, and Petco in Walnut Creek. For more information see www.communityconcernfor cats.org.

The Seventh Annual Orinda Restaurant Tour. San Francisco's East Bay area food lovers will again have the opportunity to join a fun, culinary gathering to savor and sample their way through Orinda restaurants from 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, May 12 at Theatre Square, hosted by the Orinda Chamber of Commerce. Guests will sample fine food from restaurants throughout Orinda, with each establishment providing a small portion that best represents the establishment at no cost to ticket holders. Tickets available at www.orindachamber.org.

50's Sci-fi Day on Saturday, May 16 at the Classic Film Hall of Fame and Museum, located in the Rheem Theatre, Moraga. The daylong event will include screenings of four of the greatest 1950s Sci-Fi movies, including "Them!" (1954), "This Island Earth" (1955), "The Day the Earth Stood Still" (1951) and "Creature from the Black Lagoon" (1954). Special guests at the event will include Billy Gray, who played Bobby Benson in "The Day the Earth Stood Still," and Julie Adams from "Creature from the Black Lagoon." As a special treat to Sci-fi fans and movie lovers, "The Man of Many Creatures", Doug Jones, will host the day. Admission is free with the purchase of any movie ticket. To learn more about the Classic Film Hall of Fame and Museum go to www.CFFHOF.org.

Join a National Park Service ranger for free early Saturday morning wildflower walks beginning at 9 a.m. on May 16 at the John Muir National Historic Site. Each two-hour walk will begin with an easy saunter up Mt. Wanda to look for wildflowers. Over 82 species of native plants have been identified on Mt. Wanda, and hikers may spot California buttercups, purple Chinese houses and mule's ears. Meet at the Park and Ride lot at the corner of Alhambra Avenue and Franklin Canyon Road, in Martinez (at the Alhambra Ave. exit off Highway 4). Bring water, a shade hat, and wear good walking shoes because the trail is steep. If it rains heavily, the walk will be canceled.

The 2nd Annual AAUW Tech Trek "Shred Fest" will provide secure document shredding on site from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, May 16 at 5A Rent-A-Space, 455 Moraga Road, Moraga. Just \$5 per file box. AAUW volunteers will unload, empty, and return your file boxes to your car. Certificates of Destruction are available upon request.

Taste of Lafayette from 5:30 to 9 p.m. on Tuesday May 19. An amazing night of food, wine, raffle prizes and fun. Prizes include a year of dining packages, Carmel getaway and much, much more. The tour begins at Lafayette Plaza with a wine and beer reception including appetizers and musical entertainment. Ticket holders go at their own pace to any or all of the participating restaurants. Then return for a dessert reception and coffee at the Plaza from 8:30 to 9 p.m. Tickets are \$45 if purchased by May 9; \$50 thereafter. For info, visit http://www.lafayettechamber.org/even/t/taste-lafayette.

... continued on next page

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OTHER ... continued

Contra Costa Commission for Women, in partnership with the Institute of Entrepreneurial Leadership at JFK University, will present a Leadership Panel Discussion featuring powerful women who have excelled in their chosen fields from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 20. Panelists include: KPX 5's weekend news anchor Ann Notarangelo, Contra Costa County District III Supervisor Mary Piepho, Contra Costa County Deputy District Attorney, Dominique Yancey, and Political Strategist, Mary Jo Rossi. The goal of the Women's Commission is to inform, educate, and empower women to make more beneficial choices in their lives. Register now as seating is limited for this event. It will be held at JFK University Institute of Entrepreneurial Leadership, 2151 Salvio Street, Suite 350 Concord, CA. Refreshments will be served. To register go to www.womenscommission.com.

SENIORS

Sons In Retirement Lamorinda Branch 171 meets the first Wednesday monthly at Holy Trinity Culture Center 1700 School St. Moraga. Social hour at 11 a.m.; lunch at noon. The May 6 after-lunch speaker will be Fred

Not to be missed

Lezak, management consultant and former CEO who will speak on the demise and rebirth of civility in society and share some amusing incidences where the lack of civility in business led to some interesting results. Fred will also focus on issues that seniors contend with. For membership information, call Larry at (925) 631-9528.

Moraga Movers will hold their monthly dinner meeting at 5 p.m. at the St. Mary's Soda Center on Monday, May 11. Speaker will be Diane Burgis of EBMUD who will share the story of the Black Diamond Mines. For more information call Linda Borelli at (925) 376 6151.

The Stroke Support Group of Contra Costa County will hold its May meeting from 7 to 9 p.m. Monday, May 11 in the Concord I Room at John Muir Medical Center - Concord Campus, (2540 East Street, Concord). The speaker will be Susan O'Grady Ph.D., Clinical Psychologist. Her topic will be "Intimacy Following Stroke". For further information about the Stroke Support Group, contact Ann Dzuna at (925) 376-6218. Meetings are free and open to the public.

Sons In Retirement Lamorinda Branch 174, a social organization of retired and semi-retired men, meets for lunch at 11 a.m. the second Wednesday monthly at Holy Trinity Culture Center, 1700 School Street, Moraga. The May 13 guest speaker will be from The Lamorinda Village. For attendance and membership info, call Tyler at (925) 284-5561 or visit www.branch174.sirinc2.org.

Sons In Retirement Las Trampas Branch 116 - Many special activities are scheduled for the month of May, including a luncheon for our ladies with live entertainment by vocalist, Antonia, who has performed in the Bay Area, LA, New York, Italy and Africa. The event will be held at the Contra Costa Country Club, located at 801 Golf Club Road in Pleasant Hill on Thursday, May 14. This annual Spring Fling replaces the regular May meeting and includes lunch entertainment, door prizes and surprises.

Get Organized with an Estate Plan - Presented by Stefanie West, estate planning attorney, from 10:30 to noon Wednesday, May 20 in the Cedar Room, Lafayette Community Center. Are you aware of the basic documents you should have in place? Ms. West will cover the essential forms: Living Trust, Will, Health Care Directive, Fi-

ancial Power of Attorney, beneficiary forms, personal items distribution list and POLST. There will be plenty of time to answer your questions, such as, Why do I need these? and What happens if I don't have them? as well as How do I make sure they work correctly? and Are my old documents valid? Free for Senior Services members/ \$10 non-members.

GARDEN

A tour of five exceptional Orinda Gardens from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday, May 7. The tour is organized by the Orinda Garden Club and tickets are \$50 per person. Visit orindagc.org/tour to purchase tickets.

Lafayette Community Garden and Outdoor Learning Center - Wind Chime Workshop: Making Music for Your Garden from 2 to 4 p.m. Saturday, May 9 at 3932 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. Come celebrate Mother's Day weekend making musical wind chimes in the garden! Wind chimes can be made with an exciting mixture of elements. Bring recycled items like old keys and jewelry, drillable kitchen utensils, silverware, and garden knick-knacks. Use your imagination! There will be filament, string, drills, other fasteners and materials for you to use. For info, visit <http://lafayettecommunitygarden.org/sign-up-for-events/>.

The Lafayette Garden will present Dustin Strobel, store manager of Sloat Garden Center in Danville from 10 a.m. to noon Thursday, May 14 at the Lafayette Veterans Memorial Hall, 3780 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. Dustin's program, "Spring and Summer in the Garden," is sure to be both informative and entertaining. Check out their website at <http://www.sloatgardens.com>. Lafayette Garden Club welcomes guests. For info, email cpoetzsch@gmail.com.

Golden Gate Audubon Society presents Gardening for Wildlife in our Drought from 7 to 9 p.m. Thursday, May 21 at Northbrae Community Church, 941 the Alameda, Berkeley. Our current drought challenges us to find new ways to design sustainable residential landscapes to also create habitat for birds and butterflies. Cost: \$5 or free for members. For more info see <http://www.goldengateaudubon.org/education/speakerseries/> or call (510) 843-2222 or email ggas@goldengateaudubon.org.

Town of Moraga Community GARAGE SALE
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LAMORINDA SUNRISE Rotary
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

May 8: Recent Camp Royal (Rotary Youth And Leadership) attendees will share their experiences. Camp Royal is an intensive leadership program for outstanding 11th grade leaders.	May 15: Diablo Ballet Artistic Director Lauren Jonas has recruited dancers from around the world - please join us to hear her story.
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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.

May 7: Joy Alaidarous - "Global Grant for Ethiopian village." Joy will share photos of her recent visit.	May 14: Thomas Lindemuth - will speak about Desalination
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Join us at the Concert at the Res May 9th
www.rotarylafayette.org

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'Avengers: Age of Ultron'

By Derek Zemrak



Photo Disney and Marvel Studios

"Avengers: Age of Ultron," is the highly anticipated sequel to "The Avengers," the third highest-grossing movie of all time, behind "Titanic" and "Avatar." All the main characters from the first film return which is always a treat: Tony Stark/Iron Man (Robert Downey Jr.), Thor (Chris Hemsworth), Bruce Banner/The Hulk (Mark Ruffalo), Steve Rogers/Captain America (Chris Evans), Natasha/Black Widow (Scarlett Johansson), Clint Barton/Hawkeye (Jeremy Renner), and Nick Fury (Samuel L. Jackson).

In this installment, Tony Stark sets out to create a peacekeeping artificial intelligence named Ultron (brilliantly voiced by James Spader) to protect the world. He quickly becomes a "Frankenstein" type creature that is determined to destroy the Avengers.

Ultron believes that the Avengers are the biggest threat to the world that he was created to protect. Ultron teams up with Wanda and Pietro Maximoff (Elizabeth Olsen and Aaron Taylor-Johnson), two super-powered twins, whom we saw at the end of the first "Avengers." The twins have re-

sentment and hatred towards Stark after his company's weapons killed their family. As the Avengers team begins to fall apart, Ultron sets his sights on destroying all humankind.

As with most "Superhero" movies of recent years the destruction, violence and intense action are at an extremely high level. Why does a complete city need to be destroyed in each fight scene? We get the point. "Avengers: Age of Ultron" is rated PG-13, but really pushes the "R" rating. I would recommend that parents see the film first before allowing their youngsters to see it. "Avengers: Age of Ultron" has a TRT (total running time) of 2 hours and 21 minutes. This movie is expected to be one of the highest grossing films of the year, so plan on spending 3 hours in the theater in order to get good seats.

The Rheem Theatre will allow photo ops this week with the life-size Iron Man located in the lobby (#LamorindaTheatres).

Other recommendations in theatres this week are "Woman In Gold" and "True Story."

MOVIE REVIEW

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Culinary Creations with Cauliflower

By Susie Iventosch

It was brought to my attention last week that cauliflower steaks are delicious, and they make a great platform for all sorts of different toppings. So, I thought out loud, how in the heck do you make a cauliflower steak? The answer is: You can, but only sort of. The idea is great, and in theory it works well, but it totally depends upon keeping the stem in the cauliflower, and then making your slices very carefully. You only want to remove the leaves and the very bottom of the stem, otherwise, your cau-

liflower will fall apart into so many florets and you'll be left with mini-steaks!

But the dish is really delicious, and while you can add all sorts of toppings from your favorite cheese to tomatoes, olives and even pesto, I really love them done simply, brushed with a little olive oil and seasoned with salt, pepper and a light sprinkling of grated Parmesan. It's also quite nice to use the purple and yellow cauliflower to add a splash of color to the plate.

Cauliflower rice is another dish I

learned about, but it doesn't have a speck of real rice in it at all. Instead, you process the cauliflower in the food processor until it resembles rice, or rather, bulgur. Then you sauté it along with onions and whatever herbs and spices you like and serve it in place of rice. This is great for folks who are on low carbohydrate diets. This vegetable is said to help with cardiovascular and digestive health and contains anti-oxidant and anti-inflammatory properties. And, it's rich in nutrients.

For more information about cauliflower, visit:
<http://www.whfoods.com/genpage.php?tname=foodspice&dbid=13>



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

This recipe can be found on our website:

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



Cauliflower three ways: as steaks, rice or roasted florets. Photos Susie Iventosch



Roasted Cauliflower "Steaks"

(Serves 4)

INGREDIENTS

- 1 large head of cauliflower
- 2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
- 1/4 cup finely grated Parmesan cheese
- Sea salt
- Pepper
- Lemon pepper

DIRECTIONS

Remove leaves from cauliflower and slice off the very end of the stem, leaving most of the stem intact. Place cauliflower on cutting board, stem side down. With a large knife, slice cauliflower into four steaks, starting at the top of the cauliflower with slices about 3/4-inch thick. Reserve any florets that fall off in the process. Lay "steaks" flat on sprayed or lightly oiled baking tray and lightly brush with olive oil. Season with salt, pepper, and lemon pepper and sprinkle Parmesan over the top. You will inevitably have some florets fall off, but don't worry, just oil and season them, and bake alongside the steaks!

Bake at 425 F for approximately 8-10 minutes, or until tops are beginning to brown and cauliflower is cooked to desired doneness.

Serve alone or with whatever toppings your imagination conjures up! This makes a great vegetarian entrée or an excellent side dish to grilled meats.

Cauliflower Rice Pilaf

INGREDIENTS

- 1 head cauliflower, processed in the food processor to rice or bulgur-sized pieces
- 2 tablespoons olive oil (or oil of your choice)
- 1 yellow onion, finely chopped
- Salt and pepper, to taste

DIRECTIONS

In a frying pan, heat olive oil and sauté onion over medium heat until translucent. Add cauliflower and cook over medium-high heat, stirring occasionally, until edges are just browning and cauliflower is cooked. This takes about 5 minutes! Season to taste and serve as a side dish in place of rice, potatoes or pasta.

Another LLC Distinguished Speaker Series Sell-Out Event

By Lou Fancher



David Sedaris Photo provided

You can call Lafayette's Senior Community Library Manager Vickie Sciacca a stalker, but you can't call her for tickets to the upcoming Distinguished Speaker Series event on May 7 at the Orinda Theatre. The Lafayette Library and Learning Center Foundation's presentation of author and humorist

David Sedaris has been sold out for weeks.

But that doesn't mean there aren't ample opportunities to get in on what has become a hot ticket item, with distinguished authors and thought-leaders filling the program's calendar. People discovering the series too late to enjoy Sedaris' talk can snare tickets for the coming lineup: Arabella Bowen, editor in chief of Fodors Travel, May 19, and "Passion for Paris" chronicler David Downie, May 29.

Sedaris is the author of "Barrel Fever and Holidays on Ice," and is best known for his collections of personal essays, "Naked," "Me Talk Pretty One Day," "Dress Your Family in Corduroy and Denim," "When You Are Engulfed in Flames," and his most recent best-seller, "Let's Explore Diabetes with Owls." He is a frequent contributor to the New Yorker and BBC Radio 4 and has been nominated for three Grammy Awards for Best Spoken Word and Best Comedy Album. There are 7 million copies of his books in print.

"I've been trying to book him for

over three years," Sciacca says. "I've been working with his agent, Steven Barclay, but the problem has been that some years, Sedaris only travels one month out of the year. Prior writers' series I ran had a set-in-stone calendar slot, so it never timed out right."

With the Distinguished Speaker series, launched in 2011, Sciacca has the flexibility to adapt to a desired presenter's schedule. Even so, she says Sedaris will fit two events into his 24-hour visit to the Bay Area.

"He'll finish the other event, be driven here, do a sound check, and begin signing books before his talk. I suppose he'll eat dinner while signing books after the event," Sciacca says.

Petaluma-based Barclay says it's hard to explain the rigors of a book tour for a high-demand author like Sedaris, his most-requested client. "If you are not on a plane or train or in a car or checking into a hotel or onstage or doing a signing, there is virtually no time," Barclay says about the 40-cities-in-40-days tour that includes Orinda.

Sciacca says she's thrilled to in-

clude Sedaris in a series that has seen continued popularity since it started with a sold-out appearance by the late Louis Zamperini, World War II prisoner of war survivor, Olympic runner and the subject of Laura Hillenbrand's book, "Unbroken," now also a feature film. Past speakers include Dave Eggers, Rick Steves, Cheryl Strayed, Joyce Maynard and others.

"Sedaris has a tremendous sense of humor and presence. He's courageous about what he says and has so much wit, you can't help but be delighted," she says. "He's also incredibly generous to his readers and will sign everybody's books."

Perhaps the best way to illustrate Sciacca's points – and the feverish fans sweeping up Sedaris tickets – is a short story from Rusty Barnes, CAL Performances public relations associate. Sedaris' Fall 2014 CAL Performances appearance in Berkeley also sold out rapidly.

"The audience response was overwhelmingly positive," Barnes says. "David graciously participated in a book signing after his talk, and the line to meet him wrapped from

the corner of the mezzanine in the lobby around the entire cafe seating area and down both staircases." (A considerable distance, roughly equivalent to a football field.)

Barnes recalls one person asking Sedaris to write something inspirational in her book.

"In true David Sedaris fashion, he wrote: 'Don't die today,'" Barnes says.

Sedaris selects the work of a new or lesser-known author to introduce to audiences during his tours. In Orinda, Blake Bailey's "The Splendid Things We Planned" (Norton) will get the male equivalent of an Oprah recommendation.

Sciacca says the series is an opportunity for people to connect with an author in an in-depth way that bookstore appearances do not often allow. Often, she's struck by the authors' generosity and lack of super-ego.

"Dave Eggers has been one of my favorites," she says. "His style is so unassuming. Working with him, he never asked for anything. He was just humble, grateful to have the recognition in the community."

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LAMORINDA SPORTS

Campolindo Boys' Volleyball Continues Reign Over DFAL

By Spencer Silva



Campolindo's Ryan First at the net with Jack Eisner, right. Photo Gint Federas

The Campolindo Cougars boys' volleyball team extended their winning streak to 23 April 29, defeating the Miramonte Mats in straight sets, 25-14, 25-13, 25-15.

The Cougars (24-2 overall, 8-0 DFAL), fresh from winning the prestigious Granite Bay Tournament, glided through the first two sets, routinely setting up kills on three passes and playing tight defense.

The Mats woke up in the third period, engaging the Cougars in a series of long rallies, but it was too little, too late. Cougars senior Ryan First quelled the Mats' rebellion, ending the match emphatically with two consecutive aces.

"We warm up a little slower than other teams," said Mats coach Lisa Bachtold of the late surge.

Team captains Michael Strandrind and Joe Worsley, along with First, highlight an impressive and accomplished senior class for Campo. They've won three straight Division

II NCS championships, as well as two consecutive NorCal titles. (The NorCal tournament for volleyball is only two years old.)

"This group, as freshman, really reestablished the program," explained Campolindo head coach David Chen. "And each of them is the stud player on their club team. We just try to keep them humbled and balanced."

The team is preparing for a deep playoff run, and at 8-0 in league, they're poised to capture yet another DFAL title.

"We're starting to play good, disciplined volleyball," Chen said. "We always want to get the quick kill ... but sometimes keeping the ball in play is good, so we can play defense, which helps us out a lot. Our strengths are our defense and ball control."

The Mats (5-7 overall, 1-6 DFAL) went 4-1 in pre-season play, but the loss to Campo now marks its seventh in eight games. They opened

league play with a heartbreaking five-set loss to Alhambra (Martinez), which functioned as a wake-up call for Bachtold and the Mats. "We realized teams are getting better, and, looking at our team, we realized we need to catch guys up and get them ready a lot faster."

The Mats have struggled to persuade kids to enter their program. Only three players play offseason volleyball, and two of them are captains: juniors Mitchell Tang and Mitch Brooks. The team hasn't played in any tournaments this season, which has limited their ability to develop the skills of players new to the sport.

The Mats played their best match of the season the week after losing to Alhambra. They took a set from the Cougars, and, to date, are the only team to have done so in the DFAL. "We didn't have any expectations," Bachtold said. "We started making plays and things clicked."

The Acalanes Dons (1-13, 0-7 DFAL) sit in last place in the DFAL. They've been better than their record suggests, losing a number of close matches. The team returned just four players from last year, does not have a single senior and has only a handful of kids who played the sport prior to the season.

The team's captain, setter, and best player is Tommy Graham. He's been consistent all year and is poised to lead the team to better days. Joey Moran has also stepped up, "imbuing" his teammates with "enthusiasm and energy," per Head Coach Mason Mulvaney. In spite of the bleak 2015 season, Mulvaney envisions a bright future for his program.

"Our expectation is to be one of the top teams in the league next year and make the NCS playoff," he noted. "It would be a huge jump, but I think this group of guys will put in the work needed to succeed."

Playoffs Ramping Up For Lamorinda Tennis Squads

By Karl Buscheck



Photo Gint Federas

The tennis postseason is in full swing and all three Lamorinda boys' teams are rolling along.

On May 1 at the DFAL Championship at Saint Mary's College, Miramonte's Peter Martin and Alex Hwang claimed the doubles title after defeating a duo of Dougherty Valley standouts in three sets. The win gives the senior Martin and the junior Hwang an automatic bid to the NCS Doubles Championship, which begins on May 8 at Chabot College in Hayward.

Before winning the DFAL finals, Martin and Hwang first had to get past senior teammates Neil Weikert and Kyle Rechnitz in the semifinals. Along with senior Bryce Hummer, those four players were the stars for the Mats throughout the campaign.

"My crew, those five guys are off the chain," said head coach Michael McCollom. "These are the spectacular ones. There are other just remark-

able young men, but this group, that core is just really, really special."

The crew has brought the program tons of success in recent years. Miramonte won the NCS Team Championship in 2012 and 2013 and was the runner-up last year. With the Doubles Championship and the Team Championship still looming, the Mats once again have big plans.

"We're going to shoot for the finals again. We definitely want to try to get back to the semis at NCS," said McCollom. "I think that would be our main goal and then whether we conquer it again is another story. And so that's what we're hoping for, that we do what we've done repeatedly."

Acalanes, which secured second place in the DFAL regular season standings after beating Campolindo on April 28, also enjoyed an impressive showing on the courts of Saint Mary's. After winning the semifinals in two sets, Kyle Everly advanced to

the finals where he ended up losing out 6-2, 6-4. Just a junior, Everly headlines an Acalanes team that promises to be dangerous once again in 2016.

"We have things in place and everybody coming back pretty much," said head coach Stephanie Lawrence. "And I have a lot of incoming freshman. I think as strong as we are this year, we're going to be even stronger next year."

For now, there's plenty of work to be done in the weeks that follow, both for Everly on the individual side and for the entire squad in the NCS Team Championship.

"We're pretty much assured that we'll get not only an at-large berth in the team sections, but we should be seeded second," said Lawrence.

For Campolindo, Tilden Oliver was the top performer during the DFAL Championship. The senior lost to the eventual champ in the semifinals, but then proceeded to win the third-place match in a tiebreaker. Oliver is set to depart the program at the end of the season, but the future looks bright for the Cougars.

"We're in rebuilding mode," explained head coach Eric Peterson after his team ended the season with a 4-8 record in DFAL and a 5-10 mark overall. With 23 players on the JV roster, the Cougars have a flood of promising players on the rise: "The interesting thing about Campo tennis is that we're really deep," said Peterson. "Our JV team does really well." Next year, the Cougars will be looking to replicate that success at the varsity level.

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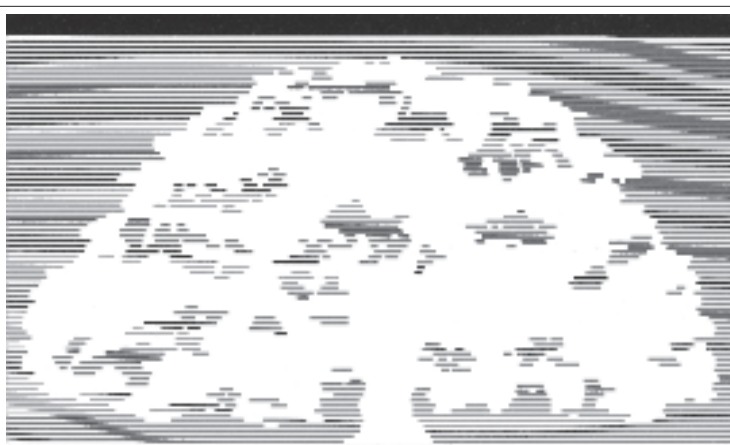
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Young Saint Mary's Baseball Team is On The Rise

By Karl Buscheck



SMC freshman Zach Kirtley dives back to first.

Photos Gint Federas

The future is bright for the Saint Mary's College baseball team. With a 9-15 record in the conference (23-24 overall), the squad sits in ninth place in the WCC standings, but the Gaels are trending upward.

"We've grown. We've gotten better. We've won some big games," said head coach Eric Valenzuela. "I'm definitely proud of this group. They fight just as good as any team I've ever been a part of, coaching wise. So, yeah, I think the program is on the rise."

Valenzuela is wrapping up his second season at the helm in Moraga,

and the skipper has brought some big-time talent to the diamond at Louis Guisto Field. At the top of that list is right-hander Corbin Burnes.

"Success in college baseball starts on the mound," explained Valenzuela. "And when you have a guy, a legitimate Friday guy, draft, major-league type of talent like Corbin Burnes, yeah, that makes an immediate statement."

The sophomore starter, who throws a wipeout slider and can hit 95 mph with his fastball, has really taken off in his second season. "I went into the summer and figured some things

out mechanically and kind of turned it around," said Burnes. "Got stronger, started throwing harder and the numbers are starting to show this year."

The numbers have definitely been impressive for the righty. Burnes owns a 6-4 record and a 3.00 ERA, while pitching a team-high 78 innings and leading the Gaels with 82 strikeouts.

After Saint Mary's cruised past Santa Clara 6-1 on May 1 thanks to a 14-hit barrage and an 8.1-inning outing from sophomore and former Acalanes standout Johnny York, Burnes took the mound for the Gaels on May 2. The starter piled up 10 punchouts, but he also dished out five walks and allowed five runs. Ultimately, a three-run rally from the Broncos in the ninth sent the hosts to a 8-7 defeat. It was the same story in game three, as Santa Clara once again notched three runs in the final frame to edge past Saint Mary's 8-6.

Losing two games by a combined three runs to the conference foe was not the result that the Gaels were hoping for. "This is a big rivalry," said Burnes. "There's some bad blood between us."

Even with the disappointing series loss to Santa Clara, the likes of Burnes and York provide plenty of reason for optimism. At the plate, second baseman Zach Kirtley, third baseman Anthony Villa and first baseman Collin Ferguson have been three of the team's key cogs.

Kirtley, a true freshman at 18 years old, is swinging at a clip of .362. The junior Villa meanwhile has been supplying Saint Mary's with lots of pop, connecting on 13 doubles and four home runs. Ferguson has also been providing all sorts of power.

The senior was drafted by the Oakland A's in the 23rd round a sea-

son ago, but opted to spend one more season at the collegiate level. Ferguson, who leads the Gaels in doubles (16), home runs (seven) and slugging percentage (.520), has certainly boosted his draft stock. "He could be drafted higher. He should be," said Valenzuela. "He's gotten better in all aspects."

The same statement applies to the entire team, which has already won seven more games than a season ago. As Valenzuela makes abundantly clear, his plan for the future is simple: "I want this team to be a built winner for years to come."



Former Acalanes standout Johnny York at the mound.

CYO Presents Inspirational Award

Submitted by Monica Chappell



Top row, from left: coaches Marty Ruane, John Kirke, John Wackowski, Bardhyll Nushi and Jim Gebhardt; bottom row: recipients Lexi Lovelace, Aimee Ruane, Noah Nushi, Sam Lum, Clark Kim, Kate Schirmer and Grace Higgins (recipient Ben Woodworth not pictured) Photo Stacy Schirmer

The St. Perpetua CYO board presented the annual Ken Nelson Award 2014-2015 to one member on each of the eighth-grade CYO basketball teams March 8. This award recognizes basketball athletes who have inspired coaches and best represent the values of CYO basketball. These players demonstrated team

leadership, sportsmanship, dedication, hard work and respect for coaches, teammates, opponents and officials. These players are selected by their teammates. Each player received a certificate of recognition along with a check for \$100. For more information or to register for CYO sports, visit www.stperpetua.org.

Second Place for Stompers at ASA Dirdogs Classic

Submitted by Kwon Lee

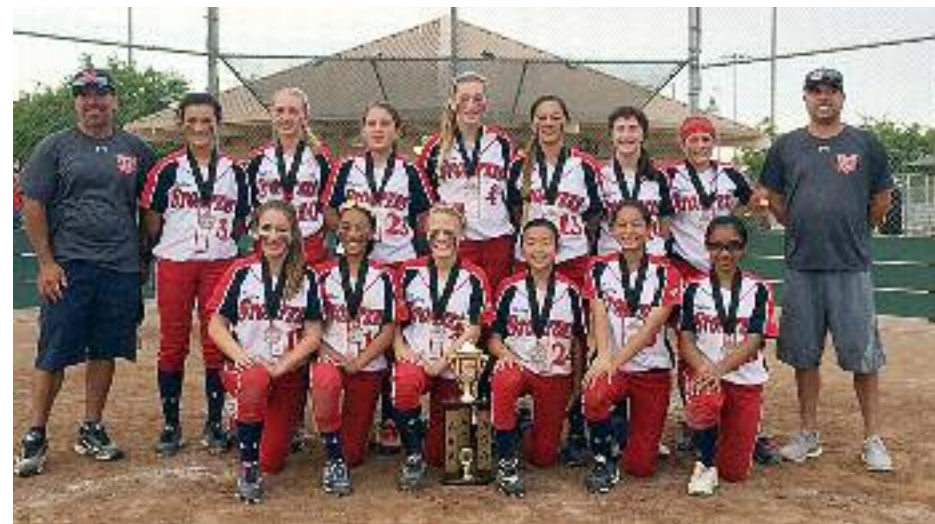


Photo provided

The NorCal Valley Stompers 14U softball team fell 4-3 to the Silverstreak '00 (Lincoln, Calif.) despite the efforts of Abbie Lee #24 (Moraga), who went 2-for-2 in the championship game.

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National Letter of Intent Signers Honored at Acalanes

Submitted by Sue Thoren



Photo Gint Federas

On April 24 the Acalanes High School Athletic Booster Club recognized the 2015 senior athletes who have signed National Letters of Intent and were awarded scholarships

to their respective colleges, along with those who will be playing their respective sports at any Ivy League school or military service academy.

The following Acalanes senior athletes signed National Letters of Intent:

- Brady Aiello - Football - University of Oregon
- Molly Dalziel - Volleyball - University of California, San Diego
- Zach Stromberg - Baseball - Boston College
- Katherine Torchio - Soccer - University of Wisconsin
- Brittany Usinger - Likely Letter Commit - Swimming - Harvard

FAST Swims in Florida

Submitted by Jon Wheeler



13/14 boys 400 free relay, Emily Hamilton and Alexis Fok, girls 200 medley relay



Top row, from left: coaches Sophie and Kevin Lai, Sarah Hamilton, Sophia Kosturos, Margaux McDonald, Lizzy Folmer, Emily Hamilton, Ashleen O'Brien and Max Cruz; bottom row: Alec Baker, Richard Zhang, Will Nagle and Beck Jurasius

Photos provided

Orinda Aquatics was well represented at the recent NASA Showcase Classic held April 7-12 in Clearwater, Fla. Considered one of the fastest 14 and under meets of the year, the competition attracted over 950 swimmers from 94 teams across the country. The Junior group swimmers Alec Baker, Max Cruz, Alexis Fok, Lizzy Follmer, Emily Hamilton, Sarah Hamilton, Beck Jurasius, Sophia Kosturos, Margaux McDonald, Will Nagle, Ashleen O'Brien and Richard Zhang represented Orinda Aquatics incredibly well and enjoyed some fast swimming in the hot Florida sun. Highlights of the meet included individual event victories from Ash-

leen O'Brien (50 Fly, 100 Fly, 200 Fly, 50 Free), Will Nagle (200 Free) plus 46 top 10 finalists overall. In addition, the girls 13/14 200 medley relay of Ashleen O'Brien, Margaux McDonald, Sarah Hamilton and Sophia Kosturos set a new meet record with a time of 1:46.71 and the boys 13/14 400 free relay of Alec Baker, Beck Jurasius, Max Cruz and Richard Zhang set a new Pacific swimming record with a time of 3:16.36. Ashleen O'Brien was named the most outstanding swimmer of the meet for the 14-year-old girls, setting two individual meet records along the way.

Seven Sherman Divers Advance to USA Preliminary Championships

Submitted by Alison Fingerut



Top row, from left: Steve Sherman (head coach), Brianna Nicholson (assistant coach), Amanda Fingerut (Lafayette), Camille Valvur (Moraga), Ingrid Henderson and Brenna Cetrone (Orinda); front row: Gina Banfield, Anna Stubbington, Caty DeBonis, Chole Goddard (Lafayette), Addison Kozimor and Ellie Keane; not pictured: Allison Keane and Spencer Drannan (Moraga)

Photo Alison Fingerut

Twelve divers from the Sherman Divers JO Team competed at the USA Diving Region 10 Championship qualifier meet April 24-26 in Beaverton, Ore., and seven Sherman divers qualified to move on to the USA Diving

National Preliminary Championships scheduled for June 9-15 in Beaverton. Local divers included Spencer Drennan (Moraga), Amanda Fingerut (Lafayette), Chole Goddard (Lafayette) and Camille Valvur (Moraga).

Lamorinda Varsity Rugby Wins in Season Finale

Submitted by Steve Peterson



Lamorinda and San Diego join in for the post-match hospitality.

Photo provided

Lamo Rugby came roaring back from a 29-12 deficit and scored 31 unanswered points to beat the San Diego Mustangs, a highly regarded and nationally prominent program, 43-

12 on April 20 at the Saint Mary's College Pat Vincent Field. Lamo later honored its 22 graduating seniors in a season ending player-parent barbecue.

Lamorinda United 98 Repeats as State Cup Champion

Submitted by Nicole Rogers, Corinna Sassano and Marcia Holbrook



Lamorinda United 98 U16 girls will move on to the Far West Regionals June 12-16.



The U14 Lamorinda girls at the CYSA State Cup



The U17 Lamorinda girls is ranked No. 4 in the country

Photos provided

Fresh off of beating the No. 1 team in the nation at the Las Vegas Players Showcase, Lamorinda United 98 finished off the California Youth Soccer Association State Cup in a decisive manner. After going undefeated in league, the U16 girls entered the playoffs with confidence.

head to Boise for Regionals.

U17 Lamorinda Girls

U17 Lamorinda girls competed in the top flight for Northern California in a division that included four teams ranked in the top 12 nationally at the NorCal state playoffs. The girls played great throughout the tournament over two weekends against the best competition in NorCal. They made it to the finals against a surging Santa Clara team that has been a tough rival for many years. They came up short in the final losing 2-1 but controlled the ball for 80 percent of the game. They pushed into overtime with a special performance but it just wasn't enough. As a result of which teams they played and which teams they beat to get there, the U17 team is now ranked No. 4 in the country and is in a great position to move up the rankings in the next few weeks. The girls are currently in first place in league play, which includes the same four top teams and they look forward to an exciting finish to the spring season.

U14 Lamorinda Girls

The young U14 Lamorinda girls wrapped up an exciting journey after completing the Cal North State Cup playoffs that consisted of four divisions from throughout Northern California. They played their way into the top flight against the best Cal North had to offer. They came up short in the final game in Elk Grove losing 0-2 to a team ranked No. 2 in NorCal. With over five games in the final round, they were 4-1 with 11 goals scored versus two against. They played well throughout and even controlled much of the final game despite the loss, and should be proud with how fast they are learning Lamorinda's complex possession style. Their success at State Cup has propelled them to a No. 7 ranking in NorCal.

Lamorinda continues to compete at the highest level, having moved to No. 1 in the state, No. 2 in the 11 state region and No. 5 in the nation. They hope to continue their climb as they

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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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Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

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

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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

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- 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.



This nine-foot-long center island is perfect for entertaining and bringing the family together.

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Gracious living and formal dining rooms, handsome paneled study and guest powder area, two staircases. Luxurious master bedroom and four bedrooms, three baths upstairs. One bedroom, one and one half baths on the main level. Spectacular landscaped grounds with a magnificent mature oak, lovely patios, wisteria shaded trellis, lawns, pool & spa, play areas, and a charming guest cottage.

*per Public Records

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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

685 Glorietta Boulevard, Lafayette



Located on a cul-de-sac in the desirable Hidden Valley neighborhood, this split-level home has 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths and a generous bonus room. The more than third-acre private yard with decks, level lawn, lots of trees and creek running through it offers many areas to relax and enjoy. There is a living room with vaulted ceiling and hardwood floors that extend to the formal dining room. The kitchen and family room look onto the yard. Above the main level are 3 bedrooms, and below the main level one bedroom and large bonus room. With an excellent central location close to the Lafayette Reservoir, freeway access, and top schools, come enjoy the best of what Lafayette has to offer. Virtual tour at: www.685Glorietta.com.

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Coming Soon in May 2015: 69 Rheem Boulevard, Orinda



Melanie Snow

Coldwell Banker Previews
International Sales Associate

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Spacious floor plan with open kitchen and huge family room, formal living and dining rooms. Vaulted ceilings. Great bones. Kitchen and bathrooms in original condition, just waiting to be updated with the stone, tile and flooring

of your choice. All level, 4 bedrooms, 2 1/2 bathrooms.

Recent addition boasts an entrance inside and outside the home. An additional 2 bedrooms, 1 bath, and wet bar upstairs can be used for visiting family, au pair unit, or teenagers' "haven". Large studio downstairs could work as an office, exercise room, or yoga studio.

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

Price Upon Request

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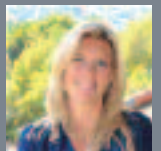
Recently remodeled throughout; this approx. 2800 square foot home boasts 3 good size bedrooms all on the same level and 3 updated full baths. The state-of-the-art Chef's kitchen with large island and eat-in breakfast nook also opens up to the adjacent Family Room with limestone artisan crafted fireplaces. 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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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.

\$1,765,000



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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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Cynthia Brian

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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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