

# Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 12 Issue 1 Wednesday, March 7, 2018



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

## Growing their backyard garden

By Cathy Dausman



Sharon Metcalf holds a tray of her Sun Gold tomato plants grown in her greenhouse from seeds. While Mt. Diablo in the background was snow covered, the plants survived the recent cold snap just fine.

Photo Andy Scheck

Sharon Metcalf's "little babies" are consigned to her backyard, and although recent nights have been frosty, her "babies" are staying nice and warm. Their nursery is a greenhouse shed on a raised platform on a Moraga hillside.

When Lamorinda Weekly visited, the vista of rolling green hills included a dusting of snow visible on Mt. Diablo's slopes, but full sun and a southeastern exposure ensured the temperature inside the greenhouse was noticeably warmer than ambient midday air temperature.

The view looking out was crystal clear. "I only wipe the panels maybe once a year on the inside," Metcalf said.

Metcalf is a self-taught gardener, who started as a child, following in her father's footsteps. "My Dad would love this," she said, gazing fondly at tomato starts of San Marzano, Roma, sun gold and Black Krim plus peppers, herbs and flowers including marigolds and her favorite – hollyhock – all poking their seedling heads out of potting soil for the requisite 60- to 90-day incubation period.

... continued on page D4

