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The crowd was light on a hot day, but that didn't stop the fun at the opening summer concert at the Moraga Commons.

Photo Andy Scheck

Heat doesn't stop the hot music at the Commons

By B. B. Kaye

Thursday Evening, June 22. The blistering heat of the day rolled off the land, replaced by a perfect Lamorinda summer evening. Families settled comfortably into lawn chairs on the lush green slope of Moraga Commons, enjoying the cool, scented air as the sun headed west over the Berkeley Hills. In courts adjacent to the lawns, teenagers played volleyball and basketball on one side, while adults enjoyed a game of bocce on

the other. Smoke from the Moraga Park Foundation grills curled prettily over the bandshell, and 2017's Free Summer Concert Series' opening act, The Floorshakers, took the stage.

The crowd on this evening was relatively sparse, perhaps because many people expected evening temperatures as brutal as the day's had been, but those tenacious enough to come enjoyed as perfect an evening as anyone, any-

where, can hope for. Bathed in golden light contrasting the lengthening shadows, children rolled in the grass and played, and couples of every age danced to a tight, high-energy performance of some of the best party music written in the last 50 years. The band, a 10-piece ensemble with three-piece horn section, three vocalists, and rhythm section, plays funk, soul, R&B, rock 'n' roll, and top Billboard Chart numbers.

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Orinda hosts 3/4 Century Lunch, the celebration for 75s and better

By Sora O'Doherty



Lilly and Raim Regelson were the longest married couple at the luncheon.

Photo Sora O'Doherty

In the year 2000 John Fazel introduced to Orinda an idea from his native Perry Iowa: an annual luncheon for residents who had achieved their three-quarter century. In his little town of 5,000,

Fazel grew up with his mother taking her mother and stepfather to the annual event, which started in Perry around 1930.

... continued on page A7

Contaminants creep up but water still safe in Lafayette

By Pippa Fisher



Photo Pippa Fisher

Following a flurry of media reports and alarm on social media about increased contaminants in local water, should Lafayette residents be worried their drinking water might cause cancer?

East Bay Municipal Utility District says no. In correspondence with the city of Lafayette, EBMUD Community Affairs Representative Kathryn Horn says, "I want to clarify that EBMUD drinking water quality remains in full compliance with all state and federal regulations, and the district is confi-

dent we will remain in full compliance."

At issue are higher than usual levels of trihalomethanes (THMs)— disinfection by-products formed when chlorine reacts with naturally-occurring organic matter in water — that have been found in Orinda and Berkeley at two testing locations where individual samples indicated THMs above 80 parts per billion (ppb).

EBMUD says that the system average is currently at 58ppb, exceeding its own internal goal of 40ppb but that it continues to be under the state and federal limit of 80ppb.

People with long-term exposure to drinking water containing THMs in excess of state and federal limits may be at increased risk of getting cancer.

A two-step process protects public health. Filtration through sand, gravel and charcoal removes dissolved particles like dust, parasites, bacteria, viruses and chemicals. Then, chlorine or chloramine is added to disinfect and kill any remaining parasites, bacteria and viruses.

... continued on page A10

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Orinda's Miner Road should open to traffic by July 3 – page A6.

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 MOFD must cut expenses before budget is passed – page A8.

The Fourth of July is a community event. – page B1.



4 local baseball players drafted by pro teams – page C1.



Lamorinda is a hot housing market, and here's why. – page D1.





Public Meetings

- City Council**
Monday, July 10, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center, Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- Planning Commission**
Monday, July 17, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center, Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- Design Review**
Monday, July 10, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center, Arts & Science Discovery Center, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.
- School Board Meetings**
Acalanes Union High School District
Wednesday, June 28, 7 p.m.
AUHSD Board Room
1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette
www.acalanes.k12.ca.us
- Lafayette School District**
TBA
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

June 4 - June 17	
Alarms	88
911 Calls (incl hang-ups)	13
Noise complaints	13
Traffic stops	191
Suspicious Circumstances	17
Suspicious Subjects	20
Suspicious Vehicles	21
Service to Citizen	44
Animal Cruelty	
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Auto Burglary	
El Nido Ranch Rd./Pine Ln.	
3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Battery	
1000 Block Aileen St.	
Civil Disturbance	
1000 Block Upper Happy Valley Rd	
Civil Problem	
3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
1500 Block Rancho View Dr.	
Civil Standby	
3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Disturbing The Peace	
Acalanes Rd./Wb Sr 24	
Drunk In Public	
3400 Block Golden Gate Way	
Elder Abuse	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Fire/EMS Response Info	
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Oak Hill Rd.	
Found Property	
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)	
3300 Block S Lucille Ln.	
Hampton Rd./Dyer Dr.	
Aileen St./Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
900 Block Happy Valley Ct.	
Police Department	
Grand Theft	
1300 Block Reliez Valley Rd.	
Moraga Blvd./1st St.	
3500 Block Brook St.	
Hailed By Citizen	
3700 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Police Department	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Harassment	
Happy Valley Rd./Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
1000 Block Miller Dr.	
Hit And Run Misdemeanor	
1100 Block Nogales St.	
Moraga Rd./Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
900 Block Moraga Rd.	
1st St./eb Sr 24	
Identity Theft	
3100 Block Stanley Blvd.	
10 Block Vance Ln.	
100 Block Marsha Pl.	
10 Block Vance Ln.	
Police Department	
1000 Block Pine Ln.	
1400 Block Rancho View Dr. (2)	
1000 Block Lizann Dr.	
In Custody Theft	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Juvenile Disturbance	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
3rd St./Moraga Blvd.	
Litter	
Pleasant Hill Rd./Deer Hill Rd.	
1400 Block Rancho View Dr.	
3600 Block Bickerstaff St.	
Lost Property	
N Thompson Rd./Deer Hill Rd. (2)	
Police Department	
Ordinance Violation	
400 Block Peacock Blvd.	
10 Block Dallis Park Rd.	

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Photo contest winners capture a rainy look in Lafayette

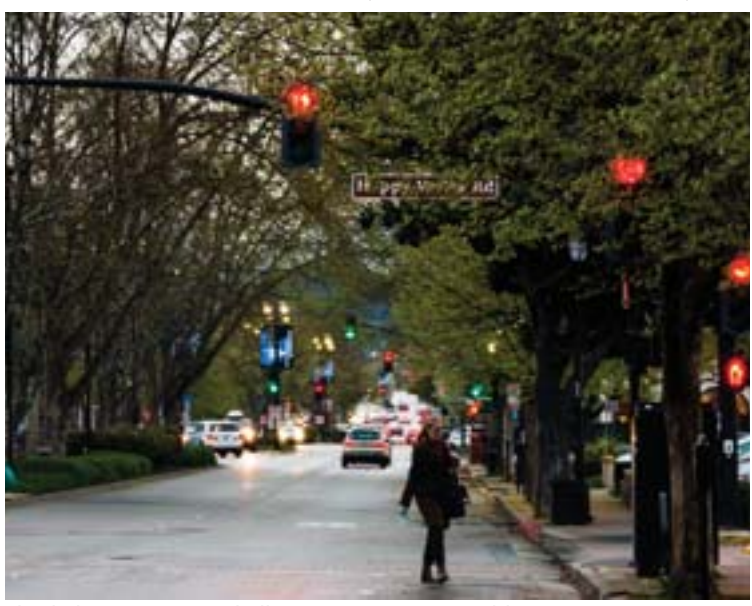
By Pippa Fisher



The first place winner was Stu Selland's "Boots on the Square." The Lafayette Public Art Committee unanimously selected the top three photos submitted in its most recent photo contest, with Stu Selland's "Boots on the Square" winning first place. Fourteen brave Lafayette resi-



Second place: Sharon Tissue's "Mighty Arms of the Grand Tree of Lafayette."



Third place: Doug Marshall's "Crossing Mount Diablo."

dents, armed with their cameras, took to the streets of Lafayette on the Spring Equinox, which happened to fall on a very rainy Monday, March 20, to capture a "Day in the Life" of Lafayette.

Contestants who live or work in Lafayette were eligible to submit photos. This contest was the third in a series sponsored by the PAC, whose mission is "to promote the arts for the Lafayette communities with particular emphasis on the highest quality visual arts." Sharon Tissue's "Mighty Arms of the Grand Tree of Lafayette" took second place with Doug Marshall's "Crossing Mount Diablo" taking third. The photos are currently on display at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center.

PAC city staff liaison, Juliet Hansen said that the next Day in the Life photo contest would be to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the incorporation of the City of Lafayette.

Keeping residents involved is key to fighting crime in Lafayette

By Pippa Fisher




The most recent Citizen's Police Academy graduates. Photo Pippa Fisher

Lafayette's crime continues to decrease, thanks to a combination of factors, including cameras and the extensive outreach to the public from the police department.


That outreach is led by the "Dynamic Duo" – Police Chief Eric Christensen and Police Records Supervisor Cathy Surges-Moscato. So said Rees Morgan, chair of the Crime Prevention Commission, in a report to the city council on June 12.

... continued on page A9

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Gold Star Families to be honored at annual Tribute to the Troops concert

By Pippa Fisher



Citizen of the Year Robin Holt, left and Joan Cox at last year's concert.

Photo provided

Families will have a chance to relax together, bring a picnic, enjoy great patriotic music and, most importantly, honor all who currently serve or have served in the military, especially those Gold Star families whose loved ones have paid the ultimate sacrifice, during the fourth annual Tribute to the Troops concert beginning at 5 p.m. July 15 at the Lafayette Reservoir.

The event will feature The Big Band of Rossmoor and Midnight Flyer, an Eagles cover band. Those attending are encouraged to bring a picnic and settle in on blankets with their families to relax and show appreciation for all that the troops, past and present, do to keep them safe.

Lafayette Police Chief Eric Christensen, himself a U.S. Army veteran, will serve as the master of ceremonies, Lafayette Boy Scout Troop 243 will post the colors, and Lafayette resident Yolanda Vega will speak on behalf of the Gold Star families.

Vega, whose son Senior Airman Jonathan (Jake) Vega Yelner died in 2008 after the vehicle he was driving was struck by an improvised explosive device in Afghanistan, now works tirelessly on behalf of Gold Star families to raise awareness.

Jake, as he was known, was 24 when he died. He grew up with his brother in Lafayette, attending St. Perpetua School and De La Salle High School.

Another of the 23 fallen heroes being remembered from Contra Costa County is Campolindo High School graduate Captain Mark Paine, who was killed at age 32 when his Humvee was hit by an IED in Iraq.

For most people, Vega reflects, the thought of their child not being part of their lives is difficult to comprehend. "I am sure they won-

der how we now live our lives," she says. "I struggle with it."

Vega says, "I am a Gold Star Family member. We are the mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters and relatives left behind when our child is killed or dies while serving in military duty."

Lafayette businessman and co-director for The Big Band of Rossmoor, Mo Levich, is the organizing force behind the scenes for this event, in collaboration with the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce, the Rotary Club of Lafayette and the City of Lafayette.

Coming from Sioux City, Iowa, Levich says he grew up with summer picnics on a lawn at a band stage – kids and parents experiencing outdoor food and music. Four years ago he and Lafayette Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Jay Lifson had a vision of bringing the community together for that sort of event – a picnic and the music of The Big Band of Rossmoor.

"Patriotic as we are, we both decided to find a way to say thanks to our troops," says Levich. "We see cemeteries but where can we say thanks? Where could we honor those who have provided our freedom, both past and present? Who do we thank and how? Where do we ever sing 'God Bless America' as a community?"

And so this Tribute to the Troops concert at the Res was born. The show attracted about 800 people the first year.

Levich plays the trumpet and has been with the Big Band for 22 years. The band is a multi-generational group with members ranging in age from 13 to 93.

World War II veteran and Big Band member Bob Sutherland will be playing trumpet at the concert and is looking forward to performing "My Secret Heart" as a duet with one of the younger clarinet players. ... continued on page A8

Saranap Village goes to county Planning Commission

By John T. Miller

Contra Costa County Planning Commission Hearing, inviting public comment for the Saranap Village project proposed by Hall Equities Group (HEG), will be held June 28 at 7 p.m., at 651 Pine Street, Martinez.

Earlier this week, a hearing was held to review the final Environmental Impact Report. The zoning administrator with the County Department of Conservation and Development was expected to recommend approval. No public comments were taken at that time.

The project has gone through five years of presentations and overhauls; HEG has held eight open houses, along with many other public outreach programs, that resulted in with several rounds of design changes in response to public input.

David Dacus, president of the Saranap Community Association reported that their board unani-

mously recommended approval of the project, saying, "We believe it will be an asset to Saranap as a whole, providing needed services, upgraded buildings, calmer traffic, additional parking, and enhancements to a rundown area that has experienced few upgrades in the last 40 years."

The Walnut Creek Chamber of Commerce voted 13-to-1 to endorse the project, while the Contra Costa Association of Realtors sent word to the Board of Supervisors that they feel this project offers advantages in meeting community goals for housing.

An HEG spokesperson said, "We are cautiously optimistic that the Planning Commission will recommend approval of the reduced-height version of the project. We believe this development will be an asset to the community, transforming Boulevard Way into a vibrant neighborhood village."

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Moraga

Public Meetings

City Council

Wednesday, June 28, 7 p.m.
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

Planning Commission

Monday, July 3, 7 p.m.
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

Design Review

Monday, July 10, 7 p.m.
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

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



May 31 to June 13

Alarms:

- June 1** 400 block Center Street Building secured.
- June 2** 300 block Calle La Montana false
- June 2** 100 block Selborne Way door left unlocked
- June 8** Location n/a false
- June 11** Location n/a nothing found
- June 13** Warfield Drive tripped by cleaners

June 2 Drugs

Grown son on probation trying to light things on fire at home was arrested for possession of a controlled substance and taken to Martinez jail.

June 2 ID Theft

You can open a Barklay's bank account online "in minutes," unless you're a crook. Then the bank will notify you and decline the application. Two close calls for one poor subject, and so far, no leads.

June 2 Stored vehicle

A gold Chrysler with expired tags parked at Natalie and Blumert was towed.

June 3 City ordinance

A homeowner and 30 friends celebrating his 50th birthday were told to tone down the noise from the live band (let me guess — '80s music?) and go inside. Seems "Girls (and guys) Just Want to Have Fun." But "Time after Time" police have to tell "Everybody (who) wants to Rule the World" to "Beat It!"

June 4 Credit Fraud

Police think the victim could be vulnerable again. The bank is involved.

June 5 Suspicious Circumstances

Someone followed teenage girls along Center Street via drone. "Oh give me a drone, when the girls are alone, and they cannot tell me 'buzz off.' But following peeps really gives them the creeps, and the cops say no aircraft aloft..."

Traffic Accidents

June 6 Moraga Way/School Street — cyclist with only minor injuries.

June 6 Moraga Rd./Campolindo — two-car accident; one car ran a red light.

June 6 Speeding

Police contacted the parents of a 16-year-old male Rheem Boulevard speeder. School may be out, but this fellow is assigned remedial work through the Juvenile Diversion Program.

June 7 Stolen vehicle

The good news: you weren't in your car. The bad news: CHP says it was in a freeway traffic accident. Highway Patrol recovered the vehicle.

June 8 Miscellaneous

Spoiler alert: if "Old Yeller" upsets you, don't read this. Police found a deer seriously injured after being hit by a car. They had to put it down.

June 9 Traffic incident

An unoccupied, parked SUV was hit

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Town awards sinkhole bid, with repairs to start soon

By Sophie Braccini

The Moraga Town Council unanimously agreed to award the sinkhole repair contract to McGuire and Hester, with implementation to start immediately. Lower Rheem Boulevard will be closed during the time needed to make the repairs and probably won't reopen until October.

Public Works Director Edric Kwan expressed great relief that Moraga's bid documents had finally been approved by the Federal Highway Administration after more than a year of a burdensome and lengthy process. As the sinkhole was not declared an emergency repair by FEMA the town had to follow the regular municipal rules that requires the public works department to go through an open bidding process. The contract has to be awarded to the lowest bidder, as long as it is responsive and responsible.

The town received four bids for the repair work with prices ranging from \$1.3 to \$2 million. The town engineer had estimated the work at \$1.7 million. McGuire and Hester was the lowest bidder. Kwan presented the company at the June 14 meeting as a very well-known contractor that has worked with the town before.

The total cost for fixing the hole includes additional expenses on top of the \$1.3 million: the emergency opening intervention (\$600,000), project and construction management costs, design, and 15 percent added for contingency. The total equals \$2,969,000, thus \$331,000 less than was anticipated. If all goes according to plan, the town should get back about \$2.65 million, hopefully at some point in the not-too-distant future.

Kwan presented the extent of the work that will be done by the

contractor: first excavate and remove the corrugated culvert that failed over a year ago. The metal pipe will be replaced with a reinforced concrete pipe. Once the culvert is replaced and attached to the rest of the creek channel, the contractor will repair the pavement and the sidewalk, including an inlet for collection of rain water in the new pipeline.

Michael Anderson, operations manager with McGuire and Hester, came to the meeting to answer questions, but none were asked of the contractor by the council before approving staff recommendation to award the contract.

Contacted a few days later, Anderson confirmed that the company would start work mid-July for an estimated time of 77 days. He was sure to add though that this number of days was an estimate and that there could always be surprises

once the hole is completely opened. In order to complete the work before the rainy season, deemed to arrive on Oct. 15, the McGuire and Hester crews will work extended hours and on Saturdays.

During the time of the construction, Rheem Boulevard will be completely closed at the sinkhole. Anderson said that the roadway will be open to reach the areas that need to be worked on, and that the street will remain closed, whether or not workers are on site.

Kwan explained that the town could not make going through the shopping center an official alternate route. He said that the town would have had to sign an access right agreement with the property owner, something that could have added weeks to the process.

Regular updates will be posted on the town website at moraga.ca.us

Secondary Units: State law encourages easier approval process

By Sophie Braccini

As of Jan. 1 the state law regulating how in-law units are approved supersedes local municipal codes, requiring that each city adapt its code to the new rules crafted to promote an easier approval of such secondary housing structures.

If a municipal code is not compliant, then the code is considered null and void. A key component of the state law is that these units do not require a public hearing or neighbors' input to be approved, if compliant with the design standards.

Moraga planning commissioners started reviewing this new concept and voiced their concerns at a June 19 study session. They are working with staff to limit the area of discretionary approval and make sure that the design standards will protect neighbors' privacy and general aesthetics of the town.

City staff was clear when speaking to the planning commissioners: Moraga does not have a choice and has to relax its rules regarding the development of secondary dwelling or in-law units. The major mandatory change is that the process to approve units that are compliant with the design standard must be ministerial, meaning that a member of staff will make sure that the proposed unit meets all the criteria that the town has set forth, and if it does, will have to approve it, without anyone else being informed of the project. What is also important to consider is that the design standards put forth by the town cannot

be too restrictive or it would defy the purpose of the new law.

The state regulation addresses units that are conversions to an existing home — a garage, an addition, such as a story over a garage, or an independent structure.

Commissioners found some elements of the new rules easy to support. For example the maximum size proposed by the state (800 to 1,200 square feet) does not exceed Moraga's 750-square-foot requirement by much. Commissioners also agreed that a 19-foot height limit was a sound restriction that would not permit a second story, but could allow for a half story, such as over a garage.

The new law indicates that a city cannot restrict entire areas from adding units, unless it is for health and safety reasons — sewage

capacity, traffic impact, etc. Some commissioners said that these mandatory approval rules in some areas of Moraga, which have been developed under a planned development process and have already been allowed a density higher than what is usually permitted, could be problematic. Planning Director Ellen Clark said that she would work with the town's legal counsel to see what could be restricted in Moraga without violating the law: flood zones, development on slopes, or areas that the fire department would deem difficult to access.

Commissioners Steve Woehleke and Ferenc Kovac expressed concern about a ministerial process that would have no neighbor notification and input when privacy could be invaded. Clark explained that the design guidelines could be

very precise in term of vegetation screening, window's height, sightlines and difference of grade. But the process has to remain automatic to comply with the law.


The commissioners also asked that if an application is denied because staff believes that the proposed unit does not meet the town's requirement, and if the applicant wishes to appeal the decision, the Planning Commission should review it.

Staff will bring back a new version accommodating as much as legally possible the commissioners' requests during an upcoming public session where people can comment. Only one resident commented at the June 19 meeting to support a law that could allow housing options for students and seniors.

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Moraga decides to install a one-lane temporary bridge

By Sophie Braccini



Image provided

After reviewing different options, the Moraga Town Council chose to install a temporary one-lane bridge into Canyon, alleviating the dramatic impact the closure of the bridge has had on that community.

Because of the permits and preliminary work that has to be done, city staff's expectation is that it will be set in place by mid-September.

The town of Moraga has been at the center of a controversy regarding its management of the

bridge crisis, as some Canyon residents — the most impacted by the bridge closure — questioned the staff's decision-making. But during the June 14 council meeting, Edric Kwan, the town's public work director, detailed the situation and the critical path forward in a way that convinced the town council and most of the audience that the decision was sound.

Kwan made clear that the issue was complex, including an unstable hillside that needs to be consolidated. Kwan explained

that the town is working two parallel tracks, in coordination with the proper federal and state public agencies: One to provide an emergency solution and restore some traffic in the short term, and another is preparing for the long-term restoration and improvement of the bridge.

The regulation that governs emergency relief and reimbursement is very restrictive about what is covered and what is not, so the town, which does not have a lot of financial reserves, needed to walk a narrow path in order to get 100 percent reimbursement, Kwan said.

He presented six possible options, ranging from doing nothing until the permanent bridge is completed, to installing a one-lane or two-lane temporary bridge.

The way the hill is handled creates alternate scenarios: complete repair is of course more expensive and takes longer; the alternative being to build an abutment to protect the southern side of the bridge. According to staff and its consultants, the cost varies from \$2 million to \$4.6 million, and the length of time from two-and-a-half years to four months. The shortest option is also the least expensive: construct an abutment to contain the hill and install a one-lane temporary bridge. Kwan explained that one lane is all that is permitted by the federal administration as an emergency solution. It is, according to the director, the only route the town can take to get 100 percent of the cost back.

Several people in attendance expressed doubt regarding the town's strategy. Brian Coyle,

vice-president of the Canyon school district board, insisted that while he did not mean to offend Moraga, he worried that they were not competent to determine something as complex as this situation. He said that the determination of the bridge's safety should be done by the California Department of Transportation and that paying consultants half a million dollars to assess the needs when they would also get repair work was a conflict of interest.

Moraga staff had indicated that it was working in conjunction with Caltrans.

Moraga resident Steve Woehleke wondered if all alternatives had been studied, saying that there had not been a broader overview of how to provide safety to Canyon for the next two years. Michael Carradine asked why the town would not consider a culvert instead of a bridge, a much cheaper and faster solution he said. Kwan responded that this option had been looked at but could not be considered because the California Department of Fish and Wildlife would not allow it and the town would not be reimbursed.

Council member Dave Trotter asked Kwan what chance the

town had to have Caltrans approve the adopted measures as part of the management of an emergency. The director confirmed that his team was working closely with the agency. Council member Kymberleigh Korpus said that she was impressed with the quality of the research and presentation but asked why the total cost was so high, when renting a bridge was about \$400,000. The town's team explained that the cost of an abutment next to a creek was very expensive and that the cost estimate included contingency funds. Council member Janet Fritzky wondered if EBMUD, which owns the hill, should not be considering working to protect the future bridge; there was no answer to her remarks.

The first steps in mid-July are to obtain Caltrans and environmental clearances, as well as removing the utilities that are under the bridge. By the end of July the environmental mitigation measures should be completed, just before the old bridge is removed and the abutment constructed in August. Staff expects to open the one lane bridge that will be controlled by traffic lights by mid-September.

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Orinda

Public Meetings

City Council

Tuesday, July 5, 6 p.m.
Library Auditorium, Orinda Library
26 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563

Planning Commission

Tuesday, July 11, 7 p.m.
Special Joint Meeting with City Council
Library Auditorium, Orinda Library
26 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563

Citizens' Infrastructure Oversight Commission

Wednesday, July 12, 6:30 p.m.
Sarge Littlehale Community Room,
22 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563

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

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



June 6 to 13

Alarms	31
Noise complaints	4
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	4
Traffic stops	25
Suspicious Circumstances	9
Suspicious Subjects	9
Suspicious Vehicles	9
Vacation checks	15

Accident

El Toyonal/Camino del Cielo
70 block Moraga Way

Barking dog

Owl Hill Ct/Owl Hill Rd.

Burglary, Auto

100 block Overhill Rd.
200 block Overhill Rd.
Orinda Way/Camino Pablo

Burglary, Commercial

3500 block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Burglary, Residential

10 block St Hill Rd.
10 block Lucille Way
60 block Orchard Rd.
30 block Don Gabriel Way
40 block Rheem Blvd.

Civil

90 block Hillcrest Dr.

Disturbing the Peace

Camino Pablo/Manzanita Dr.

Injury Accident

Moraga Way/Glorietta Blvd.

Reckless Driving

Moraga Way/Camino Encinas
Muth Dr/Arbolado Ct.
80 block Davi Way
Camino Pablo/Claremont Ave.
Camino Sobrante/Miner Rd.
Valley View Dr./Moraga Way

Theft, ID

70 block Estates Dr.

Theft, Grand

400 block Tahos Rd.

Theft, Petty

Orinda Park Pool
70 block Moraga Way

Trespass

Orinda Country Club
100 block Camino Sobrante

Uncontrollable juvenile

10 block Easton Ct.

Vandalism

Miramonte High

Warrant arrest

Chevron
90 block Tarry Ln.



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Public to view a fixed Miner Road at special event

By Sora O'Doherty



Near completion: Miner Road will be open to traffic on July 3.

Photo Tod Fierner

For the first time since Jan. 11, vehicles will soon be able to traverse the whole of Miner Road, which is tentatively scheduled to reopen to traffic on Monday, July 3. To celebrate, the city is inviting project partners, stakeholders, and the general public to a viewing event of the restored section of the road at 10 a.m. Friday, June 30. This will be the only opportunity to

check out the project before traffic is restored.

Visitors will be able to walk around the nearly completed project site and check out the new box culvert and retaining walls, and listen to a few explanations about how the project was constructed and the challenges that were overcome. In keeping with the festive mood, light refreshments will be

served.

Please be advised, however, that no parking is available, so people should walk, bike or carpool from Orinda Village.

The city's contractor, Bay Cities, completed the structural backfill between the retaining walls and over the box culvert and installed the rock aggregate base for the roadway that is underneath the as-

phalt pavement. All of the utilities (water, sewer, and natural gas) are back to normal operation and are underground.

The remaining work includes installing vehicle barriers and associated safety end treatments, and the remaining decorative stone facing, removing temporary cofferdam and restoring creek flow, abandoning temporary bypass pipes in place, installing rock base and hot mix asphalt for road surface including striping, and completing side slope grading and restoring gates and fences on golf course property.

Orinda Director of Public Works Larry Theis reported the total cost of the work to be between \$2.8 and \$2.9 million. Theis told the City Council that Caltrans has accepted the damage, but they are still working on how much will be reimbursed to the city by the federal government.

In addition to restoring the road where the sinkhole occurred, the city has decided that it must fill the major potholes on Miner Road, although it remains scheduled for pavement rehabilitation next year.

Wilder prepares for Art and Garden center



Vice Mayor Amy Worth and Council Member Inga Miller break ground for the Art and Garden Center at Wilder, which is expected to be open to the public by next summer. The ground breaking ceremony was also for the fourth and fifth ball fields, which are expected to open by December 2018. Other participants included Orinda Director of Planning Drummond Buckley; Orinda Director of Parks and Recreation Todd Trimble; Shane Mang, Bruce Yamamoto and Brie Griffin, Brooks Street; Attorney Fran Layton and President of the Orinda Garden Club Cathleen Sodos., — Sora O'Doherty



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Orinda hosts lunch for 75s and better

... continued from page A1



From left, "King" George Jedenoff and John Fazel. Photos Sora O'Doherty

Later in life, Fazel saw the world around him as so youth-centric, that he decided to do something about it. So he started up a Three-quarter Century Lunch in Orinda.

Sponsored by local groups, including Fazel's employer Better Homes & Gardens Realtors, Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary and the Orinda Community Church, the lunch is provided free of charge by volunteers from the Orinda Chamber of Commerce and the Orinda Association, who prepare and serve

the food. This year's lunch was the 18th since its inception. Since the club in Perry ceased to operate, the Orinda club is one of the only remaining ones in the country honoring people 75 years of age and older.

One hundred people attended the Orinda luncheon, ranging from "baby" of the year Nancy Donovan to the eldest woman, "queen" Elva Rust, who at 99 years old seemed to have a pretty good time. Reigning "king" George Jedenoff was recently featured in a YouTube video

called Happiness about still skiing at 99 ½ years old: (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J3QXBS_NJ74.) The longest married couple, Raim and Lilly Regelson, got hitched in 1946 and have been together for 71 years.

In addition to the meal, attendees heard from three speakers on the Summer of Love, which happened 50 years ago in 1967. Jay Lifson, executive director of the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce, talked about attending 278 Dead Head Concerts, while Tom Steele, who was director of merchandising for the Grateful Dead, attended 432 of the band's concerts, and spoke enthusiastically about the era of Timothy Leary, Ram Daas, Alan Ginsberg and bands including the Grateful Dead, Jefferson Airplane and Big Brother & the Holding Company. LSD, protests against the Vietnam War, "tune in, turn off, and drop out," and the birth of the environmental movement marked the period that he said was brought to a screeching halt at the end of the '60s, following the deaths of luminaries such as Martin Luther King, Robert Kennedy, Jimmy Hendrix and Janice Joplin. The dark sinister side of the period cheerfully begun as the Summer of Love brought it to a close.

Pastor Ray Wells, who was responsible for convincing famed architect Frank Lloyd Wright to build Pilgrim Congregational Church in Redding in 1958, brought the pro-

ceedings to a close speaking of his experiences running a church in the Haight Ashbury district of San Francisco during the Summer of Love.



"Queen" Elva Rust, 99 years old.

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Fire Districts

Public Meetings

Moraga-Orinda Fire District Board of Directors Wednesday, July 19, 7 p.m. Go to the website for meeting location, times and agendas. Visit www.mofd.org

ConFire Board of Directors Tuesday, July 11, 1:30 p.m. Board Chamber room 107, Administration Building, 651 Pine St., Martinez For meeting times and agendas, visit <http://alturl.com/5p9pu>.

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MOFD chief ordered to cut district expenses

By Nick Marnell

The Moraga-Orinda Fire District board ordered the fire chief to cut more than \$400,000 of operating expenses and slash \$100,000 of projected overtime before it approves the 2017-18 district budget. The cuts would reduce costs in the two categories to match their 2016-17 actual expenditures.

“This budget does not reflect the long-term needs of the organization,” Director John Jex said at the June 21 district meeting.

According to its 2016 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, the district recognized \$67 million in long-term debt, which included

its net pension liability and net retiree health care liability. Fire Chief Stephen Healy presented the draft of a 15-year facilities plan to the board in May that included more than \$13 million in mainly capital expenditures.

With general and capital fund balances for 2017-18 projected at slightly over \$10 million, the board objected that the proposed budget did not do enough to address those long-term liabilities or capital requirements. “It does not provide for contingencies that will invariably come up,” Director Brad Barber said. “We must build our reserves and aim for financial

responsibility to our employees and the public.”

The district forecast a 3.5 percent general fund revenue increase for the next fiscal year, with operating expenses to rise 21 percent. That \$500,000 cut out of overtime and operating costs could be used to help lower the district long-term debt, the board intimated.

“Give me 30 minutes and I’ll find the \$400,000,” Director Craig Jorgens said of the operating budget cuts. He urged the chief to rethink even items like \$7,500 for color printing cartridges. “Any area where the district can be thrifty and practical,” Jorgens said.

The MOFD operating budget includes expenses other than salaries and benefits, which rose 7 percent, mostly according to terms of district labor agreements.

Directors Kathleen Famulener and Steve Anderson voted to approve the budget as presented, suggesting that the chief return to the board with amendments. “I have a hard time approving something that I do not agree with,” Jex said, as he, Jorgens and Barber voted against the proposed budget.

Healy said that he will bring revised numbers, with options, to the board in July.

Lafayette ConFire commissioner Granados retires

By Nick Marnell

After 15 years of service to the citizens of Lafayette, Contra Costa County Fire Protection District commissioner Bill Granados will step down June 30. ConFire management and the board of directors honored Granados at the June 13 district meeting.

“He has fulfilled the mission of a fire commissioner more so than any fire commissioner I have worked with in my entire career,” Fire Chief Jeff Carman said. “He’s been supportive of the district, and he has tried to pull together all of the commissioners and directors of the county.”

District 2 Director Candace Andersen praised Granados for his involvement and engagement. “You are what we want of all of our fire commissioners,” she said.

Granados correctly predicted that the fire board would vote against a joint venture between ConFire and the Moraga-Orinda Fire District to build a fire station in western Lafayette and he has urged the rebuild of Fire Station 16, which the district expects to complete in early 2018.

For his last official act Granados, on behalf of the advisory fire commission, recommended that ConFire dedicate rebuilt Fire Sta-



Bill Granados, center, holding two plaques, honored by ConFire directors and officers.

Photo Nick Marnell

tion 70 to the memory of Capt. Matt Burton and engineer Scott Desmond, who died in the line of duty July 21, 2007. The district board unanimously approved the recommendation.

“Being a commissioner is what you make of it yourself,” Granados said in his final comments to the directors. “I enjoyed everything that I did.”

Upon Andersen’s recommendation, the Board of Supervisors appointed Matt Guichard to replace Granados as District 2 fire commissioner. Guichard, founder of Northern California law firm Guichard, Teng & Portello and a former alternate fire commissioner, steps in July 1. “I’ve known Matt for many years and he brings a thoughtful,

balanced approach to issues. He’s an excellent communicator and will be another strong leader for the fire commission,” Andersen said.

Subsequently, District 2 alternate commissioner Erling Horn resigned. “As a Vietnam-era Navy veteran, I must follow military protocol and step down,” Horn said.

Blaze behind Campolindo sparks fears



This aerial shot shows the damage from the June 19 blaze.

Courtesy the MOFD drone

A spectacular four-alarm fire charred 16 acres of vegetation above Campolindo High School June 19. The blaze shot so high in such difficult terrain

that hand tools and hoses were rendered practically useless, and the fire required an air attack. “It was the most extreme fire behavior I have seen in this district,”

said Capt. Steve Gehling, a nine-year veteran. Fire Chief Stephen Healy said that no structures were ever in danger.— Nick Marnell

Gold Star Families

... continued from page A3



Photo provided

Sutherland served at age 19 in the Army Air Corps from November 1942 to October 1945, initially based near Chichester, England, working with British air-sea rescue, and then for 21 months in Europe.

Sutherland has been playing trumpet with The Big Band for almost 30 years and is a 35-year resident of Rossmoor. He credits his long life and good health to playing the trumpet, which he says expands the lungs.

“I am happy to get a chance to support and play some music and appreciate the veterans for their service,” says Sutherland.

As well as reading the names of the 23 fallen from Contra Costa County since 9/11, 17 from Alameda County will also be recognized.

In addition to Gold Star families, also represented at the concert will be Blue Star Moms, the Marines Memorial Club of San Francisco, Rides for Veterans, the Mo-

bile Vet Center, Veterans of Foreign Wars and many other groups who will honor veterans from WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as active duty military personnel.

Residents should plan on bringing their own food to enjoy. The concert will take place on the stage a short walk east of the parking lot. Golf cart transportation will be provided for those who require assistance.

“Jay and I are happy that we have a way to say thanks,” says Levich. “Thanks to all who have served and thanks to those who were in harm’s way and thanks to the Gold Star Families for the ultimate sacrifice – thanks with our hearts and prayers.”

For Vega, events such as the Tribute to the Troops provides soothing. “Knowing that our children’s sacrifice will not be forgotten.

“For us, that is our request – don’t forget our children.”

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Letters to the Editor

Moraga Police reporting trivializes serious crimes

Dear Editor,

It would be appreciated if you stopped including attempts at humor in publishing Moraga police reports. Such reporting trivializes and demeans police activities that often involve serious crimes and/or dangerous situations. One option you have is to report Moraga police activities as you do those of Orinda and Lafayette. Attempts at humor were dropped for these two communities some time ago.

John J. Hills
Moraga

Kudos to firefighters

Dear Editor,

Because of the recent Campolindo fire my wife and I were evacuated from our home. The fire started on a ridge above Campolindo High. Our neighbors, the Jacobsen's, called 911 to report the fire. Within minutes we had one fire truck followed by more trucks and two helicopters. The firefighters were professional, organized and courteous to all of us. As part of their work they had to cut down part of our fence. The following day, Moraga-Orinda Fire Chief, Stephen Healy showed up at our front door to explain how to fill out claim for fence repair. We filled out the form and next day had a check. I want to go on record to thank all of the firefighters and Chief Healy. What a great place to live!

Hugo Kapelke
Moraga

Opinions in Letters to the Editor are the express views of the writer and not necessarily those of the Lamorinda Weekly. All published letters will include the writer's name and city/town of residence -- we will only accept letters from those who live in, or own a business in, the communities comprising Lamorinda (please give us your phone number for verification purposes only). Letters should be 350 words or less; letters of up to 500 words will be accepted on a space-available basis. Visit www.lamorindaweekly.com for submission guidelines. Email: letters@lamorindaweekly.com; Regular mail: Lamorinda Weekly, P.O.Box 6133, Moraga, CA 94570

Fighting crime in Lafayette

... continued from page A2

Morgan said that since the implementation of cameras on city streets in 2013, there has been an overall downward trend in residential burglaries, from 61 in 2013 to 31 in 2016, with 2015 having only 22.

"Is it all due to the cameras?" he said. "Probably not entirely, but it's a trend we like."

More impressive perhaps is the solve rate of 86 percent. Morgan said that of the 15 residential burglaries so far this year, 13 arrests have been made or arrest warrants have been issued. He pointed out that, compared to the national average of a 13 percent solve rate, this was a "phenomenal" achievement. Morgan credits the hard work of Christensen and drew attention to the hours Surges-Moscato spent single-handedly reviewing the cameras, helping to identify suspects.

He credits the street cameras, too, for these statistics and gave as an example of the cameras' success the apprehension of a suspect in connection with a series of recent car fires set by a serial arsonist in local towns, including one in Lafayette. The suspect was identified on one of the cameras within 10 hours of the fire set in Lafayette. He also credited the hard work of the police and Contra Costa Fire Protection District.

Morgan described the commission's "camera loaner" program as an example of their layering approach and said that of the residents who take advantage of a chance to borrow and try out cameras, 95 percent go on to purchase them.

Morgan explained the two-fold mission of the CPC is to advise on policies to be enacted in the city, and to educate the public and encourage engagement between residents and police.

Morgan listed several public forums as examples of engagement between police and community – a Fraud and Identity Theft forum in December, a recent Internet Safety for Parents and Children held at

Lafayette Elementary School and an Implicit Bias and Procedural Justice workshop attended voluntarily by virtually the entire police department in uniform. It also gives various ad hoc presentations in different neighborhoods. He said the commission hopes to bring more workshops to the city and schools soon.

Following last year's "Don't Feed the Bears" campaign, with artwork designed by Acalanes High School students, that encouraged the public to lock its cars, the city saw a 54 percent decrease in auto burglaries. Morgan explained that their new campaign, "Lock up Lafayette" will be starting soon, with leaflets and door-hangers in neighborhoods, reminding people to lock their doors and windows.

As a further example of public engagement, Morgan gave praise to the "untold hours" of work put into the Citizen's Police Academy by CPC members Denise Brown and Judie Peterson.

The free, six-week program gives residents a chance to engage in the day-to-day life of the police. Participants get to drive a police car, learn about gun safety, shoot a firearm and go on a tour of the jail among many other experiences.

Morgan explained the program, now in its third year, has graduated more than 100 participants, the most recent group having graduated minutes earlier at the same city council meeting.

Lafayette resident and a recent Citizen's Police Academy graduate Rob Sturm described the content of the course as "stellar" and "riveting."

Christensen says the police enjoy the experience of having the citizens with them and look forward to participating. The next session will begin in September.

The Citizen's Police Academy is yet another example of ways in which the CPC's goal of having the "most informed community about crime prevention and public safety issues" is being realized.



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Lynn's Top Five:

**Summer Fun with your kids without
smashing the family Piggy Bank**

By Lynn Ballou

About this time of year families are often scrambling to keep kids occupied, while still having money in the bank to pay for the school supplies needed in just two short months. When the chlorine at the pool gets to be too much, or you are between camps, here are five frugal ideas of places just around the corner that won't cause you to reach for your financial inhaler.

1) **The Library:** We are so lucky to live in Contra Costa County where we have one of the best library organizations for families and children, with three great local branches. This summer's reading program is called Build Your Brain and it comes with the usual great ideas for reading and learning. And, of course, there are many opportunities for reading circles. But did you also know that your library has lots of free or discounted passes available online through the Discover and Go tab for you to use? Go to www.ccclib.org to learn all about the various activities, as well as branch hours. Bring a picnic and head to the park and playgrounds afterward for a fun day that's well within budget.

2) **Community Center Activities:** Again, count your blessings for living here within a quick hop to three amazing towns, all of which have robust classes and activities available for summertime fun and learning – whether it's cooking, art, science, sports or simply silly playtime. Check the following links to the different communities and look for the Parks and Rec tabs on each site: www.moraga.ca.us; www.cityoforinda.org; www.lovelafayette.org.

3) **Summer Pass to the Zoo:** My kids loved the zoo and we en-

joyed weekly trips there all summer. And with Oakland now expanding to include a new restaurant and gondola ride, this annual pass might be one of your best bets. Bring a picnic, and just enjoy wandering or plan your day around the shows and feeding schedules. It's a short drive away at a very reasonable cost. You also might want to look into some day camps. I'll see you there!

4) **Don't forget Berkeley's Lawrence Hall of Science and Tilden Park:** I can barely tear my granddaughter out of there once we get in – and she's only 2-1/2! If you haven't been recently, you'll find that in addition to two levels of great ways to explore and enjoy science from all aspects, there is now an even more enjoyable outside zone with water and sand play. You'll enjoy the café with the great views and while you are on the hill, think about a trip to Tilden Park's Little Farm to feed the animals (lettuce and celery only), enjoy the incredible Merry-Go-Round, or our family favorite, the Steam Train.

5) **The garden:** This is a great time of year to learn about farm to table and where our food comes from. Scratch out a small patch of earth in your yard for your kids to dig and mulch. Head to the local nursery for a few seedlings – maybe tomatoes or zucchini or even beans, which can grow fast and be fun to harvest. Or if your kids are like mine were when they were younger, they might want to try their hand at growing their own pumpkins for Halloween. If you love to attract butterflies and hummingbirds, ask your local nursery for some recommendations about flowers you can use to edge your veggie patch. If

you are really feeling ambitious, build some raised beds that you can use again every year. Before you start, you may want to visit one or two local botanical gardens for inspiration. In Tilden you can go to the Native Plant Garden and right up from the UC Berkeley campus is the beautiful Berkeley Botanical Garden. Annual passes are very inexpensive, and there are many programs you can all enjoy.

I know finding the time to take your kids to all these activities can be difficult. Consider setting up a driving/babysitting co-op with trusted friends and families. Take turns different times of day, different days or even a week at a time to do the driving. Afterward, head for some cool fun at the Lafayette Reservoir. Rent a boat, catch a fish, make a picnic, or play on the play structures. I want to be a kid again!

Wishing you a summer of wonderful and affordable memories!



Lynn Ballou is a CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ Professional and Regional Director with EP Wealth Advisors, a Registered Investment Advisory Firm in Lafayette. Information used in the writing of this column is believed to be factual and up-to-date, however, we do not guarantee its accuracy. This column does not involve the rendering of personalized investment advice and is not intended to supplement individualized professional advice. A financial, tax and/or legal professional should be consulted before implementing any of the strategies directly or indirectly suggested and discussed. All investment strategies have the potential for profit or loss.

**EBMUD says water still safe in
Lamorinda**

Ironically the past wet winter, which allowed the district's cup to "runneth over" with abundant water, is partly to blame for the increased THMs as it washed larger amounts of organic materials into

the source water, requiring more disinfection leading to more disinfection byproducts.

Additionally, over the past few drought years, residents have cut back significantly on their water use, causing water to sit longer in tanks and pipes, necessitating further disinfection.

Lafayette, Orinda and Walnut Creek receive their water from Pardee Reservoir – a pristine Mokelumne River source in the Sierra Foothills.

In fact because of the purity of the water source EBMUD Spokesperson Jenesse Miller said, "Our water treatment plants did not need the additional treatment steps and equipment required to address these elevated organics until recently."

"Improvements are planned (and included in our proposed two-year budget and rates) to provide these added systems at our water treatment plants to address these organics should this issue continue," she said.

EBMUD is currently address-

... continued from page A1
ing the challenge with increased water quality sampling, operational changes and a new flushing program. Additionally the district is testing THM removal technologies through a pilot aeration system at the Lafayette Water Treatment Plant.

Miller says that the district is currently flushing pipes in areas most affected. "Flushing removes sediment and mineral deposits and helps maintain a chlorine residual within the distribution system to ensure the delivery of high quality water to customers."

Miller explained that EBMUD is also considering accelerating plans that are already underway. "Our five-year capital improvement plans include reliability and improvement projects at several in-line water treatment plants, which will reduce disinfection byproducts significantly."

Miller emphasized that no home filters are necessary and pointed out that at that moment she herself had a glass of water on her desk — unfiltered.

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Acalanes High School says goodbye to beloved administrative assistant

By John T. Miller



LeeAnn Martin Photo provided

Acalanes High School will be losing a vital cog in the operation of the campus when LeeAnn Martini retires at the end of this month.

Martini has been with Acalanes for seven years as the school's administrative assistant after working at Campolindo High School for three years as their testing coordinator. Before that she volunteered as a class advisor for four years at Campolindo and also served as the volleyball parent coordinator while her daughters, Gina and Amy, went to school there.

After both her daughters graduated, it led to the job at Campolindo. "I spent so much time in the office, I figured I might as well get paid," she said.

During her tenure at Acalanes, she has worked for three different principals. Cur-

rent principal Travis Bell, who is just finishing his first year at the helm, says, "You can't put a price on what she means to the school." Referring to Martini, he added, "Everyone knows who really runs this place."

Bell mentioned that she has the inside scoop on potential problems before they happen, is aware of student and staff concerns, funnels budget requests and gets first glance at details. "She's been a great sounding board to help deal with issues," said Bell. "She reads and edits communications to the public, and since she is also a member of the community she provides valuable insight."

When asked what was her fondest memory of her time at the school, she mentioned that working with young people was a great joy. "I got close to so many kids and then miss them when they go away. They're all

good memories, and it's been a great staff to work with."

Martini does not plan on quitting work. "I'm looking to work or volunteer somewhere, but my first task will be to spend the summer helping to plan my daughter Amy's wedding."

Her husband Rich — whom she met when they were both at UC Davis — is not ready to retire yet, so her current travel plans aren't huge. Soon, however, she'd like to go to Northern Italy and Croatia with her husband and connect with her heritage; her ancestors hail from Montenegro.

Interviews for a new administrative assistant began last week and the school is hoping to have the position filled by the time Martini retires on June 30.

Stanley principal moves on but stays local as OUSD Director of Curriculum

By Pippa Fisher



David Schrag Photo provided

is happy to be gaining from his decision to accept the position as Director of Curriculum and Instruction for the district.

Unanimously approved for the appointment by the board of trustees, Schrag was one of eight candidates, selected out of 65 applicants, to interview before a committee made up of administrators, teachers and parents. His vision for teaching and learning in Orinda schools coupled with his impressive record of innovative, student-centered initiatives in Lafayette made him an obvious choice for the position, according to OUSD.

OUSD Superintendent, Carolyn Seaton, noted the outstanding candidates who had applied and commented, "Mr. Schrag impressed me as an exceptional instructional leader, a colleague who will work extraordinarily well with all employees, and as an educator who always places

students first in his decision-making process. He possess the organizational, communication and technical skills required to be highly successful as Director of Curriculum and Instruction."

Schrag, who received his undergraduate degree in English from the University of California, Davis, and his master's degree in education, administration and policy analysis from Stanford University, started his career as a fifth and sixth grade teacher for eight years in the Hayward Unified School District. He moved from there to the position of vice principal at Ralston Middle School in the Belmont-Redwood Shores Elementary School District, coming to Stanley Middle School as principal in 2007.

With Schrag at the helm, Stanley Middle School was honored as a California Gold Medal School and twice as a Cali-

fornia Distinguished School.

Schrag is thrilled to be working with the Orinda school community. He takes over the position on July 1 from Kathy Marshall. "I am aware that I am joining a district with a long tradition of excellence and I have huge shoes to fill with Kathy Marshall's departure."

He says his goals are to continue to provide strong support for teachers and principals "deepening the powerful work that is happening in teaching and learning."

"I will greatly miss the many relationships I have built with teachers and families in Lafayette and seeing middle school kids everyday."

However he says that he is looking forward to partnering with Seaton and the whole OUSD team in providing a world-class program for the students of Orinda.

Orinda Academy says Congratulations to its 2017 graduates

Submitted by Janet Harrison



Pictured are (not in order), Rebecca Barr, Eric Byberg, Jonathan DeWitt, Andrew Evans, Kelly Handler, Jin He, Nicolaus Haslund Fitzgerald, Jordan Leon, Alejandro Ochoa, Julia Pankonin-Dahl, Josh Ratto, Sean Stover, Olivia Tompkins, Aidan Walker, Joseph Whipple, Annu Yamaguchi, Zhengjie (Peter) Zhang, and Ansen Zhu.

Orinda Academy congratulates the Class of 2017 and wishes them well for a prosperous future.

Some of its graduates will be embarking on Gap Year projects while others will attend college in the fall. The colleges the students of the Class of 2017 will attend are: California College of the Arts, Chabot College, City College of San Francisco, College of San Mateo, Columbia College, Diablo Valley College, Ithaca College, Las Positas College, Mills College, Naropa University, Syracuse University, UC Santa Cruz, University of Puget Sound, and Whitman College.

The list of Acalanes graduates published in our June 14 issue was not complete. Please see below the complete list of the Class of 2017.

Class of 2017



Armin Adly
Sean Ahmed
Czarnie Alinsod
Bradley Altbaum
Christopher Anderson
Rhett Anderson
Callista Asuncion
Emily Attiyeh
Marguerite Audley
Alexandra Awwad
Joshua Baginski
Madeline Bakar
Bennett Baker
Bryan Bamford
Dante Bamont
Nikolas Barakos
Benjamin Barreto
Caroline Basha
Natalie Basha
Harrison Bauer
Aidan Beard
Cameron Beattie
Dylan Beaunae
Samantha Bell
Ryan Bixler
Imani Boggan
Michael Bone

Jazzlynn Boynton
Faith Branch
Emma Broback
Samantha Browne
Jonathan Burns
Matthew Burns
Cameron Burrill
Alyssa Burtis
Sterling Butler
Alexandra Calender
Joshua Candau
Peter Candell
Elvia Canonizado
Jessica Carlin
Payson Carpenter
Emily Carr
Marina Carr
Mia Carvotta
Alexis Caviness
Cole Christensen
Ian Churchill
Caroline Clark
Ryan Clavin
Eliza Cleaver
Kaitlin Clever
Joseph Frument
Lindsay Cocotis
William Cohen

Owen Coleman
Takori Coleman
Cole Combi
Kelsey Comins
Laura Connolly
Casey Conrad
Jason Cornell
Lauren Cornwell
Natalee Culver
Yohannes Dagne
Andrew Dao
Molly Davis
Kallie Deakins
Dylan Decool
Charles Delamore
Anna deRoque
Alexandra Donner
Elizabeth Dorer
Rachel Dresdner
Brenden Duboff
Alexander Edraki
Thomas Edwards
Melissa Elliott
Charlotte Ensley
Callie Ericksen
Danielle Evangelista
Isaac Evans
Michael Everton
Tyler Ewing
John Feddersen
Alexandra Figueredo
Hailey Fisher
Ryan Franke
Joseph Frument
Olivia Gaffney
Nicole Gagliardi

Cole Gallagher
Troy Ganter
Nickolas Garcia
Sarah Garfein
Bennett Garza
Emma Godfrey
Christopher Gonser
Amanda Gonzales
Alyssa Gorton
Hayley Gotelli
Rajiv Govindjee
William Grace
Paul Griessel
Devin Grobeck
Hannah Gurson
Madeline Guzaitis
Benyamin Hakimjavadi
Kelsey Hansen
Sarah Hansen
Quinn Harrington
Alexander Hashim
Madeleine Helvey
Brian Hemmenway
Jin Young Heo
Fernanda Heredia
Hadas Hessler
Thomas Higgins
Aaron Hill
Lan Chi Ho
John Hoffman
Lillian Hooker
Foster Houlston
Naomi House
Taylor Howell
Trinity Howell
Kyle Hulsey

Andrew Hyatt
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Skylar Javeli
Parker Jones
Gabriela Joseph
Axel Jurgens
Joseph Kahler
Jonah Kallen
Ryan Kapoor
Shanel Kashef
Rebekah Kaufman
Alexander Kaviani
Christopher Keeler
Cecily Kenney
Daniel Kim
Isabel Kirke
Sean Ko
Lauren Kobayashi
Greta Kohls
Hannah Kramer
Mandan Kuhn
Drew Kuzmin
Batchelor
Daniel Kvitko
Stanley Kvitko
Lauren Ladrech
Michael Lalor
Rebecca LaMotte
Katharine Larson
Natalie Lawton
Brianna Lee
Ryan Levy
John Lewerenz
Jingyanshan Li
Derrick Lin
Olivia Lindgren

Natalie Lira
John Lomond
Alexia Lucey
Ophelia Luchin
Francesco Macayan
Samuel Machol
Chase Maderious
Matthew Magnus
Emilie Malinovsky
Evan Mann
Mitchel Manning
Sarah Manning
Neil Marcellini
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Nathaniel Welcomer
Markus Wesser
Ethan Westemeier
Mia Westphal
Tai White
Alexis Williams
Arman Williams
Nicholas Wilson
Kira Wiseman
Nicole Wiseman
Kelianna Witt
Camryn Woehrl
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Music at the Commons

... continued from page A1

They gave two hours of satisfying justice to hits by Michael Jackson, The Police, Prince, KC and The Sunshine Band, Katy Perry, The Isley Brothers, and many more iconic songwriters.

Dennis Iwata sat with friends on the hillside. "My wife and I go dancing. We checked the playlist online, and saw everything we like, so we came out. This is a great venue — you should come enjoy the setting, and what MPF (the Moraga Parks Foundation) is doing for the community. Our kids grew up here, and we love this town. People are very friendly."

"I've been in Moraga for 24-and a half years," said Mike Condie, enjoying the concert with his wife and friends on the lawn overlooking the stage. "We moved from San Bruno, for the weather. We love the relaxed atmosphere. It's a great family town. Our kids grew up here. Lots of families connect through these events, and things like the local Boy Scouts."

The free Summer Concert Series is one of many events organized by The Moraga Park Foundation. The foundation, run by community volunteers, was created to strengthen community through cultural, recreational, and educational projects. Working with the Moraga Park and Recreation Department,

they raise funds for parks in Moraga — The Hacienda, Rancho Laguna, and Moraga Commons — both by encouraging donors to help the community at large, and by managing venue kitchens and vendors. Just this year, an enlargement of the bandshell, modernization of the kitchens, ADA access, an improved sound system, and new park grills were all completed. Donors were The Bruzzone Family, Republic Services, Moraga Kiwanis, the Moraga Junior Women's club, and 5-A Rent-A-Space.

"This is why we are here!" said Karen Mendonca, president of the Moraga Parks Foundation, gesturing at the crowd. "We love our Moraga community. I would invite all Moragans to come every Thursday throughout the summer — except for July 6, we're doing a Fourth of July show instead. The last show of the 2017 Summer Concert Series is Aug. 17. We serve hamburgers, sausages and hotdogs from the bandshell grills, and we have a few local vendors to round out food choices: Loard's Ice Cream and Kettle Pop, and on the other side we have excellent thin-crust pizza made in a wood-fired oven by Forno Di Sbarro."

Vincent Sbarro, owner of Forno Di Sbarro, said, "I was invited to serve pizza here five years ago.

It's been a great boost for us — all my business is word-of-mouth. Our mobile oven is built in California. It takes about an hour to build the heat with a wood fire, and then it uses latent heat in the shell to cook the pizzas. People have come to expect us to be here. There's not so much of a crowd today. Maybe people thought it would be too hot? But what a perfect night they're missing! You couldn't ask for better weather. So hard to predict — sometimes the entire hillside is packed shoulder-to-shoulder."

After the show Marcel Marchetti, trumpeter for The Floorshakers, talked about the band as they packed up. "We're for hire!" he quipped. More seriously, he added, "We played the Fourth of July show in Moraga last year. It was a very welcoming crowd. Music is a feel-good thing. The Floorshakers choose material that our vocalists enjoy, so they can put themselves completely into it, and music that makes people happy, that brings people together. We see complete strangers dancing together out there. We want people to have a good time!"

[Editor's Note: For a list of all the free summer concerts in Moraga and Orinda, see page B7]

Thank you for Supporting LPIE

On Saturday, March 25, parents and supporters from all over the community came together to help "power" LPIE's fundraising efforts. Then on Sunday, June 4, we joined together again to celebrate LPIE's support for our schools. Because of businesses, parents, and community members, both events were overwhelming successes. Thank you to all who support LPIE.

A BIG THANK YOU to our Power Party Event Sponsors

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~ Life in LAMORINDA ~

Community Activities Light up the Fourth of July

By Sophie Braccini and Peggy Spear



Early morning in Orinda: Last year's Haley's Run for a Reason.

If you are around for Fourth of July in Lamorinda you can find plenty of fun options to celebrate the nation's birthday. The Orinda parade is one of the best around and the Moraga fireworks attract people from all of the East Bay. Both cities offer other activities all day long and are happy to both support each other and include their Lafayette neighbors who are garnering their forces for the Art & Wine Festival in September.

In Moraga the Fourth can start very early, a good idea as hot weather is anticipated, with the 4th July Fun Run, featuring a 2-mile run/walk, 5-mile run, and kiddie run. Late registration starts at 7 a.m. (people are encouraged to register ahead of time at <https://runsignup.com/Race/CA/Moraga/Moraga4thofJulyRun>), the kiddie run starts at 8 a.m., the 5-mile run at 8:30 a.m., and the 2-mile run/walk at 8:45 a.m. This event supports the Campolindo Cross-Country and Track & Field teams.

The pancake breakfast also starts early, to sustain the runners, their supporters, and whoever wants to have breakfast in the Moraga Commons Park. This breakfast, traditionally organized by the Moraga Youth Involvement Committee, runs from 7:30 to 10:30 a.m.

The Moraga Commons is the center of the patriotic community from dawn to dusk that day. This is where the famous Moraga dog parade is held at 9 a.m., where the children's bike parade takes place at 10:30 a.m., and where the family magic show will be presented at 12:30 p.m. In the park there will be continuing activities all day long, such as inflatable jumpies from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., the community booths from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., as

well as food, wine and beer service all day once breakfast is finished.

Then prior to the big fireworks show that starts around 9:30 p.m., a concert is offered in the park. The David Martin House Party will be entertaining the audience, following the Mayor's Welcome at 6:45 p.m.

The fireworks are funded entirely by community donations. The Parks and Recreation Department says that to help raise \$29,000 for the annual July Fourth community fireworks people are asked to contribute to the Buy-A-Rocket fund. Donation are accepted online at Moraga.ca.us or by checks payable to Town of Moraga at: Town of Moraga, Attn: Buy-A-Rocket!, 2100 Donald Dr., Moraga, CA 94556. If the amount is not reached, people at the park and on the lawn of the country club are likely to see council members walking the crowd with their best smiles and asking for donations.

Over in Orinda, the fun starts early as well. There are events for every age group starting with the annual Pancake Breakfast, flag raising ceremony, fun run, parade, live music, food, games and booths in the Community Park following the parade. Everyone is invited to participate in planning, sponsor a booth or event, participate in the parade, host a booth in the park, or just come and enjoy the events.

The festivities have continued to grow year after year with lots of fun activities for children from a Hot Wheels race to balloon animals to making things at the Home Depot booth. Adults also have plenty to make them smile with several great bands playing throughout the day and great food and drinks to enjoy

Photo Sora O'Doherty
On July Fourth from 7:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. The Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary hosts a Pancake Breakfast in the park/Community Center, 28 Orinda Way. At 7:55 a.m. there will be a flag raising ceremony at the flagpole in front of the Community Center. Then at 8 a.m., the successful Haley's Run for a Reason kicks off. Participants meet in front of the community center, and should prepare to be color blasted.

At 8:45 parade participants arrive for assembly in the BART parking lot on the east side of Camino Pablo. At 9 a.m. the Friends of the Orinda Library opens its Book Sale in the library breezeway, 26 Orinda Way.

At 10 a.m. the parade begins in front of wells Fargo Bank, 80 Moraga Way, and traverses through town. For the parade route, see <http://orindaassociation.org/parade-info>.

From 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. there will be activities in the park, while at the same time there will be a "Theatre Side Party" with various music groups performing at the entrance to the Orinda Theatre.

The July Fourth Celebration is a tradition started by the Orinda Association in the early 1980s not only as a way to celebrate Independence Day but as a way to foster community. For more information visit the Orinda Association website at www.orindaassociation.org.



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Last year's firework in Moraga.

Photo Gint Federas

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Photography exhibit celebrates fatherhood at the Lafayette Library

By Kara Navolio



Casey with his daughter Emera, 2, and his son Keats, 4.

Photo Nancy Rubin

The bond between father and child is beautifully captured by photographer Nancy Rubin in her show *Mighty Dads* at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center.

The portraits capture everyday dads who she encounters as she goes about her regular routine, always with camera in hand. She doesn't go out seeking models for her work; rather, she stumbles upon them, and when people catch her interest for some reason, she will stop and ask to photograph them. Then she will ask them for a quote. The whole process takes only 10 minutes, but Rubin is always grateful that people are so willing to interrupt their day to take part.

This work was inspired by *Humans of New York*, a project by New York photographer Brandon Stanton featuring interviews and photos of thousands of people on the streets of New York City. The images and interviews are placed

on social media. Stanton's Facebook page has over 17.8 million followers.

In 2013 Rubin began *Humans of Berkeley and the Bay Area* (HUBBA). "My favorite thing to photograph is people," says Rubin. "Even when I travel, I love to photograph the people." She has 1,600 followers on Facebook (www.facebook.com/Humans-of-Berkeley-and-the-Bay-Area). When her photography instructor encouraged her to look for a theme in her work, she easily saw how many dads with children she had photographed.

Rubin, who seriously came to photography in her retirement from teaching, may have been influenced by her own special relationship with her father.

"When I was young I thought everybody had a great father like mine, but then when I was teaching high school, stories would pour out from my students about abuse,

absent fathers. If I could change one thing I would put a loving, involved father in every home," reflects Rubin. "I find it hopeful and beautiful when I see dads playing, reading, or giggling with their children. There seem to be so many dads out with their children."

Mighty Dads is showing in the Homework Center through July 17 and can be seen during library hours. The images are a subset of 29 originally shown at the North Berkeley Library and are now permanently displayed at Kaiser Richmond.

Rubin is currently working on another collection called *Reframing Ageing* featuring residents of Albany Village who are in their 70s, 80s and 90s. It will be at the North Berkeley Library from Sept. 16-Oct. 28.

For more information visit nancyrubin17@gmail.com.

Orinda student to study Chinese in China on State Department scholarship

Submitted by Emily Marley



Sienna Marley

Photo provided

Sienna Marley, a rising senior at Miramonte High School in Orinda, has been awarded a National Security Language Initiative for Youth scholarship for 2017-18 by the U.S. State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. Sienna will study Chinese in Xi'an, China for the summer.

Sienna is one of only approximately 600 competitively selected students from across the United States who will receive a scholarship to study Arabic, Chinese,

Hindi, Korean, Persian, or Russian overseas this coming year. While in China, Sienna will receive formal instruction and informal language practice as part of an immersion environment.

Sienna has studied three years of Mandarin at Miramonte High School. She says she is excited to live with a host family, as well as attend a Chinese high school there. Sienna looks forward to exploring Xi'an, becoming more proficient in Mandarin and engaging

with 20 other students who share her passion for Chinese language.

The NSLI-Y program is part of a multi-agency U.S. Government initiative launched in 2006 to improve Americans' ability to communicate in select critical languages to advance international dialogue and increase American economic global competitiveness. The goals of the NSLI-Y program include: promoting critical language learning among American youth; enhancing cross-cultural understanding and deepening trust; sparking a lifetime of interest in foreign language and culture; and developing the skills to advance international dialogue, compete effectively in the global marketplace, promote mutual understanding, and contribute to a more peaceful world.

Applications for 2018-19 NSLI-Y programs are expected to be available at www.nsliforyouth.org in the early fall. For information about U.S. Department of State-sponsored exchange programs visit <http://exchanges.state.gov>.

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In 'Jasper's World,' friendship is more important than a ton of dog treats

By Sophie Braccini



Local author Sarah Gunn just received the prints of her first book, "Jasper's World." Photo Sophie Braccini

Sarah Gunn has been carrying the stories of Jasper the dog in her mind for many years. It has been a long process, but the local author is now published and starting a new adventure: promoting her new children book, "Jasper's World."

In doing so she meets in the classroom with young students who get interested in her characters and their adventures, as well as in the story-writing process.

Gunn is a Moraga mother from England who raised her two children here and continues to serve the community as a reading tutor at Camino Pablo Elementary School. When she came to California, she did so with her British roots and as she started imagining stories for children set in the British countryside with its pastel colors and lush greens that came naturally to her. There she created the adventure of Jasper, a feisty Jack Russell belonging to a local vet.

The figure of Gunn's father-in-law, who was a local vet in the southern British countryside, came to her mind. Her husband Neil had grown up there, with two successive family Jack Russells. Gunn remembers one of them and heard

stories about the other one, and she loves that breed of dog for its energy and spirit. She also remembers fondly visits she made with her father-in-law to local farms, and still has with her the images of a Christmas Eve night when he delivered a lamb.

But she also wanted to tell a story that illustrated a life skill for her young audience and she chose friendship. Not just any friendship, but the friendship between Jasper and Nellie, a young sheep who was adopted by a nearby farmer who the vet often visits to attend to the farm animals. So beget "Jasper's World." Let's not spoil the mystery, but in that sweet story, something happens to Nellie and her friend Jasper will save the day.

Gunn believes that friendship can flourish between very different people, including different species and breeds. The author has incorporated in her story how one can complement and teach things to the other and enrich each other's experience. She is also a keen observer of dogs, and as she transcribes in the story of Jasper's thoughts, they are quite believable. The dog is driven by his instinct and his unique abili-

ties, such as his remarkable sense of smell.

Gunn worked with an editor at Mascot Books to get her book published. She explains that its model is a hybrid, part self-publishing, part traditional promotion by the publisher, putting "Jasper's World" out with Barnes and Noble, Amazon and the Ingram Content Group, which places books at such places as Costco and Whole Foods. She submitted her story idea and there was a lot of back and forth to tighten the plot, make the story shorter with a lot of room for illustrations, something Gunn really wanted.

She explains that it took about two years to edit the text to its final form, decide on an editing format, and work with the illustrator, Thomas Hilley. She details how the editor proposed a number of illustrators, and how she chose one who best brought Jasper to life and matched the vision she had in her mind.

The final books arrived at her place mid-June. Before school ended Gunn took a printout of it to read in one third-grade and one second-grade class at CP. The young students enjoyed the experience and asked many questions, she said. Of course they wanted to know if the book was based on a true story and if Jasper really existed.

They also asked about the writing process itself and Gunn told them that for a book it works just like what they do in class: It takes a lot of rewriting and editing before the story is finished. The children were also interested by the fact that Gunn is a familiar face around the school; for them writing and publishing a book now appears to be something within reach.

Of course the children asked if Jasper would have other adventures, and Gunn says that he very well might. The children proposed other life skills the dog could explore, such as perseverance.

Gunn says that she will spend the summer contacting independent bookstores in the area and offer to come and do readings. One of the first ones will be at Orinda Books, where Gunn will appear from 6 to 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 10 as part of that local bookstore's Summer Fun for Kids program. The book can be purchased there or online.

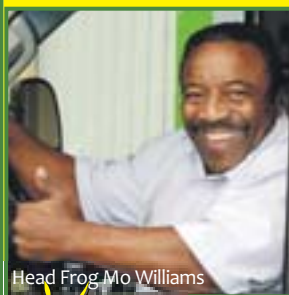


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In Memory

Nancy Taber Moore



Nancy Taber Moore passed away peacefully on June 7 at the age of 99.

Nancy was born on Sept. 19, 1917 in Winters, California to Percy and Nancy Taber. Nancy was raised in Berkeley, California, attending Jefferson Elementary School, Garfield Junior High School, Berkeley High School, and the University of California, Berkeley, where she earned a degree in Textiles as an honor student. She married Robert Hill Moore of Seattle, Washington on Nov. 23, 1944, whom she met at an Officer's Club dance in 1943. They were married for 42 years until Bob's passing in 1986.

Nancy and Bob lived in Seattle, Washington and Portland, Oregon before settling in Orinda, California in 1956. Nancy worked as the executive secretary for the president of the Western Pacific Railroad during WWII and became a fulltime homemaker when Bob returned home from wartime duties in the Pacific in 1945. Nancy and Bob raised three sons, Bob, Don, and Ken. She

was locally active in the AquaBears Swim Team, the Orinda Book Club, the Orinda Garden Club, and St. Stephens Episcopal Church. Additionally, she was a lifetime member and very active in the Prytanean Women's Honor Society of the University of California.

Nancy loved her home state of California and loved to travel. She was just as at home at Lake Tahoe, where she had a vacation home, as she was in Orinda. Her lifelong passion was gardening. She maintained an extensive camellia and rose garden and was always surrounded by her Collies and cats. When not gardening, Nancy traveled extensively with friends and family.

Nancy is survived by her sons Bob (Lois) of Truckee, California, Don (Wendy) of Lake Oswego, Oregon, and Ken (Audrey) of Bend, Oregon; grandchildren Erik, Robyn, Kevin, Kyle, Christopher, and David; and great-granddaughter Jaden. Nancy was preceded in death by her granddaughter Christine in 1980 and her brother William in 1992.

If you wish to donate on Nancy's behalf, her preference would be: Prytanean Women's Honor Society, c/o Cal Alumni Association, 510-900-8200

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.

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3 Lafayette Girl Scouts honored with prestigious Silver Award

Submitted by Julie Gladden



These three Lafayette Girl Scouts completed their Silver Award with a video for Canine Companions for Independence.

Lafayette eighth-graders Giovanna Fry, Sydney Rohrbough (Stanley Middle School) and Hayden Van Steyn (Athenian School) each completed their respective Sil-

ver Award. The Silver Award is the second highest award a Girl Scout can earn.

The girls put together an informational video for Canine Companions for Independence, an organization that provides assistance dogs for recipients at no charge. The video showed a day in the life with a canine companion.

The girls also made and sold dog toys to benefit the Canine Companions organization. Giovanna, Sydney and Hayden brought attention and gave much needed awareness for this organization that serves communities across the country.

New Eagle Scouts for Troop 237

Submitted by Dede Ramsey



Troop 237's newest Eagle Scouts, from left, Will Fehrstrom, Soren Faulkner, Adam Fahd, Diego Martell, Mark Presten, and Nicholas Kim

Members of Orinda Boy Scout Troop 237, Adam Fahd, Soren Faulkner, Will Fehrstrom, Nicholas Kim, Diego Martell and Mark Presten achieved Scouting's highest rank of Eagle Scout. Their Eagle Court of Honor celebrating their achievement will be held on June 11 at Moraga Valley Presbyterian Church. Scoutmaster Dan Lyons will present the awards to the scouts.

Fahd's Eagle Scout project aimed to help underprivileged children at St. Cornelius Catholic School in Richmond by collecting books for grade levels K-5. Faulkner helped to build "a monument more lasting than bronze," complete with inlaid Roman mosaic patio and two benches, which creates an outdoor community space for Latin Club members. Fehrstrom wanted to serve the homeless in our community by collecting, sorting,

packaging and distributing toiletry items for the upcoming winter months. For his Eagle Service Project, Kim partnered with the St. Vincent Day Home in West Oakland, leading efforts to design, construct and deliver a much-needed, large 6-door wood cabinet with shelves to hold books, supplies and toys. Martell, former Senior Patrol Leader of Troop 237, led the solicitation, organization and assembly of 23 comprehensive emergency preparedness kits for Mount Pleasant Elementary School in San Jose. Presten chose to benefit Children's Hospital Oakland, by collecting Legos, play-dough, character band aids and books to help ease the anxiousness of young patients, particularly longer-term patients.

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

Troop 30638 earns Silver Awards

Submitted by Yuka Akera



From left, Nancy Turtle (leader), Rina F., Beatriz S., Shelby M., Ava U., Gianna G., Sydney W., Amanda T., Jeannette Gravelyn (leader)

Some members of Campolindo ninth-grade Troop 30638 earned their Silver Award for their project, "Polystyrene Ban in Moraga School District." Emily M., Ava S., Aislinn W., and Alexandra Y. focused on the community issue of polystyrene (Styrofoam) use within the school district. Styrofoam is a carcinogen and can cause painful side effects due to chemical that leech into food and drink.

MSD buys lunches from various vendors, many of which are served in Styrofoam. The three elementary schools plus one middle school combine for 2,000 students. Over the course of a single year, literally tons of Styrofoam is used within the district. The negative impacts were presented to the school board, which was well received and the girls were asked to write out an official resolution. The ban was presented to the school board, which voted unanimously to adopt the resolution to ban Styrofoam. A month later, the

board implemented the ban. The girls saw how board meetings were run, and policies made, as well as learned that people are willing to help make the world a better place to live in.

Other members of Campolindo ninth-grade Troop 30638 earned their Silver Award for their project, "Multimedia Presentations for the Elderly." Lily Mae C. and Christine Z. created a multimedia presentation to show to their local retirement home. As the seniors do not travel outside often, they can become disconnected with the world. The presentations kept them up to date with present day news and tried to teach them new things. Meetings were initiated for discussions during the presentations by asking questions. One difficulty encountered was keeping the seniors engaged, as they often fell asleep. Showing pictures and videos they enjoyed seemed to help keep their attention.

Lamorinda Odyssey of the Mind Teams shine at World Finals

Submitted by Mary Pat McMahon



Front row, from left, Thomas Wang, Joseph Pak, Jordan Rodino, Tyler Akel, Beatrice Roberge, Sophia King, Nicholas Aiken, and Benjamin Wang. Back row, Jason Akel

The Moraga Rotary-sponsored Division 1 Odyssey of the Mind team finished fourth among 43 teams competing in Problem 4 – "Ready, Set, Balsa, Build" at the Odyssey of the Mind World Finals held at Michigan State University in late May. The team, consisting of fifth-graders from Glorietta Elementary School and St. Perpetua School and coached by Jason Akel and Thomas Wang, was recognized as a top finisher at the World Finals awards ceremony. Over 850 teams from 15 countries competed at the World Finals, representing the best of thousands of teams that vied to go to the World Finals in each participating country.

Lamorinda was exceptionally represent-

ed at the World Finals with five area teams competing, each having earned a spot by placing first or second in their Problem and Division at the California State Competition in April. At the World Finals, all Lamorinda teams finished in the top 20, having competed against over 40 other teams in each Division and Problem:

- Div 1, Prob 4 Moraga Rotary (pictured) -- 4th Place
- Div 1, Prob 1 Glorietta Elementary -- 16th
- Div 2, Prob 2 Moraga Rotary -- 19th
- Div 3, Prob 3 Moraga Rotary -- 12th
- Div 3, Prob 4 Orinda Rotary -- 11th

For more information on Odyssey of the Mind, see www.odysseyofthemind.com.

Rotary gives \$5,000 for better Lamorinda emergency communications

Submitted by Gene Gottfried



Barbara Bontemps, acting President of the Rotary Club, delivers a check for \$5000 to Cathy Dausman, President of LARIG. Photo provided

A \$5,000 dollar Orinda Rotary Club donation will boost the effectiveness of wireless communications throughout the Lamorinda area.

The recipient is the Lamorinda Area Radio Interest Group, an amateur radio club serving the community's event and emergency communication needs. The gift paid for a system of LARIG-built radio repeaters in Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda. These hilltop repeaters boost incoming signals from walkie-talkies and other radios and effectively overcome the losses caused by distance and hilly terrain. Each site has two repeater systems (each one with a radio receiver, transmitter, controller and antenna). One is for

amateur radio band frequencies, the other for Family Radio Service and General Mobile Radio Service frequencies.

LARIG and other ham radio operators, Community Emergency Response Team members and first responders will use these repeaters.

Now in its 68th year, the Rotary Club of Orinda is part of a worldwide network of 1.2 million members serving their local communities and collaborating on major international projects. To learn more about Rotary, visit <http://www.orindarotary.org/>. For LARIG, go to https://www.facebook.com/pg/K6ORI/about/?ref=page_internal.

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.

Submit stories to
storydesk@lamorindaweekly.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.

Artists push artistic boundaries in new Moraga Art Gallery show

By Sophie Braccini



Ancestral Mountain by Linda Yoshizawa.

Photo provided

Moraga Art Gallery visitors are invited to embark on an exploratory visual journey as part of this summer's *Experiments and Explorations* exhibit, which features Patrick Hayashi's inventive, beautifully innovative and evocative imagery, and Linda Yoshizawa's weaves of textures, layers and threads that memorialize her Japanese ancestry. These artists' work, along with the ceramics of Lauri-Moffet Fehlberg and Kurt Fehlberg, will be on display through Aug. 12 at the gallery in the Rheem Valley Shopping Center.

Hayashi, a former UC Berkeley vice-president, decided in retire-

ment that it was time to do all the things that he always wanted to do: namely, explore his artistic side, or, as he says, use the other side of his brain. He started taking voice lessons, and, more to the point of this article, painting.

Describing his artistic journey as a spiritual pursuit, Hayashi says the process of creation takes him to a different mental and spiritual place where the world stands still. He immerses himself in the processes, but he is not pinned to any specific media or technique. Art is an exploration for Hayashi.

One technique Hayashi uses is encaustic painting, which involves

melting pigmented beeswax and painting it with a brush on a rigid panel where it hardens immediately. The artist then uses a torch to melt and move the wax around, literally painting with the torch. A series of florals against a black backdrop are featured at the gallery. Hayashi pushed the technique by adding Japanese Sumi ink that he hits with the torch. But the ink can catch fire. He moves the fire around, which he says is impossible to control. Thus he calls the process "Zencaustic," because the process of experimentation is pushed until something emerges, but if one tries to control it, nothing

happens – just like in life.

The artist invented another process called smoke painting, which is something so unique and interesting that a friend at the State Department invited Hayashi to go to Kyrgyzstan to teach a master class on how to paint with smoke. Hayashi discovered the process by chance while trying to burn a disappointing creation in his kitchen. He now uses fire and smoke to create portraits, landscapes and abstract work. In the gallery, visitors can view folders that explain how the artist works.

Hayashi knows fellow artist Yoshizawa well, describing her as a perfectionist as well as an exploratory artist, pushing the boundary of her art.

Art has always been part of Yoshizawa's life. She graduated in fine arts, and got a job as a technical illustrator, while at night she continued to develop her artistic expression through serigraphy, or silkscreen printing work. After an interruption to raise her children and work as an art instructor in their San Ramon school, she went back to her printing practice at Sherry Smith Bell's Lafayette studio. Yoshizawa was one of the founding artists of the Lafayette gallery that operated for 15 years on Lafayette Circle. She now works in her own studio with her own press. She explains that her latest work, now on view at the Moraga gallery, is the visual rendition of the exploration

of her Japanese ancestry.

Her mother grew up in Japan and lived in Hiroshima. She was a teenager during World War II and was lucky to survive the atomic bombing. Her father, a third-generation American of Japanese descent, was studying in Japan when the war broke out and could not come back until after the war. Yoshizawa says it is difficult for her parents to talk about their past. She gets pieces of information from them, peeling layer after layer to get to the truth of their experience. To transcribe this on canvas she uses collographs, a technique involving a collage of layers of different materials glued onto a printing plate made of cardboard. The artist varnishes the surface before painting it with acrylic. Yoshizawa then prints her creation on the surface of her choice.

The gallery is featuring one of her triptychs, called "Ancestral Mountain." It represents the strata of Yoshizawa's ancestral history. Using strings to tie elements together like veins and currents that come from the deepest layers to the surface, Yoshizawa says it represents our ties to our past. These powerful ideas guiding the artist's creation form a visually appealing work, abstract but also timeless.

The Moraga Art Gallery, located at 522 Center St. in Moraga, is open from noon to 5 p.m. from Wednesday to Sunday.

Author sensitively chronicles the horrors of war and its aftermath

By Sora O'Doherty



Rachel Hall Photo provided

When you are forced to flee by the horrors of war, what must you leave behind? What can't you leave behind? These questions, addressed so lyrically and sensitively by Rachel Hall in her new collection of stories, "Heirlooms," are as relevant to the refugees of today as they were to her own family, who fled from France during World War II.

Hall's family escaped from France late in the war. Her grandmother was Jewish, her grandfather was not, but in a land filled with occupiers and collaborators, they were not safe and so her grandfather called upon a friend who had made a success of himself in America to sponsor her grandparents and her mother. They were rescued and started a new life in America. It wasn't easy in any way. Like many refugees, they had very little. Farmers in France, they had to start from scratch in America. But the little family of three did succeed, and their granddaughter has chosen to tell their story in language she purposely made clear and beautiful to contrast with the horror of the time of which she writes.

Hall's real grandmother, whom she never knew, died when her mother was very young. Her Jewish grandfather was in the French Resistance, so the little girl was adopted by his twin sister and her Catholic husband, a farmer from a small village. But the family was not safe, and had to move about France to escape being turned in by eager French collaborators. The role of French collaboration has not been widely acknowledged in France until quite recently, Hall says. Now, according to Hall, more literature and films are coming out to cast a light on this unlovely aspect of French history.

Hall's real grandfather was killed at Saint-Genis-Laval, now the Caveau des Martyrs (Tomb of the Martyrs). On Aug. 20, 1944, a few days before the liberation of Lyon, the Germans took 120 prisoners from Montluc and murdered them at the Fort de Côte Lorette, which they burned once the massacre was finished. Some 10 Frenchmen gave them a hand. An immense tomb holds the ashes of the victims. (www.cheminsdememoire.gouv.fr/en/footsteps-resistance-lyon) Each year this is now commemorated by the Ceremony of Aug. 20. Hall recounts this historic episode in the heartrending story, "Generations."

In "White Lies" Hall writes of her adoptive grandfather's dilemma: should he tell his mother-in-law in Israel that her son was murdered, a heartbreak she might not have been able to bear? Instead, for many years he created fictitious letters from her son, telling his mother all about his new life in America. Hall writes of this with tenderness and love, thinking of

her grandfather as her predecessor in the art of fiction. Was it kindness to so deceive his mother-in-law, or a horrible lie? Hall leaves it to her readers to decide, but acknowledges that her grandfather's intent was to protect his mother-in-law. This is perhaps even more remarkable when you consider that her grandfather, unlike her grandmother, was not Jewish, yet he put himself into the imagined shoes of his Jewish brother-in-law and created a life of fiction for him as a successful and busy doctor in America. Perhaps this is where Hall got the idea that in fiction one can create what should have happened.

Hall examines a variety of motives throughout the stories. Perhaps feeling envious of another person makes it easier to turn them in, or perhaps fear of appearing to be jealous makes one overlook an obvious danger. Hall lays out a number of human circumstances that are complex on many levels, but she does so subtly, without hitting the reader over the head. In "En Voyage," it would have been easy to turn the character that represents the author's adoptive grandfather into a caricature, but Hall resists, drawing with careful strokes someone who has some bitterness over having to be rescued, yes, but still has a drive to succeed that makes him temper his negative feelings and focus on rebuilding a life for his family instead.

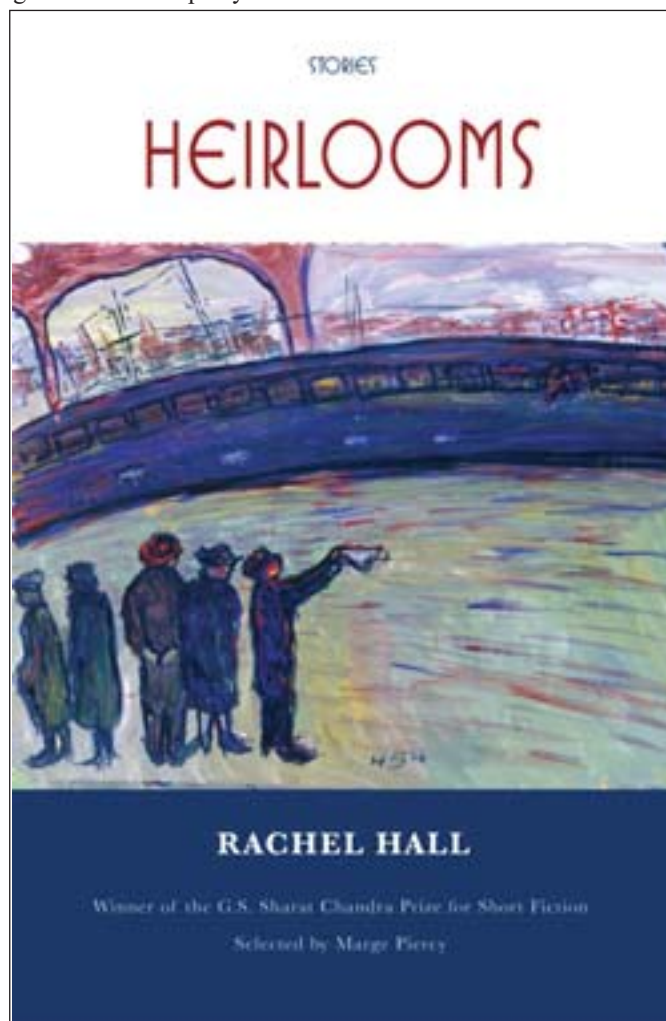
Hall decided not to directly tell the story of her real grandfather, the one who died in France, but rather to reveal him obliquely through the eyes of her other characters. The author initially did not want to be a character in her own book, but later

decided that she needed to be there to reflect on the effects of events as they played out over time.

Born in the United States, Hall is a professor at State University of New York, Geneseo, about a half hour north of her home in Rochester. She commutes to the historic village that houses the university, where she teaches creative writing. She lists as among her influences authors Elizabeth Strout and Alice Munro. Fiction, she says, is not memory. What fiction can do best is break down barriers; the power of imagination and empathy is what

fiction is all about. However, in addition to relying on family stories she had heard — which she says were already somewhat fictionalized by the time she heard them — Hall did careful research, including in France.

The author did a reading in Orinda earlier this month because she has a cousin living here. "Heirlooms," published by BkMk Press, won the G.S. Sharat Chandra Prize for Short Fiction and is available in bookstores, including Orinda Books.



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ART

The Jennifer Perlmutter Gallery is presents the exhibition Misch Kohn and Betty Friedman: A Legacy in Printmaking through July 2. The Jennifer Perlmutter Gallery is located at 3620 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Lafayette. www.jenniferperlmutter-gallery.com

Flower Power: an Asian Art Museum Docent Lecture at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, June 28 in the Orinda Library Garden Room. Asian Art Museum Docent LauraBeth Nelson will share the highlights of this exhibition (through October 1) in honor of the 50th anniversary of San Francisco's Summer of Love, showcasing the expressive powers of flowers in the arts and cultures of Asia.

The Lamorinda Arts Alliance presents a new exhibit titled Halcyon Days at the Diablo Fine Art Gallery in Walnut Creek that opens on Tuesday, July 11 and runs through Aug. 5. Halcyon Days refers to a period of peace and calm, something we could all use. The artists reflect on this idea in a variety of media including paintings, photography, sculpture and ceramics. Unique jewelry is also a feature of the gallery. The reception will be from 5:30 to 8 p.m. on Thursday, July 13. Join in, visit with the artists, and enjoy appetizers and beverages while you browse the presentation of the artwork.

The new featured artist at the Valley Art Gallery will be Shirley Nootbaar, a well-known local artist who has been a member of the Gallery for over 50 years. Her exhibit is titled From Ridges, Roads and Ranches and will run through Aug. 6. Nootbaar, a third generation Californian, earned her B.F.A. from California College of Arts and Crafts (now CCA) and is presently a freelance artist-illustrator. Working in watercolor, she has the unique skill of transforming ordinary scenes with lively technique and dramatic presentation, making her work more than just a reflection of the subject. www.valleyartgallery.org; (925) 935-4311

MUSIC

Enjoy a Twilight Concert and Picnic honoring our veterans and saluting our troops featuring The Midnight Flyers (acoustic Eagles covers) and The Big Band of Rossmoor from 5:30 p.m. to twilight on Saturday, July 15 at the at the Lafayette Rotary stage and picnic area inside the Lafayette Reservoir and overlooking the lake. Free to the public. Bring a blanket, your lawn chairs and a picnic. Golf Cart shuttles will be available from the main parking lot up to the Rotary Stage For more information visit <http://www.rotarylafayette.org>.

The Walnut Creek Concert Band presents Summer "Pops" Concert at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, July 18 at the Lesh Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek. www.lesherartscenter.org ; www.walnutcreekconcertband.org. \$14 - \$17; Free admission for students. Tickets available at box office or online at <http://lesherartscenter.showare.com/SummerPopsConcert2017>

It's time to sit back and unwind at the free summer concerts in at the park series from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in Orinda on Tuesday nights.

Free concerts from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday evenings

at the Moraga Commons Park. Bring your picnic blanket or lawn chairs to the grassy hillside in front of the band shell. Enjoy the music while your children enjoy the park. The volunteers of MPF will cook dinner with the Snack Bar opening at 6 p.m. June 29 Spill the Wine — Jackson 5 to Maroon 5. July 4 David Martins House Party —Dance party show (7 p.m. concert).

THEATER

Orinda Starlight Village Players present Agatha Christie's "The Unexpected Guest" though July 1 at the outdoor theater in Orinda Community Center Park, 28 Orinda Way. Showtimes and general admission tickets are \$20 and are available at the Box Office, call (925) 528-9225 or email info@orsvp.org for reservations. Be aware that this is an outdoor theater and dress appropriately and bring blankets.

Cal Shakes will present "The Glass Menagerie" written by Tennessee Williams and directed by Lisa Portes from July 5-30 at the Bruns Amphitheater located off CA Highway 24-the Wilder Road exit . There is a free, 20-minute informational Grove Talk starting 45 minutes before each and every performance with plenty of picnic benches. Tickets and exact show times available at www.calshakes.org.

LECTURE & LITERATURE

Meet a local mystery author who started his writing career at age 84. He will be at Orinda Books, 1-2:30 p.m. on Sunday, July 9. Richard L. Wren, now 91 and still writing, won the National Indie Excellence Award recognition with his first novel, CASEY'S SLIP. Now with five novels under his belt, he's planning to do a book a year. He's also co-author of a book on self-publishing and publicity.

The UC Theatre Taube Family Music Hall presents Bill Nye the Science Guy at 7 p.m. on July 15, doors open at 6 p.m., at the UC Theatre Taube Family Music Hall, 2036 University Avenue, Berkeley. Bill Nye the Science Guy visits for one unforgettable evening to read and sign his new book, "Everything All at Once." Cost: \$42.50, includes a copy of Bill Nye's new book. For more info see <http://www.theucetheatre.org/event/1469944-bill-nye-science-guy-berkeley/> or call (510) 356-4000 or email information@theucetheatre.org.

KIDS, PARENTS & TEENS

"How to Highschool, the Miramonte Perspective" at 6 p.m. on Thursday, July 6 in the Orinda Library Garden Room. Just for teens. Incoming freshmen are invited to hear from Orinda Library Teen Advisory Group members and friends about going from middle school to Miramonte High School. Space is limited. Register online, by phone or in person at the Orinda Library.

The Contra Costa County Library invites children, teens and library users of all ages to take part in Summer Reading. Summer Reading runs through Saturday, Aug. 5. This year's theme is "Build Your Brain" and the program is filled with activities, events and reading lists designed to exercise your brain. Readers of all ages can participate online or use a paper reading record. Completed reading records or online completion certificates should be returned to one of the 26 Contra Costa

County Library branches by Aug. 5. All finishers will receive a book prize and be entered into a drawing for a chance to win additional prizes. For more information on Summer Reading visit your local Contra Costa County Library branch or <http://www.ccclib.org/summer>.

OTHER

Celebrate July 4th in style, from early morning parades in Moraga and Orinda to late-evening fireworks in Moraga. See story page B1.

Contra Costa Animal Services (CCAS) will be offering free adoptions of all animals through Saturday, July 8. The free adoption promotion is an effort to alleviate shelter overcrowding at CCAS' Martinez and Pinole shelters, as we approach the 4th of July holiday – the biggest day of the year for animals to become lost. To view animals available for adoption at the Martinez and Pinole shelters, please visit www.ccasd.org.

Sketchbook Swatches, a garden journal workshop, will be led by artist Lisa Spangler from 12–2:30 p.m. on Saturday, July 8 at the Lafayette Community Garden 3932 Mt Diablo Blvd. Have fun getting creative with acrylic paint, watercolors, pens, stamps and more. The class is free, but a \$5 donation is appreciated. To register for classes, please visit www.lafayettecommunitygarden.org. The class is free, but a \$5 donation is appreciated.

Wine and Tapas Speaker Series Presents "Finding Peace in Broken Places" at 4 p.m. on Sunday, July 9 at 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette. After experiencing the plight of Syrian refugees and their children in Turkey and Jordan, Sai Aashraya dedicated his life to create ways of love and service that unleash the capacity for joy and peace. Admission is free and open to all ages, bring a small tasting to share for our common cheese and charcuterie board. Beverages and baguettes will be provided.

Make Solar Fairy Lanterns from 12 - 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, July 15 at the Lafayette Community Garden with artist Susan Dannenfeler for a magical workshop! Bring that special Mason jar you've been saving (not required), along with any fairy- or gnome-like decorations to make a lantern that is uniquely yours! Supplies provided. We'll also demonstrate alternative light sources. All ages are welcome at this intergenerational workshop. A responsible adult must accompany children under 16. The class is free, but a \$5 donation is appreciated. To register for classes, please visit www.lafayettecommunitygarden.org. The class is free, but a \$5 donation is appreciated.

A free workshop "Taking Control of Your Finances in 8 Steps" begins at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 19 at the Orinda Library. This is a two-hour educational program where attendees will learn the basics of taking control of their finances and can get their questions answered. There is absolutely no selling during this event which is put on by The Financial Planning Association of the East Bay , a non-profit organization.

... continued on next page

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Film Clips

Love, laughs and horror light up the Rheem Theatre this month

By Derek Zemrak



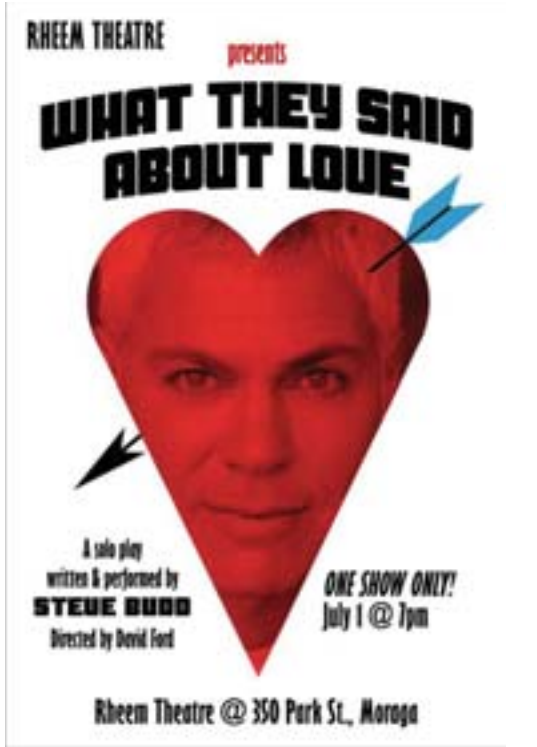
What do others say about love? Find out in the award-winning solo play, "What They Said About Love" written and directed by Bay Area resident Steve Budd, for one night only at the Rheem Theatre at 7 p.m. July 1.

"What They Said About Love" is documentary theater at its best. Budd's brainchild was created a few years ago after another failed romantic relationship. In order to improve his relationships, Budd began interviewing married couples to learn how they succeed in marriage. After over 75 hours, three dozen couples and two dozen singles, Budd recreates in his performance the best interviews, the funniest moments, the strangest, most provocative and the most touching stories. He brings 12 characters to life that will make you laugh, think, cry and walk away appreciating the one you "Love." "What They Said About Love" won Best of the Fringe 2016 at the prestigious San Francisco Fringe Festival.

Don't miss this unique award-winning play at the Rheem Theatre — come out to support live theater in the Lamorinda community. It is recommended that you purchase your tickets ahead of time for the last several Rheem Theatre special events have been sold out.

Lamorinda, your humor is calling! Get your laughs ready for the first round of the first Comedy Noir Competition at the Rheem Theatre at 7 p.m. July 7. The first eight comics who were selected from over 100 comics will have 10 minutes each to perform their best standup comedy routine. Who will kill it and advance to the finals in November? Come join the fun because your vote counts.

Were you a fan of the KTVU FOX2 cult shows "Creature Features," a weekly horror movie show that first aired in February 1971 hosted by the late Bob Wilkins? If so, then Creatures-Con 2017 is an event for you. It's an all-day event focusing on the world of TV horror hosts, classic, camp, Sci-Fi and horror films at the Rheem Theatre starting at noon on July 8. Lord Blood-Rah and Tom Wyrch are the hosts of Creatures-Con. Special guest includes John Stanly, host of "Creature Features" on KTVU from 1979 to 1984, cult film expert Johnny Legend and current "Creature Features" host on KOFY TV 20, Vincent Van Dahl. More information can be found at www.creaturescon.com



Images provided



The Rheem lobby will be bustling with toys, books, posters, comics and movie memorabilia dealers. This is a great time to do some of your Christmas-in-July shopping. Tickets are only \$25 for an all-day pass that includes all lectures, panels, Q & As and movie presentations.

All special events tickets can be purchased online at www.lamorindatheatres.com or at the Rheem Theatre box-office.

◆ Not to be missed ◆ Not to be missed ◆

SENIORS

The Moraga Mover's, an organization for citizens 55 and older, is having their monthly dinner at 7 p.m. on July 10 at St. Mary's College Soda Center. Social hour at 5 p.m., program at 6:45 p.m. The program this month is a presentation by Chris Ford, President of the board of directors of the Astronomical Society

of the Pacific. His topic will be explaining the universe through advanced visualization techniques. Please make reservation by either calling (925) 376-6622 or on the internet www.moragamovers.org. Member \$20 non-member \$30.

Smart Driver 4 Hour Refresher Course from 9 a.m. to 1:45 p.m. on Thursday, July 20 at the Toyon Room, Lafayette Commu-

nity Center. Refine your driving skills, develop safe, defensive techniques, and possibly lower your insurance premium. Offered through AARP. \$15 AARP Members; \$20 Non-Members. Max: 25 paid registrants. To reserve your spot, send check, made payable to AARP, to Lafayette Senior Services, 500 St. Mary's Rd., Lafayette, CA 94549.

Please submit:

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Lamorinda Weekly

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Service Clubs Announcements



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

June 30

President Claire Roberts last meeting. She is in charge. Be afraid...be very afraid

July 7

Walter Nelson assumes leadership reins. Learn all about our Newest Rotary Club Goals.

The "Teardrop Inn" trailer will appear on June 30 at Rock the Park Concert on the Square in Lafayette

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.

June 28: Yolanda "Jolie" Vega, Gold Star Families



Tribute to the Troops
 Honoring our Veterans and Saluting our Troops
Saturday July 15, 5:30 PM to Twilight
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Free concerts to rock Lamorinda this summer

Moraga

Thursday evenings at the Commons are for relaxing with friends and enjoying the bands. Bring a blanket or lawn chairs to the grassy hillside in front of the band shell. The volunteers of MPF will cook dinner for you with the Snack Bar opening at 6 p.m.

July 4 David Martins House Party - Dance party and show (7 p.m. concert)

July 13 Foreverland -Tribute to Michael Jackson

July 20 Beatles Flashback - Tribute the Beatles

July 27 Mixed Nuts - Jazz, soul, blues and rock

August 3 House Rockers - Rock and soul

August 10 Apple Z - Rock and roll

August 17 Fundamentals - Red-hot rockin' soul

The County Food Bank will have collection bins near parking lots each Thursday. Concerts start at 6:30 p.m. and end at 8:30 p.m.

Orinda

It's time to sit back and unwind at the free summer concerts at the park series on Tuesday nights.

July 11 Floorshakers — Funk Soul, Rock & Roll

Food Truck: Kenny's Heart & Soul (Soul Food)

July 18 Lamorinda Idol

Food Truck: Pia's Pizza

July 23, Opera in the Park, 5-7 p.m.

July 25, Bruce Gunn & Big Rain — Soulful Rock Country

Food Truck: El Ranchero (taco truck)

August 1, JetBlacq — Jazz

Food Truck: Rebel Dog Hotdogs

August 8, West Grand Blvd — Motown

Food Truck: An the Go (Asian Fusion)

August 15, Big Band Jazz

Food Truck: Kenny's Heart & Soul (Soul Food)

The concerts run 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Also coming up in Orinda this summer:

The Orinda Village Starlight Players have three plays at the Orinda Community Park this summer:

Agatha Christie's "The Unexpected Guest" June 2 through July 1
 Malcolm Cowler's adaptation of L. Frank Baum's "The Wizard of Oz," July 21 through Aug. 12

Robert Merrill's "Five-Door Farce," Sept. 1 through Sept. 30

Thoughtful Food

Munch a bit during Mushroom Mania

By Susie Iventosch



Porcini Pappardelle (with morels).

Photos Susie Iventosch

We've been cooking a lot with wild mushrooms lately – morel risotto, porcini pappardelle and chicken-mushroom crêpes. We've even tried sautéed coral mushrooms, which were delicious.

The reason for this mushroom mania is that we have a good friend who is a “mushroom whisperer” and he knows exactly where to look and exactly what to look for in terms of edible versus poisonous or inedible mushrooms. This is incredibly important when foraging for mushrooms.

And, his timing is impeccable for knowing precisely when to head into the forest depending upon recent rains, sunshine and temperatures. We are learning and rapidly expanding our abilities to spy these sneaky fungi, and it is so much fun. Actually it's a bit addictive, because just when you think you're done for the day, you find just one more and that inspires you to continue foraging for another hour or so. Eventually you find yourself luring them out,

“Come on, mushrooms, I know you're there!”

We spend several months of the spring and summer in Idaho, and this year has been a bumper crop for morels and spring porcini in our neck of the woods, but these delicacies can also be found in the foothills and mountains in northern California. Knowing how expensive these mushrooms are at the market, it is super awesome to be able to find them in the wild. But, be sure you know what you are doing or go with someone who does. You really don't want to risk it with wild mushrooms.

Because porcini are such delicacies, I wanted to make homemade pappardelle pasta for the dish. The only problem is that pasta is a really tough dough, and since I sprained my wrist flipping over my mountain bike handlebars a month ago, kneading still poses a bit of a problem. The solution: knead with the elbow! It actually worked surprisingly well. Also, where I normally roll out my dough with a rolling pin (a difficult task even with

two healthy wrists), I splurged and purchased a beautiful Marcato Atlas 150 pasta roller/maker. What a luxury. I will never hand-roll my pasta dough again. This great little gadget came with the primary roller and two additional attachments for cutting spaghetti and fettucine.

I did have to hand-cut the pappardelle, but it was really easy once the dough was already rolled out so thin. Since pappardelle pasta is one of my favorites, I went ahead and ordered that attachment for next time. There are probably eight or 10 or more attachments that can be ordered for this pasta maker.

Note: If you can't find fresh porcini, you can make this recipe using reconstituted dried porcini, along with diced fresh cremini mushrooms, and reconstituted dried morels and it will be delicious, as well. Morels are most often dried before using, whereas high-grade porcini can be used fresh or dried.

Porcini Pappardelle (with morels)

(Serves 4-6)

INGREDIENTS

1 lb. pappardelle egg noodles (recipe below or use store-bought)

Pasta Sauce:

2-3 Tbsp. olive oil

1 large shallot or ½ red onion, finely diced

1 cup chopped porcini

6-8 oz. fresh porcini, thinly sliced

5 or 6 dried morel mushrooms, reconstituted and chopped

½ cup dry white wine

¼ cup freshly snipped parsley

½ cup half & half or cream

Salt and pepper, to taste

1/2 cup freshly grated Parmesan or Pecorino Romano

DIRECTIONS

Heat 1 Tbsp. olive oil in a large skillet. Sear sliced porcini over medium-high heat until beginning to brown on the edges. Season with salt and pepper and set aside on a plate. Using the same pan, add another Tbsp. olive oil and cook shallots until translucent. Add chopped porcini and cook until tender and beginning to brown.

Meanwhile, place dried morels in a bowl and cover with boiling water to reconstitute. When plump, drain and reserve liquid. Strain liquid in a fine tea strainer to eliminate any dirt and set aside. Rinse morels and chop. Add morels to shallots and porcini in the sauté pan and continue to cook for a few more minutes, until beginning to brown and get a little bit crispy on the edges.

Add wine to pan and deglaze pan, scraping the bottom for any mushrooms or shallots that may be stuck on the bottom. Add cream and reserved morel liquid. Season to taste with salt and pepper. When ready to serve, toss cooked pasta with sauce and sprinkle Parmesan and parsley over each serving.

Egg Noodles

INGREDIENTS

5 oz. all-purpose flour

5 oz. semolina flour

1 tsp. salt

2 large eggs

4 egg yolks

DIRECTIONS

Mix salt with flour

and place on a large

cutting board, or in

a large bowl. Make a

well in the center of

the flour. Break eggs

together and mix well and pour into the well of the flour. Start mixing

with a fork, bringing more and more flour into the mixture as you go.

Finally, gather the dough together into a ball, incorporating as much

of the flour as you can. The dough will be pretty stiff at this point.

Knead dough for 8-10 minutes, dusting with flour as needed. Form

dough into two discs and wrap with plastic wrap. Allow the dough to

sit at room temperature for about half an hour.

Now, using either a rolling pin or a pasta maker, roll dough to desired

thickness and cut into 5/8-inch strips for the pappardelle.



Cooking Term of the Week

Harissa

Harissa is a spice mixture used as both a seasoning and a condiment and is a staple in Middle Eastern and North African cuisine. It is of paste-like consistency and is made from a combination of ground chilies, cumin, coriander and garlic mixed with olive oil. Sometimes you might see caraway, tomatoes or mint in the ingredient list, too.

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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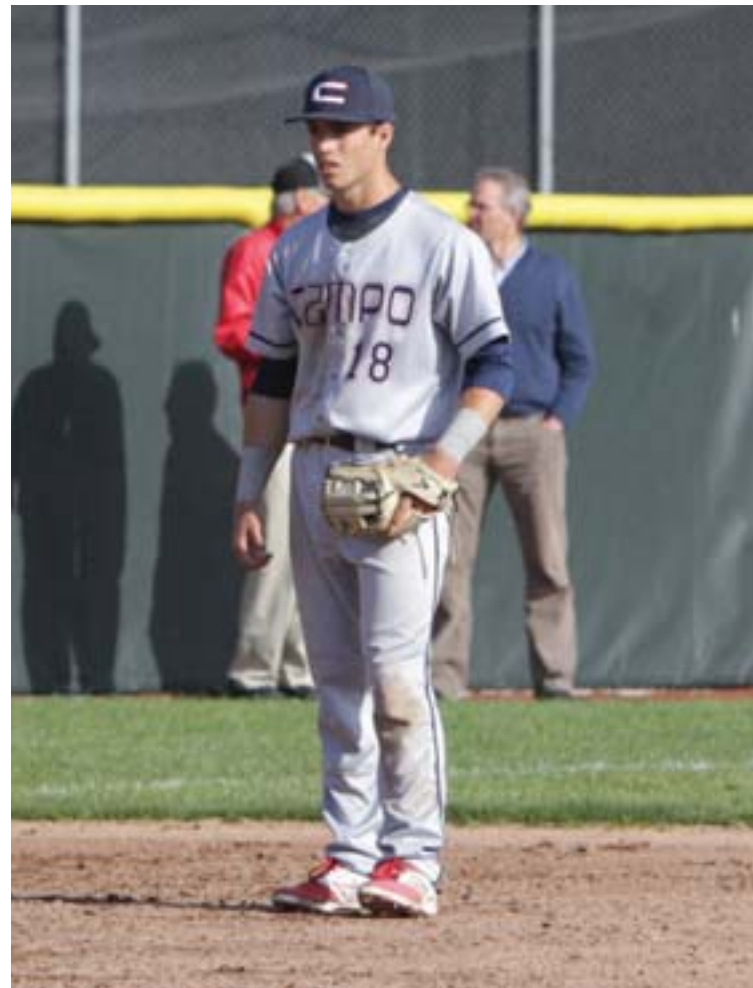
LAMORINDA
WEEKLY

Local newspaper delivered to Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda

LAMORINDA SPORTS

Local ballplayers drafted by four MLB teams

By Nick Marnell



Denis Karas

Photo Gint Federas



Drew Strotman

Photo Tod Fierner



Zach Kirtley

Photo Tod Fierner

Four baseball players from Lamorinda programs were selected in the June Major League Baseball Draft, including two former Campolindo High School standouts and two star players from Saint Mary's College.

The Miami Marlins selected infielder Denis Karas in the 10th round and the Colorado Rockies chose outfielder Brett Stephens in round 28, as Karas and Stephens became the fourth and fifth players drafted from the Campolindo 2012 North Coast Section Division II championship team.

"They both benefitted from the hard work they put in," Campolindo baseball coach Max Luckhurst said. "They were dedicated to making themselves great players."

Stephens led Campolindo to four straight NCS Division II baseball titles (2010-13) and also quarterbacked the Cougars to the 2011 NCS Division III football championship, defeating Marin Catholic and current Los Angeles Rams quarterback Jared Goff. At UCLA, Stephens finished with a .354 on-base percentage, scoring 115 runs over 672 at bats.

As a senior at Campolindo in 2014, Karas was named then-Diablo Foothill Athletic League Most Valuable Player and was drafted in the 24th round by the Pittsburgh Pirates. He opted to attend UC Berkeley, where he hit 17 home runs and slugged .490 in 302 career at bats. Karas tied for the Pac-12 lead with 12 home runs in 2017.

Karas and Stephens join former 2012 champion Cougars Austin Rei, Robbie Tenerowicz and James Marvel, all five now with Major League organizations.

Two Saint Mary's players were selected in the top five rounds of the draft, with right-handed pitcher Drew Strotman going in the fourth round to the Tampa Bay Rays and infielder Zach Kirtley chosen in the fifth round by the St. Louis Cardinals.

Strotman finished 2017 with a 6-1 record and team-high 75 strikeouts and was named to the West Coast Conference All-Academic First Team. "Drew came to Saint Mary's for not only what we could offer him as a ball player but what we could offer him as a person," said Gaels baseball coach Eric Valenzuela, praising Strotman's velocity increase from 89-92 mph to near 96-97 during the last month of this season. "That jump elevated his status," Valenzuela said.

Kirtley tied the Saint Mary's modern-day record for walks in a season with 48 in 2017. He batted .292, slugged .439 and led the Gaels with an on-base percentage of .433. "He was one of my first recruits from Southern California, my home," Valenzuela said. "Zach brought us an edge. He drove me crazy for three years, but he helped push us to a higher level. He was a real grinder, and I'll miss that edge."

The selections of Strotman and Kirtley, both undrafted out of high school, bring the total number of Gaels drafted into the majors since Valenzuela took over in 2014 to nine, with seven players selected in the top 20 rounds.



Brett Stephens

Photo Gint Federas



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NBA stars return to Saint Mary's for charity basketball game



Patty Mills, Randy Bennett and Matthew Dellavedova



Rob Jones

Photos Tod Fierner



Mitch Young



Omar Samhan



Beau Levesque

Saint Mary's College presented the Second Gaels All-Star Classic June 25 at McKeon Pavilion, and the program featured an alumni basketball game with SMC players across several decades. Patty Mills coached the white squad, featuring Joe Rahon and Mitch Young, to victory over Matthew Dellavedova's blues, starring Stephen Holt and Rob Jones. "No matter how far we go we feel the support," Mills said to a school reporter after the game. "Not just speaking for myself, but for all of us." — Nick Marnell

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Lafayette AB Oaks take first in their final game together as a team

Submitted by Catherine Burns



Back row from left, Clint Hoover (coach), Dane Jenssen, Graham Smith, Sam Winkles, Kieran Mein, Jonny Burns; front row from left, Kade Finegold, Chris Ruane, Sam Heyman, Brady Huchingson, Brayden Clarkson, Drew Davidson, Ben Burleigh and Jim Burleigh (coach) not pictured. Photo Julie Davidson

The 14U Lafayette Oaks (part of the Advanced Baseball Program of Lafayette Little League) took first place in their age group in the 2017 Summer Splash tournament at the Big League Dreams complex in Manteca. This was their final game as a team before they go their separate ways to Acalanes, Campolindo and De la Salle High Schools in the fall. Many of them have played baseball together since Kindergarten and the win was a fitting close to their Lafayette Little League careers.

Acalanes High School annual signing day event

Submitted by Gint Federas



Photo Gint Federas

On Friday, May 19, Acalanes High School held its annual Signing Day event. Congratulations to Acalanes High School Athletes who were recruited to play collegiate level competitive sports! Twenty-one student-athletes took part in the ceremonial National Letter of Intent signing:

- Emily Attiyeh, Golf, Claremont McKenna College
- Samantha Bell, Soccer, University of Texas at Dallas
- Matt Burns, Baseball, Chapman University
- Josh Candau, Baseball, UC Santa Barbara
- Caroline Clark, Soccer, UC Berkeley
- Casey Conrad, Water Polo, Princeton University
- Molly Davis, Soccer, University of Louisiana, Lafayette
- Callie Ericksen, Soccer, Rice University

- Paul Griessel, Baseball, Amherst College
- Parker Jones, Volleyball, University of Pennsylvania
- Katharine Larson, Soccer, University of Pennsylvania
- Windy Margerum, Track & Field, UC Berkeley
- Allison Merrill, Soccer, Chapman University
- Kevin McConnell, Baseball, Utah Valley University
- Julia Mueller, Lacrosse, Scripps College
- Brooke Panfili, Basketball, St. Edwards University
- Brad Robison, Water Polo, UC San Diego
- Morgan Rogers, Soccer, UC Berkeley
- Matt Ruegg, Swimming, University of Puget Sound
- Ben Salquist, Baseball, Santa Clara University
- Nate Welcomer, Lacrosse, Colgate University

Orinda Aquatics brings the 2017 Pacific Swimming Junior Olympics to Moraga

On July 7, over 800 swimmers will descend upon the Soda Aquatic Center in Moraga for the 2017 USA Swimming, Junior Olympics. Orinda Aquatics (OA) is hosting the championship meet where top swimmers, ages 14 and under, come from Northern California to compete over the course of three days. OA coaches and parent volunteers organize and staff the event in support of the OA mission to serve the community and the sport of swimming.

CYO Presents Inspirational Award

Submitted by Monica Chappell



Front Row from left, players: Jackson Aris-Dumas, Scott Ruegg, Julia Haggerty, Elizabeth Wackowski, Andrew Wackowski; back Row from left, coaches: Brad Aris-Dumas, Steve Ruegg, Steve Haggerty, Bob Buckley, Jon Wackowski Photo Kevin Fisher

St. Perpetua CYO Board presented the annual Ken Nelson Award 2016-2017 to one member on each of the 8th grade St Perpetual CYO basketball teams. This award is in special recognition for basketball athletes who have inspired coaches and best represent the values of CYO sports. These players demonstrated team leadership, sportsmanship, dedication, hard work and respect for coaches, teammates, opponents, and officials. These players are selected by their teammates.

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LMYA Swim Team Hosts Clinic with Olympian

LMYA swimmers had a great opportunity to receive in-the-water instruction from 4-time Olympic Gold Medalist, Jason Lezak. Jason also had a discussion with the swimmers about his 31-year swimming career, the highs and lows, and how he persevered through it all. He shared his most notable achievement, his record-breaking anchor swim in the Men's 4x100 Free Relay to beat France in the 2008 Olympic Games! All swimmers found their experience with Jason inspiring and motivating. The LMYA swim team is off to a great start under Head Coach, Corey Dolley. With over 200 swimmers on the team ranging in ages 3-18, LMYA continues its long-standing tradition of providing a competitive recreational swim team for children in the community. Visit www.lmyaswim.com to learn more about the LMYA Swim program.



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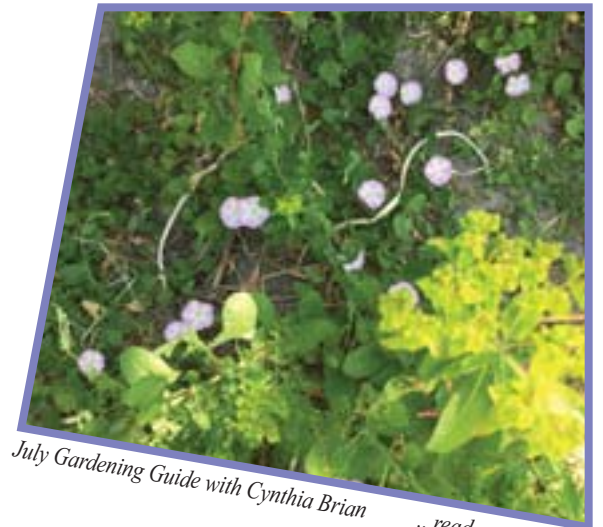


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Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 11 Issue 9 Wednesday, June 28, 2017



July Gardening Guide with Cynthia Brian
...read on page D12

Outdoor living, great schools and accessibility keep Lamorinda real estate hot

By Diane Claytor



The easy flow, open concept style in this new contemporary Lafayette house is what homebuyers seem to be hoping for.

Photo provided

No one has to tell those of us lucky enough to live here: Lamorinda is a very desirable place to be. According to the Contra Costa Association of Realtors, home sales continued their fast pace

of activity in the first quarter of 2017 with 67 of the 90 homes sold going for more than their asking price and spending an average of only 27 days on the market. Looking at the current number of “sold” or “pending” signs

throughout the community, it appears that the second quarter, often the busiest in the real estate world, will be even better.

We know the schools in our area are outstanding. (In fact, the three

Lamorinda high schools ranked in the top 100 – out of more than 2,300 – in California, according to U.S. News and World Report’s 2017 High School Rankings, with Campolindo and Miramonte in the top 30.) And the weather we enjoy is about as good as it gets.

But is that why people choose to move here? Julie Dudum Del Santo of Dudum Real Estate believes those factors are definitely two of the most important reasons. And most realtors agree; Jim Calhoun of Alain Pinel Realtors does – especially when it comes to the schools. “It’s pretty simple,” he stated. “The reason people come here hasn’t changed in 20 years. For all that time, it’s been schools, schools, schools.”

Both Dudum Del Santo and Calhoun report that another big plus for Lamorinda is the convenience – convenience to public transportation, proximity to the freeway, employment opportunities, retail centers and a good variety of excellent restaurants. It’s the old adage realtors have been repeating forever: location, location, location.

... continued on page D4



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Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

City	Last reported:	LOWEST AMOUNT:	HIGHEST AMOUNT:
LAFAYETTE	14	\$920,000	\$3,000,000
MORAGA	8	\$800,000	\$1,490,000
ORINDA	4	\$1,455,000	\$2,250,000

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

659 Byrdee Way, \$920,000, 3 Bdrms, 2122 SqFt, 1967 YrBl, 5-10-17;

Previous Sale: \$850,000, 04-09-15

4122 Canyon Road, \$1,670,000, 4 Bdrms, 2536 SqFt, 1948 YrBl, 5-16-17

1061 Carol Lane, \$1,428,000, 4 Bdrms, 2678 SqFt, 1955 YrBl, 5-16-17;

Previous Sale: \$1,049,000, 05-19-11

60 Carolyn Court, \$1,155,000, 3 Bdrms, 1191 SqFt, 1951 YrBl, 5-8-17;

Previous Sale: \$760,000, 05-29-09

3451 Echo Springs Road, \$1,362,000, 2 Bdrms, 2216 SqFt, 1945

YrBl, 5-9-17; Previous Sale: \$1,249,500, 07-26-06

1109 Glen Road, \$2,605,000, 3 Bdrms, 2955 SqFt, 1951 YrBl, 5-16-17

Hawthorne Drive, \$1,970,000, 3 Bdrms, 2692 SqFt, 2002 YrBl, 5-10-17;

Previous Sale: \$1,285,000, 11-19-03

2115 Hidden Pond Road, \$1,200,000, 4 Bdrms, 2175 SqFt, 1996

YrBl, 5-17-17; Previous Sale: \$441,000, 03-14-97

17 Kelly Ann Court, \$950,000, 3 Bdrms, 1888 SqFt, 1979 YrBl, 5-9-17;

Previous Sale: \$55,000, 04-12-78

3324 Las Huertas Road, \$3,000,000, 3 Bdrms, 2384 SqFt, 1937 YrBl, 5-8-17;

Previous Sale: \$660,000, 05-10-01

660 Los Palos Drive, \$2,700,000, 5 Bdrms, 3388 SqFt, 1953 YrBl, 5-12-17;

Previous Sale: \$1,775,000, 05-23-13

3156 Somerset Place, \$1,440,000, 3 Bdrms, 1822 SqFt, 1964 YrBl, 5-8-17

1757 Springbrook Road, \$1,595,000, 4 Bdrms, 2596 SqFt, 1955

YrBl, 5-10-17

3332 Stage Coach Drive, \$1,925,000, 4 Bdrms, 3127 SqFt, 1984

YrBl, 5-10-17; Previous Sale: \$1,695,000, 10-16-13

... continued on page D9



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Outdoor living, great schools and accessibility keep Lamorinda real estate hot

... continued from page D1



Photos provided

According to Dudum Del Santo, the ability to enjoy indoor-outdoor living has gained in popularity, which, of course, goes back to our great climate. “People want to have an extended living space that goes outdoors,” she said, “or at least the ability to add it. We’re seeing more and more buyers looking for that total outdoor living area – not just a backyard, pool or patio, but an outside great room, complete with a TV, barbecue and covered section.”

Coldwell Banker’s Larry Hood echoed this thought and added that large backyards and the abundance of open space surrounding Lamorinda increase its appeal. “There are so many recreational opportunities in our area,” Hood said. “Younger, energetic families are choosing the area in part because of all the activities available to them. And large yards, someplace for the kids to play, are also a big plus.”

Hood added that Lamorinda is still more affordable than San Francisco, Marin or the Peninsula, and the commute to the business centers is typically easier. “It’s a big draw anytime people can keep within 30-45 minutes of San Francisco’s financial district,” he noted. Anton Danilovich from Sotheby’s International Realty concurred. “People are getting more ‘bang for their

buck’ when moving here.

“We’re seeing young professionals who were living in San Francisco moving to Lamorinda to raise their families,” Danilovich continued. “A large house here is probably the same price as the two-bedroom loft or condo they’re leaving. A \$2 million home in Lafayette would probably be \$6 million in Palo Alto or \$4 million in Marin.”

One thing Danilovich noted is that often people moving to the suburbs “like the pricing but not the housing options. The style of houses in this area hasn’t changed much over the years,” he said. “I’ve had clients asking for contemporary homes and they don’t want to look at anything else.” He notes that these are typically the people that have been living in the city, in one of those newer ultra-modern, ultra-sleek high-rise apartment buildings. “They’re telling me they don’t want to spend several million dollars and end up living in their parents’ house,” he stated.

Hood agreed that people searching for homes in Lamorinda are looking for more contemporary designs. “Younger families tend to like higher ceilings, open space, less compartmentalized styles,” he reported. Dudum Del Santo has found the same thing. She

noted that while the craftsman and farmhouse style homes you might see on HGTV are popular, “people also like the sleek, clean lines of the contemporary design.” Sotheby’s Maribel Cribb added that simplicity and energy efficiency are also key features homebuyers are looking for.

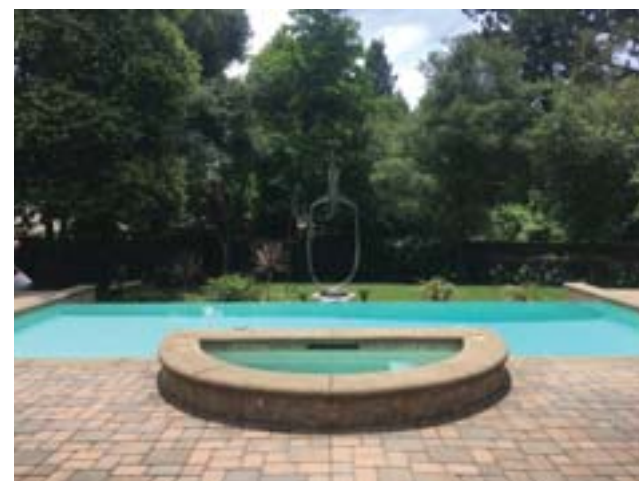
Danilovich told about a Lafayette house he recently sold. By doing a significant style and design rehab, “we literally doubled the value of the home without adding any square footage,” he said. “You can’t believe the dramatic difference high quality new floors, paint, tile, door knobs and even hinges can make.” Admittedly, the kitchen layout was changed and opened up but, according to Danilovich, “most everything else was purely aesthetic.”

People would rather move into a home that’s been upgraded and modernized, Dudum Del Santo noted. “They’d rather pay a little more, even wait a little longer, for that move-in ready house,” she said. Calhoun agreed. “Most working couples simply don’t have the time or energy to renovate.”

Once here, Lamorinda homebuyers may never want to leave. As one longtime resident recently said, “Why would I want to live anywhere else?”

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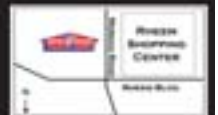
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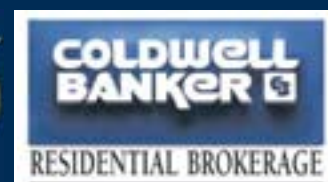
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At Home with Amanda

Moving doesn't mean tossing design aesthetic

By Amanda Eck



The TV room before.

Photos Amanda Eck

Happy summer! For some of us it's the time of year for getting away with family and friends for some much needed R&R. For others it's all about packing up and moving into a new home. That's a dilemma I totally understand. My husband and I have moved 10 times in our 18 years of marriage.

One of the challenges we faced when moving was how to incorporate our existing furnishings into our new space. Do you toss everything and start over from scratch? Do you just use what you have and "make it work"? After much trial and error, I believe you do a bit of both.

Let's look at how we used my hard-won experience to help a recent client who moved from Texas to Lafayette. Above is how the space looked like before we started.

Our clients wanted to use their space for watching TV, entertaining friends for cocktails and as an area for family game night. The existing club chairs, upholstered ottoman, and game table were pieces they

wanted to keep but needed help with space planning and ideas for new pieces of furniture to help pull everything together. They also wanted to select a new paint color for the bar area.

Working together through the options we decided to move the existing club chairs and ottoman into the front family room and sourced some new furnishings. We kept the existing game table, but selected new chairs. The new sofa and coffee table created a space for TV viewing. Four new club chairs and a round wood table created the perfect space for having cocktails with friends or reading a book. We chose the warm toned Functional Gray by Sherwin Williams for the bar area.

After our in-home session we sent this design board.

As you can see we were able to create three separate areas for entertaining while still maintaining an overall cohesive feel. (See below.)

Moving into a new home can be daunting. Adding the task of creating a cohesive space can feel downright overwhelming. If you are up for the challenge, here are some tips on how to make moving in easier.

... continued on next page





The TV room after

- Have a furniture plan before moving into the new space. Map out furniture layouts on paper and tape them to the wall of each room to help the movers (or dear hubby or friends) place existing pieces.
- Unpack sleeping spaces first. After a full day of moving all you are going to want to do is crash in your nice comfy bed.
- Next move onto unpacking your bathrooms and kitchen. Being able to take a shower and eating a home-cooked meal will help you feel more human.
- After a few days (let's be honest ... a few weeks) of settling in you can then start thinking about "decorating." I suggest setting aside a full day of unpacking all your accessories and wall décor and laying them in one room. This will enable you to take inventory of what you have. You can then start "shopping" your items and placing them in rooms.

- Don't be afraid to mix things up. Use a piece that was once in the bedroom and move it to the living room. Sometimes just switching a piece of furniture or art to another room makes it feel fresh and new.
- This is also a great time to get rid of items you feel won't work in the new space. It's okay to let some things go and make room for new.
- Once you have placed everything, walk through and make notes of empty spaces that need to be filled. Measure those spaces and make notes of the colors in the room so when you are out shopping you are not just purchasing on impulse.
- Last but not least, take time to live in your new space. Don't feel you have to pull it together all at once. Maybe just work on your entry first (refer to my May article on Making an Entrance, www.lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue1106/At-Home-with-Amanda-

Making-an-entrance-6-Ways-to-spruce-up-your-entry.html). Once that's in place, move your way into the family room or dining room. Just take it one step at a time.

Still overwhelmed (or know someone who is)? Call me! I would love to help you make that new house a home. One of the design services I offer, Designer Day, is perfect for homeowners who need help with getting settled. This is the same service we used for the Lafayette client we talked about earlier in this article.

I hope you are able to take some ideas for your own home. I look forward to being with you next time.

As the Owner and Principal Designer of Lamorinda-based Amanda Carol Interiors, Amanda Eck believes your home's interior should be both approachable and well-appointed. She often asserts, "Beauty is a necessity."

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... continued from page D2

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- 143 Calle La Mesa, \$1,485,000, 4 Bdrms, 2592 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 5-17-17;
Previous Sale: \$989,500, 07-30-10
- 7 Carr Drive, \$1,161,000, 4 Bdrms, 1624 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 5-17-17;
Previous Sale: \$870,000, 06-29-16
- 133 Danefield Place, \$1,490,000, 4 Bdrms, 2320 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 5-11-17;
Previous Sale: \$167,500, 09-19-78
- 101 Hodges Drive, \$1,019,000, 4 Bdrms, 1978 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 5-9-17
- 5 Josefa Place, \$800,000, 2 Bdrms, 1845 SqFt, 1985 YrBlt, 5-9-17;
Previous Sale: \$332,000, 11-02-99
- 303 Rheem Boulevard, \$1,000,000, 3 Bdrms, 1662 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 5-16-17
- 22 Thorndale Place, \$1,300,000, 4 Bdrms, 1812 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 5-16-17

ORINDA

- 9 Meadow Park Court, \$1,976,000, 4 Bdrms, 3124 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 5-17-17;
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- 17 Shadow Creek Lane, \$1,600,000, 4 Bdrms, 3284 SqFt, 1982 YrBlt, 5-16-17;
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- 17 Tarry Lane, \$2,250,000, 3 Bdrms, 2804 SqFt, 1947 YrBlt, 5-17-17
- 38 Whitehall Drive, \$1,455,000, 3 Bdrms, 2077 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 5-11-17



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July Gardening Guide

Be a Flower Child

By Cynthia Brian

“If you’re going to San Francisco... Be sure to wear some flowers in your hair” – written by John Phillips of The Mamas & the Papas, sung by Scott McKenzie

In the summer of 1967 over 100,000 young people descended upon San Francisco, Golden Gate Park, and the Haight-Ashbury area to experience a season of love, peace, sex, drugs, and rock ‘n’ roll. The Summer of Love, as this counterculture revolution was called, celebrated with free concerts, performances, protests and flowers. I was never a hippie, but I’ve always been a flower child.

This month as we reminisce about 50 years of the “make love, not war” movement, I put on my beads, headband, rose-colored granny glasses, and wore flowers in my hair as I planned the July Gardening Guide. No drugs are necessary to enjoy a euphoric trip down memory lane when the garden is brimming with colorful and edible specimens ... magic mushrooms excluded. A romp on the wild side was a fun diversion as I plucked my first juicy tomatoes while watching the iridescent wings of the yellow swallowtails flutter between the violet blossoms of thyme and the budding tomatillos. Bees are swarming the lavender and rosemary gathering nectar for their honeycombs. Because of the heat, I continue to rescue bees and ladybugs that have landed in my fountains. My clematis is chock full of large deep amethyst-hued blooms glittering in the sunlight. Pink and white striped morning glory zigs and zags through the golden euphorbia, opening with the sunrise and closing at sunset. Not to be outdone, deep pink sword lilies, commonly known as gladioli, have unfurled their ruffled one-sided spikes amidst the blush Bonica and Dolly Parton roses. The kaleidoscope combination of forms, textures, shades and scents throughout the landscape add a mesmerizing jolt of joy to each moment.

When I’m ready to relax, I only have to venture into my orchard where the daisy-like florets of the chamomile make for a calming tea, especially enhanced with a squirt of juice from my tangelos. Another excellent medicinal tea is made from foraging for red clover, a wild perennial rich in magnesium, potassium, vitamin C and calcium. The red or pink flowers have a mildly sweet flavor and are often used to ease stomach discomfort or menopausal symptoms such as hot flashes. The leaves taste like alfalfa sprouts and can be tossed into salads along with dandelions, sautéed, or added to soups. If I’m in the mood for something a bit stronger, it’s always fun to muddle the mint into a mojito or mint julep!

Soon the fireworks of the Fourth of July will be flaring, filling the night sky with the exploding whirls and swirls circa a 1960s acid-dropping experience. Go into your garden, pick a few blooms, and wear flowers in your hair. If you are a gardener, you are a flower child. Welcome to a beautiful summer of love!

... continued on next page



Red clover blossoms are nutritious and some say pain relieving.

Photos Cynthia Brian



Clematis, a prolific bloomer, lasts about two weeks as a cut flower.



Gladioli spikes add drama to the Bonica rose garden.



Chamomile flowers make a calming tea. Dry, store, use.



Bees and deer resistant lavender are best buddies.



This potager is planted with perennial thyme, tomatillos, peppers, kale and calendula (poor man's saffron), making it a favorite habitat for butterflies and pollinators.



Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for July

- MINIMIZE back strain by keeping your back straight, not hunched, while planting or weeding. Avoid twisting and reaching overhead.
- CREATE walking paths with gravel, stepping stones or bricks throughout your landscape so that you never compress the soil of your planted beds by walking in them.
- SUPPRESS weeds, retain moisture, and keep a consistent temperature in your soil by adding four inches of compost or mulch around your plants. No need to turn under the compost or mulch.
- PICK tomatoes just as they form a hint of color allowing them to ripen on your countertops. This prevents them from being eaten by birds and insects. Never refrigerate tomatoes as they lose their flavor.
- GET FREE recycled water, up to 300 gallons per trip, from Central San. Visit www.CentralSan.org. You'll need to fill out an application and bring your own containers. Central San notes that water is very heavy at eight pounds per gallon and is not to be consumed or allowed into storm drains.
- CLEAR away weeds, grasses, dead vegetation, limbs, pine needles, leaves and debris from all areas around your house to safeguard your home from embers. It's fire season and we need to be vigilant to reduce fire fuel laddering.
- CUT a bouquet of roses for a punch of stimulation. Sunset colors are perfect for summer.
- DECORATE your dinner parties with edible flowers including pansy, elderberry, calendula, chamomile, clover, daisy, nasturtium, rose, snapdragon and violets. Most herb and fruit tree blossoms are also edible including apple, banana, basil, chives, citrus, peach, pea, pear, pineapple guava, pumpkin, radish, rosemary, sage, squash, sunflower and thyme.
- IRRIGATE early in the morning or late evening. Remember to water deeply and less frequently.
- DEEP soak redwoods and magnolias before signs of stress appear, or their roots will surface.
- EMPLOY successive planting techniques to continue your crops of lettuce, radish, carrots and greens. Every three weeks, plant more seeds as you clip and harvest for continual fresh eating through autumn.
- REPEL pests and predators while attracting beneficial pollinators by planting aromatic herbs including rosemary, basil, cilantro, sage, fennel and thyme.
- ORGANIZE a flower power photo scavenger hunt. Provide a list of 10 unusual specimens growing in your garden. Invite friends to find and photograph them for a special prize, perhaps a pot of petunias or a basket filled with gardening tools.
- CONGRATULATE yourself on being a gardener. You are an authentic flower child.

Enjoy a safe and electrifying Independence Day! Embrace your free spirit, dance under the stars, and salute the sunshine as you relish a stellar summer of love.

Happy Gardening and Happy Growing!

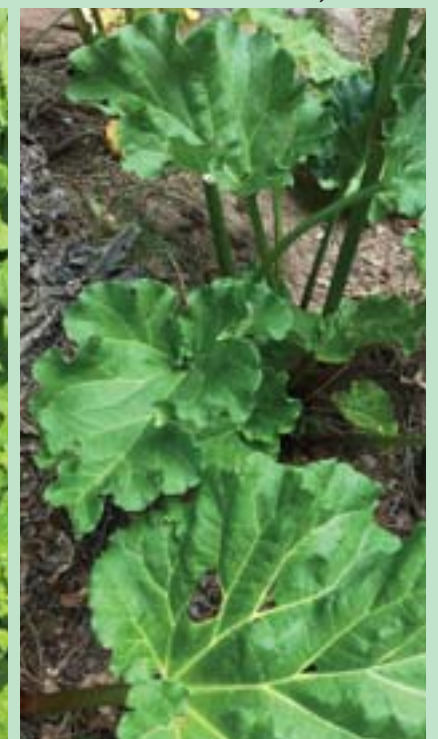


The first tomatoes of the summer proclaim a bountiful forthcoming season of juiciness.

Photos Cynthia Brian



Take a break to muddle fresh mint into mojitos or mint juleps.



hubarb stalks are almost ready for harvesting. Cook only the stalks as the leaves are poisonous.



A wooden flag and a red bird cage nods to a festive Fourth of July celebration in the garden.

Cynthia Brian, The Goddess Gardener, is a New York Times best selling author, actor, radio personality, speaker, media and writing coach as well as the Founder and Executive Director of Be the Star You Are!® 501 c3.

Tune into Cynthia's Radio show at www.StarStyleRadio.com

Her new book, Growing with the Goddess Gardener will be available soon!

Hire Cynthia for your next project, Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com
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Cynthia Brian loves gardening in June.

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ORINDA

New Listing

22 Ivy Drive Desirable Ivy neighborhood near K-12 top rated Orinda schools. Updated single level. Kitchen open to dining area, office nook, large family room. Hardwood floors, dual panes, high ceilings.

\$1,050,000



ORINDA

51 Valencia Road Magical home & setting w/stylish updates, spacious & open floor-plan & wonderful in/out living. Enjoy wood floors, updated kitchen & baths, & numerous upgrades. Convenient to town, schools, BART.

\$1,325,000



ORINDA

10 Albo Court Pristine single-story home featuring classic farmhouse charm & character mixed with exceptional modern-day materials & outstanding design. Completely remodeled kitchen. Level lot, secluded pastoral setting.

\$1,595,000



ORINDA

New Listing

121 Tappan Lane 1st time on market! Built in 1982 with views of Briones Reservoir. Custom built 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath home in apx. 3782 sq. ft. on 1.1 acres.

\$1,599,000



ORINDA

New Listing

86 Hillcrest Drive As good as it gets. Incredible quality and numerous high craftsmanship features. Open floor plan with beautiful interior rooms of light and bright style. Truly fabulous yards and exceptional play areas.

\$1,795,000



ORINDA

New Listing

9 Las Piedras Gorgeous recently remodeled gated estate, minutes from downtown Orinda. Apx. 3,850 sq. ft. custom 5bd/3ba home on .48 park like acres. Level lawn, pool, views of Briones Reservoir, Mt. Diablo.

\$1,795,000



ORINDA

2 Scenic Drive Not just another rancher! Perfect blend of 1948 classic charm with designer finishes & Architectural Digest panache! Hardwood floors, vaulted ceilings, skylights. Open kitchen/ family room. Level Lawn.

\$2,089,000



ORINDA

New Price

22 Van Tassel Lane Quality crafted 5bd/4.5ba Mediterranean style w/ideal inside/ outside living spaces. Over-sized rooms offer great light & elegant spaces to entertain. Atrium, guest cottage, sauna, wine cellar, pool & spa.

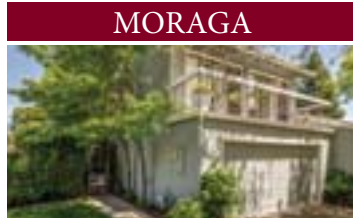
\$2,585,000



ORINDA

10 Winding Lane A tasteful estate situated up a winding lane of 8.6 acres. 3 main structures of apx. 23,422 sq.ft. with Main Residence, Carriage House & Sports Complex. Handcrafted features well beyond the norm.

\$16,500,000



MORAGA

891 Augusta Drive Moraga Country Club expanded Plan 3. Remodeled kitchen, updated baths, 2 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, office and spacious bonus may be used as third bedroom.

\$1,050,000



MORAGA

New Listing

112 Brookline Street Moraga Country Club Inverness 3 bedroom, 2 bath with fresh paint, new carpet, refinished floors, skylights and vaulted ceiling. Refinished deck and new railings.

\$1,100,000



MORAGA

102 Brookline Street Modern elegance, vaulted ceilings, custom finishes & abundant light are some of the wonderful features of this detached 3 bedroom, 2 bath, apx. 2098 sq. ft. renovated Moraga Country Club home.

\$1,165,000



LAFAYETTE

Coming Soon

4015 Happy Valley Road Elegant, Distinctive and Luxuriously Appointed with apx. 6,011 sq. ft. on .97 flat acre. 5 bedrooms, 5.5 bath home built in 2004. Enjoy the saltwater infinity pool/ spa, outdoor kitchen and many more amenities.

\$4,995,000



ALAMO

New Price

115 Bando Court Spacious 4 bedroom, 3.5 bath home, new kitchen, updated baths, hardwood floors, sparkling pool on cul-de-sac.

\$1,685,000



WALNUT CREEK

1121 Studebaker Road Live in the heart of Walnut Creek's charming Saranap neighborhood. Apx. 1922 sq. ft. home with 4 bedrooms, 2 baths and office. Expansive yard with pool. Great commute location with Lafayette schools.

\$959,500



WALNUT CREEK

New Listing

1350 Juanita Drive Stunning 2400+ sq. ft. contemporary charmer on fabulous .38 acre site with level yard & Mt. Diablo view. Beautifully renovated with 4 spacious beds, 3 sparkling baths, gourmet kitchen. Top Lafayette Schools.

\$1,295,000

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