

Letters to the Editor

Need More Positive Stories on Islam and Muslims

Dear Editor,
I just finished reading the story on Shiva Jafarzadeh and was moved by her experience. I was appalled at the way she was treated in Iran and glad that she has found a happy life here in Moraga.

As a Moraga resident myself for over 12 years, and also a devout Muslim, I had mixed feelings about some of the comments about Islam, as they only reinforce the negative stereotypes that are so prevalent, especially in the political arena. We have seen these stereotypes only further Islamophobic senti-

ments and even lead to hate crimes. I cringe to think that something like that could happen in our peaceful town of Moraga, where I feel very fortunate to live.

I would hope to see some more positive stories about Islam and Muslims in the Lamorinda Weekly in the future.

Sarah Alves-Hyde
Moraga

Article on Jafarzadeh Misleading

Dear Editor,
The story on Shiva Jafarzadeh was a compelling personal piece. However, I think it should have been made

clear that this was her experience at that time and in that place.

For instance, the statement about the supposed 40 wives of Muhammad, which appeared early in the story, made it seem as if all Muslims believe that. They certainly do not! At this time many wrong ideas about Islam are circulating & it is harmful to those who practice the religion.

I am an adult convert to Islam; I was raised as a Lutheran. I am living in beautiful Moraga now and I belong to three Interfaith Groups. I have met many wonderful Christian and Jewish men and women from

the Lamorinda area. We enjoy each other's company and have many meaningful conversations about our faiths. One of the major reasons for groups like this to exist is to help dispel the myths and stereotypes about religion.

I would appreciate the local newspaper helping us in our endeavors to promote understanding among people. We would like to offer some articles on interfaith activities in our local community.

Kathryn Santana
Moraga

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

Don't Bee Afraid: Concord Bees Not Africanized

Submitted by Janet Kaidantzis



mento, CA.

Both testing facilities used mitotyping analysis to determine the maternal origin of the colony. They found that the mitotype of the bee specimens tested showed European Honey Bee descent and made an overall assessment that the bees were European Honey Bees.

"The overly defensive behavior of the Concord bees was an isolated incident," says MDBA president Judy Weatherly. "We are relieved that no evidence of the Africanized Honey Bee was found in the lab tests. We want people in the Bay Area to know that honeybees are not a threat to public safety. Rather, they continue to need our protection."

The swarm season, a natural phenomenon when masses of honeybees leave their old hives in search of a new home, is drawing to a close. Right now, honeybees are out during the day foraging for nectar and pollen, a normal activity that continues until wintertime.

For information about the MDBA, go to www.diablobees.org

For information about honeybees, go to www.beeinformed.org.

Test results requested by the Mt. Diablo Beekeepers Association (MDBA) to determine the type of bees involved in the May 13 Concord bee incident showed no evidence of Africanized Honey Bee ancestry. The bees were identified as European Honey Bees.

Volunteers with the Mt. Diablo Beekeepers Association collected specimens of the dead bees on Hitchcock Road in Concord and sent them to two separate testing facilities:

North Carolina State University, Queen and Disease Clinic, in Raleigh, NC; and

The California Department of Food and Agriculture in Sacra-

Lafayette

Deer Hill

According to City Attorney Mala Subramanian, "The city refused to place Save Lafayette's referendum on the basis that the referendum, if successful, would result in an illegal inconsistency between the city's restored zoning scheme (Administrative/Professional Office zoning) and the city's General Plan designation for the Homes at Deer Hill Project parcel (Low Density Single Family Residential)."

"We hope to prevail," said Griffiths, optimistic that the judge will rescind the city's decision, mitigate the project or put it to a vote for residents to decide. He sees numerous conflicts of interest and calls the process rife with "smoke and mirrors."

The matter will be heard by Judge George Spanos at 9 a.m. in Contra Costa Superior Court in Martinez on June 24 and is open to the public.

The opposite is true of activist Sonja Trauss, head of San Francisco Bay Area Renters Federation, more commonly known as SF BARF. Her group would like to see more housing throughout the San Francisco Bay Area. SF BARF's motto: YIMBY – Yes in My Backyard, in order to have an increase in the Bay Area's housing supply.

"This is a microcosm of the housing problem" said Trauss of the Lafayette legal action. "I'm looking forward to it, I'd love for people to come (to the hearing)." She's hoping to organize an event in the future called "Why are we suing you?" to focus on the importance of adequate housing along with questions and answers.

They are suing the wrong suburb, said City Manager Ste-

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ven Falk in an essay that was published in the online Weekly Roundup and picked up by a number of newspapers. He argued that when it comes to delivering downtown housing, Lafayette is among the most progressive suburbs in the Bay Area with a General Plan that encourages multi-family residential units downtown, and requires developers of large projects to make 15 to 20 percent of their units affordable to people with low and moderate incomes. What's more, the city spent \$5 million over the last ten years on subsidized and affordable housing — one example being Eden Housing's Belle Terre project on Mt. Diablo Blvd., which has 45 units for low income senior citizens.

"SF BARF claims that the city violated the California Housing Accountability Act by choosing to develop the Homes at Deer Hill Project in lieu of the Terraces of Lafayette Apartment Project, a 315-unit apartment complex at the Deer Hill Road site," said Subramanian.

She explains that the "city maintains that the act does not apply because the city never formally disapproved the Terraces of Lafayette Apartment Project nor approved the Deer Hill Project on the condition of lower density, either of which is necessary to constitute a violation of the act."

Lawyers representing the developer, O'Brien Homes and land owner Anna Maria Detmer, along with attorneys representing the city of Lafayette, have filed a joint motion to dismiss this action. Residents can attend this hearing at 9 a.m. on June 29 before Judge Judith Craddick in Contra Costa Superior Court, Martinez.

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Open Invitation – June 23



Mix and Mingle!

Thursday, June 23
4:30 to 7:00 p.m.

RSVPs are encouraged.
925-779-7264 or email
Lombaa2@sutterhealth.org

Sutter Urgent Care
12 Camino Encinas, Orinda

Sutter Health and the Orinda Chamber of Commerce invite you to join us for appetizers and music as we celebrate the opening of our newest Urgent Care clinic in Orinda. Tour our facility and meet the team that will provide the care you and your family need every day of the year.

