

# Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 09 Issue 12 Wednesday, August 12, 2015



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

## Giving Away the Store – Without the Store

By Chris Lavin



*Items are displayed at this recent "Free Swap" in Canyon.*

*Photo Chris Lavin*

Just when you find you have too many salt shakers, the disposable ones left over from the camping trip that you added to the ones you recently unpacked from mama's nice antique things to the ordinary ones you had already, you find, well, you have too many salt shakers. You may even be one of those people who watch the "Hoarders" show on TV. You start to wonder about yourself.

And that is why there are people like Jamie Riley in the world. She lives in Canyon, and regularly over the years she has organized what she calls

"Free Swaps," an event where people are alerted beforehand (by way of her beautifully hand-painted billboards) that they may and can de-clutter their lives and homes by purging extra stuff, clearing counter and closet space, and giving stuff back to the world.

"Everyplace I've ever lived that I loved had these free spaces," said Riley, at her most recent swap in Canyon. She's lived all over the country, but beginning and ending, so far, here in Lamorinda. She is a young but ultimate ambassador of recycling.

"It's what we should do!" she exclaimed as she rearranged shoes at the swap. "But oh no, this looks kind of junky." Someone into shoes would not have used that word. Shoes are shoes, and seldom are too organized at a swap.

The problem with the swaps is, or "a" problem is, you can leave anything you want but take something else back home, too. You can leave stuff, pick up stuff, either or neither. An eager attendee might end up with more than he or she brought. At the end of the day charitable volunteers haul off the detritus to Goodwill.

At this summer's swap, a myriad number of belongings were put out for review. A live chicken changed hands, within one minute of arrival. Thankfully the original owner had offered printed instructions: "One year old. Refuses to go inside at night. Lays one white egg a day but good luck finding it. Gets along well with cats and dogs." At last report the chicken had been successfully confined and was laying regularly without protest or signs of distress. A plan was being hatched to let it again free-range, but opinions were myriad as to the success of the plan.

Other cast-off belongings at the Canyon Post Office included a complete Boggle game set, a lamp cast in the form of a chicken, a casserole dish in the shape of a pepper, lots of kitchen gear that could be packed for kids going off to college like mugs and French presses, books, a toaster, candle holders, and many, many, cute shoes, if you happened to be a lady's size 8.

... continued on page D4

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## Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

City	Last reported:	LOWEST AMOUNT:	HIGHEST AMOUNT:
LAFAYETTE	47	\$576,000	\$3,525,000
MORAGA	20	\$280,000	\$1,620,000
ORINDA	32	\$642,000	\$2,850,000

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

### LAFAYETTE

- 3219 Andreasen Drive, \$1,168,000, 3 Bdrms, 1500 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 7-8-15;  
Previous Sale: \$655,000, 06-03-11
- 3345 Betty Lane, \$995,000, 3 Bdrms, 1824 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 7-6-15;  
Previous Sale: \$1,035,000, 05-01-06
- 131 Castle Court, \$1,735,000, 4 Bdrms, 2992 SqFt, 1969 YrBlt, 6-22-15;  
Previous Sale: \$1,350,000, 03-20-07
- 34 Circle Creek Court, \$576,000, 3 Bdrms, 1468 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 6-24-15;  
Previous Sale: \$554,500, 12-19-03
- 990 Condit Road, \$1,225,000, 3 Bdrms, 2163 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 6-12-15;  
Previous Sale: \$255,000, 12-09-88
- 4161 Coralee Lane, \$1,490,000, 4 Bdrms, 3010 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 7-7-15
- 922 Dewing Avenue #A, \$665,000, 2 Bdrms, 976 SqFt, 1991 YrBlt, 6-15-15;  
Previous Sale: \$655,000, 09-06-05
- 5 Diablo Oaks Way, \$2,895,000, 5 Bdrms, 4804 SqFt, 2000 YrBlt, 6-16-15;  
Previous Sale: \$2,100,000, 06-26-01
- 1 Dianne Court, \$1,450,000, 3 Bdrms, 2690 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 6-16-15;  
Previous Sale: \$595,000, 05-25-95
- 1188 Estates Drive, \$3,525,000, 4 Bdrms, 5121 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 6-16-15;  
Previous Sale: \$3,400,000, 03-30-01
- 736 Glenside Circle, \$1,718,500, 4 Bdrms, 2565 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 6-22-15;  
Previous Sale: \$34,000, 08-28-72
- 3161 Gloria Terrace, \$1,270,000, 5 Bdrms, 2757 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 6-19-15;  
Previous Sale: \$579,500, 06-30-94
- 34 Greentree Court, \$1,600,000, 4 Bdrms, 2351 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 6-30-15;  
Previous Sale: \$965,000, 08-15-03
- 3514 Hamlin Road, \$1,375,000, 4 Bdrms, 2241 SqFt, 1947 YrBlt, 6-26-15
- 662 Jennie Court, \$990,000, 4 Bdrms, 2048 SqFt, 1968 YrBlt, 7-8-15;  
Previous Sale: \$325,000, 12-07-94
- 3366 Kim Road, \$900,000, 3 Bdrms, 2419 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 6-17-15
- 3193 Lucas Circle, \$1,400,000, 3 Bdrms, 2120 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 6-23-15;  
Previous Sale: \$870,000, 06-03-11
- 3184 Lucas Drive, \$1,050,000, 3 Bdrms, 2140 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 6-17-15;  
Previous Sale: \$540,000, 06-29-01
- 3260 Marlene Drive, \$585,000, 4 Bdrms, 1449 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 6-19-15
- 559 Merriewood Drive, \$1,180,000, 4 Bdrms, 2324 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 6-17-15
- 593 Michael Lane, \$1,025,000, 3 Bdrms, 1478 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 6-23-15
- 11 Middle Road, \$1,550,000, 4 Bdrms, 2992 SqFt, 1968 YrBlt, 6-12-15;  
Previous Sale: \$1,355,000, 04-14-05
- 3485 Monroe Avenue, \$1,525,000, 3 Bdrms, 2056 SqFt, 1994 YrBlt, 6-12-15;  
Previous Sale: \$380,000, 05-14-97

... continued on page D6



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# Giving Away the Store – Without the Store

... continued from page D1



Jamie Riley with some of her wares

Photos Chris Lavin

The idea of swapping belongings has deep roots. People used to trade services or goods all the time. It used to be called bartering. Give and take. Now with a plethora of goods and in an age where landfills are teeming, the idea of actually reusing other people's goods might be starting to gain a resurgence. The Patagonia catalog featured a story about free swap with a deft thought about how the "thrill of shopping, of buying, simply can't hold a candle to such a primal sensation" of getting something for free. How true.

"It's what we should do," Riley said. "A lot of this stuff is simply beautiful. It would be a shame for it to go to waste." She looked at a beaten-up baby's all-wood high-chair with a removable tray that was left over from a previous swap. It looked like oak. One could envision children gone before, and children to come.

"I need to sand that down," she said.

It will be gorgeous.



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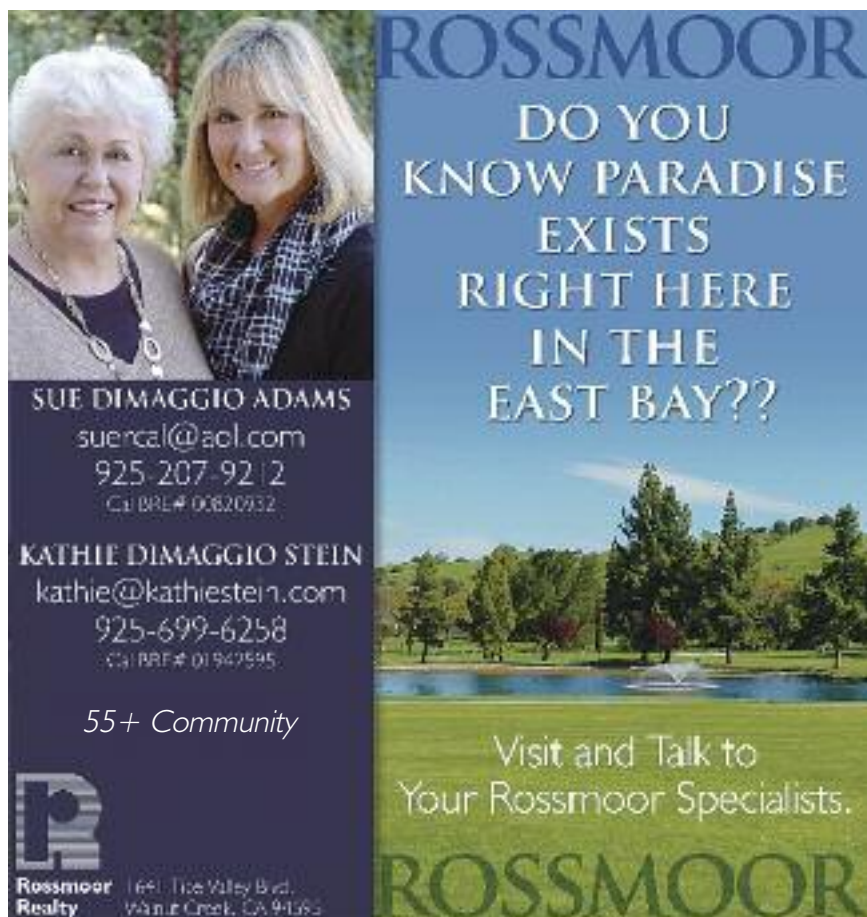
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... continued from page D2

### LAFAYETTE ... continued

- 3398 Moraga Boulevard, \$1,410,000, 3 Bdrms, 2121 SqFt, 1939 YrBlt, 6-18-15;  
Previous Sale: \$1,255,000, 05-19-14
- 10 Moss Lane, \$790,000, 2 Bdrms, 1442 SqFt, 1987 YrBlt, 6-17-15;  
Previous Sale: \$232,000, 01-04-95
- 752 Old Jonas Hill Road, \$1,825,000, 3 Bdrms, 2692 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 6-12-15
- 914 Oak Street, \$895,000, 3 Bdrms, 1971 SqFt, 1942 YrBlt, 6-29-15;  
Previous Sale: \$660,000, 03-19-13
- 3827 Quail Ridge Road, \$2,240,000, 4 Bdrms, 2969 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 6-30-15;  
Previous Sale: \$1,310,000, 10-07-14
- 3830 Palo Alto Drive, \$1,685,000, 3 Bdrms, 2235 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 7-9-15;  
Previous Sale: \$60,500, 07-03-70
- 1529 Rancho View Drive, \$1,400,000, 3 Bdrms, 2074 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 6-19-15
- 1369 Reliez Valley Road, \$2,050,000, 2 Bdrms, 1483 SqFt, 1942 YrBlt, 6-26-15;  
Previous Sale: \$875,000, 10-26-10
- 2 Roxanne Lane, \$1,650,000, 4 Bdrms, 3615 SqFt, 1980 YrBlt, 6-26-15;  
Previous Sale: \$595,000, 07-30-90
- 3538 Silver Springs Road, \$2,125,000, 5 Bdrms, 3576 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 6-26-15;  
Previous Sale: \$1,835,000, 06-11-10
- 3484 Springhill Court, \$1,510,000, 3 Bdrms, 2066 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 7-7-15
- 3292 Springhill Road, \$1,365,000, 3 Bdrms, 2867 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 7-7-15
- 3315 Stage Coach Drive, \$1,450,000, 3 Bdrms, 3357 SqFt, 1994 YrBlt, 6-19-15
- 3493 Stage Coach Drive, \$2,300,000, 4 Bdrms, 4059 SqFt, 1989 YrBlt, 6-26-15
- 1472 Sunset Loop, \$885,000, 4 Bdrms, 2271 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 6-30-15;  
Previous Sale: \$289,000, 03-16-90
- 3139 Sweetbrier Circle, \$1,000,000, 4 Bdrms, 1651 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 6-26-15;  
Previous Sale: \$374,000, 05-15-97
- 3188 Teigland Road, \$1,175,000, 4 Bdrms, 2219 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 6-16-15;  
Previous Sale: \$232,000, 10-01-91
- 4021 Tilden Lane, \$1,525,000, 3 Bdrms, 2230 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 6-29-15
- 978 Victoria Court, \$1,800,000, 3 Bdrms, 2366 SqFt, 1938 YrBlt, 7-7-15;  
Previous Sale: \$1,380,000, 07-20-07
- 3098 Withers Avenue, \$1,227,000, 4 Bdrms, 2830 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 6-26-15;  
Previous Sale: \$1,215,000, 01-23-06

### MORAGA

- 122 Ascot Court #C, \$303,000, 1 Bdrms, 858 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 6-18-15;  
Previous Sale: \$225,000, 08-26-03
- 126 Ascot Court #C, \$280,000, 1 Bdrms, 858 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 6-24-15;  
Previous Sale: \$125,000, 01-31-11
- 2016 Ascot Drive #A2, \$430,000, 2 Bdrms, 1169 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 6-30-15;  
Previous Sale: \$300,000, 06-28-02
- 2135 Ascot Drive #23, \$559,000, 2 Bdrms, 1529 SqFt, 1969 YrBlt, 6-19-15;  
Previous Sale: \$282,000, 08-17-11
- 603 Augusta Drive, \$725,000, 3 Bdrms, 1749 SqFt, 1976 YrBlt, 6-15-15;  
Previous Sale: \$459,000, 08-10-00
- 3567 Boyer Circle, \$1,610,000, 4 Bdrms, 2570 SqFt, 1938 YrBlt, 6-30-15;  
Previous Sale: \$915,000, 11-14-13

... continued on page D11

## 51 San Pablo Court, Moraga



- 5 Bedrooms,  
1 on ground floor
- 3 Bathrooms,  
1 on ground floor
- 2,774 Square Feet  
approximately,
- 2 Story
- 3 Car Garage
- 0.46 Acres  
approximately

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## Kitchen Feng Shui

# Fire Element of Summer, Part I

By Michele Duffy



*Artwork and accessories are a great way to express the Fire element of summer like in this Orinda bathroom. Photos provided*

Good kitchen feng shui is especially important to fuel all of our passionate adventures of exploring in life. Good feng shui for the kitchen begins with clean and tidy counters, floors, the refrigerator and especially the stove to prepare your foodie masterpieces.

The energetic importance of your kitchen stove directly relates to the Fire element. The stove is one of the most powerful tools in our homes. Without the ability to cook and provide needed nourishment, our lives would be drained of the fuel we need to live fully.

The stove in feng shui is referred to as the third of the Three Pillars (front entrance, master bedroom, stove) or power areas of the home. In feng shui, the stove represents nourishment of self, family and friends, but also how you are nourished in turn by them and your community. Hence, the stove relates energetically to the home's finances.

Feng shui recommends that you use your stove daily. As you use your stove, you keep a continuous stream of nourishing energy flowing. Also, keep the stove spotless. See if you notice a shift in how people support and help you in return and in all the ways that lead to an income increase.

Ideally the stove should be placed in the "commanding position" of the kitchen, located on a center island with the cook facing the door to easily see who is entering the room. This stove placement creates the conditions for you to be energetically more "in command" of the way others treat you and your ability to sustain healthy home finances. Don't worry if your stove is nestled in between counters; feng shui "cures" can easily adjust for less than optimal stove placement.

White is the preferred color for a kitchen since it shows off our colorful food the best, but depending on the location of your kitchen, other colors can work nicely, too. Place fresh flowers or a fresh bowl of oranges (abundance and protection) on your kitchen counter to welcome the wealth gods into your home.

Essential kitchen feng shui also includes proper lighting, so you can see what it is you are cooking or preparing. Puck lighting under cabinets can direct light to food preparation areas, cutting-edge crystal chandeliers illuminate and recessed lighting with dimmers all lend themselves to create atmosphere with form and function in mind.

... continued on page D10



*This Lafayette home uses red summery hues to activate the Fire element.*



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This enchanting home is located in one of Lafayette's most desirable neighborhoods. Curb appeal abounds with brick walkways and roses behind a white picket fence. Beautifully remodeled, this home offers a spacious floor plan, charming architectural details and dark hardwood floors throughout. The large living room has an open beam ceiling and a pretty fireplace with built-ins. Stainless steel appliances, Carrera marble counters, white cabinets and charming brickwork highlight the kitchen. A sun-filled breakfast room has a window seat and French doors leading to a large patio, gardens and a brick fireplace. Additional features include a formal dining room, glass front cabinetry and built-in desk in the family room, an indoor laundry, crown mouldings and wainscoting. The detached 2-car garage has a bonus room ideal for a potting shed or work out space! Walk to town and eight years of top-rated schools. This special home is ready for you to enjoy!



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## Kitchen Feng Shui

# Fire Element of Summer, Part I

... continued from page D8

### Outdoor Kitchen Feng Shui

If you are cooking outdoors, try to place your grill in the Fire element area of the Bagua, which is the middle of your backyard, farthest away from the front door of the house. Placing the grill here “activates” the Fire element of that specific area, but it is just good common sense to place the grill away from your home. Place a solar light overhead or nearby so you can see what you are doing when cooking after sunset and remember to maintain your grill. It’s not only good feng shui, but it makes the food taste better.

Recently, one single Lafayette client felt challenged by cooking for herself. She said she rarely used her stove, and was struggling financially. Good stove feng shui is one piece of the puzzle to solve financial issues. I recommended at the very least that she boil water on her stove for daily tea. By doing this small act, she would begin to nourish herself and shift into abundance. Immediately she felt a change: she was less overwhelmed, was inspired to cook for herself, and she also invited friends over to cook together. By taking better care of herself, others wanted to take better care of her – all with a positive financial result.

Whether you are cooking up some grilled vegetables, salmon, sautéing a mushroom base sauce or stewing summer fruit for a pie, remember auspicious kitchen



Proper stove feng shui includes keeping the appliance spotless. A white kitchen shows off food vibrancy the best, as at this Moraga home. Photo provided

feng shui includes being nourished with freshly prepared seasonal food. When we honor ourselves by eating healthy food, we also can effectively honor others, and then the cycle completes with our community supporting us in return.

Next month’s Part II will focus on the fire element that rules the Fame and Reputation and Respect area of the Feng Shui Bagua (far middle area from the front door).

<b>WEALTH &amp; PROSPERITY</b> "Gratitude"  <b>REAR LEFT</b>  <u>Wood</u> Blues, purple & reds	<b>FAME &amp; REPUTATION</b>  "Integrity"  <b>REAR MIDDLE</b>  <u>Fire</u> Reds	<b>LOVE &amp; MARRIAGE</b> "Receptivity"  <b>REAR RIGHT</b>  <u>Earth</u> Reds, pinks, & whites
<b>HEALTH &amp; FAMILY</b> "Strength"  <b>MIDDLE LEFT</b>  <u>Wood</u> Blues & Greens	<b>CENTER</b>  "Earth"  Yellow & earth tones	<b>CREATIVITY &amp; CHILDREN</b> "Joy"  <b>MIDDLE RIGHT</b>  <u>Metal</u> White & Pastels
<b>KNOWLEDGE &amp; SELF CULTIVATION</b> "Stillness"  <b>FRONT LEFT</b>  <u>Earth</u> Black, blues & greens	<b>CAREER</b> "Depth"  <b>FRONT MIDDLE</b>  <u>Water</u> Black & dark tones	<b>HELPFUL PEOPLE &amp; TRAVEL</b> "Synchronicity"  <b>FRONT RIGHT</b>  <u>Metal</u> White, grey & black

“Front Door”



Michele Duffy, BTB M.F.S. is an Orinda resident who, since 1999, enjoys creating “Space as Medicine” Feng Shui one space at a time, as well as hiking in nature, cooking, and spending time with her family; Canyon Ranch Feng Shui Master, International Feng Shui Guild (IFSG) Red Ribbon Professional. To schedule a professional 2015 Feng Shui Consultation, contact Michele at (520) 647-4887 or send an email to [spaceharmony@gmail.com](mailto:spaceharmony@gmail.com).

## Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

... continued from page D6

### MORAGA ... continued

- 1455 Camino Peral, \$690,000, 3 Bdrms, 1697 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 7-2-15;  
Previous Sale: \$450,000, 04-09-10
- 26 Crest Road, \$1,625,000, 3 Bdrms, 2837 SqFt, 1941 YrBlt, 6-29-15;  
Previous Sale: \$27,000, 06-07-93
- 787 Crossbrook Drive, \$1,513,000, 4 Bdrms, 2404 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 6-26-15;  
Previous Sale: \$975,000, 09-26-14
- 811 Crossbrook Drive, \$1,620,000, 4 Bdrms, 3208 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 7-1-15
- 330 Denise Lane, \$1,175,000, 4 Bdrms, 2422 SqFt, 2000 YrBlt, 6-30-15;  
Previous Sale: \$675,000, 02-10-10
- 131 Devin Drive, \$869,000, 3 Bdrms, 1449 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 7-9-15
- 925 Diablo Drive, \$1,140,000, 5 Bdrms, 2856 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 6-30-15;  
Previous Sale: \$95,500, 10-07-76
- 106 Greenbriar, \$925,000, 3 Bdrms, 2029 SqFt, 1986 YrBlt, 6-18-15;  
Previous Sale: \$630,000, 07-12-01
- 464 Kingsford Drive, \$1,125,000, 4 Bdrms, 2475 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 7-8-15;  
Previous Sale: \$490,000, 06-26-91
- 1265 Larch Avenue, \$1,150,000, 4 Bdrms, 1910 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 6-15-15
- 140 Oxford Drive, \$1,250,000, 4 Bdrms, 2182 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 6-23-15;  
Previous Sale: \$790,000, 09-10-03
- 20 Ravenhill Lane, \$1,112,500, 4 Bdrms, 2038 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 6-26-15
- 614 Rheem Boulevard, \$1,015,000, 4 Bdrms, 2034 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 6-24-15
- 1224 Rimer Drive, \$1,225,000, 4 Bdrms, 2271 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 6-23-15;  
Previous Sale: \$1,117,000, 03-17-05
- 268 Scofield Drive, \$1,234,000, 3 Bdrms, 2031 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 7-2-15;  
Previous Sale: \$730,500, 07-22-10
- 1703 St. Andrews Drive, \$805,000, 3 Bdrms, 1749 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 6-23-15;  
Previous Sale: \$755,000, 10-27-05
- 1822 St. Andrews Drive, \$847,000, 3 Bdrms, 2172 SqFt, 1981 YrBlt, 7-6-15;  
Previous Sale: \$375,000, 11-22-96
- 255 Tharp Drive, \$1,085,000, 4 Bdrms, 1956 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 6-30-15;  
Previous Sale: \$752,000, 03-26-04
- 415 Tharp Drive, \$1,185,000, 4 Bdrms, 2284 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 6-16-15
- 168 Via Joaquin, \$742,500, 3 Bdrms, 2018 SqFt, 1980 YrBlt, 6-24-15;  
Previous Sale: \$649,500, 10-26-04
- 121 Warfield Drive, \$1,355,000, 5 Bdrms, 2560 SqFt, 1968 YrBlt, 6-17-15
- 44 York Place, \$1,300,000, 4 Bdrms, 2137 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 7-2-15

### ORINDA

- 7 Abbott Court, \$1,450,000, 4 Bdrms, 4265 SqFt, 2013 YrBlt, 6-25-15;  
Previous Sale: \$770,000, 01-15-08
- 40 Barbara Road, \$1,005,000, 3 Bdrms, 1791 SqFt, 2003 YrBlt, 6-30-15;  
Previous Sale: \$79,000, 10-09-03
- 34 Berkeley Avenue, \$750,000, 4 Bdrms, 2206 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 7-1-15;  
Previous Sale: \$200,000, 09-26-95
- 100 Casa Vieja Place, \$1,303,000, 4 Bdrms, 2607 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 6-26-15
- 134 Crestview Drive, \$2,625,000, 4 Bdrms, 3929 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 6-23-15;  
Previous Sale: \$1,325,000, 07-03-14

... continued on page D12



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## Lamorinda Home Sales recorded ... continued from page D1 1

### ORINDA ... continued

- 56 Donna Maria Way, \$642,000, 3 Bdrms, 1610 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 7-7-15;  
Previous Sale: \$740,000, 12-02-10
- 3 Easton Court, \$1,295,000, 4 Bdrms, 1917 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 6-12-15;  
Previous Sale: \$989,000, 10-10-12
- 1 El Verano, \$1,425,000, 3 Bdrms, 2787 SqFt, 1939 YrBlt, 6-15-15;  
Previous Sale: \$1,160,000, 06-07-10
- 2 La Cresta Road, \$1,795,000, 5 Bdrms, 3242 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 6-12-15;  
Previous Sale: \$421,500, 05-22-92
- 9 La Fond Lane, \$1,500,000, 4 Bdrms, 3010 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 6-30-15;  
Previous Sale: \$1,285,000, 09-18-12
- 30 Las Palomas, \$1,200,000, 3 Bdrms, 1494 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 6-26-15;  
Previous Sale: \$426,500, 04-08-94
- 180 Lombardy Lane, \$1,300,000, 3 Bdrms, 1869 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 6-26-15;  
Previous Sale: \$1,230,000, 03-23-06
- 181 Moraga Way, \$930,000, 2 Bdrms, 1678 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 7-1-15;  
Previous Sale: \$575,000, 12-28-10
- 81 Mossbridge Lane, \$2,325,000, 5 Bdrms, 4540 SqFt, 1988 YrBlt, 7-2-15;  
Previous Sale: \$2,350,000, 04-27-04
- 13 Muth Drive, \$1,095,000, 3 Bdrms, 2236 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 7-6-15;  
Previous Sale: \$941,000, 09-09-05
- 69 Rheem Boulevard, \$1,544,000, 5 Bdrms, 4113 SqFt, 1977 YrBlt, 7-7-15;  
Previous Sale: \$305,000, 02-15-85
- 83 Rheem Boulevard, \$1,160,000, 4 Bdrms, 1747 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 7-7-15
- 22 Santa Lucia Road, \$2,614,500, 5 Bdrms, 4168 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 6-26-15;  
Previous Sale: \$943,000, 06-15-94
- 130 Silver Oak Terrace, \$2,850,000, 5 Bdrms, 5404 SqFt, 1988 YrBlt, 7-2-15;  
Previous Sale: \$187,500, 10-30-87
- 48 Singingwood Lane, \$2,005,000, 4 Bdrms, 2854 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 6-12-15;  
Previous Sale: \$601,000, 09-01-95
- 68 Singingwood Lane, \$2,765,000, 5 Bdrms, 5047 SqFt, 1975 YrBlt, 6-30-15;  
Previous Sale: \$2,455,000, 06-27-13
- 82 Sleepy Hollow Lane, \$1,840,000, 5 Bdrms, 2934 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 6-15-15;  
Previous Sale: \$781,000, 01-31-97
- 18 Sunrise Hill Road, \$1,762,500, 5 Bdrms, 4576 SqFt, 1989 YrBlt, 6-19-15;  
Previous Sale: \$775,500, 10-30-89
- 87 Tara Road, \$1,380,000, 4 Bdrms, 2487 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 6-12-15;  
Previous Sale: \$1,350,000, 11-15-05
- 10 Tarry Lane, \$1,697,500, 4 Bdrms, 2809 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 6-23-15;  
Previous Sale: \$158,000, 06-09-78
- 57 Tarry Lane, \$1,555,000, 4 Bdrms, 2915 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 6-16-15;  
Previous Sale: \$722,000, 08-18-99
- 16 Valley View Road, \$1,620,000, 3 Bdrms, 2344 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 6-30-15;  
Previous Sale: \$559,000, 08-30-94
- 1 Wanda Lane, \$1,200,000, 3 Bdrms, 1951 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 6-16-15;  
Previous Sale: \$699,000, 05-16-14

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## Digging Deep - Gardening with Cynthia Brian

# For the Birds

*"I value my garden more for being full of blackbirds than of cherries, and very frankly give them fruit for their songs."*  
— Joseph Addison, essayist and poet (1672-1719)



*A Lamorinda reader from Australia wanted to share her garden friend, the beautiful, friendly kookaburra with our readers.*



*Make sure to have a birdbath. Plant zinnias and other plants that birds will enjoy.*

Are you attracting birds to your backyard? In the past few months, I have received numerous emails and calls from readers literally around the world asking questions about our flying friends. Many people have indicated that the bird population has increased in their landscaping, with some gardeners enjoying first-time visitors.

Robins, sparrows, hummingbirds, crows, red tailed hawks, quail, mourning doves, jays, owls, chickadees, wrens, bushtits, mockingbirds, thrashers, robins, yellow warblers, finches, larks, wrens, orioles, blackbirds, tanagers and many other species are calling Lamorinda home.

This past week I adopted a one-winged cockatiel named Spunky. He and I immediately bonded as he spawned the impetus to write about the benefits of birds. Although I'm a novice at identifying many of these wonderful creatures, birds have always fascinated and entertained me as I've watched quail with their newly hatched covey convening on my lawn, or the robins annually laying eggs in the wreath on my back door. This year the airspace around my home is particularly jammed with crows cawing. I thought I was experiencing a re-make of "The Birds" recently when a convention of turkey vultures and crows assembled on my rooftop. I snapped a photo of two before jumping into my car for safety as 20 other buzzards landed.

How long have birds been on the planet? In 1859 Bavaria fossils were found dating to 140 million years ago that suggested that modern birds evolved from a feathered ancestor, Archaeopteryx, similar to a dinosaur. The size of a crow, Archaeopteryx is the probable ancestor of over 9,000 species of birds.

The appeal of birds in our backyards is immeasurable. While watching their antics and enjoying their beautiful plumage as well as their melodious song is intriguing, the grand dividend for gardeners is their free assistance as garden helpers. Birds are constantly turning over leaves, scratching in mulch, or flitting from bush to tree finding their meal of insects we never see. Birds such as flycatchers and swallows decimate flying pests. Seed-eating birds will glean 95 percent of the weed seed that grows every season. When we welcome birds to our backyards, we are creating a home landscape that will naturally ward off diseases and pests. Bacteria and spores struggle to survive as our gardens become more organic creating a natural balance between pests and plants. ... continued on page D14



*A favorite birdhouse Photos Cynthia Brian*



*This is a cozy and safe nesting place for our feathered friends.*

# For the Birds

... continued from page D13



*I thought I was in a remake of the classic film, "The Birds" when vultures and crows swarmed my rooftop.*



*Finches feeding at a garden feeder*

Here are ways to maintain flocks flying as your personal aerial garden rescue crew.

- 1. WATER:** A water feature is a magnet for birds, especially in the hot summer months when water is scarce. Add birdbaths, ponds, and fountains for them to bathe, drink, and even forage. Birds can hear the sound of running water from great distances.
- 2. SHELTER:** Birds need to be protected from the whims of Mother Nature. Many birds love brush piles that offer cover. They search for nest building areas and will find your birdhouses, especially those placed in sites that mimic natural surroundings. Some birds, like wrens, will reside nightly in a birdhouse to keep warm and safe. Install roosting boxes and shelves. If you already have birdhouses, keep them clean. As Miguel de Cervantes wrote, "Never look for this year's birds in last year's nests."
- 3. FOOD:** Birdfeeders offer a birds-eye view of their acrobatic displays. Plus, supplementing their meals could be the difference between life and death. Include seed, suet, fruit, nuts, and nectar for the hummingbirds. In the winter, make sure to continue feeding. If you plan to stop feeding your birds, slowly wean them so as not to cut off their food supply.
- 4. PLANTS:** Plant evergreens, vines, shrubs, annuals, and perennials. Birds especially enjoy fruit bearing trees like peach, plum, apricot and elderberry as well as seed-bearing plants like Blackeyed Susan, cosmos, and sunflowers. Hummingbirds are attracted to red, deep-throated flowers with nectar. Include scarlet trumpet vine in your yard. Native species including mustard, wild pea, poppy, shooting star, milkweed, larkspur, lupine, columbine, anemone, bleeding heart and verbena will draw hummingbirds, butterflies, and seed and insect eating birds to your backyard.

Take care of your birds and they will take care of your garden. Life is for the birds!



*Marigolds are a favorite summer plant.*



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## Cynthia Brian's Mid-Month Garden Tips

**GRILL** your fresh-picked eggplant, corn, watermelon, and peppers on the barbecue. Brush with olive oil and garlic, sprinkle with salt and sage or cilantro.

**PICK** pears and Asian pears. Slice up into salads or eat then fresh off the tree.

**DIVIDE** bearded iris. When iris rhizomes are crowded, they will not bloom. Use a sharp shovel to slice through the rhizomes, then replant in other areas or share with friends. Even small pieces will grow into plants.

**SUCCESSION** plant arugula, lettuce, carrots, beans and beets for crops that will continue to feed you through fall.

**ENJOY** the birds. They are favorite friends of our landscapes providing entertainment, pest control, and nature nurture.

Happy Gardening and Happy Growing!



Cynthia Brian with a white parrot named Florida Cockatoo

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Cynthia Brian

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## ORINDA



**136 Ravenhill Road** Lovely 2bd/2ba, 2216sf twnhm full of space, oversized rms, high ceilings + light. Charming decor, natural colors, lots of style by artist owner. Easy in/outdr living, patios, very private, tranquil. **\$899,000**

## ORINDA



**170 Camino Sobrante** This adorable 3 bedroom, 2 bath cottage sits right on Lake Cascade. Large flat grassy area in the backyard, updated kitchen & bathrooms. This is the one you've been waiting for! **\$1,250,000**

## ORINDA



**50 Don Gabriel Way** South Orinda home features open floor plan w/custom cabinetry, hardwd flrs, updated kitchen. Patio & outdoor dining area, large terraced upslope backyard perfect for relaxation. **\$1,250,000**

## ORINDA



**99 Via Floreado** This brilliant contemporary has spectacular views w/walls of windows. This stunning apx. 3,000sf, 4bd/3.5ba country club home is near the freeway. Updated master bath. **\$1,450,000**

## ORINDA



**74 Estates Drive** Truly one of a kind custom single level on 1.09ac. Apx. 2844sf, 4bd/3ba, kit./fam rm combo. Incredible views, extensive patios, decks & pool. Lovely grdns, vineyd & raised beds for veggies. **\$1,650,000**

## ORINDA



**12 Overhill Road** Nestled amongst majestic oaks & olive trees in an idyllic private setting. Unique Mediterranean Style 4 bd/3.5 ba home on .64ac w/oasis like courtyard setting & salt water pool. **\$1,725,000**

## ORINDA



**25 Rustic Way** Impressive property w/top-of-the-hill privacy, fab. views & custom built 6bd/5.5ba home of apx. 8514sf on 8.14 acres. Racquetball court, pool w/unique waterslide, tennis court. **\$3,695,000**

## MORAGA



**1395 Camino Peral** 3 bedroom, 2 bath Townhome w/ inside laundry, private patio & two car garage. Conveniently located near shopping, transportation, park, trails and library. **\$625,000**

## MORAGA



**262 Rheem Blvd** Super 1.42 acre mostly level w/total privacy. Enjoy a lovely remodeled 1 level 3bd/2ba home w/new kitchen, adjoining family room of style & sharp decor. Easy access to incredible yard. **\$995,000**

## MORAGA



**5 Whiting Court** Sonsara Mediterranean 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath, open kitchen/ family room combo, spa-like master bath, in-door laundry, sunny courtyard. Single level, like new. **\$1,485,000**

## MORAGA



**5 Paseo Linares** Stunning new construction! Mediterranean Villa, spacious rooms, cul de sac, views & level yard. 4142sf, 5bd/4.5ba home w/hdwd, great room +formal living & dining w/butler's pantry. **\$2,525,000**

## LAFAYETTE



**4038 Happy Valley Road** Happy Valley premium location. Gated estate on private 2+ acre setting, views, two offices, high ceilings, walls of glass, level yard, resort pool/spa. 4 car garage. Unique & priced to sell! **\$2,095,000**

## 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**

## LAFAYETTE



**1141 Vallecito Court** Treasured Happy Valley estate custom built in 2006 w/finest craftsmanship. Chef's kitchen, gorgeous master, ofc, fam rm, home gym. Pool, spa, frplc & level lawn w/views. Detached guest house. **\$3,900,000**

## PLEASANT HILL



**2180 Geary Road #1** Lovely single level end unit. Rare 3 bedroom & 2 bath condo that lives like a single family home! Fabulous location! A must see! **\$489,000**

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**227 Tiburon Court** Experience living on serene cul-de-sac w/in WC's rarely avail. secluded Valley ngrhrd. Tranquil .45 acre w/pool,spa &sport court. Near town, commute & excellent Acalanes school district. **\$1,487,000**



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