

# Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 11 Issue 13 Wednesday, August 23, 2017



*Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian*

*...read on page D12*

## Create an outdoor oasis with smaller pools and backyard living spaces

By Paula King



*This small pool with an integrated spa utilizes maximum space.*

*Photo Andy Scheck*

When Scott and Stephanie Barmmer moved into their Broadview Terrace home over a decade ago, their backyard requirements were minimal landscaping, play areas for their three young children and a fence for the steep slope. Now that they have three teenagers, the couple wanted to upgrade the yard into another living area, so it would be an inviting gathering spot for their children and their friends.

“We wanted to build a space that was an extension of the house,” said Scott Barmmer.

In 2007, they hired Orinda’s Garden Lights Landscape and Pool Development to complete their simple backyard project. Then this past spring, Garden Lights returned to add a vineyard on the slope, high-quality artificial sod, an outdoor kitchen, fire pit and a modern swimming pool.

Even though the Barmmers just have a 21-by-15 foot pool, it reflects many of the recent swimming pool trends in Lamorinda. The Barmmer’s home is no exception to the incredible views that are almost the norm in Lamorinda homes and Garden Lights owner and designer Stephen Lambert wanted the vanishing edge pool to be an ideal place to take in the spectacular view of Mt. Diablo there.

“Their backyard project is like adding three more rooms to the home. People are trying to live outdoors more now,” Lambert said.

According to Lambert, the Barmmer’s project bucks the notion that you can’t place a pool in a smaller yard. He said there is definitely a trend to build smaller pools in yards that aren’t spacious and he has designed three smaller pools in Lamorinda alone this year.

“It (the pool) is big enough that the kids can jump into it feet first,” said Barmmer.

Lambert calls the smaller pools “spools.” He noted that it is important that a pool not overwhelm the yard and “spools” are ideal for not being too immense.

“Homeowners are thinking about design and flow,” Lambert said. “It is important to look at it as a holistic thing.”

*... continued on page D4*





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## Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

City	Last reported:	LOWEST AMOUNT:	HIGHEST AMOUNT:
LAFAYETTE	21	\$800,000	\$6,500,000
MORAGA	12	\$435,000	\$1,975,000
ORINDA	20	\$910,000	\$3,250,000

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

- 9 Arbor Way, \$1,033,000, 3 Bdrms, 1652 SqFt, 1975 YrBlt, 7-21-17
- 1149 Bacon Way, \$1,180,000, 3 Bdrms, 2129 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 7-17-17;  
Previous Sale: \$394,000, 05-15-97
- 50 Circle Creek Court, \$820,000, 3 Bdrms, 1468 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 7-19-17;  
Previous Sale: \$202,500, 07-18-96
- 1305 El Curtola Boulevard, \$800,000, 3 Bdrms, 1416 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 7-13-17;  
Previous Sale: \$252,500, 08-30-95
- 1110 Estates Drive, \$2,330,000, 4 Bdrms, 2951 SqFt, 2016 YrBlt, 7-12-17;  
Previous Sale: \$540,000, 12-03-13
- 1678 Glen Oak Court, \$1,201,000, 4 Bdrms, 2380 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 7-13-17;  
Previous Sale: \$315,000, 03-30-88
- 3273 Helen Lane, \$1,481,000, 4 Bdrms, 2800 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 7-14-17;  
Previous Sale: \$612,000, 02-15-02
- 3705 Highland Court, \$1,500,000, 4 Bdrms, 2149 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt, 7-14-17;  
Previous Sale: \$1,150,000, 06-20-07
- 1038 Leland Drive, \$905,000, 3 Bdrms, 1228 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 7-7-17;  
Previous Sale: \$689,000, 04-10-09
- 3411 Moraga Boulevard, \$1,250,000, 3 Bdrms, 1522 SqFt, 1941 YrBlt, 7-24-17;  
Previous Sale: \$830,000, 07-25-06
- 699 Old Jonas Hill Road, \$1,975,000, 4 Bdrms, 2745 SqFt, 1968 YrBlt, 7-13-17;  
Previous Sale: \$1,800,000, 10-23-14
- 1253 Panorama Drive, \$1,905,000, 5 Bdrms, 3703 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 7-18-17;  
Previous Sale: \$230,500, 04-08-83
- 110 Promintory Lane, \$2,225,000, 5 Bdrms, 3979 SqFt, 1988 YrBlt, 7-17-17;  
Previous Sale: \$2,001,000, 08-09-13
- 1259 Redwood Lane, \$6,500,000, 6 Bdrms, 6453 SqFt, 1986 YrBlt, 7-17-17;  
Previous Sale: \$4,595,000, 08-28-06
- 1991 Reliez Valley Road, \$1,050,000, 4 Bdrms, 1789 SqFt, 1953 YrBlt, 7-11-17
- 3106 Sandalwood Court, \$1,650,000, 3 Bdrms, 2159 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 7-6-17
- 3155 Stanwood Lane, \$1,645,000, 4 Bdrms, 2732 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 7-7-17
- 1471 Sunset Loop, \$830,000, 3 Bdrms, 954 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 7-19-17
- 3 Via Oneg, \$1,375,000, 4 Bdrms, 3712 SqFt, 1977 YrBlt, 7-17-17
- 995 Victoria Court, \$1,345,000, 3 Bdrms, 1509 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 7-18-17;  
Previous Sale: \$965,000, 07-01-14
- 3227 Withers Avenue, \$1,200,000, 3 Bdrms, 1914 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 7-12-17;  
Previous Sale: \$486,000, 06-30-

### MORAGA

- 6 Baltusrol Street, \$925,000, 3 Bdrms, 1824 SqFt, 1979 YrBlt, 7-11-17;  
Previous Sale: \$450,000, 11-07-11
- 1357 Camino Peral #C, \$435,000, 1 Bdrms, 951 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 7-21-17;  
Previous Sale: \$42,500, 08-13-76
- 1411 Camino Peral, \$723,000, 3 Bdrms, 1440 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 7-6-17;  
Previous Sale: \$523,000, 07-24-13
- 10 Crockett Drive, \$1,975,000, 5 Bdrms, 3831 SqFt, 1988 YrBlt, 7-11-17;  
Previous Sale: \$895,000, 05-22-98
- 2133 Donald Drive #9, \$460,000, 2 Bdrms, 1224 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 7-7-17;  
Previous Sale: \$185,000, 09-28-11

... continued on page D11

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## Hello Lamorinda!

I have received several phone calls from clients who are considering selling their home in the spring. Now is the perfect time to start laying the groundwork for a successful sale. This is especially true in Lamorinda where the spring market has gotten progressively earlier. It is more important than ever to start making your to-do list now if you want to take advantage of this typically strong early selling market.

I always suggest that sellers spend time de-cluttering and getting rid of things that they no longer use or need. Consider donating your unwanted treasures to deserving local non-profits. Thinning out your possessions shouldn't be an overwhelming exercise and is a good habit to get into regardless of whether or not you are planning to move.

Now is also the time to start getting quotes, picking finishes and lining up contractors if you plan to make updates to your home prior to selling. Make sure that you consult with your Realtor® throughout this process to ensure that you are making choices that will appeal to current buyers. It is important to make sure that the money you put into upgrades will translate into higher profits upon sale. When the budget for repairs and upgrades is limited, a simple coat of paint can go a long way to brightening up your home.

I also highly recommend sellers pre-inspect their home so there is time to make repairs or disclose any defects before going to market. The home inspector will provide clearly written reports describing the condition of the home and highlighting any areas of concern. If you are not in a position to address the items flagged by the inspector, it may be a good idea to get quotes for their repair and include them in your disclosures.

And finally, take a good look at what your home is worth before you go full speed ahead by seeking the advice of a local Realtor® who understands the nuances of the Lamorinda market. They can help you to evaluate your situations and make sure your expectations are realistic and that a move makes financial sense.



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## Create an outdoor oasis with smaller pools and backyard living spaces ... continued from page D1



*The motorized pool cover helps to keep the heat in and debris out.*

*Photo Andy Scheck*

The Broadview Terrace home's new pool features glass tiles with accents of abalone shells in the design scheme. Hiring a pool designer like Lambert can make choices such as selecting a color scheme much simpler by providing a limited number of options based on their knowledge of the homeowner's personality and taste.

"Pools today are not like the pools of the past," Lambert said. "Hiring a designer is the way to go. Pool builders don't have the training for the overall design and look of a project."

For years, Garden Lights was designing pools but not building them. To date, they have managed about 30 pool projects in Lamorinda including their newest one in Orinda's Lost Valley with a natural shape, water

feature and glass tile.

In recent years, Lambert has been seeing a desire for larger hot tubs and saltwater pools, which he noted offer several benefits.

"They are better for your skin and it is a giant water softener," he said.

Another extension of modern pool design is an outdoor kitchen to complement the entertaining vibe of pools. The Barmmer's kitchen has a mini-refrigerator, cooling drawers, an ice maker and a large grill.

"It brings people together to gather," Barmmer said. "That was what we wanted."

For more information on Garden Lights, email [office@gardenlightslandscape.com](mailto:office@gardenlightslandscape.com) or call (925) 254-4797 or check out [www.gardenlightslandscape.com](http://www.gardenlightslandscape.com).

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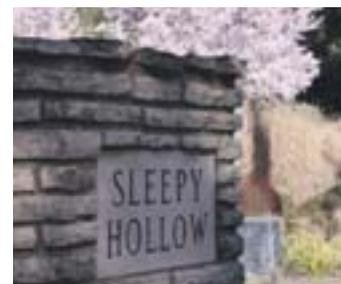


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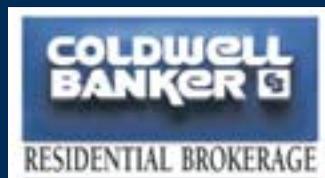
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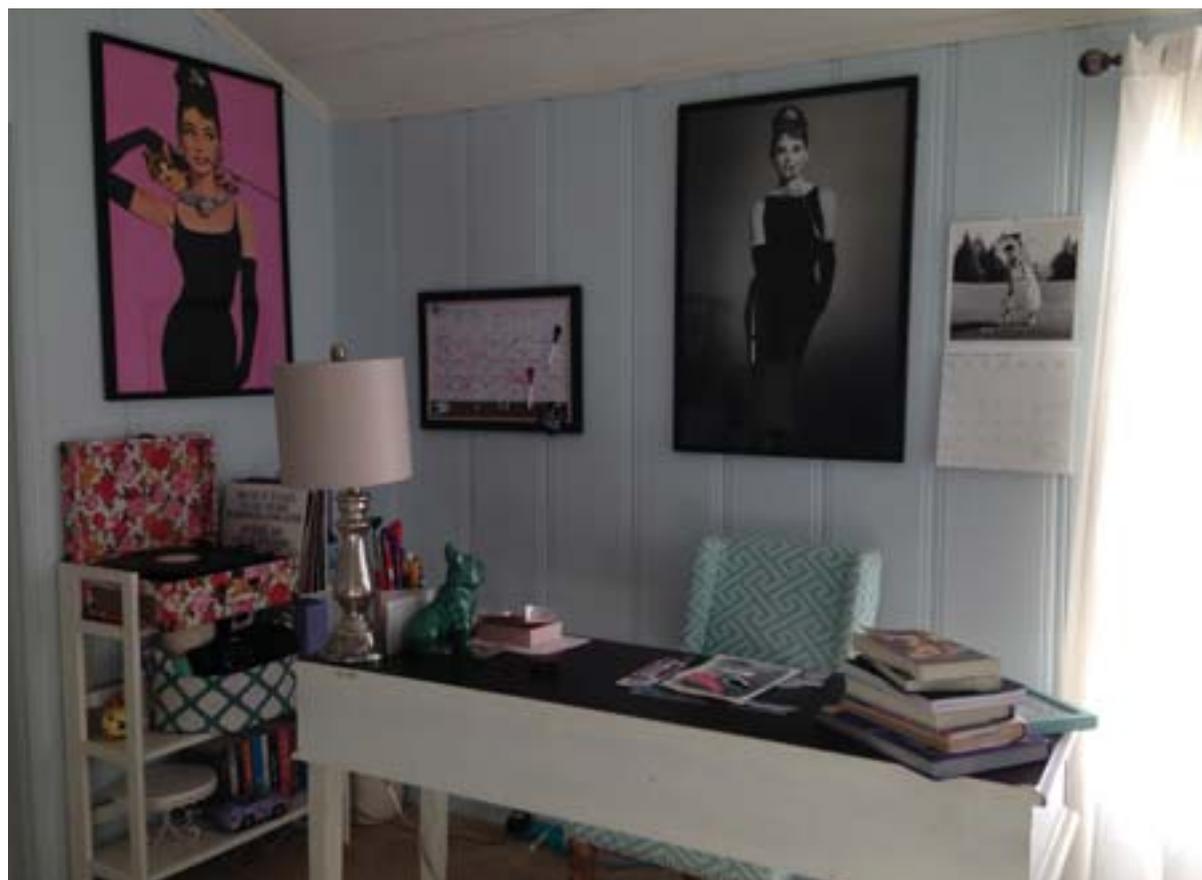
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## Feng Shui

# Space clear your student's study area

By Michele Duffy



*Like this Lafayette home, creating a nourishing study area with soothing colors, proper lighting and placing the desk in the "Commanding Position" will give your student a fresh start this year.*

*Photo provided*

The start of a new school year is the perfect time to restore positive feng shui to our living environments, and space clearing – which has the same goal and function of energy management and refreshment – is the perfect place to start.

If your student is a straight-A wiz kid, space clearing will mindfully create a set of renewed intentions for the student's continued success, with perhaps an intention for better balance between work, self-care, and play this school year. Space clearing also helps clear out the old cobwebs, disappointments, and failures of the past and creates a fresh energetic new start for your student. Think of what needs improvement, what you want to amplify and what you want to minimize with your student. Where our children study matters, and refreshing that space energetically is a great way to help them get off on the right foot in a new school year. Once you have re-

freshed the space with positive intentions for a fresh start then turn your attention to the more mundane aspects of uplifting the study area.

The most important part of a space clearing ceremony is to create positive intention, calm your heart and mind, and proceed mindfully for best results. The following tips will help your students maintain a healthy relationship to learning, their studies, daily responsibilities, and self-care:

First, where is the study located in your home? If your student studies at a busy thoroughfare, like a kitchen counter or dining room table, consider moving the study area to a more secluded quieter spot, like their bedroom. Creating calm will be more conducive to concentrating and retaining the homework material.

Depending on the age of your student, try to involve them in some of the decisions, including desk type, light-

ing design, or wall colors in the study room, but remember the goal is to maintain or improve performance, so don't allow their input to derail the bigger goals.

Try to encourage your student to forego distractions such as TVs, music, and laptops displaying distracting content unrelated to their studies. Unless they actually need their phones or laptops for homework, encourage them to leave them with you till their homework is complete. There is new data noting the negative effects of tech devices on our children's ability to focus, display empathy, and retain what they have learned, based on total screen time. Most pediatricians will recommend no more than two hours a day of screen time and many of our children exceed that regularly, which can certainly impact their grades.

Next, make sure that where your student is studying is clean, organized and tidy. If it is the bedroom in which they sleep, try to get them into the habit of making the bed and tidying up before they leave for school so when they return home, the study environment is receptive and welcoming.

In the study room take some time to see that everything has a place, and review the functionality of the storage or organization system in place for ways to inexpensively improve and upgrade. Look for ways to keep the study desk itself as clean as possible to aid in concentration and focus.

Where is the placement of the desk? First to place any desk, and especially your students' desk, in the commanding position so that they are seated facing the door to the room. The commanding position is a recurring feng shui theme. The subliminal message is one receives more support with a solid wall behind your back, like a mountain, and so the feeling of being in the most powerful spot aids whatever tasks we set out to do from that spot. Looking out from the desk into the broadest expanse of the room will also help expand and inspire creative thought. Never place the desk pushed up against a wall. Facing a wall will lead to feeling blocked. Sitting at the desk with one's back to the door will also adversely affect concentration, if we are jumpy or uncertain about who is entering – another reason for your student to face the door.

... continued on page D10

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## Feng Shui

# Space clear your student's study area

... continued from page D8

Finally, make sure the lighting in the study room is bright and plentiful. It's also helpful to try and create inspiration with the imagery that surrounds your student. What is currently on the walls? Especially the wall across from where they sit at the desk. Place an inspirational nature scene, a graphic of admirable people or a favorite subject of your student. Students may think more expansively, artistically, and logically with all-important time to rest and daydream, too. Bring life into the space with a few oxygen producing green leafy plants, like jade or fiddle palms, to stimu-

late the growth and development of your student in their studies this year.

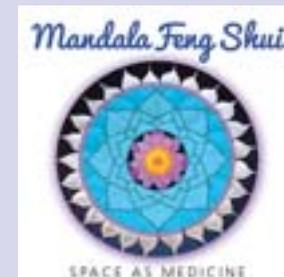
There are plenty of reasons to think about making sure that your study area is compliant when it comes to feng shui. If the room is set up so the student is comfortable, supported and relaxed, it may have a surprising effect on the results. Applying some of these easy-to-do small adjustments will make a significant impact and help to create a more welcoming study environment.

Get back to the basics and have fun creating an inspiring, calming and healthy study space for your student.

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*The Bagua Map: Front Door*

Michele Duffy, BTB M.F.S. is an Orinda resident who, since 1999, enjoys creating "Space as Medicine" Feng Shui one space at a time, as well as hiking in nature, cooking, and spending time with her family; Canyon Ranch Feng Shui Master, International Feng Shui Guild (IFSG) Red Ribbon Professional. To schedule a professional 2017 Feng Shui Consultation, contact Michele at (520) 647-4887 or send an email to [spaceharmony@gmail.com](mailto:spaceharmony@gmail.com).



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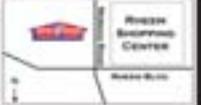






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## Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

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### MORAGA ... continued

- 264 Draeger Drive, \$1,564,000, 4 Bdrms, 2790 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 7-12-17;  
 Previous Sale: \$505,000, 12-10-87
- 13 Kendall Circle, \$1,479,000, 4 Bdrms, 2147 SqFt, 2016 YrBlt, 7-5-17
- 23 Kendall Circle, \$1,190,000, 4 Bdrms, 1965 SqFt, 2015 YrBlt, 7-3-17
- 4 Merrill Drive, \$1,830,000, 5 Bdrms, 3132 SqFt, 1986 YrBlt, 7-6-17;  
 Previous Sale: \$775,000, 07-16-96
- 139 Miramonte Drive, \$785,000, 2 Bdrms, 1742 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 7-11-17
- 1194 Moraga Road, \$1,200,000, 4 Bdrms, 1802 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 7-17-17;  
 Previous Sale: \$300,000, 09-09-94
- 1825 St. Andrews Drive, \$1,530,000, 3 Bdrms, 3424 SqFt, 1980 YrBlt, 7-14-17;  
 Previous Sale: \$931,500, 03-15-12

### ORINDA

- 10 Bates Boulevard, \$1,275,000, 4 Bdrms, 2030 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 7-12-17
- 411 Camino Sobrante, \$1,650,000, 5 Bdrms, 2975 SqFt, 1941 YrBlt, 7-21-17;  
 Previous Sale: \$900,000, 05-08-97
- 629 Cross Ridge Terrace, \$1,807,000, 4 Bdrms, 3131 SqFt, 1979 YrBlt, 7-7-17
- 6 Eastwood Drive, \$1,600,000, 4 Bdrms, 1862 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 7-17-17;  
 Previous Sale: \$962,500, 07-09-07
- 77 Estates Drive, \$2,540,000, 4 Bdrms, 3548 SqFt, 1976 YrBlt, 7-18-17;  
 Previous Sale: \$1,405,000, 05-26-10
- 5 Fleetwood Court, \$1,480,000, 4 Bdrms, 2294 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 7-14-17;  
 Previous Sale: \$63,000, 08-19-76
- 8 Harran Circle, \$1,725,000, 3 Bdrms, 2419 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 7-24-17;  
 Previous Sale: \$692,000, 03-31-00
- 86 Hillcrest Drive, \$1,770,000, 5 Bdrms, 2625 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 7-24-17;  
 Previous Sale: \$550,000, 09-19-02
- 153 Ivy Drive, \$1,035,000, 3 Bdrms, 1875 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 7-12-17
- 22 Ivy Drive, \$1,250,000, 3 Bdrms, 1862 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 7-12-17;  
 Previous Sale: \$796,000, 04-04-03
- 12 La Cintilla, \$1,375,000, 3 Bdrms, 3423 SqFt, 1939 YrBlt, 7-12-17;  
 Previous Sale: \$425,000, 12-14-84
- 85 La Encinal, \$1,005,000, 2 Bdrms, 1278 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 7-10-17;  
 Previous Sale: \$700,000, 06-23-09
- 10 Las Palomas, \$2,450,000, 5 Bdrms, 3832 SqFt, 1939 YrBlt, 7-19-17;  
 Previous Sale: \$2,283,000, 12-15-15
- 48 Michael Lane, \$2,050,000, 4 Bdrms, 3788 SqFt, 1977 YrBlt, 7-11-17;  
 Previous Sale: \$470,000, 11-07-97
- 731 Miner Road, \$3,250,000, 6 Bdrms, 5185 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 7-19-17;  
 Previous Sale: \$1,350,000, 02-28-14
- 47 Mira Loma Road, \$910,000, 3 Bdrms, 1440 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 7-13-17
- 11 Orchard Road, \$1,782,000, 4 Bdrms, 2788 SqFt, 1940 YrBlt, 7-14-17;  
 Previous Sale: \$1,232,000, 04-10-12
- 69 Sleepy Hollow Lane, \$1,850,000, 4 Bdrms, 2144 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 7-12-17
- 29 Tappan Lane, \$1,625,000, 4 Bdrms, 2227 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 7-14-17
- 73 Tara Road, \$1,560,000, 3 Bdrms, 1946 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 7-7-17

## 5 Los Conejos, Orinda



Incredible Value! 5 bedrooms, 2 full bath home on .31 acres.

Convenient location.

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## 142 Canon Drive, Orinda



Amazing attention to detail in this custom 2822 sq ft home rebuilt in 2008. 4 bedrooms, 3 full baths on .33 acres. Quality materials throughout.

**\$1,650,000**

## 896 Terra California #1, Rossmoor



Desirable upper level end unit Tahoe model. 2 beds + Den, 2 baths.

**\$695,000**



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*Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian*

## Dancing Naked Ladies and strutting wildlife

By Cynthia Brian

*"Those who danced were thought insane by those who could not hear the music." ~Unknown*



*Deep pink Naked Ladies flanked by midnight blue agapanthus and purple crape myrtle*

*Photos Cynthia Brian*

Can you hear the music? Or are you insane?

Dancing in the breeze, Naked Ladies are South African natives in the *Amaryllis belladonna* family with bare, unadorned stems that turn their faces to the sunshine. The long straight necks and the perfect pink throats of the Naked Ladies brighten every late summer landscape. In our climate they bloom at the same time as agapanthus, making for a lovely yin yang interaction of pinks and blues. When little else is blooming in the blazing summer sun, and the deer have dined on garden delicacies, the toxic bulbs of Naked Ladies can always be counted on to put on a brilliant ballet.

In winter and spring the bulbs grow leaves that are glossy and spear shaped, often mistaken for agapanthus. By summer the leaves have died back and only the heads of the bulbs can be seen. Miraculously one morning you'll walk into your garden to witness a sprouted leafless stem, soon followed by a pretty pink face. Naked Ladies will bloom for four to six weeks, swaying to the music of the wind. As soon as the blooms fade, cut the stalk back to the ground. Since the plant is now dormant, this is the time to divide the clumps to replant bulbs wherever you want a patch of Naked Ladies

for the next year. If you scatter the fresh seeds from the dried flowers, they may germinate in as little as two weeks, but will take as many as six years to flower.

Naked Ladies are not fussy at all. They can be planted in gravel, dirt, or enriched soil as long as they are planted in the sunshine. They will last for many years with little to no care. Once established they require minimal water, thus they are a great flowering solution to drought inclined climates. A single bulb will multiply into a clump of bulbs, yet the clumps don't travel far. When the clumps are bare, they resemble a turtle's back. It is best to plant in groups. If you plant in rows, they will remain in rows until you transplant the bulbs elsewhere. *Amaryllis belladonna* are also spectacular long-lasting cut flowers.

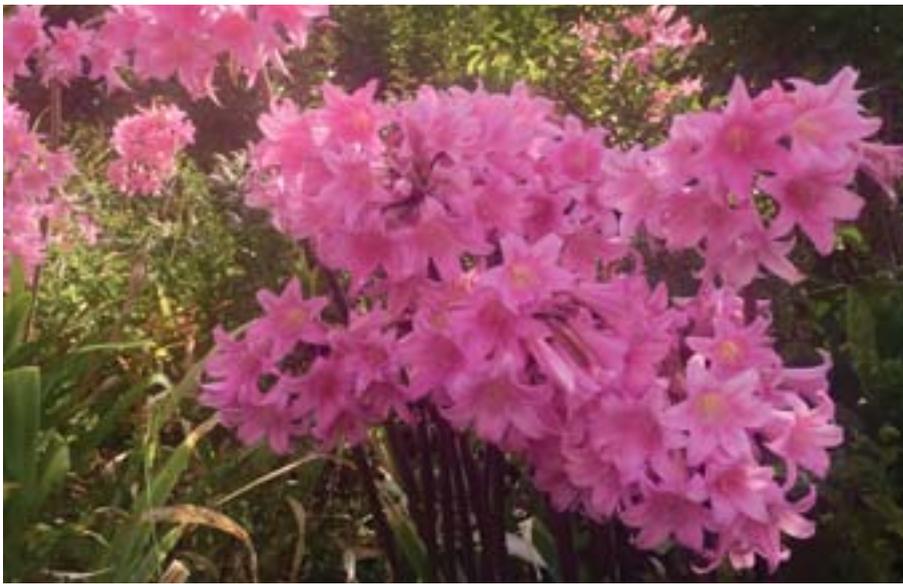
Naked Ladies are not the only specimens strutting their stuff in our yards. Raccoons, deer, skunks, coyotes, squirrels and turkeys are in unafraid abundance this August. As I approached my home driving from work, a family of three deer polished off my gladioli on my driveway. I see them daily roaming the neighborhood munching on every edible while coyotes provide a nightly chorus of howling

from the hills. Outside my back door, a skunk sniffed in search of food. No sooner had the skunk slinked away empty handed than a huge raccoon pranced onto the patio, also seeking dinner. Both nocturnal creatures are gorgeous to admire from behind glass but are not to be approached as they dance in the dark. (I snapped photos instead.) Make sure to remove any pet food from outside and tighten garbage can lids to avert their nightly invasions. The squirrels have been ravaging the grapevines. The grapes are not quite ripe but are certainly sweet and delicious to those bushy tailed rodents. Since I can't control the parade of turkeys flying into my garden, I've learned to admire their dances. Sometimes two or more families with two-dozen chicks will trot across the plot, scratching, clucking, yelping, purring, flapping and gobbling. My reward for allowing them into my space is a collection of beautiful feathers to adorn my creations.

Take a peak outside and listen to the music. Nature is dancing.

*"Great dancers are not great because of their technique – they are great because of their passion." ~Martha Graham*

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A cluster of dancing deep pink Naked Ladies.



A clump of Naked Lady bulbs with stems shooting up



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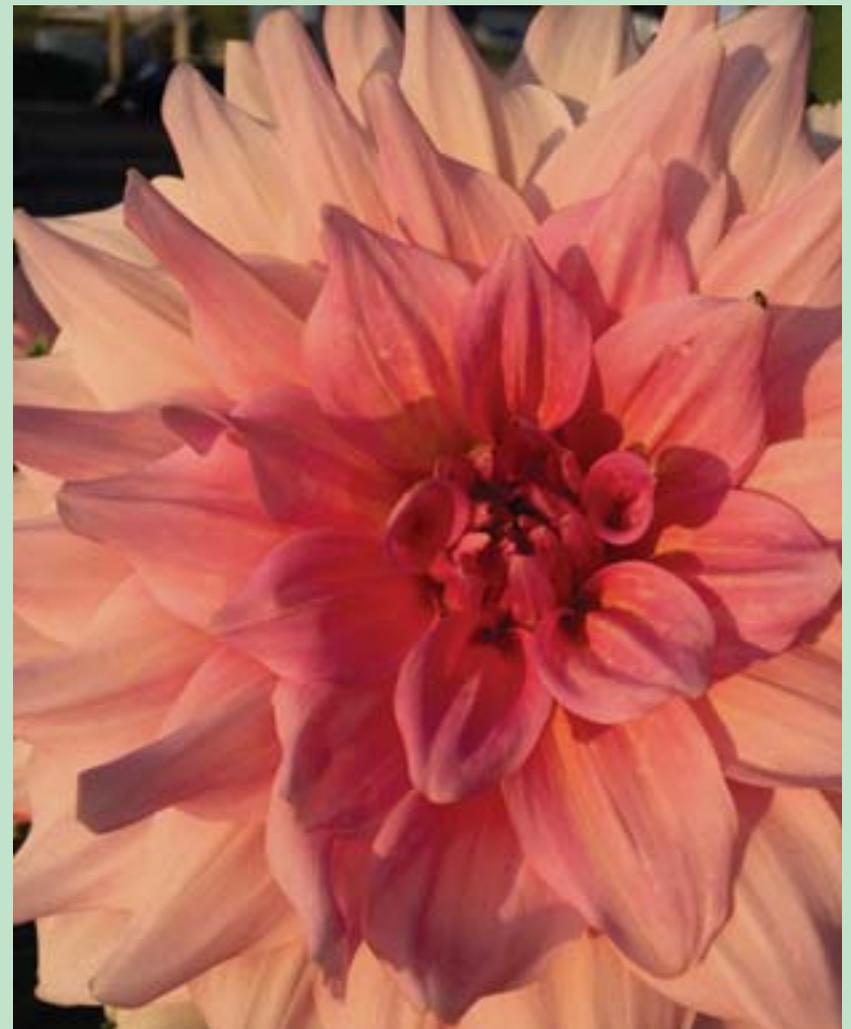
# Cynthia Brian's Mid-Month Gardening Guide

**MOSQUITO WATCH:** Did you know that mosquitoes are the most deadly creatures on the planet? Except for Maine, West Nile Virus transmitted by mosquitoes has been reported in all the states of the continental United States. Zika is the most recent mosquito-borne disease to infect humans and cause birth defects. In Asia, Japanese encephalitis is deadly and malaria has been a global killer for centuries. As vectors for diseases they also transmit dengue fever, chikungunya, and dog heartworm. Mosquitoes are attracted to carbon dioxide. People with high metabolisms create more CO<sub>2</sub> and attract more mosquitoes. What can you do to keep these pesky, biting, disease-filled flyers away?

- Empty all standing water from any vessel.
- Add mosquito dunks to ponds or fountains. Vector Control gives free mosquito fish to pond owners. Call (925) 771-6192.
- Apply DEET to all exposed skin. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention indicate that oil of lemon eucalyptus can be as effective as low doses of DEET, however, it needs to be reapplied every 15 to 20 minutes.
- Sunscreen-repellent combinations are not as effective and are not recommended.
- Repellent clothing such as Insect Shield is worthwhile. ([www.insectshield.com](http://www.insectshield.com))

If you are planning a trip and you'd like to know how to protect yourself from these pests visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Traveler Health page. <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel>

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Close-up of Dinner Plate Dahlia

Photos Cynthia Breian



Pink Crape Myrtle



Stick your nose into a fragrant magenta rose.



*Hanging basket of yellow striped and red petunias add dazzle to the field of daisies.*



*Cynthia Brian 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 Are1® 501 c3.

Tune into Cynthia's Radio show and order her books at [www.StarStyleRadio.com](http://www.StarStyleRadio.com)

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925-377-STAR

**PINCH** back annuals and perennials to increase continual blooms until winter.

**DEADHEAD** roses and dahlias.

**HANG** a basket of yellow and red petunias on your patio for instant dazzle.

**PHOTOGRAPH** the crape myrtle trees that are in their full flush of blooms this month.

**DEEP-SOAK** redwood and magnolia trees, especially during hot weather.

**CALL** Vector Control before 7 a.m. Monday through Friday at (925) 771-6192 if you trap or need to trap a skunk. Along with rats, voles, moles, gophers and raccoons, skunks are in abundance this year. Vector Control can advise you about all of these creatures but it only offers removal services for skunks and yellow jackets.

Happy Gardening and Happy Growing!

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## ORINDA



New Listing

**1 Hidden Lane** Well maintained Sleepy Hollow home - custom built by original owner of quality craftsmanship. Lovely view setting. Vaulted ceilings, large windows and patio doors lead to private setting of spectacular sunset views. **\$1,455,000**

## ORINDA



**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. **\$1,649,000**

## ORINDA



New Listing

**2 Scenic Drive** Exquisite custom estate in sought-after Glorietta neighborhood. Meticulously expanded & renovated by the artist owner. Fabulous kitchen opens to family room w/ French doors leading to patio & enchanting gardens. **\$1,995,000**

## ORINDA



New Listing

**50 Orchard Road** Fabulous 1930's Hacienda style with exquisite charm! Pool, spa, putting green and garden inside central courtyard. Updated kitchen with wine cellar, media room, and private master suite. **\$2,095,000**

## ORINDA



**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**

## ORINDA



**10 Winding Lane** A setting like no other. 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. **\$16,500,000**

## MORAGA



New Listing

**15 Tia Place** Spacious 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath home on cul-de-sac. Great location near schools and park. **\$1,195,000**

## 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

**603 Huntleigh Drive** Live in the heart of the fabulous Burton Valley neighborhood. Charming Marchant ranch, apx. 1749 sq. ft. with 4 beds, 2 baths. Lovely hardwood floors throughout, vaulted living room ceiling & spacious level yard. **\$1,195,000**

## LAFAYETTE



New Listing

**3176 Surmont Drive** Casual, elegant and inspired by Mid-Century Mountain home design, this amazing property has a 2642 sqft, 4 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath residence, plus spacious decks and patios, pool, spa and fabulous outdoor pavilion. **\$1,295,000**

## LAFAYETTE



New Listing

**3094 Hedaro Court** Totally updated top quality 4 bedroom, 2 bath, 2579 sq ft home with dual panes, Carrera marble kitchen/baths, open floor plan. Level lot, small court. Great entertaining inside & out! **\$1,298,000**

## LAFAYETTE



New Listing

**18 Toledo Court** Great Happy Valley neighborhood! .94 acre private setting at end of cul-de-sac with level yard, 2 tennis courts. High ceiling, walls of glass, large living & dining rms, kitchen opens to family rm, bonus rm. Top schools. **\$1,950,000**

## LAFAYETTE



**1200 Glen Road** Happy Valley Glen contemporary with fabulous views of Reservoir & hills. Updated kitchen & baths. 5 bedrooms + library + bonus room + full apartment attached. Close to town, BART. **\$2,375,000**

## LAFAYETTE



New Price

**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, outdr kitchen & pergola. **\$4,895,000**

## ALAMO



**212 Dorchester Lane** Incredible setting in Stonegate w/ stunning views of Diablo Foothills Regional Park. Updates throughout! Gorgeous kitchen! Spacious master suite on main level! Vaulted ceilings, hardwood floors & more! **\$2,195,000**

## DANVILLE



New Listing

**127 Lawnview Circle** Desirable community. Charming & updated throughout w/new flooring, custom paint, granite counter-tops, stainless appliances & updated baths. Spacious private patio, over-sized 2 car garage. Lush landscaping. **\$699,000**



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