

LAMORINDA

WEEKLY

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Rachel Lowe, in black, and Diana Katzman, in white, get a workout at a Lamorinda Rugby Club practice May 24.

Photo Andy Scheck

High School Girls' Rugby Team Makes Pitch in Lamorinda

By Nick Marnell

The Lamorinda Rugby Club launched its first high school girls' rugby team May 17 in front of a packed hall at the Wilder Ranch House in Orinda. Club officials, coaches and several players on girls' rugby teams talked about the benefits and excitement of the budding girls' team sport.

"We provide an opportunity for girls to play rugby with our boys from U8 through middle school," said Beth Marks,

volunteer administrator. "At that point it becomes too dangerous for them to continue on playing with high school boys."

And so, with rugby one of the fastest growing team sports in the country, the Lamorinda club started its own girls' high school rugby program, rather than have the girls travel miles away to play.

Diana Katzman, a junior at Campolindo who drives to

Pleasanton to play in a girls' rugby league, said the sport has improved her toughness, self-respect and self confidence.

"Coaches are honest," she said. "There is no sugar-coating. It opened my eyes to see that all of the work I did actually paid off in my improved play." Katzman's Pleasanton Cavaliers will be a Lamorinda club opponent.

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Advertising

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Don't forget Election Day is Tuesday, June 7.

Maram Bata

Broker

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Pending

155 Alice Lane, Orinda

Brimming with architectural interest at every turn, this 4 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths features high ceilings, cook's kitchen, huge living room, dining room with a wall of glass, spacious master with a cozy fireplace, massive decks, and a vegetable garden.

Offered at \$1,750,000

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Hidden Retreat! This charming home is tucked away down a private road, yet minutes from downtown, BART, and award winning Orinda Schools. It is 2611 sq ft, 5 bedrooms, and 3 tastefully updated baths set on .65 acre. Tranquil views of the hills and majestic oak trees from every room.

Offered at \$1,495,000

Lamorinda Realtor's Long Journey Home

By Nick Marnell

Real estate agent Shiva Jafarzadeh will sell you a home, but she wants nothing to do with anything that reminds her of back home.

"I was a rebel," said the Iranian-born Bay Sotheby's International Realty agent, expelled from middle school because she questioned the religious teachings of Islam. Why did the prophet have 40 wives? It didn't make sense to her. School officials had no answers.

She kept it up in high school, questioning why girls should cover up, or not wear makeup. The school thought she was mentally ill, and sent her to therapists and religious leaders. "There is nothing wrong with me!" she insisted.

At the University of Tehran in the mid-1990s she continued to flout authority, publishing flyers about Islam and how it promotes the abuse of women, taking away their rights. Again, expelled.

"Where you are going, is very dangerous," her father warned.

That scared Jafarzadeh. "I was afraid that if I got into too deep of trouble, I would be sent to prison. And the tortures..." So she acceded. She agreed on an arranged marriage — to her cousin.



Shiva Jafarzadeh in her Lafayette office Photo A. Scheck

"It's not like you can walk down the street in Iran and ask a guy to have coffee with you."

The pairing was doomed from the outset. She worked as a travel host for an agency, and her fiancé hated it. He hated that she laughed with other men. He hated that she had an interest in art, and painting, and she told him she was damned well going to work. "You don't talk to your future husband like that," he said. He hated it enough that he hit her.

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Local Community Court Will Help First-time Offenders

By Sophie Braccini

Some low-level crimes in Lamorinda will soon be diverted from the Contra Costa County criminal courts and managed through a new Community Court system. This agreement with the District Attorney's Office is set to ease congestion in the county judicial system, and as of recently, the three local cities are now set up to move forward.

A Community Court provides a voluntary non-criminal alternative for first-time offenders of minor crimes. Hearings are conducted by trained, licensed attorneys acting as hearing officers. They may issue a directive including a fine, community service or counseling. When the participant completes the directive, the case is discharged. The program is voluntary and the of-

fender — as well as the victim, if there is one — can opt out at any time during the process.

Moraga interim Town Manager Bob Priebe said that there are about 40 cases a year in Moraga for this type of proceeding. "People can make mistakes, and that can follow them for a long time," said Priebe. "This process gives the person a chance to not have a conviction on their record." He gave the example of a Saint Mary's College student arrested while drunk, a conviction that could hurt that student going on to graduate school. Through the Community Court system, the suspect could be ordered to do community service, and nothing would show up on future records.

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