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Acalanes High School freshman Elena Mountin hard at work.

Photo Uma Unni

Survey Points to Stressed-Out Students

By Uma Unni

In the spring of 2015, students at all four schools in the Acalanes Union High School District took the Stanford Survey of Adolescent School Experiences, more commonly referred to as the “stress test.” This survey was administered by the Challenge Success program, a nonprofit group associated with the Stanford Graduate School of Education. The survey gauged student perceptions of a wide variety of subjects, ranging from homework load and school stress to academic in-

tegrity and engagement. Based on the results of the survey, the Challenge Success program is working with the school district to create a less stressful and more engaging school environment for students.

The district has a lot of work to do. According to the survey, 83 percent of Campolindo High School students reported often feeling stressed by school work (Acalanes and Miramonte had similar numbers); 42 percent of

Miramonte students suffered from exhaustion, headaches or had trouble sleeping; and 96 percent of Acalanes students admitted to cheating in the past year (cheating was broadly defined by the survey, ranging from copying homework to cheating on tests).

A natural conclusion to draw from the results is that students are anxious because they care too deeply about school, but further data suggests otherwise.

... continued on page A11

Advertising

LAMORINDA WEEKLY

News	A2 - A12
Life in Lamorinda	B1 - B10
Not to be Missed	B8-B9
HOW TO CONTACT US	B9
Food	B10
Service Directory	B10
Sports	C1 - C3
Classified	C2
Shop Moraga	C4
Our Homes	D1 -D16
This Week Read About:	
Traffic light on Reliez	A2
Possible Lafayette parking lot	A3
Bee ordinance in Moraga	A4
SMC master plan discussed	A5
City Ventures referendum tossed	A5
Orinda Superintendent survey	A7
Pacific Chamber Symphony opens	B7
SMC Women's Volleyball	C2



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No Drought in EBMUD Employee Compensation

By Nick Marnell

The public's relationship with fire and water is stewarded in Lamorinda for the most part by the Moraga-Orinda Fire District and the East Bay Municipal Utility District. Each entity has recently struggled through adversity. The management of one agency responded to its crisis by cutting salaries, thereby sharing the burden with its customers, while the other agency placed the burden almost entirely on the backs of its customers and continued to increase total compensation for its employees.

The Great Recession battered MOFD, with property tax receipts – its major source of revenue – falling and not keeping up with expenses. Despite the district carrying a negative balance in its general fund and being warned by its auditor that it was running out of cash, then-president John Wyro famously told district residents in 2013, “There is no need to raise taxes.” The district has kept that word to date.

Not only did MOFD decline to stick the public

with a tax increase, management and labor both agreed to wage concessions to help the district weather its financial crisis. The firefighters received no raise from 2008 until 2015. In fact, their wages were cut a further 3.5 percent in 2014. Fire Chief Stephen Healy also took a 3.5 percent salary cut in 2014, and each of his battalion chiefs received the same pay reduction.

While MOFD experienced a property tax decrease, EBMUD experienced an inventory decrease. The state water shortage became so severe that Gov. Jerry Brown declared in 2015 that California was into the fourth year of a drought, ordering water customers to cut usage by 25 percent from 2013 levels. EBMUD reacted quickly to this threat to its revenue. But unlike MOFD, the district placed most of the burden of its potential revenue shortfall on its customers. EBMUD raised rates 8 percent to compensate for the water shortage – in effect, penalizing those who conserved – and hammered its customers with drought surcharges of up

to 23 percent. The water district also slapped its customers with an excessive use penalty of \$2 for every unit consumed over an 80-unit threshold, and it publicized the names of the excessive users. “If needed, the penalty can get a lot tougher,” said district spokeswoman Abby Figueroa at an Oct. 16 news conference. (The Lamorinda Weekly received the list of Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda excessive water users from EBMUD, but has declined to publish the names.)

Despite the onus placed upon its customers, not one member of the EBMUD senior management team has taken a cent less in total compensation since the beginning of the drought in 2012. For example, based on records supplied by the district, EBMUD general manager Alexander Coate's total compensation increased 19.8 percent between 2012 and 2014. And unlike the MOFD rank and file during their hard times, none of the EBMUD labor groups have taken a pay cut during the four years of drought conditions. ... continued on page A8

Civic News A1-A12

Orinda City Council denies J&J Development appeal – page A6.

Fire Districts A8

Factions at odds regarding reconstruction of Station 43 – page A8.

Life in Lamorinda B1-B10

A snapshot of a Lafayette veteran's life – page B3.



Sports C1-C3

Campolindo and Miramonte football match-up – page C1.



Our Homes D1-D16

Feng shui tips to elicit joy in your life – page D8.





Lafayette

Public Meetings

City Council

Monday, Nov. 9, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Planning Commission

Monday, Nov. 16, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Design Review

Monday, Nov. 9, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Arts & Science Discovery Center,
3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

School Board Meetings

Acalanes Union High School District
Wednesday, Nov. 18, 7:30 p.m.
AUHSD Board Room
1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette
www.acalanes.k12.ca.us

Lafayette School District

Wednesday, Nov. 10, 7 p.m.
Regular Board Meeting
District Office Board Room
3477 School St., Lafayette
www.lafsd.k12.ca.us

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

City of Lafayette:

www.ci.lafayette.ca.us
Phone: (925) 284-1968

Chamber of Commerce:

www.lafayettechamber.org



Lafayette Police Department Incident Summary Report Oct. 11-24

Alarms	52
911 Calls (including hang-ups)	7
Noise Complaints	5
Traffic Stops	116
Suspicious Circumstances	7
Suspicious Subjects	13
Suspicious Vehicles	33
Abandoned Vehicle	
Mariposa Rd/Mt View Dr	
1000 block Los Arabis Dr	
Animal Cruelty	
Lafayette Cir/Mt Diablo Blvd	
Post Office	
Battery, Sexual	
3400 block Golden Gate Way	
Burglary, Auto	
3500 block Terrace Way	
900 block Dewing Ave	
3200 block Camino Diablo	
3600 block Walnut St	
Burglary, Residential	
1200 block Upper Happy Valley Rd	
Civil Problem	
3600 block Mt Diablo Blvd	
3900 block Leroy Wy	
Dispute, Verbal	
4000 block Viora Pl	
1700 block Reliez Valley Rd	
DUI	
3500 block Mt Diablo Blvd	
Fireworks	
Burton Valley Elementary	
Fraud	
3600 block Sundale Rd	
3300 block Victoria Ave	
Hit & Run	
Acalanes High School	
3500 block Mt Diablo Blvd	
Withers Ave/Taylor Blvd	
Loitering	
Springhill/Blackhawk Rds	
Neighbor Dispute	
3600 block Bickerstaff	
Police/Fire/EMS Response	
1000 block Hoedel Ct	
Pleasant Hill Cr/Acalanes Ave	
900 block Dewing Ave	
3800 block Palo Alto Dr	
Public Nuisance	
900 block S Thompson Rd (3)	
Mt Diablo Blvd/Oak Hill Rd	
1000 block Oak Hill Rd	
200 block Lafayette Cir	
3600 block Mt Diablo Blvd	
3500 block Mt Diablo Blvd	
Promiscuous Shooting	
1800 block Reliez Valley Rd	
Via Roble/Dolores Dr	
Reckless Driving	
Moraga/Hamlin Rds	
Pleasant Hill Cir/Acalanes Ave	
St Mary's/Moraga Rds	
Pleasant Hill/Reliez Valley Rds	
Oak Hill Rd/Hwy 24	

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Slow Moving Project Making Progress

By Cathy Tyson

Developments taking ages before final approval seems to be trending in Lafayette. Lennar Homes first had study sessions in 2013 for a then 47-unit project at the corner of Mt. Diablo Boulevard and Dolores Drive, the site of Celia's, plus two adjacent parcels that total two acres, which garnered a very unenthusiastic response from the Design Review Commission at the time.

The applicant recently unveiled a completely reconfigured, larger 66-unit design at a DRC meeting featuring three three-story buildings with an underground parking garage, anchored by a restaurant on the corner. This time around, it reaped some compliments, but also some suggestions for improvements. Residences

in the proposed project will be for sale and include 26 two-bedroom and 32 three-bedroom units, with only 8 one-bedroom units.

Finding a balance between what Lennar wants and city concerns has centered on ingress and egress. Both the Circulation Commission and DRC evaluated plans and provided comments in 2014. At that point, the DRC let Lennar know that they would hold off on their critique until "appropriate access points" were spelled out.

Traffic, access and parking have been challenging from the start. Lennar took input from staff, neighbors and adjacent commercial property owners to heart and came up with a new and improved version of the project with a shared driveway on the

far western edge of the property that calls for a traffic signal. Access from narrow sloping Dolores Drive has been nixed as well as a driveway in the middle of the block. The Circulation Commission approved this change in September 2015.

Owners of long-time Lafayette business Diamond Kay across the street still have concerns about how the project would affect their customers and deliveries, and urged commissioners to rethink the proposed angled parking along Mt. Diablo Boulevard.

At the Oct. 13 meeting planning staff explained their support for angled parking instead of parallel parking as it does not create needed additional on-street spaces. There are currently

nine existing on-street parallel spaces, while there could be 21 angled spaces, a net gain of 12 new spaces.

The most recent feedback from commissioners praised the design team on their progress with the new plans, as well as working with neighbors, but still suggested improvements to make it feel more village-like and less monumental – more intimate and warm.

One resident called the newest iteration "frankly uninspiring" – something that could be found in Emeryville or Irvine.

The applicant is continuing to work on the project and will be back with more adjustments to this version that will return for more review in the new year.

Concern Over Traffic Light on Reliez

By Cathy Tyson



Photo C. Tyson

Local residents jammed the Community Hall to weigh in on a proposed traffic signal at the corner of Reliez Station Road and Las Trampas

Road at the Oct. 26 Lafayette City Council meeting.

Lengthy comments on both sides of the issue focused on inconven-

ience, safety, traffic flow, and dangerous left turns coming out of Las Trampas and Richelle Court.

Currently there is a flashing light at the crest of the hill that will flash when activated by pedestrians. "The problem is you don't know which cars are going to stop," said Council Member Don Tatzin. "It's kind of like Russian roulette." The proposed signal would rest on green for motorists along Reliez Station Road.

A thorough year-long study with community input, an effort that not everyone at the meeting was aware had happened, was completed in May 2015 that evaluated the feasibility of addressing traffic congestion and safety issues along Reliez Station Road and Olympic Boulevard. Ultimately the consultants recommended a roundabout at the intersection of

Pleasant Hill Road and Olympic Boulevard and a traffic signal at Reliez Station Road and Las Trampas/Richelle Court, along with additional corridor improvements.

City Engineer Tony Coe is preparing drawings that will come back for community review at a design open house where the public will be welcome to view the plans. In addition, a second public meeting will occur with the Circulation Commission where drawings and feedback will be presented. Finally, the project will be back before the city council when construction bids are received. Public meetings are all listed on the city website, www.lovelafayette.org. To read the entire Feasibility and Options Study, type "Reliez" into the website search box.

Los Palos/Glenside Drs	
Pleasant Hill/Hwy 24	
Reliez Valley/Silver Dell Rd	
Reliez Valley/Pleasant Hill Rd	
Pleasant Hill/Mt Diablo Blvd	
Echo Springs/Reliez Valley Rd	
Road Rage	
Mt Diablo Blvd/Moraga Rd	
Shoplifting	
3600 block Mt Diablo Blvd	
3500 block Mt Diablo Blvd (2)	
Terrorist Threats	
900 block Janet Ln	
Theft, Grand	
600 block Glorietta Blvd	
Theft, Petty	
900 block Yorkshire Ct	
3100 block Mars Ct	
10 block Hidden Valley Rd	
3500 block Mt Diablo Blvd	
3800 block Quail Ridge Rd	
Safeway	
3400 block Mt Diablo Blvd (from veh)	
3200 block Alta Ln	
700 block Los Palos Dr	
Theft, ID	
Reported to police	
3200 block Camino Colorados (3)	
1000 block Windsor Dr	
Theft, Vehicle	
Oakwood Athletic Club	
1100 block Upper Happy Valley Rd (2)	
Threats	
1000 block Carol Ln	
Unwanted Guest	
3300 block Betty Ln	
Safeway	
1000 block Blackwood Ln	
600 block Huntleigh	
900 block Hough Ave	
Vandalism	
Toyon/Reliez Valley Rds	
1000 block Windsor Dr	
600 block Huntleigh Dr	
600 block Hough Ave	
1300 block Reliez Valley Rd	

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Winning Image for Reservoir Run T-shirt



Digital Design teacher Susan Lane, winning student Maia Beckman and Jay Lifson, executive director of the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce, race sponsor. Photo courtesy Acalanes Blueprint

Acalanes High School student Maia Beckman is a senior this year, but obviously learned a thing or two in Susan Lanes' Digital Design class that she took as a junior. Her design was chosen to grace this year's T-shirt, worn by hundreds of participants at the annual Reservoir Run.

Lane calls her a delightful student who "exhibits a fearless attitude in her ability to take creative risks. She was also very supportive of the creative efforts of others in the class, just a joy to have. I was so happy to see her design win." C. Tyson

Investigating Opportunity for More Parking

By Cathy Tyson

Owners of a roughly half-acre parcel downtown have expressed an interest in discussing a possible deal with the city of Lafayette to turn the land into much needed parking. With unanimous support from city council members who lauded the concept and underscored the need for more parking, \$3,000 was allocated to split the cost of an appraisal of what is now the Barclay Simpson Gallery-Lescure Building directly adjacent to Diamond Kay on Mt. Diablo Boulevard.

City Manager Steven Falk explained parking meter funds and enforcement revenue is accumu-

lated over time, to be used to purchase parcels for off-street parking. "The law requires that the city can only pay fair market value," he said. "To start the process, we need to have property appraised."

He cautioned that the price may exceed the approximately \$1.2 million balance that is in the parking fund. "Parcels that are this ideally suited for public parking very rarely come on the market and are available for the city to purchase," wrote Falk in the staff report for the city council.

The matter will come back to the city council in closed session.

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More Lafayette News on Page A9


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Moraga

Public Meetings

Town Council

Wednesday, Nov. 18, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, Nov. 11, canceled

Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School,
1010 Camino Pablo

Planning Commission

Monday, Nov. 16, 7 p.m.

Moraga Library, 1500 St. Mary's Rd.

Design Review

Monday, Nov. 9, 7 p.m.

Moraga Library, 1500 St. Mary's Rd.

School Board Meeting

Moraga School District

Tuesday, Nov. 10, 7 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

Loud cheering 10/18/15 Cops came to an apartment complex on Ascot Drive on a report of loud cheering by an anonymous female. Upon arrival, non-hearing impaired police were unable to locate any cheering or other noisiness that would constitute a breach of the town's loud party ordinance.

Alleged driving while rude 10/19/15 The driver of a white SUV came to the lobby of the police department to report she was involved in a disagreement with another motorist, who was allegedly rude and used obscene hand gestures. No one was arrested, but the incident is under investigation.

Identity theft 10/19/15 A Draeger Drive resident was a victim of a data breach at Anthem Blue Cross. A number of months later, the reporting person received correspondence from Nordstrom, Macy's and Orbitz regarding attempts to open credit accounts that were not legitimate. Sadly no suspects or leads at this time.

Slightly different type of identity theft 10/23/15 A Claudia Court resident entered his personal credit card information into what he later discovered was a fake Internet site. Only hours later, his bank discovered what appeared to be fraudulent account activity and closed his accounts. Typist beware.

Non-authorized credit cards 10/23/15 An Ascot Court resident called the police department to report he had received an alert from his credit monitoring service. An unknown subject used the person's name, social security number and address to open a Walmart Master Card and charged over \$1,500 worth of stuff.

Wallet abuse 10/24/15 A worker at a Sanders ranch home left his wallet at work, so he asked a co-worker to put it in a drawer. Surprisingly just a few days later, the "loser" fellow received fraud alerts - \$2,400 was spent on his Discover card and his Chase card was declined when \$700 worth of goodies was attempted to be purchased at an undisclosed merchant.

Moraga Works to Save the Bees, One Backyard at a Time

By Sophie Braccini



Different sized bee hives in Scheck's apiary

Photo Andy Scheck

Throughout the world, the bee population is threatened and bees are dying. With several probable causes, beekeepers are not sitting around waiting for hypothetical solutions, but are developing practices to insure the sustainability of their bee populations. Moraga Associate Planner Brian Horn researched these practices as he worked on an ordinance to regulate backyard beekeeping in Moraga.

"The first draft of the proposed ordinance did not allow for sustainable small-scale beekeeping," says Moraga beekeeper Andy Scheck, the publisher of Lamorinda Weekly. "Because honey bees die at a rate of 40

50 percent every year, if you allow for only two hives, sooner or later you will lose all of your hives." The first text that the planning department proposed in August allowed a maximum of two hives on single-family properties. As members of the public asked for the rule to be reviewed, the planning commission directed staff to look into the matter.

"We had been using for the base of our work the research that the city of Lafayette had done," explains Horn, "but as residents built their case, I started to do more investigation." Horn looked at other ordinances around the country, from Los Angeles to Florida, and he talked to

experts from the local Mount Diablo Beekeepers Association to those at UC Davis.

"Two hives is not enough," Horn says. "When your hives are healthy and large (over 50,000 bees), you split them and create smaller colonies with a queen, or nucleus, in the spring. Over the summer the colonies will grow, then will decline in the fall. Some will survive, and some will not, but with four hives, come the next spring, enough healthy bees should still be there to start the new cycle."

The proposed ordinance authorizes up to four hives in a single-family residence. "Bees need time to adapt to a new environment, and constantly having to get new colonies can be a vector for disease and stress for the bees," says Scheck. "What you want as a beekeeper is to be able to maintain your own bees, even as the number of hives goes up and down." The total number of hives in Scheck's garden has been fluctuating, but since he went from two to four hives, he has been able to keep the population alive and has not needed to purchase new bees.

Local beekeepers supported the proposed ordinance text, approved by the Planning Commission on Oct. 19, and it now goes to the Town Council,

along with the new small farm animals regulation, for a final stamp of approval.

The town planner has not received any comments from residents concerned about the bee portion of the ordinance since the text has been in the draft stage. The new text includes a requirement for beekeepers to raise a six-foot barrier between their hives and the neighbors' living areas, if it is less than 100 feet away. "The bees go where they want to go, where the plants they like are," says Horn, "but the six-foot obstacle will redirect their flight upward."

Horn plans to present the proposed text, which includes the new small farm animals rules, to the Town Council at the Nov. 18 meeting or in January. At a prior planning commission meeting, the small farm animals portion of the text was met with large public support and one opposing resident (see the Aug. 26 Lamorinda Weekly article, "Small Animals Ordinance Study Session Goes Smoothly," in the online archives). At the Oct. 19 meeting resident Dale Walwark stated that he was appalled that the town might be contemplating authorizing the raising and slaughtering of chickens in private gardens.

A Wide Breadth of Knowledge

Moraga Hires New Administrative Director

By Sophie Braccini

It did not take Town Manager Jill Keimach too long to find a new head of administrative services for the town to replace Stephanie Hom. Volunteer treasurer Bradley Ward filled the position in the interim, but Amy Cunningham, a multi-faceted public administration professional, now fills the seat and will focus on human resources, risk management and community outreach, while keeping an eye on the strategic plan and long-term financial health of Moraga.

Cunningham was the assistant to the city manager in charge of affordable housing and community service programs in the city of Dublin and was the city budget manager prior to that. She moved up through the ranks there over the past 16 years. Before she left the city of Dublin, Cunningham was working on an affordable rental project for veterans, financed by a \$6.5 million loan from the city's affordable housing fund. Unlike Moraga, the city of Dublin asks developers for affordable housing fees that it uses to contribute to the development of affordable housing projects.

"When I started in Dublin it was much more the size of Moraga today," she says. While working for the city of Dublin, Cunningham saw the population grow to 50,000 and the city now has a healthy sales tax base, relying on the commercial sector and services. Dublin also partnered with Livermore and Pleasanton to form the Tri-Valley entity, which manages different initiatives, such as a commonly funded community health facility extension.

As city budget manager for four years, Cunningham managed an operating budget of more than \$50 million, about six times that of Moraga, but she believes that the same philosophy of conservative fiscal policy applies. "We scaled back operating expenses significantly (when the economic crisis hit in 2008), over three to four years, including reducing staff and services and scaling back on initiatives, deferring maintenance and replacement of equipment, reducing

and restructuring employees' benefits," she says.

But Cunningham goes beyond just crunching numbers and she says she particularly enjoys fiscal strategy and long-term planning. "Dublin was becoming more diverse, and there was always this need to maintain services at the level of the community needs," she explains. "With a budget you can be strategic." For example, she created a series of community fiscal strategy forums to set priorities for the city with the participation of the residents and businesses. "So, long term, we could be investing in the right places," she says.

Before managing the budget,

Cunningham managed support services for the 40-plus-officer police department, contracted through the Alameda County Sheriff's Department. Prior to that, she was a caseworker for the San Mateo County District Attorney's office, where she enforced child support orders and conducted financial analysis to determine fair shares for child support. Cunningham remembers the positive impact she had on children's lives, making sure that they had what they needed. She earned a bachelor's degree in political science and obtained her master's in public administration while working in San Mateo.

"During high school and college I worked in Parks and Recreation in Pacifica and Daly City, and that's where my desire to become a civil servant started," she remembers. Her first full-time job was with a tax and accounting firm where she learned about financial statements and payrolls.

"Finance and staff development have always been of particular interest to me," she adds. In Moraga she will be working in different areas such as finance, risk management, human resources and information technology. "That's something I'm looking forward to."

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Other crimes in Moraga between Oct.18-27:

Door of Dodge Damaged - Donald Drive
False Alarm - School Street,
 Whiting Court, Laird Drive
Lost House Keys - Glen Alpine
Warrant Arrest of Moraga Resident - in Antioch
Panic Alarm, Unlocked Door - Scofield Drive
Medical Assistance - Draeger Drive



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Veterans Day Ceremony
Wednesday, 11/11
9:00 am – Commons Park



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SMC Master Plan Presented to Town Council

By Sophie Braccini



Proposed design for entry roundabout

Image provided

Saint Mary's College is an economic heavyweight in Moraga and in Lamorinda as a whole, so when SMC President James Donahue presented the college's 20-year Master Plan at the Oct. 28 Town Council meeting, everyone listened closely. Despite its size and seniority – Saint Mary's existed before there was a Town of Moraga – SMC has to abide by the common Moraga laws for development, and it is in the college's best interest to collaborate with town staff to set a compliant and efficient process.

"We believe that the Master

Plan represents the continuation of our efforts to achieve town-gown relations of renewed trust, cooperation and shared interest," said Donahue in his introduction to the council. He explained the motives and purpose of the plan: to not grow in terms of number of students, but to improve current and future facilities, enhance mobility and pursue sustainability goals. "(We envision) almost no changes in undergraduate student enrollment and only very minor increase in graduate student enrollment," affirmed the president. Donahue also

presented the plan as a way to address some of the community concerns that were raised in recent years in terms of traffic, noise, lighting and campus parking. "We feel that the town and the college have a mutual goal: for Saint Mary's College to become the leading catholic university in the western United States," he said.

Project leaders from MIG, a Berkeley-based planning consultant brought in by SMC to support the planning process, presented the plan's first phase of main projects.

... continued on page A11

Judge Rules Against Moraga Petitioners

By Sophie Braccini

Scott Bowhay for the Friends of Semi-Rural Moraga expressed disappointment Oct. 28 at the Superior Court of Contra Costa County ruling that invalidates the referendum petition his group filed. The group of Moraga residents, who is opposing Moraga Center Homes, a City Ventures building project of 36 housing units on the 2.6-acre empty lot next to the fire station on Moraga Way, was seeking to overturn the rezoning of the property that the town council had approved in May. Although enough signatures were gathered to put the question to a popular vote, the judge agreed with the applicant and property owner that the referendum was illegal.

"We assumed that the developer might try something, but we thought we were on solid ground," said Bowhay. "When we heard their arguments, we felt there was good case law protecting the referendum, so we were surprised by the judge's interpretation, and because of long standing judicial policy to err on the side of protecting the people's right to petition, which the judge ignored."

David Bruzzone and City Ventures filed litigation on two grounds: the voters may not adopt a zoning designation inconsistent with the Specific Plan, which would happen if the voters invalidated the zoning ordinance; and the referendum did not include the full text of the ordinance, including the environmental documents.

The parcel is located on an area regulated by the Moraga Center Specific Plan that was adopted in 2010. The town is required by law to modify its zoning ordinance to conform to general plans and specific plans; it had not yet done so for that parcel. The referendum was asking to rescind the ordinance that had been adopted to conform the zoning to the Specific Plan, a strategy that could have stopped the City Ventures' proposed development, but would have put the town at odds with its legal obligation.

Bowhay added that the group was considering all of its options, which might include an appeal of the court's decision, or an initiative to deal with the problem of the Specific Plan and possibly other growth issues in Moraga.

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Orinda

Public Meetings

City Council

Tuesday, Nov. 17, 7 p.m.
Auditorium, Orinda Library,
26 Orinda Way

Planning Commission

Tuesday, Nov. 10, 7 p.m.
Auditorium, Orinda Library,
26 Orinda Way

Citizens' Infrastructure Oversight Commission

Wednesday, Nov. 11, 6:30 p.m.
Sarge Littlehale Community Room,
22 Orinda Way

School Board Meeting Orinda Union School District

Monday, Nov. 9, 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 Oct. 11 to 24

Alarms	42
Noise Complaints	5
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	10
Traffic Stops	106
Suspicious Circumstances	8
Suspicious Subjects	11
Suspicious Vehicles	22
Abandoned Vehicle	
10 block Ardor Dr	
Animal Cruelty	
10 block Knickerbocker Ln	
Barking Dog	
100 block Via Floreado	
30 block Oak Rd	
60 block La Cuesta Rd	
Battery	
10 block Van Tassel Ln	
Burglary, Auto	
Quarry Hill/Bigleaf Rds	
Burglary, Residential	
60 block Moraga Via	
Civil	
Citibank	
Disturbance	
El Toyonal/Camino del Cielo	
Miramonte High School	
10 block Altarinda Rd	
20 block Dos Posos	
Camino Pablo/Brookwood	
1000 block Walnut Dr	
10 block Theatre Square	
80 block Orinda Way	
Fraud	
10 block Broadview Terr	
10 block Charles Hill Rd	
Harassment	
70 block Coral Dr	
100 block Spring Rd	
Health & Safety Violation	
Glorietta Elementary	
Hit & Run	
St Stephen's/El Nido Ranch Rd	
Indecent Exposure	
70 block Donald Dr	
ID Theft	
Reported to police	
50 block Singingwood Ln	
40 block Ivy Dr	
Police/Fire/ EMS	
200 block La Espiral	
600 block Ironbark Cir	
Public Nuisance	
20 block Orinda Way	
Reckless Driving	
Camino Pablo/Claremont Av	
Bear Creek/San Pablo Dam Rds	
Hamlin Rd/Solana Dr	
Camino Pablo/Santa Maria Way	
Moraga Way/Orchard Rd	
Miramonte High School	
St. Stephen's/Hwy 24	
Shoplift	
10 block Camino Sobrante	
Theft, Petty	
50 block La Cuesta Rd	
10 block Harran Cr	



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Happy Thanksgiving

Our sincere thanks to our clients for making 2015 a wonderful year. And to our clients, friends and family, thank you for your referrals and support. Many, many thanks, Peter and Darlene



Council Denies Appeal, Approves J&J Ranch Subdivision Plan

By Victor Ryerson



Proposed site

Map data Google, overlay Tentative Map J&J Ranch Subdivision 9271, Rev. 6-18-13 courtesy City of Orinda website

After taking a second look at the environmental impact report (EIR) and subdivision map for the development of 13 home sites surrounding the Moraga Adobe, the Orinda City Council has denied an appeal of the previous planning commission approval by three neighboring homeowners. The council's action clears the way for the developer, J&J Ranch Partners, to move forward with the process of seeking further approvals required to build the homes, and for restoring and using the historic adobe.

The discussion during the long Oct. 20 meeting focused on specific challenges to the adequacy of the EIR and complaints by members of the public at the meeting. The large group was composed of local residents who showed up to speak. The council had little difficulty accepting the city staff's responses to a number of alleged inadequacies of the environmental review, but two aspects of the plan emerged as particular concerns.

One issue was the selection of the vehicular entry to the subdivision. The developer's plan calls for access via the northwesterly end of Donna Maria Way between El Camino Moraga and Adobe Lane, the new road on the subdivision property. One group of neighbors challenged this choice, favoring instead Alternative 5, a shorter route to Adobe Lane via Donna Maria Way East. However, that entry crosses Moraga Creek and associated riparian wetlands, and the council rejected the choice in favor of the planned route as the environmentally superior alternative.

The second issue, which emerged

for the first time at this hearing, was a challenge by owners along Donna Maria to widening certain portions of the road to 20 feet in order comply with fire code requirements. This requirement was recently called to the attention of the developer and the city by the fire marshal. A number of affected owners, whose road frontage would have to be widened by one to three feet, object that this would be an impermissible use of an easement

created along the private road when it was laid out 50 years ago. The issue may be litigated by the developer and the homeowners, causing Council Member Eve Phillips to cast the lone vote against approval to avoid the appearance of "giving tacit approval for the easement" pending resolution of the dispute. Several other council members referred to the easement issue in explaining their reasons for voting to approve the

project, but were not troubled by the existence of the controversy and expressed their overall support for the project plan and EIR as a whole.

Mayor Dean Orr particularly stressed the amount of work that went into providing for preservation of the Moraga Adobe as "worth noting," and praised the preservation of nearly 40 percent of the property as a scenic easement as "not a small deal."

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Community Input from Online Survey Sought for Superintendent Search

Submitted by Kathy Frenklach



The board of trustees of the Orinda Union School District is beginning its search for a new superintendent and has asked the firm of Hazard, Young, Attea & Associates (HYA) to help with the process.

As one of the initial steps in the process, the board is seeking input from all stakeholders on the desired characteristics and skills that they would like to see in the next superintendent. Interested

parties can share their thoughts by responding to an online survey at www.ecrasurvey.com/orinda.

Survey responders should remember that all characteristics listed in the survey are desirable, but the school board is interested in knowing about which characteristics are "most important" for the Orinda Union School District.

To access the anonymous survey, click on the link, identify your stakeholder group, and fol-

low the survey directions. Responses should be received by Friday, Nov. 6.

Community input is also welcomed at the Nov. 9 OUSD School Board meeting when HYA will present its leadership profile report to the board.

Additional information regarding the new superintendent search is available on the district website at www.orindaschools.org.

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4/2.5. 1935 updated traditional 4 bed/2.5 bth home on private .82acre with spectacular views!
Lynn Molloy CalBRE# 01910108



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4/4.5. Claremont Traditional. Great loc. Remodeled, sun filled & updated to maintain original charm.
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ORINDA \$799,000
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Vlatka Bathgate CalBRE# 01390784



MORAGA \$1,550,000
3/2.5. Beautiful finishes, 2643 sqft, lovely landscaping, new appliances, remodeled master bath.
Elena Hood CalBRE#01221247



OAKLAND \$1,395,000
4/2.5. Stunning multi-lvl, vu's chef kitch, pvt, 2 Mstr suites, decks, H/W, yard, garage, CLEAN.
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Fire Districts

Public Meetings

Moraga-Orinda Fire District Board of Directors

Wednesday, Nov. 18, 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, Nov. 10, 1:30 p.m.
Board Chamber room 107,
Administration Building,
651 Pine St., Martinez
For meeting times and agendas, visit <http://alturl.com/5p9pu>.

Emergency response information and training:
Lamorinda Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)
www.lamorindacert.org

Please submit Letters and Opinions:
letters@lamorinda-weekly.com

Opposing Forces Unite Against MOFD Station 43

By Nick Marnell

The Moraga-Orinda Fire District took the first official step in the reconstruction of station 43 Oct. 21 by authorizing Fire Chief Stephen Healy to spend over \$200,000 on document reviews and updates and to purchase and install a mobile home to serve as a temporary fire station. Director Steve Anderson voted against the authorization, and he was joined by an unlikely ally in the firefighters union.

"I don't want the district to start and then stop," said Healy. "If we're going forward with the rebuilding of the fire station and the purchase of a mobile home, authorize me to do it now. I will not purchase anything until the board has seen a total cost estimate."

The chief said that the district will require a double-wide mobile home as the temporary station, which has to be purchased and cannot be rented. The home will have some salvage value, said Healy, "Something more than worthless, but less than \$95,000." Tentative plans call for the placement of the temporary station in the St. Stephen's Church parking lot.



Rendering of proposed fire station at Honey Hill Road and Via Las Cruces intersection Shah Kawasaki Architects

"For the taxpayers and residents of MOFD, station 46 was an outstanding opportunity," said Anderson. The joint venture with the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District to build and operate a station in western Lafayette was estimated to save each district more than \$1 million annually in expenses.

"Once we go down the 43 road, it removes any opportunity for MOFD and ConFire to collaborate on a joint station," continued Anderson. "And it removes leverage for ConFire to do what they say they're going to do." ConFire Chief Jeff Carman presented a plan to his board to rebuild station 16 in Lafayette but he has not yet received official approval. If station 16 remains closed, emergency calls

in that area will most likely continue to be handled through an automatic aid agreement with MOFD.

"I received unanimous support from our board for reopening station 16 and to report back when we have received a final proposal," said Carman. "We are forging ahead with those same plans we presented to our board."

Mark DeWeese, the district union representative, asked the board to put the station 43 reconstruction temporarily on hold. He appealed from a different perspective than Anderson, the only board member to vote against the current labor contract, fearful of the automatic wage increases it earmarked. "The financial challenges in recent years have been addressed

through salary and benefit restrictions and reductions on current Local 1230 employees," said DeWeese. "Now that the financial picture is looking positive, restoring these salaries and benefits should be the first thing this board addresses, not excessive capital spending on rebuilding station 43."

"It's not expensive buildings that put out the fires and deliver the high quality emergency medical response that MOFD is known for, it's high quality people."

The motion to authorize Healy to commence the station 43 project passed 3-1, with director Kathleen Famulener absent. Representatives of investment bank Brandis Tallman plan to address the board Nov. 18 on financing options for the primary building construction.

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No Drought in EBMUD Employee Compensation

... continued from page A1

"Our salaries and benefit packages are fair and appropriate," said Coate. "This compensation effectively recruits staff with the skill level and expertise necessary to operate a Bay Area water and wastewater district of our size and scope. We are in a competitive job market and while we face ongoing drought and the

challenges of aging infrastructure, we need to retain our staff and managers now more than ever."

Few will disagree that it is wise to protect and conserve natural resources. Keeping property maintained by controlling unruly vegetation helps the fire district protect natural resources, and limiting water usage dur-

ing a drought helps EBMUD conserve that natural resource.

But the sacrifices of the conservation efforts have not always been shared equitably between the employees of public agencies and their customers.

Share your thoughts, insights and opinions with your community.
Send a letter to the editor: letters@lamorindaweekly.com

 **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:

We are seniors at Miramonte High School. We are writing to you to address the rising cost of higher education. As seniors, we are participating in the college application and financial aid process. This issue is not only affecting us, but our nation as a whole. We're burdening young adults with student debt for years to come. This is an issue that we need to address. Financial aid is necessary for almost every student due to the rising costs of higher education in America. In a society that requires a strong post-high school experience to get a good job, obtaining that education on a small budget is nearly impossible. Thus, we need to take action.

Alison Ingrey and Elizabeth Dunne
Orinda

Join our Public Forum

If you have significant knowledge about an issue facing Lamorinda or one of its cities that requires more than the 350 words to which we must limit Letters to the Editor, don't despair! You can submit your letter to our Public Forum section. Just send your letter to letters@lamorindaweekly.com and let us know you'd like to be considered for the Public Forum.



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Lafayette

City Considers Electric Charging Stations

Free station looks especially attractive

By Cathy Tyson



EVgo pump at Whole Foods Market in Lafayette. Photo C. Tyson

Only two public charging sites are available for the growing number of electric cars driven in Lamorinda – at Whole Foods Market and McDonalds. Aside from those locations, drivers have to go as far as Walnut Creek or Berkeley to fill up.

With potential grant money available, along with the prospect of a free charging station, eVgo, the city council considered adding up to five new stations in Lafayette at their Oct. 26 meeting.

Improving air quality is one of the goals of the city's general plan; providing charging stations supports that goal. Electric vehicles produce one-third of the greenhouse gases emitted by gasoline-powered cars, according to the California Air Resources Board. The stations would operate similar to gas stations, with customers paying for their fuel, in this case electricity.

Final locations for charging sta-

tions have not been chosen, but city staff has already analyzed electric capacity availability and received some bids on potentially installing stations at the Mercantile Building, the Plaza at Golden Gate Way, the Community Center, the city-owned parking lot near Uncle Yu's, along with the under-construction Eco Vive building near the Veteran's Memorial Hall.

There is some urgency to applying for the Bay Area Air Quality Management District grant money, as funds for the first cycle of their program were exhausted over two months before the deadline. The cut-off for the next cycle of grants is January 2016, on a first come, first served basis, according to Megan Canales, assistant planner. At stake is \$18,000 in grant funds that could be coupled with approximately \$44,000 from city coffers.

Council Member Mark Mitchell called the free eVgo station "a tremendous opportunity" and suggested fellow council members move "full speed ahead" on that option, however he also expressed concern about losing parking spaces to give preference to electric cars. Parent company of eVgo, NRG, will pay for all the charging equipment and installation including design and permitting, and agrees to pay for electricity costs for the life of the agreement, along with operation and maintenance costs.

How is this possible? It started with the Enron debacle, which ultimately provided a \$100 million settlement to go toward installing at least 200 DC fast chargers over a four year period, as part of creating a fast charge infrastructure in California.

After some discussion, city leaders were unsure of charging station locations, and authorized city staffers to gather more information from Sustainable Lafayette and nearby merchants about potential sites to expedite the process.

Elvis Sighting in Lafayette



Elvis impersonator Dana Anderson poses Oct. 31 in the Vegas-style wedding chapel at the city of Lafayette office.

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Business

Good Karma for Klein's New Art Room

By Sophie Braccini



Carrie Klein in the garden of the new Art Room.

Photo Sophie Braccini

When Carrie Klein took over the Art Room in Lafayette three years ago, across from Chow and The Cooperage in a charming cottage, many warned her that the building was set for the same fate as the old Petar's building: destruction. But Klein trusted in her lucky star. She knew that she would have to go at some point, but that something would come up. Something, or to be more accurate, someone did come up: Bruce Whitten.

"Bruce used to come by and see what I was doing. At one point he asked me what I would want in a perfect world," said Klein. "I told him about my dream of creating an art district in Lafayette,

close to Lamorinda Music and Lamorinda Theater Academy. He did not say anything at the time, but a few months later he came back asking me if I'd look at his parents' old house. I looked at it and thought, this is perfect!"

The cottage is located at 91 Lafayette Circle, across from La Finestra and next to the parking lot serving Lamorinda Music and Lamorinda Theater Academy. Leading a tour of the place, Klein marveled at the size and quality of the space, especially compared to the old Art Room. "Here you have a room that's all natural light that must have been a sun room," she said, as she entered a space where two walls are made of windows.

"It will be a great place for painting!" She then moved into what used to be a large kitchen where mixed media classes are going to be taught starting Nov. 9. "We will keep the fridge for storing snacks and drinks for our camps which have been so successful," added Klein.

The former home has two other large rooms that Klein will use for special events and where the gallery will be located, with direct access to the public deck Klein is building in front. "We have grown by about 50 percent since I took over the Art Room," said Klein. "The former space was definitely becoming too small as we added teen and adult classes to the kids' classes. We sometimes had to have classes in the gallery." Klein always made it a priority to invite other local artists to exhibit.

The home's exterior also has an appeal. A long garage will hold

the ceramics and 3D creation space. "Having a whole space dedicated to this is wonderful," she said. A glass panel will soon replace the garage door.

The expansive back garden is filled with beautiful trees, rose bushes, a picnic table, and a large expanse of flat space – a treasure that Klein said she will take advantage of, first by transporting her sculpture garden there, then opening it for classes and even more events. A portion of the fence in the yard that adjoins the Lamorinda Music parking lot can be removed to bring the three arts enterprises together. "Bruce said we could remove some of the fence and create an arched entryway here," said Klein. "The synergy between the three businesses will be enhanced and we will really create a place for all arts here."

Klein is full of plans for the future; she envisions art nights in-

corporating all forms of art. "Lafayette has its restaurants, it has its boutiques, but it also needs arts and theater and music to give it some flare," she said. The artist and businesswoman also sees expansion possibilities for her enterprise. "I will be able to have workshops here, something many people have been asking for, and more classes."

She says she was never worried about the future of her business when the prophets of doom and gloom were warning her of impending demolition. "I have a positive outlook on life, and you have to live one day at a time," she said.

The Art Room
91 Lafayette Circle, Lafayette
(925) 299-1515
www.theart-room.com

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

business briefs

Cashmere Sale 'Pops Up' in Lafayette
3604 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette
thecashmeresale.com



Nancy Kutz, left, and Julie Horton Peck show off their cashmere in front of the pop-up store. Photo S. Braccini

For the past 10 years Republic Clothing Group, a diversified international manufacturer and wholesale marketer and retailer, has hosted Cashmere Sale pop up stores. This year's East Bay sale will be in Lafayette, two doors west of Pizza Antica. For six weeks, high quality cashmere sweaters, jumpers, cardigans, and scarfs in multiple sizes and colors will be for sale "at wholesale price, less than half the retail price," says boutique manager Julie Horton Peck. The cashmere is made of two-ply cashmere yarn from China. The boutique has a simple setup: a few tables, cardboard boxes where the sale price is marked – the retail price is printed on the label – and fitting rooms, since items cannot be returned. "We won't be there to exchange it," says Peck. For gift items, she recommends one-size-fits-all styles, scarves and blankets. "We never know where the store will be, it depends on where we can find a good retail space available during the season," adds Peck, who is partnering with Nancy Katz, who used to manage Diva in Lafayette. The store will be open every day until Dec. 5. To be informed of boutique locations in 2016, register online at thecashmeresale.com.

Gold Coast Chamber Players Recognized by AC5

On Tuesday, Oct. 20 the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors and the The Arts and Culture Commission of Contra Costa County (AC5) awarded a 2015 Arts Recognition Award to Pamela Freund-Striplen and the Gold Coast Chamber Players. The award states, "The Gold Coast Chamber Players are a unique artistic resource with far-reaching influence in Contra Costa County, in the greater Bay Area, and indeed around the world. Under Director Pamela Freund-Striplen's inspired and dedicated leadership, the group has for 27 years given residents of the county the opportunity to hear world-class musicians performing both well-known and rarely-performed works, by the world's greatest composers." The board and AC5 also recognized GCCP's educational and outreach programs such as the Goldberg Project. Information about GCCP can be found at www.gccplayers.org.

Patrizia Marrone: Curated Couture for Women
11 Fiesta Lane, Lafayette
(925) 736-0220

Is Lafayette becoming a fashion destination? So says Patricia Brown, proprietor of Patrizia Marrone, Curated Couture for Women located in the heart of Lafayette. Brown will be welcoming designer Richard Hallmarq for a Fashion Extravaganza from 4 to 9 p.m. Friday, Nov. 13 at the boutique located at 11 Fiesta Lane behind The Cooperage. Hallmarq learned to sew in junior high school and reached new levels as a high school fashion design student, creating cutting-edge fashion for fellow students, friends and family. From his first runway show in 2004, to presenting well-received collections at San Francisco Fashion Week, Hallmarq has achieved acclaim for his designs. Hallmarq was a cast member on the Emmy-nominated TV series

"Project Runway" Season 11. With strict attention to fit and detail, Hallmarq takes his preferred textile Jersey-knit from simplicity to luxury. The event is open to the public.

New Ownership at Amarin Thai – All in the Family
3555 Mt Diablo Blvd # B, Lafayette
(925) 283-8883, www.amarinlafayette.com

Tom Karmonphet's Amarin Thai restaurant in Lafayette has been a favorite spot for many years. Karmonphet decided to retire and transferred ownership to the capable hands of his niece, Paramee Phusawadrattana. The new owner said that she would continue in her uncle's tradition while adding some new recipes of her own.

Felder Named October's Employee of the Month



Roger Gregory, Andrew Felder, Gloria Noggle, Kevin Reineau Photo provided

Andrew Felder, the versatile maintenance specialist and security supervisor for 5A Rent A Space, has been named the Moraga Employee of the Month for October. Felder has done a little bit of everything for the storage company, including providing site tours, taking payments, maintaining the yard and buildings and providing security for the complex. He often goes above and beyond the call of duty in helping customers load or unload their belongings. "Andrew is just wonderful with our customers," said manager Gloria Noggle. "He is truly a valued employee." The Moraga Rotary and Chamber of Commerce presented Felder with gift cards to Safeway and Graze restaurant in Moraga at the Oct. 27 Moraga Rotary lunch.

News from the Three Chambers of Commerce

Lafayette

Ribbon Cutting at new Lafayette business Bistro Burger & Grill at 5 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 5 at 965 Mountain View Drive.

Monthly Mixer at ABSolute Center at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 18 at 3658 Mt. Diablo Blvd., #101.

The 37th Annual Community Thanksgiving Breakfast is scheduled at 7 a.m. Friday, Nov. 20 at Our Saviors Lutheran Church, 1035 Carol Lane. This year's guest speaker is Rev. Dr. David Sammons, who will discuss "Your Resume vs. Your Eulogy." The event will include music by harpist Wendy Tamis and the breakfast courtesy of Dave's Cuisine. For reservations, visit Lafayettechamber.org.

Moraga

No new events are scheduled at this time.

Orinda

Pre-Holiday Mixer at McDonnell Nursery from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 19 at 196 Moraga Way, Orinda. Come do some early Christmas shopping.

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

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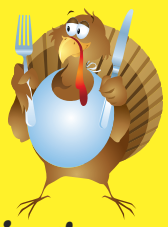
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Survey Points to Stressed-Out Students

... continued from page A1

At Acalanes, a mere 9 percent of students felt that they were fully engaged in their academics, while 50 percent of students admitted that they were simply “doing school.”

If students are not deeply engaged in their academics, then why do they feel so stressed out by school? This could be because students are focused more on outcomes than on real academic engagement. “Students are looking at the end game,” says Acalanes principal Allison Silvestri. With acceptance rates dropping rapidly in colleges across the country, students feel the need to differentiate themselves from the pool of applicants however they can, grasping at every extra GPA point, AP class and extracurricular activity they can manage in the hope that these might boost their chances of admission to their preferred schools.

Amber Li, a junior at Acalanes, frequently worries that if she lets her grades drop, she will be risking her chances of admission at her dream college, University of California, Los Angeles. “It’s not only that it’s a prestigious college – which it definitely is,” she explains. “It’s also way more affordable for me to go to school at a UC than a college in a different state.”

Although the UC system was designed to provide affordable education for California students primarily, Li worries that the UC system may prefer to accept out-of-state students because they can charge higher tuition fees from them than from California students. This puts greater pressure on California applicants, who feel they must be truly exceptional students to overcome this admissions bias.

Many students also seek to differentiate themselves on the sports field and the theater stage. One-third of Acalanes students are involved in the music program, and 80 percent play at least one sport. Acalanes students cited sports as the most stressful extra-curricular activity. The survey did not ask why this was the case, but Silvestri speculates that there could be any number of reasons, ranging from parental pressure to hopes of playing sports in college, or even concerns about not having enough time to fit schoolwork into busy sports schedules.

Mia Stripling, an Acalanes junior who is currently taking a full course load that includes four AP/Honors courses, spends six hours completing homework on a

typical school night. “I get home around five after softball training, start doing homework at six, and finish around midnight.” Her sleep schedule is unpredictable: she gets between four and seven hours of sleep each night, but she describes the latter as less frequent than she would like.

Stripling’s experiences match up with the majority of Acalanes students, who get an average of barely six hours of sleep a night, according to the survey. This falls far short of the suggested 9-10 hours teenagers are supposed to get. Silvestri points out that this lack of sleep is “greatly detrimental to students’ brain growth,” since the human brain does not fully stop developing until age 25, and most brain development takes place during sleep.

Dr. Juliana Damon, a local pediatrician, says that her teenage patients come to her with anxiety and depression, at least partially caused by lack of sleep. Some of her patients end up developing stress-induced sleep problems, which only exacerbate the situation. Damon also says that alongside school- and sport-related demands, time-management issues are frequently the culprit.

Along with poor time management, unfocused work habits could also be contributing to the long homework hours students complain about. While doing homework, 44 percent of Acalanes students said they texted their friends, 30 percent watched TV, Netflix and YouTube, and 29 percent went on social media.

The problem of student stress is far from simple. It cannot be attributed to a single cause, nor can it be solved in a single stroke. However, all four AUHSD schools are making a concerted effort to do what they can to help their students. According to Silvestri, Acalanes is in the early stages of exploring block scheduling, reduced homework loads and even implementation of a homeroom system to provide greater support for individual students.

More broadly, Silvestri wants students to remember that there is a place for everyone after high school, and it does not need to be a race to the top college or the best sports team. “I wish students knew that opportunities are endless, and each of you will end up where you’re supposed to be at the end of your 4-year high school experience. And we just want you to have some fun along the way!”

SMC Master Plan Presented to Town Council

... continued from page A5

The major developments include improving and remodeling the library and learning commons to service students’ research needs; building a new residence hall of 182 beds for junior and senior students desiring to continue to live on campus; constructing a roundabout where St. Mary’s Parkway intersects with St. Mary’s Road, creating a smoother flow to enter and exit the campus, and adding a more eminent entrance; building parking decks at two campus locations to increase the amount of onsite parking; and improving sports facilities.

In term of traffic progress, the plan proposes enhanced bicycle circulation and intensification of the Gael Rail program that shuttles students to and from BART when the regular Contra Costa Transportation Authority buses are not running.

The college also made the decision to pursue excellence in sustainability by implementing a Sustainability Tracking Assessment and Rating System (STARS), which will measure and control the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions through building and landscaping

practices.

Vice Mayor Mike Metcalf asked about the second entrance the college wants to create off of St Mary’s Road. “Why not build a second entry at the level of Rheem Boulevard?” he asked. MIG consultants said the location chosen south of the campus was the least impactful location for an access that would be used only in case of emergency.

When Councilmember Dave Trotter asked how many decks would be constructed over the existing parking area by the entry of the campus, he was told the plan was to build one level. “I’m of the view that you could make it a three deck structure,” said Trotter. “A multilevel structure could mitigate the problem the college currently faces when people tend to park along St. Mary’s Road.”

The project’s environmental impact review is currently underway and will continue until the beginning of 2016. In the spring, the public process will begin with a review by the planning commission followed by a review and approval by the Town Council.

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Giving Dreams an Address

New Animal Services Director: Let's Work Together

By Nick Marnell

Contra Costa County Animal Services director Beth Ward said it hit her as she drove to work across the Dumbarton Bridge in 2008.

"I was thinking, how much people care about animals. How much their families care about animals. How much the community cares. Everyone cares, but we all work in silos, individually. I thought I would encourage everyone to work together," she said. Ward spearheaded the formation of an alliance that included the Humane Society Silicon Valley, of which she was chief operating officer, and five other area shelters, and christened it the WeCARE coalition, whose purpose was to end the euthanasia of all healthy and treatable dogs and cats in Santa Clara County. "The save rate is expected to hit 90 percent in 2015," she said.

Which fits into the job description outlined by county administrator David Twa, who hired Ward after two rounds of recruitment that lasted over two years. "There is a greater community expectation in terms of the role of the animal services department," he said. "Not only enforcement, and the protection of the community, but to reduce euthanasia and to provide adoptive homes for the animals that are brought to a shelter." Twa said that since the county

shelter is public, and must receive all animals in need, it would not work to set what he called an arbitrary number as a percentage save rate objective.

"Within the next year we expect to see more community outreach and an increase in the number of animals saved and provided to good homes," he said. Animal Services reported a 2014 intake of 11,000 dogs and cats, with a 69 percent save rate.

Ward, a Fresno State graduate with a degree in recreation administration, brings 28 years of animal shelter and veterinary hospital experience to her new position. Though Ward now runs a public department — unlike a private company that can pick and choose which animals it will intake — she noted that some of the same HSSV approaches will apply in Contra Costa County, specifically, regarding spay and neutering and animal intake.

Ward said that there are not enough free or low-cost spay and neuter services in the county. And though she said it is going to be a challenge, she plans to apply for grants, such as from the Petco Foundation, to help fund those services, as she did at HSSV.

"Why can't the public keep their animals?" asked Ward. She said she believes that talking to the customers

at the point of intake, and finding out exactly what the real problem is, will help drive down the number of animal intakes. Ward used an example of possibly a landlord issue causing a high number of animals being surrendered. "If the problem is landlords in a certain area, put a volunteer group together to work out issues with the landlords," she said.

She discussed an interaction at HSSV that worked out successfully for all parties.

"A man came to our shelter, intent on surrendering a large lab-bull mix. He was distraught. The dog wasn't listening to his wife, and she was not comfortable. He could not afford to pay for neutering, because he had just been laid off. Our staff found a doctor who did the neuter service for free, and also found a free eight-week obedience course for the dog. He talked with his wife, and they agreed to go through with it. Six months later, we talked to him, and everything was great."

If one word can summarize Ward, who began her new job Nov. 2 after the unanimous approval of the Board of Supervisors, that word would be collaborative.

"It's possible to save more lives by working together," she said.

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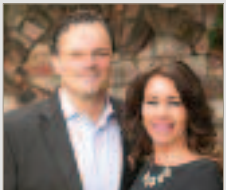
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New Exhibit Links Art and Technology at Saint Mary's College

By Ryan McKinley



"Cloverdale" by Ron Hutt "Delphi" by Ron Hutt "Bandelier National Monument" by Ron Hutt "Los Alamos" by Ron Hutt Images courtesy Saint Mary's College Museum of Art

The Saint Mary's College Museum of Art's current multimedia artwork exhibition, "The Axis Mundi/Open Portals," by Ron Hutt is a true combination of art and technology – and is unlike anything the museum has featured before.

On display in the Armistead Gallery, the exhibit showcases Hutt's digital paintings, as well as digital photographs that combine with Quick Response Codes (QR Codes) to provide sound clips. The codes are interactive and patrons will need to bring their smart phones in order to scan them. If viewers choose not to utilize the QR technology they will be missing part of the experience.

The title of the show, Axis Mundi, relates to a philosophical belief that finds a geographical midpoint between the earth and the sky, where all compass directions converge. It is also seen as the natural human instinct to create identity. The exhibit features a dozen photographs taken by Hutt as he traveled across the United States and Europe. The locations range from as far as Amsterdam and Greece, to as close as Cloverdale, California. Each photo utilizes vertical and panoramic

space, but all are obscured by a large QR barcode that holds the links to the sound clips. Interestingly, in order to scan the codes the viewer must get close up to the photos, which then makes the once obscured image come into focus.

Four sound files accompany every photo. They can be played in any order and as many times as the viewer would like. The files range in length from a second to five minutes, and feature everything from ambient noise (horses, traffic, children laughing) to music, and even a news segment documenting the reopening of the New York Stock Exchange after Hurricane Sandy. The sound of the wind plays throughout the space from overhead speakers.

If that were not enough, the photos and sound clips inspired Hutt to create digital works, which appear to be a mix of science fiction imagery and Japanese landscape paintings. To continue the theme of Axis Mundi, all the paintings are long columns that examine vertical space as well as a depth of field. There are a number of similarities between the digital images: they all feature a sphere seemingly representing a sun

or moon, a series of geometric shapes flowing from top to bottom, a landscape, and all are devoid of people. The paintings make the statement that through technology society is more connected and at the same time equally isolated. They also point out that the current world is a new landscape or an open portal to a future society.

All the paintings are projected on the far wall of the gallery, and are also available as a free download, via QR code, for the viewer to keep and share. The exhibit is truly something to experience and is a sign of where art is heading in the future.

"The Axis Mundi/Open Portals" is currently on display through Dec. 6. Also on display are oil paintings by William Keith, artwork by Luis Gutierrez, and "The Dr. Maurice Alberti Print Collection of European and American Masters."

The Saint Mary's College Museum of Art is open Wednesday through Sunday, 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., 1928 Saint Mary's Road, Moraga.

For more information, visit <http://www.stmarys-ca.edu/saint-marys-college-museum-of-art>.

Must-Know Basics for Serious Foodies

Author Lopez-Alt discusses 'The Food Lab' at LLLC

By Lou Fancher

Culinary secrets unfold into science lessons in the pages of author J. Kenji Lopez-Alt's 960-page doorstop of a cookbook, "The Food Lab: Better Home Cooking Through Science" (W. W. Norton & Company, 2015). The Serious Eats managing culinary director balances must-know basics including tips for the perfect boiled egg and properly toasted bagels with a bicep-building pancake technique (baking soda is vital), 20 pages of Thanksgiving-related instructions, over 1,000 full-color images, 39 pasta recipes, eight pages on making chicken stock (unflavored gelatin is key) and easy-to-read explanations of radiant heat transfer, the anatomy of a knife, the chemical makeup of meat and why a burger's "smash time" matters – and more.

For kitchen fanatics, the best-selling book by the author of the James Beard Award-nominated column "The Food Lab," is exhaustive. But even those less inclined to ooh and ah over conversations about meat moisture or engage in fresh versus dry oregano debates can experience the thrill of discovering there is a scientific reason Granny's roast beef was five star-worthy or Uncle Joe's meatloaf had that extra zing.

Lamorinda's love for all things food was evident Oct. 22, as approximately 100 people attended a Commonwealth Club appearance at the

Lafayette Library by Lopez-Alt. Moderator Joanna Pearlstein, deputy managing editor for Wired, said Lopez-Alt was a like a superhero for "geeks" who like to cook. Seeking wisdom, she first asked about the most common mistakes made by cooks.

Lopez-Alt said the one rule that should never be violated is to "respect the person with the knife in their hand," setting a casual, fun tone for the evening. Sounding more like two friends chatting over brisket and beer than like highly respected writers and experienced cooks (Pearlstein shared that she's been perfecting a chocolate chip cookie recipe for years and has no intention of stopping), the conversation moved swiftly to searing, salt, brining and more.

The words from the master? Searing meat incorrectly will not bring out the juices: don't try to bring the meat to room temperature and start out with a dryer steak for faster searing and a moister steak in the end. "Salt is one of the most important ingredients in dishes," Lopez-Alt said. "It enhances the way you perceive other flavors." Chemical properties in salt draw moisture out of meat by osmosis so timing is crucial for forming a brine on the surface. With poultry, salt allowed to relax the muscle fibers by seasoning the bird and letting it sit, then evaporate and cook when dry,

again results in the most desirable texture.

Lopez-Alt uses three kinds of salt in cooking: Kosher salt that is coarse enough to pick up with his fingers for 99 percent of the food he prepares; large-flake finishing salt for adding crunchiness; and popcorn salt. He said for regular table salt, Morton is OK.

... continued on page B2

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Electrifying Jazz Concert will Sizzle at Lafayette Library Nov. 13

Submitted by Alison Williams



Jon Krosnick

Photo Michelle Le

Based in the Bay Area and soon celebrating their 25th anniversary, Charged Particles crosses stylistic boundaries and blends jazz styles with elements from Latin music, classical music, funk, and more. The band will be offering an electrifying, free jazz concert at the Lafayette Library from 7 to 8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 13.

The group's original compositions are mixtures of elaborate orches-

tration and opportunities for creative improvised solos. And they bring a similar approach to playing arrangements of tunes by other jazz artists and traditional jazz standards, each played with a new twist. Reviewers, such as Jazz Times Magazine have called the group "a tight and enormously talented trio."

Charged Particles has appeared at Yoshi's in San Francisco, Vitello's in Los Angeles, Café Cordiale in Sher-

man Oaks, and the historic Lighthouse in Redondo Beach. The group's hundreds of other appearances include the Houston International Jazz Festival, the John F. Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., the Orange County Arts and Jazz Festival, the Midwest Jazz Heritage Festival, the Trenton Jazz Festival, the King Cobra Jazz Festival, and a tour of Sweden. For information, visit www.chargedparticles.com.

Must-Know Basics for Serious Foodies

.. continued from page B1



Photo provided

Talk soon turned to eggs, with Lopez-Alt describing "blind egg" research he had conducted. After people peeled "hundreds of eggs" prepared with slightly different methods, he said the best results depended on the starting temperature of the water. Cold to warm makes the shell adhere to the egg, but starting the eggs in boiling water, adding a little ice 30 seconds into the boiling, and cooking at a simmer for 11-12 minutes before shocking them with ice water is best.

A proponent of low-water volume pasta cooking (scoring a hit during California's four-year drought), he said the best time to go to an Italian restaurant is late at night. The cooks reuse the pasta water and this raises the starch content of the pasta.

Newbies in the kitchen benefit most from learning knife skills. "If you can't cut well, you can't cook evenly," he said. And training your tongue to recognize savory, salty, acidic, sweetness, heat intensity and the right amount of seasoning requires constant tasting while cooking. Essential tools other than good knives include cast iron pans and an accurate meat thermometer. Advice others give to "poke your cheek then poke your meat and if they feel the same it's medium rare," had him saying, "Everyone's cheeks are different. How do you know yours are medium rare?"

With Thanksgiving Day just one month away, Lopez-Alt said toss the roasting pan; the part of the turkey you want to cook the slowest receives excess heat from

being close to the pan edges. Instead, ask the butcher to "hack out the back," salt under the skin two days prior to cooking and spread the turkey out on its breast in a flat pan to bake it. He admitted, you must not mind "your turkey looking like a porn star." For those who object and prefer a Norman Rockwell turkey, there is a solution. A turkey's fast and slow twitch muscle fibers create two temperature zones: placing a preheated baking stone under the turkey he said will allow both light and dark meat to cook at different rates and retain their moisture.

Of course there was more information – including that at one point his manuscript "meat-balled" into a 1,600-page book before it was trimmed to just under 1,000 pages. Lopez-Alt's next book will include material cut from his first book, mostly things you can eat with your hands including burgers and tacos. Book three will be a vegetarian cookbook.

Another Food Lit Event at LLLC Dec. 3

Join chef, cooking instructor and television host and author Joanne Weir, in conversation with Chef Gary Danko, as she takes a trip down culinary memory lane, sharing stories from her days cooking with Alice Waters at Chez Panisse, traveling and teaching throughout Europe and becoming the California chef she is today from 6:30 to 8:15 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 3 at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center. For information, visit <http://www.lllc.org/calendar/consortium.html>. Tickets are \$15 - \$25 at www.commonwealthclub.org.

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A Lifetime of Accomplishment for this Lafayette Veteran

By Daniel Smith



Jim Fernandes

Photo Andy Scheck

Jim Fernandes was lying in a hospital bed on Aug. 15, 1945, when he learned of the Japanese surrender. The then-Naval Aviation Cadet was receiving shots of penicillin, clearly misprescribed, for a sprain he had suffered in gymnastics. The war was over, though Fernandes' desire to be a pilot was not: "I was gonna earn my wings of Navy gold," he says.

Forty years of unpredictable twists and turns – all par for the course in Navy life – left Fernandes, now 89, far from his goal. Instead of flying a jet, Fernandes had a four-decade Navy career, a captaincy, three tours of duty in the Pentagon, the command of four destroyers and three land bases, five prestigious service medals, and a pivotal place in ushering in computer technology to the armed services.

The itinerant chaos of Fernandes' life was set into motion just after the war, when the Navy sent him to Saint Mary's College for training. "I have no idea why we had to come cross the country," recalls Fernandes, who genuinely remains baffled to this day. Nonetheless, Fernandes and his fellow cadets, stationed in North Carolina, hopped into a cattle car – with bunks stacked four high – and rode the railroads from Durham to Oakland.

Fernandes was quite smitten by California: "The smell of orange blossoms was everywhere and it was a nice sunny day. That kind of did it for me," he says; but even more so when he met his future wife, Rosemary, a student at Cal.

In the early '50s Fernandes was a reservist ensign on Treasure Island, focusing his time on his wife, three children, and a career selling advertising space for the San Francisco Chronicle. That is, until the Navy recalled him to active duty. Unknown to him at the time, he would remain active until his retirement in 1983.

Throughout the decade he worked his way up to commanding

officer of the USS Vammen only to be summoned back to dry land in 1961. Specifically, to the Pentagon. Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara wanted Fernandes to compile records and 20-year projections for every dollar in every ship in every fleet. His tools: a pencil and a very long piece of paper.

Fernandes wanted access to the Pentagon's IBM 650, which at only the size of several refrigerators, was state of the art. "I went to my boss and said this pen and pencil stuff is really ridiculous. Let me put (the data) on EAM cards," to be read by the 650. His boss acquiesced, but there was one major problem: "I didn't know anything about computers."

Fernandes audited after-work classes at IBM until he learned the 650. Then the Pentagon decided to update to the IBM 1401. Fernandes, undeterred, studied the new model and tirelessly converted all the data to the 1401. On the day he was set to enter it, "the guy who runs the computer floor came and said, 'Guess what! We're going to have an IBM 7090!'" More classes, more converting. After that, though, there were no sudden upgrades and everything "worked just dandy."

In 1964 with the Vietnam War escalating, Fernandes returned to command the USS Wilhoite in combat against enemy patrol boats. After several more moves, which took Fernandes from Vietnam to England to San Diego, Fernandes wound up at the Office of the Chief of Naval Material where he simultaneously worked to outfit ships with modern computers while appealing to Congress for funding. "It was very tiresome," he says of the latter.

Fernandes developed a thorny relationship with one particular senator, who at Fernandes' request remains nameless. "(The senator) had no idea about the military," according to Fernandes, and he leaked inaccurate information to the press.

Beholden to his chain of command, Fernandes was unable to rebut the senator's statements in a timely manner – allowing the senator's damaging statements to smolder. That was until Fernandes realized this: The senator's press releases followed a model; he was plugging in words and themes into a premade structure, not unlike a Madlib. Fernandes used this to create his own generic counter; all he had to do was insert

the senator's own words and themes. This expedited the rebuttal process and within months, Fernandes says, the senator stopped.

Following several more moves – including Japan – and Fernandes' retirement in 1983, his wife longed to return home. The Fernandes' settled in Lafayette and now as a 15-year resident, Fernandes seems to finally have put his nomadic Navy lifestyle behind him – save for the occasional visit to

Ocean Beach. "Lafayette is what California should be," he says.

In this reporter's last conversation with Jim Fernandes – which followed hours of interview and multiple follow-up phone calls trying to stitch together the maddening chronology of his life – I told him, "I think I might finally be able to sort this all out."

"If you ever do," Fernandes laughed sympathetically, "please explain it to me."

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Veteran's Day Ceremony at Moraga Commons Nov. 11

A Veteran's Day Ceremony is scheduled from 9 to 10 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 11 at the Moraga Commons Park, honoring all who served in times of war and in times of peace. There will be speakers and refreshments at the free event, sponsored by the Town of Moraga and Moraga Boy Scout Troops 212, 234, 246 and 249.

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DramaDons' Comedy 'The Curious Savage' Opens Nov. 10

Submitted by Mandy Chivers

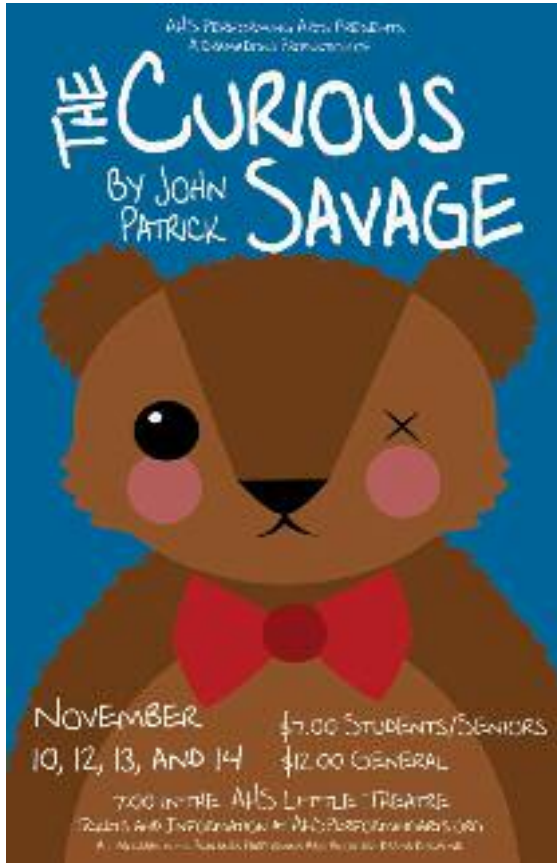


Image by Rachel Larsen, DramaDons' resident artist

The Acalanes DramaDons will open their entertaining and comedic production, "The Curious Savage," directed by Acalanes drama teacher Ed Meehan Nov. 10. "The Drama Dons have been hard at work for the last six weeks preparing," said Meehan. "We began September 15th with auditions and call-backs. Fifty students auditioned for 11

roles. Once the play was cast we dove into a full table read of the play." The actors discussed the play's themes and what they wanted to say with the piece, and then began working on their characters.

The plot has delightful twists involving a widow who inherited millions of dollars from her husband and wants to use the money to help others realize their hopes and dreams. Her grown-up stepchildren want the money for themselves and commit the widow to a "sanatorium" hoping to "bring her to her senses." Instead, the widow leads the self-serving stepchildren on a hilarious chase for the inheritance, while befriendng the charming "guests" of the sanatorium.

"While the acting crew was preparing, the Acalanes Stagecraft class was hard at work designing and creating sets, costumes, props, lights, and sound for the production," said Meehan. "The stagecraft students built and painted sets; designed, built and procured costumes. They hung focus lights; chose music and sound effects (both practical and recorded). It is a lot of work to create the whole world of the play."

The story playfully highlights how, in a world that seems motivated by greed and dishonesty, the virtues of kindness and affection can prevail.

"We are very excited for this production," said Meehan. "It is funny, sweet, and has a lot of heart!"

The production runs Nov. 10, 12, 13 and 14 at 7 p.m. in the Acalanes High School Little Theatre. Tickets are available in November during lunch at AHS and online from the web store: adults \$12; students and seniors \$7. There are limited ticket sales at the door. Doors open at 6.30 p.m. For more information, visit <http://ahsperformingarts.org>.

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'Transyl-Mania' Promises Loads of Laughs at OIS

The more silly than spooky production opens Nov. 12

Submitted by Jeanette Lipp



The "Transyl-Mania" Zombie cast

Photo provided

Cue the lightning! Cue the thunder! It is going to be monster mayhem at Orinda Intermediate School's (OIS) Bulldog Theater during the fall production of "Transyl-Mania" – a frightfully fun comedy.

Transylvania High School is where kids of all the classic monster movie villains go to learn the tricks of the trade. There are vampires, mummies, werewolves, zombies, witches, Frankenstein's daughter, the Invisible Man's son, and even the Phantom of the Opera's kid, all of them struggling to live up to their parents' legendary examples. From science fair projects to cliques, these monsters struggle with the same stresses as typical teenagers. When a group of human high school students stumbles upon the

monster school thanks to a broken down bus, utter mayhem ensues. Far more silly than spooky, this comedy delivers both loads of laughs and a gentle message about befriendng those who are different from us. "Transyl-Mania" is appropriate for ages 7 and up.

The production is directed and produced by Bay Area Children's Theatre (BACT) as part of their education program. Jacob Russell-Snyder serves as director with Sidney Spiegel as assistant director. Presented as a "Totally-Teen" comedy, Russell-Snyder notes, "Over the past few months of rehearsal, we have taken the comedy of this show very seriously. We have memorized jokes, practiced our chase scene and worked on the timing of both physical and verbal jokes. It

has been important for us to really know and understand not only what the characters say, but why they say what they say. Each actor was responsible for coming up with their character's back stories and even had input over their costume and how their character might dress."

There are two casts, comprised of approximately 43 OIS students along with additional 14 OIS students serving on tech crew. Performances will run Nov. 12-14 at the OIS Bulldog Theater. The performance lasts a total of 90 minutes, including one intermission. For show time information and to purchase tickets, please visit www.showtix4u.com. Tickets are also available at OIS Theater one half hour prior to show times.

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“Chaste: An Awful Comedy” at SMC is Anything But

Saint Mary’s production opens Nov. 5

By A.K. Carroll



From left: Michael Craigen, Kimiya Shokri and Jack Clifford

Photo Stanislava Georgieva

When theater director and professor at Saint Mary’s College, Rebecca Engle, came across a New York Times review of Ken Prestininzi’s play “Chaste: An Awful Comedy,” Engle knew it would be a perfect production to put on at Saint Mary’s.

“Our directors choose plays which speak to them and which they think will speak to the students, the campus community and our neighbors beyond,” explained Engle. Having met Prestininzi through the Bay Area theatre festival many years earlier, coming across the review was an experience that Engle likened to “(finding) a message in a bottle.”

“I always have my ear open for a play that will work well for college age actors, looking for scenes that will speak to a young audience,” said Engle. She believes that “Chaste” is just that sort of play. “Any student who’s ever said to anyone else ‘let’s just be friends’ – that’s what this play is about.”

Running Nov. 5-8 in the LeFevre Theatre, the “awful comedy,” as Prestininzi calls it, features a trio of passionate young thinkers (one woman and two men) who are determined to cooperatively live up to their high-minded ideals, fighting the pressures of jealousy, lust and ego in the process. “It’s very much about the kind of dilemmas that young people (certainly students) will relate to,” said Engle.

Inspired by the real life encounter between philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche (played by Michael Craigen)

and proto-feminist Lou Salomé (Kimiya Shokri), and the real-life characters of Paul Ree (Jack Clifford) and Elisabeth Nietzsche (alumna Kathleen Esling), the play is set in a sacred mountain town in Germanic Europe at the end of the 19th century, as well as in the metaphysical imaginations of the characters.

“The characters want to live in the future,” said Engle, “so the set (designed by resident Deanna Zibello and inspired by turn of the century paintings) was created in the spirit of the 20th century. The look and feel of the show will be very modern.”

Though the account depicted on stage didn’t actually happen, Engle finds the fact that characters are based on real people “simply delicious.”

Prestininzi discovered Lou Andreas Salomé (the main female character in “Chaste”) while working on a play about Bohemian poet Rainer Maria Rilke. “I specifically studied her at this time in her life, which is basically the start of her independence and as a woman on the thinkers’ stage,” said Prestininzi.

The play was originally produced in 2009 by Trap Door Theatre in Chicago. It is a genre that Prestininzi calls “the awful comedy” and describes as “that place of comedy where to survive, you have to laugh.”

No historic background or pre-reading is required. What really drives “Chaste” forward is the depth of emotion and passion felt by each character. “The issues of sexuality and power and one’s individual relationship to God are charged issues,” said

Prestininzi. “(The characters) are open and reckless with that, which will translate to any adult audience.”

Prestininzi came out early in the season to work with the cast and to speak to the production crew. “They had such a strong connection and understanding of the text,” he said. “I’m really excited to see them go deeper with it.”

Engle echoed the playwright’s sentiment, referring to the cast as “a quartet of outstanding actors. Each of their voices weaves in and out of the play. (There are) moments of dissonance and harmony, and all of the possibilities you can have when you have four voices.”

The question of ultimate chastity is, as the play’s title would suggest, another key tension that moves the plot forward, one that Prestininzi describes as the conundrum of minds being encased by bodies and emotions. “Those are issues I find undergrads get on a very gut level,” he said.

“I’m excited to see how that lands. I think one audience might take it to a very emotional place and another might take it in a place of high recognition. There are many ways you root for the young woman and other ways you are horrified at what youth can be. I think the audience will go back and forth with that. I’m very interested to see what will happen.”

Tickets for “Chaste” are \$8-12 and can be purchased at the box office or online at <https://www.stmarys-ca.edu/chaste-an-awful-comedy>.

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Sneak Peak of ‘Suessical Jr.’ at LLLC

Submitted by Linda Drucker



Middle school cast from “Suessical Jr.” that opens Nov. 12 at Town Hall Theatre.

Photo provided

Town Hall Theatre’s middle school students were the featured performers at the Children’s Book Festival held at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center on Oct. 24. The festival featured appearances by several prominent chil-

dren’s book authors and illustrators including Gennifer Choldenko, Michael Slack, Elisa Keven, Jordan Jacobs, and Thacher Hurd, who read from their books and autographed copies for festival attendees. The Town Hall students performed sev-

eral numbers from their upcoming production of “Suessical Jr.” which will be performed in full on Friday and Saturday, Nov. 12 and 14 at Town Hall Theatre on School Street in Lafayette. Tickets are available at townhalltheatre.com.



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Orinda Boy Scout Troop 237 Honors Four New Eagle Scouts

Submitted by Lisa Hoskins



New Troop 237 Eagle Scouts, from left: Jack O'Melveny, Drew Barber, Callan Hoskins, Tim Tague
Photo provided

Boy Scout Troop 237 of Orinda members Drew Barber, Callan Hoskins, Jack O'Melveny, and Tim Tague, all juniors at Miramonte High School, achieved Scouting's highest rank of Eagle Scout and will celebrate their Eagle Court of Honor at 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 15 at the Orinda Community Church. Scoutmaster Eric Jorgensen will present the awards.

Troop 237, chartered by the Orinda Community Church, has served Orinda for 60 years and has seen over 200 of its young men achieve the rank of Eagle Scout. To become an Eagle, the candidate must earn a minimum of 21 merit badges, including 13 Eagle-required badges, demonstrate leadership and scout spirit, and successfully complete an Eagle service project that benefits the community.

Being an avid reader, Barber wanted to make sure all the children at Shelter Inc., a local organization which helps homeless people get back on their feet, have books at their disposal. With the help of many other Troop 237 Scouts, Barber collected over 1,000 books, sorted them by age and gender, and distributed a personalized stack to each of the 26 kids currently living at Shelter Inc.'s Martinez facility.

Hoskins, an active public speaker, built a display case for the award-winning Miramonte

High School Public Speaking program. Callan, worked with teacher and head coach, Kristen Plant, to assess her needs to house trophies, plaques and a news bulletin, and with support from his troop, he built the wooden and glass case entirely from scratch and installed it in front of the Public Speaking classroom.

O'Melveny wanted to give back to the school's campus community. Seeking to add to both school spirit and to the beautification of the grounds, O'Melveny supervised and worked along with 15 fellow Scouts to resurrect a long-abandoned garden fronting the Aquatic Center. The troops cleared deep-rooted old plants, constructed a large "M" and applied 15 yards of decorative bark and rock over the course of two days.

Tague wanted to do a project that would benefit an important organization to him, so he chose to do a project for Xenophon, a therapeutic horseback riding center in Orinda. Tim's youngest sister, Nicole, has ridden at Xenophon for five years. Tim built a water feature for their sensory trail that enables the riders to reach into the water while on horseback.

For more information about Troop 237, visit troop237orinda.com.

Lafayette Juniors Announce Beneficiaries, Host Annual Rummage Sale

Submitted by Elizabeth Siamas



From left: Teli Thayer and Amy Anderson at last year's Rummage Sale.



Katy Abrahams Photos provided

The Lafayette Juniors, continuing its long tradition of service to others in need, recently selected Diablo Ballet's PEEK Outreach Program, the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano, the Lamorinda Spirit Van, and Youth Homes as their 2015-2016 beneficiaries. The Juniors' first fundraising event for these four local nonprofits will be the 22nd Annual Rummage Sale on Saturday, Nov. 7.

"We are thrilled to be able to help children, young adults and seniors in Contra Costa and Solano counties through our 2015 - 2016 nonprofit beneficiaries," said Christy Mack, president of the Lafayette Juniors. "These nonprofit organizations will use the proceeds from our fundraising events, beginning with our Fall Rummage Sale, to provide subsidized school meal programs for disadvantaged students, transportation for seniors who can no longer drive, and education programs for at-risk youth in juvenile detention as well as young adults aging out of the foster care system. We are continually grateful to everyone who comes to-

gether to support us so that we can continue to serve those who need it the most."

The Rummage Sale will be held from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Nov. 7 at Our Saviors Lutheran Church in Lafayette with a special early bird entrance fee of \$5 per adult from 7 to 8 a.m. The Juniors invite you to shop for pre-loved designer clothes, baby and kid clothes, gear, toys, and books, furniture, household goods, and much more. To find out more about the Lafayette Juniors and this year's Rummage Sale, visit www.lafayettejuniors.org.

Founded in 1953 by Lafayette resident Betty Young, the Lafayette Juniors is a nonprofit organization made up of local women who come together to raise funds and offer service in support of other non-profits that serve children, families and seniors as well as other people in need throughout Contra Costa and neighboring counties in the San Francisco area. Over the past 16 years, Lafayette Juniors have raised more than \$600,000 for Bay Area nonprofit groups.

Dance for Kindness Flashmob Event in Lafayette Nov. 8

Submitted by Sonya Grover



Image provided

As part of Dance for Kindness, a worldwide event in celebration of World Kindness Day facilitated by nonprofit Life Vest Inside, groups from across the globe are joining together to perform a Kindness Freezemob-Flashmob to the same song, with the same dance, all happening on the same day. Local nonprofit dance studio, Joy in Motion, is leading the Lafayette event, which will be held at 11 a.m. Sunday, Nov. 8 at Elam and Margaret Brown Plaza, across the street from Safeway at the corner of Moraga Road and Mt. Diablo Boulevard

in Lafayette. "Everyone can participate," said Joy in Motion co-founders Justin Cole and Linda Craig. "If you are a parent of a dancer, or have friends who might be interested, you can participate, too! You don't have to be a dancer, but if you simply want to spread kindness out into the world and have the desire to be a part of something bigger than yourself, you should register." A rehearsal video is available online for those who register through the LVI website at lifestinside.com. For more information, visit www.joymotiondance.org.

In Memory

John (Jack) Minott Wuerth March 29, 1920-Sept. 29, 2015



John (Jack) Minott Wuerth of Moraga slipped peacefully into eternity at the age of precisely 95 and a half on Tuesday evening, Sept. 29, 2015. He was born in Montclair, New Jersey, on March 29, 1920, to Gustav and Elsie Wuerth.

Jack graduated Magna Cum Laude with a B.S. in physics from Princeton University in 1942. During the second World War, he served as a Lieutenant A(L) and project officer in the U.S. Navy Department in Washington D.C. He used his physics to improve the accuracy of shooting moving targets from airplanes. After the war, Jack moved west to California where he became a nationally recognized expert on space navigation, exciting the nation in 1951 by describing how to get to Venus. He also developed and managed systems of inertial navigation for aircraft, submarine, and guided missile navigation. Jack was issued seven navigation-related patents, related to aircraft, submarines, and the Minuteman II's guidance control system and reliability during his 35-plus-year tenure as an engineer at Autonetics (which later became Rockwell International). He also served as president of the North American Institute of Navigation. Yes, he was truly a rocket scientist!

Jack was married to Joan Alling on June 11, 1948 after a whirlwind courtship of only two weeks, and they enjoyed 65 wonderful years of marriage. They raised four daughters together in Southern California, but retired to Oak Bluffs on Martha's Vineyard in 1986 and spent many active years there before returning to California in 2008 to be closer to their youngest daughter in Moraga.

Jack was well known for his keen mind and great sense of humor. In his youth he was an accomplished practical jokester, for example arranging for cherry bombs to go off while chatting with local police officers. He matured to become an active problem solver, and took on various leadership roles in community organizations, commissions and church boards, and battled in local politics. To relax, he greatly enjoyed gardening, sailing and music.

Jack is survived by his four daughters: Vicky Sigworth and her husband, Fred, of Hamden, Connecticut; Shelley Rice and her husband, Craig, of San José, Costa Rica; Kelsey Ambrose and her husband, Tom, of Rumney, New Hampshire; and Wendy Scheck and her husband, Andy, of Moraga, California, as well as 10 grandchildren and four great grandchildren. He was predeceased by his loving wife, Joan (Alling) Wuerth.

A memorial service is scheduled for 11 a.m. Nov. 21 at the Edgartown Federated Church in Massachusetts.

Share Your Celebrations and Remembrances

If you would like to share an announcement about a special event or achievement, such as a wedding, engagement, scholarship or graduation of a local resident, or about a special person from Lamorinda who has passed, send a photo along with your text (up to 250 words) to storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com, and include "Celebrations and Remembrances" in the subject line.

The Pacific Chamber Symphony Expands to Lamorinda

By Sophie Braccini



The Pacific Chamber Symphony

Photo provided

Classical music in the United States suffered a decline in popularity during the last economic crisis, but it is slowly bouncing back, according to the 2014-2015 Nielsen music report. And fortunately for Lamorinda classical music lovers, Lawrence Kohl, the spirited director and conductor of the Pacific Chamber Symphony along with his orchestra, is about to open the 2015-2016 concert series in Lafayette, seeking to delight as well as enlighten audiences.

"When I compose a program I always want the pieces to play off one another," says Kohl. "It elucidates something about music." The Nov. 21 concert will start with the Overture of Mozart's *Le Nozze di Figaro* bringing forth the light vein of the classical era music. The orchestra will then play Beethoven *Symphony #2* that was created in a time when the composer realized he was becoming deaf and stretched the bounds of what a classical piece is, moving toward romanticism and its heroic power. The third piece will be *Violin Concerto #2* by Prokofiev, who was a neo-classic composer at the beginning of the 20th century. Prokofiev adopted the lightness of classicism within the post-romanticism movement that was

moving away from the excesses of the romantic movement. Prokofiev's use of modern harmony adds irony to his neo-classic music.

"With these three works you are going walk away from the concert hall, whether you are a novice or an enthusiast, with some enrichment in term of what each of these pieces are about and how they relate to one another," says Kohl. "It's opening some new vistas for me, and that is something interesting and fun to share."

While Kohl decides the program, the core group of the orchestra is involved in the discussion. Concertmaster and leader of the violin section, Igor Veligan, has been with the Pacific Chamber Symphony for six years and he had been talking to Kohl for some time about the Prokofiev concerto that he particularly likes. The unique atmosphere of the orchestra and its cohesive nature is part of what makes the group unique and why musicians such as Veligan are so dedicated to it. "This size chamber orchestra allows (us) to build a spirit of collaboration over the years," he says, "like a tight family."

Kohl decided years ago to create this type of chamber group to fit the audiences and the venues of the East

Bay, selecting the best musicians of the Bay Area. "These are people who play at the San Francisco Symphony, for the best recording studios," he says, "only top notch artists that have worked with me for years." Kohl first created the chamber orchestra of San Leandro in 1989. "When the times were good we performed in five communities: San Francisco, San Leandro, Napa, Walnut Creek and Pleasanton; and when the times were bad, we had to pare down," says Kohl, who moved from San Leandro to Orinda and now lives in Moraga. Over the years the orchestra received many outstanding reviews for its work, which Kohl largely attributes to the quality of the musicians and the cohesiveness of the ensemble. The Pacific Chamber Symphony gives the audience the feeling of participating in a spontaneous interpretation. "This unique relationship is recognized as a thing of its own," says Kohl. "Its personality comes out as the musicians and myself draw out the best in each other."

The Pacific Chamber Symphony's board is based in Livermore where active volunteers built a strong following. Now that the economy has improved, the orchestra has started to

expand again. "With the support of the Dean and Margaret Leshner Foundation we were able to expand first to Orinda, and now in Lafayette," says Kohl.

The orchestra developed many educational programs for Livermore schools, such as the mixed quintet that performs at the elementary schools. "We do a series of very fun interactive educational programs such as postcards from around the world to illustrate different musical scales," he

says. "By the end of the series, the kids are able to recognize by ear and name what is a major scale, a minor scale, an harmonic minor scale, a melodic minor scale, a pentatonic scale, or a middle-eastern scale." Kohl hopes to develop a board of directors in Lamorinda and increase the orchestra's involvement in his community.

For more information and to purchase tickets, visit <http://www.pacific-chambersymphony.org/>.

Upcoming Pacific Chamber Symphony Performances at the Lafayette Library

Beethoven, Mozart, and Prokofiev

Saturday, Nov. 21, 7:30 p.m. at Lafayette Library
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Overture to "Le Nozze di Figaro"
Sergei Prokofiev: Violin Concerto #2
with Igor Veligan, Soloist
Ludwig von Beethoven: Symphony #2

Delightful Strings and Joyful Songs

Feb. 27, 2016 at 7:30 p.m. at Lafayette Library
Alessandro Scarlatti: Su le Sponde del Tevere for Soprano, Trumpet and Strings
Antonin Dvorák: Serenade for Strings

Majestic Masterpieces

April 16, 2016 at 7:30 p.m. at Lafayette Library
George Frideric Handel:
Coronation Anthems

Local Action for the Climate Summit in Paris

By Sophie Braccini



Wei-Tai Kwok, left, and Steve Richard want to do their part.

Photo provided

The United Nations climate summit, which will take place Nov. 20 to Dec. 11 in Paris, will include representatives from 195 countries (196 adding the European Union) who will work toward an agreement with individual commitments to reducing greenhouse gas emission. Sustainable Lafayette board member Wei-Tai

Kwok says, "This might be one of the most important international negotiations in our lifetime."

Kwok and Sustainable Lafayette president Steve Richard have planned a series of local events to inform residents and to help them feel part of the international event. The two will share what they have learned about cli-

mate issues with the community in the weeks leading to the international conference, and discuss the importance of the upcoming Paris talks – what they see as the world's first major step to reduce carbon pollution and address climate change since the Kyoto protocol.

On Thursday, Nov. 12, a few weeks before the launch of the

summit, Kwok and Richard will facilitate a Climate Talk where they will discuss the latest science on climate change and what is at stake with the Paris conference. The Nov. 12 presentation is free and will take place from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 1035 Carol Lane in Lafayette. Both Richard and Kwok were trained at The Climate Reality Project, a three-day seminar led by Al Gore.

"I had never been in such a diverse international environment," says Richard about the Miami training. "Top scientists were presenting to leaders from all over the planet, sharing knowledge and practices; it was exhilarating." Kwok went to Miami in 2013 for the same training and presented an abbreviated version of his experience last year at the Lafayette Library.

For Richard, it has been an almost 10-year journey since the first time he saw Gore's documentary, "An Inconvenient Truth," in 2006.

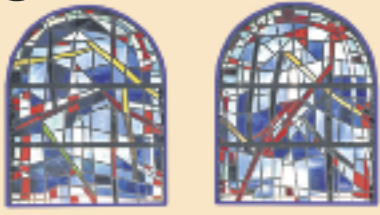
"As (my family and I) were coming back from the theater, we discussed what that meant for us," he remembers, "and the idea came to me of reducing our own carbon emission by 50 percent." Around the same time he met Bart Carr, another passionate Lafayette resident, and together they founded Sustainable Lafayette, a movement that is now involved in many projects and

initiatives around the city.

Kwok and Richard feel that the Paris summit may be a turning point in the consciousness of world leaders, with the United States and China having both made public commitments to reduce their carbon emissions. "The purpose is to reach an international agreement for all countries with the objective to limit the climate warming to 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit)," says Steve Richard.

Two additional events are scheduled in the days leading to the summit. The public is invited to a buffet dinner to watch Gore streamed live from Paris to discuss how countries are being affected by the climate crisis, as well as solutions on hand at 6:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 13 at T's Firehouse Indian restaurant in Lafayette. Advanced tickets are \$15 and may be purchased online at sustainable-lafayette.org or \$20 at the door. Then on Saturday, Nov. 21, Sustainable Lafayette will participate in the Northern California rally of the People's Climate March, a global solidarity effort in hundreds of cities around the world. Marchers will meet at Lafayette BART at 10 a.m. and travel together for the noon march at Oakland's Frank Ozawa Plaza. For more information, visit sustainable-lafayette.org.

Lamorinda's Religious Services



Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church
433 Moraga Way, Orinda, 254-3422
www.holy shepherd.org



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

SAINT GILES' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

9am Sunday School &
Communion Service
in the SMC Chapel



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

The Orinda Community Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

10 Irwin Way, Orinda | 925.254.4906 | www.orindachurch.org

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

Join us Sundays at 10:00 a.m.
Sunday School 10:00 a.m



St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

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

Lafayette United Methodist Church



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

Worship	Sunday	10 am
Children & Teen Faith Formation	Sunday	10 am
Teen Fellowship	Sunday	6 pm

Opportunities for Worship, Love, Service

St. Anselm's Episcopal Church A Loving Community

Sunday Services: 8 and 10 AM

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



► **SUNDAY Worship**, 8:00, 9:30 and
11:00 AM, with programs for all ages.

► **SEEDLINGS Preschool**, M-F

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

LAFAYETTE-ORINDA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
925-283-8722 **LOPC.org**



Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church

mvpc

Sundays, 9 & 10:30am

10 Moraga Valley Lane | www.mvpc.today.org | 925.376.4800

ORINDA CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH

24 Orinda Way (next to the Library) - 254-4212

Sunday Service and Sunday School 10 - 11 am
Informal Wednesday Meeting 7:30 - 8:30 pm
Reading Room/Bookstore M - F 11 - 4; Sat 11 - 2

www.christianscienceorinda.org

Willow Spring Community Church Loving God Loving People

Come and Meet our New Pastor

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

Wednesdays: 10:00am Community Bible Study
1689 School Street, Moraga (925) 376-3550
www.willow.springchurch.net

◆ Not to be missed ◆ Not to be missed ◆

ART

About Face - The Arts and Culture Commission of Contra Costa County is offering two-day self-portrait painting workshops at no cost to all Contra Costa County veterans. Workshops will take place in Martinez at ARTU4iA, a working art studio led by noted artist John Kleber. No art experience required. All painting materials will be provided. Workshops are from 6 to 9 p.m. on Nov. 5, 17 and 19. Free food and beverages will be provided. Class size will be held up to 15 participants. Register online at AC5.org/ABOUTFACE.

Valley Art Gallery's "Colorfall" exhibit runs through Nov. 7. Fall is the most colorful time of the year, with russets and siennas joining the greens and golds of summer. Valley Art Gallery celebrates this expanded palette with a new show, with a juried selection of new work from a talented group of local members.

The newest show at the Lafayette Art Gallery is titled "Artful Gifting," which opened Nov. 3 and runs through Dec. 26. Noted glass artist David Strock will be featured as a guest through Nov. 14. There will be a free reception showcasing Strock's work, with beverages and snacks, from noon to 3 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 8. For info, visit www.lafayetteart-gallery.com.

The 9th Annual Artisan Faire in Orinda will be held from 4 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 5 at the Orinda Country Club, 315 Camino Sobrante. This is a perfect occasion to find holiday gifts of unique and distinctive art and craft pieces, including ceramics, glass, painting, woodwork, clothing, fiber art, clocks, jewelry, photography and more. Complimentary wine tasting will be offered at this festive event.

The SMC Museum of Art lecture "Another Kind of Truth" - in conversation with Mexican-American artist Luis Gutierrez and Peruvian, curator and arts educator, Susana Aragón, from 4 to 6 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 5 in the Claves Lounge in the Soda Activity Center. \$5 admission. For info, visit www.stmarys-ca.edu/museum. To RSVP, call (925) 631-4363.

The Moraga Art Gallery's new exhibit, "Yellowstone: Beauty, Beasts, and Boneyards," will feature oil landscapes by Orinda's Lisa Gunn, whose imaginative palette captures the primitive character and timelessness of Yellowstone National Park and its environs. Also featured is a boldly-hued collection of one-of-a-kind etched tableware, handmade by guest artist Lisa Neimeth in her studio, a converted San Francisco chicken coop. The show will run from Nov. 4 to Jan. 9 with a free reception from 5 to 7 p.m. on Nov. 7. The current show "Color, Clay & Fire" featuring artists Jacqueline Proulx and Marge Barta Atkins runs through Oct. 31. For more info, visit www.moragaartgallery.com or call (925) 376-5407.

"Wild" Animal Portraits and Cityscapes by Dan San Souci at the Jennifer Perlmutter Gallery, 3620 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. The Exhibit runs from Nov. 6 to Dec. 5 with an artist reception from 6 to 8 p.m. on Nov. 6.

50th Annual Holiday Collection for "Artful Giving" at the Valley Art Gallery from Nov. 21 to Dec. 23. Our new gift exhibition includes a wide variety of beautifully crafted, ceramic, wood and glass pieces, original designer jewelry, holiday decorations, small paintings and many other unique, one-of-a-kind gift items. There will be a free Open House reception at the Gallery on from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 21. Stop by for a beverage and a snack, see the new show and meet the artists!

Saint Mary's College Museum of Art exhibit "The Axis Mundi/Open Portals" is currently on display through Dec. 6. Also on display are oil paintings by William Keith, artwork by Luis Gutierrez, and "The Dr. Mau-

rice Al- berti Print Collection of European and American Masters." The Saint Mary's College Museum of Art is open Wednesday through Sunday, 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on the Saint Mary's College of California campus, 1928 Saint Mary's Road, Moraga. For more information, visit <http://www.stmarys-ca.edu/saintmarys-college-museum-of-art>. (See story page B1)

MUSIC

The Lafayette Library and Learning Center will be hosting its third annual Teen Battle of the Bands from 4:30 to 8 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 7. In this popular event, teen bands will battle it out on stage in front of their friends and peers alike for cash and other prizes. Radio station Live 105 will make a return appearance. Local Walnut Creek-based food trucks Tonli Dumpling House and United Bites will also be present. Raffle prizes will be randomly awarded to audience members between each set.

Electric jazz concert: Charged Particles from 7 to 8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 13 in the Lafayette Library Community Hall. Charged Particles crosses stylistic boundaries and blends multiple traditions to create vital new sounds in the electric jazz arena. The trio's repertoire blends jazz styles with elements from Latin music, classical music, funk and more. Free.

Diablo Wind Symphony Concert at 5 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 15 at Campolindo High School, 300 Moraga Road, Moraga. The Diablo Wind Symphony includes numerous SMC wind and percussion players. Under the artistic direction of SMC faculty member John Maltester, they play a spirited range of music from marches to masterworks. Free.

The Moraga Library is pleased to present classical guitarist, Peter Fletcher, in concert at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 17. This evening concert is part of a nationwide tour to promote Fletcher's new CD "Christmas Music for Guitar." Fletcher will perform selections from this new CD as well as music by Villa Lobos, Grieg, Albeniz, Bach and Walton. For more info, visit ccclib.org or call (925) 376-6852.

Voci Women's Vocal Ensemble looks to the heavens with "Celestial Bodies: The Beauty of Distant Things," the 14th in its annual "Voices in Peace" concert series at 2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 21 at St. Perpetua Catholic Parish, 3445 Hamlin Rd., Lafayette. The Oakland-based chamber group performs a radiant selection of music that invokes the sun, moon, and stars, and that voices the longing, love, and other complex emotions they inspire.

Pacific Chamber Symphony begins the new Lamorinda Season at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 21 in the Community Hall. Tickets: \$10-35. Children with paying adult are free. Tickets are available at www.brownpapertickets.com or by calling 1-800-838-3006. (See story page B7)

THEATER

"Chaste (an awful comedy)" by Ken Prestinzi and directed by Rebecca Engle, LeFevre Theatre, 1928 Saint Mary's Road, Moraga. A darkly delicious comedy, about a trio of free-thinking Victorians who bet their friendship on a vow of abstinence. Things get sticky quickly when their high-minded living arrangements invite desire, provoke jealousies, and fan titanic egos. Show times: 2 p.m., 4 p.m. and 8 p.m. times available on different days from Thursday, Nov. 5 to Sunday, Nov. 8. Tickets: \$12; \$8 students and seniors. Available one hour before show time or online <http://www.stmarys-ca.edu/node/139301>. (See story page B5)

Join the Acalanes DramaDons in their entertaining and comedic production of "The Curious Savage," directed by Ed Meehan, Acalanes drama teacher. The story playfully highlights how, in a world that seems

motivated by greed and dishonesty at 7 p.m. Nov. 10, 12, 13 and 14 in the Acalanes Little Theatre. Tickets are available in November during lunch at AHS or online at ahsperformingarts.org. Limited ticket sales at the door. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Cost: adults \$12; students and seniors \$7. (See story page B4)

Variations, a brand new student-run production highlighting the Saint Mary's Dance Company, is a representation of each choreographer in the concert. This production will include two different evenings of concerts (Concert A and Concert B), presenting choreography by graduating seniors. "Variations" opens Nov. 19 for a one-weekend run in the intimate LeFevre Theatre at Saint Mary's College. Tickets: \$5 general; free for SMC students with ID. Purchase online at www.stmarys-ca.edu/variations or at box office, one hour to curtain.

LECTURE & LITERATURE

Moraga Movers and the Moraga Library present "Book Talking" at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 4 at the Moraga Library, featuring speaker Marian Neilson of Orinda Books.

Our Savior's Lutheran Church Wine & Tapas Speaker Series presents: Wealth Inequality: History and Implications from 7 to 9 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 14 at 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette. Ramsay Thomas' presentation will highlight the events and trends that have led to inequality, the impacts of inequality on the current world, and the implications for the future. Free.

The Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette (OML) Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) will feature Graciela Tiscareno-Sato, publisher, speaker and bilingual STEM consultant, at 9 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 17 at the Holy Trinity Serbian Cultural Center, 1700 School Street, Moraga. For membership information, visit the Branch website: <http://oml-ca.aauw.net>.

Lamorinda Republican Women Federated luncheon speaker will be Larry Greenfield, who writes widely on American politics and U.S. foreign policy and appears frequently in the media as a popular spokesman for economic freedom, religious liberty, America's founding first principles, and the defense of U.S. national security interests. Greenfield will speak at 11:15 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 19 at the Orinda Country Club. Cost: \$26 per person with lunch; \$15 per person, speaker only. Register by Nov. 13 by calling Sheri Rosen at (925) 935-4847 or email Reservations@lamorindarepublicanwomen.org.

KIDS, PARENTS & TEENS

Oakland ZooMobile animals and their ambassadors will visit the Moraga Library at 1 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 17. Look and learn about animals on this early school dismissal day. Space is limited for this free event; register online or by contacting the library. For elementary students K-5.

OTHER

A Gathering of the Tribal Knowledge - a panel discussion covering the historical, social, archival and cultural influences and aspects of the Grateful Dead with long-time members of the Grateful Dead extended family will be held at 6 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Nov. 6 and 7 at the Town Hall Theatre in Lafayette. Following the discussion will be an historic musical celebration featuring Grateful Dead tribute band The Golden Rose. For schedule and tickets, visit www.townhalltheatre.com.

Lafayette Juniors 22nd Annual Rummage Sale from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 7 at Our Saviors Lutheran Church, 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette. Special early bird entrance fee: \$5 per adult from 7 to 8 a.m. Pre-loved designer clothes, baby and kid clothes, toys, and gear, furniture, household goods, and much more. For info, visit www.lafayettejuniors.org.

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Award-Winning Film, 'Losing Her,' Kicks Off The Bay Area Film Series at the Rheem Theatre

By Derek Zemrak



Image provided

The Rheem Theatre is starting a new monthly film program beginning this Friday, Nov. 6, entitled The Bay Area Film Series. This unique series will showcase Bay Area filmmakers' projects and provide local filmmakers with a venue to screen their films before an audience. The first film will be "Losing Her," the Best Feature winner at the Noor Film Festival in Los Angeles and the Golden Ace Award winner at the Las Vegas International Film Festival. "Losing Her" will show at 2, 4, and 7 p.m. Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Director Dave Moutray will be at the 2 p.m. showing on Saturday, Nov. 7. Come meet Moutray and learn more about what it takes to write, produce and direct an independent film.

Moutray, an award-winning director and

screenwriter has an M.A. in English and an M.F.A. in screenwriting. Originally from the Midwest, he fulfilled his love for film in the Bay Area. He is a co-founder of Crux Jinx Productions, LLC in San Francisco, and the founder of the Bay Area Film Mixer, which allows filmmakers from around the Bay to network and create a tighter community of like-minded film professionals.

As a filmmaker, his focus is on character and story driven narratives, regardless of genre. "Losing Her" is the story of a man distraught over the loss of his fiancée. He joins a grief therapy group, and interacts with a group of strangers who are also sharing the loss of a loved one. He finds comfort in their stories of grief, but his own story holds a devastating secret.

More Upcoming Events at the Rheem Theatre

Mark your calendars for Saturday, Dec. 19 at 7 p.m. for the return of live music at the Rheem. Patti Leidecker, a talented composer, singer and piano player has been in the music business for almost 50 years. She will be singing and playing everyone's favorite holiday songs on the baby grand piano once owned by Hollywood comedic genius, Dom DeLuise. She composes original material and performs standards and show tunes. Leidecker has performed at Clint Eastwood's Mission Ranch Inn



Patti Leidecker Photo provided

in Carmel on Wednesday nights for the past eight years. Come sing along with Leidecker and get into the holiday spirit. Tickets are \$15 general admission, \$12 for seniors / children and include holiday cookies and punch. This will be a great event for the youngest and the young at heart.

◆ Not to be missed ◆ Not to be missed ◆

OTHER ... continued

Join Joy in Motion on World Kindness Day for the Dance for Kindness at 11 a.m. on Nov. 8 at Elam and Margaret Brown Plaza across the Street from Safeway at the corner of Moraga Road and Mt. Diablo Boulevard in Lafayette. Groups from across the globe join together to perform a Kindness Freezemob/Flashmob to the same song, same dance, all happening on the same day. Everyone can participate. For info, visit www.joyninmotiondance.org.

The Stroke Support Group of Contra Costa County will hold its November meeting from 7 to 9 p.m. Monday, Nov. 9 in the Sterns Conference Room at John Muir Medical Center - Walnut Creek Campus (1601 Ygnacio Valley Road). The speaker will be Rev. Suzanne Tindall, who will discuss "Grief Following Illness and Loss." For further information about the Stroke Support Group, contact Ann Dzuna at (925) 376-6218. Free.

The Moraga Movers will hold its regularly scheduled dinner meeting at the St. Mary's Soda Center at 6 p.m. Monday, Nov. 9, preceded by social hour at 5 p.m. An "activities evening" is planned with staffed tables to encourage interest in bridge, book club, board games and an informal bocce ball court set up. For info, or to make reservation before midnight on Nov. 4, call (925) 376-6622.

Veterans Day Ceremony from 9 to 10 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 11 at Moraga Commons Park to honor all who served in times of war and in times of peace. Speakers and refreshments sponsored by the Town of Moraga and Moraga Boy Scout Troops 212, 234, 246 and 249.

Saint Mary's College Guild's Harvest Luncheon, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 12 at the SMC Soda Center. A traditional Thanksgiving luncheon will be served. Cost: \$35 per person. All donations will benefit the Saint Mary's Scholarship fund. Mail checks to: SMC Guild, 828 Crossbrook St., Moraga, CA 94556. Questions? Call Dolores at (925) 376-4339.

Lafayette Nursery School Open House from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 14. Come see what Lafayette Nursery School is all about. This school admits students of any race, color, national or ethnic origin. For info, visit www.lafayettenurseryschool.org.

"Walk For A Cure" Oakmont Memorial Park Cancer Walk from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 14 at the Oakmont Memorial Park and Mortuary, Lafayette. \$20. Register at www.OakmontCancerWalk.com.

Shine A Light on Lung Cancer from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 19 at the Walnut Creek Library Oak Room, 1644 N. Broadway. Join an engaging panel of medical experts as they cover the most current information regarding screening recommendations, genomic profiling, immunotherapy, targeted therapy, radiation therapy and surgical techniques. Also included will be an inspiring lung cancer survivor's story. Q & A session will follow presentation. Free. Reservation recommended; call (925) 677-5041.

Orinda Holiday Bazar from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Nov. 21 at the Orinda Community Center. There are over 20 new exhibitors this year featuring succulents, handmade cards, lotions, women's clothing, handmade bags, knitwear, decorative trays, candles and paper mache items.

Holiday Boutique supporting New Day for Children from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 21 at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 1035 Carol Lane in Lafayette. Start your holiday shopping while supporting a local faith-based Safe House for young girls who have been rescued from human trafficking. For info, visit www.newdayforchildren.com.

18th Cycle Recycle, held by Bobbie and Tom Preston, will be held throughout November. New and/or used bikes and trikes in working order or repairable, or useable bike parts may be delivered to the side driveway of the Preston's home at 1307 Larch Avenue in Moraga. No skateboards or plastic bikes please; no need to call beforehand, but for more information contact Bobbie at (925) 376-8474.

SENIORS

Drop-In Mah Jongg - Calling all Mah Jongg players! Bring your card and mah jongg set every Tuesday afternoon from 1 to 3 p.m. in the Lafayette Community Center Cedar Room. This group is for all levels. No need to RSVP - just show up and pay at the door. Free for Senior Services members; \$10 non-members.

Dementia Roadmap: From Diagnosis to Family Care at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 11 at the Eldercare Walnut Creek office at 1808 Tice Val-

ley Blvd., Walnut Creek. Join Linda Fodrini-Johnson as she discusses what you need to know, what you need to plan, and what you and your family can do when faced with the challenges of dementia. No fee and limited seating. Advance registration required. To register for an event call (866) 760-1808 or email info@eldercareanswers.com.

GARDEN

The Walnut Creek Garden Club will meet from 9:30 a.m. to noon Monday, Nov. 9 at the Gardens at Heather Farm located at 1540 Marchbanks Road in Walnut Creek. The topic of the program is Special Flowers and Arrangements for the Holiday Season. Anna Cambell grows unusual flowers on her own farm and will share her "live art" with a hands-on demonstration of unique and simple arrangements. You do not need to be a gardener to join the WCGC. For more info, email mslittle44@gmail.com.

Lafayette Garden Club, November meeting and program will feature Najat Nicola, owner of "Floral Design By Najat" and longtime exhibitor for the annual Bouquets to Art, who will demonstrate her renowned floral designing talent in a program entitled "Holiday Arrangements" from 9:30 a.m. to noon Thursday, Nov. 12 at the Lafayette Veterans Memorial Hall, 3780 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Guests welcome! For info, email cpoetzsch@gmail.com.

The Moraga Garden Club will hold its general meeting at 9:30 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 19 at the Holy Trinity Church, 1700 School Street, Moraga. Guest speaker will be Rebecca Sweet, who will give a presentation entitled "Refresh Your Garden." Interested parties are welcome for the 9:30 a.m. social time and marketplace table, followed by the meeting at 10 a.m.

Montelindo Garden Club Meeting will be at 9 a.m. on Friday, Nov. 20 at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 66 St. Stephens Drive, Orinda. Visitors welcome. Topic: Bee Friendly Gardening. The speaker will be K. Ruby Blume, gardener, beekeeper and founder of The Institute of Urban Homesteading, who will be discussing the important roles of bees in our garden.

Please submit events to: calendar@lamorindaweekly.com

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Service Clubs Announcements

Rotary Explore Lamorinda Rotary clubs The heart of Rotary is our clubs- dedicated people who share a passion for both community service and friendship. Learn about Lamorinda's Rotary clubs.

ROBUSTINIIST A global volunteer organization working to improve the lives of women and girls through programs leading to social and economic empowerment.

LAMORINDA SUNRISE Rotary Friends, Fun, Service Above Self

We meet Friday mornings at 7:00 am at **The Lafayette Park Hotel & Spa**, 3666 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Lafayette. For more info, please email us at lamorindasunrise@gmail.com

November 6: Speaker: Mike Vigo - The Bee Ranch	November 13: Speakers: Jan Cushman/Gail Chesler - Trek Trek - Empowering Young Women
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Look for an upcoming Cold Weather Coat and Clothing Drive partnering with the Monument Crisis Center. There will be donation drop-off bins, located in each Lamorinda city, in late November or early December.

Lamorinda Weekly
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Contact us:
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Publishers/Owners: Andy and Wendy Schreck; andy@lamorindaweekly.com, wendy@lamorindaweekly.com
Editor: Jennifer Wake; jennifer@lamorindaweekly.com,
Copy Editor: Nick Marnell; nick@lamorindaweekly.com
Sports Editor: Spencer Silva; sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com
Advertising: 925-377-0977, Wendy Schreck; wendy@lamorindaweekly.com
Staff Writers: Sophie Braccini; sophie@lamorindaweekly.com, Cathy Tyson; cathy@lamorindaweekly.com, Victor Ryerson; victor@lamorindaweekly.com, Cathy Dausman; cathy.d@lamorindaweekly.com, Nick Marnell; nick@lamorindaweekly.com, Digging Deep: Cynthia Brian; cynthia@lamorindaweekly.com, Food: Susie Iventosch; suziventosch@gmail.com
Contributing Writers: Conrad Bassett, Moya Stone, Michael Sakoda, Lou Fancher, Chris Lavin, Amanda Kuehn Carroll, Diane Claytor, Uma Unni, Spencer Silva, Karl Buscheck, Ryan McKinley, Zoe Portnoff, Clare Varellas, Adam Blake, Daniel Smith, Fran Miller, Jade Shojaaee, Emily Dugdale, Barry Hunau (cartoonist), Derek Zemrak (Film Critic)
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Mailing address:
Lamorinda Weekly, P.O. Box 6133, Moraga, CA 94570-6133
Phone: 925-377-0977; Fax: 1-800-690-8136
email: info@lamorindaweekly.com
website: www.lamorindaweekly.com

Quiche Muffins Make a Quick Meal

By Susie Iventosch



Jose's Spinach Quiche Muffins

Photo Jose Gonzalez



Jose Gonzalez with his creation

Photo Susie Iventosch

I was perusing Facebook a few weeks ago, and found that my daughter's good friend, Jose Gonzalez, had posted a photo of these delicious-looking quiche-like "muffins." Immediately, I messaged him to see if he would share the recipe with me for the food column, because they looked so good. Of course, he said yes! That's what is so fun about FB, you never have to wait to long for an answer.

Jose said that the idea for making these "muffins" surfaced because he wanted to make a quiche, but didn't want to bother with the crust and all of that. Then, he saw the muffin tin and thought, why not make little individual quiches?

"This was something I could just store in the refrigerator and easily heat up for a meal, or take them on the go," he said.

When Jose is not acting, dancing or auditioning, he also is a substitute grade school teacher, and with such a crazy schedule, a good meal that can go with him is great to have.

Jose, who was born and raised in Oakland, went to college with my daughter and, it is fun to note, I first met him when they sang a duet together for a musical at San Jose State. Since then, Jose has performed in the national tour of Memphis and was also in the cast of all three Woodminster Theater musicals in Oakland this past summer. Now, he is back in New York City, hoping to land a show on Broadway.

Since I was going to visit my daughter in just a few weeks after his posting, we decided that the three of us would meet up at his apartment and make this recipe together, which we did last week and it was so much fun. They are really easy, and great for a fancy brunch, or to take on the road for those with a busy, hectic schedule. What I really like about them, too, is the fact that they are chock-full of sautéed onion, garlic, bacon, cheese and lots of fresh spinach. The beauty of this recipe is that you can also change it up and add any sort of veggie or sausage that you like. They would also work well, I think, with just egg whites instead of whole eggs, for those who prefer to omit the yolk. And, if you make them in the mini muffin tins, they would be the perfect finger food for any kind of party, brunch, lunch or dinner.

INGREDIENTS

- 6 strips of bacon, cooked crispy and crumbled (reserve 2 tablespoons of the grease for onions)
- 1 yellow onion, coarsely chopped
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 2 cups chopped fresh spinach
- ½ to ¾ cup grated mozzarella cheese
- 8 eggs

DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 350F. Spray a muffin tin with coconut spray or PAM. Cook bacon until crispy. (If you prefer, you can use pre-cooked bacon and then just use oil or butter to sauté the onion and garlic.) Set aside until cool, and discard all but a couple tablespoons of the bacon grease. Crumble the bacon. In the same pan, cook the onions and garlic until translucent. Add spinach and cook for just a few minutes. Meanwhile, beat eggs in a large bowl. Add the veggies, bacon and cheese to the eggs and mix well. Distribute the egg mixture evenly into the muffin tins. You will have some of the mixture leftover for a second batch, maybe about four of them. (You can also use the larger muffin tins, or the mini muffin tins for this recipe. Just adjust cooking time as necessary.) Bake for 30 minutes, or until done in the center. Eat right away, or cool and store in containers for quick meals during the week.

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.



Specialties of the House: The Hunt for Happy Hour

By A.K. Carroll



Photos A.K. Carroll

This week's Hunt for Happy Hour, which brings you the freshest and finest when it comes to discounted beverages and premium small bites in the Lamorinda area, focuses on La Finestra, a Sicilian dining spot with old-world charm and classic cocktails.

Recently, I have been watching The Dick Van Dyke Show – light-hearted, black and white, 1960s television. I watch Laura Petrie prance around her suburban New York bungalow, baking cakes and shredding cabbage, making coffee in pedal pushers and a sweater. Something about this version of life seems simple, straightforward, classic. It is the same sort of classic I feel when

I pass through the light-trimmed archway that leads to La Finestra. It is not trendy or hipster chic. There are no brass-studded chairs, tiny pots of succulents or a reclaimed wood bar. In fact, there is no bar at all. What it does have, however, is old-school charm along with an air of old-world Italy.

The best feature of happy hour at La Finestra is the restaurant itself. Photos, paintings and prints of the Italian peninsula fill the walls, along with framed maps of the region and gold-trimmed mirrors flanked in green shutters. The emerald trim is flaking and worn, a little like Italy itself, where you'll find more character and care than you will sleek shellac or stuck-up service. Opened by owner Jeff Assadi and Sicily-native Andrea Ditta in 1999, La Finestra is the sort of restaurant that has a banquet room rather than a lounge and an ambiance that calls for classic piano.

There are other throwbacks as well – servers clad in white shirts and black pants, Lucinda script menus and white-clothed tables. It is a respectful sort of formality that is consistent throughout the service. Now open seven days a week, with the recent addition of a weekend brunch, La Finestra features a happy hour that lasts the length of the afternoon, starting at 2 p.m. and running until 5:30 p.m. All beer, wine and cocktails are discounted by \$2, from a cold bottle of Stella to a spicy glass of Toscolo Chianti. Cocktails are simple, but clean – no home-made lavender syrup, smoked bourbon, or fruit-infused spirits to be found. A tart, crisp cosmo is made with cranberry, vodka and triple sec, while the house mimosa (only \$6 during happy hour) features fresh-squeezed orange juice whose pulp dances on bubbles.

Drinks can be enjoyed throughout the restaurant, on the mosaic tables out front, or in the glints of sunlight found on the quaint side patio. "We don't have a bar or a television," says Assadi. "To me when you have food and wine and cocktails, you don't want distraction." Happy hour is strictly for drinks, though if you're feeling a bit peckish, Assadi recommends the scalene, an abalone and sea scallop patty served in garlic cream sauce, or the jumbo prawns sautéed with pine nuts and raisins and served on a crostini. There is also the restaurant's trademark wild mush-

room and sun-dried tomato polenta.

Close the keyboard and put away your phone. Order yourself an afternoon mimosa or pre-dinner drink and take a trip back to the classic simplicity of cocktail hour.



When: 2-5:30 pm, Monday-Sunday
Where: 100 Lafayette Cir #101, Lafayette
Drinks: \$2 off all beer, wine and cocktails
Recommended: \$8 Cosmopolitan and \$6 Fresh-squeezed Mimosa

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LAMORINDA SPORTS

Campolindo Cruises Past Miramonte 37-0

By Karl Buscheck



Niki Moore (44)

Photos Gint Federas

The fans were still pouring into Bob Wilson Stadium when junior Kannah Cruickshank hauled in the opening kickoff and ran the ball back 97 yards to give Campolindo an immediate 7-0 lead. It was a lead that the home team wouldn't hand back.

"There's a lot of levels of sweetness to this victory," head coach Kevin Macy said after Campo (8-1 overall, 5-0 DFAL) thumped Miramonte (8-1 overall, 4-1 DFAL) 37-0 on Oct. 30.

With the decisive win, the Cougars are now guaranteed at least a share of the DFAL title for the fifth consecutive season and have now ripped off 29 consecutive league wins - including five in a row over the Mats.

Even though the Cougars are the reigning Division III state champions, Macy loves to position his squad as the underdogs.

"We're a bunch of no-name kids," Macy said. "But they play as a team and that's all we can ask for."

In the beatdown of their neighbors, the Cougars literally were no-names, taking the field in uniforms that only had numbers on the back. Afterward, Macy insisted that there was no symbolic meaning behind the team's attire.

"We have these red jerseys that we only pull out once a year for special games. So, every year the jerseys just get passed down to another group of kids," Macy said. "That's why there's no names. But, maybe you're right. Maybe it was perfect."

Of all the nameless players in red, it was the secondary that stole

the show. The Cougars intercepted four passes from Miramonte junior signal-caller Tim Tague, who had uncorked just four picks all season entering the night.

"We've just got smart kids. In the secondary, you need smart kids," Macy said. "And I think they were ready. These kids, they wanted their chance to take on this high-power(ed) offense."

Campo didn't just take on the high-powered attack - they took it apart.

Before getting dismantled by the Cougars, Miramonte had averaged 45 points per game. Against their local rivals, the Mats didn't have any answers for Campo's swarming defense. It didn't help that Tague lost his top target in the first quarter when senior wide receiver Sutter Lindberg left the game with a knee injury.

While Miramonte's air attack was stalled out, Campo's running game was relentless. Running back Niki Moore ran for 99 yards on 18 carries and Jack Cassidy chipped in two rushing touchdowns.

Even though Miramonte was on the wrong side of the scoreline, head coach Jack Schram offered praise for his defense.

"They only got one touchdown where they drove the ball on us. Our defense did an outstanding job," Schram said. "The kick return and the bad field position because we didn't convert the fourth down (really hurt us)."

With three minutes to go in the second quarter, the Mats made the ill-fated decision to go for it on fourth down. The Mats ended up

turning the ball over to Campo on their own 34-yard line and the home team promptly punched in a touchdown to make it 23-0.

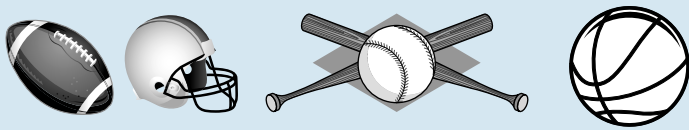
The rout of Miramonte was more than just another win for the Cougars who remain undefeated in DFAL.

"At this point, this was our championship game for the year. Especially because it's been a long year of everybody in the league wanting to knock us off," Macy said. "They looked at us as wounded prey this year after losing all our big-name kids. So, it's been a long, grueling year for this group."



Tim Tague

Youth Sports Registration



Lamorinda Rugby Football Club

On-line Registration opens Oct 1st for the 2015 rugby season! Season runs December through March for youth, and through April for HS. Ages 6-19. Girls welcome through middle school. No prior rugby experience necessary. Practices are located at the Wilder Fields in Orinda.

Find out more about our team and how to register online at www.lamorugby.com. For middle and elementary school ages, contact head youth Coach Adam Browne for more info: adam.browne6@gmail.com. For High School, contact Recruiting Director Steve Peterson at stevepetersonhome@yahoo.com.



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Future is Bright for Gaels' Volleyball

By Dean Boerner



Lindsey Knudsen (17) and Sarah Chase (15)

Photos Tod Fierner

The Saint Mary's women's volleyball team is an intriguing mix of inexperience and raw talent. After graduating seven players last spring, coach Rob Browning has faced the challenge of balancing a bundle of new players, mostly freshman, and preparing his team for grueling matchups against quality WCC opponents.

"Our conference is so good that it maybe looks like we're not that good, but we're actually pretty good," Browning explained.

The Gaels' inexperience and raw talent was never more apparent than their recent loss to conference opponent Loyola Marymount (LMU) last Thursday. In a five-set loss to LMU, the Gaels played the more polished Lions into a deciding fifth set where they just couldn't overcome their more disciplined, experienced opponents.

The Gaels roster features youth across the board. Out of the team's 11 players, there are five freshmen, five sophomores, and only one junior. Making an immediate impact this season for Saint Mary's has been a quartet of starting freshmen: Lindsey Knudsen, Sarah Chase, Payton Rund, and Lindsey Calvin.

According to Chase, who stands second on the team in kills and points,

inexperience has contributed to some of the closer losses suffered by the Gaels this season. "We've been really close with all these teams and just finishing off the last five points has been a real struggle for us," Chase said.

Similar to Chase, freshman Lindsey Knudsen, from Valencia (Calif.), has played extremely well in her first college season. Leading the team in both kills and service aces, she has played in all 74 sets this year for Saint Mary's. She credits the team's de facto veterans – sophomores Mary Hernandez, Madi Wilkerson, and Alexis Salmons – with ensuring a smooth transition to college volleyball for her and her fellow freshmen.

The team embraces the challenges that come along with inexperience, but acknowledge that in order to reach their ceiling, they need consistency. "One of the things that is a sign of inexperience or being young is inconsistency," coach Browning said.

Alexis Salmons, a redshirt sophomore and player who has suddenly been thrust into a leadership role, echoed her coach's sentiments. "Rob says we ride a rollercoaster a lot," Salmons explained. "Sometimes we can be playing super well and sometimes we can go down and get into a rut."

While slumps have hindered their success this season, the Gaels' brief explosions of dominance offer glimpses into what should be a bright future. In early October, for instance, in a match against conference leader USD, currently ranked 24th in the country, the Gaels dropped the first two sets, but then, in the third set, took an 18-10 lead and eventually won 25-19.

Browning, who is now in his 11th season at Saint Mary's, has high expectations for his team going forward. "We're going to be very, very good next year," said Browning. "The trajectory they're on is really exciting."



Alexis Salmons

NCS Water Polo Playoffs Begin



Tyler Abramson

Photo Gint Federas

The NCS released its playoff brackets Nov. 1 for boys and girls water polo. For the girls, the first round begins Wednesday, Nov. 4. The boys' tournament begins Thursday, Nov. 5.

Girls

The Lamorinda girls' programs earned the top three seeds in the Division II NCS bracket:

The No. 1 seed Miramonte Lady Mats (17-6 overall, 5-0 DFAL) ended league-play on a high note, beating both Acalanes and Dougherty Valley, polishing off a perfect record in league and securing the DFAL title. Also, on Oct. 27, the Mats handed San Ramon Valley – NorCal's top team and perennial powerhouse – its first loss of the season. The girls took fifth place at the NorCal Championships Oct. 31 at Sacred Heart (Palo Alto, Calif.), defeating the Campo Lady Cougars 10-7. On Wednesday, Nov. 4 the Mats will host No. 16 Marin Academy at 6:45 p.m.

On the other side of the bracket are the No. 2 seed Lady Cougars (13-9 overall, 3-2 DFAL) and the No. 3 seed Acalanes Lady Dons (14-8 overall, 4-1 DFAL). The two teams met last month in one of the season's most thrilling matches, where the Dons beat the Cougars at home in triple overtime. The Cougars will meet No. 15 Bishop O' Dowd in Moraga at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 4; The Dons will host No. 14 Ukiah at 6:45 p.m. Wednesday. The two teams could meet again in the NCS semifinal match on Wednesday, Nov. 11.

Boys

In Division I boys' water polo, DFAL co-champions Miramonte (14-10 overall, 4-1 DFAL) and Campolindo (15-9 overall, 3-2 DFAL) find themselves in a unique situation. The No. 3 seed Mats and the No. 6 seed Cougars have met in the NCS championship each of the last two seasons – Campo won in 2013, Miramonte in 2014. This fall, however, the two are on the same side of the bracket and, should they win their opening-round matches Thursday, Nov. 5 – at home against No. 14 Washington (8 p.m.) and No. 11 Alameda (6:15 p.m.), respectively – the two would meet at Miramonte on Saturday, Nov. 7. The Mats beat the Cougars 9-7 in Orinda during the regular season on Oct. 14.

The No. 5 seed Acalanes Dons (13-10 overall, 3-2 DFAL) finds itself on the opposite side of the bracket as its rivals. The team had an up-and-down October, at one point dropping six of seven matches. The team ended the season on a high note, however, beating St. Francis (Mountain View, Calif.) 12-9, losing a close match to EBAL champions and No. 2 seed San Ramon Valley, and polishing off the regular season with a convincing 20-7 win over DFAL-rival Alhambra. The team will open the tournament at 8 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 5 at home against Mission San Jose (Fremont, Calif.). S. Silva

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LMSC U14 Girls Win Placer United Cup

Submitted by Christine Pitt



Back row, from left: Caroline Scofield, Ivy Souza, Isla Burch, Caitlin McDonagh, Monique Zarling, Yasmee Dao, Catherine Liu and Anna Pitt; front row: Kathryn Dunn, Emily Cohen, Mallory Louis, Sierra Harley, Tatiana Berestka, Jordan Goularte and Imogene Carlos; not pictured: Malika Haji

The Lamorinda Navy U14 girls were champions of the Gold division at the Placer United Girls Cup. The team went 3-0-1 over the course of the tournament, outscoring their opponents 10-1.

Lamorinda U15 Girls Premier Win Placer Championship

Submitted by Marcia Holbrook



Photo provided

The Lamorinda U15 Girls Premier team won the Placer United Girls Cup, the most competitive event offered in Northern California during the fall, Oct. 24-25. The tournament averages 210 teams and attracts the best talent from Northern California and the Western United States. The girls entered the tournament on the heels of several big wins and growing confidence. They opened with a 3-0 shutout of the Oakland Alameda Bay Oaks Soccer Club and then beat the Ceres Earthquake FC Elite 6-1. In the semifinal on Sunday morning, the girls lost a 1-0 lead with 30 seconds left, which led to a

sudden-death penalty shootout. A big save by injured goalie Dariana Mihalache and five successful Lamorinda penalty kicks secured the team a 5-4 victory. In the final, on Sunday afternoon, the girls matched up against their archrival: the Davis Legacy Soccer Club. The match was close throughout, but ultimately, it was Lamorinda that closed out the match with a late goal, ensuring the 2-0 win. The girls are currently ranked No. 3 in Northern California and 31st in the country. Congratulations to the Premier soccer team for their Placer Championship!

Lamorinda United U10 Boys Win IMPACT Boo Fest Championship

Submitted by Mike Bonardi



Team: Brant Ballantyne, Andrew Harrick, Charlie Lewis (not pictured), Dune Gesink, Everett Glass, Gabe Roman, Hugo Metzgen, Jake Boselli, Landon Fly, Luke Bonardi, Sam Babir, Tarak Watkins and Will Atwood. Coach: Jake Wilson

The Lamorinda United U10 Boys Navy team claimed the IMPACT Boo Fest Championship. The boys played great soccer and won all four games over the Oct. 24-25 weekend in Antioch, California.

Sleepy Hollow USPTA Junior Tournament a Huge Success

Submitted by Barbara Burkhalter



Pictured: Alex Thornton, boys 12 winner, with his trophy

Photo Grace Wilson

Under the direction of club winners: Boys 10, Ioann Timopro Jim Coyne, Sleepy Hollow Swim and Tennis Club in Orinda hosted a USPTA tournament Oct. 2-4. It hosted over 60 junior tennis players who competed in six different age groups.

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Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 09 Issue 18 Wednesday, November 4, 2015



Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian ...read on page D12

Tour de Garage Aids Community Foundation

By Cathy Dausman



Sev and Margie Marsted toured the garage of Hays Englehart (on right).

Photo Andy Scheck

Garage, noun: a building or shed for housing a motor vehicle or vehicles – a humble definition, unless the structure has been reimagined. Lafayette Community Foundation’s Nov. 1 fundraising tour gave Lamorindans an inside look at several unique garage sites. For those who missed out, here is a recap of three revamped

spaces.

The Birdhouse:

Hays Englehart, a self-proclaimed gearhead geek is delighted to discuss his new 700-square-foot custom-built garage, saying it was “built like a fine watch.”

“This is not a shed,” he says emphatically.

ing home and allows Englehart’s wife to park her car inside and off the street.

Englehart chose Stevenson Construction for the four-month project, and praised his neighbors for being “so cool” during the work. Although elegant, the garage is definitely not fragile. “The foundation alone is four-foot-thick concrete,” he explains, with rebar-reinforced piers. The 14-foot ceilings allow clearance for the four-post car lift. Each overhead beam supports a 1,000-pound load. The walls are covered in 5/8 plywood, and every third 2-by-2 stud was upgraded to a 4-by-4.

Englehart says if there is a “big shake,” this is where he wants to be. The site has a sandblast cabinet and parts tank for motor work and 220 amp electrical services. The lighting is all LED. Englehart designed and installed his air compressor system, which he built using PVC schedule 40 pipe. He jokes he had the concrete floor sealed with Epoxy and colored dark red “to hide the blood.”

“Every house I’ve ever owned I’ve wanted a garage like this,” he says. The garage may have been clean on show day, but Englehart cannot wait to get his hands dirty. He plans to pull the T-bird’s engine and transmission immediately.

His granddaughter nicknamed the garage “The Birdhouse,” referencing the 1966 Thunderbird Englehart stores there. He also has a Triumph Bonneville motorcycle, vintage blue and silver Honda mini trail bike and an award-winning 1958 balloon tire Columbia bicycle. This is a second garage, which blends in with the exist-

... continued on page D4

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Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

City	Last reported:	LOWEST AMOUNT:	HIGHEST AMOUNT:
LAFAYETTE	23	\$318,000	\$3,150,000
MORAGA	25	\$305,000	\$1,750,000
ORINDA	11	\$850,000	\$3,300,000

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

- 972 4th Street, \$1,150,000, 3 Bdrms, 1636 SqFt, 1998 YrBlt, 9-11-15;
Previous Sale: \$729,000, 05-28-03
- 1181 Bacon Way, \$745,000, 3 Bdrms, 1154 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 8-31-15
- 2427 Cherry Hills Drive, \$825,000, 4 Bdrms, 1855 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 9-15-15;
Previous Sale: \$67,000, 04-03-87
- 1658 Glen Oak Court, \$1,225,000, 5 Bdrms, 3366 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 9-14-15;
Previous Sale: \$395,000, 06-21-90
- 4038 Happy Valley Road, \$2,095,000, 3 Bdrms, 3127 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 8-31-15
- 4087 Happy Valley Road, \$3,150,000, 5 Bdrms, 3879 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 9-15-15;
Previous Sale: \$1,200,000, 03-18-98
- 127 Marsha Place, \$930,000, 4 Bdrms, 1535 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 9-11-15
- 554 Morecroft Road, \$1,130,000, 4 Bdrms, 1997 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 9-11-15
- 1051 North Thompson Road, \$1,125,000, 3 Bdrms, 1847 SqFt, 1946 YrBlt, 8-31-15;
Previous Sale: \$230,000, 12-07-95
- 722 Old Jonas Hill Road, \$1,900,000, 4 Bdrms, 3353 SqFt, 1969 YrBlt, 9-16-15;
Previous Sale: \$1,250,000, 08-18-04
- 2548 Pebble Beach Loop, \$760,000, 2 Bdrms, 1871 SqFt, 1979 YrBlt, 9-10-15;
Previous Sale: \$699,000, 03-16-07
- 369 Read Drive, \$2,050,000, 5 Bdrms, 3578 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 9-14-15;
Previous Sale: \$40,000, 10-22-76
- 1253 Rose Lane, \$2,823,000, 5 Bdrms, 4826 SqFt, 1992 YrBlt, 9-1-15;
Previous Sale: \$2,500,000, 05-12-05
- 3500 Silver Springs Road, \$1,720,000, 3 Bdrms, 2299 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 9-9-15;
Previous Sale: \$1,599,000, 06-27-12
- 1060 Silverhill Drive, \$1,675,000, 5 Bdrms, 4095 SqFt, 1998 YrBlt, 9-17-15;
Previous Sale: \$1,300,000, 02-07-12
- 3175 Teigland Road, \$318,000, 5 Bdrms, 3583 SqFt, 1992 YrBlt, 9-11-15
- 1265 Upper Happy Valley Road, \$2,850,000, 5 Bdrms, 3343 SqFt, 1936 YrBlt, 9-15-15;
Previous Sale: \$615,000, 04-01-83
- 3620 Walnut Street, \$1,509,000, 3147 SqFt, 1968 YrBlt, 9-18-15;
Previous Sale: \$1,150,000, 06-13-06
- 14 White Oak Drive, \$1,405,000, 4 Bdrms, 2935 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 9-1-15;
Previous Sale: \$556,000, 05-14-91
- 1024 Windsor Drive, \$1,350,000, 4 Bdrms, 2209 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 9-3-15;
Previous Sale: \$1,219,500, 08-22-05
- 1010 Woodbury Road #101, \$1,168,500, 9-18-15
- 1010 Woodbury Road #301, \$1,774,000, 9-16-15
- 1010 Woodbury Road #302, \$1,605,000, 9-15-15

... continued on page D13

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Tour de Garage



When the Engels learned of an 1890s-era bar for sale in Vancouver, Washington, they purchased it and had it shipped to their Lamorinda home.

Photos Cathy Dausman

Vintage Saloon:

It is almost always casino night for Terry and Nancy Engel. Truth be told, the couple agrees they spend more time in their four-car bay than in any other room in the house. And why not? Engel and his wife have transformed the space so convincingly that a newcomer's jaw drops when first stepping inside.

The heavily ornate red and black colors of the drapes and walls, casino carpeting, poker tables and a vintage 1890s full length bar are the show stoppers in a lounge filled with memorabilia from Reno's old Harold's Club.

Terry Engel jokingly calls their space "a den of alcohol, tobacco and gambling."

"It has all the vices, except for the dancing girls," he adds. The solid oak furnishings show their age in a fine patina. Engel made the frosted glass cashier sign, and added a tin ceiling, stained glass skylights, a spittoon, mood lights and wall mirrors to make everything sparkle.

Only the garage door lift tracks betray the room's original design, and yes – even that is fully functional.

The Engels have owned this home for 12 years and began collecting casino artifacts shortly after moving in. It is a decidedly joint effort.

"My wife is as guilty (of expanding the collection) as I am," Engel confides. "A month doesn't go by that we're not adding something."

But this is not a "hands off" collection – it is the place for a weekly gathering of Engel's friends, and almost everything works. Frankie Avalon croons "Venus" from a Wurlitzer jukebox. The roulette wheel ball, when thrown, stops on black-17, and the custom poker tables are equipped with automatic card shufflers. There is usually a sports event airing on television, and the bar is well stocked.

At Christmas poker tables are topped with red and black tablecloths and small trees and become dining space for family and friends. Although the space is equipped with fire sprinklers, smoking is not allowed inside. But Nancy has little worry about spills. "The casino carpeting hides almost everything," she says, adding she even welcomes her brother's dog.

... continued on page D6

... continued from page D1



Engel's trophy business has allowed him to do some of the glass etching on display at their casino garage.



The Wurlitzer jukebox plays 78 LP records. It is stacked with music from Frankie Avalon, Ritchie Valens, the Everly Brothers and Jerry Lee Lewis

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Tour de Garage Aids Community Foundation

... continued from page D4



A collection of counterfeit coin detectors from Doug Scougale's collection. The slots verified proper coin size, the scale showed whether the metal was truly precious metal or a counterfeit filled with lead. Photo Cathy Dausman

Forty-niner Haven:

When it comes to daguerreotypes, Mathew Brady and Butch Cassidy were latecomers compared to Doug Scougale. In the past 15 years he has amassed what he proudly calls "an important collection" of Gold Rush-era photography and gold mining memorabilia, includ-

ing some California gold pieces. His second story man cave, although not a garage, was designed and built two years ago by his wife Leighla Douglah, and includes a bar, pool table, office space and room to display his collections.

Scougale began collecting coins as a child; it grew

to become both his avocation and his business.

With an interest in early Americana and a love of in-depth research he found absent from coin collecting – "You can look up the value in a book; what fun is that?" – Scougale began collecting daguerreotypes.

His collection of more than two dozen daguerreotypes shows men with the proceeds of their labor, some holding a poke of gold or coins traded to the assayer's office for nuggets or dust. He owns pictures of gold miners and gold camps from the Gold Rush era; rare, because it was complicated to lug the heavy photographic equipment to California, let alone drag it up to the back country and shoot subjects on site.

Scougale patiently explains the difference between early photographic methods that include daguerreotypes, ambrotypes and tin types. He proudly displays his toaster-sized pre-1855 era three-quarter plate Allen camera. There are gold scales to inspect, along with counterfeit coin balances, a safe made in San Francisco, stereopticons, a Wells Fargo cargo chest and a collection of reference books with titles like "Wyatt Earp," "The Diary of a Forty-Niner," "Days of Gold" and "Five Years a Dragoon."

It is a beautiful space to behold, whether you are viewing his paintings, his furnishings, or as Scougale says, "the innumerable aspects" of daguerreotype collections.

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Scougale holds a daguerreotype of an advanced scout, called a Royal Dragoon, in his hand. An enlargement of the photo is on the wall behind him. So called "blue dags" had to be hand colored.



The case containing Scougale's Gold Rush-era daguerreotypes was custom built by a friend.



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Feng Shui for Late Fall

Adjustments for the Joy, Descendants and Completion area

By Michele Duffy



Silver pumpkins and orange or "earth" silk flowers activate metal in this Lafayette home. Photos provided

Walking around Lamorinda I am always delighted by the clever fall displays of pumpkins, gourds, and fall wreaths. There is a truly clever witch display in Orinda, with said witch, driving her broom straight into a tree. Sweet. With days getting shorter and with the challenges shorter days present, such as living with less natural light, celebrating with all of our children and family around balances out the fall and winter seasons perfectly.

Understanding space as medicine can help you fill your environment with joyfulness, and create happy and healthy communications and energy or Qi.

The Feng Shui Bagua area of joy, descendants and completion is located from your front entrance to the middle right of your home. This area is ruled by metal, so you should minimize fire and wood elements in this area. Great colors to incorporate into your seasonal

décor include white, gray, silver, gold and metallic, plus the earth element also works strategically well here too, with orange, yellow and brown as accents.

This area is often misunderstood. We activate this area to enhance the childlike fearlessness we need to harness when completing all of the tasks ahead, and the resultant joy we feel when loose ends are buttoned up by our efforts. This is also the area we adjust and activate in homes if children are not doing well for whatever reason, for example, if they are struggling in school or perhaps not stepping into age-appropriate activities.

This metal element bagua area also governs things like conceiving and bearing children, finding fulfillment with a hobby or job, having more creative ideas for every situation, getting unstuck on a project, improving your relationship with children, becoming more comfortable showing the childlike side of your personality,

making "something out of nothing," creating efficiency in a company, or even deterring the aging process.

So in addition to buying those expensive wrinkle creams, try spending a moment in the middle right area of your home and listen to what it is saying to you. What is physically located in this area? Are you able to finish your projects? Are all of your children thriving? A pile of laundry, messy shelves or closets, or a bathroom located in this area can clog or drain positive Qi. Many common energetic culprits are easily adjusted and improved using feng shui or space as medicine.

Are the plants we have placed unknowingly in this area, not doing well or not growing as vibrantly as they might elsewhere? In this metal area, the wood element does not fare well, so minimize it and use instead a single silk orchid.

... continued on page D10



Minimize the wood element in this middle right area to protect plants.



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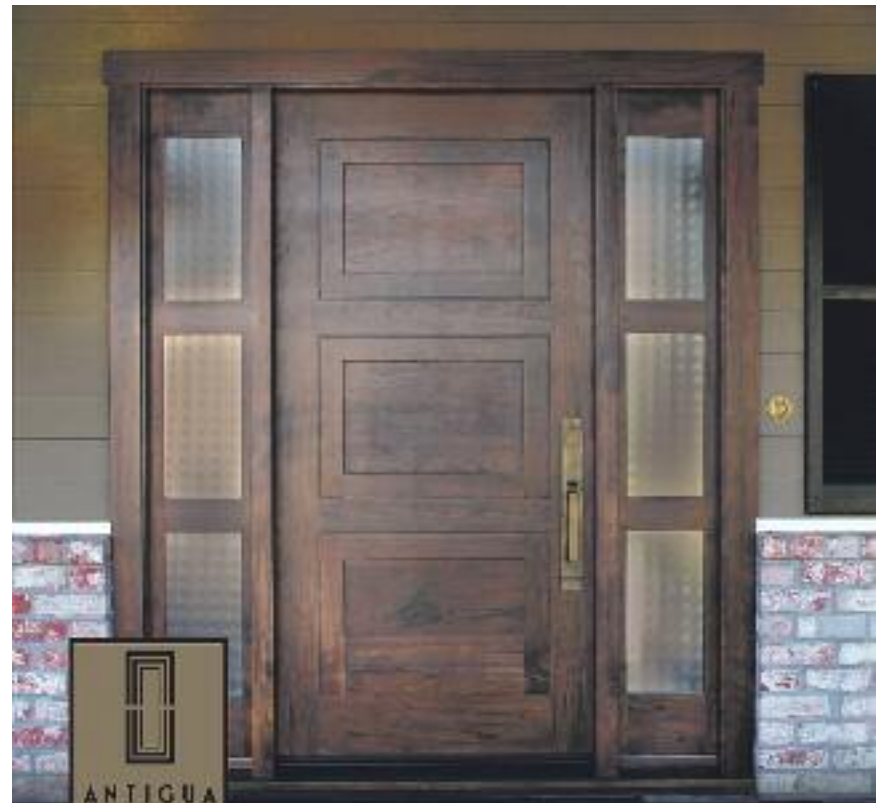


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Feng Shui for Late Fall

... continued from page D8



Children's photos correctly placed hang prominently in the middle right area of this Moraga home.

Save your plants for better energetic areas of your home or office. If there is a fireplace in this metal area, we can adjust this anxiety-producing mix by applying the water element, which controls fire. Mirrors represent the water element, so placing a mirror over a fireplace in this location adjusts this friction nicely.

You can place metal angels depicting one for each of your children in the same middle-right area of your home's yard. Metal yard sculpture is an excellent way to activate and represent each one of your children. See what transpires.

Feng shui philosophy is based on the ancient but still entirely relevant philosophy of the TAO, which states that everything is connected to everything else. Since this bagua area rules children, too, as we prepare for the holiday season, work with intention to create magic with your kids. What delights can you bring into your home that will dazzle and delight in the candlelit glow of holiday days and nights to come?

As we plan all things sparkly for holiday festivities, borrow the Qi of a child by preparing to make new memories and traditions with joy and inquisitiveness. Include lots of metallic in cozy throws for chilly little kids, warm them up with hot cocoa served in ceramic snowmen mugs, and wrap gifts in abundant golds, silvers,

blue metallic and coppers for an auspicious reflection of the wonder of the season.

Making an effort to delight and dazzle will have many lasting returns and will connect generations in timeless ways.

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





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Digging Deep-Gardening with Cynthia Brian

By Cynthia Brian

"We need to teach people that the environment has a direct bearing on our own benefit." – Dalai Lama



It's November and pumpkins are ripe and ready.

Photos Cynthia Brian

As Americans, we love our grass, but as the years of drought drag on, the word L-A-W-N is becoming synonymous with wasteful. Daily in the U.S., over 29 billion gallons of water are used and of that, 30 percent or 8.5 billion gallons of water is devoted to our landscaping, mostly lawns. In arid states, the percentage of landscape water usage soars to over 60 percent. Add to this the amount of chemical fertilizers and weed controllers utilized on grass, and we have a recipe for ecological disaster.

The media bombards us with messages informing us that it is time to tear out the water guzzling, chemically infused turf and replace it with drought-tolerant native landscaping, shrubs, ground covers or gravel. Many water districts offer rebates for each square foot of lawn that is replaced. Yet, as much as I believe in water conservation and fully understand that water is our most precious natural resource, I am not convinced that

ripping out waves of green will solve our water shortage. Protecting our water supply depends critically on changing how we care for our lawns. An alternative solution to the high maintenance, chemical dependency and water waste must be available somewhere.

A lawn has many positive benefits. It generates oxygen, helps control erosion, decreases air temperatures, sequesters carbon dioxide and filters runoff. A lush emerald swath of turf gives our eyes a relaxing break and offers our families a place to play, tumble, picnic, or simply walk barefoot. It makes me sad when I stroll through my garden and my thirsty brown lawn crunches beneath me. Future generations many not enjoy memories of somersaults, cartwheels, croquet or the giggles of running through sprinklers if grass disappears from our yards.

In my quest to find a verdant resolution to the water wars, at the recent National Garden Symposium where I was a key lecturer, I spent hours meeting with plant specialists, growers and landscapers brainstorming the alternatives. I even visited a beautifully designed garden with synthetic turf. As pretty as it looked against the backdrop of the shrubs, it did not solve my desire for natural grass. Imitation lawn is fake, detracting from the splendor of the outdoors. To date, my best solution has been the slow spreading mini clover.

Then, I interviewed entrepreneur and water conservationist, Jackson Madnick, who for years has been researching innovative ways to save energy, improve surface and ground water quality and create healthier lawns that require no fertilizer, dramatically less time, money, water and greenhouse gasses. After 10 years of research and over 10,000 trials with world-renowned scientists, they discovered a mix of seven eco-friendly lawn seeds that reduce the water bill by three-fourths. Once established, the grass only has to be mowed every four to six weeks, it thrives without chemicals, can grow in sun or shade, all the while creating a beautiful organic lawn that stays deep green all year long.

Since fall is the best time to plant a lawn when soil temperatures range from 50-70 degrees, I am experimenting with Jackson's miracle seed called Pearl's Premium, named after his mother who was a life-long protector of Mother Earth. The secret to this seed's success, says Jackson, is its slow growth, boasting a 12- to 14-inch root system as opposed to three or four inches.

The seeds are natural, non-GMO, and all organic.

If the hype sounds too good to be true, hold your horses. Pearl's Premium has already won numerous national and international accolades for innovation, received rave reviews from garden experts, and even Newsweek and Popular Science magazines. As an award-winning environmental advocate and sustainable lawn expert Jackson has been commended by two White Houses, the United Nations, Al Gore, John Glenn and numerous environmental groups for his environmental advocacy. He even lives in a sustainable house that produces 95 percent of its heating, cooling and power from the sun and earth.

Perhaps the best news for homeowners, municipalities, city landscaping commissions, and even golf courses, is that the old lawn does not have to be removed to install the new seeds. Additionally, birds won't eat the seeds.

... continued on page D14



A stone path with grass inserts in a drought garden

Contra Costa Green Award for Lafayette Development



Ward-Young is proud to announce that the firm has been presented with the 2015 Contra Costa Green Building Award for Woodbury, a luxury condominium in Lafayette. The 7th Annual Contra Costa Leadership in Sustainability & Green Building Awards Gala on September 23rd paid tribute to local businesses, government programs, community groups, nonprofits and individuals who demonstrate an outstanding commitment to implementing sustainable practices.

Woodbury is the new residential enclave in the heart of Lafayette that hosts a community of 36 new luxury Garden Flats and 20 Terrace Flats, many with views of Mount Diablo. Woodbury was designed to promote convenience and eco-friendly initiatives. The idea is simple; less time spent caring for a home and more time enjoying the ease and independence of a state-of-the-art new residence in one of California's most popular towns. Located in the heart of Lafayette, and with walking and biking trails right outside the property, it is

a short walk to downtown, public transportation, and local parks.

"We are honored to receive this award! Working with The New Home Company to create eco-friendly spaces that our clients can enjoy and have a better quality of life was one of the goals of this project," said Scott Thomsen, Architect, the project designer at Ward-Young Architects.

Ward-Young Architecture & Planning was established in 1977 for the purpose of providing comprehensive architectural services for projects requiring creative solutions in response to special needs, in environmentally sensitive sites, and where community concerns may influence project viability. Ward-Young has a record of designing a wide variety of successful residential and commercial projects and has been recognized with national and regional awards for design excellence. The firm has studios in Lafayette and Truckee, California. For more information, visit www.wyarch.com.

Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

... continued from page D2

MORAGA

- 114 Alta Mesa Court, \$1,060,000, 4 Bdrms, 2785 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 9-4-15;
Previous Sale: \$962,000, 08-30-13
- 1894 Ascot Drive, \$670,000, 2 Bdrms, 1613 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 9-10-15;
Previous Sale: \$96,500, 06-02-78
- 2045 Ascot Drive #B, \$349,000, 2 Bdrms, 928 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 9-8-15;
Previous Sale: \$200,000, 02-18-11
- 661 Augusta Drive, \$820,000, 3 Bdrms, 2148 SqFt, 1976 YrBlt, 9-18-15;
Previous Sale: \$610,000, 03-20-15
- 1447 Camino Peral, \$690,000, 3 Bdrms, 1444 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 9-17-15;
Previous Sale: \$180,000, 05-04-89
- 32 Corte Aires, \$1,620,000, 4 Bdrms, 3123 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 9-11-15;
Previous Sale: \$499,500, 07-24-92
- 1068 Country Club Drive, \$1,230,000, 4 Bdrms, 2391 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 9-16-15;
Previous Sale: \$445,000, 12-11-96
- 1107 Country Club Drive, \$1,585,000, 4 Bdrms, 2573 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 9-10-15;
Previous Sale: \$335,000, 04-15-87
- 2121 Donald Drive #9, \$305,000, 2 Bdrms, 756 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 8-31-15;
Previous Sale: \$249,000, 12-10-13
- 1 Doral Drive, \$811,000, 2 Bdrms, 1552 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 9-18-15;
Previous Sale: \$600,000, 11-19-04
- 14 Josefa Place, \$810,000, 3 Bdrms, 2095 SqFt, 1984 YrBlt, 9-8-15;
Previous Sale: \$676,000, 04-03-13
- 1920 Joseph Drive, \$1,700,000, 3 Bdrms, 3164 SqFt, 1997 YrBlt, 9-8-15
- 19 Ketelsen Court, \$1,105,000, 3 Bdrms, 3833 SqFt, 1981 YrBlt, 9-16-15;
Previous Sale: \$17,000, 05-29-75
- 1043 Larch Avenue, \$958,000, 3 Bdrms, 1427 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 9-4-15;
Previous Sale: \$45,000, 11-30-72
- 44 Lynwood Place, \$1,000,000, 3 Bdrms, 1883 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 9-2-15;
Previous Sale: \$123,500, - -
- 52 Miramonte Drive, \$650,000, 2 Bdrms, 1762 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 9-2-15;
Previous Sale: \$435,000, 05-30-03
- 111 Miramonte Drive, \$723,000, 2 Bdrms, 1514 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 9-9-15;
Previous Sale: \$230,000, 07-31-97
- 703 Moraga Road, \$750,000, 3 Bdrms, 1381 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 9-11-15

- 728 Moraga Road, \$920,000, 3 Bdrms, 1493 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 9-1-15;
Previous Sale: \$700,000, 08-29-13
- 1140 Sanders Drive, \$1,238,000, 4 Bdrms, 2017 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 9-3-15;
Previous Sale: \$276,000, 06-01-87
- 51 San Pablo Court, \$1,625,000, 5 Bdrms, 2774 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 9-3-15;
Previous Sale: \$575,000, 06-11-96
- 66 Shuey Drive, \$1,750,000, 4 Bdrms, 2880 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 9-15-15;
Previous Sale: \$655,000, 11-05-99
- 1849 St. Andrews Drive, \$1,189,000, 3 Bdrms, 2828 SqFt, 1983 YrBlt, 9-15-15;
Previous Sale: \$1,130,000, 06-23-05
- 1932 St. Andrews Drive, \$885,000, 2 Bdrms, 1552 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 9-17-15;
Previous Sale: \$750,000, 06-15-07
- 427 Stonefield Place, \$1,565,000, 5 Bdrms, 2765 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 9-9-15;
Previous Sale: \$937,000, 06-13-03

ORINDA

- 48 Camino Don Miguel, \$1,190,000, 3 Bdrms, 1842 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 8-31-15;
Previous Sale: \$850,000, 05-15-15
- 208 El Toyonal, \$1,567,000, 4 Bdrms, 2584 SqFt, 1939 YrBlt, 9-10-15;
Previous Sale: \$790,000, 07-21-10
- 2 Hacienda Circle, \$1,412,000, 3 Bdrms, 2206 SqFt, 1941 YrBlt, 9-2-15;
Previous Sale: \$725,000, 07-24-02
- 26 Knickerbocker Lane, \$935,000, 2 Bdrms, 1385 SqFt, 1977 YrBlt, 9-2-15;
Previous Sale: \$680,000, 10-02-12
- 77 Meadow View Road, \$1,300,000, 3 Bdrms, 1790 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 9-3-15;
Previous Sale: \$90,000, 02-09-78
- 136 Moraga Way, \$850,000, 3 Bdrms, 1761 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 9-17-15
- 10 Muth Drive, \$1,300,000, 5 Bdrms, 3146 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 9-3-15;
Previous Sale: \$130,000, - -
- 34 Oak Ridge Lane, \$2,050,000, 4 Bdrms, 4012 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 9-15-15;
Previous Sale: \$625,000, 06-20-89
- 2 Rabble Road, \$2,750,000, 4 Bdrms, 5363 SqFt, 2013 YrBlt, 9-18-15
- 120 Silver Oak Terrace, \$3,300,000, 6 Bdrms, 5300 SqFt, 1987 YrBlt, 9-18-15;
Previous Sale: \$1,330,000, 06-11-98
- 25 Via Floreado, \$1,100,000, 3 Bdrms, 1524 SqFt, 1977 YrBlt, 9-10-15;
Previous Sale: \$750,000, 10-09-02

Here are the steps to planting a Pearl's Premium Lawn:



Large white clover mixed with grass for a lawn

1. Cut your old grass as short as possible.
2. Rake away the clippings.
3. Test the soil to adjust the pH to between 6-7.
4. If soil is compacted, core aerate.
5. Add ½ inch of topsoil to your existing lawn.
6. Spread the seed according to directions.
7. Add a small amount of organic fertilizer.
8. If it doesn't rain, water daily for three or four weeks.
9. The new grass will sprout in seven days and within one month, a beautiful soft, green lawn that requires only one-fourth of the water of a regular lawn will be ready to enjoy.
10. Once established, it can be cut once a month to 3 or 4 inches or it can be left to grow to 6 inches, when it flops over to make a deliciously soft meadow grass.

Pearl's Premium may already be at your favorite garden center and if it is not you can ask them to carry it. You can also buy directly from their website at www.PearlsPremium.com. If you type in the code "Blue Moon" at check out, you will get 20 percent off your purchase plus free shipping.

I will be reporting on my lawn's progress in future articles as finding a waterless grass is at the top of my gardening agenda. You can listen to the radio interview for more in-depth information at <http://www.voiceamerica.com/episode/88059/fall-garden-guide-pearl-premium-exercise>.



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Pearls Premium lawn after three months of planting



A former lawn replaced by a gravel Zen garden

Since I wanted to give everyone a head start on a possible new lawn alternative, the November Garden Guide will be in the next issue. If you are aware of another solution for organic grass without guilt, send me an email at Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com. We want to avoid the turf wars and embrace sustainability and stewardship of nature where people, pets, and our planet are healthy, safe and happily enjoying the green.

Happy Gardening and Happy Growing.



Cynthia with fall colors

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115 Bacon Court For Lease, this beautiful 5bd/3ba, 4092sf home w/views of Mt. Diablo. Updated kitchen w/3 ovens, 2 dishwashers. The house also offers game rm for the kids, ofc, library, & a chicken coop!

\$6,000/month

ORINDA



40 Dos Osos Incredible Orinda, San Pablo Dam, Mt. Diablo views + abundance of nature surrounds this supersized parcel bordering EBMUD land. Once in a lifetime opportunity raw land sale.

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46 Cedar Terrace Excellent 3.93 acre property located at the end of Cedar Terrace, off of Cedar Lane. Views and Privacy! Build a Dream Estate!

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ORINDA



New Listing

135 Crestview Drive Beautiful 1 acre setting for this charming single level 1287sf, 2bd/2ba retreat. Vaulted ceiling, hardwood floors, lovely views. Updated kitchen/baths. 3 car garage. Expansion potential.

\$899,000

ORINDA



42 Valley Drive Fabulous contemporary home in sought after Glorietta area. High ceilings, formal dining & living rm, large bonus rm, gourmet kit. open to fam rm. Walk to Swim/Tennis Club & Glorietta Elem.

\$1,450,000

ORINDA



8 Camino Del Diablo Stunning Contemporary rebuilt in 2002 by MGHG Designs. Impeccable design & architectural finishes. Chef's kitchen w/top of the line appliances, Carrera marble counters, radiant flrs.

\$2,100,000

ORINDA



New Listing

120 Sleepy Hollow Lane Rare opportunity in Sleepy Hollow. Incredible 1.2 acres, (two lots) w/private tennis crts. 4bd/3.5ba home, spacious rms, walls of windows bringing in the natural light. Endless possibilities.

\$2,250,000

MORAGA



New Listing

412 Woodminster Drive Sparkling totally renovated 3bd/2.5ba townhome with attached two car garage. Prime walk-to-town complex. Lovely community pool.

\$649,000

MORAGA



New Listing

250 Rheem Blvd. Updated Kitchen, refinished hardwood floors, new hardscape, fresh paint, 3 bedroom, 2 bath, conveniently located.

\$949,000

LAFAYETTE



1100 Rahara Drive Custom Upper Happy Valley home. 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, hardwood floors, resort-like yard, lush landscaping & beautiful views.

\$2,195,000

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.

\$3,550,000

LAFAYETTE



5 Burton Vista Court Spectacular 7bd/9+ba, 8986sf Estate w/luxury amenities in grand oversized spaces. Premium 2.25ac parcel w/sport court, sun-drenched pool, pavilion w/kitchen, dressing rms & showers.

\$6,595,000

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

\$1,750,000

WALNUT CREEK



New Listing

1501 Canyonwood Court #2 Fabulous Sonoma Wrap w/2bd/2ba + washer/dryer in unit. Cultured marble countertops in kitchen/baths. Elec. chair lift at stairs. Rear veranda enclosed, side veranda open. Views.

\$395,000

WALNUT CREEK



New Listing

1315 Alma Avenue Unit #433 Penthouse Top Floor with Mt. Diablo Views. Light & Bright 1 bdrm with bonus office space + large laundry room with sink. Granite Kitchen w/bar. Close to shopping. Top schools!

\$525,000

WALNUT CREEK



3311 Rossmoor Pkwy #4 A rarity! Fantastic, level in (no steps) Cascade model on golf course w/views of hills & course from most living spaces. Granite kitchen w/breakfast nook, plantation shutters, view deck.

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