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Incoming freshman Brandon Gentry (striped shirt) and his mother Jeanine attend Cougar Day at Campolino High School just before the start of the 2016-2017 academic year. Photo Cathy Dausman

Back to Pencils, Back to Books

By Cathy Dausman

Summer vacation in Lamorinda has disappeared quicker than a Popsicle on a hot sidewalk. While the calendar still says August, school districts are calling their kids back to class. This return might be even slightly more painful for new students if their im-

munizations are not up to date. In a new law, California schools are now required to collect those records. See www.shotsforschool.org for details.

The school bell rang for Lafayette and Moraga students and Miramonte students Aug. 22. Joaquin Moraga

Intermediate School attendees caught a slight break as their start time was readjusted to a more sleep-friendly 8:30 a.m. At the end of the day, Moraga public school third graders get a break with an early dismissal schedule through Sept. 9. ... continued on page A14

Advertising

LAMORINDA WEEKLY

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New Owners Ready to Resurrect Park Theater

By Cathy Tyson



From left, the new owners of the Park Theater, Cathy Abbott and Dr. Alex McDonald. Fred Abbott, the third owner, was out of town. Photo provided

A trio of partners are excited to bring new life to the historic Park Theater in Lafayette, which has been closed for more than a decade.

Armed with a business plan and a sense of urgency after learning that a developer was interested in the property, local residents Cathy and Fred Abbott, along with partner Alex McDonald, recently signed papers to purchase the theater property that comes with a small, narrow rectangular parking area in the rear.

Cathy Abbot said she "figured it was now or never." If all goes according to plan, escrow should close in early 2017. Shortly afterward, with the help of additional investors, the group hopes to begin an estimated \$6 million of renovations.

Their plan is for adaptive re-use of the 64-year-old building to feature movies, performances, and music by partnering with a variety of local entities for everything from comedy shows, educational lectures, independent films and more.

The partners envision a beautiful structure that celebrates the art deco streamline moderne style, possibly including a living wall of plants on an upstairs rooftop deck and bar that would serve beer on tap and locally sourced wine.

Grassroots efforts in the past to reopen the beloved landmark were never able to make a go of it, due to a variety of factors: the difficulty in making enough money to support the business with one screen in the age of the multiplex, significant structural issues, non-handicap accessible bathrooms, and of course parking constraints that don't meet the current city code. Many residents

had high hopes when rumors of Fenton's Creamery taking over swirled in 2011, but they never materialized.

The trio are well aware of the significant amount of investment it will take to allow the building to be open for business after a walk-through with a structural engineer.

"Alex, Fred and I want to create something that is kid- and senior-friendly, a place where everyone feels welcome," Cathy Abbott said.

"We think it would be great to have a Battle of the Bands for the local high schools, a place for nonprofit benefits and private rentals," said the Acalanes High School graduate, who went on to get an MBA from UC Berkeley. ... continued on page A12

General Election — Important Voter Dates

Military Overseas voter ballots mailed	Sept. 23
Sample Ballot mailing	Approx. Sept. 29
Vote-by-Mail mailing	Oct. 10
Registration deadline	Oct. 24
Supplemental Sample Ballot mailed	Oct. 27
Last day to request Vote-by-Mail ballot	Nov. 1
Last day to return or mail Vote-by-Mail ballot	Nov. 8
Election Day	Nov. 8

Civic News A1-A16

Lafayette settles with Wights on home. — page A2

Fire District A8

Fire season is warming up in the East Bay. — page A8

Life in Lamorinda B1-B8

It's time again for the annual California Independent Film Festival. — page B1



Sports C1-C4

A new season means new hopes for local football teams. — page C1



Our Homes D1-D16

Tips for managing a so-called "empty nest." — page D1





Public Meetings

City Council

Monday, Sept. 12, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Planning Commission

Monday, Sept. 6 p.m. cancelled
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Design Review

Monday, Sept. 12, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Arts & Science Discovery Center,
3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

School Board Meetings

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

Lafayette School District

Wednesday, Sept. 14, 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 July 31 to Aug. 6

Alarms	48
911 Calls (incl hang-ups)	4
Noise complaints	3
Traffic stops	69
Suspicious Circumstances	12
Suspicious Subjects	12
Suspicious Vehicles	17

Animal Cruelty

Mt. Diablo Blvd/Mountainview Dr.

Burglary, Auto

500 block Silverado Dr. (2)
3300 block Sweet Dr.
3200 block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Burglary, Commercial

1000 block Oak Hill Rd.
3400 block School St.

Burglary, Residential

1200 block Bacon Way
700 block Toffelmire

Civil Problem

3500 block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
800 block Solana Dr.

Dispute, Verbal

3500 block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Disturbance

3400 block School St.
500 block Merriewood
10 block Diablo Oaks Way

DUI

Quandt Rd./Springhill Rd.
3300 block Betty Ln.

Harassment

900 block Foye Dr.

Indecent Exposure

900 block Dewing Ave.

Intoxicated Subject

Driftwood Dr./St. Mary's Rd.

Missing adult

10 block Westminster Place

Panhandling

3500 block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Police/Fire/EMS response

3300 block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
3600 block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
S Lucille Ln./St Mary's Rd.

Public Nuisance

Camino Diablo/El Curtola

Promiscuous Shooting

Merriewood Dr./Indian Way

Reckless Driving

Las Huertas/St. Mary's Rd.
St Mary's Rd./Glenside Dr.

Restraining Order violation

600 block Huntleigh Dr.

Recovery stolen vehicle

30 block Circle Creek Ct.

Shoplifting

Safeway

Theft, Petty

1000 block Oak Hill Rd.
3300 block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
3500 block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

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City Agrees to Controversial Wight Home Settlement

By Cathy Tyson



Photo Cathy Tyson

To the dismay of neighbors, the city of Lafayette recently approved a \$204,643 settlement in order to avoid future, potentially much more costly litigation over a proposed home on Monticello Road, effectively giving property owners Linda and Steven Wight the green light to continue with their controversial home.

As their part of the settlement, the Wights agreed to dismiss all other aspects of the suit, but still need to comply with the 62 conditions of approval hammered out during the multiyear civic review process.

This is the latest action on the

drawn-out saga that started with an application to build the home in 2011, and was denied by the city council in 2015.

When asked how the amount was decided, city attorney Mala Subramanian said it was a number that the city and the Wights could agree upon. "If it was a lower number we would be proceeding with litigation." She cautioned that less than 20 percent of appeals are successful, and recommended taking the settlement.

"It's the fiscally prudent action to take in light of the current circumstances," the city attorney said. The city has 30 days to make

the payment, which includes the \$200,000 settlement and \$4,643 in costs.

The three city council members in attendance unanimously agreed with Subramanian, who recommended settling the suit with no admission of liability, and all the conditions of approval — including concessions from the property owners that include an open space easement and construction management plan — rather than exposing the city to substantial financial risk that could cost over a million dollars.

This move was spurred by a decision from Judge Craddick of Contra Costa Superior Court on June 2 — who reversed her original tentative ruling — in favor of the property owners, finding that the city's decision to deny their building application was not supported by substantial evidence.

The city council denied a Phase II permit on the 9,638-square-foot home with a 365-foot garden room on a prominent parcel due to excessive grading, noncompliance with design guidelines, concern over health hazards from the construction process, and more. When Phase II was denied, the property owners said they intended to sue.

Neighbors had come together to oppose the project over the years, chipping in for their own legal representation. They voiced their disapproval of the settlement at the Aug. 8 city council meeting. "You

did the right thing in denying the project — don't back down now," said one gentleman, while others called the Wights "bullies" and commented that this settlement just invites more litigation. One young girl who lives just down the hill from the project urged the council to reconsider due to her asthma condition and pollution concerns.

David Bowie, the attorney representing the Wights, was clear that his clients were willing to pursue this matter as far as it would take, but also recognized that this is not an easy decision for the council to make.

Each of the three council members in attendance had different comments about the matter. Mayor Mark Mitchell said he voted against the project, and asked the city attorney why he should now vote in favor of the settlement. She explained that this option minimized the risk of significant expense to the city.

Concerned about the neighborhood, council member Mike Anderson said the impact of development is not something he takes lightly, and that an elaborate set of conditions to reduce the impact of the home will remain in place.

Council member Brandt Andersson called the judge's decision a "game changer" and sees a very narrow path to improve on the current settlement agreement that is just not worth the risk.

Lafayette City Elections Offer No Contest

While Lafayette residents may already be tiring of presidential politics, local races on the Nov. 8 ballot were just finalized. According to the Contra Costa County Elections Division, three of the five seats on the non-partisan, non-paid, city council are up for grabs, as Traci Reilly opted not to run again. The candidates will be appointed in lieu of an election.

Incumbents running:

Mark Mitchell
Michael Anderson

Other candidates:

Cameron "Cam" Burks
—C. Tyson.

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

Theft, ID

1000 block Leland Dr.
3300 block Kim Rd.

Threats

10 block Toledo Ct.
600 block Huntleigh Dr.

Trespass

10 block Diablo Oaks Way
1100 block Via Media

Unwanted Guest

3500 block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Vandalism

3500 block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Warrant

details n/a (2)

New Roundabout



The proposed roundabout project at the intersection of Pleasant Hill Road and Olympic Blvd. Image provide Lafayette's very first roundabout is under construction at the Pleasant Hill Road and Olympic Boulevard intersection. The roundabout will address congestion and delays, city officials decided, and will smooth traffic flow and improve safety. The project started in mid-July and is slated to be complete in mid-February, 2017. At the moment, scores of orange cones are redirecting traffic around lane closures. Construction is scheduled from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on week- days, but drivers should expect delays, especially during peak times. There will be at least one Saturday closure of the entire intersection for the final paving. Cost of the project is estimated to be approximately \$1.77 million. — C. Tyson

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Pipeline Work Inches Down Mt. Diablo Blvd.



A 30-inch pipe is currently being installed on Mt. Diablo Boulevard. Photos courtesy EBMUD

Wondering what's up with the array of orange cones and the giant hole in the ground on the east end of Lafayette? It will be a shiny new water pumping plant, and water pipelines that will serve Lafayette, Pleasant Hill and Walnut Creek, replacing the existing Diablo Vista Pumping Plant near Ace Hardware that was built in 1956.

water source that is engineered to withstand earthquakes and has the capacity to deliver 16 million gallons of water per day.

The cone conga line will be inching down Mt. Diablo Boulevard through early October, and will shift in the coming weeks as lateral pipelines are installed going across the boulevard to connect with the pumping plant. Construction on the project is slated to be complete in September 2017. — C. Tyson

While traffic slowdowns are to be expected as EBMUD crews install 30-inch in diameter water lines, residents will ultimately appreciate having a reliable clean



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Moraga

Public Meetings

City Council

Wednesday, Aug. 24, 7 p.m.
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

Planning Commission

Monday, Aug. 29, 7 p.m. *Special Meeting*
Tuesday, Sept. 6, 7 p.m.
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

Design Review

Monday, Sept. 12, 7 p.m.
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

School Board Meetings

Moraga School District
Tuesday, Sept. 13, 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 Report



Restraining order violated 8/03/16:

Police caught up with a person who had a restraining order to stay away from a residence on Williams Drive – at the home. The subject was then arrested for disobeying a court order and taken to the Martinez jail.

Attempted identity theft 8/3/16:

A Moraga Road resident was advised by her son that someone had changed the address associated with their joint Wells Fargo bank accounts. Someone had attempted to fraudulently create a PayPal account, as well as Nordstrom and Amazon accounts using the reporting person's personal financial information, with a new address. No mention in the police report if the fraudster was arrested, but presumably he or she was able to be tracked using the address given to start up the unauthorized accounts.

Glass door damaged 8/02/16:

The sliding glass door of a Newberry Place home was impaired in some unspecified way. With no glass ceilings in the neighborhood, was the suspected vandal inspired by presidential politics and shattered the glass door? No suspects seen or heard when the mysterious damage occurred.

Traffic accident 8/02/16:

A non-injury collision occurred at 8 a.m. on Rheem Boulevard near Scofield between a motorcycle and a passenger vehicle. The car attempted to make a U-turn and apparently didn't see the biker. Both vehicles were able to be driven away.

Stolen car 8/06/16:

At 2 p.m. the owner of a car parked near the Rheem Theater on Park Street reported that it was stolen approximately four hours earlier. Cops conducted interviews with the reported owner and the vehicle was entered into the police database. The investigation is on-going, although there are no suspects or leads at this time.

Other crimes occurring in Moraga from Aug. 2 through Aug. 9:

Stolen license plate – School Street
False alarm – Del Rio Court,
Larch Avenue, Tharp Drive,
Camino Ricardo
Lost property – undisclosed location

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Town Faces Delays in Sinkhole Repair

By Sophie Braccini

Protecting the sinkhole site during winter and waiting for next year to start the repairs is an increasingly likely scenario for Moraga.

As new administrative requirements are imposed upon the town by Caltrans, the deadline to award a repair contract in time to complete the work before the rainy season has become an ever more elusive target. Fortunately, town staff has prepared a winterization plan.

During an additional council meeting on Aug. 10, public works director Edric Kwan recounted that a few days prior Caltrans had added a new administrative requirement. As the town repairs the sinkhole, it has to take into account the infrastructure that utility agencies such as PG&E or EBMUD had running through the hole that formed last March. The town has to "protect in place" this infrastructure as it

repairs the underlying cause for the hole: the 90-foot culvert that failed. Now and for the first time, Caltrans is requiring Moraga to bill the agencies to protect in place and sign with them agreements.

"The Feds are interested in recouping any funds," says Kwan, "especially with the utility."

Caltrans is managing the federal aid that is given to the town. Moraga cannot proceed with repairs until it gets all the approval required if it wants to be reimbursed.

Kwan said that Caltrans had known since the beginning that utility companies were involved in the situation and were going to be protected in place, but that until Tuesday, Aug. 9, had not informed town staff of the requirement to sign utility agreements.

"Unfortunately that will take time," said Kwan, as utilities have to go to their respective boards for

approval of the agreements.

Kwan reminded the council the repair contracts had to be awarded by Aug. 24 in order to have time to repair the culvert before the rainy season. He added that the alternative is for the council to approve a contract to just protect the site for the rainy season at their Sept. 14 meeting.

Kwan does not want the town to suffer financially from the delay and is working with Caltrans to have federal funding cover the entirety of the winterization cost. When federal funds were approved for the town of Moraga, the rule was that the emergency repairs that were conducted at the time of the incident, last March, would be completely reimbursed to the town, while the rehabilitation of the intersection would require the town to come up with matching funds at 11.47 percent. The town has 180

days to do work that can be considered an emergency. Kwan is looking for contractors able to grout the offsets and the cracks of the culvert quickly, before Sept. 8. The estimated cost of the winterization of the hole and culvert is between \$150,000 and \$200,000.

Kwan said he believes that real repairs will not be able to be started before next year, but he reassured the council that the two lanes currently opened would remain accessible to drivers over the winter.

Mayor Mike Metcalf noted that the town needs the cooperation of Caltrans. Kwan confirmed that Caltrans has worked expeditiously with the town and that getting this far within a month (since the town was approved for federal reimbursement) was quite a feat. He added that it is not uncommon for a project such as this one to take two years to be completed.

Residents Want More Quality Restaurants at Rheem Center

By Sophie Braccini



Jay Kerner, owner of the Rheem Center. Photo A. Scheck

Moragans like to eat out, and they want more options close to home.

That was one of the main findings in a communitywide survey held in the wake of the Moraga economic symposium held at the beginning of the year. The Moraga Chamber of Commerce proposed the survey, including Saint Mary's students, to support the new owner of the Rheem Shopping center's research to revitalize the centrally located mall.

The survey received many responses and the results will be discussed at the city council meeting Aug. 24, with property owner Jay Kerner of U.S. Realty Partners divulging his plans. He said he was enthusiastic to see that residents are very much interested in revitalization and have definite preferences.

"The chamber approached us with the idea (of a survey) and we thought it was fantastic," Kerner said, adding that he had been very impressed at how the chamber of commerce put together the ideas and resources to build the survey, including his team's inputs.

Over 1,000 people responded to the survey, another fact that impressed Kerner, especially since it took 20 minutes to complete. He noted that it shows how important the topic is to residents.

The survey results indicate, "By far – the most comments (write-in) and selections for businesses were

for restaurants. It is clear that most all respondents want more and (better) quality restaurants. Services ranked less important among current businesses or future businesses." The general population wants sit-down, better quality restaurants, adding that there are enough fast foods in town.

Almost 80 percent of all Moragans eat out over four times per month, with 23 percent eating out more than 10 times per month.

The Saint Mary's students responded to a separate survey. They too indicated that eating out was their favorite thing to do at the Rheem Center and asked for more diversity. They listed quality before price as the most important feature for a restaurant. Although many selected fast food among their most frequented eateries, many preferred adult, sit-down, healthy and gourmet, or cafés as their preferences.

According to the survey, both the general public and students wanted more healthy local food (86 percent), a Mexican restaurant (89 percent on question of ethnic types of restaurants), a brewery, pub or sports bar-type restaurant (79 percent), and a bakery (82 percent).

Kerner said that the results validate his team's thinking, and will keep them focused on what is important to the community.

"What made us happy is that what we felt would be good ideas seem to ring true to the community and that we are on the right track," he said. He said he will give more details at the council meeting where he hopes to see a good community turn out. He feels confident that his company will attract the right businesses to the center.

In the survey, residents were also asked questions about the aesthetics and other functions of the Rheem. Many respondents see it as a possible community gathering place and wanted aesthetic im-

provements.

Kerner is working on this aspect as well. U.S. Realty Partners hired Precision Property Measurement and within two to three months measured all of the buildings, and executed a CAD drawing of the property. Kerner owns the lion's share of the center, from CVS all the way around to Amoroma, and the Starbucks and Taco Bell

stand-alone buildings. U.S. Realty Partners has been working with an architect, proposing design ideas and potential upgrades, as well as landscaping and site design.

"We will want to get feedback from the community," adds Kerner, who promises additional community outreach when the plans are in final form.

GOLF OR TENNIS ANYONE?



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Clarification

In our last issue an article on businesses in Moraga stated, "The Burger King at the Rheem Center is being replaced by Starbucks, which owners hope will include a drive-through. The project requires a use permit amendment and design review for exterior changes." Jay Kerner, who owns the building, told the Lamorinda Weekly later that his company was exploring relocating the Starbucks, but was just in preliminary planning. Nothing is set in stone and his desire is to find the right ideas that would work well with the community.



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Four to Vie for Three Town Council Seats

With Mayor Mike Metcalf and Phil Arth opting not to run for reelection, there is a fairly open field for the three spots coming up for election on the Moraga Town Council this November.

Incumbent Running:
Roger Wykle

Other Candidates:
Graig Crossley
Jeanette Fritzky
Kymberleigh Korpus

Parks Commission Recommends Commons for All Access Park That Rotary Will Gift to the Town

By Sophie Braccini

Many different locations have been considered since the Moraga Rotary offered to gift the town of Moraga with an all-access playground. Last month, the town council asked the parks and recreation department to study placing the playground at the Moraga Commons Park.

Now, the parks and recreation commissioners have recommended locating the structure close to the tot lot at the Commons. The town council is expected to make the final decision Aug. 24 so the

Rotary can start its fundraising campaign and gift the town with this feature for kids of all abilities.

The Moraga Rotary wants to mark its 50th anniversary with giving to the town a playground for all children, including those who have various disabilities. The idea is that all children should have the opportunity to play together and experience this carefree time. The park proposed by the Rotary has been designed to appeal and be adapted to all,

whether or not they suffer a disability.

The first location proposed was at Rancho Laguna Park where flat space is available. But the town council decided on July 13 that since the mission of the new play structure is inclusion, the new equipment should be located in a central part of town where all kids go. Parks and Recreation Director Jay Ingram was tasked with gathering information to determine the possibilities at the Commons and evaluate how

much it would cost to nestle the new 5,500-square-foot of play equipment among the existing two playgrounds.

At the July 13 meeting, the council members had unanimously supported the idea that developers' fees that the town has collected could be used by the town to support the additional work that would be needed to locate the all-access equipment at the Commons. The council members had been given an estimate in the \$100,000 range. ... continued on page A14

And The New Name Is...

By Sophie Braccini

West Commons. That is the new name the parks and recreation commissioners announced for the open space pocket park located west of Moraga Commons, between Moraga Road and the new Camino Ricardo development.

Several meetings have been held on the topic. The commission started with 20 names that were narrowed down to four. These four were subject of a town online survey where some 220 residents participated.

West Commons came in first with 98 votes, followed by Dos

Arroyos with 80 votes.

The new 1.4-acre park will be accessible through the development, and via a bridge on Moraga Road. The concept is that of a passive park, with open meadow, trails and interpretative signs, showing local natural habitats. It could possibly be an educational resource for schools.

The town does not have a set policy to name parks. The commission decided that their recommendation would be sent to the town council for approval as a consent item in September.



Image provided

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2284 Parrish Drive, Walnut Creek

Coming Soon!



This 4-bedroom, 2-bath home has 1888sf, all on one level, and sits on nearly a quarter acre lot. Located in desirable Colony Park, it is next to Bancroft Elementary School. **Offered at \$750,000.** Call Jim Colhoun at 925.200.2795 for an early tour.

CalBRE#01029160

3193 Wayside Plaza #28, Pleasant Hill

Coming Soon!



Stylish 2 BR/2 BA townhouse. Walk to PH BART and Starbucks from this light & bright two-level condominium! Large living room with fireplace, cathedral ceilings. New wood floors & carpeting. Updated bathrooms. Loft space. Secure gated parking & pool. Call Larry Jacobs, 925.788.9362, or Kress Hauri, 925.899.5739, for more information.

CalBRE#01465617/#01495118

319 Pheasant Run, Blackhawk



Distinctive contemporary home with 5 BR, 2 offices, bonus room and 7 baths. Highest attention to detail, fine stonework and woodwork. Features include designer lighting, 9-zone audio system, media room, 2nd dining area, pebble pool & greenhouse. Backs to Fall Golf Course. **Offered at \$2,750,000 by Larry Jacobs, 925.788.9362, and Kress Hauri, 925.899.5739**

CalBRE#01465617/#01495118

40 Merrill Circle South, Moraga

Price Reduced



Elegant and recently updated Sanders Ranch home offers security and privacy on Moraga's top street. New kitchen appliances, counters and remodeled master bath make this home move-in ready. Peaceful views across the valley and spacious decks with spa for entertaining and outdoor living. **Offered at \$1,495,000 by Jim Colhoun, 925.200.2795.**

CalBRE#01029160

3143 Gloria Terrace, Lafayette

Price Reduced



Private half-acre setting with updated home featuring 4 bedrooms, library and office tower. Gleaming hardwood floors and modern kitchen with granite counters and stainless appliances. Backyard features lovely setting with a pool/spa and great views. Top-rated Lafayette schools and quick access to shopping or BART. **Offered at \$1,350,000 by Jim Colhoun, 925.200.2795.**

CalBRE#01029160

10 Greenwood Court, Martinez

Pending Sale









Beautiful, light-filled home, with soaring ceilings in living room and dining area. Great flow to family room that opens to kitchen and backyard. Bedroom and full bath downstairs great for office, au-pair, in-law. Tranquil back yard with spa and beautiful oak tree. Quiet cul-de-sac location. **Offered at \$750,000 by Regina Englehart, 925.876.9076**

CalBRE# 01308462

TIP OF THE WEEK

As summer comes to an end and kids go back to school, it's a good time to embark on home projects, such as painting, updating hardware and lighting, refreshing a back splash, without as many distractions. We have resources for many local service providers and would be happy to share them with you. And remember to clean your gutters, check your chimney, reverse your ceiling fans when it gets colder!

Meet our Featured Agents ...

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Orinda

Public Meetings

City Council

Tuesday, Sept. 6, 7 p.m.
Library Auditorium, Orinda Library
26 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563

Planning Commission

Tuesday, Sept. 13, 7 p.m.
Sarge Littlehale Community Room,
Orinda Library

Citizens' Infrastructure Oversight Commission

Wednesday, Sept. 14, 2016, 6:30 p.m.
Sarge Littlehale Community Room,
City Hall, 22 Orinda Way, Orinda

School Board Meetings

Orinda Unified School District
Monday, Sept. 12, 6 p.m.
Regular Board Meeting
8 Altarinda Rd., Orinda
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 July 24 to Aug. 6

Alarms	56
Noise complaints	9
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	10
Traffic stops	62
Suspicious Circumstances	12
Suspicious Subjects	11
Suspicious Vehicles	8
Abandoned Vehicle	
10 block El Toyonal	
Oak Dr./Moraga Way	
20 block Ivy Dr.	
Kite Hill Rd./Orindawoods Dr.	
Animal Cruelty	
100 block Camino Pablo	
Battery	
20 block El Verano	
Burglary, Residential	
300 block El Toyonal	
100 block Donna Maria Way	
Civil	
20 block Snowberry Ln.	
300 block Tahos Rd.	
10 block Sunrise Hill	
10 block Vianne Ct.	
10 block Hilary Wy.	
20 block Ivy Dr.	
Disturbance	
500 block Kite Hill Terrace	
40 block Hillcrest Dr.	
Donald Dr./Alice Ln.	
10 block Paintbrush Ln.	
10 block Altarinda Rd.	
100 block Donna Maria Way	
Tara/Overhill Rds.	
El Toyonal/Loma Vista	
Dispute	
100 block Canon Dr.	
50 block Moraga Way	
Drunk in Public	
Wells Fargo	
Camino Pablo/Brookwood	
DUI	
Miner Rd./Camino Pablo	
Hit & Run	
10 block Briones View	
Police/Fire/EMS	
call to police	
100 block Meadow View Rd.	
BevMo	
100 block Amber Valley Dr.	
Public Nuisance	
Lombardy Ln/Dalewood	
50 block Vashell Way	
Orinda Theater	
Reckless Driving	
Hwy 24/Wilder Blvd.	
Moraga Way/Hall Dr.	
El Toyonal/Loma Vista Dr.	
Road Rage	
La Espiral/Las Vegas Rd.	
Theft, Petty	
reported to police	
20 block Park Lane Dr.	
Theft, Vehicle	
80 block Hillcrest Dr.	
Trespass	
300 block Camino Sobrante	
10 block Lost Valley Dr.	
Vandalism	
Theatre Square	
Unwanted Guest	
Safeway	
Warrant Service/Arrest	
Camino Pablo/Camino Sobrante	



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“Maureen worked with us on the sale of our home and purchase of another. She handled both transactions with exceptional professionalism. Every detail was managed. She is extremely knowledgeable of the market, timing and competing factors. She executed our purchase side in less than two weeks, a record for this particular community!” Paul P.

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Dance with the Cars for a Good Cause

By Sora O'Doherty



“The Italian Job” is the theme of the Dancing With the Cars, part of the Classic Car Show. Image provided

If you love classic cars, and enjoy donating to a good cause, once again Orinda has something for you. The annual Orinda Classic Car Show will be held on Saturday, Sept. 10, with a pre-show “The Italian Job” party at 6 p.m. Sept. 9 at the Orinda Country Club.

The party will be Orinda’s largest community-wide fundraiser, benefitting a wide range of Orinda non-profits, including the Educational Foundation of Orinda, the Orinda Association’s Seniors Around Town program, Orinda Rotary, the Orinda Chamber, Orinda Parks and Rec Foundation, the Lamorinda Arts Council and others. Rotary is the sponsor of the dinner, which kicks off the Orinda Classic Car Show weekend.

With “The Italian Job” theme, the party will be all about Italian music (or at least music by famous Italians), food and cars. Red, white and green will be the colors of the night. Decorations chair Jill Gelster has hinted that there may be some giant-sized posters and other surprise amenities to evoke the feeling of being in beautiful Roma. In keeping with the movie theme, there will be an exclusive display of classic Mini Coopers, along with Maseratis and Ferraris.

Because Orinda loves to party, the organizers have included in the auction a holiday-themed group of events that they hope attendees will love to bid on. Here are some examples:

- “Il Vino et la Vendetta,” will be the ultimate way to celebrate Halloween: An Italian-themed murder mystery for 12 to 14 people. Characters are played by the party attendees and hosts and are aptly named: Robusto (Rob) Chianti, Val Policella, Malcolm (Mal) Beck, Cher Donay, Vinnie Rouge, Penny Noir, and more.

- “Christmas with the Crawleys” will be a Downton Abbey 1920s extravaganza for 18 to 20 people at the beautiful and historic Casa Azul in Orinda. With each of the seven courses, there will be live entertainment, featuring performers from Miramonte High School, as well as Orinda’s own Starlight Village Players.

- A sumptuous Chinese New Year’s banquet.
- A St. Patrick’s Day poker party and whiskey tasting.

Other auction items include a Tahitian Pearl pendant donated by Morrison’s, a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to fly a classic World War II warbird airplane, a week of relaxation in the Florida Keys, as well as a three-day Dude Ranch all-inclusive getaway for four. The exclusive raffle item will be a weekend for four that includes travel by private jet on JetSuiteX Air out of Buchanan Field to Las Vegas, hotel and show included, provided by the Orinda Chamber of Commerce.

The Orinda business community and the Chamber of Commerce

have been supporting Orinda Rotary’s Dancing with the Cars event since its inception.

“The chamber’s motto is that a vibrant community needs a strong

local business community,” says executive director Sophie Braccini.

“The nonprofit associations and the services they are providing are also vital to the well-being of our city. It

is only normal that we contribute to this event.”

This year the chamber is offering additional auction packages with the support of its members, including a 10-person, three-winery tour and dinner supported by the Lamorinda Winegrowers Association; and six dinners on the town at select Orinda restaurants. “The Chamber is also a beneficiary of the event,” noted Braccini.

Tickets are \$125 per person and can be purchased through the Orinda Classic Car Show or Orinda Rotary websites, www.orindacarshow.com and www.orindarotary.org.

Twelfth Annual

Twelfth Annual Orinda Classic Car Show Revs Up

By Sora O'Doherty

Orinda’s free car show will run from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 10, in Orinda Village. Almost 200 American and European cars will be featured — ranging from the 1920s, to the classics of the 50s and 60s as well as modern exotics — in Saturday’s free show.

This year’s show will feature a special 1 p.m. visit of vintage and modern Ferraris, including a 1965 275 GTB Competition.

“This year’s event will also have shaded seating for guests to enjoy lunch and beverage offerings from our great BBQ booth with classic cars around,” says event founder, Chip Herman. He added that at 3 p.m. the show cars will drive down Orinda Way on the annual Classic Car Drive.

The car show is located in Orinda Village at Orinda Motors, 63 Orinda Way. For more information, visit the website at www.OrindaCarShow.com. Those interested in entering a vehicle, subscribing to email updates, or attending the pre-show party Sept. 9 may do so online.

The events almost solely funds the “Seniors Around Town” transportation service, an Orinda Association program, in addition to other charities, and has raised more than \$350,000 over the past 11 years. Seniors Around Town program manager, Kate Wiley noted that the partnership with the car show organization — its volunteers and supporters — is just as important as the financial support.

“All of their efforts help in spreading awareness of our program to future riders and future volunteer drivers. This partnership is at the heart of what Orinda does so well, bringing people together for a common local good.”

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Smith Stuns by Not Running for Reelection

By Nick Marnell



Victoria Smith

Photo Ohlen Alexander

In another surprising announcement from a Lamorinda public official, Mayor Victoria Smith said she will not run for reelection to the Orinda City Council in November. She joins Traci Reilly of Lafayette, Mike Metcalf of Moraga, Richard Whitmore of the Acalanes Union High School District, Mary Piepho of the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District and

Fred Weil and Alex Evans of the Moraga-Orinda Fire District among the high-profile officials who declined to run for reelection to seats on their governing boards.

Smith spent three terms on the Orinda council and departs having accomplished much of what she set out to do in 2004.

"Things are in great shape," Smith said. "Our revenue is robust, the budget is balanced and the city maintains a general fund reserve of over \$5 million. I don't have a lot left to do, and I am looking for a new challenge."

She hesitated to name one particular accomplishment, but the first topic Smith mentioned was the repair of the city roads, which she said was three-fifths of the way to completion.

"I am proud of the Monteverde Senior Apartments, the completion of Orinda Grove and the progress we have made in the Wilder development," Smith said. She said she would like to have seen the revitalization of the downtown get off the ground, but that project was thwarted by the recession and by the magnitude of the dollars needed to fix the roads.

Smith will run in November for the Division 5 seat on the Moraga-Orinda Fire District governing board. (see page A8.) Should she win, Smith will supervise an agency with a larger operating budget and more employees than the city of Orinda, plus deal with one of the most polarizing public issues in Lamorinda: the tax disparity between the two district municipalities.

Smith will likely have found the challenge that she sought.

Four Candidates Running for Two Open City Council Seats

With Orinda Mayor Victoria Smith deciding not to run for reelection to the Orinda City Council, one incumbent and three other candidates have placed their names on the ballot for two open seats.

Incumbent running

Darlene Gee

Other Candidates

Bruce R. London

Inga Miller

Linda Sue Delehunt

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MORAGA \$3,295,000
6/5 Exquisite home in Sanders Ranch, 6426 sqft, 1+ acre lot, beautiful pool & grounds
Elena Hood CalBRE #01221247



ORINDA \$2,975,000
7/4.5 Historic Country Club Estate designed by Walter Ratcliff. Magical Orinda setting.
Laura Abrams CalBRE #01272382



MORAGA \$2,595,000
5/4.5 Exciting & prestigious in Sanders Ranch, 4525 sqft, stunning kitchen, lovely garden w/pool!
Elena Hood CalBRE #01221247



MORAGA \$2,099,990
5/3 Lovely 3730 sqft, updated kitchen & baths, private master, .30 acre lot w/pool & spa.
Elena Hood CalBRE #01221247



ORINDA \$1,565,888
5/3 Beautiful new construction close to downtown. Spectacular appliances/finishes throughout.
McAtee|Wilson CalBRE #01349169

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-Rebecca, Oakland, CA

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-Susan, Lafayette, CA



DANA REEDY



CHAD MORRISON



LAFAYETTE \$1,495,000
4/3 Very private on over 1/2 acre. Wonderful yard with pebble-tech pool & expansive lawn.
Jim Ellis CalBRE #00587326



ORINDA \$1,425,000
3/2.5 Remodeled charming wood shingled traditional! Plus newly constructed 1000 SF Great room.
Laura Abrams CalBRE #01272382



ORINDA \$1,425,000
4/3 Classic 1940 Orinda cul de sac home with privacy, large master suite, fabulous lot & pool
Suzi O'Brien CalBRE #01482496



ORINDA \$1,350,000
4/2 Mid-Century Glorietta neighborhood home on 1.29 acre private lot w/indoor outdoor living!
Norla Torres-turney CalBRE #01913739



LAFAYETTE \$1,265,000
2/2 Lafayette's most upscale condo-Woodbury Terrace flats Plan B. Elegant interiors on 3rd fir
Stephen Steve Stahle CalBRE #01861509



LAFAYETTE \$1,100,000
4/3 Renovation ready, Burton Valley rancher on private .63 acre mostly flat lot needs some love
Frank Woodward CalBRE #01335916



ORINDA \$949,000
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Andi Brown CalBRE #01738605

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Fire Districts

Public Meetings

Moraga-Orinda Fire District Board of Directors Wednesday, Sept. 7, 7 p.m. Go to website for meeting location For meeting times and agendas, visit www.mofd.org

ConFire Board of Directors Tuesday, Sept. 13, 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.

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

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Fire Season is Flaming to Full Strength

By Nick Marnell

Contra Costa County Fire Protection District Chief Jeff Carman made a whirlwind tour of his district in early August, delivering a somber message to residents and officials about the dangers of the wildfire season.

From his commissioners meeting to his board of directors meeting to his speech at the Lafayette Rotary Club, the chief's message was on point: now is not the time to let down your guard.

"The longer we go without consistent precipitation, the drier the fuels get, which is why many of the most devastating fires are seen in the late summer and fall," the chief said.

"People think it's cooler, the fog is starting to come in, it's time to keep the windows open at night because fire season is coming to a close. I urge our residents not to be fooled into thinking fire danger is waning because the opposite is actually occurring," Carman said. "The fuels we see in Lafayette, Walnut Creek, Moraga and Orinda are heavier, and have been drying out all summer."

The chief said he is always concerned about major devastation in Lafayette because the Lafayette area is most prone to those heavy fuel fires, and because of the amount of wildland

area so close to the expensive homes.

"It takes longer to start those fires, but also longer to put them out," Carman said.

Carman said that the district is better prepared to handle wildfires this year because of two components added to district operations. ConFire uses the sheriff's department helicopter to dump water on wildfires in areas difficult to access with ground crews. Plus, the district staffs a bulldozer during the peak activity period, rather than calling in an operator to run the bulldozer when needed.

"It cuts the line very quickly,"

the chief said. "It does what a team of firefighters can do cheaper and more quickly, so we can put the firefighters back into service."

This year's early fire season has been responsible for the destruction of several homes in the district, Carman said. He asks for the public's vigilance, because his crews have told him that they have seen more property loss this year than they can ever remember.

Surely that is a record the chief does not want to set in 2016.

Alex Evans Won't Run Again for MOFD Board

By Nick Marnell



Alex Evans Photo provided

Alex Evans made his decision the day before the deadline to file candidacy papers with the county. That Thursday, Aug. 11, the Division 5 director of the Moraga-Orinda Fire District opted to not run for reelection.

"I don't have the time required to commit going forward," Evans said. "I loved the job and felt we made real progress on financial sustainability. It was just time for me to move on."

Evans is the president and co-founder of EMC Research, a firm that specializes in polling, focus groups and public opinion research consulting for a wide range of clients across the country, including Sutter Health and Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf. Evans' heavy workload, especially in major election years, had been taking away from his time to serve on the MOFD board.

A good labor contract, hiring a great fire chief and the prefunding of district health care costs Evans ranks as top accomplishments during his four-year tenure with the district. He added that the reduction of district staffing from 19 daily on-duty firefighters to 17 was an important step toward the financial sustainability of MOFD, though

the sentiment to reduce staffing was not shared by the entire board.

"I've been accused of caring about nothing but money," Evans said. "But the bottom line, it saves us money."

Not closing the deal with the county on the fire station 46 joint venture with the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District was Evans' biggest frustration. Indeed, at every vote taken by the MOFD board on either the merger or the property purchase for the proposed station site, Evans voted yes.

"We could have done fine with just that one station," he said, as the proposed station was expected to save MOFD \$1 million a year in operating costs.

Some Orindans are frustrated by a perceived tax inequity in the

district, and Evans, whose division includes part of Orinda, agrees that if Orindans think they shoulder an unfair financial burden, it needs to be considered and dealt with for the long-term viability of the district.

But Evans insisted that the biggest threat to the long-term viability of the district is its unfunded pension liability, which totaled \$28 million as of December 2014. The district awaits an updated figure from its retirement fund manager, and officials fear the liability may increase.

That financial headache tops the list of challenges for either Craig Jorgens or Victoria Smith, candidates to replace Evans on the MOFD Division 5 seat this November.

DeSaulnier Condemns Super PACs at Orinda Town Hall

By Nick Marnell



From left, Mark DeSaulnier jokes with his fall intern Anthony Ray and Supervisor Candace Andersen's Orinda liaison Jill Ray at the Aug. 6 Orinda Town Hall meeting. Photo Provided

U.S. Rep. Mark DeSaulnier to the list of those bewildered by the vicious personal attacks that have defined the 2016 presidential election campaign.

"It's unlike any election that

I have ever seen," he told an audience of around 100 at his Aug. 6 Orinda town hall meeting. DeSaulnier, a Democrat from California's 11th Congressional district, is running for reelection against Republican Roger Petersen in November.

The congressman, whose district includes Lamorinda, chastised the recalcitrant House

members who are preventing the passage of a federal budget. "We're stuck. They won't spend any money," he said.

DeSaulnier said that he does not believe in the "all or nothing" approach to government; rather, he favors negotiation and compromise. And after the negotiations, voting should be based upon whatever is best for the common good.

"Compromise is more reflective of the total population," he said.

One of the questions from the Orinda audience concerned the Citizens United Supreme Court decision. The 2010 ruling said that political advertising is protected under the First Amendment, allowing corporations and unions to spend an unlimited amount of money calling for the election or defeat of individual political candidates, as long as the spending is done independently of the candidate or party. As a result, cash has poured into

special political action committees, labeled Super PACs.

"It was a horrible decision," DeSaulnier said, explaining that it is now impossible to identify who is actually paying for much of the political advertising. Though Hillary Clinton said in her acceptance speech at the Democratic National Convention that she would press for a constitutional amendment to overturn the Citizens United ruling, DeSaulnier said that there is no such movement in the legislature.

"Congress doesn't want to change it," he said.

According to the Federal Election Commission, DeSaulnier's campaign received more than \$237,000 in contributions from traditional political action committees, which accounted for over 51 percent of his total fundraising through June. Petersen's total campaign contributions barely exceeded \$3,000.

MOFD and BART Highlight Lamorinda Special District Races

On the Moraga-Orinda Fire District governing board, John Jex, a retired accountant, has been appointed in lieu of election to the Division 2 seat vacated by Fred Weil. The race for the Division 5 seat held by Alex Evans features a battle between Orinda Mayor Victoria Smith and retired business executive Craig Jorgens.

Two districts of the Bay Area Rapid Transit system fall in Lamorinda, and both directors' seats are up for grabs in November. District 1 pits incumbent Gail Murray versus Debora Allen, a board trustee of the Contra Costa County Employees' Retirement Association. One-time Moraga Mayor Ken Chew runs against District 3 incumbent Rebecca Saltzman, business consultant Varun Paul and web programmer Worth Freeman.

Candace Andersen continues as director of the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District as a result of her June victory for Supervisor of Contra Costa County District 2.

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Donate \$10 and choose your ride for the Drive.



Enter Your Car and Buy Party Tickets Today at www.OrindaCarShow.com

These events benefit the Seniors Around Town transportation program, Educational Foundation of Orinda and other local charities. We would like to thank our partners for helping make these events happen: Orinda Association, Rotary Club of Orinda, Orinda Historical Society Museum, Chamber of Commerce, EFO, Orinda Arts Council and Seniors Around Town.

Event Schedule

Friday, September 9th, 6:00pm
"DANCING WITH THE CARS" FRIDAY NIGHT PRE-PARTY

The presenting sponsor for this great event is **Mechanics Bank**.

The Italian Job

Our all-inclusive event is Orinda's largest community-wide fundraiser, featuring "Italian Job"-capable Mini Coopers, molto belli Maseratis, not to mention favoloso Ferraris! Also enjoy Compari-infused cocktails, a hearty Italian dinner, an abbondanza of awesome auction items and dancing to the hits of (who else?) Dino!

This community-wide fundraiser benefits our schools, our seniors, the arts, our parks and recreation, and more!

Buy your tickets at:
www.OrindaCarShow.com
Space is limited so don't wait.
NO WALK-INS WILL BE ALLOWED.



See a 1p.m. visit of vintage and modern Ferraris - including a 1965 275 GTB Competition - driving into the middle of the show!

"DANCING WITH THE CARS" PARTY SPONSORS



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Special thanks to the Rotary Club of Orinda for producing this party!

ORINDA CLASSIC CAR SHOW SPONSORS



Presenting Sponsor:



Supporting Sponsors: 92.1 KKDV, Aetna, Alliant Insurance, Bay Alarm, Clark Thompson-Village Associates, Cobra Experience, Diablo Foods, DR. Jess Santucci, FedEx Office, John Muir Health, KRON 4 News at 10pm, La Hermandad de Los Andes Vineyards, Lamorinda Weekly, Mechanics Bank, Mercedes Benz of Walnut Creek, Merrill Lynch, Pacific Business Centers, Piccolo Napoli, Recuerdo Wines, Republic Services, Safeway, Sales Muscle, The Grubb Co., The Orinda News, Thompson Group Marketing

CLASSIC CAR SHOW WEEKEND PIT CREW

Hallie and Henry Alfaro	David Dierks	Emily Lambert	Janet and Ben Riley
Stretch Andersen	Anthony Drewitz	Mark and Mary Maxson	Kriste Roeth
Syd Anderson	Jill Gelster	Pete Michaelides	Mike Robinson
Nancy and Bob Bishop	Steve Giacomo	Ken Miller	Dayna and John Sayres
Barbara and Jack Bontemps	Karen Derr Gilbert	Jim Mitchell	Bob Schmalz
Boy Scout Troop 303	Susan and Steve Glynn	Ed Moffatt	Greg Sisk
Sue Breedlove	Kirk Haley	Sharon and Lou Parrague	Tom and Monica Steinberger
Tom Brzezinski	Steve Harwood	Tom Pearson	Steve Strand
Sheila and Scott Butler	Carolyn and Chip Herman	Allen Pennebaker	John Vanek
Betsy and Greg Chovanec	Sally Hogarty	Greg Pritchard	Craig Volpe
Steve Corbitt	Sylvia Jorgensen	Terry Ranahan	Marie and Bill Waterman
Bill Criswell	Stu Kahn	Debbie and Wayne Rechnitz	Kate Wiley
Frank Darling	Aileen and Mark Kazmierowski	Nina and Bill Ricks	Willow Bunting

Saturday
September 10th, 10am - 3pm
12TH ANNUAL ORINDA CLASSIC CAR SHOW

Free Admission

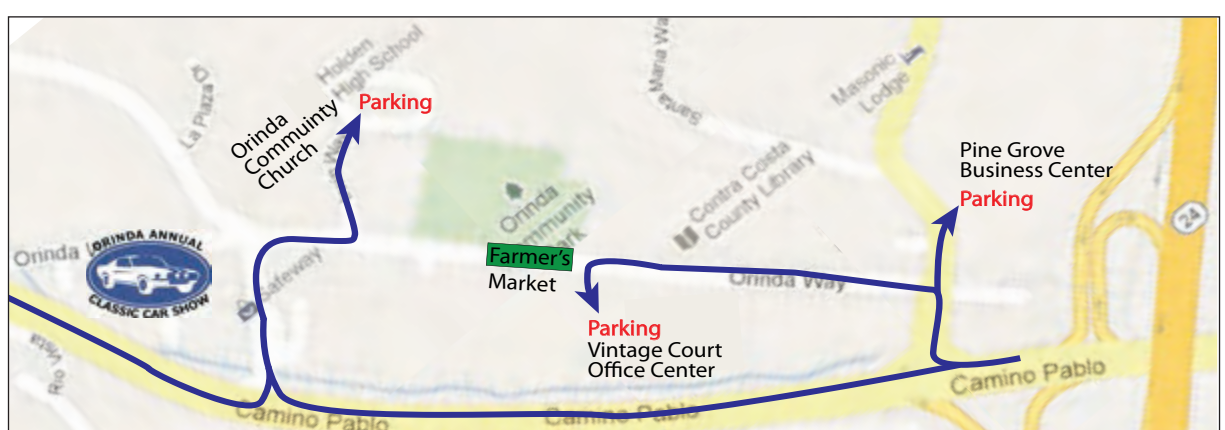
The presenting sponsor for this event is **Orinda Motors**.

- The show will be held in Orinda Village around Orinda Motors and on Orinda Way.
- 200 Classic and modern exotic cars as well as unique motorcycles
- Lamorinda Idol Winners Performance at Noon
- Arriving at 1pm, there will be an outstanding exhibit of vintage and modern ferraris - including a 1965 275 GTB Competition.
- Shaded seating to enjoy lunch and refreshments from the Car Show BBQ Booth
- Loard's Ice Cream and Candy
- Ride in the Drive of Classic Cars at 3pm
- Buy a 2016 Car Show T-Shirt

Proceeds benefit local charities: Seniors Around Town, Educational Foundation of Orinda, Orinda Historical Society Museum, Orinda Association, and other local charities

CLASSIC CAR SHOW PARKING

- Orinda Community Church and Holden High School, Irwin Way
- Vintage Office Building, Orinda Way
- Pine Grove Business Center, Santa Maria Way



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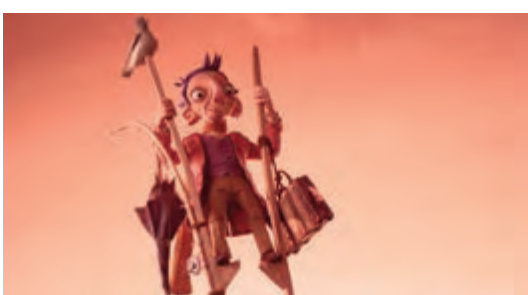
Presenting Sponsor:



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 Thursday September 8
 6:00PM Rheem Theatre



Miles
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 90 min, Director: Nathan Adloff



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Letters to the Editor

Sales Tax Fleeces "Sheeple"

Dear Editor,

Richard S. Colman's Letter to the Editor (Aug. 10), misses the main points for opposing the fictitiously named county transportation sales tax.

The board in charge of these funds consists of long term politicians, appointed by politicians, to give themselves and the politicians who appointed them, taxpayer's money, without caring about what citizens want, or don't want. Their goal is to get people out of their motor vehicles, and fund anything but better roads.

The Contra Costa Transportation Authority has funded parking lots that are never used for commuters, roundabouts and endless consultants' plans.

"Sheeple" (people who follow sheep-like) might expect the horrendous, outdated 680/4 interchange to be rebuilt with transportation money. But no! The City of Lafayette has made plans, paid for with grant money, to construct a walkway on the EBMUD aqueduct's right-of-way. This walkway must be handicapped accessible. The right-of-way has hills, valleys and three major street crossings. Plus the freeway noise is deafening. I wonder who thought up this ridiculous waste of money?

Obviously, it was someone who loves to fleece the "sheeple."

Richard S. Colman did bring up all of the points against any sales tax, like the proposed one in Lafayette. It's for funding whatever the politicians in power decide they want, whenever they decide they want whatever it is they want. It's 100 percent certain, it won't be what most of the people want.

Bruce R. Peterson
Lafayette

High Density Housing isn't Good for Lamorinda

Dear Editor,

Having been in the home building business in my former professional life, I am essentially pro-development. What is happening across the country, however, is a devious and underhanded "Agenda 21" effort in which municipalities are guilty into adopting the social re-engineering cause, which is — make no mistake — high density housing next to mass transit.

All three Lamorinda city councils have embraced this global agenda in their Master Plans, likely without any consideration as to what it really meant. More likely, it was done under the guise of preventing "manmade global warming." You may find this a noble cause (an argument for another day), but if you really think that high density housing is better for the environment than single family homes...we'll then..... can I interest you in a bridge I'm selling?

I'm sorry, but we most certainly did not move to Moraga for that. And I truly suspect, neither did you. Why, then, are we letting our government officials dictate to us something we know not to be in our best interest?

To add insult, they add the "affordable housing concern" just to get us on the hook. Well, just take a look at how much the government fees are to get a building permit for a residential unit and that myth flies right out the window. It's over 20 percent of the cost of building the home! If they really want developers to build affordable housing, why not waive the permit and development fees? Don't hold your breath.

It's rather simple. When it comes to building residences, the market does not lie. Government mandates will never change basic human nature. I think Ray Davies sang it best, "Give the people what they want".

Doug Home
Moraga

PG&E Work During the Fall in Lamorinda

Dear Editor,

This letter is in response to the Aug. 10 article on Lamorinda roads. Here is an update of the utility's activities in the Lamorinda area.

The safety of our customers and employees is PG&E's top priority, and that includes construction sites on busy streets. Many of our projects have flaggers or traffic control professionals on-site, ensuring both drivers and crew members are safe and the flow of traffic is smooth.

Lafayette:

- Crews are currently working on a gas main and service replacement project in Lafayette. The project is on Los Palos Drive/Glenside Drive between Los Palos Manor and Los Palos Drive. This work is scheduled until November and traffic control will be onsite throughout the duration of the project.

- PG&E will be trimming tree limbs to ensure the safety and reliability of its electric system on Spring Hill Road at Pleasant Hill Road in Lafayette. The project will begin in September and conclude in October. Traffic control will be onsite.

Moraga:

- Construction has already started for the utility line undergrounding project along Moraga Road between Devin Drive and Corliss Drive in the Town of Moraga. As part of the project, PG&E will remove the top portions of utility poles and associated electric lines. The poles will be removed once all utility companies relocate their facilities underground. The project is expected to continue until early 2017.

Orinda:

- PG&E is currently in Orinda at the request of the city, lowering gas distribution lines to make way for Orinda's street repaving project. Crews will be on Ramona Drive and will be working on various streets in Orinda through the end of the year.

- PG&E will conduct routine vegetation maintenance at Stein Way and Moraga Way in Orinda. The one-day project will be completed in September.

Tamar Sarkissian
PG&E Spokesperson

EBMUD Opening up Watershed Trails

By Nick Marnell



Hikers enjoy the trails at the EBMUD Valle Vista Staging Area earlier this month. Photo Nick Marnell

Mountain bikers will soon be able to share popular East Bay Municipal Utility District trails with hikers and equestrians if a proposed two-year pilot program for equal access is approved as part of the EBMUD Watershed Master Plan. The trial period would begin next summer and will feature four sections of district trails that connect to regional trail systems, including the Bay Area Ridge Trail.

The watershed comprises 28,000 acres of East Bay property that the district manages in order to protect the quality of drinking water for its 1.3 million customers and to promote biological diversity. Sections of the watershed familiar to Lamorindans include the Upper San Leandro Reservoir south of Moraga, the Briones Reservoir and the San Pablo Reservoir Recreation Area near Orinda and the Lafayette Reservoir.

"This issue has received the most attention, more than our historic drought," said EBMUD director Marguerite Young, who told a standing room crowd at district headquarters Aug. 15

that she favored equal trail access. Moraga and Orinda reside in Young's Ward 3.

Concerns for safety and the destruction of the natural environment highlighted the presentations of nearly 60 speakers, whose comments appeared to be fairly balanced between the pro and anti-bicyclists.

"We are forced to ride on unsafe roads because we can't ride on the trails," said Austin McInerney, director of the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council. "But when bikes are ridden appropriately, it's hard to argue that bikes aren't doing less damage to the trails than a horse."

To that point, Ginger Jui of Bike East Bay allowed that her organization runs an education program to teach bicyclists to ride safely and confidently, and to take care of the environment.

Arguments against the bicyclists mostly dealt with their riding on single-track trails — narrow trails that can accommodate a horse and rider or maybe two adults side by side. Many of the trails proposed by EBMUD for equal access are single track

trails.

Margaret Flaherty, a 30-year cyclist who worked as a bike messenger, traveled across country on a bicycle and raced mountain bikes in California, said the proposed single-track trail at Skyline Gardens between Tilden Park and Sibley Reserve was no place for bicycles. "I know that riding a mountain bike on a single track is one of life's pleasures, but we have to realize that the Bay Area is a crowded place and getting more crowded every year, and not everything can be up for grabs," she said.

"Widening the trail for bikes at Skyline Gardens will damage the flora," said Glen Schneider, speaking for many who feared the environmental damage potentially caused by bicyclists. "It would be like allowing bicycles into a botanical garden."

Hikers at the Valle Vista Staging Area seemed to support the equal access proposal. "I would be perfectly happy to share trails with the bicyclists," said hiker Ron Ucovich, but he did agree that riding bicycles on single track trails presents potential for conflict.

EBMUD representative Doug Wallace said that the district was considering opening up approximately 10 miles out of its 82 miles of trails for access to bicyclists in the pilot program.

"We are not a recreational agency," Wallace reminded the audience, and he said that the proposal must first pass a California Environmental Quality Act review and receive final approval by the district board of directors.

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



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Lafayette Bridal Shop is Making Special Dreams Come True

By Diane Claytor



From left, Lace and Bustle "momager" Lilium Hernandez and daughter, owner Victoria Hansen, get a dress ready for display at their Lafayette shop. Photo provided

It's likely that every little girl — and for that matter, every big girl — has, at some time, dreamt of walking down the aisle dressed in a beautiful white, flowy gown. She may not be able to envision a partner, or a location, but, oh, that dress. Its look may change over the years, but the long white wedding gown continues to be part of the fantasy.

Victoria Hansen, owner of Lace and Bustle bridal shop, is

fulfilling those dreams right here in Lafayette. It used to be that Lamorinda brides had to drive miles and miles in search of that perfect wedding gown. But almost a year ago, Hansen opened her elegant, intimate bridal boutique and has been bringing happiness to brides ever since. Just walking in the store brings joy. It smells good. The crystal chandeliers, calming paint color, antique furniture, displays of vin-

tage jewelry and beautiful gowns hanging along the wall indicate a special experience is about to begin. And when Hansen, with her pure enthusiasm for what she does, offers to help, it's easy to understand why Lace and Bustle has already provided that perfect look to hundreds of brides. And now, women are coming from as far away as Seattle to view this incredible selection.

A graduate of Saint Mary's College, Hansen spent 10 years in the retail industry as both a sportswear buyer and marketing analyst. Six years ago, when, newly engaged herself, Hansen began searching for her own wedding dress, she found the experience less than satisfying. It was then she began considering the idea of opening her own bridal store.

"A wedding dress is probably one of the most personal and emotional purchases a woman makes," Hansen said. "And yet I found a real lack of bridal shops making that experience personal or special."

Hansen loved her job but the concept of opening a bridal shop remained in the back of her mind. "I'm so glad I did it that way," Hansen stated. "I learned so much in my retail career and believe it gave me the solid foundation needed to open my own store."

She knew Lafayette, with its quaint yet stylish vibe, was the place she wanted to be. Racks after racks of wedding dresses

can be both daunting and overwhelming, Hansen said, and her vision was to make the experience enjoyable, personal and comfortable.

"Shopping for a wedding dress should be a fun, happy time," she said. Lace and Bustle is "dedicated to making shopping for your wedding dress as beautiful and memorable as the dress itself."

Hansen currently works with five wedding gown designers and has an inventory of approximately 50 different dresses. This number is expected to grow.

"Our focus is to be a modern classic store, offering brides that timeless style," she said. She carries the latest collections of each designer and moves out styles that are not as strong. "It's important that we keep unique and fresh styles for our brides." She's also aware that not every young woman wears a size 2 and tries to offer a sampling of dresses for all different body types.

With her mother Lilium Hernandez as her main helper, Hansen's goal is to make the entire dress-buying process as exciting and stress-free as possible. "We are really trying to redefine the wedding dress shopping experience," she explained. "We take the time to sit down and hear what each bride is envisioning for her special day. Then we help them find the absolute perfect dress. I strive to make sure we're there to give them peace of mind. These young women have so

much going on. We want to make sure we're giving them the best experience, best quality gown and best service throughout the whole process."

Hansen has partnered with Lafayette's Creative Alterations and accompanies each bride to her first fitting to "make sure she's well taken care of," Hansen said. And when the dress goes home, Hansen sends each bride off with a personalized engraved wooden hanger featuring the bride's name, "something they can use for their wedding pictures," she said.

Lace and Bustle also carries beautiful, timeless accessories for the bride's special day — jewelry, veils, sashes. "We've had brides who have purchased their dress elsewhere but come in for that one final perfect touch," Hansen said. One bride recently wrote that "Victoria walked me through how I could transform my dress — with a belt, a veil, and added rhinestone buttons — to make it truly mine."

"Each bride becomes like family to me," Hansen said. And the brides feel it. One Yelp reviewer wrote, "Victoria and her mother made the experience... as perfect as you could possibly imagine. I felt special, beautiful, and truly cared about..." Another said, simply, "Lace and Bustle made my dream come true."

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

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Lafayette

Park Theater... continued from page A1

"We believe we have figured out a plan that will allow the theater to be a successful and sustainable business that adapts to the times and provides a magic mix of entertainment options for people in the local area."

Fred Abbott is an international law professor, specializing in trade, public health and intellectual property; he's also a fan of science fiction and film noir. Originally from Scotland, Happy Valley resident McDonald is an oral and maxillofacial surgeon who says he is committed to showing movies again at the theater.

They acknowledge that a number of things will need to come

together to get this project off the ground: finding the right architect that could restore the theater and make it more functional, working with the city about parking, and especially finding investors to breathe new life into the vintage gem. Noting that the city recently purchased a nearby parking lot, and with plans for alternative transportation, Cathy Abbott hopes for a compromise on parking, especially since a renovated business would bring vitality and additional tax revenue to the city.

Built in 1941 and opening its doors with a screening of an Abbott and Costello film, the popular theater entertained generations of

Lamorindans. Fast forward to 1987 and the Park Theater was taken over by Allen Michaan's Renaissance Rialto Films.

But over time, it wasn't profitable, so it closed for good after more than 60 years in business in September 2005 with "Cinema Paradiso" and "Amelie."

Stanley Middle School student Joel Braunstein made a six-minute documentary film on the history of the theater, including information from the city's point of view. To check it out on YouTube, go to www.YouTube.com and type in "The Park Theater Movie" in the search box.

Business Bites

By Victor Ryerson

New on the Food and Drink Scene

Some interesting changes have taken place recently in the ever-changing world of Lamorinda's eateries.

On July 15 **Baja Cali Taqueria and Grill** opened at 23 Orinda Way, Suite H, in the space formerly occupied by La Cocina. Featuring traditional Mexican cuisine with some interesting variations, Baja Cali may offer the only Michelada in town, a concoction of beer, tomato juice and hot sauce. The menu cover alone will make you want to head for the tropical waters of Los Cabos. Find it at BajaCaliTaqueriaGrill.com for dine-in or takeout orders.

Not far away at 21 Orinda Way, Suite C, **Gen-uine Goodness** opened up its storefront cafe Aug. 1. Its featured fare is handcrafted, all natural smoothies, soups, salads and goodies, available by ordering online or in person. Find out more at www.gen-goodness.com.

Orinda's popular **Table 24** has a new chef and a new menu to please your palate. Visit the Theater Square favorite to see what's up.

In Lafayette, the award-winning **Coffee Shop** has opened a new location at 50 Lafayette Circle, providing yet another option for devoted coffee lovers.

And Moraga? The **food truck nights** at the Hacienda are turning out to be big winners with sociable Lamorinda residents, who showed up by droves to eat and drink al fresco at picnic tables on the beautiful lawn until the food started running out after dark. The first of these events attracted three times the number of people expected, and even with more trucks, the coffee and donuts were gone by dusk. It's like a monthly Fourth of July picnic, and it gives every indication of being a regular part of Lamorinda life.

Smaller Changes

Branagh Realty has moved into new digs at 3800 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Suite 200 in Lafayette.

Back in downtown Orinda, the name of Canetti's Books has changed to **Sleepy Cat Books**. Find out why at www.sleepycatbooks.com. And across the street, **Sanvitalia Home and Garden** in Theater Square has expanded its offerings, in case you are doing a bit of browsing.

Chamber Music

Not much is happening on the chamber of commerce scene during the dog days of summer, but the Aug. 16 Beer at the Bruns mixer was well attended, with a happy crowd enjoying some excellent food and drink catered by Classic Catering of Pleasant Hill. Some of the group stayed on to enjoy the performance of George Bernard Shaw's comedy, "You Never Can Tell."

Lafayette Chamber of Commerce

www.lafayettechamber.org (925) 284-7404

Moraga Chamber of Commerce

www.moragachamber.org (925) 323-6524

Don't miss the Entrepreneur's Lunch, noon, Wednesday, Sept. 7 at Ristorante Amoroma, 360 Park St in Moraga. Digital strategist Robin S. Fox will share "5 Easy Ways to Leverage Social Media to Support Your Business" during the lunch hour. Open to members and non-members. Lunch is \$10. RSVP to kathe@moragachamber.org.

Orinda Chamber of Commerce

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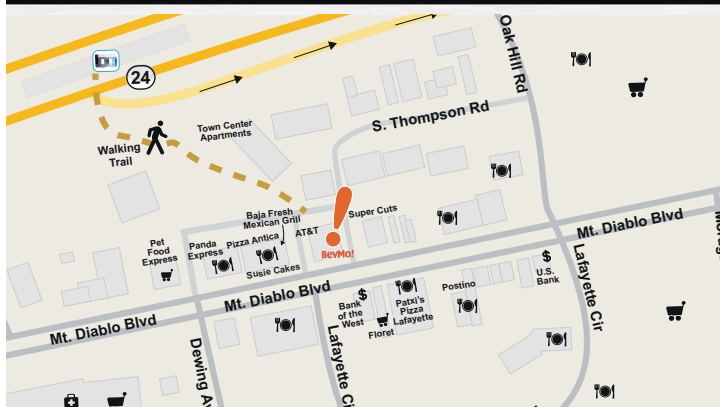


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Back to Pencils, Back to Books

... continued from page A1

Orinda elementary and middle schools opened Aug. 23, giving those students an extra day to sleep in. Students attending an Acalanes Union High School District campus as well as all Orinda Union School District students will note the installation of overhead solar panels on their respective campuses. As the OUSD website points out, in addition to utility savings the move will provide "significant weather relief (i.e. shelter and shade) to children and parents."

Back-to-School-Nights by City:

- Lafayette:**
- Acalanes High School: Sept. 15
 - Stanley Middle School: Sept. 13
 - Burton Valley: Sept. 1
 - Happy Valley: Aug. 25
 - Lafayette Elementary: Sept. 1
 - Springhill Elementary: Sept. 24 (*Kindergarten: Sept. 22)
- Moraga:**
- Campolindo High School: Sept. 15
 - Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School: Aug. 25
 - All Moraga elementary schools (Camino Pablo, Donald Rheem, Los Perales) Sept. 1
- Orinda:**
- Miramonte High School: Sept. 15
 - Orinda Intermediate School: Aug. 25
 - All Orinda elementary schools (Del Rey, Glorietta, Sleepy Hollow, Wagner Ranch): Sept. 1.

Lamorindans Celebrate National Night Out

By Cathy Dausman

It was neighbor meet neighbor one hot August night as 12 groups across Lamorinda took to their yards and streets welcoming police, fire and civic visitors Aug. 2 for National Night Out.

National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign designed to strengthen partnerships between first responders and communities and make neighborhoods safer. Eight Orinda neighborhoods gathered for annual NNO events, said Orinda NNO coordinator Patti Young. It was the third year of NNO participation for the city but the ninth year Orinda held "night out" celebrations, she said. "People seemed to be pretty excited about it," Young said, adding she thought that Lamorinda Community Emergency Response Team publicity helped



From left, Officer Anthony Craig, Sergeant Brian South, Officer Will Davis, Officer Randy Pacheco, Acting Chief Jon King, Corporal Angela Likos and Officer Mike Dreyfuss
 Photo Cathy Dausman

boost the attendance numbers. Moraga hosted NNO events in four neighborhoods; a fifth neighborhood held its event the preceding Sunday. Lafayette hosted one NNO event. Many neighborhoods offered hors d'oeuvres or dessert finger food during their NNO event; some swapped excess garden produce. Police and fire vehicles arrived with flashing lights and delighted children of all ages. NNO was established in

1984; it currently boasts participation in more than 16,000 communities from all 50 states. NNO is a presentation of the National Association of Town Watch with local sponsorship by the Moraga Citizen's Corps Council, the Orinda Citizen's Corps Council and the Lafayette Emergency Preparedness Commission. To prepare a NNO celebration for your neighborhood next summer go to <https://natw.org/about>.

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Moraga

All Access Park

... continued from page A5

Ingram met with Rotarians, engineers and architects to find possibilities. On Aug. 16 he presented commissioners with six options, four at the Commons and two at Rancho Laguna Park. The two locations at Rancho Laguna Park were on the north side, an option that did not carry any extra cost, and the south side of that park that would cost an extra \$132,300 for reconfiguration of the asphalt path. The four options at the Commons suggested locating the new equipment either close to the upper or lower playground. The first option proposed to use the space adjacent to the upper playground where swing sets are located, with an estimated cost of \$370,500. The second option would have wrapped the new area around the lower playground and toward the picnic tables; it would require tree removals and would cost \$154,400. The third option would place the new park also near the tot-lot, but separate and closer to the Matt Biondi fountain and the Veterans Memorial rock; this option would require also tree removal and cost

\$132,900. Since that option uses a more flat area and less grading it is the one recommended by the engineers who were consulted. The fourth option proposed to relocate the lower tot playground to the location of the second option and replace it with the all access site; its cost was estimated at \$385,300. Besides one parks and recreation commissioner who said he was concerned with overcrowding the Commons, all commissioners agreed to drop the idea of locating the new playground in Rancho Laguna Park. Commissioner Bill Carman advocated for option two because he felt it was more inclusive and integrated all children, but the majority made the decision to recommend the third option to the council. The Rotarians present at the meeting indicated that they favored a central position for the park at the Commons, but that they could live with whatever decision the council would make. They are looking forward to the final determination of a location so they can start a fund-raising effort of large proportion.

Moraga Commons Master Plan

The town will hold two communitywide meetings to get input from residents about their vision for the central park for the next 10 years. The meetings are scheduled for 6 to 8 p.m. Sept. 9 and Sept. 26.

Film Festival Highlights Unique Worldwide Productions

By Sophie Braccini



The opening night movie at the CAIFF is the poignant "Miles."

Comedies from the U.S. or Ireland, thrillers and kids' movies, dramas from England, Egypt or France, documentaries from the East Bay or Africa — whatever your interest, you can see it at the 19th annual California Independent Film Festival, beginning Sept. 8 and running through Sept. 14 in Moraga, Orinda and San Francisco.

Every year the movies, documentaries and shorts in competition for an award at the CAIFF offer a wide variety of high-caliber productions as the festival grows in notoriety. This is a major Lamorinda cultural event, with some innovations in the format of the screenings that transport moviegoers to faraway expeditions, without leaving home.

The festival opens this year on Thursday, Sept. 8 with an American comedy/drama, "Miles." The opening night is also a social occasion in Moraga and has sold out in previous years. Director Nathan Adloff will share in the celebration with his young actor, Tim Boardman. The movie is partly autobiographical and tells the story of Miles, who challenges social codes in his Midwest town to get to college. The movie will be preceded by a short anime from Australia, "The Story of Percival Pilts," and both features

are for all audiences. At 6 p.m. there will be a celebration in the theater with appetizers and drinks, immediately followed by the two movies' screenings. After "Miles," Adloff and Boardman will answer questions.

"This year we are presenting a short movie before every feature film," says the festival's cofounder Derek Zemrak. He adds this is a way to introduce audiences to the charm and creativity of shorts. As during previous years, certain presentations are entirely dedicated to short movies, including the popular best-of the Sapore shorts from Japan.

Zemrak is always happy to note that some directors who debuted a short just a few years back are now coming back with full features. Siobhan Devine from Canada is returning with "Birdwatcher," a beautiful story of redemption and forgiveness, after featuring a short a few years ago.

"It's very interesting to see the progress in their work and career," Zemrak says.

One important change this year is that the films will be shown in Moraga and Orinda, with no overlap, so everyone can see all the movies if they desire. Previous years, with features shown

at the same time in different theaters, hard choices had to be made. This year, while the opening is in Moraga, the festival will be at the Orinda Theatre all day on Friday, Sept. 9, and switch days throughout the weekend. The awards and the Sapore shorts will be presented in the evenings at the Rheem Theatre on Sept. 13 and 14.

Films will also be shown at the Castro Theater in San Francisco all day on Saturday.

Also part of the festival are the creators contests, such as the The Iron Film Makers, where teams have 24 hours to create a film on a given theme; or the second edition of the Composer Contest, a competition to write a music score for a given short film. Zemrak launched the music competition two months ago via the internet and received 147 submissions from all over the world. The winners of both competitions will be featured during the festival.

"We called this edition of the festival 'something for everyone from around the world,'" says Zemrak. Each year he and his team try to get the best independent and interesting films for the Lamorinda audience. Program detail and tickets are online at www.caiff.org.

Photos provided



In "Trailhead," discover Oakland's gateway to the redwoods

For Your Viewing Pleasure

There are a total of 10 feature films in the festival, besides "Miles."

- "The Red Maple Leaf" is a thriller with Martin Landau and Robert Loggia;
- "The Innocents" is a touching human drama from France set in 1946 that has received unanimous reviews in Europe (and 93 percent positive on Rotten Tomatoes);
- "Despite the Falling Snow" from England is a romantic spy story in time of the cold war;
- "Beat Beneath My Feet," also from England, is a story of rock 'n' roll renaissance;
- "The Birdwatcher" from Canada tells the story of a mother reconnecting with her own mother in dramatic circumstances;
- "Kepler's Dream" from England also tells of family ties and secrets from the point of view of 11-year-old Ella;
- "Beijing New York" from Canada takes the viewer between the two cities as the film's central character has to choose which one to call home and which man to love;
- "After Words" from the U.S. is a romantic comedy developing in Costa Rica with wonderfully talented Academy Award-winner Marcia Gay Harden;
- "Kikoriki: The Legend of the Golden Dragon" is a children's feature from Russia, a delightful and beautifully made animation, fun and in English.

The festival's documentaries have always been very strong and varied. They include:

- "Trailhead, a surprising discovery of Oakland's redwoods, just 10 minutes from Lamorinda;
- "The World We Live In" is part of a series that will make audiences sing, think and cry.

There is also a feature about Norman Lear and short productions. The shorts are grouped by theme from "Make Us Laugh" to "Crimes and Misdemeanors" and "Love and Friendship." —S. Braccini

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Cal Shakes' 'You Never Can Tell' Blurs Lines and Challenges Social Codes

By Sophie Braccini



From left, Sabina Zuniga Varela as Gloria, Lance Gardner as Philip, and Khalia Davis as Dolly. Photos Kevin Berne



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By assembling a joyful and unexpected cast and by moving the action from England to California, director Lisa Peterson has turned George Bernard Shaw's 1897 historically marked play "You Never Can Tell" into a relevant and interesting piece of entertainment.

Shaw wrote "You Never Can Tell" in 1897 three years after British writer and public speaker Sarah Grand coined the term "New Woman." According to Dr. Andrzej Diniejko, an English Literature and Culture scholar at Warsaw University, the "Woman Question" became a vital issue in British newspapers and periodicals in the 1880s and 1890s. It was a time of changes in the law, as the Married Women's Property Acts of 1870 had allowed married women to retain and control their earned income, and in 1882 they had gained the right to own and control their property. The New Woman was intelligent, educated, emancipated, independent and self-supporting. She was also caricatured, usually pictured riding a bicycle in bloomers and smoking a cigarette.

It is in that context of the social questioning that followed the Victorian era that Shaw presented the play, where a mother has left her husband and raised her three children alone, with modernistic ideas of earnestness, independence and the right of making their own decisions. She returns home with them now almost grown and through a

series of coincidences, is reunited with her former husband.

The first part of the play sets the situation in place and revolves around a young, charming and penniless dentist, a bit of a charlatan too, and his encounter with the Clandon family. The mother is a renowned New Woman writer, her older daughter Gloria is following in her footsteps, while the two younger siblings, Dolly and Philip, are very bright and free spirited. By the time of the intermission, the situation is well established and the missing figure of the father has been introduced.

The second part reveals the full flavor of Shaw's humor and depth. A more fast-paced part, it develops the interesting social and humanistic questions Shaw raises with this play: can a woman, or a man for that matter, retain the fullness of her or his self-determination within the institution of marriage? Can a father and a son still connect after the latter has risen way above his father's social standing? Is trust and respect built into fatherhood or does it have to be earned? Shaw seizes the essence of a world that is rapidly changing and where "you never can tell."

Interestingly enough, one could also draw a parallel between the play and the new movie now in theaters, "Captain Fantastic." Is it possible to raise children in a vacuum, nourished by a philosophy, however good it might be, but that can put them at odds with the

rest of society? In the movie, like in the play, one of the children bitterly complains to the parent that raises them that she/he taught them everything except real life and how to interact with others.

The central character of the second part is Walter, a headwaiter. Like in any good classic theater, the "jester" is the smartest of them all and is able to bring about dialogue and change. Danny Schele, in this role, showcases a remarkable comic talent.

Peterson offers at Cal Shakes the original Shaw's text, but with a few twists. The action is set in San Francisco instead of England. It makes it more familiar to the audience, but it also adds an element of new world freedom that fits the text well. She cast some of the members of the Clandon family with black actors. This adds interesting aspects on more than one level. First it breaks the social model of that era, where interracial families were not widespread and it underlines the challenging content of the play. On another level, the color of the actors becomes irrelevant, and powerfully shows that there is only one race, the human race, struggling with the same issues, whatever the pigment of the outside layer.

"You Never Can Tell" plays through Sept. 4 at the Bruns Amphitheater in Orinda. More information and tickets are available at calshakes.org.



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From left: Danny Schele as Walter and Michael Torres as Fergus Crampton.

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Campolindo Grad Gives Hope and More to Kenya Youth in Unique Program

By Uma Unni



Morgan DeLuce

Photo provided

Fresh out of college, Morgan DeLuce is already working to make the world a better place.

The 2011 Campolindo graduate recently partnered with San Francisco-based nonprofit Mama Hope as a Global Advocate Fellow. DeLuce will be spending the next nine months working to develop new programs for students at Flying Kites, a small boarding school for orphans and impoverished students in Njabini, Kenya.

One of DeLuce's two central projects is to implement a sexual education curriculum for the school. Sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) have long been a problem in Africa, and in recent years, prospects have been increasingly grim. According to a 2010 study by the World Health Organization, 70 percent of the annual HIV infections across the world were in sub-Saharan Africa. Because STDs tend to spread at an exponential rate, sexual education programs like DeLuce's — even if administered to a relatively small number of students — can create a ripple effect that prevents the spread of STDs far beyond the original recipients of sexual education.

DeLuce's second major project with the school is to build a new student dorm. Flying Kites has over 1,500 students engaged in their outreach programs, but they can only

offer a home to as many orphaned students as their housing facilities allow for. By building a new dorm for the school, DeLuce hopes to create a home — and a future — for even more children.

To grow these programs and measure their progress, DeLuce will be spending three months in the fall in Njabini, working directly with the school.

"Another goal of mine," DeLuce said, "is to change the conversation around poverty, and flip the script to empower individuals who are typically disempowered in traditional aid models." To empower students at Flying Kites, DeLuce hopes to implement the LaunchPad program, which prepares secondary school students for professional careers by connecting them with internships in Nairobi.

"The kids at Flying Kites are future leaders and have so much potential to generate positive change," she says.

DeLuce's ambitions began early, when she started volunteering for Mama Hope in high school. After attending a leadership conference, where she heard about the nonprofit, DeLuce learned that they were working on a project to install a sustainable drip irrigation system at a farm in Kenya.

"I wanted to get involved, so I started selling tee-shirts and flowers. I even turned Campo's Mr. GQ

contest into a fundraiser, which was so fun and very successful. The farm has now used the irrigation system for the past 5 years."

DeLuce's passion for social impact still shines through. After attending Boston College, where she earned a bachelor's degree in sociology and management & leadership, DeLuce has returned to Mama Hope so that she can continue to work toward social change.

Over the next three months, DeLuce will be raising \$20,000 to fund her projects for Flying Kites. "I've raised money from my personal network, from a foundation, and through events. Social media has been a huge factor in generating awareness for the project, and my friends and family have been hugely supportive, sharing the work of Mama Hope and Flying Kites with others." One hundred percent of the money DeLuce raises will go toward the projects on the ground in Njabini.

DeLuce has set up a crowdfunding page at www.classy.org/morganflyingkites for anyone interested in supporting her project. "I am also looking for product donations for upcoming events in Lafayette, including food and silent auction items.

"Most importantly," DeLuce added, "I would love for people to share this story with their friends and family and reach out if they have any questions."

When asked what she would tell teenagers interested in volunteering, DeLuce said, "Begin volunteering in your local community and understand the needs of those closest to you, and what solutions are already being put into place. Build your understanding of how to work in accompaniment with others. Live compassionately in your day-to-day life and assume the best in people," she said.

She adds, "When we enter into humanitarian work from a place of love and respect, we can change the way that we do service for the better."

The Roving Rabbis Take to the Streets to Help Jews Learn About Their Faith

By Pippa Fisher



Rabbi Mendel Weinfeld and Rabbi Mendel Erlenwein.

Photo provided

Local residents might have noticed a couple of friendly young men, dressed in wide brimmed black hats and serious black suits, on the streets of Lamorinda over the past week or so.

Rabbi Mendel Weinfeld and Rabbi Mendel Erlenwein are two 19-year old rabbinical students from Brooklyn, N.Y. "People do stop and look at us", said Weinfeld with a smile. But he says that the response of people in this area has been very welcoming and friendly.

As much as their appearance stands out in California, they come across as approachable and open. They are striking up conversations around the community with the intent to ignite a spark among non-affiliated Jewish people in the area. Weinfeld says they have been introducing themselves in restaurants, banks and other businesses. They spend time talking to commuters outside the BART station and also approach people on the street to ask simply "Are you Jewish?" and then follow up if people are interested

in learning more. They are visiting homes too and talking, listening and teaching in a one-on-one, informal situation as they bring their message of goodness and kindness to all.

"We're very relaxed. We're not intimidating at all," said Erlenwein. "People are searching," said Weinfeld. These two young men hope to reach culturally Jewish people in the area and help them rediscover their heritage. They carry with them and hand out Shabbat candles, kosher foods and mezuzahs — a religious scroll which is placed on the doorway of a Jewish home. For many who have lost touch with their Judaism or who have never been taught about their heritage, this is a welcome opportunity to learn.

When asked how this area compares with other areas that he has taken his message to, Weinfeld notes that Californians are very laid back and ready to talk.

... continued on page B4

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Lafayette Studio Big Band to Play at Local Church

Submitted by Marie Williams



Photo provided

For the third year in a row, the Lafayette Studio Big Band will perform an outdoor concert on the back patio of the Lafayette Christian Church, 584 Glenside Dr, in Lafayette. The concert will be held from 4 to 6 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 28.

Some of the musicians in the 16-piece big band have played with The Temptations, The Harry James Orchestra, Judy Collins,

Sheila Escovedo and more.

Cost is a \$20 donation, which can be paid at the door. Refreshments will be available. Proceeds will go to charities in Contra Costa County. For more information, contact the church at (925) 283-8304. To hear a sample of the music, visit www.lafayettebigband.com.

LL&LC Foundation Seeks Community Members for Board

Submitted by Cheryl Noll

The Lafayette Library and Learning Center Foundation is once again looking for applicants to fill openings on its board of trustees for two year terms. Applications are available at www.lllcf.org/volunteer-opportunities or a print copy is available in the LLLCF office on the mezzanine floor of the library. Please visit the website for information on the duties and responsibilities of a

board of trustee member.

Applications are being accepted now through Sept. 9. Interviews will occur thereafter. Please return the application to: LLLCF 3491 Mt. Diablo, Suite 214, Lafayette, 94549.

For additional information call (925) 283-6513, ext 104.

Moraga Pear Harvest Nets 7,000 Pounds of Fruit for Food Bank

Submitted by Karen Reed



From left, Kaitlin Starnes, Megan Edelman and Lauren Edelman stand with their boxes of pears they helped pick at the Moraga Pear Harvest. They and their mothers are volunteers from the National Charity League. Photo Provided

Over 100 years ago, pear orchards were planted in the Moraga Valley. Most of the orchards are long gone, but the remaining trees still produce great Bartlett pears. The old pear trees can be found on public land, open spaces and undeveloped parcels. Recently, volunteers harvested the pears in Moraga for the Solano and Contra Costa Counties Food Bank.

The Moraga Park Foundation has sponsored the volunteer pear harvest for 18 years.

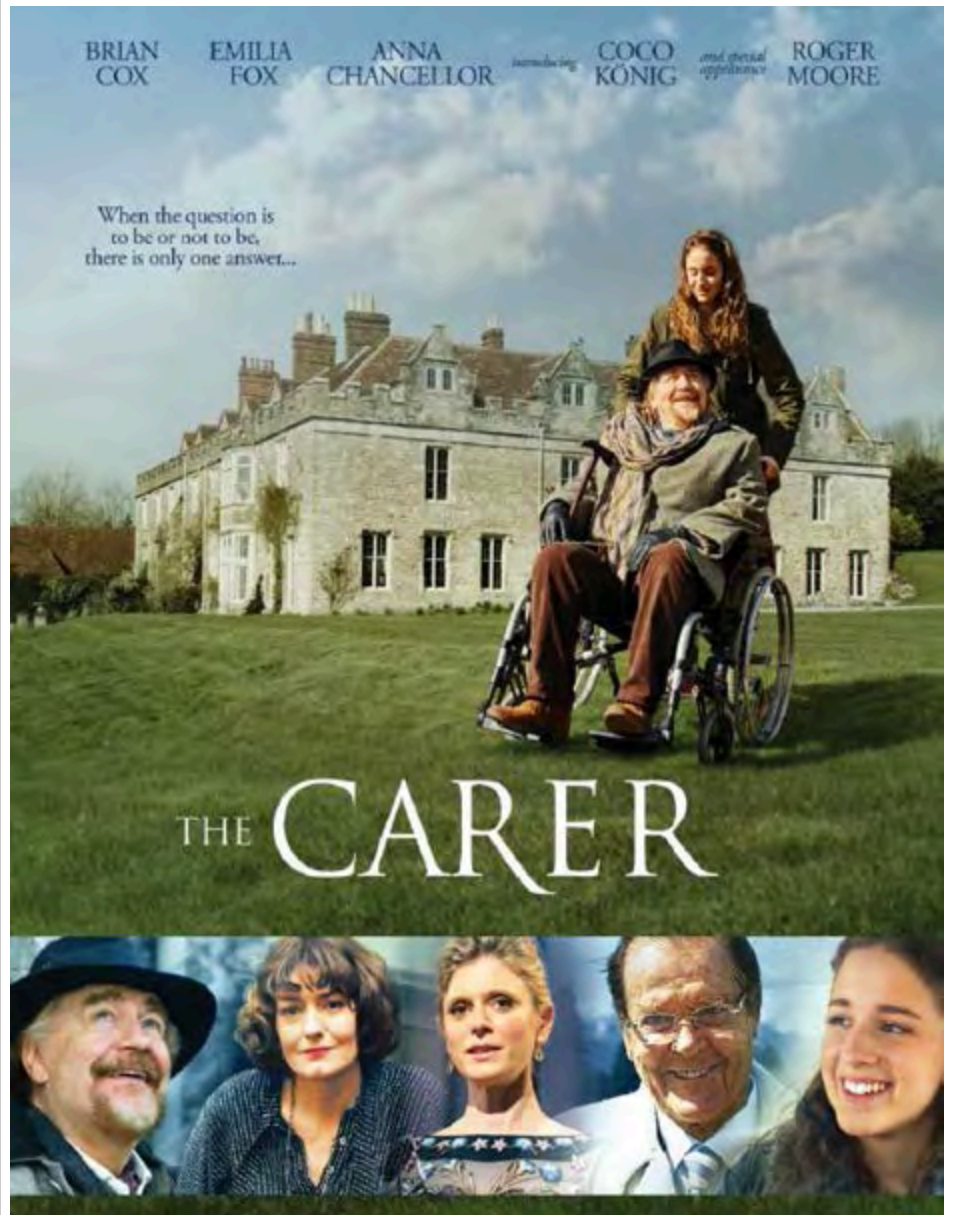
Over 150 volunteers from the National Charity League, Boys Team Charity and Kiwanis Club picked the pears, which are given to the Food Bank.

Pear harvests were smaller during the drought years, but the health of the trees improved after last winter's rains and pruning by volunteers. This year's harvest resulted in 7,000 pounds of fresh pears for the families served by the Food Bank.

Community Service: We are pleased to make space available whenever possible for some of Lamorinda's dedicated community service organizations to submit news and information about their activities. Submissions may be sent to storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com with the subject header In Service to the Community.

'The Carer' is Filled with Life

By Sophie Braccini



"The Carer" is playing at the Orinda Theatre.

Image provided

How can a movie about a dying man be about so much life? "The Carer," which will be presented in Orinda for a week starting on Sept. 2, offers great life lessons and resilience, passion and friendship, a wonderful and touching movie for all audiences.

The story is a simple one. An old Shakespearean actor and a British legend, Sir Michael Gifford, played by Brian Cox, is becoming increasingly impacted by a rare form of Parkinson's disease. He was a great film and stage performer and his physical decline is leaving him bitter and impossible to live with. His daughter hires a young caregiver from Hungary to take care of her father. A beautiful friendship and complicity — she is an aspiring actress — slowly grows between the old man and the young girl, leading to the blossoming of a new level of conscious-

ness and love of life for the two of them.

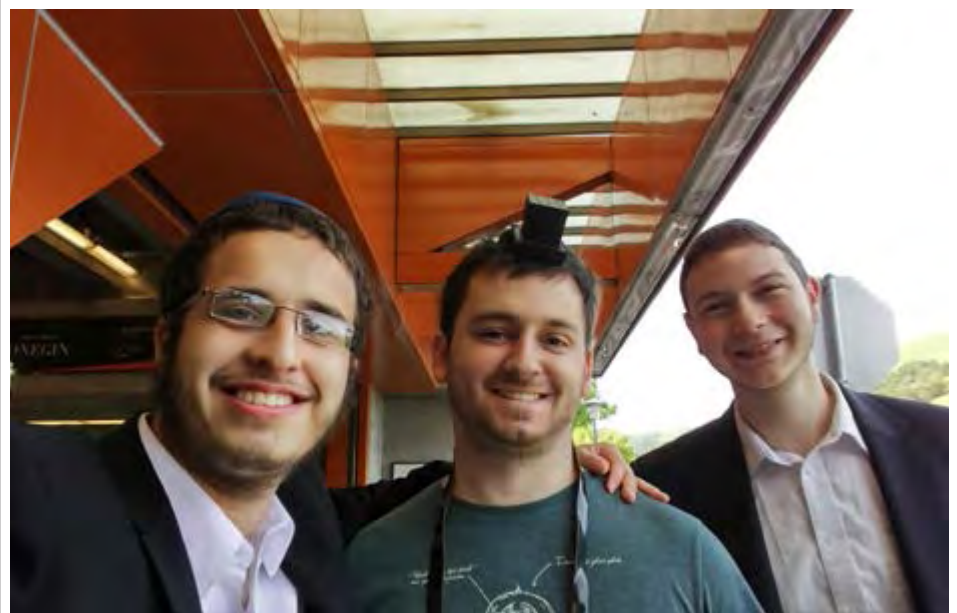
The last scene played by Cox, at the top of his game, is breathtaking and will have a lasting positive impact on viewer of all ages. Cox is himself a Shakespearean actor, especially revered for his interpretation of King Lear; he was aged to play in the movie.

"The Carer" is a coproduction from England and Hungary directed by János Edelényi. The action is situated in England and everyone speaks British English. One character, Dorottya, is played by Coco König, a young Hungarian and Austrian actress.

"The Carer" is part of the International Film Showcase in Orinda that features a foreign film of great quality not yet released in the area, and sometimes a first in the country. More information is available at www.internationalshowcase.org.

The Roving Rabbis Take to the Streets of Lamorinda

... continued from page B3



The Roving Rabbis are a hit around town.

Photo Provided

The Roving Rabbis program was started more than 60 years ago and is run by Merkos L'inyonei Chinuch, the educational arm of the Chabad-Lubavitch movement. "We have been empowered by the world leader of the generation, the Lubavitcher Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem M. Schneerson," says Weinfeld. Chabad, or Chabad-Lubavitch, is an Orthodox Jewish, Hasidic movement, well-known for its outreach.

Weinfeld and Erlenwein will continue their work in this area until early September. If you would like to contact Rabbis Weinfeld

and Erlenwein you can email them at men-delwein@gmail.com or call them on 925-434-1745.

Locally, Rabbi Yisroel Labkowski has been the director of Chabad in Lamorinda for about a year. He offers Shabbat services and Hebrew school out of his home. No membership fees are charged and Weinfeld says it is a stimulating and welcoming atmosphere in which to learn about Judaism. If you are interested in finding out more, visit its website at www.chabadoflamorinda.com.

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.

Lafayette Author Pens the Story of a Hidden Medieval Heroine

By Kara Navolio



Hilary Benford Photo provided

It's never too late to cross an item off your bucket list.

That is definitely true for Lafayette author Hilary Benford, who has just had her historical fiction novel published at the age of 79. "Sister of the Lionheart," published by Wordfire Press in July and available through Amazon.com, is the story of Joanna Plantagenet, a young princess in England during the Middle Ages.

"Much has been documented about her famous parents, King Henry II of England and Eleanor of Aquitaine, and her brother, Richard the Lionheart, but I always wondered about the women of that time period, what they were doing and thinking," says Benford. "All of my history classes always focused on the men and the battles and laws."

The story begins in 1168 with Joanna as a young girl, growing up at courts in France and Eng-

land, always admiring her mother's strength. She was married off to King William of Sicily at the age of 12 but her strength and her close relationship with her brother Richard led her to become a formidable force in history, even joining her brother in the Crusades.

"This historical epic introduces a strong and truly unforgettable heroine whose drive and persistence helped change the course of history," states the publisher.

Benford grew up in England and experienced the World War II bombings around London. She married an American physicist and moved to Lafayette 39 years ago. She began writing this book in the 1970s, but then other obligations took her away from completing it. In the meantime, she raised two sons and coauthored a science fiction book with her brother-in-law, Gregory Benford, titled "Timescape" that won the 1980 Nebula Award (voted on by Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America).

Almost 40 years later, Benford decided it was time to complete her book about Joanna. She took up her writing and research full time about two years ago. Her research included books on medieval history and customs, online research, as well as travel to all of the places Joanna lived, from Fontevault to the Holy Land, and Sicily to Toulouse.

"Sister of the Lionheart" is volume one of a two-part series. The second novel, "Joanna Crusader," is the story of Joanna's later years and is slated to be published next year.

Benford will be signing books at a launch party at 3 p.m. Sept. 3 at Orinda Books.

Understanding the State's End of Life Option Act

By Linda Fodrini-Johnson

When the days become numbered, and the pain or discomfort of illness is more than one can bear, Californians have a new law (End of Life Option Act) that allows those who meet the criteria to take a drug that ends their life.

I am sure this stirs up mixed feelings, values and concerns for most of us. This can be especially hard to understand for those who fight hard against suicide or have experienced the death of a family member by suicide.

To qualify, the patient must meet the following criteria:

- Be a resident of California;
- Be 18 years of age or older;
- Have a diagnosis of an incurable disease that will result in death within six months;
- The patient must be mentally competent and be able to make their own medical decisions;
- The patient must be able to self-administer the drug.

Oregon has had such a law for many years and even to this day only about 40 percent of the individuals that apply actually end their lives in this manner. In reality, 60 percent choose to allow the natural course of life to bring theirs to a close.

A complicating factor for physicians is that the American Medical Association's formal ethics policy is against doctors facilitating a patient's death, including offering information or drugs that enable the patient to perform this life-ending act. Doctors have the choice not to participate in a patient's decision to end their life. However, many will support those who choose this option.

Compassion & Choices is an organization that advocates for end of life options. They assist with education, consultation, policy promotion and more. They have a hotline for clinicians, which has more information for pharmacists and doctors to connect with resources

and trained practitioners. Their hotline number is 1-800-893-4548 or check out their website at www.compassionandchoices.org.

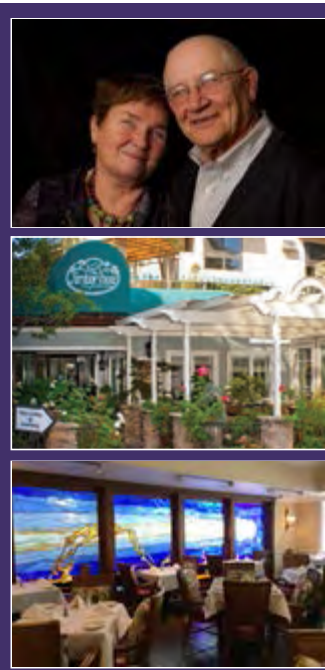
Care, comfort, pain management, and supporting patients and families at the end of life are also the missions and goals of the hospice movement. In my experience, individuals and families often delay or decline the options that provide death with dignity. In part, such decisions are difficult because it means refusing aggressive treatments, thus facing the end of life.

I made the hospice decision for my own mother; it was tough signing the papers to enroll her. However, this decision gave her the most peaceful and dignified end of life possible, in a home-like setting. Because of her dementia, she would not have had the choice of "the right to die" on her own. I know that I have had many clients in the past who would have also welcomed such a choice – as hard as it is.

If you would like some of my blogs related to this issue, sign up for our monthly newsletter at www.EldercareAnswers.com or call our office and we will put you on the list.



Linda Fodrini-Johnson, MA, MFT, CMC is a Licensed Family Therapist and Certified Care Manager. She is the Founder of Eldercare Services, a full-service care management and home care company doing business since 1989. Linda's new e-book, "7 Steps to a Healthy Life for You and Your Aging Parents," can be found on Amazon.com.



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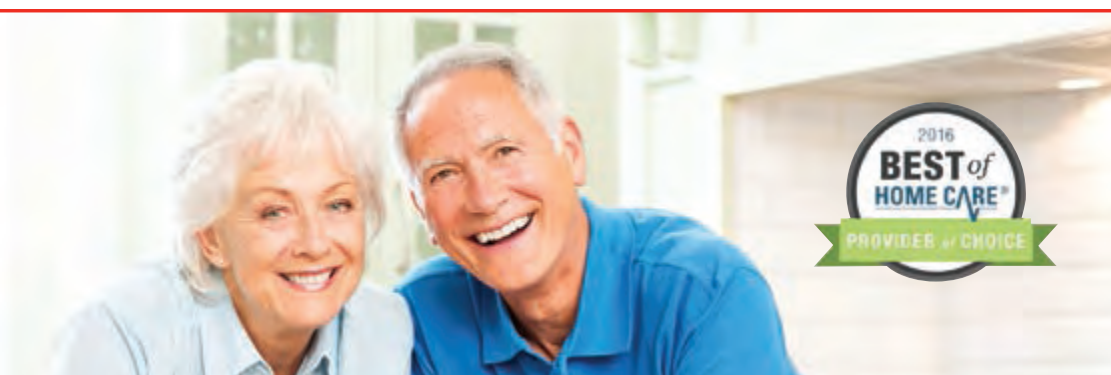
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Not to be missed

ART

The new Lafayette Library Art Gallery Exhibit features oil paintings by Geoff Meredith, pastels and watercolors by Dalia Alekna, and ceramics by Olga Jusidman. The exhibit runs through Aug. 31. It's located at 3420 Mt Diablo Blvd, Lafayette, (925) 284-2788, www.lafayettegallery.com.

The Moraga Art Gallery announces "Creative Contrasts," a new exhibit featuring George Ehrenhaft's serene watercolor paintings inspired by California's outdoor world, and also David and Reed Bowman's brass and copper objects, shaped and hammered, ground and sanded into myriad decorative and functional works of art. The exhibit runs through Oct. 22 and includes works by the gallery's 16 member artists and several guest artists. The gallery is located in the Rheem Shopping Center, at 522 Center Street, Moraga.

Valley Art Gallery presents their featured artist Peter McNeill, running through Sept. 9. McNeill is an accomplished figurative and landscape artist who lives and works in Walnut Creek and draws inspiration from many different locales. To learn more and see the work of all its artists, visit www.valleyartgallery.org

The Jennifer Perlmutter Gallery is pleased to present "Off The Wall" Sept. 8 through Oct. 1. This tongue-in-cheek art exhibit will show colorful works of glass, fiberglass, wood, and wire, all 3D art that pops off the wall and can be "off the wall" in character. Artist Reception from 7 to 9 p.m. on Thursday Sept. 8. Check the website for additional hours and events. Jennifer Perlmutter Gallery, 3620 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, CA 94549. Contact Jennifer Perlmutter at (925) 284-1485.

MUSIC

The UC Theatre Taube Family Music Hall presents Cat Power's "SUN" at 8 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 27. Doors open at 7 p.m. at The UC Theatre Taube Family Music Hall, 2036 University Ave., Berkeley. Cat Power wrote, played, recorded and produced the entirety of "SUN" by herself, a statement of complete control that is echoed in the songs' themes. Cost: \$35. For more info see www.theucetheatre.org/event/1268863-cat-power-sun-berkeley/ or call (510) 356-4000 or email information@theucetheatre.org.

Celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Beatles final concert and support a great cause with an all Beatles show by Come Together, one of the Bay Area's premier Beatles tribute bands, from 7 to 10 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 27 at the Lafayette Veterans Memorial Center, 3780 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Lafayette. \$25 at the door, all proceeds benefit the Concord Vet Center. Servicemen and women in uniform admitted free. See www.vetcenter.va.gov/ for more info.

Don't miss the Lafayette Studio Big Band Concert from 4 to 6 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 28 at the Lafayette Christian Church outdoor patio, 584 Glenside Drive. Cost: \$20 per adult donation to support charities in CC County. Refreshments will be available. Admission at the entry. www.lafayettebigband.com.

WomenSing presents Audition to Sing with WomenSing from 7 to 9:45 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 30, at Lafayette/Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Drive, La-

fayette. Singers will be asked to vocalize, sing scales a cappella, sight-read a short passage, and present a prepared piece. Prior appointment required. No cost to audition. For more info see www.womensing.org/get-involved/audition or call (925) 798-4875 or email audition@womensing.org.

Walnut Creek Concert Band will perform a free concert in Walnut Creek's Civic Park at 6 p.m. on Labor Day, Sept. 5.

Thursday evening concerts continue 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Moraga Commons Park: Aug. 25 **FUNDamentals** - Season finale cover and dance band; Sept. 24 **Pear Festival concert 2 to 4 p.m.** - Tune Riders.

THEATER

Role Players Ensemble presents Edward Albee's "Seascape," winner of the 1975 Pulitzer Prize for Drama. "Seascape," directed by George Maguire, runs at the Village Theatre in Danville Sept. 2 through Sept. 18, at 8 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and at 2 p.m. on Sunday. The show will lead off the 17th annual Eugene O'Neill Festival, which includes a Role Players co-production of O'Neill's *The Emperor Jones* at the Tao House National Historic Site (more information at www.eugeneoneill.org).

California Shakespeare Theater presents "Othello" on previews Sept. 14 through 16 at California Shakespeare Theater, 100 California Shakespeare Theater Way, Orinda. In his Cal Shakes debut Eric Ting, will face our society's fear of "the other" head on with this provocative rendition of Shakespeare's famous tragedy. Cost: \$20-\$84. For more info and showtimes see www.calshakes.org or call (510) 548-3422 or email info@calshakes.org.

FESTIVALS And SPECIAL EVENTS

Squeaky Clean Comedy Night at the Orinda Theatre is opening at 7:30 p.m. on Aug. 31. Enjoy a fun evening of clean comedy. Not all comics have to use four letter words to make people laugh. Proceeds to benefit 19th CAIFF. Tickets: \$15

The California Independent Film Festival opens Thursday, Sept 8 at the Rheem and Orinda Theatres. Visit www.CAIFF.org for full schedule and tickets.

Don't miss the 12th Annual Orinda Classic Car Show Weekend: "Dancing with the Cars." Pre-party, 6 p.m. Friday Sept. 9; Classic Car Show, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 10. Enter your car and buy party tickets today at www.OrindaCarShow.com. These events benefit the Seniors Around Town transportation program, Educational Foundation of Orinda and other local charities.

Lafayette Chamber of Commerce presents Lafayette Art & Wine Festival 2016 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 17 and from noon to 6 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 18 in downtown Lafayette, 3553 Mt. Diablo Blvd, Lafayette. The award-winning art, wine and music festival runs two days, features four stages, 20 cover bands, 260-plus artists and a Kid-Zone. There will be Food, wine and beer. Free admission. Near BART. For more info see www.lafayettefestival.com, call (925) 284-7404 or email festival@lafayettechamber.org.

Mobility Matters Spaghetti Hop, Birthday bash and Fundraiser - Support Our Services and Celebrate Our CEO's

(ElaineWelch) 70th Birthday from 4 to 8 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 24 at Our Savior's Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall, 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette. Tickets: \$35 per person, adults only. 925.284.2207 email: office@mobilitymatterscc.com. Space is limited, RSVP early to ensure your seat.

GARDEN

Lafayette Community Garden and Outdoor Learning Center Gardeners' Guide To Saving Seeds is from 3 to 4 p.m. on Sept. 10. Now is the perfect time to identify which of your tomatoes and other summer vegetables were the most productive and healthy and learn how to save some of their seeds for planting next year. Trish Clifford, UC Master Gardener of Contra Costa County, will offer a presentation about how to save seeds from your vegetable garden. There will also be a talk about how to organize a seed swap for next spring, so we can share our seeds. Classes are free. However, a \$5 donation is appreciated to support education programs. To register for classes or for more information, visit www.lafayettecommunitygarden.org

Lafayette Garden Club is excited to present speaker Ann Ralph, author of "Grow a Little Fruit Tree: Simple Pruning Techniques for Small-Space, Easy Harvest Fruit Trees." Ralph is a horticulturist, nursery enthusiast and teacher. Her program and discussion will be *Fruit Trees Simplified: Easy Harvest Pruning*. She will cover fruit tree basics, such as the logic of pruning, how to prune for short stature and easy harvest, easy training, seasonal routines, and pest and disease control. The meeting is from 9:45 a.m. to noon on Sept. 8., 3780 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. Visitors are welcome. Please email Carolyn Poetzsch at cpoetzsch@gmail.com.

OTHER

Back to school is the purrfect time to adopt a new kitten or cat. Community Concern for Cats invites you to meet their kitties at the adoption event from 1 to 4 p.m. this Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 27 and 28, at Pet Food Express in Lafayette and Pleasant Hill, and Petco in Walnut Creek. For more information, see www.communityconcernforcats.org

Downsizing Made Simple. Presented by Seniors Real Estate Specialist Dayna Wilson from 5:30-6:30 p.m., Sunday, Aug. 28 at The Kensington, 1580 Geary Road in Walnut Creek. Enjoy a complimentary dinner while Dayna shares tips on downsizing. Everyone is welcome. Please RSVP (925) 943-1121.

Many people have all been impacted by the fires raging across California. Come gather, share stories, acknowledge loss, create an expression of sympathy for Lake County, and form sacred solace. This interfaith gathering with, hopefully, fire fighters is from 6 to 8:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 31. Potluck style dinner afterwards. St Mark's United Methodist Church, 451 Moraga Way, Orinda, CA 94563.

... continued on next page

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Events:**

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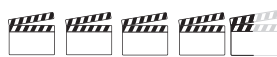
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MOVIE REVIEW

Film Clips

'Kubo and the Two Strings' is Full of Life Lessons

By Derek Zemrak



Monkey (voiced Charlize Theron) watches as Beetle (voiced by Matthew McConaughey) teaches Kubo (voiced by Art Parkinson) how to fish with a bow and arrow in animation studio Laika's epic action-adventure "Kubo and the Two Strings," a Focus Feature release.

Credit: Laika Studios/Focus Features

Laika Entertainment, the talented stop-motion animation studio located in Hillsboro, Oregon, 967 miles from Hollywood, has produced four Oscar worthy films in the past seven years, including "Coraline" (2009), "ParaNorman" (2012) and "The Boxtrolls" (2014). Laika's latest movie is "Kubo and the Two Strings."

This time around, as in all Laika films, the lead character is a young child, Kubo (voiced by Art Parkinson, Rickon Stark from "Game of Thrones") whose peaceful world comes crashing down on him when he summons a revengeful spirit from the past. Kubo and his friends, the monkey and the beetle, join forces to unlock the secret legacy.

Two Oscar recipients, Charlize Theron and Matthew McConaughey, lend their voice talents to the film. Theron plays the wise Monkey and McConaughey is Beetle, the comic relief of the story. Kubo beholds a magical instrument, (yes, with two strings) that he uses to battle the Moon King and his minions to save his family. Along the way Kubo learns some of life's reasons; like why did he lose one eye and about his deceased father – a fallen samurai.

One may think that "Kubo and the Two Strings" is a Japanese folk tale but it is not. It has tales in myths for ancient Japanese culture but is an original story by Shannon Tindle and Marc Haimes. The movie is directed by Travis Knight who was the lead animator on "The Boxtrolls," "ParaNorman" and "Coraline." The animation is amazing, the scenery is stunning and should be seen on the big screen.

This film is rated PG because some parts may be too scary and complicated for very young children. Please respect the PG rating. "Kubo and the Two Strings" will earn Laika its fourth Best Animated Feature Nomination but it has one little thing in its way to winning the Oscar – Pixar.

The 19th annual California Independent Film Festival is just three weeks away, starting at 6 p.m. on Sept. 8 at the Rheem Theatre. Over 30 filmmakers from around the world will be attending the weeklong festival. Meet Ellen Gerstein, a Los Angeles filmmaker and see her short film "Come Away With Me."

Hope to see you at the festival and remember; CAIFF has "Something for Everyone from Around the World."

Filmmaker Spotlight: Ellen Gerstein

By Lindsay Pirkle, CAIFF Festival Director



I am Ellen Gerstein a Los Angeles filmmaker, member of Women in Film, the Alliance of Women Directors and The Actors Studio. My international award winning short film, "Come Away With Me," is an official selection at The California Independent Film Festival screening at noon on Sunday, Sept. 11 in the Shorts Program C: Love and Friendship.

It is about an interracial couple, sweethearts in the 60s, who were torn apart by war and social pressure. The character Michael is a war hero suffering from PTSD and Alzheimer's. Michael is played by Charlie Robinson ("Mom," "Night Court," "Antwon Fisher," "Hart of Dixie"). I play Anne (recurring roles in "Shameless," "Whole Truth"). I also wrote the original song for my film "Come Away With Me Tonight." It is performed by Hollie Cavanagh from American Idol and features Luis Eric Gonzales from Earth, Wind & Fire on horns

My film was an all-female production. I produced, directed and acted, Julie Janata was co-producer and editor, Victoria Sampson (a CAIFF Alumni) did the sound design and Polly Morgan was the cinematographer. I love interviews and will be available before, during and after the film festival.

Weather Wizard Will Wow SIRS 171 -- Sept. 7

Spencer Christian, KGO (Ch 7)'s lively meteorologist will be the featured speaker at the Wednesday, Sept. 7 luncheon of Lamorinda SIR Branch 171. Christian has also reported on travel, trains, wine! Time: 11:30 am, Holy Trinity Serbian Church, 1700 School St., Moraga. Walk-ins welcome; lunch is only \$15.



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Service Clubs Announcements

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

August 26	September 2
Africa, through the African lens	BREXIT with Fred Stambaugh

The Lafayette Arts and Wine Festival is coming to you. Where our Teardrop trailer will make its debut!

Lafayette Rotary Club

Step in on a Thursday and join us for our lunch meeting.
Thursday at noon Oakwood Athletic Club, 4000 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette.

August 25: Officer Holcombe on Fraud and ID Theft Prevention	September 1: Karen Mulvaney, Friendship with Louis Zamperini - WWII prisoner of war featured in the movie Unbroken
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www.rotarylafayette.org
www.facebook.com/Rotary-Club-of-Lafayette-Ca-197392963631366

SOROPTIMIST OF 24/680

Please join us for our next meeting:

WHEN: Wednesday, September 7th
Social 5:30-6:00 p.m.
Meeting 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

WHERE: The Buttercup Grill
660 Ygnacio Valley Road, Walnut Creek.

Soroptimist 24-680 says "No More"

For more information, contact:
Regina Englehart @925-876-9076
or go to: soroptimist24-680.org

◆ Not to be missed ◆ Not to be missed ◆

OTHER ... continued

Brain Remodeling: You Can Change Your Brain and Your Health. Come for a workshop at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 31 for family caregivers or those dealing with the challenges of aging with Linda Fodrini-Johnson of Eldercare Services. You will learn: How you can repair damage done by stress to your brain, Simple ways to

change your chromosomes and the power of "mindfulness." Limited Seating. No fee. Class intended for family caregivers or those dealing with the challenges of aging.

The Contra Costa County Library is hosting its annual book giveaway through Sept. 4. The book giveaway is located in the shipping and receiving area at Library Administration

in Pleasant Hill, from 9 a.m. to 4:30 Monday through Saturday p.m. and is closed on Sundays. Books are available on a first-come, first-served basis and members of the public are advised to bring their own boxes or bags to transport materials. For general questions, please contact library administration at libadmin@ccclib.org or (925) 646-6423.

Lamorinda Weekly

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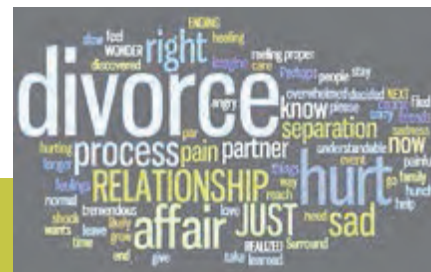
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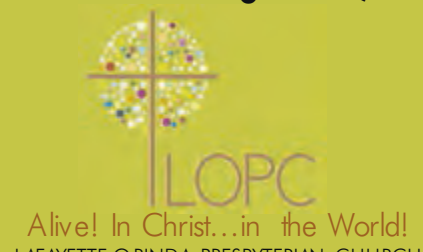
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Thoughtful Food

Mouth-watering Wild West Rolls Will Lasso Your Heart

By Susie Iventosch



Sulphur Creek Ranch Potato Rolls. Photo Susie Iventosch

We spend the summers in Idaho in a pretty remote area ... seven miles down a dirt road. This, however, is not always remote enough for my husband, who has a passion for flying a small plane into back country dirt strips.

One such place, Sulphur Creek Ranch, is about a 25-minute plane ride from the town of McCall and serves as the gateway to the Frank Church Wilderness. The ranch can be accessed only by small plane, horseback or on foot, and is situated in a magnificent setting, with mountains beckoning from every

direction and awesome hikes, fishing and horseback trail rides for the adventurous.

Sulphur Creek Ranch also boasts 10 charming guest cabins and a beautiful, rustic lodge where ranch managers Kiere and ValDean Schroeder host breakfast every day in the summer, as well as dinners whenever the cabins are occupied. They put out truly scrumptious fare and one day, Kiere served the most amazing homemade potato rolls. They were fabulous, and of course, I had to have the recipe.

Kiere found the original recipe

by Connie Steenberg in an Idaho cookbook and she shared it with me. I've now made them several times for our summer guests. They are really easy and hold up well for a couple of weeks in the refrigerator. Connie indicated in her recipe that the dough can be kept (covered) up to five days in the refrigerator, too, although I've yet to try that.

Kiere adds her own touch to the recipe by adding sour cream, buttermilk and parsley to her mashed potatoes before adding them to the dough. By the way, she makes her own mashed potatoes, too, and so I have done the same. When making the mashed potatoes, make enough for a second batch and store it in the refrigerator. You'll be happy you did.

Also, in addition to making small dinner rolls, I've made hamburger-sized rolls for burgers and they were perfect.

For more info about Sulphur Creek Ranch, please visit: www.sulphurcreekranch.com.

Sulphur Creek Ranch Potato Rolls

(Makes 18 rolls)

INGREDIENTS

- 3½ cups all-purpose flour
- 1/3 cup granulated sugar
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1/3 cup oil (I use olive oil)
- 1 package yeast
- 1/8 cup (2 Tbsp.) warm water at about 110 degrees
- 2/3 cup water
- 1 egg
- ½ cup mashed potatoes (can add flavoring — herbs, etc. — to the mashed potatoes for variety)

DIRECTIONS

Sprinkle yeast over the warm water and set aside until yeast begins to bubble up. In a large bowl, combine flour, sugar and salt. Mix well. Add all remaining ingredients, including the mashed potatoes and stir with a wooden spoon until integrated.

Knead dough on a floured surface for approximately 5-8 minutes, until dough is smooth and elastic. Place dough in a greased bowl and turn once to coat both sides. Allow to rise in a warm place until doubled in volume. Punch down and form dough into 18 balls.

Place rolls on baking sheet prepared with cooking spray or covered with parchment paper. Allow to rise again until rolls are doubled in size.

Bake in a 400 degree oven for 15 to 20 minutes, or until golden brown and cooked through.

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.



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Station 16 Gets Closer to Breaking Ground
By Rick Nanna!
The Contra Costa County Fire Protection District will shortly submit its design review application to the city of Lafayette for construction of the station 16, moving ahead with a project long demanded by frustrated city residents.
Western Lafayette has been without its fire station since the county closed station 16 in 2012, and ...0222

Growing up Swimmily in Lamorinda
By Cathy Cauffman
Imagine a giant block party, only instead of residential lawns, participants lounge in tents pitched outdoors. Many parents and swimmers alike plunge wholeheartedly into Lamorinda's recreational swim culture. ...0222

Moraga Mom Makes Backpacks and Donates 1-for-1 to Needy
By Diane Clayton
A sign hanging in the entrance to Courtney Brockmeyer's immaculate Concord warehouse reads, "She believed she could. And so she did." Those eight words succinctly describe Brockmeyer.
Admittedly strong-willed, the Moraga mom started her own ...0222

District Attorney Investigating Possible Voter Fraud in County
By Sorg O'Doherty
The extraordinary number of provisional ballots cast in the June presidential primary election delayed the vote count, leaving such people as the Orinda roads bond supporters anxiously awaiting the final count. ...0222

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LAMORINDA SPORTS

Local Squads Set for New Football Landscape

By Karl Buscheck



The Campolindo Cougars hope to repeat their championship ways.

Photos Gint Federas

Campolindo advanced to a state bowl game last year and return star quarterback Jacob Westphal, but on the eve of a new season, the Cougars are facing a major question mark.

"The biggest area we're hurting in is we just don't have linemen," said head coach Kevin Macy. "We can barely find five linemen."

A costly injury has already complicated the search for the reigning NCS champs, who went 14-2 overall and 6-0 in league last season.

"There was one kid we were really counting on – Chris Brahney," Macy explained. "He was going to be our toughest kid and he just broke an ankle and is going to be out for the year."

Brahney isn't the only key contributor the Cougars will have to make do without, as first-team all-league running back Niki Moore has left the team to run cross country.

"Probably the two biggest names that we were going to have were Niki Moore and Chris Brahney and we don't have either of those (guys)," Macy said. "And that just throws more weight on Jacob Westphal."

This fall, the Cougars will be competing in the newly-formed Diablo Athletic League, created in a merger between the DFAL and DVAL. Along with Miramonte, Acalanes, Las Lomas, Concord and Clayton Valley Charter, Campolindo is one of six teams that will be playing in the Valley Conference.

"Oh boy," Macy said when asked for his opinion on the new

alignment. "Trying to find a polite comment for this thing is hard to find."

The primary gripe for the Cougars – and their Lamorinda neighbors – is that Division I Clayton Valley has been added to the conference. According to MaxPreps, Clayton Valley is ranked the No. 29 team in the state entering the season.

"I'm pretty certain we're the only team in the entire state of California that's got to play its first two league opponents who are going to be state qualifier from the year before," Miramonte head coach Jack Schram said.

Before opening the conference schedule against Clayton Valley at home on Oct. 7, the Mats will play a five-game non-league slate. That begins on Aug. 26 when the Mats visit Vanden in Fairfield.

Like the Cougars, the Mats return a star signal-caller in Tim Teague. Last year, Teague threw for 40 touchdowns and nearly 4,000 yards in 13 games as the Mats went 11-2 overall (5-1 in league).

"When we can get a guy like that who's in our system for two years, it's really beneficial," Schram said.

Teague and the team's new running backs – Peter Stehr and Sam Walker – should have plenty of help in the trenches.

"I think our offensive line looks solid," Schram said. "So, we'll hope for big things this year."

Acalanes is set to begin its first season under new head coach Floyd Burnsed. The veteran coach, who was most recently in charge of

Solano Community College, won five NCS titles during his time at Miramonte.

"We've been so busy – working on fundamentals and technique," said Burnsed, who is taking over for the retired Mike Ivankovich. "(We're) just trying to get the program going. We'd like to keep it rolling kind of with what (Ivankovich) started and keep it going from there."

After the Dons went 4-8 last season (2-4 in league), Burnsed is looking forward to working with his new squad. Acalanes travels to Alhambra to begin the season on Aug. 26.

"I haven't actually seen them play (a game) yet," Burnsed explained of his new team. "But I know our quarterback's been a good leader for us – a kid name Robby Rowell."

Burnsed plans to use the non-league portion of the schedule to install new defensive and offensive schemes in advance of challenging DAL season.

"We're in a very tough league with Clayton Charter and Concord and, of course, Campolindo and Miramonte and Las Lomas," Burnsed said. "So, they're all very good quality teams."

In his first year with the Dons, Burnsed will be leaning heavily on his seasoned defense.

"I think our defense will be very good," Burnsed said. "We have a lot of returning players on defense – two linebackers, our secondary. So, hopefully our defense will be experienced and play well."

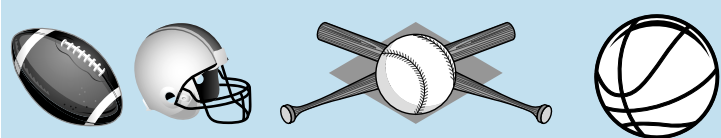


The Miramonte Matadors football team gets into shape for the new season.



The Acalanes Dons will lean heavily on their defense.

Youth Sports Registration



Lamorinda Lacrosse Club

Registration for the Spring 2017 season will open on **Sept. 15** to returning players. **New player registration will open Oct. 1.** Please go to www.lamorindalacrosse.com for more information and details regarding spring registration and fall ball clinics. Contact Jin Peavey at lamorindalaxops@gmail.com if you have any questions.





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Pair of Orinda Residents Compete in World Rowing Championship

By Karl Buscheck



Cole Ortiz, 4th from left and Nikita Lilichenko, 5th from left Photo provided

After a summer spent training in Portland, Ore., and rowing on nearby Vancouver Lake, a pair of Orinda residents are taking part in the 2016 World Rowing Junior Championships.

"It's all the best guys from all the best programs come to one place," said Brian de Regt, the coach of the U19 men's eight boat. "And then the best of those make the national team. So, it's the biggest accomplishment that you can have in terms of making a squad."

Cole Ortiz, a 2016 graduate of Campolindo, and Nikita Lilichenko, who will be a senior at Miramonte, both made the cut. In June, Ortiz and Lilichenko were members of de Regt's Oakland Strokes varsity eight boat that won a gold medal at the U.S. Rowing Youth National Championships.

"It's the pinnacle of junior rowing in the United States," said de Regt, "As a program, we won the national championship which is obviously a pretty big achievement, but to make the World team is just the next step."

It's no secret how Ortiz, who will row at Cornell in the fall, has risen to the top of the sport.

"I don't know if you met him - he's enormous," de Regt said. "He's 6-foot-eight, 215 pounds. So, that certainly helps because that gives him a lot of leverage and that's a big part of the sport."

Like Ortiz, Lilichenko creates plenty of leverage.

"Nikita's also a pretty big guy," de Regt said. "He's like six-foot-five and 210 pounds. So, that's a big part of it."

Their imposing statures help, but that's just the start. As de Regt detailed, there are other reasons why Ortiz and Lilichenko are among the select group of rowers taking part in the World Championships, which run Aug. 21 to 28 in Rotterdam, The Netherlands.

"They're physically talented. So, they have the core tools that you need in

order to compete at this level," de Regt explained. "But there are a lot of guys who are 6'5" who didn't make the team. They worked very hard. They row well."

Ortiz and Lilichenko's home club - the Oakland Strokes - is one of the premier rowing setups in the nation.

"We run hopefully the best program in the country," said de Regt after Strokes' boats claimed three medals - including a pair of golds - at the US Championships. "That level is the highest junior 8's rowing in the world - just the times we're putting up. So, in order to win that championship you have to be pretty good as an individual athlete."

The World Championships - hosted every year at the junior level and every non-Olympic year at the senior level - provide athletes like Ortiz and Lilichenko with a glimpse of just how wide the world of rowing is.

"It just opens their eyes to what's possible," de Regt said. "It's a very cool event. It's very cool to be out there and listening to other people talking different languages and understanding how different rowing is in different countries and to kind of come together and hopefully put yourself in a place where you can be the best in the world."

While an educational experience, the competition is ultimately a business for de Regt and his rowers.

"I hope they're pretty clear on it that it's not a vacation to Rotterdam," de Regt said. "Like, we're not going to enjoy Europe. I'm sure there will be an element of that, but I think the coolest part is that you're going to the most competitive regatta that you could ever go to as a junior athlete. It's the absolute pinnacle."

As de Regt sees it, the goal in Rotterdam is simple.

"I think the guys are pretty clear that we're going over to Europe to try and come back with some hardware."

Local Olympians Inspire Young Swimmers at OMPA Meet

Submitted by Mary McMahon



Pictured from left are members of the Sleepy Hollow 9-10 outstanding girls medley relay Ava Satterfield, Mollie Appl, Maren McDonald, and Natalie Aiken. Photos provided

Natalie Aiken of Orinda didn't have to look hard to find local inspiration when attending the Olympic Trials held in Omaha last month -- pictured at right with Kim Vandenberg, one of several local area Olympians who attended the trials. Other Olympians who came back to the trials to either swim or participate in the events included Brian Goodell, Matt Biondi and Natalie Coughlan.

Aiken, who was named as the Outstanding Girl Swimmer at last weekend's OMPA swim championships in Moraga, finished as High Point in her 9-10 age group and broke records in the 50-yard Butterfly, the Medley Relay and the Free Relay. She swims for the Sleepy Hollow Legends.



From left, Orinda's Natalie Aiken and local Olympian Kim Vandenberg.

High Point Winner at OMPA Championship

We received this information in addition to the published high point winners in our last issue:

2016 Meet High Point (Outstanding Swimmer)-Girl				
Name	Age Group	Team	Place/Stroke	Total Points
Natalie Aiken	9-10	SH	1st FR	72
			1st FL	
			1st IM	
Record in Event	50 FL			
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Magic 99 Girls Win San Diego Surf Cup Championship

Submitted by Greg Davis



Pictured from left: Haris Obic (coach), Vanessa Jones, Emily Smith, Jenna Van Pelt, Dionisia Ruiz, Annie Midthun, Molly Davis, Rochelle Arnold, Sophia Giordano, Keeley Murphy, Mitzy Ramirez, Jasmine Safarians, Sophie Marengo, Kierra Krawec, Lauren Van Stralen, Molly Ikeya and Mia Grillo Photo provided

The California Magic 99 Girls soccer team won the 2016 Surf Cup (U18 Super Group Champions) at the SoCal Sports Complex in Oceanside, July 30-Aug. 1. With stellar offensive and defensive play, the Magic played five games in three days, never trailed, and outscored their opponents 9-1.

"I am very proud of our team," said Haris Obic, Magic director of coaching. "Their outstanding commitment during an intensive, spring and summer training cycle was rewarded with a readiness to overcome all obstacles on the way to the championship.

"We faced elite and well-coached competition during this year's Surf Cup, and to play so consistently well is a tribute to the collective development of this team," Obic

added.

After advancing through a challenging group bracket with the Legends FC (Chino), Irvine Slammers, and Eugene, Ore. Timbers, the Magic played the Del Mar / Carmel Valley Sharks in a taut semi-final. After 70 minutes of regulation play and 20 minutes of overtime, the game was tied 0-0. The Magic then prevailed 3-1 in a penalty kick tiebreaker to secure their spot in the finals against the Corinthians from Corona, Calif.

In the title match with the Corinthians, the Magic scored the first and only goal at only 1:15 into the game, and managed the game through ball possession to earn the clean sheet and create a half a dozen goal scoring opportunities.

680 U16 Women's Water Polo Win Silver at Junior Olympics

Submitted by Pam Drake



The 680 Drivers U16 Women's Water Polo team.

Photo Pam Drake

The 680 Drivers U16 Women's Water Polo Team took second place at the Junior Olympics, out of a 64 team field. The Drivers were the fourth seed entering the tournament. The most exciting win of the weekend was Saturday when 680 beat No. 1 seed Santa Barbara 10-8 to have the best path to the finals.

Sunday morning the Drivers powered over Socal 9-7, earning a spot in the final. The final was a tough loss, as Santa Barbara

played back through the loser's bracket to get into the final, and this time Santa Barbara took the win, 12-6.

The 680 Drivers U16 Women's Water Polo Team are proud of their second place accomplishment in the largest, most competitive tournament in the country. They strongly represented Northern California versus Southern California in the ongoing battle of water polo dominance.

Lamorinda Soccer Club 07 Girls White Win Gold at Tourney

Submitted by Jean-Paul Cozzatti



United 07 White with coach Medi Shafiq.

Photo provided

The Lamorinda Soccer Club 07 Girls White bested Alternativo Futbol Tracy United 07 4 to 1 to win the Stanford Summer Classic and bring home the Gold medal from the tournament.

Lamorinda Contestants Finish Strong at JO Track & Field Competition

Submitted by Shar Rednour



Imani Boggan of Lafayette, in red, took fifth place in the 17-18 Women 800M run. Photo provided

The Diablo Valley Track and Field team finished strong at the 2016 USATF National Junior Olympic Track meet.

Local residents who medaled include: Trevor Rogers (Lafayette) and Alex Lodewick (Moraga), part of the second place National Runner Up 11-12 Boys 4x800M relay; Alex Lodewick (Moraga), who took fifth place in the 11-12 Boys 3000M run; Imani Boggan (Lafayette), who took fifth place in the 17-18 Women 800M run; and Mupp Gragg (Lafayette), who took seventh place in the 15-16 Girls Heptathlon.

Local Sailor in 29er World Championship in Netherlands

Submitted by James Rockafellow



Neil Marcellini and Ian Brill sail in the Netherlands.

Photo James Rockafellow

This summer, Acalanes High School student Neil Marcellini, from Richmond Yacht Club 29er Sailor, was selected to be on the USA 29er World Travel Team, with crew Ian Brill of Mission Bay Yacht Club.

They trained at Olympic Development Program (ODP) clinics in Long Beach, San Francisco, Newport and Colombia Gorge, competing in national and international regattas with great results: third at 29er Nationals in Newport, R.I. June 27-30; second at Colombia Gorge Skiff Regatta in Oregon July 15-17; placed in top 10 with two other USA teams in 29er Worlds Qualifiers in Medemblik, Netherlands; then raced in Gold

fleet (top 50) to finish 36 of 228 international teams. They were top USA youth 29er team at the July 18-30 race.

They also placed second at the U.S. Sailing Youth Championships in Coronado Aug. 5-9. Neil and Ian were in first place for first two days, then sailed a very competitive battle to the end, finishing two points behind the first place team.

Neil will continue to race and train for 29er events, and will be on one of 16 teams chosen to train and race in the Red Bull Foiling Generation catamaran event in October in Newport, R.I.

Magic U10 Girls Compete in Davis Legacy Super Clasico

Submitted by Greg Davis



The California Magic U10 East Girls soccer team.

Photo provided

The California Magic U10 East Girls soccer team had a great weekend at the Davis Legacy Super Clasico Tournament on Aug. 13-14 in Davis. Even with temperatures over 100 degrees, the team gave it their all, showing a lot of heart and grit.

"Our girls worked hard the whole tournament and I am proud of their individual performances and collective teamwork,"

said Coach Ramon Zambrano. With great passing, communication and teamwork the Magic girls moved on to play for third place overall. In the consolation game, the girls narrowly missed victory with a competitive opponent from San Ramon FC that ended in a 1-1 tie. In the end the Magic girls came up short, 4 goals to 5, in a nail biting PK shootout.

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Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 10 Issue 13 Wednesday, August 24, 2016



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

Should Empty Nesters Refeather the Nest?

By Peggy Spear



Many empty nesters like to transform bedrooms into home offices.

Photo Bigstock

Like a giant slingshot, I am getting ready to launch my youngest child into the world. Actually, I'm just getting ready to send him off to college next month, but the fact remains: After raising three children, my husband and I will be "empty nesters."

The idea of an empty nest is scary: it sounds lonely, neglected and desolate, all legitimate feelings that experts I've talked to and read about say I'll feel after 25 years of focusing

on children.

"Kids take up a lot of space in our lives," says Christine Roslund, a Lafayette-based therapist and life coach who specializes in empty nesters like I'll be. "You have to find something to fill that space."

The emotional aspects of facing an empty nest is a story for another time, but one of the first things empty nesters think about is the practical side of shrinking the household:

how will it affect their home?

The answer, I've found, is not that much.

Like many empty nesters, I had dreams of perhaps moving to a charming Berkeley bungalow, or a turnkey townhouse somewhere this side of the tunnel. Or finally moving my office out of the guest room or dusting off the weight set and making my son's room a home gym.

The problem is, my son might come home. My daughter did, after graduating from college, as do many young adults from Lamorinda. The fact is, the empty nest doesn't stay too empty these days.

"It was just a sensible move," says Orinda's Beth Sanguinetti, whose two daughters went to UC Berkeley. "When they graduated, neither had a job, so my husband and I said they should move home and save what money they could."

Today's economy is playing a huge role in the changing design of the "empty nest." It's very expensive to live in the Bay Area, especially for young kids just starting in the workforce. But it's not just a Bay Area phenomenon. According to a recent Pew Research Center Report, the country is now experiencing "the largest increase in the number of Americans living in multi-generational households in modern history."

... continued on page D4



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Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

City	Last reported:	LOWEST AMOUNT:	HIGHEST AMOUNT:
LAFAYETTE	17	\$635,000	\$3,625,000
MORAGA	12	\$435,000	\$1,870,500
ORINDA	23	\$860,000	\$2,875,000

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

- 3337 Betty Lane \$961,500, 3 Bdrms, 1585 SqFt, 1953 YrBlt, 7-26-16;
Previous Sale: \$29,500, 02-02-71
- 3448 Black Hawk Road, \$2,200,000, 4 Bdrms, 2386 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt,
7-22-16; Previous Sale: \$1,725,000, 08-17-12
- 3616 Chestnut Street, \$1,635,000, 4612 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 8-1-16;
Previous Sale: \$410,000, 06-26-90
- 23 Crest Road, \$1,130,000, 4 Bdrms, 2361 SqFt, 1941 YrBlt, 7-27-16
- 3128 Del Oceano Drive, \$1,065,000, 4 Bdrms, 2261 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 7-26-16
- 939 Dewing Avenue, \$635,000, 2 Bdrms, 965 SqFt, 1941 YrBlt, 7-29-16;
Previous Sale: \$433,000, 08-22-12
- 1063 Dolores Drive, \$2,150,000, 4 Bdrms, 4577 SqFt, 1988 YrBlt, 7-21-16;
Previous Sale: \$1,700,000, 03-24-05
- 3342 Helen Lane, \$870,000, 3 Bdrms, 1291 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 7-14-16
- 53 Hidden Oaks Drive, \$3,625,000, 4 Bdrms, 4891 SqFt, 2006 YrBlt, 7-14-16;
Previous Sale: \$3,100,000, 03-22-07
- 3230 Lucas Circle, \$1,325,000, 5 Bdrms, 2536 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 7-19-16;
Previous Sale: \$1,220,000, 07-17-15
- 864 Mountain View Drive, \$1,001,000, 4 Bdrms, 1972 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt,
8-2-16
- 1340 Reliez Valley Road, \$1,650,000, 4 Bdrms, 2716 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt,
7-29-16; Previous Sale: \$1,360,000, 06-02-06
- 3216 Ronino Way, \$1,629,000, 3 Bdrms, 3463 SqFt, 1984 YrBlt, 7-28-16;
Previous Sale: \$1,185,000, 09-28-12
- 3333 Springhill Road, \$1,295,000, 3 Bdrms, 2598 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 8-1-16;
Previous Sale: \$775,000, 04-27-12
- 3344 St. Marys Road, \$1,775,000, 4 Bdrms, 2925 SqFt, 2006 YrBlt, 7-14-16;
Previous Sale: \$1,805,000, 08-16-07
- 30 Tiana Terrace, \$2,180,000, 3 Bdrms, 4534 SqFt, 1998 YrBlt, 7-22-16
- 1123 Upper Happy Valley Road, \$2,675,000, 4 Bdrms, 4725 SqFt, 2000 YrBlt,
8-1-16; Previous Sale: \$467,000, 08-06-99

... continued on page D11



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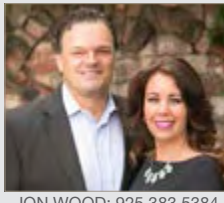
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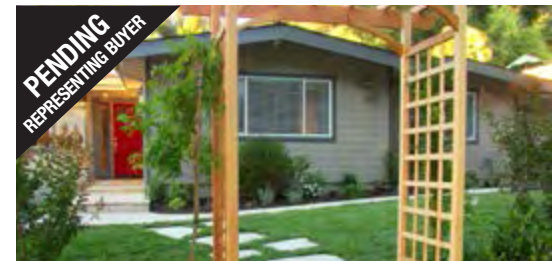


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Should Empty Nesters Refeather the Nest?

... continued from page D1



Experts say it's sensible to keep a teen's room "as is."

Photo Bigstock

More than 10 percent of all households (11.9 million) include members of multiple generations, the majority of which were an adult child living with a parent. The number of children returning home has become so commonplace that they have earned the appellations "baby gloomers" and "boomerangs." One of every four young adults between the ages of 18 and 24 indicated that they had returned to live in their parents' house after being independent; one in five of those between the ages of 25 and 34 reported the same.

That impacts the way homeowners are looking at this time in their lives. Sanguinetti didn't change her daughter's rooms once they left for school, because they were close enough to come back often.

"Don't get me wrong, while I missed seeing the small messes they made, like a swim towel dropped on the floor, I did enjoy having a less cluttered home," Sanguinetti says. "But I never changed anything up, like making a mom cave or an exercise room."

There's another reason parents shouldn't hurry to change-up an empty nest, according to Roslund. It can be harmful for your college-age child to experience so much transition at once.

"It is smart to keep the student's room 'as is' for a while, no matter how much you may want to change it," she says. "This is a tender time for a young person, and they need the feeling of a home base. There is so much change going on in their own lives that it is helpful for families to be stable and supportive, at least for a couple of years." She says that too much change can actually have a negative impact on how well they do academically when they are away at school.

Realtor Tara Rochlin of Village Associates in Orinda says that she doesn't see too many people change up their homes after a child moves out, unless they are launched for good, such as they are getting married.

She does see trends of making the child's room a guest room, or a home office, as she herself did when she became an empty nester. Her oldest went to UCLA and stayed in the Los Angeles area, while her youngest is going into his senior year at UC Berkeley.

"We kept my youngest son's room the same, but we did move my office to my older son's room," she says. She and her husband used to share an office, and this new set-up works best for both of them.

But that doesn't mean all empty nesters are keeping things as is. She still sees a fair number move to smaller townhouses, such as at the Moraga Country Club. That allows for less responsibility for yardwork and gives couples and individuals the opportunity to travel.

Rochlin also says she sees a good number of people move out of state, to less expensive areas such as Oregon.

"You have people wanting to simplify, if not downsize."

Of course, she also sees clients do what she calls "defensive downsizing," creating those exercise rooms and mom or dad caves that are disincentives to having their children move back home.

But the majority either simplify or stay put. "I sell a lot of homes in the area, especially single family homes, where people move in and say 'they're going to have to take me out of here in a box.' They move here for the schools and then they make a conscious decision to stay."

And that's a good idea, especially for empty nesters who may not really be empty nesters.

"When we move, we want it to be because we are consciously making a move toward something," Rochlin says, "and not because we are moving away from something."

So for now, I will dust off my dreams of a simple life as I am dusting out my son's room, and keep it the way it is. Besides, I've heard some rumblings from my other son, a recent San Diego State graduate living in Pacific Beach, that things are getting too expensive down there.

I may have someone else moving home soon.

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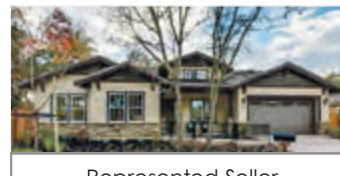
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Stylish Solutions

Don't Let Fall Transitions Knock You Sideways

By Ann McDonald



Don't neglect the view from your desk. If it's OK to work from home pick a space where you are looking onto something beautiful as it helps with planning.

Photos courtesy of Couture

Welcome to transition season, Stylish Suburbanite. Yes, it's that time of year again, as we are heading headlong into fall. This month I'm sharing helpful design and decorating tips you, as Stylish Suburbanites, can use as the summer to fall transition enters full swing.

There are small items that pop up when designing and decorating during transition periods and seasonal changes, that if we don't acknowledge, can feel stressful or out of place, but in fact are a very normal part of the process of change.

For the next few weeks, embrace the bit of chaos as you are working towards order, and understand, even professional designers deal with these short seasons of upheaval. Just like leaves form a mess on the lawn until we rake them into piles we can jump into for fun, the "pop ups" in our homes happening as part of season changes are a very normal part of life. They aren't bad in and of themselves; in fact, they are actually

opportunities to bring in fresh design and decorating solutions to daily living.

What does that mean as we transition? A few things.

First, realize there is a shift taking place. Kids are heading back to school, perhaps you are taking a new class or that book club is back in swing. From a design standpoint that means our living patterns are changing. Where we place our purses or backpacks, where our shoes land, how the papers fall on the desk – all this changes simply because life is shifting seasons. Once we see these things as normal cycles of life and not bad messes to be mad at, we can design solutions to accommodate our new patterns.

One of the reasons we plan so early for the holiday season in our homes and in the lives of our clients is that this same transition happens in and around October, but seems to come in with the brute force of a hurricane. And that transition comes just after we've finally figured



Use a stylish rolling rack just inside the garage door if you don't have a large mudroom like this one from Pottery Barn.

out where to store the backpacks and purses from the fall.

Second, identify the places in your homes that were clean and orderly during the summer that are now bustling with papers and things, and make a concentrated focus to fix them. What does this look like? A big basket for backpacks, a tray for shoes, a stand for sports equipment, a pretty file box for your book club notes.

As part of this I strongly encourage you to take steps to plan for the upcoming seasons as well. My team and I have been posting helpful tip videos on our Facebook page Couture Chateau with daily short helps. These are encouraging reminders about what you can do today, so the next transition will be easy and seamless. It's about building habits of lifestyle and planning so everyone is at peace within the home, no matter the time of year.

Finally, be okay letting some things go. There are times we just simply work out of an old design schematic. Think of children's rooms as an example. There comes a time to put away the princess wall decals as they transition into something else. Sometimes we forget to design and decorate with a "Present-Future Mindset."

... continued on page D10

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NEW CONSTRUCTION!

Luxury home builder, McKenzie Gray Builders, in conjunction with distinguished architect Alan Page with The Talon Design Group, have created this approximately 4,000 square foot custom magnificent modern farmhouse. Set on approximately half of an acre parcel, this 5 bedrooms, 4.5 bathroom impeccably designed home features superior finishes and incredible craftsmanship. With large level lawns, meandering rock walls, Connecticut Bluestone patios and porches, and spectacular views of the Orinda hills, this one-of-a-kind property is conveniently located minutes from town, Highway 24, BART and the sought-after Orinda Schools.

Call for more details.

Wilder Beauty!



19 Big Leaf Road, Orinda

Bright and open floor plan with over 3874± sq. ft., featuring 4 bedrooms, 3.5 bathrooms. Gourmet kitchen. Excellent commute location. Amazing views! Tesla charger in garage. Must see!

Offered at \$2,495,000



Rob & Kathy Olson

925.788.6193
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Stylish Solutions

Don't Let Fall Transitions Knock You Sideways

... continued from page D8



Set up a planning station with an inspirational item that could work in the next season in your home. It helps you to take on the changes to be made.

A Present-Future Mindset is one where we design spaces and places to make us what we want to be in the future, instead of building proverbial altars to the past.

It could mean a computer room becomes a library when the children leave, or an office becomes a guest room when parents move in with us. Embracing the change of seasons in design as an opportunity for fresh aesthetic is always fun. Take



These clear display boxes from Pottery Barn are great for small items like keys or flash drives that can be easily lost.

time to shop at new stores, look for inspiration and schedule some time to just examine how you really live in your space.

May these tips be an encouragement to us in Lamorinda, as we see colors change and fall routines start to gel. These should relieve stress from your decorating and design “pop-ups.” Give yourself the gift of time to shop for some inspiring home décor pieces to hold those backpacks and books, and set aside time to plan for the holidays. Even an hour a week, every week for the next month, would be sufficient to alleviate the panic that comes from expectation of a perfect home. (Hint: there is no such thing). It’s about creating your own environment and stewarding your home so the people inhabiting it can become something in the future.

For more information on our encouraging Facebook Live videos, visit www.facebook.com/couturechateau and consider joining us for www.stressfreeholiday-home.com workshop online. When a licensed psychologist says the course relieves stress, you know it’s a good sign.

Until next month, stay stylish!



Ann McDonald, IIDA, NAPO, is the Founder/CEO of Couture Chateau, a luxury interior design firm in Orinda. For a complete blog post including other design ideas, visit www.couturechateau.com/blog.



Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

... continued from page D2

MORAGA

2083 Ascot Drive 232, \$529,000, 3 Bdrms, 1491 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 7-27-16; Previous Sale: \$400,000, 07-10-13
 17 Corte Granada, \$1,000,000, 5 Bdrms, 2653 SqFt, 1968 YrBlt, 8-1-16; Previous Sale: \$85,000, 11-21-75
 375 Deerfield Drive, \$1,290,000, 5 Bdrms, 2537 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 7-22-16
 12 Del Rio Court, \$1,293,000, 5 Bdrms, 2638 SqFt, 1969 YrBlt, 7-20-16
 2121 Donald Drive #6, \$435,000, 2 Bdrms, 1224 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 7-29-16; Previous Sale: \$340,000, 06-28-13
 42 Fieldbrook Place, \$1,090,000, 4 Bdrms, 2058 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 7-20-16
 26 Lance Court, \$1,040,000, 4 Bdrms, 1867 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 8-1-16
 19 Lynwood Place, \$1,340,000, 4 Bdrms, 2218 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 7-18-16
 466 Millfield Place, \$1,113,000, 5 Bdrms, 2111 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 7-20-16
 1892 School Street, \$1,870,000, 3 Bdrms, 3323 SqFt, 1969 YrBlt, 7-19-16; Previous Sale: \$627,500, 10-30-97
 1748 Spyglass Lane, \$1,100,000, 3 Bdrms, 1962 SqFt, 1985 YrBlt, 7-28-16; Previous Sale: \$790,000, 11-15-13
 811 Villa Lane #1, \$444,000, 2 Bdrms, 951 SqFt, 1968 YrBlt, 7-28-16; Previous Sale: \$285,000, 06-27-02

ORINDA

23 Ardilla Road, \$1,790,000, 3 Bdrms, 1680 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 7-29-16; Previous Sale: \$50,000, 12-16-71
 36 Ardor Drive, \$860,000, 3 Bdrms, 1961 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 7-15-16
 70 Barbara Road, \$1,020,000, 3 Bdrms, 1408 SqFt, 1969 YrBlt, 7-15-16; Previous Sale: \$850,000, 09-09-13
 111 Bear Ridge Trail, \$1,676,500, 5 Bdrms, 3952 SqFt, 1986 YrBlt, 7-18-16; Previous Sale: \$887,500, 12-27-89
 11 Bobolink Road, \$1,600,000, 4 Bdrms, 2488 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 7-14-16
 60 Camino Encinas, \$1,190,500, 2 Bdrms, 1212 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 8-2-16; Previous Sale: \$520,000, 09-27-01
 440 Camino Sobrante, \$905,000, 2 Bdrms, 1088 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 7-29-16
 85 Coral Drive, \$1,055,000, 3 Bdrms, 1591 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 7-19-16; Previous Sale: \$758,000, 07-29-11
 659 Cross Ridge Court, \$1,640,000, 3 Bdrms, 2356 SqFt, 1979 YrBlt, 7-29-16; Previous Sale: \$965,000, 06-19-12
 54 East Altarinda Drive, \$1,650,000, 4 Bdrms, 3074 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 7-21-16; Previous Sale: \$1,040,000, 04-23-10
 320 Glorietta Boulevard, \$950,000, 3 Bdrms, 2001 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 7-18-16
 10 Highland Court, \$1,250,000, 5 Bdrms, 3319 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 8-1-16
 261 Ivy Place, \$1,460,000, 4 Bdrms, 2130 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 7-29-16; Previous Sale: \$1,150,000, 07-11-12
 70 Lost Valley Drive, \$1,220,000, 4 Bdrms, 2342 SqFt, 1977 YrBlt, 7-26-16; Previous Sale: \$670,000, 02-24-11
 181 Manzanita Drive, \$1,045,000, 4 Bdrms, 2439 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 7-19-16
 91 Muth Drive, \$985,000, 3 Bdrms, 2241 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 7-20-16
 1 North Lane, \$932,000, 3 Bdrms, 1460 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 7-15-16
 35 Owl Hill Road, \$1,800,000, 3 Bdrms, 2851 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 8-2-16; Previous Sale: \$494,500, 11-06-95
 432 Ridge Gate Road, \$1,675,000, 3 Bdrms, 3011 SqFt, 1980 YrBlt, 7-19-16; Previous Sale: \$560,000, 05-31-89
 42 Van Ripper Lane, \$1,250,000, 3 Bdrms, 2486 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 7-27-16; Previous Sale: \$750,000, 11-09-01
 74 Van Tassel Lane, \$2,875,000, 4 Bdrms, 3847 SqFt, 2006 YrBlt, 7-19-16; Previous Sale: \$2,845,000, 08-05-15
 14 Washington Lane, \$1,485,000, 4 Bdrms, 2300 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 7-25-16; Previous Sale: \$785,000, 03-01-01
 18 Woodcrest Road, \$1,400,000, 5 Bdrms, 2611 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 7-20-16; Previous Sale: \$850,000, 10-30-03



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Digging Deep

Alice's Wonderland

By Cynthia Brian

"Let no one ever come to you without leaving better and happier." — Mother Teresa*A lavender trumpet vine covers the archway leading to the front porch.*

Photos Cynthia Brian

Every artist has her or his muse, a person who inspires, motivates, and encourages creativity. Leonardo had Lisa, Quentin has Uma, Mother Teresa had God, and I credit my mother, Alice, with being my gardening artiste. From the time that I could toddle, I was following her around our expansive gardens planted for both the edibles and the pretties.

When she and my dad first moved to their house built at the turn of the 20th century on the 365-acre ranch in the middle of nowhere, it was surrounded by brambles, blackberry bushes and poison oak. Little by little she painstakingly transformed the prickly jungle into a playful park planted with myriad beautiful flowers, herbs, trees, grasses, fruits and vegetables.

I can still smell the sweet fragrance of the spring soil as we tilled the plots designated as the vegetable garden. Mom would plant starts of tomatoes, peppers,

cucumbers, zucchini, bush beans, string beans, eggplant and whatever other vegetable caught her fancy for the year. The five kids would be given seeds of radishes, beets, corn, carrots, turnips, squash and melons to plant as we wished. Onions, leeks, garlic and Swiss Chard seemed to be in abundance year-round, as did a big patch of culinary herbs—basil, mustard, chives, dill, fennel, parsley, oregano, marjoram, mints, rosemary, sage, tarragon and thyme. We didn't have automatic irrigation. All of us were responsible for daily watering, pulling hoses for long distances as Mom always did. She showed us how to plant rows, squares, circles, how to soak each plant plentifully, what to weed and what not to touch.

We couldn't wait until summer when the first tomato ripened. With a handful of basil, we'd bite into the juicy goodness right there in the garden. One Au-

*Tomatoes ripening on the vine.*

gust she grew a five-pound tomato, won a big prize, was recorded in the newspapers, and carried it around to multiple events exhibiting its enormity to anyone interested until it rotted. Long before the trend of farm-to-table, my Mom cooked what was freshest and harvested that day. We only ate what was in season or, in the winter months, what we canned during the summer. To this day, I won't eat tomatoes, grapes or oranges out of season. Why bother? They taste like chalk. Only vine-ripened fruit and vegetables have the flavor that transport me to the joys of childhood on the farm. And what blissful days they were!

But it wasn't only the vegetable and herb gardening techniques that she was imparting. Mom also instilled in us a wistful, playful attitude in the art of gardening. "Gardens are an extension of your personality," she would tell us. And her gardens were wild, fun, surprising, eclectic and inviting. Tucked into ravines would be antique stoves with antiquated rusting teapots overflowing with succulents.

... continued on page D13



Alice's prized garden ornaments were the vintage characters of Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs.

When we outgrew our swing set, it was turned into a hanging pot canopy accessed by a wooden bridge over a dry creek flanked by palm trees. Gazing balls, clay piglets and hummingbird feeders dotted the landscape. Her favorite garden ornaments, a vintage bargain purchase bought for her by my brother decades ago, have always been Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs. She decorates the garden for all of the holidays with Christmas being the grand finale — an extravaganza of sound and light rivaling Disneyland.

As an adult, our main conversations revolve around plants. We stroll together through our mutual playgrounds admiring, trading and consulting. I am grateful for the horticultural acumen that she liberally passed along to us. Although there wasn't a kindergarten where I grew up, I learned everything I needed to know about life in my Mother's Garden.

... continued on page D14

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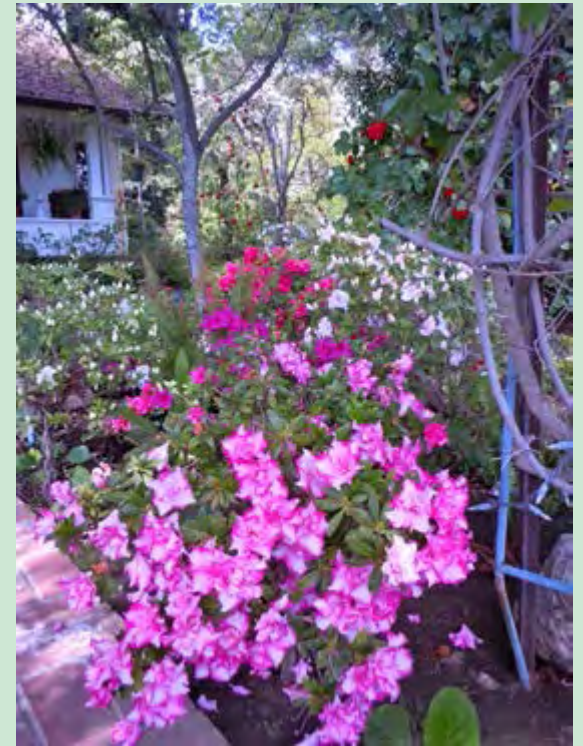
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LAMORINDA
WEEKLY

Local newspaper delivered to Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda

What I learned from my Mother Muse:

- **Be an original:** You can reference Pinterest, but when it comes to your own personal style, do what you love. Surprise yourself.
- **Don't follow the rules:** Because there are no rules in the garden except those you create yourself.
- **Love the birds:** My mom has hung bird feeders and birdhouses in every cranny for her feathered friends. She even has a Bird Tree. Birds eat the insects that prey on her flowers plus their melodic songs are music to her ears and their playful antics make bird watching an amusing pastime.
- **Encourage eccentricity:** If you don't feel happy in your backyard, no one else will either. Be playful. Add unexpected treasures that may be another person's trash. Capture the charm.
- **Share the bounty:** One of my mom's most sacred rituals was sharing the harvest of everything we grew with everyone she knew — her doctor, dentist, priest, hairdresser, bank teller, repairman, even other famers. Be a cheerful giver.
- **Grow everything:** It can be boring to stick to just a few specimens. Give a whirl to experimenting with the exotic as well as the mundane. Whether it's a new breed of ever-blooming azalea, a delicate peach begonia, or a hardy lavender trumpet vine, brave the unknown.
- **Color Your World:** Although you may start out with a strict color palette, be the artist you are. Volunteers revert to their original color according to Mother Nature's whims. Enjoy the rainbow.
- **Provide places to relax:** Gardeners work hard. Make sure to include comfortable sitting and lounging areas, and a shady patio for you and your guests.
- **Believe in magic:** A garden is a lesson in miracles and magic. Embrace the whimsy and the mysterious. Have fun.
- **Pull hoses:** You may have a drip or other irrigation system, but you'll need the humble hose to get to every corner.



Azaleas line a brick walkway.

Photos Cynthia Brian

- **Make people happy:**

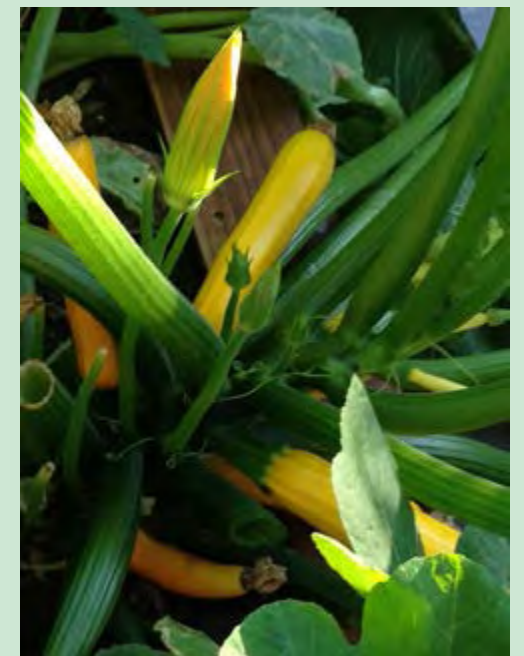
With her outgoing, enthusiastic personality always ready for the next dance, my mother lights up a room, including the outdoor variety. When your table features fresh fruits and vegetables that you have personally grown, you can be certain that you are providing the highest nourishment for your family and friends, helping everyone be happier and healthier.

- **Leave a living legacy:** A garden is to grow. Every garden is different reflecting the individuality of the gardener. Family is everything. Bloom with love.

Everyone who has ever experienced the gardening hospitality of my mother, Alice, has left feeling better and happier. Let the wisdom of my generous garden guide muse inspire you to be the best gardener possible. Thanks Mom!

Who is your garden muse? Email me at Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com.

Happy Gardening. Happy Growing.



A favorite summer staple is zucchini.



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Utility Right-of Way

Pruning for utility line clearance does not always follow desirable pruning techniques in regards to appearance and health of the tree. In this situation, the needs of the utility right-of-way take priority over the tree.

When you have a tree under a power line that requires frequent reduction by the utility co. it's important to have proper pruning before, or have the tree removed, and plant a tree with the criteria (i.e. size and placement) that should be determined by an arborist, so that a tree's health and appearance will never be compromised by the need for utility pruning.

So don't wait until it's too late, call your local ISA Arborist at Advance Tree Service to help you determine your choice for the perfect tree.

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Mark your Calendars:

VISIT the National Heirloom Expo, Sept. 6 through Sept. 8 in Santa Rosa for the world's pure food fair. www.theheirloomexpo.com.

SHOP and save at the 10/10 sale on Sept. 17 at Vineyard Vines, 1301 N. Main St., Walnut Creek. Customers receive 10 percent off their purchases all day with 10 percent of the proceeds benefiting Be the Star You Are! A reception will be held from 5-8 p.m. with refreshments and goody bags. www.btsya.com/events_calendar.html.

ATTEND the Pear & Wine Festival at Moraga Commons from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 24. Pick up complimentary potpourri and a new children's book from the Be the Star You Are! booth sponsored by MB Jesse Painting, Starstyle Productions, LLC, Lamorinda Weekly, Children's Success Unlimited, and Michael VerBrugge Construction.

Click on events at www.BetheStarYouAre.org.



Cynthia Brian and her Mother Muse in the vineyards

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Cynthia Brian

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New Listing

9 Loma Vista Drive

Charming home on gorgeous 1/2+ acre lot w/fabulous potential. Great room w/high open beam ceiling, hardwood floor & frplc. Spacious kitchen w/island. Views. Walk to town. **\$879,000**

ORINDA



96 Rheem Blvd. Spacious 4bd/3ba home. Eat-in kitchen with Wolf range, hardwood floors throughout, huge family room, au pair suite with separate entrance. **\$1,195,000**

ORINDA



10 Van Tassel Lane Exceptional custom remodel of highest quality, lovely craftsmanship. Prime Sleepy Hollow street. One level living with vaulted ceilings, Chef's kitchen. Pool, lawns, gardens. Classic appeal. **\$1,299,000**

ORINDA



244 El Toyonal Forever views across Orinda to Mt. Diablo. Delightful living spaces on 2 levels w/modern remodeled kitchen; living rm & dining rm open to outside w/extensive decking/ views. Bonus offices. **\$1,395,000**

ORINDA



16 La Cintilla Exquisite OCC 6bd/6ba two story residence located on a private oak-studded .30 acre lot. Vaulted ceilings, open floor plan, gourmet kitchen, spacious game rm & private au-pair guest suite. **\$1,999,000**

ORINDA



New Listing

5 Oak Arbor Road Prime Oak Arbor living at it's best! Traditional European spectacular home w/quality features in/outside w/grand-scale rms of exceptional space, light + access outdrs. Gorgeous setting! **\$2,799,000**

ORINDA



160 Camino Don Miguel Spectacular Spanish Mediterranean 5bd/5.5ba 5851sf home overlooks the 4th hole of OCC. Rebuilt from ground up in 1996. Resort quality pool & spa, gardens & views. **\$4,795,000**

MORAGA



8 Ravenhill Lane Tucked on a quiet lane near Los Perales School, this has it all - 5bd, 2.5ba, .66 acres with sweeping westerly views. Updated family room/ kitchen, hwd flrs, level yard + a chicken coop! **\$1,375,000**

MORAGA



9 Shannon Court Sanders Ranch estate property over 1.5 acres, 4966 sq. ft., Chef's kitchen, hardwood, new carpet, fresh paint, pool, ideal indoor/ outdoor living spaces. **\$3,125,000**

LAFAYETTE



2079 Reliez Valley Road Lovely 3bd/3ba home w/huge beautiful yard & waterfall. Open flr pln w/French drs leading to flagstone patio. Updated kitchen & bath. Plans avail. for kitchen expansion if desired. Over 2300 sq. ft.! **\$1,295,000**

LAFAYETTE



859 Acalanes Road Private drive leads to a renovated home w/updated kitchen w/cherry cabinets & granite counter tops; low level in law unit w/kitchen & separate entrance. Views, stone patios & professional landscape. **\$1,395,000**

LAFAYETTE



3 Dollis Park Road Large 4bd/3.5ba, 4090 sq. ft. home w/ideal functional floor plan. Lovely kitchen/ family rm + bonus rec. rm. Luxurious master suite. Great guest bedroom w/bath is ideal for separation of space. **\$1,595,000**

LAFAYETTE



1556 Rancho View Road Beautifully renovated custom traditional estate, situated on 1.16 acre lot w/inclusive private resort w/pool & spa! Incredible open floor plan, soaring ceilings, premier finishes throughout. **\$1,998,000**

LAFAYETTE



1155 Camino Vallecito Esheric Architectural Mid Century. Spectacular 2ac Happy Valley Estate. Beautifully updated, walls of glass, Fr. doors, high ceilings, pano views. Kit/fam rm, stunning liv/din rms, cabana/ba. Top schools. **\$3,595,000**

DANVILLE



New Listing

1701 Liahona Lane Tranquil .77 flat acre setting with indoor/ outdoor living at its best! Rebuilt in 2005 with open floor plan 4 beds + den, vaulted ceilings, hwd flrs, 4+ car gar, park like backyd. Near 12 yrs of school! **\$1,750,000**

WALNUT CREEK



New Price

156 Brodia Way New construction by KT Builders, a local, high-end home builder. Captivating views of Mt. Diablo & La Casa Via Valley. High ceilings, open floor plan & large .92 acre lot at end of cul de sac. **\$1,849,000**



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