

# Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 12 Issue 8 Wednesday, June 13, 2018



Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian

...read on page D12

## Spruce up the front entry for summer entertaining

By Amanda Eck



Front porch décor

I don't know about you, but I am ready for longer days and warmer temps. Every evening around 6 p.m. you will find me in the backyard, feet up with a glass of wine, enjoying the evening breeze. We love to entertain in the summer and have friends over for casual dinners or simple drinks and hors d'oeuvres. But before those guests filter out to the backyard they first must come through the front door. And as you know the first impression of any space starts at the front of the home. So here are some simple ways to spruce up your front porch.

1) **Give it a good clean.** Sweep away the dust and dirt and remove any cobwebs. Some front en-

trances may need a good power washing to remove any tough stains from the winter and spring rains.

2) **Add a pop of color.** One of the quickest ways to add some curb appeal is to paint your front door a bold bright color. Make sure you use a paint that is for exterior surfaces and is easy to clean. My favorite front door paint colors are Benjamin Moore Vine Green, Sherwin Williams Tri-corn Black, Benjamin Moore Palladian Blue, Benjamin Moore Rumba Orange, Sherwin Williams Red Tomato, and Benjamin Moore Sunburst.

3) **Update your address.** Does your house number need a little face-lift? I love adding some

modern metal or brass numbers to give the home a fresh look. You can find these at your local hardware store or one of my favorite online shops, Rejuvenation.com.

4) **Go Green.** If your porch gets sunlight, add some potted flowers. Or if you have a porch like mine that gets zero sunlight, go faux. I have two large urns with faux boxwoods on either side of my door. No watering required, but you do have to dust them from time to time.

5) **Light the way.** Update your outdoor lighting and it will give your space a fresh look instantly. Some great affordable outdoor lighting sources are Rejuvenation.com and CircaLighting.com.

... continued on page D4



Vine Green BM 2034-20



Tricorn Black SW 6258



Palladian Blue BM HC-144



Rumba Orange BM 2014-20



Red Tomato SW 6607



Sunburst BM 2023-40

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## Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

City	Last reported:	LOWEST AMOUNT:	HIGHEST AMOUNT:
LAFAYETTE	13	\$1,150,000	\$6,295,000
MORAGA	13	\$438,000	\$1,770,000
ORINDA	11	\$863,000	\$3,350,000

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

- 3318 Beechwood Drive, \$1,349,000, 4 Bdrms, 1499 SqFt, 1946 YrBlt, 4-30-18;  
Previous Sale: \$1,244,000, 07-31-15
- 4 Fernside Lane, \$6,295,000, 6 Bdrms, 6279 SqFt, 2001 YrBlt, 5-4-18
- 3511 Hamlin Road, \$1,825,000, 3 Bdrms, 2377 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 5-4-18;  
Previous Sale: \$1,067,500, 05-12-10
- 2264 Hidden Pond Lane, \$1,350,000, 4 Bdrms, 3188 SqFt, 1991 YrBlt, 4-30-18
- 3269 La Canada, \$2,520,000, 4 Bdrms, 2833 SqFt, 1941 YrBlt, 5-2-18;  
Previous Sale: \$1,680,000, 10-11-12
- 3464 Monroe Avenue, \$1,275,000, 3 Bdrms, 1164 SqFt, 1941 YrBlt, 5-4-18;  
Previous Sale: \$775,000, 09-30-08
- 1 Richelle Court, \$1,150,000, 3 Bdrms, 2048 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 4-27-18;  
Previous Sale: \$333,500, 09-22-94
- 3296 Springhill Road, \$1,830,000, 3 Bdrms, 4055 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 5-9-18
- 4030 Tilden Lane, \$1,675,000, 2 Bdrms, 1673 SqFt, 1936 YrBlt, 5-8-18
- 1740 Toyon Road, \$2,400,000, 5 Bdrms, 4308 SqFt, 2012 YrBlt, 5-9-18;  
Previous Sale: \$2,350,000, 07-25-14
- 1164 Upper Happy Valley Road, \$4,850,000, 4 Bdrms, 4175 SqFt, 1949 YrBlt,  
4-27-18; Previous Sale: \$3,700,000, 06-21-13
- 1001 Woodbury Road #102, \$1,250,000, 2 Bdrms, 1495 SqFt, 2015 YrBlt, 5-9-18;  
Previous Sale: \$1,340,500, 12-23-15
- 1008 Woodbury Road #202, \$2,300,000, 3 Bdrms, 2468 SqFt, 2015 YrBlt, 5-1-18

### MORAGA

- 110 Allen Court, \$1,485,000, 3 Bdrms, 2468 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 5-3-18;  
Previous Sale: \$505,000, 09-26-97
- 1969 Ascot Drive #C, \$438,000, 2 Bdrms, 938 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 5-1-18;  
Previous Sale: \$124,500, 01-14-93
- 1988 Ascot Drive #A, \$595,000, 3 Bdrms, 1472 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 5-8-18;  
Previous Sale: \$399,000, 12-19-03
- 605 Augusta Drive, \$760,000, 2 Bdrms, 1743 SqFt, 1976 YrBlt, 5-1-18;  
Previous Sale: \$690,000, 04-14-05
- 2 Baltusrol Street, \$950,000, 2 Bdrms, 1552 SqFt, 1979 YrBlt, 5-9-18;  
Previous Sale: \$682,500, 01-17-18
- 56 Buckingham Drive, \$828,000, 3 Bdrms, 1536 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 5-9-18
- 1631 Camino Pablo, \$1,365,000, 5 Bdrms, 2817 SqFt, 1968 YrBlt, 5-2-18;  
Previous Sale: \$885,000, 11-06-12
- 23 Carr Drive, \$1,225,000, 3 Bdrms, 1519 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 5-1-18;  
Previous Sale: \$1,030,000, 06-16-16
- 8 Duarte Court, \$1,770,000, 5 Bdrms, 3354 SqFt, 1999 YrBlt, 4-27-18;  
Previous Sale: \$1,340,000, 05-23-03
- 163 Paseo Del Rio, \$1,430,000, 4 Bdrms, 2925 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 4-27-18;  
Previous Sale: \$394,500, 12-08-88
- 1714 St. Andrews Drive, \$862,500, 2 Bdrms, 1590 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 5-8-18

... continued on page D13

# KPG + MORAGA

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# Spruce up the front entry for summer entertaining

... continued from page D1



**6) Watch your step.** And last, but not least, add a fun mat to welcome your guests. Now I am originally from the south, so I am all about a great monogrammed door-mat. But there are lots of other fun options out there. Pottery Barn and West Elm carry some nice ones, and for online sources try Ballarddesigns.com or Frontgate.com.

Now that you've freshened up the entrance it's time to welcome your guests for some relaxing summer fun. Try this easy hors d'oeuvre recipe, which has been a hit at my place. Happy Entertaining!

## Amanda's Easy Cheese Hors d'oeuvres

Manchego Cheese

Peach Preserves or Fig Preserves

Whole Almonds

Cut the manchego cheese into bite-size triangles; add a dollop of preserves and then top with an almond. Seriously the easiest and it pairs well with a summer sparkling Rose or Prosecco.

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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## Lamorinda Market Activity



### New Listing

65 Sleepy Hollow Lane | Orinda  
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### Pending

59 Corte del Caballo | Moraga  
Offered at \$1,428,000  
Representing Buyer

5 BR | 3 BA | 2,632± SQ. FT.

Monterey Colonial with fabulous floorplan and updated kitchen and baths on almost an acre. Special cul-de-sac location with great proximity to Campolindo High School.



### Sold

4008 Happy Valley Road | Lafayette  
Offered at \$1,849,000  
Represented Buyer

4 BR | 2.5 BA | 2,327± SQ. FT.

Ranch style home on a desirable lot with pool. Perfect opportunity to remodel/expand to create your dream home.



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Pending with multiple offers



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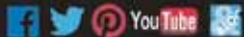
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**112 SLEEPY HOLLOW LANE- \$2,650,000**

**20 CAMINO SOBRANTE - \$1,205,000**

**7 OVERHILL ROAD - \$1,695,000 (P)**

*Off Market*  
**ORINDA HOME (P)**

*Handed over  
new keys*  
**IN LAMORINDA**

**115 CORAL DRIVE- \$1,310,115**

**1 HEATHER LANE - \$2,700,000**

**2 MODOC ROAD - \$3,340,000**

**3305 MILDRED LANE - \$1,447,426**

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## Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian

# Tea for two ... or three, four, or more!

By Cynthia Brian

*“There are few hours in life more agreeable than the hour dedicated to the ceremony known as afternoon tea.” – Henry James*



*The elegant musky scent of the hot pink Gertrude Jekyll climbing rose adds a robust flavor to teas and is gorgeous cascading over an arbor.*

*Photos Cynthia Brian*

From the time my daughter, Heather, was 3 years old, we enjoyed a ritual of drinking tea. Of course, it all began with Teddy Bear picnics and pretend doll teas. One day it escalated to brewing “real” herbal teas from the garden until it became our signature sacred Mother/Daughter sacrament where we would solve the woes of the world, and our own challenges, over an exotic potion crafted from what we grew.

Although we had consumed tea as children in my family, the formal tradition of afternoon tea began for me when I was a teen ambassador to Holland where I lived for 18 months. Every afternoon at 4 p.m. sharp, families, shopkeepers, professionals, and everyone else would stop to have a cup of tea. Tea bags were never used. All teas were brewed from loose leaves, and mixing up various concoctions was an honored ritual. Having tea and a “sweet,” usually a homemade shortbread or perhaps a slice of cake, was the perfect remedy for the midday drags. At exactly 4:30 p.m., it was back to work, school

and obligations.

Creating your own organic tea garden is easy and incredibly rewarding. Fruits, flowers, stems, and leaves can all be used to create luscious hot or cold beverages that can relax, revitalize, energize and calm. I am a huge fan of citrus. Lemons, limes, oranges, tangerines and tangelos all add a tremendous amount of zip and zest to teas. When I have to perform for a speaking engagement, or on a TV or radio show, I always drink several cups of a delicious natural brew from my garden that includes the juice, rinds and leaves of Meyer lemons, mint, chamomile and honey. My throat and vocal chords are cleared and my nerves are calmed, allowing me to perform with confidence.

### Plant Picks

Here are my picks for planting a tea garden in sun or shade. The bonus is that these are hardy perennials that will provide endless ingredients for a plethora of sweet and savory recipes including brewing tea.

- Bee Balm (citrus/spice flavor)
- Calendula (poor man’s saffron)
- Catnip (lemony-mint flavor ... cats love to roll in this herb)
- Chamomile (apple scented)
- Coriander (the seeds of cilantro offer warmth)
- Fennel (licorice flavor)
- Lavender
- Lemon verbena (lemony flavor)
- Mint (spearmint, peppermint, pineapple mint, or chocolate mint. Keep contained, if possible, as all mints are invasive.)
- Nasturtium (reseeds itself annually)
- Rose (the fragrance of the rose will determine the flavor)
- Rosemary
- Sage
- Scented geranium and pelargonium
- Viola (light violet flavor)

### Storing

Any herb or edible plant that you enjoy can be made into tea. Harvest early in the morning to capture the essential oils. Place the cuttings in a bowl of cool water to wash off any dirt or debris. Herbs can then be used fresh or they can be hung in a cool dark place to dry. Another easy drying technique is to place cleaned herbs, leaves, and flowers on a cookie sheet to dry in the sun. Or a fun trick to dry your teas is to put the cookie sheet with your herbs on the seat of your car with the windows rolled up. Park the car in the sun and within a few hours, your herbs will be dry and your car will smell garden fresh! Double win.

When storing herbs, make sure to label and date them to avoid confusion later. You can also freeze herbs in zip seal bags or make pretty herbal ice cubes for your next celebration. Ice cubes made from rose petals, violets, and the flowers of herbs are especially intriguing.

### Brewing

There are numerous ways to brew your teas. For hot teas, I fill a pretty teapot with the various ingredients that I think are needed for that day. Add boiling water to the concoction, allowing it to steep for 15 to 20 minutes. In the summer months, I muddle fruits in season – apricots, cherries, plums, peaches, grapes and strawberries. Using a strainer, I pour the tea into my favorite cups. (Tea drinking is a celebratory act and it is more festive to serve your teas in a cup that is appealing.) Another easy way is to use a press pot, called a French press, which I also use for my morning java. ... continued on next page

## Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

... continued from page D2

### MORAGA ... continued

5 Tappan Lane, \$3,350,000, 3 Bdrms, 3684 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 5-2-18;

Previous Sale: \$502,500, 07-14-95

377 Tharp Drive, \$1,450,000, 4 Bdrms, 2394 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 4-30-18

62 Warfield Drive, \$1,355,000, 4 Bdrms, 2038 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 5-4-18;

Previous Sale: \$360,000, 02-28-97

15 Wilder Road, \$2,500,500, 5 Bdrms, 5023 SqFt, 2015 YrBlt, 4-30-18;

Previous Sale: \$2,500,500, 03-07-18

### ORINDA

10 Beaconsfield Court, \$1,542,500, 4 Bdrms, 2492 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 5-8-18;

Previous Sale: \$127,000, 06-28-78

28 Brookwood Road, \$863,000, 4 Bdrms, 1454 SqFt, 1926 YrBlt, 5-4-18

32 Dos Posos, \$1,975,000, 4 Bdrms, 3163 SqFt, 1947 YrBlt, 5-4-18;

Previous Sale: \$1,639,000, 04-11-13

132 Fiesta Circle, \$1,010,500, 4 Bdrms, 1405 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 5-8-18

28 La Cresta Road, \$1,425,000, 4 Bdrms, 2386 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 5-2-18;

Previous Sale: \$445,500, 07-17-98

3 Owl Hill Court, \$1,328,000, 3 Bdrms, 1519 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 5-3-18;

Previous Sale: \$795,000, 11-07-12

102 Ravenhill Road, \$1,245,000, 1 Bdrms, 1532 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 5-3-18;

Previous Sale: \$569,000, 03-26-04

112 Sleepy Hollow Lane, \$2,650,000, 3 Bdrms, 2755 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 5-3-18

216 the Knoll, \$1,295,000, 3 Bdrms, 2408 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 5-8-18;

Previous Sale: \$925,000, 09-13-13



*Did you know that grenadine is made from pomegranates and its flowers?*

When you make your tea in clear glass you get to enjoy the mix of colors. Any leftover tea is poured into a glass pitcher and stored in the refrigerator for a refreshing cold brew.

Many people prefer to make a carafe of sun tea. In a clear glass jug, pour cold water over all of the ingredients you desire. Place the container in full sun with a lid or foil cover. It will take a full day to brew sun tea with the reward of a rich and robust taste.

Whether you enjoy fragrant, sweet, piquant or spicy, tea making is available to you from your garden. After a productive day of working in the garden, I reward my handiwork while sipping a tall glass of iced sun tea concocted from herbs, flowers, and fruits from my own plants. Ah, what a relaxing elixir pausing in the afternoon for tea is.

For years, my daughter and I hosted a radio segment and wrote a column called "Tea for Two: A Mother/Daughter Brew." Today, a cup of tea still connects us in continual conversation.

Plant your garden. It's teatime.



*Exotic lemongrass mixed with basil is refreshing, especially as iced tea.*

## Cynthia Brian's Mid-Month Gardening Tips

- **MULCH** your yard with three inches of wood chips or other organic materials to maintain temperature, prevent erosion, and keep your plants happy for the forthcoming hot weather.
- **FERTILIZE** with all purpose feed before the heat hits.
- **PLANT** Mexican Evening Primrose along a fence or in a wild setting for a pretty pop of pink that blooms only in daylight and thrives in poor soil.
- **WATER** your garden early in the morning, then at dusk for maximum absorption and minimal waste.
- **BUY** elegant, long-lasting peonies to add to your collection. Peonies like six hours of full sun in well-drained soil and they can live for 50 years or more. They bloom through June and their glossy green leaves remain green through winter when they die back to the ground, reemerging in spring. Peonies are one of my very favorite, no fuss, flowering shrubs.
- **GROW** a tea garden in containers filled with herbs and edible fragrant flowers such as rose, calendula, nasturtium and lavender.

Enjoy your final days of spring with a cup of your homegrown tea.

Happy Gardening. Happy Growing.



*Calendula, also known as poor man's saffron, provides a yellow color and light flavor to teas and broths.*  
Photos Cynthia Brian



*If you use cream in your tea, make a lavender cream. (Notice the honeybee in the flower).*



*Mexican Evening Primrose blooms only in the day and grows in poor soil.*



*Float a sprig of a scented pelargonium in hot water to infuse tea with a rich, relaxing essence.*



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Cynthia Brian, The Goddess Gardener, raised in the vineyards of Napa County, 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!® S01 c3. Tune into Cynthia's Radio show and order her books at [www.StarStyleRadio.com](http://www.StarStyleRadio.com).

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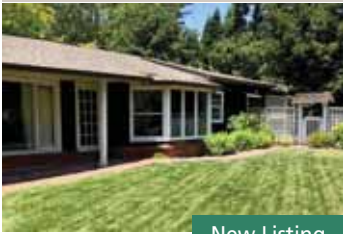
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## ORINDA

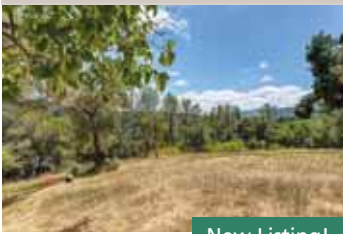


### 9 Rich Acres Road

Stunning custom with separate apartment at on gorgeous 3/4 acre. Take Berkeley Ave!

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## ORINDA



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## ORINDA



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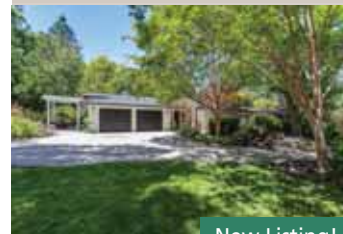
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### 3142 Windsor Court

One-of-a-kind updated property with stunning architectural character. 5 Beds/4+ Baths/approx. 5883 Sq Ft.

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## LAFAYETTE



New Listing!

### 3498 Springhill Court

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## LAFAYETTE



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## PLEASANT HILL



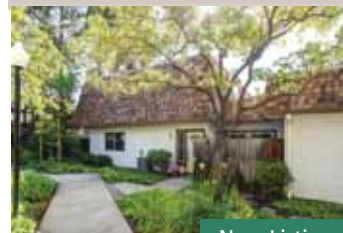
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### 469 Bifrost Avenue

Adorable two-story home convenient to commute, shopping, and close to 12+ years of school.

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### 1856 Holland Drive

Beautifully updated 2 bedroom/1.5 bathroom townhome with a flexible floor plan. Located in the Skywest neighborhood.

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