

Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 09 Issue 22 Wednesday, December 30, 2015



Feng Shui Reflections for the New Year ...read on page D4

Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for January

By Cynthia Brian

"All I have seen teaches me to trust the creator for all I have not seen." ~ Ralph Waldo Emerson



Birds of Paradise bloom in January, even in the cold.

Photos Cynthia Brian

Happy New Year! How many times have you voiced this well-versed exclamation in the past few days? After the Christmas holidays, we go straight into "New Year" mode with the excitement

of a rebirth. The first of January offers us an opportunity for a do-over, a fresh start, a new beginning, and 2016 is a milestone for several of us at Lamorinda Weekly as we are celebrating nine years of qual-

ity writing and publishing targeted with you in mind. It has been an honor and a privilege for me to bring you information that hopefully inspires, educates, entertains, and empowers you not only in your gardens but also in life. As you set your goals and write resolutions, I encourage you to make this the year that you drink in the beauty of nature and surround yourself with the connections of the earth. No matter what happens to us in our hectic lives, when we dig in the soil, we feel enriched in body, mind and soul. This year my commitment to you is to bring you the latest trends, tips, and topics to save resources while maintaining an outdoor space that will enliven your spirit and offer you sanctuary from the stresses of the world.

... continued on page D6



All American Daylilies are ready to be planted.



**Patti
Camras**

I believe in the art of living well.

2016

Happy New Year



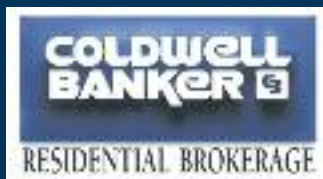
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Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

City	Last reported:	LOWEST AMOUNT:	HIGHEST AMOUNT:
LAFAYETTE	15	\$313,000	\$2,369,000
MORAGA	5	\$555,000	\$1,600,000
ORINDA	7	\$985,000	\$1,575,000

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

894 Dewing Avenue, \$744,000, 3 Bdrms, 1403 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 11-6-15
 1035 Dolores Drive, \$921,000, 3 Bdrms, 1726 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 11-12-15
 4056 Fiora Place, \$1,275,000, 3 Bdrms, 1596 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 11-12-15
 1139 Garden Lane, \$1,478,000, 4 Bdrms, 3520 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 11-13-15
 800 Las Trampas Road, \$1,200,000, 3 Bdrms, 2426 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 11-10-15
 3 Maloyan Lane, \$2,369,000, 5 Bdrms, 3537 SqFt, 1985 YrBlt, 11-12-15
 3146 Maryola Court, \$1,050,000, 3 Bdrms, 2202 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 11-5-15
 874 Mountain View Drive, \$1,210,000, 3 Bdrms, 1916 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 11-5-15
 953 Oak View Circle, \$960,000, 2 Bdrms, 1354 SqFt, 1942 YrBlt, 11-6-15
 3083 Rohrer Drive, \$1,080,000, 3 Bdrms, 1817 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 11-6-15
 3 Shreve Lane, \$945,000, 4 Bdrms, 2031 SqFt, 2013 YrBlt, 11-18-15
 1151 Sierra Vista Way, \$875,000, 4 Bdrms, 2143 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 11-13-15
 867 Solana Drive, \$2,000,000, 4 Bdrms, 2555 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 11-10-15
 1135 Upper Happy Valley Road, \$1,465,000, 4 Bdrms, 2382 SqFt, 1975 YrBlt, 11-18-15
 3344 Victoria Avenue, \$313,000, 4 Bdrms, 1370 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 11-17-15;
 Previous Sale: \$635,000, 09-03-03

MORAGA

2135 Ascot Drive #27, \$575,000, 2 Bdrms, 1550 SqFt, 1969 YrBlt, 11-6-15
 137 Cypress Point Way, \$900,000, 3 Bdrms, 1749 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 11-19-15;
 Previous Sale: \$506,000, 10-20-00
 6 Hanson Court, \$555,000, 1 Bdrms, 1042 SqFt, 1984 YrBlt, 11-5-15
 257 Sandringham Drive, \$1,430,000, 4 Bdrms, 2484 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 11-6-15
 9 Whiting Court, \$1,600,000, 3 Bdrms, 2643 SqFt, 1999 YrBlt, 11-17-15;
 Previous Sale: \$960,000, 04-28-00

ORINDA

3 Charles Hill Place, \$1,575,000, 11-18-15
 50 Don Gabriel Way, \$995,000, 4 Bdrms, 2044 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 11-6-15
 43 Ivy Drive, \$1,020,000, 3 Bdrms, 1523 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 11-18-15
 19 La Campana Road, \$1,350,000, 2 Bdrms, 1825 SqFt, 1935 YrBlt, 11-10-15
 1540 Lost Valley Drive, \$985,000, 3 Bdrms, 1744 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 11-17-15;
 Previous Sale: \$740,000, 01-23-09
 64 Muth Drive, \$1,100,000, 3 Bdrms, 2000 SqFt, 1976 YrBlt, 11-4-15
 34 St. Stephens Drive, \$1,198,000, 4 Bdrms, 2705 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 11-13-15



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Economists are forecasting increased home selling prices in Lamorinda and the East Bay for 2016!

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Based on data provided by the Contra Costa Board of Realtors, single family home prices in Lamorinda increased on average by **9.6 percent** in 2015. The Kurt Piper Group has closed **133 transactions** over the last three years ranking us in the top 1% of all Contra Costa County real estate teams.

The Kurt Piper Group will be there every step of the way during your home sale. Make this the year to sell and contact Kurt Piper at kurt@kurtpipergroup.com or call Kurt at **925.818.8000**.



Kurt Piper

Group Leader and Broker Associate with Pacific Union | Christie's International Real Estate

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Realtors Recommended for a Reason



Feng Shui Recommendations for the Coming New Year

By Michele Duffy



Photo provided

Many of us put festive touches in our homes to ignite the passionate blessings of the holiday season and to help express the love, generosity and gratitude we feel toward others, but you can also use this time to borrow from other traditions to keep focused on what is truly important in life. For example, my family teaches our children about a Yoga concept called Santosha. Why? Santosha means contentment and satisfaction. During this time of year, it is helpful to reflect on what we already have and what we are already blessed with, rather than what we do not have or what

we lack. Focusing on Santosha helps us to spark a conversation with our kids about expectations. If we all remember to reflect on what we already have, it is helpful to everyone.

As we enter the new year, remember to practice self care and make yourself a priority, rather than getting frayed around the edges. Give yourself a break and simplify, simplify, simplify. Life can still be elegantly well lived and less can absolutely be more. Make new traditions that center around being present with those you love. Unplug and relax. You have earned it.

As we put away the trappings of this holiday season, reflect on feng shui concepts from this past year and use space as medicine by infusing your environment with all of the five elements: wood, fire, metal, earth and water.

Clear clutter to make room for all of the new year's blessings. Burn sage and walk clockwise around your home, infusing it with calm in this very emotional time of the year. Arrange furniture in a conversational circle, the ancient symbol of unity and wholeness. Think of colors that empower and work within the feng shui bagua. While red is a popular color during the holiday season, for example, this powerful color can create aggressiveness if over done.

Be sure your front entrance – an important area for welcoming in good Qi or energy – is free of clutter, has abundant light, and includes a circular wreath, signifying unity, on the door. Consider placing a wreath

made of Eucalyptus, which symbolizes prudence. Fill your kitchen with bowls of fruits such as apples, which signify peace, loving, and good relationships in the home, pomegranates, which signify fertility due to their many seeds, or oranges and tangerines, which signify wealth, abundance, good luck, and protection.

May you deepen your intentions to spend time in a meaningful way with your family and friends, and in doing so, bring more festive life to your warm and reflective celebrations. Happy holidays!



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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Happy New Year!



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Cynthia Brian's Garden Guide for January

- **COLLECTION** of your holiday trees is scheduled for the same day as your garbage pickup, but with a separate truck. Cut your tree in half or in pieces and place it in the yard waste cart or call (925) 935-8900 for an on-call recycling. Remove lights, ornaments, tinsel and trimmings. Leave trees at curbside. Cut all trees that are 10 feet or over in half. Do not leave stands. Also, no artificial or flocked trees will be collected as all trees are destined for composting.
- **DEEP ROOT FEED** your crape myrtles, magnolia, and Japanese maple trees if you have not already done this to give them a jump on spring.
- **PLANT** poinsettias outside as color accents. If you have several poinsettias, plant them along a pathway. Most will eventually die, but they will brighten the dark January days.
- **BARE ROOT** season is upon us. Fruit trees, berry bushes, perennials, vines and roses are readily available at your local garden centers and favorite nurseries.
- **TUNE** in to StarStyle® Radio from 4 to 5 p.m. Dec. 30 for a full hour of live garden talk with Britain's premiere rose expert from David Austin Roses. This program offers expert advice on bare root plantings as well as general rose care. Go to [www.StarStyleRadio.net](http://starstyleradio.net) and click on Dec. 30 or go to the direct link at http://starstyleradio.net/Starstyle_Radio/Entries/2015/12/30_Toast_the_New_Year_with_David_Austin_Roses.html.
- **HEAVY PRUNE** your roses any time this month. Remove any dead wood or diseased parts. Do not put these in the compost pile.
- **CUT** a bouquet of narcissus to perfume your bedrooms and baths.
- **SPRAY** an application of sulfur or organic dormant spray on fruit trees to kill overwintering insects.
- **MOVE** living Christmas trees outside. They can be planted in an area where they may grow to their natural height, or keep them in a container for next year.
- **MULCH** your flowerbeds with three inches of organic matter.
- **RAKE** the remaining fallen leaves from lawns to allow your grass to breathe. No need to mow in the winter.
- **CELEBRATE** the 12th day of Christmas on Jan. 6, known as the Epiphany and Three Wise Kings Day, by surprising your children with fresh oranges and tangerines plucked from your tree. It has been a family custom in our household for over a century. You can read my story in my book, *Be the Star You Are!* 99 Gifts for Living, Loving, Laughing, and Learning to Make a Difference available at <http://starstyleradio.net/Store.html>.
- **WRITE** in a garden journal starting this week or chronicle your garden escapades on your computer.
- **ADD** statuary to your landscape to bring art into the garden.
- **DIVIDE** and replant day lilies. All American Daylilies offer many different colors and varieties for all locations.
- **DONATE** at PayPal Giving Fund, which adds 1 percent to every contribution, and get that end of year tax write-off. Everyone wins. <http://bit.ly/1YuK44k>

May peace be with you as you make the best of this season. Welcome to a bright new shiny year, each day anew!



Toadstools sprout in a potted plant during the darkest night hours.



Statuary adds artistic bling to your landscape.



Pistachio berries are food for the birds and décor for your table.

What's trending in the garden world for 2016, you ask?

- Gardeners across the nation are seeking larger plants that repeat bloom.
- Compact size plants for small patios, condominiums, apartments, and town homes are in big demand. These space savers include dwarf and compact varieties for containers.
- Fragrance tops the list for new purchases.
- Water-wise plants will become the norm in drought areas such as ours.
- Low maintenance is a priority as people have busy work and social schedules. Plants that are easy-care without too much pruning or deadheading are popular.
- Edible fruits and vegetables will be part of most households as we all embrace the plant to plate movement in our own kitchens. There really is nothing better than growing our own for freshness, flavors and nutrients.
- Earth matters most. Consumers crave plants that will survive and thrive in local conditions without harming our environment.



Cynthia Brian wishes you a Happy New Year!

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WINTER TIPS

Cleaning and thinning your trees may reduce the potential storm hazards without compromising the shade. In some situations the risk of failure cannot be reduced without removal of branches. Remember that healthy structurally sound trees are generally wind fast even when mature.

Storm damage is usually, but not always, related to structural problems that could have been addressed with proper structural training when the tree was young. Co dominant (two trunks with a narrow angle of attachment) trunks account for many trees failures. The hazard of wind damage is higher on the regrowth of trees that have been "topped".

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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.

\$489,000



ORINDA

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

\$699,000



MORAGA

589 Augusta Drive Fabulous Moraga Country Club. All member benefits. Single level detached home along 1st fairway. 3bd/2.5ba, 2687sf, family room off spacious kitchen. Excellent schools.

\$6,000/month



MORAGA

176 Calle La Mesa Super opportunity in Campolindo. 4 bedroom, 2 bathroom home on .4 acre lot. Peaceful location with flat yard and views. Ready for your inspiration!

\$895,000



LAFAYETTE

1000 Hawthorn Drive Wonderful 3 bed/2 updated bath traditional home in the heart of downtown Lafayette. Remodeled kitchen w/large island, marble/Corian countertops. Hardwood floors. Park-like yard.

\$1,185,000



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



PLEASANT HILL

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

\$1,750,000



WALNUT CREEK

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.

\$365,000



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.

\$599,000



WALNUT CREEK

893 Amberwood Court Beautiful New Construction Single Story Home (one of five) in desirable cul-de-sac neighborhood. 4 Bed/3.5bath, den, chef 's kitchen w/great room. Ideal location.

\$1,550,000



WALNUT CREEK

887 Amberwood Court Beautiful New Construction Single Story Home (one of five) in desirable cul-de-sac neighborhood. 4 Bed/3.5 bath, den, chef 's kitchen w/great room. Corner lot. Ideal location.

\$1,570,000



WALNUT CREEK

31 Hanson Lane Beautiful Single Story New Construction in Walnut Heights nghbrhd. On .43 flat acre, 4 bd/3.5ba, den, chefs kitchen, hdwd flrs. Backs up to Shell Ridge Open Space & elementary school.

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