

Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 11 Issue 12 Wednesday, August 9, 2017



Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian

...read on page D12

The recurring allure of mid-century modern architecture

By Paula King



Architect Joseph Esherick designed this mid-century Lafayette home built in 1951.

Photo courtesy of Ashley Battersby

With sweeping hillside views and window walls that showcase outdoor living spaces and lush grounds, Lamorinda's mid-century modern homes fit the indoor and outdoor California lifestyle and are more popular than ever.

"I have been lucky to list many of them in recent years," said Lafayette Realtor Ashley Battersby. "The classic design features of that mid-century movement fit well with how we live today."

On any given weekend in Lamorinda, prospective homebuyers, mostly in their 20s and 30s, are rushing to open houses to admire the current mid-century modern finds on the market. This younger generation strongly appreciates the architecture's unique features such as panoramic views, large outdoor wraparound decks, vaulted ceilings, oversized windows, exposed beamed ceilings, built-in shelving, wood siding, open floor plans, spacious dining rooms and light-filled ambiance.

The push for these homes in the market began about three or four years ago, noted Regina Englehart of Better Homes and Gardens in Orinda and Walnut Creek.

"Most of the clients I see like the look and feel of those properties," Englehart said. "They are interested in the lines of mid-century homes and the high ceilings and windows." She added that the newer architecture is now emulating this style.

Orinda real estate agent Laura Abrams said that these young homebuyers often shop for furniture at IKEA and they love the Eames leather lounge chairs of that time period. From 1945 to the 1980s, the mid-century home movement focused on simplicity in architecture paired with a connection to nature.

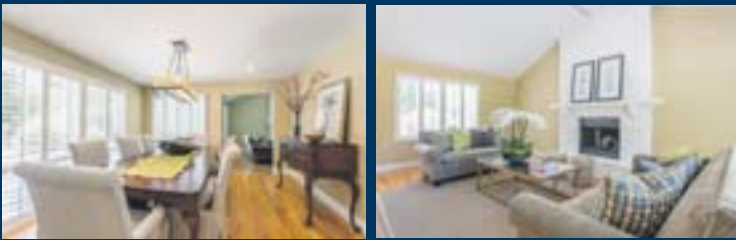
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... continued on page D4

THE *Beaubelle* GROUP



MORAGA - CUL-DE-SAC LOCATION

Tranquil setting that is just minutes from shopping, walking distance to top-rated schools, trails and the coveted Sunday Farmers' Market. This approx. 3,222-sf home sits on more than a quarter acre level lot with pool. The home features 4-bdrms and 3-baths with a main level guest suite/office, vaulted ceilings, hardwood floors, new carpeting, recessed lighting, plantation shutters and Andersen dual pane windows.
Offered at \$1,495,000



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Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

City	Last reported:	LOWEST AMOUNT:	HIGHEST AMOUNT:
LAFAYETTE	21	\$850,000	\$3,525,000
MORAGA	17	\$350,000	\$2,650,000
ORINDA	17	\$500,000	\$2,475,000

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

- 23 Almaden Court, \$1,150,000, 3 Bdrms, 1688 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 6-26-17;
Previous Sale: \$535,000, 01-11-01
- 8 Amanda Lane, \$1,400,000, 3 Bdrms, 1953 SqFt, 2006 YrBlt, 6-28-17;
Previous Sale: \$940,000, 10-26-10
- 3232 Brookwood Drive, \$1,610,000, 4 Bdrms, 3219 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 6-16-17;
Previous Sale: \$690,000, 05-09-00
- 3231 Camino Colorados, \$1,100,000, 3 Bdrms, 1527 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 6-16-17;
Previous Sale: \$785,000, 10-19-12
- 1 Cattle Chute Road, \$1,055,000, 2 Bdrms, 2651 SqFt, 1975 YrBlt, 6-29-17;
Previous Sale: \$800,000, 06-24-03
- 33 Deer Trail Road, \$2,450,000, 3867 SqFt, 1979 YrBlt, 6-29-17
- 9 Gable Lane, \$1,530,000, 3 Bdrms, 1872 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 6-29-17
- 1154 Glen Road, \$3,525,000, 4 Bdrms, 4460 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 6-28-17;
Previous Sale: \$1,315,000, 11-01-07
- 3322 Glenside Drive, \$2,685,000, 5 Bdrms, 3601 SqFt, 2014 YrBlt, 6-20-17;
Previous Sale: \$825,000, 02-01-13
- 3484 Hamlin Road, \$2,065,000, 4 Bdrms, 3788 SqFt, 1947 YrBlt, 6-27-17;
Previous Sale: \$186,000, 12-30-85
- 892 Las Trampas Road, \$2,000,000, 2 Bdrms, 1458 SqFt, 1953 YrBlt, 6-27-17;
Previous Sale: \$910,000, 01-23-15
- 3940 Los Arabis Drive, \$1,475,000, 3 Bdrms, 3094 SqFt, 1953 YrBlt, 6-16-17
- 1205 Monticello Road, \$1,525,000, 5 Bdrms, 2370 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 6-27-17
- 84 Silverwood Drive, \$1,950,000, 5 Bdrms, 4184 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 6-16-17;
Previous Sale: \$820,000, 05-03-04
- 835 Solana Drive, \$1,475,000, 3 Bdrms, 1469 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 6-30-17
- 1161 Sunrise Ridge Drive, \$1,600,000, 4 Bdrms, 3813 SqFt, 1997 YrBlt, 6-20-17;
Previous Sale: \$614,000, 10-03-97
- 1145 Vallecito Court, \$2,175,000, 5 Bdrms, 3400 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 6-28-17;
Previous Sale: \$1,560,000, 06-14-12
- 3313 Vaughn Road, \$1,455,000, 3 Bdrms, 2808 SqFt, 1980 YrBlt, 6-30-17;
Previous Sale: \$500,000, 05-31-94
- 3590 Walnut Street, \$1,250,000, 4 Bdrms, 1584 SqFt, 1939 YrBlt, 6-16-17;
Previous Sale: \$700,000, 10-04-06
- 1003 Woodbury Road #101, \$850,000, 2 Bdrms, 1110 SqFt, 2015 YrBlt, 6-30-17
- 1003 Woodbury Road #102, \$860,000, 2 Bdrms, 1110 SqFt, 2015 YrBlt, 6-29-17

MORAGA

- 1153 Alta Mesa Drive, \$1,137,500, 3 Bdrms, 1954 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 6-26-17;
Previous Sale: \$370,000, 03-31-92
- 124 Ascot Court #C, \$490,000, 2 Bdrms, 1233 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 6-16-17;
Previous Sale: \$354,000, 06-03-04
- 2087 Ascot Drive #224, \$350,000, 1 Bdrms, 790 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 6-23-17;
Previous Sale: \$112,500, 08-14-98
- 1974 Ascot Drive, \$395,000, 2 Bdrms, 1234 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 6-28-17
- 678 Carroll Drive, \$950,000, 3 Bdrms, 1352 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 6-20-17
- 244 Claudia Court, \$2,650,000, 5 Bdrms, 3349 SqFt, 1977 YrBlt, 6-30-17;
Previous Sale: \$1,836,000, 07-11-07
- 3 Julianna Court, \$2,320,000, 4 Bdrms, 3983 SqFt, 1988 YrBlt, 6-27-17;
Previous Sale: \$2,900,000, 10-30-07
- 10 Kimberly Drive, \$1,950,000, 4 Bdrms, 2892 SqFt, 2012 YrBlt, 6-26-17;
Previous Sale: \$1,585,000, 03-05-13

... continued on page D11



Active | Pending | Sold 2017

Active | Offered at \$649,000



4293 Cedarwood Dr, Concord

Sold



514 Silverado Dr, Lafayette

Sold



1414 Eagle Point, Lafayette

Sold



141 Westchester, Moraga

Sold



2342 Brantford Ct, Alamo

Sold



1000 Dewing #316, Lafayette

Active | Offered at \$1,595,000



28 Dos Encinas, Orinda

Sold



3268 Ameno Dr, Lafayette

Sold



550 Merriewood Dr, Lafayette

Sold



989 Carol Ln, Lafayette

Sold



4043 Valente Ct, Lafayette

Sold



264 Draeger Dr, Moraga

Active | Offered at \$2,295,000



1982 Reliez Valley Rd, Lafayette

Sold



626 Moraga Way, Orinda

Sold



104 Hodges Dr, Moraga

Sold



3332 Stage Coach, Lafayette

Sold



3569 East View Ter, Lafayette

Sold



40 Via Floreado, Orinda

Pending | Offered at \$525,000



4615 Santa Rita Rd, Richmond

Sold



454 Turrin Dr, Pleasant Hill

Sold



754 Glenside Dr, Lafayette

Sold



3451 Echo Springs, Lafayette

Sold



312 Primrose Dr, Pleasant Hill

Sold



5801 Knobcone Ct, Richmond

*KPG represented either the Buyer or Seller in the above properties

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The recurring allure of mid-century modern architecture

... continued from page D1



High-beamed ceilings bring the outdoors in.

Photo courtesy Regina Englehart

“Everyone loves the period of time they were built in,” said Abrams. “They are so interesting looking and they are unique in their design. That is what people are looking for.”

Since Lamorinda developed and grew during the mid-century modern boom, the community has its fair share of these real estate gems. According to Vlatka Bathgate, a real estate agent with Coldwell Banker in Orinda, these popular homes have character and bigger yards than more modern houses.

“They have lots of details,” Bathgate explained. “They are not cookie-cutter homes. Some of them are dated but most of them have been worked on.”

Abrams noted that these customized homes have a desired architectural quality that is lacking in the rancho homes of the area. She noted that the average price for one in Lamorinda is \$1.2 million and some of them still need to be renovated.

... continued on page D6



Outdoor decks offer another connection with the outdoors.

Photo courtesy Vlatka Bathgate



Walls of windows capture fantastic views.

Photo courtesy April Matthews



An overhang shades the front entrance of this mid-century modern home.

Photo courtesy April Matthews



I'm focused on
FINDING THE RIGHT FIT
for buyers and sellers in Lamorinda



Helping Buyers and Sellers in 2017

- 117 Broadview Terrace, Orinda \$1,607,500
- 36 El Patio, Orinda \$2,300,000
- 24 La Campana Rd, Orinda \$2,100,000
- 85 La Encinal, Orinda \$1,005,000
- 11 Las Palomas, Orinda \$1,365,000
- 42 Morello Place, Orinda \$1,385,000
- 37 Southwood Dr, Orinda \$1,565,000
- 246 Sundown Ter, Orinda \$2,700,000
- 109 Van Ripper Ln, Orinda \$2,304,000
- 29 Via Callados, Orinda \$1,270,000
- 90 Hillcrest Dr, Orinda \$1,460,000
- 918 Dewing Ave, Lafayette \$790,000
- 16 Diablo Cir, Lafayette \$1,605,000
- 33 Diablo Circle, Lafayette \$1,488,000
- 1253 Panorama Dr, Lafayette \$1,905,000
- 1083 Upper Happy Valley Road, Lafayette \$1,905,000
- 25 Byron Dr, Pleasant hill \$900,000
- 141 Brodia Way, Walnut creek \$2,400,000
- 38 Valley View Drive, Orinda, Listed for \$3,495,000



FINDING THE RIGHT FIT



AMYROSESMITH

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Village Associates
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Suite 103
Orinda, CA 94563
Phone: 925.212.3897
Email: amy@amyrosesmith.com
Web: www.amyrosesmith.com
Web: www.iloveorinda.com
CalBRE: #01855959



The recurring allure of mid-century modern architecture

... continued from page D4

While Abrams says mid-century homes that have a contemporary feel are popular, she is quick to point out that these minimal homes have their drawbacks for today's homebuyers including limited kitchens, dysfunctional bathrooms and small master bedrooms. She said there can be a problem when floor plans need to be altered significantly, but true mid-century modern enthusiasts are willing to deal with that issue.

"Nothing about them is what modern people want except the style and they are so pretty," Abrams said. "They (buyers) absolutely still see the challenge of it. They make the sacrifice."

Most of the time, buyers will transform the small kitchens into larger, entertaining kitchens that are mainstays of homes today, Abrams said. Luckily, spacious and lavish dining rooms were the norm in the 1950s, so those mid-century modern rooms fit the current housing trend.

What mid-century modern homes lack in room size, they make up for in scale and proportion, according to Battersby, who said they are very efficient and livable houses. She doesn't see the popularity of these homes fading anytime soon.

"People go nuts over them. They appreciate the original features," she said. "It takes the right buyer. There is a big demand. I think there was a movement back then that was really popular and there is a resurgence right now."



Photo courtesy Regina Englehart

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At Home with Amanda

Tips on how to save those design dollars – and when to splurge!

By Amanda Eck



We accessorized this client's music room, which had floor to ceiling bookshelves that needed to be styled, using a mix of vintage shop pieces, trinkets collected from their travels, and a handful of items purchased from the local HomeGoods to put the right finishing touches.

Photo Amanda Eck

Can you believe we are already winding down summer, school is almost here, autumn is only a few weeks away, and the holidays are just around the corner?

Wait ... the holidays? I know, I know. It seems too early to start thinking about “tis the season.” If you’ll hear me out though, before this article ends, I’ll share a special holiday planning tip that’s only accessible for the next few weeks.

As someone who feels the need to be a good steward of the money my clients entrust in me, I share options for allocating funds that ensure the best design possible. When approaching any project, I start by determining which parts afford a choice, allowing for spending flexibility.

Here are my top three suggestions for where to both save, and splurge, which are applicable regardless of what time of year it is.

Where to save:

1. Accessories: Accessories are important for creating that “finished” look but do not necessarily have to break the bank. Shopping local antique markets, vintage shops or online stores like eBay for unique pieces, results in a more authentic look at a reasonable price.

2. Accent furniture pieces: Smaller furniture pieces like side tables, decorative benches, or storage bins are not used as often and generally act more like highlight pieces. They are easier to replace should the room need to be reconfigured or changes in taste encourage a fresh look. As a result these items should veer toward a smaller proportion of the budget.

3. Rugs: If you are part of a young family with small children or pets, I suggest purchasing an inexpensive machine-made rug that can be easily replaced. Let’s face it, little feet tend to leave trails of their presence behind.

When to splurge:

1. Furniture: Investing in high quality furniture is important. More than anything else in your design, you will hold onto these pieces for years to come. Even if the initial appearance doesn’t pass the test of time, with classic lines it’s quite easy to change things up. A new wood stain or upholstery renews the appearance.

2. Lighting: Never, ever skimp on lighting. Good lighting can make or break a space. It’s easy to think of your lighting as just a functional element. In reality it can be so much more. Like a chronograph on your wrist or a handbag on your arm, it is an opportunity to marry form and function in a way that creates a level of distinction that’s hard to match.

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Your Home SOLD GUARANTEED Or I'll Buy It Myself!

Agent & Seller must agree on price and possession date



Peter Liu

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Peter Has Overseas Cash Buyers

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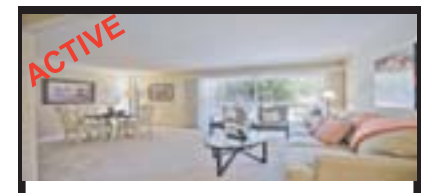
Ultra-private w/sweeping bay views, Oakland Hills. **Pre-recorded msg 800-489-1443 ID# 4006**



Commuter's favorite, half mile to Downtown Orinda. **Pre-recorded msg 800-489-1443 ID# 4005**



Gorgeous Orinda Downs custom home with breathtaking views. **Pre-recorded msg 800-489-1443 ID# 4001**



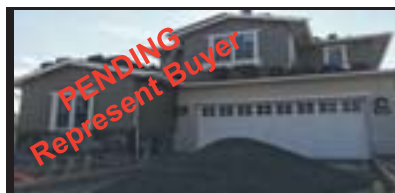
Most affordable 3 bedroom 2 bath townhome style condo in Moraga. **Pre-recorded msg 800-489-1443 ID# 4004**



3.75 ac lot in Orinda Downs with beautiful views. **Pre-recorded msg 800-489-1443 ID# 4002**



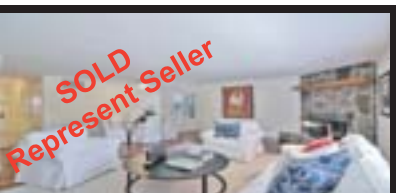
116 Castle Rock Ln., Walnut Creek. **Pre-recorded msg 800-489-1443 ID# 3338**



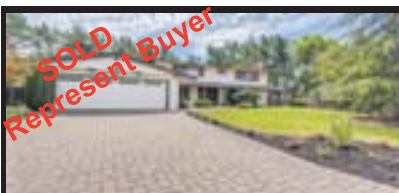
230 Willowbrook, Moraga. New construction. Overseas cash buyer. Listed at \$ 2,200,000.



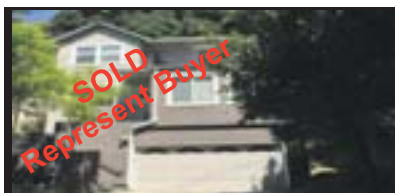
83 Donald Dr., Orinda. Listed at \$2,488,000



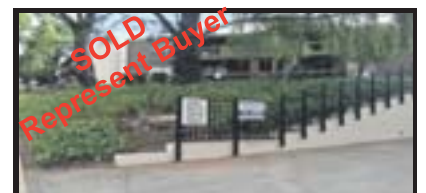
2129 Ascot Dr. #1, Moraga. Multiple offers. Sold price: \$ 650,000



472 Millfield Pl., Moraga. Sold price \$1,171,000



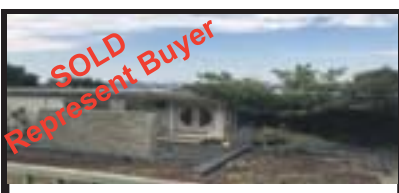
7727 Claremont Ave, Berkeley. Sold price: \$1,010,000



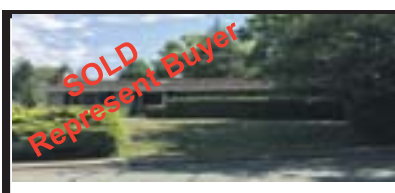
2083 Ascot Dr. #232, Moraga. Overseas cash buyer. Sold price: \$528,850



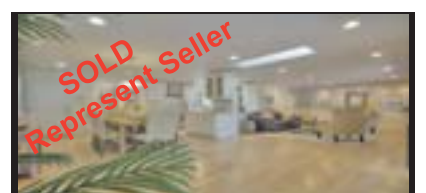
175 Camino Don Miguel, Orinda. Cash buyer. Sold price \$1,200,000



128 Diablo View Dr., Orinda. Overseas cash buyer. Sold price \$1,768,950



3832 Via Granada, Moraga. Overseas buyer. Sold price \$1,438,000



23 Carr Dr., Moraga. Multiple offers. Sold price \$1,030,000



At Home with Amanda

Tips on how to save those design dollars – and when to splurge! ... continued from page D8



This living room is a perfect example of both saving and splurging. The clients have two young children and a puppy. All the upholstered furniture pieces were custom made but the rug was purchased from a local retail store. And yes, a few days after the install, said puppy “piddled” on the rug.

Photos Amanda Eck

3. Window Treatments: Custom window treatments can be costly, but provide details that set your space apart. Even simple linen panels tailored to fit your windows make a huge difference. Off the shelf drapery that is too short or too long draws the wrong kind of attention, like an ill fitted pair of trousers. It’s always beneficial to have a seamstress hem your drapes to the appropriate length.

Now, for that that special holiday-related tip, let me share some “coming attractions.”

Throughout the summer I receive requests to engage our services. Start dates get pushed back however, due to vacations and the start of school. Before you know it, September is past, it’s early October and clients just start getting around to kicking off their projects. Their biggest concern now is ... trying to get the install complete before the holidays. Unfortunately, by October, that ship has probably already sailed.

If clients submitted their orders earlier, they’d enjoy the benefits of avoiding the holiday rush. They’ll sidestep back-ordered items, which can cause compromises in choices toward potentially more expensive pieces, they avoid “rush-order” requests, which mean higher fees from craftsman and delivery services, and dodge warehouses swelling due to holiday shipping, increasing the chance that a critical



We used a simple linen fabric custom designed with a contrasting banding.

piece won’t arrive in time. This is truly a case where the early bird gets the worm.

Hopefully both the general and time-sensitive tips I’ve shared will guide you when you are making upcoming decisions for decorating your home. Until next time dear friends!

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.”

With a distinct sense of style that mixes contemporary and classic design she fashions spaces that are both elegant and inviting. Her design aesthetic is inspired by anything visual but especially fashion, architecture and art.

Visit <http://amandacarolinteriors.com> for more design ideas.



Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

... continued from page D2

MORAGA ... continued

- 59 Lambeth Square, \$1,450,000, 4 Bdrms, 2487 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 6-30-17;
Previous Sale: \$875,000, 04-28-10
- 1056 Larch Avenue #A, \$1,145,000, 3 Bdrms, 1936 SqFt, 1976 YrBlt, 6-30-17;
Previous Sale: \$670,000, 02-25-11
- 651 Moraga Road #24, \$442,000, 2 Bdrms, 1144 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 6-27-17;
Previous Sale: \$310,000, 11-21-13
- 1151 Rimer Drive, \$1,290,000, 3 Bdrms, 2067 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 6-30-17;
Previous Sale: \$1,080,000, 04-08-13
- 1391 Rimer Drive, \$1,260,000, 4 Bdrms, 2171 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 6-21-17;
Previous Sale: \$399,000, 12-10-93
- 1095 Sanders Drive, \$920,000, 3 Bdrms, 1536 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 6-27-17;
Previous Sale: \$78,200, 09-29-76
- 132 Selborne Way, \$1,376,000, 5 Bdrms, 2463 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 6-28-17;
Previous Sale: \$1,300,000, 10-07-15
- 1838 St. Andrews Drive, \$940,000, 3 Bdrms, 1962 SqFt, 1981 YrBlt, 6-30-17;
Previous Sale: \$199,500, 11-19-80
- 157 Westchester Street, \$875,000, 2 Bdrms, 1552 SqFt, 1979 YrBlt, 6-30-17

ORINDA

- 49 Acacia Drive, \$2,100,000, 4 Bdrms, 3165 SqFt, 2004 YrBlt, 6-19-17;
Previous Sale: \$699,000, 06-28-02
- 11 Cresta Blanca, \$1,162,000, 2 Bdrms, 1926 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 6-26-17
- 45 Don Gabriel Way, \$1,332,500, 3 Bdrms, 2331 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 6-19-17;
Previous Sale: \$1,115,000, 07-10-14
- 19 Dos Encinas, \$1,495,000, 4 Bdrms, 2139 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 6-26-17;
Previous Sale: \$1,170,000, 06-22-05
- 282 Glorietta Boulevard, \$1,010,000, 3 Bdrms, 1252 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 6-19-17;
Previous Sale: \$103,000, 08-02-78
- 378 Glorietta Boulevard, \$1,300,000, 4 Bdrms, 1972 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 6-21-17;
Previous Sale: \$1,151,000, 06-20-14
- 61 Heather Lane, \$1,355,000, 3 Bdrms, 1866 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 6-30-17;
Previous Sale: \$15,000, 09-15-97
- 37 Las Cascadas Road, \$1,127,000, 4 Bdrms, 2660 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 6-30-17;
Previous Sale: \$800,000, 12-28-10
- 36 Loma Vista Drive, \$500,000, 2 Bdrms, 964 SqFt, 1934 YrBlt, 6-30-17
- 13 Sally Ann Road, \$1,525,000, 3 Bdrms, 2221 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 6-20-17;
Previous Sale: \$1,299,000, 08-23-06
- 14 Scenic Court, \$1,325,000, 3 Bdrms, 2006 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 6-16-17;
Previous Sale: \$825,000, 07-17-12
- 17 Sleepy Hollow Lane, \$1,285,000, 3 Bdrms, 1803 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 6-28-17;
Previous Sale: \$995,000, 11-27-13
- 452 Tahos Road, \$1,680,000, 5 Bdrms, 2488 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 6-29-17;
Previous Sale: \$760,000, 08-31-01
- 38 Tara Road, \$1,001,000, 3 Bdrms, 2366 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 6-27-17;
Previous Sale: \$927,000, 05-03-17
- 224 the Knoll, \$1,000,000, 3 Bdrms, 2252 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 6-21-17;
Previous Sale: \$470,000, 03-31-99
- 26 Via Hermosa, \$2,475,000, 4 Bdrms, 4039 SqFt, 1938 YrBlt, 6-30-17;
Previous Sale: \$983,000, 03-28-91
- 6 Westwood Court, \$1,798,000, 4 Bdrms, 2986 SqFt, 2006 YrBlt, 6-20-17;
Previous Sale: \$1,170,000, 12-29-11



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Digging Deep-Gardening with Cynthia Brian

In Praise of Farmers

By Cynthia Brian

“Let us never forget that the cultivation of the earth is the most important labor of man. When tillage begins, other arts follow. The farmers, therefore, are the founders of civilization.” – Daniel Webster



Apples are ripening and will be available through the fall.

Photos Cynthia Brian

With so many luscious fruits and vegetables at their peak of perfection in August, the prospect of the perfect meal awaits! Ripe and juicy nectarines, peaches, apricots and Asian pears are devoured right off the tree, or drizzled with olive oil to be grilled on the barbecue. Tomatoes, peppers, corn, cucumbers, zucchini, eggplant, blackberries, melons and beans offer the promise of culinary creativity as we harvest yet another bushel. Farmers' markets tender the very best of the season, a good reason to stock up on freshness and quality to freeze or can for the winter months.

But have you ever pondered the labor involved from the farmers behind the superior produce you discover at the farmers' markets or in your local grocery aisle?

Throughout my teen years, I worked in the fruit cutting sheds along with my two sisters where we would halve and pit apricots, peaches and pears, laying them on wooden flats to be sun dried, packaged and sold. For years afterward I couldn't eat any of these three fruits because of the memories of the dirty, exhausting work in the hot summer sun. We were



A half lug of fresh peaches.

paid by the 50-pound lug of fruit cut, with apricots earning us about 20 cents a box containing two or more “cots.” Peaches and pears paid half as much because they were bigger and therefore, less fruit was packed in a lug. Cutting peaches was the nastier job. The peach fuzz stuck to our skin as the juice ran from the peach pit to our armpits. When the gong rang at 4:30 p.m. indicating that our nine-hour shift was terminated, our itching bodies would dash home for a shower. If we had earned \$20 for a full day's work, we were considered in the top 1 percent of farm employees.

Although the work was tough, when I reminisce about those farm day experiences, I am grateful for the manual labor of my youth. Whenever I purchase a fruit or vegetable that hasn't grown in my personal garden, I am filled with appreciation for the toil of the farmers and the laborers who have worked rain or shine for many seasons to bring these crops to market. These hard working people are the unsung heroes of our lives.

... continued on next page



A turtle pokes its head from beneath the lily pads in the pond.

My Daddy was one of those men. Farming was a career that demanded attention 365 days a year. He could work for several months only to have a complete crop and his one annual paycheck devastated by rain or pests or drought. When he was asked why he didn't like to gamble he'd retort that being a farmer meant that every day was a gambling day. He didn't have to go to the tables to wrestle with Lady Luck.

From the time my siblings and I could toddle, we worked the fields. As our age and abilities grew, we were given more responsibilities. By 8 years of age, we all drove tractors, plowed the vineyards, picked fruit, and worked the harvest. We always knew where our food came from because as farmers, we planted, weeded, watered, tilled, mowed, hauled, mulched, fertilized, pruned, sprayed, protected and harvested, then started the process all over again prepping for the next season of crops.

There have been surveys done around the world asking children to explain from where their food came. Responses in the United States included that cucumbers come wrapped in plastic, eggs come from cartons, peas are found in the freezer, and chocolate milk is from brown cows. Recently, 27 percent of Australian kids in their final year of primary school believed that yogurt grew on trees while 75 percent thought cotton socks came from animals. In England, one-third of the country's children thought fish sticks came from pigs or chickens, tomatoes grew underground, potatoes grew on bushes, and cheese was raised on plants. More disturbing was the majority of children stated that everything originates in the supermarket. Unfortunately adults didn't fare much better in surveys. These statistics reflect poorly on the intelligence of citizens in first world countries. We need to do better educate our public of where our food is grown, how long it takes to grow, and the hazards that farmers face.

America was an agrarian society until the early 1900s. Now we are a technology-focused country. As of the last census, only 1 percent of Americans are farmers. I commend the schools where gardening is part of the curriculum. We can all become more appreciative of the growing cycles when we become knowledgeable, and even more so when we become home farmers ourselves.

We have the responsibility to involve our children in the growing process by giving them the opportunity to plant, water, and tend to fruits, vegetables and herbs. Besides being a superb science lesson, children will develop an appreciation for farm freshness and feel a sense of achievement and accomplishment. An added benefit is children enjoy eating what they grew. Thankfully, there has been a renaissance in learning the skills of canning. Baking pies from scratch is becoming fashionable again. As a child, "putting up" our fruits and vegetables for winter consumption was a fun family affair, one I passed on to my children, and hope that one day they will pass it on to their progeny.

The next time you bite into a peach – fresh, dried or canned – say a little prayer of thanks for the extraordinary efforts that went into its development. Farmers are the foundation of our civilization and we need to honor and respect their art. It's time we get back to our roots.

... continued on page D14



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Cynthia Brian's Mid-Month Nature Guide



Asian Pears need to be yellow before picking for the sweetest flavor.



Black Eyed Susan shines in a garden.



Bougainvillea brightens an arbor.

Photos Cynthia Brian

Allow Asian Pears to ripen on the tree. When the skin color changes from green to yellow they are ready for picking. Fruit can be stored at room temperature for two to three weeks and up to six months in refrigeration.

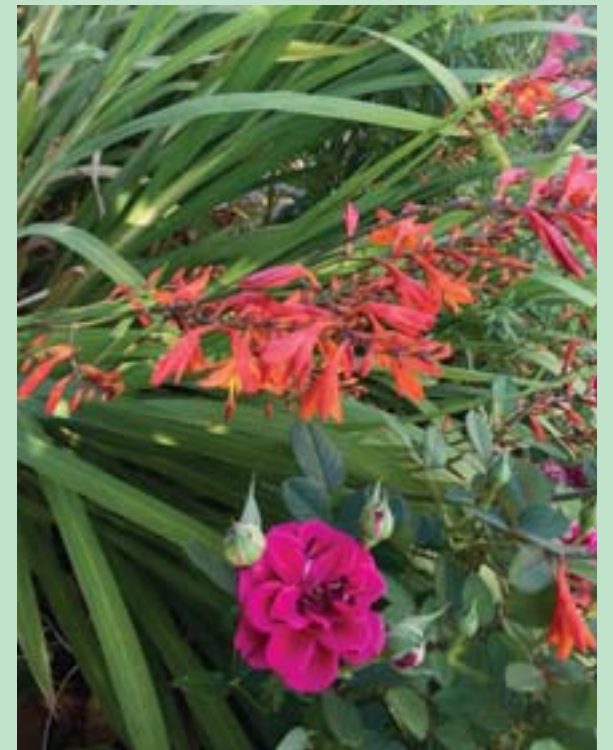
Super Star Vegetables: Kale has been on the popular healthy vegetable list for several years. In the near future, you'll start seeing more publicity around beets and cauliflower. Packed with vitamins C, K, and B6, cauliflower can be roasted, mashed, steamed or eaten raw. Beets have anti-inflammatory properties, lower blood glucose, improve muscle power, and aid heart health. Plan on planting all three this autumn.

Order or be on the look out for bulbs of garlic, shallots and onions for fall planting.

Warning: Coyotes are getting bolder. In less than a week, I came within 10 feet of a coyote on my driveway at 9 a.m. and another ambling down Camino Pablo at the school sidewalk around 3:30 p.m. Neither of these large carnivores were frightened by me. Keep your small animals and children safe. My article "Rats, Rattles, and Voles" (<http://www.lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue1111/Gardening-Guide-for-August-Rats-rattles-and-voles.html>) increased the conversation concerning wild animals around our homes. Readers reported an increase in skunks, raccoons, foxes, coyotes, deer, moles, voles, rats, mice and snakes. Although these critters were here before we settled, we do need to be vigilant to protect ourselves.

Win \$50,000 for your Garden: Enter America's Best Gardener Contest. Grand prize is \$50,000. Show the world that your thumb is the greenest. I was chosen as a judge for this competition! <http://www.americasbestgardener.com>

Pre-order my forthcoming garden book, "Growing with the Goddess Gardener," Book I in the Garden Shorts Series. Publishing was greatly delayed but copies of the book will be shipped by September. All pre-orders will receive extra goodies such as heirloom seeds, bookmarks, and more. Book is \$14.95 for black/white interior. Price for color interior photos has not been determined yet. Email me for details, Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com. 25 percent of the proceeds benefit the 501c3 Be the Star You Are!® charity. <http://www.GoddessGardener.com/>
Happy Gardening and Happy Growing!



Crocosmia firecracker with miniature roses.



Shasta daisies are especially stunning when surrounded by natural rocks.



Cynthia Brian by a stream.

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 and order her books at www.StarStyleRadio.com

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5 Hilary Way Beautiful apx. 2854 sq. ft. home, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths. Highlights include updated kitchen with stainless appliances. Close to elementary school and Rim Trail. **\$1,695,000**

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32 Heather Lane Big spaces come alive in a well maintained family home w/ income producing option w/ two bedroom, one bath apartment w/ separate entrance. Abundance of windows, views & walk to Meadow Swim & Tennis. **\$1,699,000**

ORINDA



12 Crestview Court Contemporary inspired home on privat cul de sac with panoramic views of Orinda hills. Spacious home, 2 master suites, family room/kitchen combo. Pool, pool house & full size water slide. Easy commute to BART, schools. **\$1,785,000**

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New Listing

136 Manzanita Drive Exquisite Spanish revival style built new in 2008 with exquisite charm inside & outside. New professional custom landscaping on private, beautiful, sun splashed level acreage. Close to town, commute & top schools. **\$2,395,000**

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160 Camino Don Miguel One of a kind estate overlooking OCC. Rebuilt from the ground up in 1996 by the finest craftsmen to preserve the original elements of the home. Resort quality pool & spa, gardens, views & guest house. **\$4,950,000**

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MORAGA



1031 Bollinger Canyon Rd. Horse lover's dream home! Rancho Dos Rios is a 10.51 acre ranch w/ apx. 3,432 sq.ft., 4bd, 2.5ba home, detached 4 car gar. w/ apx. 1,018 sf in-law apt, pool, 2 stall barn w/ paddocks, arena, mare-motel, 2 pastures. **\$1,995,000**

LAFAYETTE



New Listing

3476 Echo Springs Road Build Your Dream! This 1.1 acre lot offers privacy, views & the opportunity to call Lafayette's coveted Echo Springs Road home. Conceptual plans avail. for an apx. 3606 sq.ft. Craftsman-style house. **\$425,000**

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4015 Happy Valley Road Rare opportunity to own elegant French Country home in prestigious Happy Valley. Classic 2 story, apx. 6,011 sq.ft., 5 beds, 5.5 baths, flat .97 acre, saltwater infinity-edge pool/spa, outr kitchen & pergola. **\$4,995,000**

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