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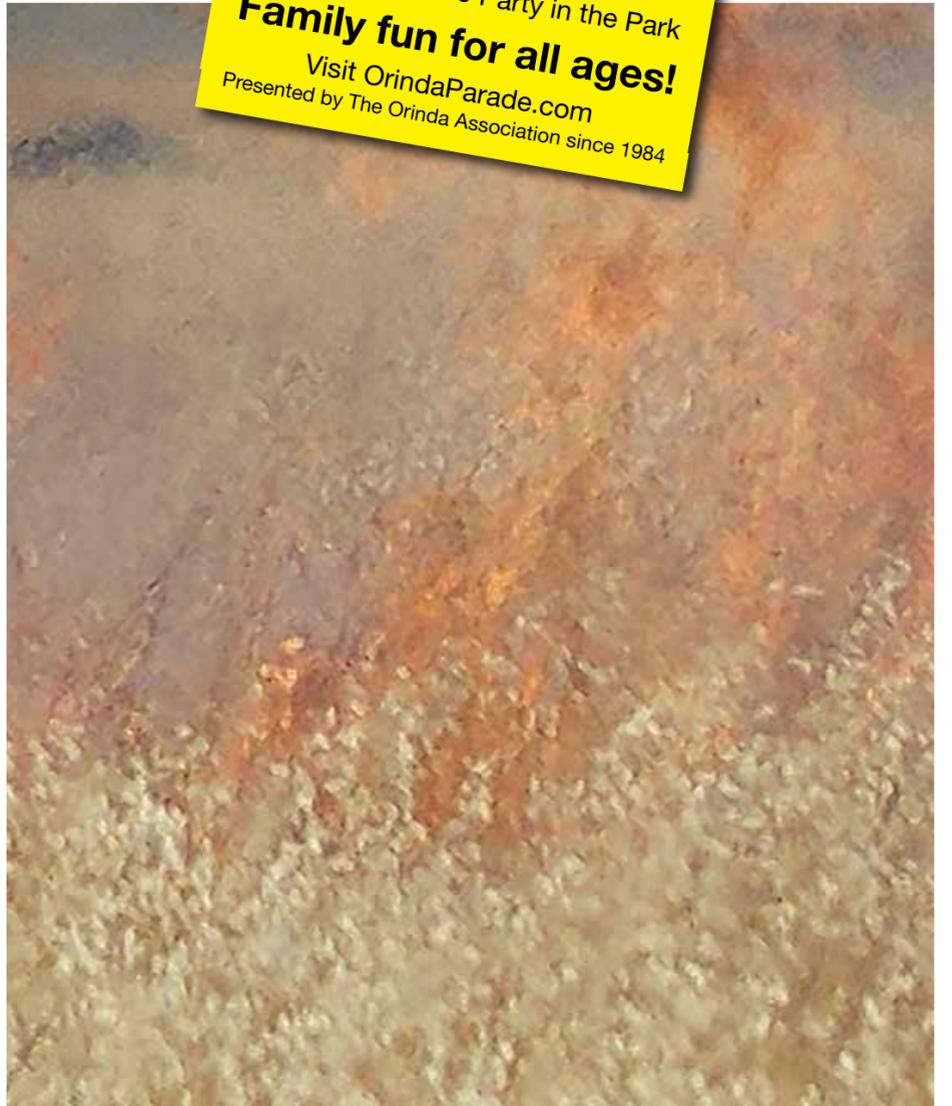
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A ConFire firefighter drops a lit sparkler in a nearby field. The vegetation was ablaze five seconds later.

Photos Nick Marnell

This happened in five seconds

By Nick Marnell

Capt. David Woods dropped a lit sparkler to the ground during a June 19 Contra Costa County Fire Protection District training session and in five seconds, the vegetation was completely ablaze. The exercise occurred in a confined, regulated space, with dozens of firefighters readily available.

If you try this at home, you will likely not be immediately surrounded by professional emergency personnel.

"Sparklers burn at 1,200 to 2,000 degrees. They can very easily start fires, they are not safe and they are illegal," said Capt. George Laing.

With the dry grasses in the area, illegal fireworks can

cause hundreds of fires, taking off the street firefighters who could answer other emergency calls. Laing recommends that you enjoy the aerial firework displays licensed and regulated by the fire districts, like the Fourth of July fireworks show put on by the town of Moraga.

"We do not need any more ignition sources," Laing said.

LAMORINDA WEEKLY

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City rushes to rezone as developer pursues original 315-apartment project

By Pippa Fisher



Aerial view of the Deer Hill Road development site.

Photo courtesy City of Lafayette

While Lafayette city leaders address the rezoning of the controversial land on Deer Hill

Road in order to bring it into compliance with the general plan, they also took the step of enacting a 45-

day moratorium temporarily halting any development on that land.

... continued on page A3

La Finestra deal to lease Hacienda falls through

By Nick Marnell

Fine dining at the Hacienda de las Flores will have to wait until at least 2019 after the La Finestra Restaurant pulled out of a potential deal to lease space at the Moraga landmark. Restaurant owner Jeff Assadi said the insurance liability was too high and that the required tenant improvements ran nearly double the original cost estimate.

"We would be leasing a portion of the building, and my liability within the leased area was OK. But since alcohol will be served there, anything that occurs anywhere on the property, we would be liable," Assadi said.

Because the building will become multiuse, additional requirements had to be met in order

to house a restaurant, including accessibility to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Also mandatory, according to the lease agreement, were renovations to the kitchen equipment and systems, including upgrades of the grease traps, the dishwasher, the hot water heater, the fans, the sewer connections and the fire suppression system. "There were expenses I never thought I would incur," Assadi said.

Town Manager Cynthia Battemberg said the town will apply for grant funding to comply with ADA regulations in the building, including upgrades to the bathrooms and the parking area. "By this time next year, the town could begin the work. ... continued on page A5

Civic News A1-A10

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Fire Districts A8

Fire code violations found at local schools – page A8.

Life in Lamorinda B1-B8

Cal Shakes' 'Quixote Nuevo' extends schedule – page B1.



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Lamorinda's Missing Link dirt bike team on the road – page C3.



Our Homes D1-D16

Working with kids around the home – page D1.





Public Meetings

City Council

Monday, July 9, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Planning Commission

Monday, July 2, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Design Review

Monday, July 9, 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 27, 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:

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New Lafayette parking lot promised by end of summer

By Pippa Fisher



Demolition will soon begin on the old pumping plant next to Ace Hardware to make space for a new parking lot. Photo Pippa Fisher

The long-awaited and much-needed new parking lot on the east end of Lafayette is getting

closer as the East Bay Municipal Utility District moves onto the next phase of work – the demolition of

the old plant.

Now that the new Diablo Vista pumping plant located at the south-

west corner of Mt. Diablo Boulevard and Mt. Diablo Court is up and running, serving Lafayette, Pleasant Hill and Walnut Creek, the time has come to demolish the old plant next to Ace Hardware at 3305 Mt. Diablo Blvd. to make way for a new car park.

Construction of the newly completed 16 million gallon per day facility included extending a 30-inch waterline up Mt. Diablo Boulevard. The new plant replaces the original 60-year-old plant, which had a capacity of only 12 million gallons per day and whose pumps were unreliable and inefficient.

EBMUD Senior Public Information Representative Jenesse Miller said that demolition of the old plant should be completed by midsummer. The utility company anticipates that the new parking lot will be in place by the end of summer 2018. Permanent paving in front of the new parking area will take place following the parking lot's completion.

Lamorinda Spirit Van celebrates 12 years of service to seniors

By Pippa Fisher



Eddie Carvalho with the 2009 Lunch Bunch.

Photo provided

This month sees the 12th anniversary of the Lamorinda Spirit Van. It is a remarkable achievement for any program but perhaps even more so in this case since the program is mostly operated by volunteers and is largely grant-reliant. The program is looking for additional volunteer drivers.

Program Director Mary Bruns says the Lamorinda Spirit Van gave its first ride on June 19, 2006 to the C. C. Café at the Walnut Creek Senior Center. The Spirit program serves adults age 60 and up who live in Lamorinda, although Bruns says most passengers are in their 80s and 90s and may have age-based disabilities.

"Some use canes and walkers; a few are in wheelchairs. Some have macular degeneration, which doesn't allow them to drive. We take people to destinations in Lamorinda, Concord, Martinez, Pleasant Hill, and Walnut Creek. We provide rides Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. to medical and personal appointments, grocery/sundry shopping, errands, classes, exercise, physical therapy, social occasions, lunch at the C.C. Café, and a few mini-day trips to local places of interest," says Bruns.

Bruns explains that she was hired by the city in mid-May 2006 to set up and operate the program as well as to keep it funded.

"The previous Senior Service

Coordinator, Mei Sun Li, met with Tighe Boyle and Paul Branson from the county and indicated that yes, older adults in Lamorinda needed transportation options once they could no longer drive. She set up community focus groups, and the public validated this need," explains Bruns.

Using a donated County Connection used vehicle and with funding from the city of Lafayette and the East Bay Community Foundation, and with support from the town of Moraga and the city of Orinda, the program was born.

Bruns says that the program hired its lunch driver, Eddie Carvalho, shortly thereafter.

"Mei Sun Li recruited three volunteer drivers who were later trained by the County Connection so that we could offer rides to errands and grocery shopping three afternoons a week," says Bruns.

Carvalho still drives for Spirit today. They now have an additional staff driver, Bob Kelly, who drives for some community events.

Bruns oversees funding, applying for grants as well as scheduling the drivers, ensuring the vans are serviced, recruiting and training of volunteers and for the dispatch paid staff. "Dispatch communicates with the passengers, schedules the next day's rides, and collects data for grant reports. Dispatch is a shared position among four people – each working one or two afternoons a

week."

Bruns says she is truly grateful for the community support without which the program would not exist, referring to their funding from the city of Lafayette, Contra Costa Community Development Block Grant, the County Connection, the Lamorinda Movers, the Lafayette Community Foundation, the Moraga Juniors and the Orinda Woman's Club, as well as passenger fares and individual donations.

The Lamorinda Spirit Van will be taking passengers to the Santa

Cruz Boardwalk on Saturday, June 30 and to John Muir Woods on Saturday, July 28. Bruns says that anyone interested in joining the fun should call (925) 283-3534 for details.

Currently the program has 11 volunteer drivers and Bruns says she is very grateful for them but adds that ideally she would like to have 20. Each volunteer generally drives one four-hour shift a week in the morning or afternoon. Bruns explains that the program now has two mini-vans, a nine-passenger

vehicle and a 12-passenger vehicle funded through the 5310 Federal Grant program. "With additional volunteer drivers, we could have two vehicles at a time out serving the community when there is high demand."

Any residents interested in volunteering should contact Bruns at mbruns@ci.lafayette.ca.us or call (925) 283-3534. It is a volunteer service greatly appreciated by those who would otherwise be unable to leave their homes.



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Rocking the Plaza in June

By Pippa Fisher



The Big Jangle perform on the Plaza on June 15. Photo Pippa Fisher

What gets Lafayette dancing in June? Rock the Plaza concerts every Friday night in June, of course.

Pictured is Lafayette resident and vocalist Kiki Stack performing with The Big Jangle – a Tom Petty cover band.

The Bay Area band performs Tom Petty and The Heartbreakers music as well as songs Petty performed with The Traveling Wil-

burys, The Byrds and Stevie Nicks, making for a perfect dancing evening.

The temperature was unseasonably cool June 15, but the atmosphere was warm and cheerful as the crowd enjoyed the music.

This Friday, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., June 29, the Plaza will be rocking to the sounds of this year's Lamorinda Idol finalists.

City rushes to rezone as developer pursues original 315-apartment project

... continued from page A1

Two days later the developer re-submitted plans for the original development – the 315 apartments known as The Terraces.

Following the failure of Measure L that would have approved a zoning change to low-density and would have allowed the development of 44 single-family homes at Deer Hill, along with a tot lot, sports field, dog park and extra parking, the 22-acre parcel reverted to high density administrative professional office zoning which must now be changed to be consistent with the general plan.

At the June 11 meeting the city council agreed to instruct the planning commission to consider several zoning choices that would bring the land in line with the general plan of up to two homes per acre. The planning commission was due to meet on Monday, June 25, after this edition of Lamorinda Weekly went

to press.

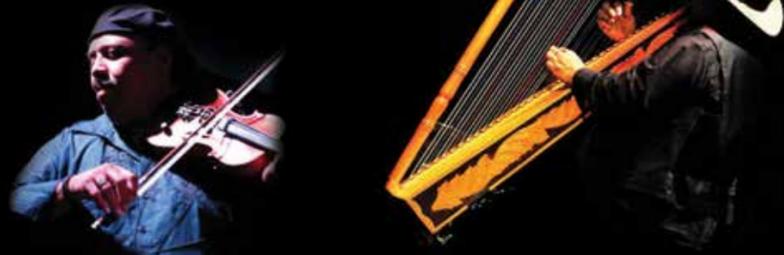
The council met at a special meeting on June 13, passing an urgency zoning ordinance enacting the 45-day moratorium on any uses that are inconsistent with the low density designation of the general plan.

On June 15 the city received a letter from the developer, O'Brien Homes, withdrawing the Homes at Deer Hill project and requesting the city immediately resume processing the apartment project, which had been suspended in 2014 when the developer and city worked out the lower-density Homes project. The city has 30 days from June 15 to respond.

Founder of the preservationist group Save Lafayette responsible for the "No on L" campaign, Michael Griffiths, is watching closely. "The eye of the storm is the rezoning now, as it impacts the apartments," he said.

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Lamorinda Movers is a group of over 300 fun-loving age 55+ members who get together the 2nd Monday of every month at the Saint Mary's College Soda Center for social hour, dinner and entertainment.

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Keith Katzman-President Lamorinda Movers



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Moraga

Public Meetings

City Council

Wednesday, June 27, 7 p.m.
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

Planning Commission

Monday, July 16, 7 p.m.
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

Design Review

Monday, July 23, 7 p.m.
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

School Board Meetings

Moraga School District
TBA
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School Auditorium
1010 Camino Pablo, Moraga
www.moraga.k12.ca.us
See also AUHSD meeting page A2

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

Department

Incident

Summary

Report

June 5 to June 18

Alarms	19
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	3
Traffic	64
Suspicious Circumstances	16
Suspicious Subject	5
Suspicious Vehicle	17
Service to Citizen	53
Patrol Request/ Security Check	38
Vacation House Check	22
Supplemental Report	6
Welfare Check	4
Barking Dog	
60 Block Lynwood Pl.	
Civil	
Calle La Mesncampolindo Dr.	
Civil Problem	
Rheem Theater	
Dependent Adult Abuse	
Wells Fargo	
Disturbing The Peace	
1200 Block Rimer Dr.	
Drunk In Public	
600 Block Moraga Rd.	
Excessive Speed	
Rheem Blvd./Moraga Rd.	
Moraga Rd./St. Marys (2)	
Moraga Rd./Rheem Blvd.	
Park St. at Dover Saddlery	
Fire/Ems Response Info	
Fayhill Rd./Rheem Blvd.	
Fraud Credit Card	
10 Block Greenfield Dr.	
Grand Theft	
Safeway	
Juvenile Disturbance	
Rheem Valley Shopping Center	
Litter	
Donald Dr./Moraga Rd.	
Lost Property	
Joaquin Moraga Int School	
Police Department	
Loud Noise	
2000 Block Ascot Dr.	
Loud Party	
Ascot Dr./Ascot Pl.	
Medical Police Needed	
Skate Park Moraga Commons	
Mentally Ill Commit	
Police Department	
Missing Adult	
300 Block Rheem Blvd.	
Other Felony	
Homegoods	
Other Infraction	
1000 Block Larch Ave.	
Petty Theft	
200 Block Rheem Blvd.	
400 Block Center St.	
Prowler	
400 Block Fernwood Dr.	
Public Assembly Check	
Rheem Valley Shopping Center (2)	
Campolindo High School	
Public Nuisance	
Rheem Valley Shopping Center	
Reckless Driving	
Redwood Rd Hwy/Bollinger Canyon	
Moraga Way/Hardie Dr.	
Moraga Way/Ivy Dr.	
St. Marys Rd./Moraga Rd.	
CVS	
Corliss Dr./Camino Ricardo	



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Planning love fest for coming Canyon Club Brewery

By Sophie Braccini

It is no longer a rumor. Canyon Club Brewery is slated to open its doors in Moraga, which some say is the coolest news for the town retail scene since the opening of Town Bakery. The planning commission on June 18 approved unanimously and enthusiastically the project presented by Kevin Hamilton and Ken Markey to transform the triangular-shaped former bank located at the northwest corner of the intersection of Canyon Road and Country Club Drive. The business partners are now anticipating the first Moraga brewed beer to be poured in the fall of 2018.

The morning after the meeting Markey was still basking in the happiness of the support the project had received from the community the night before. He said he was both excited and scared at the road in front of him and his partner: their idea has now become an obligation after the two signed a 40-year lease with the property owner, the Bruzzone family. For Markey this is it, the beginning of the creation of a legacy business for himself, his partner, their backers and the whole community. He said he wants Canyon Club Brewery to do for Moraga what Sierra Nevada Brewing Company did for Chico.

Markey and Hamilton come to this deal knowing what they are doing, with many years of hospitality and beer industry experience. Both dads became acquainted as their daughters are best friends. One day at one of those long Lamorinda summer swim meets that seem to drag on forever the two started sharing their project ideas and suddenly realized that they had both been working separately on similar business plans for a microbrewery in Lamorinda. They decided to combine their forces. Markey says that their skills dovetailed nicely. They created an LLC and opened 25 percent of the capital to local investors. Twenty-five families just like them, people with young kids wanting to have a cool place in town to hang out, invested alongside the two dads.

Markey and Hamilton decided to work with the best professionals to bring about their project. A rendering from architect Maxwell Beaumont shows a friendly and natural looking space inside and out, including a large patio at the corner of the street, conserving the two existing trees and surrounded by a 5-foot wood fence, for protection and alcohol rules enforcement. The two dads plan to have live music outside, weather permitting.

Joan Bruzzone and her son David came to the planning commission meeting in support of their new tenant. They both said they loved the enthusiasm of the part-



Renderings of the outside patio of the future Canyon Club Brewery in Moraga.

Photos provided

ners and what this new business will do for this part of town. Joan Bruzzone added that she was most impressed with ... the energetic and totally 'with it' new planning commission which, she hopes, will promote a new town concept of energizing business and growth. Like others who came to support Markey and Hamilton, they look forward to the grand opening.

The former bank has enough space to accommodate the brewing and storing equipment, and the plan is to brew three times a week. Markey says that they are hiring their master brewer from the UC Davis brewery engineering program, one of the most renowned programs in the nation. He says he prefers sessionable beers, but that they will also carry high quality wine on tap, as well as a few other craft beers. He expects Saint Mary's students will be attracted to the place, but he says that he and Hamilton want it to be suitable for families.

The brewery will also serve food that will appeal to most. Mar-



CANYON CLUB - PATIO SPACE



key says that they are partnering with a chef known as the maker of the best Texas King Ranch Chicken. He adds that the food will have a Tex-Mex flavor.

Steve Kowalski, senior planner for the town, started working with the partners two months ago. He said that getting a change in conditional use was needed for a bank to become a restaurant, but did not create any problem. He added that the site is located in the Moraga

Center Specific Plan area that calls for such use: a restaurant where alcohol is served, where people can hang out with family and friends and listen to live music. He adds that the Moraga noise ordinance should be enough to protect nearby residents, such as the seniors living at Moraga Royale or Aegis.

Hamilton and Markey are now ready for the construction to start. They plan to open the club in the fall.

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Moraga pension and legal costs soar, service cuts continue

By Nick Marnell

Unfunded pension liability payments for the town of Moraga are projected to more than double from three years ago, and the town's legal costs will exceed half a million dollars, based on the 2018-19 budget presented to the town council June 13 by administrative services director Joe Tanner.

Moraga's defined benefit pension plan is managed by the California Public Employees' Retirement System, which recently made adjustments to its demographic assumptions, lowered the assumed rate of return on plan investments from 7.5 percent to 7 percent, and shortened the amortization schedule for agencies to pay off their unfunded liabilities from 30 years to 20 years. The adjustments raise employer pension costs, imposing

on the town a higher unfunded liability payment. The town carries an unfunded pension liability of \$5.2 million.

The Moraga unfunded liability payment for 2018-19 is projected at \$323,500, more than double the payment made three years ago. Because of the changes recently instituted by CalPERS, the agency calculated that the town's unfunded liability payment will rise to more than \$770,000 in 2022-23.

Total pension expense includes not only the unfunded liability payment but also current costs, which for 2018-19 run \$322,079. Tanner estimates current costs will rise 2 to 3 percent yearly. Moraga's total pension expense of \$645,000 checks in as the highest operational expenditure after employee com-

pensation for the next fiscal year, followed by \$541,000 in legal expense, much of which is earmarked for hillside and ridgeline ordinance litigation.

Higher pension expense and legal costs, combined with the \$245,000 allocated to the storm water maintenance program, put added pressure on the Moraga \$9.25 million operating budget. According to the town 2018-19 budget presentation, "The budget does not restore service level reductions approved last year (with the exception of \$15,000 for janitorial services) which reduced park and facility maintenance; outside contract services for department operations; funding for elected, appointed and staff travel, training and educational conferences."

La Finestra deal to lease Hacienda falls through

... continued from page A1

Then we would issue an RFP for the restaurant, or renegotiate with Jeff," Battenberg said.

Moraga had agreed to rent Assadi 2,250 square feet of the Hacienda building, plus use of

the adjacent enclosed patio, for five years at \$5,625 monthly, with two five-year renewal options. The town also agreed to fund \$60,000 for required tenant improvements.

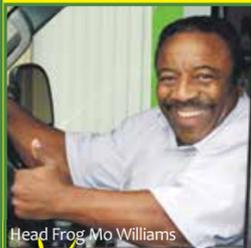
"I spent a lot of time and energy to make this deal come through," Assadi said. "If the town can provide us a space that is ADA accessible and up to code, I'd love to be a part of Moraga."

4th of July Activities All Day Moraga Commons Park



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Orinda

Public Meetings

City Council

Tuesday, July 10, 7 p.m.
Library Auditorium, Orinda Library
26 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563

Planning Commission

Tuesday, July 17, 7 p.m.
Library Auditorium, Orinda Library
26 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563

Citizens' Infrastructure

Oversight Commission

Wednesday, July 11, 6:30 p.m.
Sarge Littlehale Community Room,
22 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563

School Board Meetings

Orinda Union School District

TBA
Regular Board Meeting
8 Altarinda Rd., Orinda
www.orindaschools.org
See also AUHSD meeting page A2

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



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Mid-cycle budget approved; includes new library parcel tax

By Sora O'Doherty

New Finance Director Paul Rankin presented his first mid-cycle budget to the Orinda City Council on June 12 as part of a two-year budget adopted May 2017, covering fiscal years 2017-19. According to the staff report, since the budget relies on estimates and projections, it is appropriate to periodically review the financial plan and make adjustments as necessary. The council approved this budget on June 19. Rankin explained to the council that he has a different way of do-

ing things, so they would notice some changes, which he believes contribute to greater transparency. This involves reducing the practice of allocating staff across multiple departments instead of reporting all costs in their "home" department. As a result, there are more significant changes in this mid-cycle budget than in the past. Reimbursed consultant costs are now included, showing the costs as well as the reimbursing revenue. In the past these had been zeroed out, but this led to significant costs and revenues not being included in the budget. Now, the full costs of each department will be visible.

The mid-cycle budget still reflects the impact of the Miner Road sinkhole repair. The repair was completed in less than six

months, and \$3.75 million was advanced from the general fund to complete the work. The process of reimbursement continues.

According to City Manager Steve Salomon, there has been a net positive impact of over \$1 million on the city's finances as a result of revenue increases, and expenditure reductions. Revenue increases include the library parcel tax, the solid waste vehicle road maintenance fee, the collection of transient occupancy taxes from short-term rentals, and other increased fees. Expenditure reductions include a net staffing reduction of 1.6 full-time positions, elimination of subscriptions to newspapers, and consolidation of the distribution of the Orinda Way publication with the Parks and Rec brochure. In addition, the Big Bel-

ly trash and recycling receptacles provide more efficient servicing of trash in public areas. Property tax revenue is up by 4 percent and sales tax revenue is projected to increase by 3 percent in 2018-19.

The mid-cycle budget also highlights increased maintenance expenses in the Parks and Rec Department as two new fields at Wilder have been completed and are in operation and the Art and Garden Center is expected to open within a couple of months. Public Works will receive additional funding to provide supplemental professional engineering services to help address the city's backlog of projects. Information technology will get an additional \$100,000 for critical improvements to the network and software systems and an aging telephone system.



Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report

June 3 to June 16

Alarms	62
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	10
Traffic	86
Suspicious Circumstances	9
Suspicious Subjects	13
Suspicious Vehicles	14
Patrol Request/ Security Check	23
Service to Citizen	52
Supplemental Report	14
Vacation House Check	24
Welfare Check	10

Accident Property

- 10 Block Camino Pablo Safeway
- Santa Maria Way/Camino Pablo Miner Rd./Gardiner Ct.
- Camino Pablo/Brookwood Rd. Ardilla Rd./North Ln.
- Camino Pablo/Monte Vista Rd.

Auto Burglary

- 60 Block Moraga Way (2)

Battery

- Safeway

Civil

- Park N Ride
- 100 Block Lombardy Ln.
- Citibank
- 30 Block Camino Don Miguel
- 500 Block Dalewood Dr.

Death Non Criminal

- 10 Block Chelton Ct.
- Orinda Convalescent

Disturbance-Fight Prom Shoot

- Camino Pablo/Ardilla Rd.

Disturbing The Peace

- 50 Block Underhill Rd.
- Ardilla Rd./North Ln.
- St. Stephens Dr./El Nido Ranch Rd.
- Sleepy Hollow School
- 500 Block Dalewood Dr.

Dui Misdemeanor

- Orinda Way/Santa Maria Way

Embezzlement

- Safeway

Grand Theft

- 20 Block Bel Air Dr.

Grand Theft From Building

- 20 Block Knickerbocker Ln.

Hit And Run Misdemeanor

- Moraga Valley Swim And Tennis

Identity Theft

- 100 Block Camino Don Miguel

Juvenile Disturbance

- 10-00 Block Edgewood Rd.
- Miramonte High School

Litter

- Rheem Blvd./Zander Dr.

Loud Music

- 10 Block Southwood Dr.
- Moraga Way/Glorietta Blvd.
- 10 Block Great Oak Cr.
- Monte Veda Dr./Moraga Way
- Great Oak Cr./Orchard Rd.

Loud Noise

- 10 Block Harran Cr.
- 10 Block Monte Veda Dr.
- 10 Block Great Oak Cr.

Loud Party

- Great Oak Cr./Orchard Rd.
- Ivy Dr./Arroyo Dr.
- Miramonte High School
- 10 Block Loma Linda Ct.
- 30 Block Sleepy Hollow Ln.

Medical Hospital

- 10 Block Las Piedras

- 600 Block Tahos Rd.
- 30 Block Fallen Leaf Terrace
- Theatre Square
- Library

Ordinance Violation

- El Toyonal/Chapparral Pl. (2)
- 50 Block La Espiral
- North Ln./Ardilla Rd.
- La Espiral/La Vuelta
- 20 Block Overhill Rd.
- 40 Block Overhill Rd. (2)
- 100 Block Oak Rd.
- 10 Block Great Oak Cr.

Other Misdemeanor

- CVS

Panhandling

- Europa Hofbrau

Petty Theft

- 20 Block Orinda Way

Petty Theft From Vehicle

- 80 Block Tara Rd.

Possession Of Stolen Product

- 8 Miner Rd./Bien Venida

Prom Shoot

- 200 Block Lomas Cantadas
- 10 Block Valley Dr.
- Sundown Terrace/Happy Valley Rd.

Public Assembly Check

- 10 Block Camino Sobrante
- Miramonte High School
- 20 Block Orinda Way (2)
- 10 Block Camino Sobrante

Public Nuisance

- Theatre Square
- 50 Block Moraga Way
- 40 Block Sanborn Rd.

Reckless Driving

- Camino Sobrante/Miner Rd.
- Eb Sr 24 At Camino Pablo
- 200 Block Longview Terrace
- Camino Pablo/Bear Creek Rd. (2)
- Camino Pablo/Eb Sr 24
- Lombardy Ln./Miner Rd.
- San Pablo Dam Rd./Bear Creek Rd. (2)
- Eb Sr 24 At St. Stephens Dr.
- Camino Pablo/Camino Sobrante
- Camino Pablo/Wb Sr 24
- Camino Pablo/Santa Maria Way
- Moraga Way/Valley View Dr.
- Camino Pablo/Orinda Way

Residential Burglary

- 600 Block Greystone Terrace

School Assembly Check

- Orinda Intermediate School
- Miramonte High School (3)

Shoplift

- Safeway (2)

Traffic Hazard

- Camino Pablo/Miner Rd.
- Moraga Way/Camino Pablo
- Camino Pablo/Orinda Way
- Moraga Way/Coral Dr.
- Woodland Rd./La Cresta Rd.

Trespass

- El Ribero/Camino Sobrante

Unwanted Guest

- Safeway

Vandalism

- Beverages And More

Vehicle Theft

- Police Department
- 40 Block E Altarinda Dr.
- Beverages And More

Verbal Dispute

- 10 Block Vista Del Orinda
- 30 Block Claremont Ave.
- 10 Block Richard Ct.

Walk Through

- 10 Block Camino Sobrante (2)

Warrant Arrest

- Shell Gas
- Miramonte High School
- Safeway

Community Park Master Plan rewrite responds to community concerns

By Sora O'Doherty

The revised master plan for the Orinda Community Park adopted by the city council on June 12 appears to make everybody happy. When plans for revising the plan were brought to the council last March, there was a public outcry against some aspects of the plan, which would have basically ended the three-decades-long run of the Orinda Starlight Village Players and replaced the popular tennis wall with bocce ball courts. The new plan does not include bocce ball courts, which may later be

placed in another location, such as Orinda Oaks Park. OSVP will be accommodated with a box office and a bathroom nearby, while another bathroom will be located nearer the children's playgrounds.

Todd Trimble, director of Parks and Recreation, said that the original plan was assessed as requiring \$25 million, but that the new plan might cost even less. Carolyn Mills, chair of the Parks and Rec Foundation, said that the foundation, which has raised millions of dollars for recreation in Orinda since its inception in 1975

before Orinda was incorporated, supports the new plans. Former mayor Laura Abrams also supports the new plans, and was happy to see the tennis practice wall remaining and OSVP being accommodated. Jill Gelster of OSVP thanked the council for accommodating the group with the box office and bathroom. Vice Mayor Inga Miller was also happy to endorse the changes, having served as liaison to the Parks and Recreation Commission before being elected to the city council.

Community gathers for movies in the park

There's something magical about watching one of your favorite movies on fresh cut grass with a picnic dinner under the stars. Lamorinda residents can gather together at the Orinda Community Park this summer to watch some great films, starting with "Despicable Me" on June 28, starring the voice of Steve Carell as the supervillain Gru. Movies begin at dusk. Bring your minions to this magical event, and don't forget your unicorn!

- Other upcoming movies:
- "Mary Poppins" - July 12
- "Coco" - July 26
- "Wonder" - Aug. 9

- J. Wake



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Eisen-Letunic wins streetscape master plan contract

By Sora O'Doherty

With Council Member Eve Phillips casting the single vote against, the Orinda City Council on June 19 awarded a \$250,000 contract to Eisen-Letunic to create a Streetscape Master Plan for downtown Orinda. Phillips was skeptical about the ability of the group to be impartial in seeking and incorporating views of all types of Orinda residents. She cited some statements in the proposal that gave her concern, such as, "The city's recent planning efforts have revealed that some longtime Orinda residents, business owners and other stakeholders are resistant to change ..." while referring to other groups, such as What's Up Downtown Orinda and Orinda Vision, as "blossoming." Elsewhere the proposal says, "This plan seeks to pursue the perspectives of newer residents and others tuned into regional issues like housing affordability and availability and the advantages of a less auto-focused lifestyle."

Planning Director Drum-

mond Buckley introduced the proposal at the June 12 council meeting and stated that Eisen-Letunic had scored far higher than the other six proposals the city had received in response to its request for proposals. After Phillips had expressed her concerns on June 12, the council asked Eisen-Letunic to return on June 19 to address the issues raised. The council heard from Victoria Eisen, principal of Eisen-Letunic, the company that specializes in transportation, environmental and urban planning, as well as team members John Gibbs, landscape architect and urban designer, and Ryan McClain, a civil engineer who will focus on a creek survey and green infrastructure.

Gibbs, of WRT, spoke of his work in Willets, a community that wanted downtown development but also to retain the city's industrial aspects, on Miller Avenue in Mill Valley, an affluence community in Marin County which involved telling the story

of the rise of Mount Tamalpais, and in Yountville, where the town wanted to emphasize wine culture and authenticity. McClain, of Fehr & Peers, talked about his work in Palo Alto, on a citywide pedestrian project that was community focused. He referred to the concept of connectivity for all ages, 8 to 80, that Mayor Amy Worth had brought up after attending an event with Vice Mayor Inga Miller.

Eisen explained to the council how the group plans to work with the community to come up with solutions that have broad-based support with a six-step plan that includes the publication of a briefing booklet for the community, workshops to acquire concept alternatives, a celebration during which they will receive feedback on their recommendations, implementation to refine the recommendations, and then the final master plan which will include strategies for the prioritization of elements of the plan with a focus on costs. The group

will seek to identify goals that can successfully be grant funded.

Miller asked if the planned tours of the Crossroads Theatre Square area and the Village side will be available to participants on both sides of town, and was assured that they will. Council Member Darlene Gee asked about plans to communicate with people who cannot attend the meetings, and Eisen said that they planned to get the word out at community events, such as the Farmers' Market. In response to a question from Worth about taking all opinions into account, Eisen said that "there is no benefit to imposing any ideas we may have" on the community. "We'll be trying to come up with something everybody embraces," she added.

In public comments, Bruce London said he didn't see why Orinda needed another plan, since, after all, he said, they already have the bicycle, trails and walkways master plan. Dan De Busschere said that the providers

of grant funding are anti-automobile and, in Orinda, he said, that amounts to age discrimination. Chris Kniel said, "I think we've got our priorities all screwed up; we're missing the boat entirely." Richard Colman urged putting a moratorium on development, arguing that Orinda schools are already overcrowded. But Tom d'Amato of the Chamber of Commerce said that the chamber supports the proposal. "A development moratorium is the last thing we need," he declared, but urged the group to not rely on people coming to them, but to go out to public meetings, etc. Greg Haete also supported the proposal, saying that he wants to see a community with "thriving businesses where people can walk, bike, and connect with both sides of Orinda." He concurred with staff's recommendation to hire the group, saying that they "have the ability to bring together all stakeholders, not just the most vocal."

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Fire Districts

Public Meetings

Moraga-Orinda Fire District Board of Directors
Wednesday, July 18, 7 p.m.
Go to the website for meeting location, times and agendas. Visit www.mofd.org

ConFire Board of Directors
Tuesday, July 10, 1:30 p.m.
Board Chamber room 107,
Administration Building,
651 Pine St., Martinez
For meeting times and agendas,
visit <http://alturl.com/5p9pu>.

MOFD projects a strong fiscal year ahead

By Nick Marnell

The Moraga-Orinda Fire District board approved the 2018-19 district budget at its June 20 meeting, and continuing along the same healthy financial track as many Lamorinda public agencies, MOFD projects a general fund balance of \$5.9 million, the highest number in its history. The projected general fund balance of 24 percent of 2018-19 general fund revenue exceeds the 17 percent board policy, though the district goal is to achieve a 50 percent reserve.

The most controversial budget

item was the funding of the district retiree health care and pension stabilization trusts. The district set up the two trust funds in order to mitigate the fluctuations of payments demanded by its pension fund manager, the Contra Costa County Employees Retirement Association.

In 2018, each trust was funded at \$374,000. For 2019, the board recommended a funding increase in the retiree health care trust to \$440,000 and in the pension stabilization fund to \$1.1 million. The strategy was vilified by the

firefighters and Director Kathleen Famulener, who questioned the timing of the increased expenditure with labor negotiations ongoing. The district contract with its firefighters expires on June 30.

Fire Chief Dave Winnacker stressed at the meeting that the \$1.5 million, though budgeted, will not be immediately transferred into the trust funds. "This projection is tentative," the chief said. "The actual amount of the transfer will be determined by a later board action, and the transfer of funds may only

occur after the board makes that determination."

The basic numbers read this way: general fund revenue up 8.7 percent to \$24.6 million, primarily due to a 6.1 percent projected increase in property tax revenue. General fund expenses are projected to rise 7 percent to \$23.4 million.

The district also expects to complete the construction of Fire Station 43 in north Orinda in the next fiscal year.

Nearly 200 fire code violations uncovered at Lamorinda schools

By Nick Marnell



Photo Nick Marnell

During the most recent fire inspections of Lamorinda public and private schools, fire officials discovered dozens of code violations that ranged from undocumented fire alarm testing and blocked exits to faulty wiring and improper storage of hazardous materials.

State law requires that the Moraga-Orinda Fire District and the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District inspect all K-12 schools, public and private, in their districts once a year. MOFD schedules its inspections starting the last week of July, so the latest information on the 23 Moraga and Orinda schools is from 2017. ConFire completed inspections of the 11 Lafayette schools in mid-June. Fire officials sent their latest inspection reports for this newspaper to review.

Most of the Lamorinda schools

were built long ago, with not enough electrical outlets to handle life in the 21st century. Electrical issues ran high on the list of violations. Examples from the inspection reports included "Remove refrigerator from power strip" and "Remove extension cord and replace with permanent wall outlet."

Excessive storage in exit corridors, and around electrical outlets, did not please the inspectors: "Remove storage in front of electrical panels in electrical room near elevator equipment room on the east side of campus." Signage problems were pointed out at a number of the schools: "Repair exit sign rear west entrance of multipurpose room." Heaven help if an active shooter sprouts up on campus, and kids' egress is impeded by storage material or broken exit signs.

Fire inspectors see many things that the lay person will miss, like

violations of improperly marked flame retardant furniture or wall coverings. Often curtains do meet the flame retardant requirement, but if they do not carry a label, the inspector will write up a violation.

Even shoddy housekeeping made the violations list: "Clean dryer vent monthly or more often depending on amount of use," "Computer lab - clean around extinguisher" and "Foyer emergency light non-operable." One school was advised to "Remove bean bags in Room 8."

A hazardous materials violation was reported at Orinda Intermediate School, which had 20 total code violations, the highest number in the fire district. "Storing incompatible materials together, like an oxidizer with gasoline, can result in a violation," said Kathy Leonard, MOFD fire marshal.

Since schools have fire sprinklers, the level of fire safety is very high, said Robert Marshall, ConFire fire marshal. But the schools need to have the sprinkler system looked at and provide documentation of the system maintenance and testing. Same with fire alarms and hydrants. It's great to have them in the schools, but they must be maintained. "Provide annual fire alarm test/inspection documentation" was a

common violation uncovered.

For follow-up on simple fixes, MOFD allows the schools one week. If the repairs will take two weeks, the schools need to communicate with the fire district, whose schools recorded 131 fire code violations. "We grind down hard on them. We want this work done when the kids get back to school," Leonard said. ConFire, which reported 68 violations in Lafayette, gives the schools 30 days to get into compliance.

Springhill Elementary led the way among Lafayette schools with 39 violations. "The public has my absolute assurance that we will fix these problems and do it correctly," said Lafayette School District Superintendent Rachel Zinn. "And we will do it as soon as possible."

There was no argument from school officials about the requirement that their schools strictly comply with the fire inspectors' recommendations. "Regular fire inspections are part of a comprehensive safety plan to ensure school safety for students and staff," said Bruce Burns, superintendent of the Moraga School District. "We are grateful for the professionally conducted inspections, insights, recommendations, time to address corrections and timely follow-up."

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Cities vie with state of California over control of BART lands

By Sora O'Doherty

The League of California Cities has recently taken a stand in opposition to Assembly Bill 2923, that would allow Bay Area Rapid Transit to construct housing on any land it owns within a half mile of a BART station free from local control. The bill was introduced by Assembly members David Chiu of the 17th District (mainly San Francisco) and Timothy Grayson of the 14th District (including Pleasant Hill, Concord and Martinez) and is scheduled for committee hearings in June.

Lafayette Mayor Don Tatzin sent a Transit-Oriented Development Notice of Opposition to Chiu stating that the city of Lafayette must oppose the bill as it gives BART land use authority over BART owned property within a half mile of an existing or planned BART station. "It is very important to note," the notice continues, "that land use regulation is a Constitutionally-granted local government function of cities and counties." Tatzin warns that "bestowing land use power onto a transit agency that is unaccountable to community members is contrary to existing law and may violate Article XI, section 11 of the State Constitution." The LOCC echoes Tatzin's words. Tatzin raises several additional

concerns about the bill, including its vagueness. He raises the specter that BART could engage in land speculations, purchasing properties and imposing on them development standards in conflict with the local general plan. BART could then, he posits, lease the properties to the highest bidders.

Orinda Mayor Amy Worth said that she too is writing in opposition to the bill, as are the mayors of other cities on the BART line. Every year, she said, the state brings legislation that would erode local control, but it would be more effective to work collaboratively. Last year, according to Worth, the Assembly gave BART authority to buy land within a half mile of BART stations. The BART parking lot in Orinda, she noted, is not owned by BART but leased from Caltrans. Each community is different, according to Worth, and has different needs. Orinda is a suburban community, and residents are pretty much limited to accessing BART by driving to the station and parking. If BART were to acquire the Caltrans property, the city would work with BART, but, Worth explained, Orinda incorporated precisely for the purpose of obtaining local control over land use.

Orinda is pretty much built out at this point. Owing to the difficulty of the landscape, Worth thinks that use of electric bikes will increase, and thinks that BART should increase parking for motorcycles, scooters and electric bikes. She is also optimistic about the success of Orinda's multi-modal downtown streetscape. Worth acknowledges the need for more housing in the Bay Area. But cities don't build houses, she says. However, she pointed to the successful senior housing development, Eden. The city worked with Eden. The land was owned by the city, which found a nonprofit land developer. Eden leases the property and manages the senior development. One of the chief deterrents to improving housing stock, Worth said, is that cities no longer have access to redevelopment funds. Since that change, housing production has slowed way down, she said. Cities may zone for housing, but they can't make developers build it. She pointed to the city of Richmond as an example. On the other hand, there is significant development near BART stations in Pleasant Hill, Lafayette and Concord, and other cities in Contra Costa and Alameda Counties.

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Letters to the Editor

Interesting Moraga budget report

Having heard from opponents before Moraga's storm drain election that there was no need for a new revenue stream, I found the June 13 budget report by the administrative services director interesting. In his report to the Moraga Town Council he said that there is an annual shortfall of \$400,000 in funding to keep the condition of the streets at

its current level, and there is an annual shortfall in funding the stormwater program of \$542,000.

"A revenue source will need to be identified in the future to address the town's aging infrastructure," he concluded. His full report is available on the town's website: moraga.ca.us.

Dale Walwark
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

911 texting now available in Lamorinda

By Nick Marnell

You can now text 911 in case of an emergency in Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda, but the program still has a major hurdle to clear to offer seamless emergency texting service.

On June 13, the Contra Costa County Office of the Sheriff rolled out its Text to 9-1-1 program, which allows the county dispatch center to handle text messaging in addition to voice calls from your cell phone.

According to the sheriff's office, when texting 911, enter those numbers in the "To" field of your cell phone. In the body of the message, include the exact location of the emergency and whether you need police, fire or an ambulance. Keep texts short and simple, with no photos or videos, and do not include abbreviations, jargon or slang.

"Make the phone call when you can. It's so much faster," said Will Pigeon, Contra Costa County Fire Protection District assistant fire chief, communications division. Pigeon said that text notifications can take 10 minutes or longer before dispatchers can determine the exact details of the incident. The sheriff's office also recommends to text only when you cannot make a phone call.

The chief listed situations that especially call for emergency text messaging, such as an incident involving a person with a hearing or speech impediment, or during a cell phone call overload period when text messages can still get through. A person who hears an intruder inside the home may not want to risk speaking aloud, so texting 911 would be the preferred

choice there. "Or in a hostage situation, with someone held at gunpoint and who cannot make a phone call," Pigeon said.

The county uses a web-based Text to 9-1-1 solution, and the dispatcher may not know the exact location of the caller. "We will know what cell tower the call comes in from with some reliability; however, the distance from the cell tower can be several hundred meters. A caller must be able to text us their location," said Jimmy Lee, director of public affairs for the sheriff's office.

Lee said that the Text to 9-1-1 program is temporary, until Next Generation 911 service is available nationwide. NG911, which has no target date for implementation, is a more resilient, digital system that allows voice, photos, videos and text messages to flow seamlessly from the public to the 911 network.

Text to 9-1-1 is available only in English and is not available in every area of California. Should you text 911 in an unavailable location, you will receive this message: "Make a voice call to 911 for help; text to 911 is not available." Lee said that the state has requested that all agencies in California be Text to 9-1-1 capable by Dec. 31.

The ConFire dispatch center receives most of the calls for fire and ambulance from the sheriff's office communications center and dispatches appropriate personnel to all points of the county. The Moraga-Orinda Fire District contracts with ConFire for its dispatch service.

Community kicks off Moraga's Thursday night Summer Concert Series



Hunter Mason, age 2, of Moraga, enjoys the music with his dad Will. Photos Cathy Dausman



Adults get into the swing of things at the first summer concert at the Moraga Commons.



A sunny first day of summer and good music at Moraga Commons.

Local restaurants optimize the outdoors

By Pippa Fisher



Outdoor diners enjoy the summer sun at Batch and Brine in Lafayette.

Photo Andy Scheck

Making the most of the area's beautiful climate by offering outside dining is nothing new -- in fact these days it's an almost obligatory trend along restaurant row. But Lafayette's latest eatery Batch and Brine has really embraced it. And they are getting it right.

In fact there is a deliberate continuation of outside brought inside, thanks to the restaurant's tall, fold-back windows that open up the interior for an airy feel. The outdoor walls are a mixture of reclaimed wood and "living" walls, planted with succulents. The patio wraps around the building and features a fire pit with lounge seating. There is a counter facing the street for those who enjoy people-watching.

"There isn't a bad seat in the house," says co-owner Celina Gonzales, explaining that the design was planned to allow maximum visibility across the entire restaurant, both inside and out, to encourage a community feel. Gonzales draws attention to the low booths and open, curved walls, which she notes were all part of the vision.

The ambience is upscale "cool." More Oakland than traditional burbs, and that, says Gonzales, is a hit with the changing demographic of Lafayette. She says she loves to see families coming in with their kids on scooters. But it's not just young families -- the restaurant is attracting a mix from young professionals to older groups. She says the community has been very supportive and excited about this new venture. Watching recent Warriors' games on the big screen TV and now the World Cup is are examples of the community feeling the place fosters.

Batch and Brine, which moved into the old Swaad Indian restaurant location and knocked through into what used to be a knitting shop, had its official opening at the beginning of June.

The hipster vibe is evident from the custom-painted murals by Berk Visual -- also responsible for menu design, coasters, T-shirts and even the eye-catching bathroom stall graffiti-style décor. The interior design by Crome Architecture is modern and sleek.

The restaurant is family-owned by siblings Mike, Rolla, and David Ghaben together with their cousins Sam Ghaben and Celina Gonzales and their son Victor Ghaben. This ain't their first rodeo. Together this family brings many years of restaurant experience to the venture, coming from their family restaurants La Ultima of Oakland, Danville and

Walnut Creek and Hof Brau and Hubcaps of Walnut Creek. They now have three generations of owner-operator experience, overseeing multiple East Bay locations of Black Bear Diner, Mel's Diner and two Broderick Roadhouse locations.

It's quite a pedigree and it all started with patriarch Zafer Ghaben. "My father is the rock of the family," acknowledges Rolla Ghaben, attributing everything they have learned of guest relations to him.

Many of the recipes, such as the falafel and kofta burgers on the menu are family recipes handed down from Zafer Ghaben who, although now retired at 82, still comes by the restaurant and heads straight for the kitchen.

The name Batch and Brine represents the small batch beers, wines and spirits on the menu and the family's culinary techniques.

The food itself reflects the blend of the family's Mediterranean and New Mexican heritage with bold flavors and locally sourced, seasonal produce. Rolla Ghaben, whose favorite is the kafta burger, points out that the house-made pastrami involves a 13-day brining process.

Not surprisingly, the family brought in a world-class chef to lead the operation -- Executive Chef David Suarez who trained under Chef Thomas Keller in New York. The result is surprisingly excellent food, from Victor Ghaben's hatch chile burger to Suarez' steak au poivre burger. Must-tries on the menu include the duck and cheese fries.

All the food is beautifully presented; no detail overlooked. "Food is art," says Rolla Ghaben simply.

The restaurant offers a brunch menu on Saturdays and Sundays featuring several different Benedict-style egg dishes and an interesting-sounding PBJ stuffed French toast dish.

The drink menu has an extensive cocktail list, a wine selection of small-production artisanal wines and 20 craft beers on tap. At the helm of the bar is mixologist Casey Carr. His passion is creating craft cocktails and perfecting flavors. He comes to Batch and Brine via such restaurants as The Cooperage.

Batch and Brine is open everyday from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Brunch is served on Saturdays and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Go to <https://batchandbrine.com/> for more details.

With reasonable prices, and its edgy, fun ambience this restaurant is sure to become a favorite.

Summer reading project for all ages underway until Aug. 4

By Sora O'Doherty

From the beginning of June through Aug. 4, all libraries in the Contra Costa County system, including Lafayette, Orinda and Moraga libraries, are participating in the County's Summer Reading Program, "Reading Takes You Everywhere." Readers of all ages can visit ccclib.org/summer for activities and challenges to feed the imagination and explore new skills. Patrons may also visit any of the 26 Contra Costa County library locations for free and fun happenings all summer.

Each participant receives a passport. Every completed passport is eligible for a free book and will be entered into a raffle to win prizes. There is a Baby Passport for children ages 0-3, and the Readers Passport is for kids, teens and adults of all ages. All types of reading count -- audio books, comic books, fiction, non-fiction, silent reading or reading aloud. Reading can be done in any language and isn't limited only to library books. Patrons who visit the library have even more chances to win prizes, according to Orinda

Community Library Manager Sierra Compagna.

Upcoming events at the Orinda Library include the Try-It-Truck on July 12, 5 to 7 p.m.; A Bird's Rainbow, July 30, at 10:30 a.m.; and Road Scholar on Aug. 1 at 1 p.m. According to librarian Maura Hennessy, the Lafayette library will include Rockets Away! on July 3 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Uncle Jer's Bee Show July 17 from 2 to 3 p.m.; The Paper Airplane Guy Aug. 1 from 2 to 3 p.m., and a Teddy Bear Overnight on Aug. 8 from 4 to 5 p.m., and the Moraga branch will include some special events for adults like the Moraga Library Book Club: The Invention of Wings, by Sue Monk Kidd, July 19 from 1 to 2 p.m. and Birding Talk: "Changing Seasons" July 26, from 1 to 2 p.m. Also on July 19 from 3 to 4 p.m. there will be a Teen Game and Crafts for those in grades 6-12. All events count toward the summer reading program, and can be found on the library website, according to Community Library Manager Geneva Moss.



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Supervisor Andersen seeks volunteers for County Advisory Boards

Submitted by Jill Ray

Interested in participating in government? Supervisor Candace Andersen is looking for interested, motivated residents to serve on a few Contra Costa County citizen advisory boards. These volunteer boards usually meet monthly and advise the Board of Supervisors on a variety of issues. They play a vital role in county government, and the input provided is invaluable.

Applications are currently being accepted from residents of District 2, which covers Alamo, Canyon, Danville, Lafayette, Moraga, Orinda, Parkmead, Rossmoor, San Ramon, Saranap, Walnut Creek (West of N. Main Street), for seats on the following boards:

Community Corrections Partnership, Community Advisory Board (AB109) - Central and East County representation needed <http://www.cccounty.us/4165/Community-Advisory-Board>

To provide input on community needs; assess implementation of the realignment plan; review data on realignment outcomes; advise the CCP on community engagement strategies; offer recommendations for on-going realignment planning; advise County agencies regarding programs for implementation in the County; and encourage outcomes that are consistent with the County's Reentry Strategic Plan.

Library Commission <http://guides.ccclib.org/c.php?g=43927&p=277621>

To serve in an advisory capacity to the Board of Supervisors and the county librarian.

Mental Health Commission-Family Member Seat <https://cchealth.org/mentalhealth/mhc/>

To influence the county's Mental Health System to ensure the delivery of quality services which are effective, efficient, culturally relevant and responsive to the needs and desires of the clients it serves with dignity and respect; and to be the advocate with the Board of Supervisors, the Mental Health Division, and the community on behalf of all Contra Costa County residents who are in need of mental health services.

Contra Costa Sustainability Commission, District 2 Alternate - <http://www.co.contra-costa.ca.us/6393/Sustainability-Commission>

Provide advice to staff and the Board on successful implementation of the Climate Action Plan, including suggestions on how that work can be performed more efficiently and effectively; advise the Board on opportunities to realize equity and fairness across the diverse communities of Contra Costa County in sustainability programs that support the Climate Action Plan; provide suggestions to staff and the Board on how to better engage Contra Costa County residents and businesses on sustainability issues and implementation of the Climate Action Plan.

For more information about each board go to <https://ca-contracostacounty2.civicplus.com/6408/Boards-and-Commissions-Database>.

To apply online, visit <https://contra-costa.granicus.com/boards/forms/321/apply/857634?code=8b348807-3ade-472e-b33f-d30e829cd812>, or contact Jill Ray at (925) 957-8860 or jill.ray@bos.cccounty.us.

THANK YOU for Supporting LPIE!

On Saturday, May 5, parents and supporters from all over the community came together to help "power" LPIE's fundraising efforts. Because of businesses, parents, and community members, the LPIE Power Party event, LPIE Derby, was an overwhelming success.

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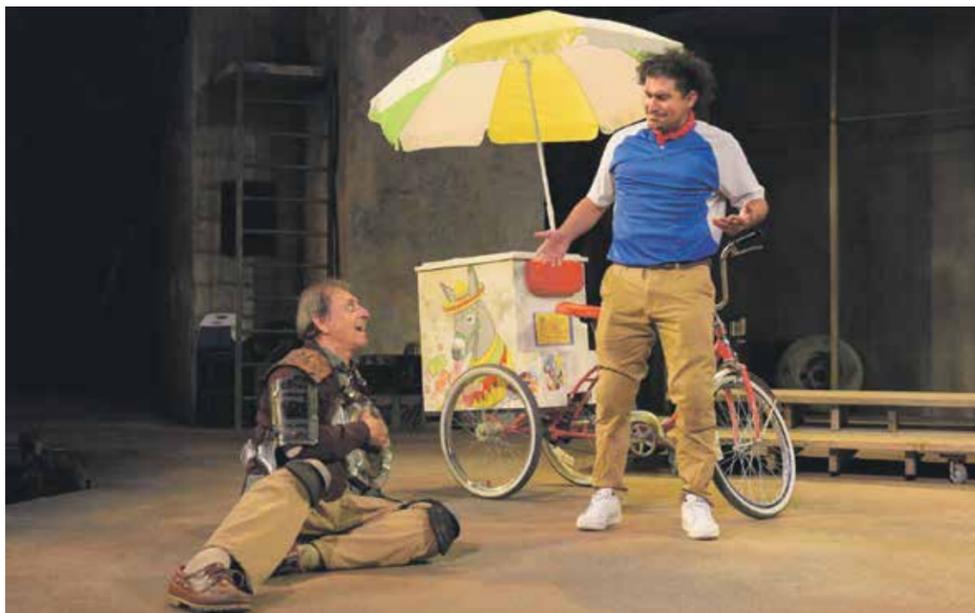
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~ Life in LAMORINDA ~

Cal Shakes' 'Quixote Nuevo' a terrific, music-filled romp

By Lou Fancher



Emilio Delgado (Quixote) enlists Juan Amador (Sancho Panza) in "Quixote Nuevo." Photos Kevin Berne

Attending live theater performances at California Shakespeare Theater is risky business.

First, there's the possibility of sweating during a matinee in 100-degree temperatures or having to hunker under fleece at nighttime when Bay Area fog rolls over the Oakland Hills and it's more than drama that sets the crowd shivering. Will the production as it grasps the horns of well-known, highly revered Shakespeare plays and other classic repertoire – unleashed with modern sensibilities and style – result in brilliance or bastardization? Will there be humor and grit, exuberance and elegance, delicious froth, high production values and topical depth that lasts beyond the final curtain? (There is no physical curtain on the Orinda stage, but Cal Shakes plays do have actual, often memorable endings.)

Opening the 44th season with the World Premiere of "Quixote Nuevo," a retelling of Miguel de Cervantes' classic Spanish novel, "Don Quixote," the theater company turns tilting at windmills into a terrific, music-filled romp with lessons that last. Latino playwright Octavio Solis sets the modernized tale of an heroic/comic knight-errant on a final quest for reclaimed love in the town of La Mancha, Texas, and nearby Mexico. Director KJ Sanchez leads a cast of Latinx actors through a fantastic adventure filled with buoyant song, hilarious costumes, unharnessed humor and resonant themes including family, friendship, immigration, aging, dreams, dementia, death and more.

If there is risk, it lies in the complex issues raised and ultimately, intentionally left open-ended by the production. Audiences depart with layers: comic lines that prompt secondary laughter, appreciation for the rich, multicultural landscape the production suggests is under threat in America, and food for thought on universal themes related to mortality and individual responsibility within society and community.

Quixote (played with keen wit and charm by Emilio Delgado) is a

former college professor, an aging man whose dementia has exceeded his family's ability to care for him. A sister, niece, priest and psychologist – the latter two are revealed to be former students – collaborate in fits and starts to move him to a senior living center, The Blue Fountain. Resisting with sword and searing proclamations, consumed with a vision of finding his Dulcinea, the woman he out of fear for his own safety failed to meet and marry at a border crossing long ago, Quixote sets out on his majestic steed – in actuality a horse skull-decorated three-wheel bicycle, his helmet an upside down bedpan.

Paired with Sancho (dexterous, goofy, lovable Juan Amador as bicycle ice cream vendor), the two men escape well-meaning family members, border patrol guards, prostitutes, a coterie of bandit-like angels, imagined demons and dragons and more.

Act II spins the tale into dark corners: an immigrant tells the story of crossing the border between Mexico and the United States only to be thought of as a gangster, hated because of his skin color and race, wandering in circles while his family dies at his feet. He is left only with a wedding ring, stuffed animal and child's hairbrush. His "sun-charred" mind wonders what is mirage, illusion, delusion, dementia and reality. Perhaps hope and love and ice cream bikes are fake, or ghosts. Bringing the topic of borders into 2018, Quixote "slays" the wall – to tell the rest would spoil the experience for audiences who've yet to see the play.

Remarkably, largely due to the casts' full command of comedy – most especially Amy Lizardo, who shines in multiple roles – "Quixote Nueva" is joyful to watch. Vibrant costumes (bandoliers loaded with medicine bottles, bold contrast of color and texture by costume designer Ulises Alcalá), kinetic staging (a Sancho dummy tossed torturously in a blanket earns applause) and playwright Solis' clever, punchline phrasing (examples

too numerous to list), add up to a laugh-filled 2.5-hour experience.

Departing, the play's larger picture leaves much to ponder. What words and which actions define nobility, valor or honor in a world that shuffles elderly people into assisted living homes – called "assisted dying centers" by one character during the play's first act. How are we to discern between the intentions of people with dementia and dictators whose proposals seem crazy as they seek to build walls that become boundaries on love, humanitarianism, empathy, opportunity. "Clouds soar over the border all the time. Why then can't we?" asks Quixote.

It's a good question. Cal Shakes' "Quixote Nuevo" plays at the Bruns Amphitheatre through July 7 – added performances Thursday, July 5 at 7:30 p.m.; Friday, July 6 at 8 p.m.; and Saturday, July 7 at 8 p.m. For tickets or information, visit www.calshakes.org.

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Spirit turned into art: a Moraga artist expresses her creativity

By Sophie Braccini



Dina Asna's jewelry.

Photos Sophie Braccini

Dina Asna may walk with two crutches and struggle a bit over natural obstacles, but there is nothing weak about the woman. The painter and jewelry maker of Iranian origin was told by her father since she was a girl that nothing was impossible for her, even if she was stricken by polio at 18 months old. Her life took her to different countries, following the spirit that guides her and relying on her multiple talents. She now blossoms as an artist.

Asna was born to a middle class family in Iran and she grew up there in the time of the revolution. She was good at math and science and when the mullahs took power she wondered if she would be able to pursue her dream of becoming a scientist. Then in the early '80s, a friend dared her to apply for a scholarship at the Goethe Institute to study in Germany. She did, and was accepted. This was her first big departure. She made a life for herself in Germany for 20 years, working in the computer industry,

getting married and having two boys. But her marriage failed, she lost her job, and as all doors started closing on her, another one opened, this time in Silicon Valley where she was offered to come participate in a technology project for eight months.

She put everything in storage in Germany and crossed the ocean with her two boys, ages 6 and 8. She rebuilt her life here, first in the financial industry, now in real estate, settling in Moraga and putting both her boys who are now in college through high school at Campolindo.

Now that her sons have left the nest Asna felt the artistic part of her that was always suppressed come forward. For a while now she has been painting, first acrylic and now mostly watercolors. Her graphic expression is both figurative and symbolic, representing her vision of courage, passion, serenity, forgiveness, abundance or opportunity in the form of portraits or representation of the natural world.

Her palette is subtle and soft, with bright touches of pink, oranges or blues. When she was asked to bring her art to a show in San Jose she realized that she could not let her work go, so she started thinking of ways to share it with the world while keeping the originals.

Asna's latest idea has been to print her work in a much smaller scale and create jewelry with the images. A pair of earrings match, but are different: one holds an oval pendant with a miniature portrait on one side, while the other features a detail of the portrait. Rings and necklaces are also created from the tiny paintings. The artist explains that she played with different types of lacquers to permanently protect the prints; it took a lot of trial and error.

In her new adventure she has found an unexpected partner, the one she calls her angel, who she says always looked out for her - her own mother who has come to live nearby from Germany where one of her brothers resides. Asna says fondly that her mother is her production manager.

Asna used to support her husband in Germany running his printing business and she knows what it takes to be successful. Now she is engaged in marketing her jewelry and putting herself out there. She created her own website, then joined Etsy to get a larger distribution channel and as a way to collect the very important customer reviews. She is also contacting all the local artist groups.

For now Asna is still a real estate agent. She says she loves to go out to visit homes with her clients in search for that perfect location, but the pull of her creativity is strong, ideas for expanding reproduction of her paintings on different mediums come all the time. She takes things as they come, one step at a time, with a deep desire to simply become a full-time artist. Asna's work can be found online at dinartgift.etsy.com.

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Dina Asna wears and presents her jewelry.

Orinda literary luncheons offer lively discussions with top authors

By Lou Fancher



Author Gail Honeyman
Photo Philippa Gedge Photography UK

Although the guest of honor didn't – and never could – show up, lunch with Eleanor Oliphant June 14 at Orinda Books was a surefire hit.

Summer salads, wine, lively conversation, approximately 40 people and author Gail Honeyman, arriving all the way from her home in Glasgow, Scotland, combined for a heady mix of laughs and literature. Focused on Honeyman's debut novel, "Eleanor Oliphant Is Completely Fine," the noontime event drew people from all over the Bay Area.

"I have other book clubs I could join and other bookstores closer to my home, but I prefer Maria's shop," said Debra Fong-Kong. "She has variety and a sense of community. Educated women from the whole Bay Area come here. Plus, there's local art on display and the store makes donations of books to local schools."

The Alamo resident has been an ER pediatric trauma nurse at Oakland Children's Hospital for 30 years. Eleanor Oliphant as an adult character with social anxiety and peculiarities in part due to family abuse from her childhood resonated with Fong-Kong immediately. "To understand humans and why they act the way they do is what I do professionally and what is in this book. It's very realistic. Many children and adults have been traumatized. This book gives the picture of hope. It offers kindness, which I think keeps us grounded to what people are, especially in a technology-centered world."

Kindness, Honeyman said in a 40-minute presentation that she described as "foggy jet lagged" but instead sparkled as does her writing style, with humor and authenticity, is a major theme along with loneliness in her first book. Having four years ago read an article in which a young person in her 20s described leaving work on Friday and not interacting with another person until back in the office the following Monday, she

became absorbed in the universality of loneliness. "Back then, it was usually written about in the context of older people," she said. "Here was a woman, about 20, who was so lonely. I was struck by that. The young are usually written about as lively, social, surrounded by people."

The problem Honeyman said is a topic so large in the United Kingdom that a Minister of Loneliness has been appointed by the government in response to recent studies. "They showed loneliness' impact isn't just mental, it's physical. It's like smoking 10 cigarettes a day—the impact on the cardiovascular system."

The kindest character, Raymond, who befriends Eleanor, is gentle, non-judgmental and "exactly what Eleanor needs," Honeyman said. During a book tour stop in the Midwest she was asked if he was based on a real person and if so, could his phone number be shared. Honeyman, laughing along with the audience, said Raymond was not based on a real person but was a crucial character that allowed her to explore a platonic relationship between a man and a woman.

Quick to dispel notions about Eleanor's villainous mother, Honeyman said, "I need to make clear, my mum is lovely. There's no autobiographical mother here. In the first draft, she was even worse. I toned it down. I wanted it to be Eleanor's story. I had to make mummy horrendous, but not so bad Eleanor isn't the star of the show."

The first-time author's experience is rooted in childhood writing that was interrupted for 20 years by undergraduate and graduate study of modern languages and 19th Century French poetry and an office job as a civil servant. But all the while, Honeyman read. Contemporary fiction by Kate Atkinson and Nina Stibbe are current favorites.

After celebrating her 40th birthday, Honeyman decided to try writing again. "You never know, but you won't, until you start," she said, about crafting three early chapters and entering them in a competition for unpublished women writers over age 21. Short-listed but failing to win the top prize, Honeyman had good fortune when one of the judges approached. "She said she loved it and could she represent me. That's why I tell young people and new writers to send out their work. Even if you don't win, you never know who's reading it and what will come of that. I managed to finish the book and thought maybe a small publisher might want it. Then I got an exciting

email from my agent that more than one publisher wanted it. I had to read the email 47 times."

The book she completed during lunch hours over three years while working full time was published in 2017. It has received multiple awards and is available in 38 countries. Film rights have been optioned by actor Reese Witherspoon.

Honeyman appeared still overwhelmed by the attention and was most comfortable when speaking about making Eleanor's voice strong. "She was really fun to write, because she's got no filter. She just says her thoughts." Delighted that revisions allowed her to "tinker" with the final draft, Honeyman said her new life as a full-time writer places her in pajamas at home, writing on a laptop. "I like to write in the mornings because the rest of the day hasn't intruded with boring stuff like paying bills. Also, I think you're accessing the dreaming part of your life, the creativity."

Luncheons at Orinda Books continue throughout the year. For information and to sign up for the newsletter, visit <https://www.orindabooks.com/>.

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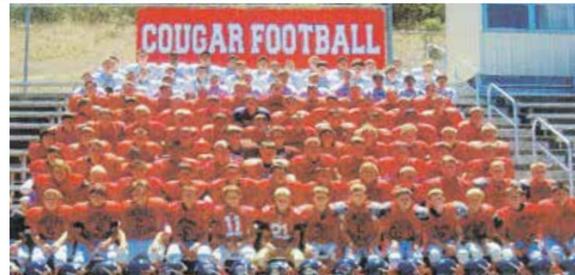
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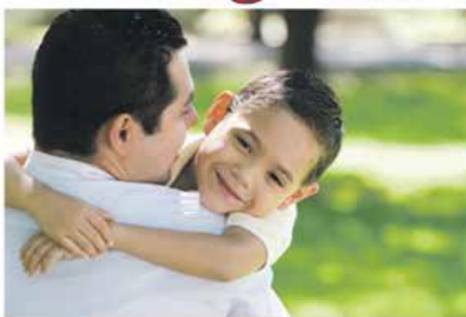
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Thank you!

The re-opening of the Rheem Theatre on June 14th was a big success and over the first weekend 6 shows sold out. The Moraga Community Foundation is pleased with the enthusiastic community support and is happy to announce that a second theater will be ready to open upstairs on July 6. Please continue to patronize the Rheem Theatre and help keep the doors open.



www.moragacommunityfoundation.org

8th graders graduate in style

Submitted by Lori Anders



Photo provided

The Saklan School celebrated the eighth-grade graduating Class of 2018 with a formal dinner at the Lafayette Park Hotel on June 6. The class will go on to attend Ath-

nian, Bentley, Campolindo, De La Salle, Las Lomas, Monte Vista and St. Mary's College high schools.

A week of mindfulness at Orinda Community Church

Submitted by Leslie Darwin O'Brien



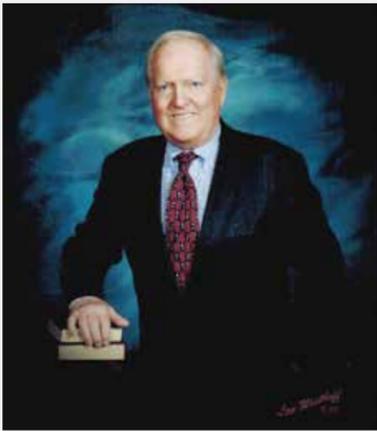
Photo provided

Squeals of laughter poured out of Orinda Community Church fellowship hall as 25 kids gathered recently for JAMM (Joy, Art, Music and Mindfulness) Camp. In celebration of the wonder of nature, the kids took bouquets (in jam jars, of course) to Orinda Senior Village. In addition, they prepared toiletry kits for parents of children who are at UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland. The themes for the week were: Monday - You Be You; Tuesday - Neighbors (Who is my neighbor? Everyone!); Wednesday - Courage; Thursday - Awe; Friday - Gratefulness. The kids also made soap and tie dyed T-shirts. Tween/teen counselors volunteered their time to serve the campers who were between the ages of 4 and 12. The camp was a joint project of Orinda Community Church and Mindful Littles and was open to all children.

In Memory

Stuart Thomas Cleveland

1936 - 2018



Stuart Thomas Cleveland peacefully passed away on Wednesday, May 9th. Born April 15th, 1936, Tom was raised in Hastings, Michigan and graduated from the University of Michigan where he earned an MS in Chemical Engineering and a MBA in Finance and Accounting. It was during his time at Michigan that he met his wife Joan Conroy. Their first child, Linda, was born while they were still students and were directors of a men's hall, Fletcher Hall.

After assisting the University of Michigan with their Computer Science Program, Sacramento State University invited Tom to assist professors in creating California's first Computer Science Program. The California Governor at the time, Ronald Reagan, specifically wrote Tom a letter thanking him for being a critical asset in helping to create the new program. Tom wrote detailed IBM instruction manuals and textbooks by typewriter and helped professors draft course material for Engineering students to follow. It was during this time in Davis, California that their second child, Dave, was born.

After completing an engineering degree in Advanced Statistical Modeling from Stanford University, Tom and Joan moved into their Lafayette, California home in the summer of 1970. It was at this time that Tom began his career with the Touché Ross Accounting firm and assisted with opening their first East Bay office in Oakland, California. Tom eventually headed up their regional governmental auditing program and was the National and International banking partner for six years, prior to retiring in 1988.

Tom was invited to be the Comptroller of the Currency of the United States Government. After retiring from Touche Ross, Tom ran a successful consulting company, Capital Management Group, where he worked with multiple international banks and businesses. Tom was very active in the California Society of CPA's eventually becoming President. He made significant contributions to the AICPA with multiple publications, seminars, chaired committees, and contribution award.

Tom helped shape and influence many lives and communities through hard work and perseverance. Tom served as Councilman and Mayor of Lafayette and was voted Citizen of the Year. He founded and Coached the first Girls Club Soccer team in the East Bay. Tom was a member of the John Muir Hospital Foundation Board. He also continued his passion for learning becoming the TransAmerica Professor of Finance at Saint Mary's College.

Tom enjoyed spending time with his family sharing colorful stories and experiences and influencing lives. He enjoyed traveling abroad, playing and watching sports, and contributing to community development projects. As you can tell, Tom led a passionate, committed, and purposeful life.

Tom is survived by his wife Joan, brother Denny, their daughter Linda, their son Dave, and four grandchildren Will, Brenna, Laura, and Ryan. He is predeceased by sister Jan Kerns and son Brian. Church services will be held at St. Stephens Episcopal Church, 66 Saint Stephen's Drive, Orinda, California on Saturday, July 7th at noon. And then a celebration of an amazing life will follow at the Lafayette Park Hotel in Lafayette, California at 2 p.m.

In Memory

Jean Ellen Michell



Jean Ellen Michell, a longtime resident of Orinda, passed away peacefully June 9, 2018 at the age of 93. She passed at home surrounded by her family.

Jean graduated from UC Berkeley Haas School of business in 1946 and remained an active alumni. She is survived by her daughter Georgia Ann Langsam, sons Mark Lewis Michell and Robert William Michell, grandsons Stephen Edward Langsam and Christopher Lewis Michell.

Jean played contract bridge and attained the life master ranking with the American Contract Bridge League. She played nationally and represented the United States internationally. She loved sports and was an avid tennis player, a huge fan of the Giants, Warriors and, of course, Cal Bears. She will be missed by all that knew and loved her.

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.

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.

Close encounter with an African bird in Orinda

By Sophie Braccini



A LARC client pets Josephine Bonaparte – the silvery-cheeked hornbill presented by Molly Gleason-Kodama. Photo Sophie Braccini

The large silvery-cheeked hornbill was standing proudly, unrestrained, grasping a simple wooden perch with its powerful claws. Her demeanor was peaceful. Her eyes on her friend and owner, Molly Gleason-Kodama, she intermittently uttered little sounds that seemed to come out of her minuscule nostrils, not her powerful long bill. Across the room where she stood, a dozen adults in their 70s and 80s were following Gleason's presentation of the bird. Their gaze was intent, their smiles genuine and their questions pertinent, even if a bit repetitive at times. That was the only hint that these individuals were participating in a Lamorinda Adult Respite Center activity for adults with memory impairment.

Gleason is the marketing director at Aegis of Moraga during the day, but at night and on weekends she is the guardian and protector of more than 20 birds from all over the world. She has transformed her garden into a giant aviary where her friends lead their lives, unrestrained and intact as their wings are not clipped. Josephine Bonaparte, the hornbill, like the other birds, can also access the house and fly freely there. Josephine is extra special because she sleeps in Gleason's closet that was transformed into a nesting place, and even sometimes comes to nap with Gleason in bed.

The director came for a visit at LARC to pro-

vide an activity that would engage the group of challenged adults' interest. They listened to her many stories, how Gleason had acquired the now 24-year-old bird, born to a breeder, like all her other birds, 14 years ago, and marveled at its beauty and gentleness. They enjoyed seeing the bird being fed fruits, asking for it with a gentle movement. Some came to the perch and petted her without any fear.

Beth Montgomery, who is LARC's director, was also there, as she is almost every day that the nonprofit she leads is in operation. She explains that the center is privately funded and was created 20 years ago to provide a warm and caring environment to memory-impaired adults while providing some respite to their caregivers. She adds that the Orinda center is one of the last left in Contra Costa County because it is privately funded; all the other ones that were dependent on public money had to close when budgetary cuts squeezed them out of business.

Like with Gleason and her hornbill, LARC provides activities every day to its clients. The routine is predictable, there is music and singing, word games, exercise in the morning, and more games, crafts and activities in the afternoon. There are other animal activities organized, mostly with therapy dogs.

Montgomery says that the adults who come are not aware of their memory challenges and would deny having any problem. She says that LARC was renamed Lamorinda Adult Recreation Center by its clients. She notes, however, that there is now a growing number of early-onset Alzheimer patients in need of similar services who are well aware of their diagnoses.

Gleason brought several long feathers from her birds' regular molting, so the participants could take something home with them and share some of the experience with their caregivers. She redecorated her office at Aegis with pictures of all her birds when she took her job there and she often brings a bird along to stay with her while she works and for the residents to enjoy.

More information about LARC can be found at www.lamorindarespite.org. The program runs Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and costs \$70 a day.

Town Hall Theatre announces donor thank you event: 'Gone Missing'

Submitted by Susan Evans



Town Hall Theatre's annual donor thank you event – a one-night only performance of the original and inventive documentary musical "Gone Missing," created by The Civilians – will be held at 8 p.m. July 14 at Town Hall Theatre Company.

Per its website, "The Civilians is a company that creates new theater from creative investigations into the most vital questions of the present." The New-York based theater company conceived this documentary musical from interviews it conducted with real-life New Yorkers. Each of the interwoven eclectic songs and narratives are about loss, of both tangible objects and not, that have "gone missing" — including pets, keys, ID, a Gucci pump, and even a mind — and about the very nature of memory. According to the New York Times, "This delightful comic revue ... is fresh, breezy and very funny indeed, a perfect summer entertainment."

Directed by Town Hall Director of Education Madison Gerringer, with music direction by Lindsey Schmeltzer, a frequent teaching artist with the THT Education Program, "Gone Missing" features talented members of the Town Hall family, each of whom have donated their time and talents to this donor event, including the president of Town Hall's board of directors, Lauren

Rosi, and Suzie Shepard, THT's community engagement specialist.

Gerringer received her degree in Theatre Education with emphases in acting and directing from Emerson College. Some previous directing and choreography credits include "Aloha, Say the Pretty Girls," "Surprising Simon" and "Smokey Joe's Cafe." Schmeltzer's previous musical directing credits include: "As You Like It" (Livermore Shakespeare Festival), "Alone World" (Milwaukee Repertory Theater), "Man of La Mancha," "Hair-spray," and "Little Shop of Horrors" (Garland Civic Theatre).

"Gone Missing" was created by The Civilians, written by Steven Cosson from interviews by the company (Damian Baldet, Trey Lyford, Jennifer Morris, Brian Sgambati, Alison Weller and Colleen Werthmann), with music and lyrics by Michael Friedman. Following its world premiere in 2003 at The Belt in New York City, "Gone Missing" went on to premiere Off-Broadway at the Barrow Theatre in 2007.

This one-night event is free to all Town Hall donors, with a suggested donation of \$20 for the general public. Seats can be reserved now through the Box Office at (925) 283-1557 or online at www.TownHallTheatre.com

Tell Me More about UC Irvine

By Elizabeth LaScala, PhD

Welcome to the third in a series of articles about the University of California system. For the sake of fairness, going alphabetically, the first article was all about the top-ranked UC Berkeley <http://www.doingcollege.com/tell-me-more-about-uc-berkeley/> and the second was devoted to our state's land grant university, UC Davis <http://www.doingcollege.com/college-profile-tell-university-california-davis/>. Next in line is the University of California-Irvine, so read on!

Founded in 1965, UCI is among the newest of UC campuses, yet in this relatively short time span, it has emerged to become one of America's best public universities. While it does not have the longer histories and higher profiles of UC Berkeley and UCLA, UCI offers a combination of academic rigor, sun drenched beaches, and ski slopes just an hour away.

UCI is seriously premed, and the School of Biological Sciences is considered one of the best and most competitive of their academic divisions. The already intense 'premed mentality' is further fueled by rigorous coursework, selective research positions and very large class sizes. Juxtaposed to the intense biological sciences majors are nationally ranked programs in dance, drama, music, studio art, and musical theatre housed in the School of Arts. The popular interdisciplinary School of Social Ecology offers innovative academic pairings such as environmental and legal studies, and psychology and social behavior, with an emphasis on professor/student relationships—a treasure to find in the often-impersonal feel to our monolithic UC system.

Located in the heart of suburban Orange County, UCI is just 50 miles from L.A. Some students describe UCI's clean, contemporary 1,500-acre campus as a bit slow and it is true that about 22 percent of the freshmen live off campus; this fact may give a slight commuter feel to the university. However, lovely Aldrich Park, with over 11,000 trees, modeled after New York's Central Park, is at the center of a campus that many students say has a thriving social life. With more than 500 student organizations, including 50 fraternities and sororities offered to UCI's 27,000 undergraduates, it is not much of a stretch to say that if you are willing to expend a bit of effort, any student can find a place to have fun and make friends at UCI.

This past fall UCI welcomed more than 6,500 freshmen, selected from a pool of about 85,000 applicants, which amounts to a 37 percent admit rate. UCI also offered admission to 3,000 transfer students, chosen from a pool of 20,000 applicants from California's community colleges. UCI retains freshmen and graduates a class as well as a number

of other great state universities, and 72 percent of the freshmen who entered in 2010 graduated within four years.

UCI offers 87 undergraduate degree programs within 10 schools. The School of Biological Sciences houses some of the most coveted majors, with public health, business and political science also being super popular. Languages are quite strong at UCI and its fiction writing/creative writing program is rapidly gaining national recognition. UCI also offers an academic advantage that the higher ranked UC Berkeley and UCLA do not: a A campus-wide honors program that includes honors housing. In fact, campus honors students may choose from three on-campus living options.

The attraction of the honors program is easy to understand when you take into account what a tough fight it is to get into science and other popular majors' classes for sophomores and even juniors. Seniors say there are often 100 or more students in their major classes and TAs do much of the teaching; not surprisingly, getting some professor attention takes work. That said, for the student who is willing to buckle down and study for a few years, UCI offers top name professors, innovative academic programs, and cutting-edge research opportunities. Successful students leave with a world-class education and employers that recognize them as such with top job offers, especially in the sciences, engineering and business.

Elizabeth LaScala, PhD personally guides each student through each step of selecting and applying to well-matched schools for undergraduate, graduate and professional school admissions. For over two decades, Elizabeth has placed hundreds of students in some of the most prestigious colleges and universities in the U.S. By attending professional conferences, visiting college campuses and making personal contacts with admissions networks, Elizabeth stays current on the latest trends and the evolving nature of admissions and passes that know-how on to her clients. Both college and graduate school advising is available and the number of clients taken is limited to ensure each applicant has personalized attention. Contact Elizabeth early in the process to make a difference in your outcomes. Write elizabeth@doingcollege.com or call (925) 385-0562.



Final Haley's Run for a Reason Color Run on Fourth of July

By Sora O'Doherty



Pictured: Aislinn Welch, Jacqueline Welch, Suzanne Tom, Jeremy Martin and Brenda Martin. Photo Sora O'Doherty

This year will be the last "Haley's Run for a Reason Color Run" in Orinda. After organizing the event in support of the Sudden Unexplained Death in Childhood Foundation for the past 14 years, organizer Suzanne Tom has decided that it's time to move on. But she is ending with her most colorful run ever. This year runners will be able to run through blue, magenta, purple and chartreuse color stations.

Tom began the run about five years after losing her daughter Haley to Sudden Unexplained Death in Childhood, which is like Sudden Infant Death Syndrome but occurs after the first year of life. When Haley died, her sister Megan was just 19 days old. Megan is now 18 years old, and Aston, Tom's son, is 16. If Haley were alive, she'd be leaving college and starting on her new life, so Tom thought that this was a good place to stop.

She started the run in part because it pained her to realize that people had stopped talking about Haley, and she acknowledges that this is a difficult issue for many people, not knowing whether it is more painful to speak of lost children or to never mention them. But Tom says that for the past 14 years she and her family have imagined the bright, playful little girl growing up.

When Haley died in 2000, there was no such thing as Sudden Unexplained Death in Childhood. Two moms started the SUCD group as a part of a SIDS program. Since then SUCD has grown into its own foundation with a board of directors. Last year saw the first SUCD conference

being held for medical researchers and SUCD families. Although it is a very rare condition, only 1.5 out of 100,000 toddlers die of SUCD, there are now some 600 affected families worldwide. At the conference it was revealed that scientists have been able to identify the cause of death in a child who died two years after Haley. Seizures appear to be a big factor in the condition.

Tom will continue to be an SUCD ambassador, more involved on the national level than currently. It is possible that another SUCD family may want to continue the fun run in the future. In the past 13 years, Haley's run has raised over \$350,000 for the SUCD foundation. Families that experience SUCD are now immediately provided with resources, which is amazing, Tom said. Haley's family has made a very conscious decision to maintain a happy family life.

"How heartbreaking it would have been for Haley if she looked down and we'd been sad," Tom added. Also, "we don't put things off until later." Tom realized that she had very few photos of herself with Haley, as she had usually been the photographer, so she encourages other families to take a lot of photos with all family members.

"Grieving is a very lonely process," Tom concluded; "I'm glad there is a support group for moms now."

Check in and late registrations for Haley's Run for a Reason will be from 7 to 8 a.m. on July 4. The 5-mile run and the 2-mile family walk will start at 8 a.m.

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Not to be missed

ART

Moraga Art Gallery's new exhibit "Precision Beauty" features interpretations of nature in the form of jewelry by member artist Kuniko Kay Nitta of Walnut Creek and watercolor paintings by Berkeley's Karen Kramer. The Gallery is located at 522 Center Street in the Rheem Shopping Center. For more information visit www.moragaartgallery.com or call (925) 376-5407.

Annual Arts in Bloom Festival 6 to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, July 17 at the Orinda Community Center, 28 Orinda Way. For details see www.lamorindaarts.org/arts-in-bloom-festival.

Valley Art Gallery presents "Celebrating Light" - their new Summer Collection Continues opening June 26, featuring Artist Judith Feins and her plein air landscapes. The show runs through Aug. 5. There is an opening reception from 3 to 5 p.m. on July 14. www.valleyart-gallery.org; (925) 935-4311

Saint Mary's College Museum of Art and the California Watercolor Association present "The Color of Summer." Fifty new works are on view reflecting the member artists' charge to capture their visions of summer. CWA is one of the largest and most active watermedia organizations in the nation with a mission to create, foster and sustain artistic growth and interest in watermedia. This exhibition will include a series of events including plein air painting, live demonstrations, and lessons for youth. The exhibition runs through Aug. 26.

MUSIC

Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir presents "Roots from the West" OIGC and Norwegian Choir SKRUK from 7 to 9 p.m. on Saturday, June 30 at Leshar Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek. Experience OIGC's gospel repertoire alongside SKRUK's Scandinavian choral music. As SKRUK's director Prots says, the concert is 'a new musical latte.' Cost: \$22-\$25. For more info see <http://www.oigc.org/oigeskruk> or call (510) 839-4361 or email admin@oigc.org.

Solo Opera teams up again this year with the Orinda Rotary Club to present the club's 10th annual Opera in the Park. Sponsored by the Orinda Rotary, the free performance will be presented from 5 to 7 p.m. on Sunday, July 22 at the Orinda Community Park. It is an opportunity to hear professional opera singers perform favorite arias, duets, and ensembles, which organizers say will thrill even non-opera lovers. Free parking is available. For more information on Solo Opera or the concert, please visit www.SoloOpera.org or email solomail@pacbell.net.

You are invited to join your neighbors from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Thursday evenings at the Moraga Commons Park for a relaxing free concert in the 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 for you with the Snack Bar opening at 6 p.m. The lineup includes the following: June 28: Beatles Flashback - Beatles tribute band; July 4: David Martin's House Party - Dance party & show songs (7 p.m. concert).

Free summer concerts Tuesday evenings from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the Orinda Community Park, 28 Orinda Way: July 10, Crawdad Republic.

Free "Rock the Plaza" music concert 6:30 -8:30 p.m. in Lafayette Plaza Park Friday evenings: June 29, Lamorinda Idol Finalist.

THEATER

California Shakespeare Theater extends Quixote Nuevo through July 7. This music-filled, contemporary retelling of Miguel de Cervantes' classic Spanish novel Don Quixote, was written by celebrated Latino playwright Octavio Solis and directed by KJ Sanchez, and takes us on a journey to the fictional modern-day border town of La Mancha, Texas, where an aging Don Quixote loses himself in stories of chivalrous escapades and embarks on a quest of imagination, adventure, and Tejano music. Added performances at 7:30 p.m. on July 5, and at 8 p.m. on July 6 and 7.

Town Hall Theatre is excited to announce its annual Donor Thank You Event, a one-night only performance of the original and inventive documentary musical "Gone Missing", created by The Civilians, with music and lyrics by Michael Friedman. "Gone Missing" will have one performance only at 8 p.m. on July 14 at Town Hall Theatre Company, 3535 School Street, in Lafayette. The event is free to all Town Hall donors, with a suggested donation of \$20 for the general public. Seats can be reserved now through the Box Office at (925) 283-1557 or online at www.TownHallTheatre.com.

Woodminster Summer Musicals Opens 52nd Season with "Oklahoma!" This popular classic will be performed at 8 p.m. July 6 through 15 at Woodminster Amphitheater in Oakland's Joaquin Miller Park, located on Joaquin Miller Road at upper Sanborn Drive. "Oklahoma!" is set in a Western territory just after the turn of the 20th century, where the high-spirited rivalry between the local farmers and cowboys provides the colorful background against which Curly, a handsome cowboy, and Laurey, a headstrong farm girl, play out their love story. Tickets are available by phone, at (510) 531-9597, online at www.woodminster.com, or in person at Woodminster Amphitheater 10-4 weekdays and 10-2 weekends, or at the box office 2 hours before any performance.

LECTURE & LITERATURE

Literary Luncheon featuring Chloe Benjamin, author of "The Immortalists" at 11:30 a.m. on July 10 at Orinda Books. \$12 includes a light luncheon, author presentation of her best-selling book and Q and A. Call (925) 254-7606 to make your reservation.

KIDS, PARENTS & TEENS

The Dave Rocha Jazz Trio will perform jazz music tailored for kids at the Moraga Library from 4 to 5 p.m. on July 10. This event will also include a presentation and demonstration of some of the instruments used in a jazz band.

The Contra Costa County Library is proud to kick off Summer Reading on Monday, June 4. The program is the Library's yearly effort to keep kids reading during the summer months, preventing "brain drain." This year's theme is "Reading Take You Everywhere" and the program is filled with activities, events and reading lists designed to show you that reading can take your imagination anywhere. Summer Reading runs through Saturday, Aug. 4. For more information on Summer Reading

including a list of prizes, challenges and events, visit your local Contra Costa County Library branch or cclib.org/summer.

Haley's Color Run for a Reason begins at 8 a.m. on Wednesday, July 4. A 2-mile run/walk or a 5-mile run thru scenic parts of Orinda and EBMUD watershed. Participants meet in front of the Community Center. Haley's Run for a Reason benefits research for SUDC (Sudden Unexplained Death in Childhood), small donation requested. To register: www.angelhaley.org.

Fourth of July Parade in downtown Orinda begins at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, July 4 followed by music and community activities from 11:30-1:30 at the Orinda Community Park.

Fireworks in Moraga begin at 9:30 p.m. on Wednesday, July 4.

View from the Common's Park and enjoy David Martin House Party in concert which begins at 7:30 pm. Fun activities at the Commons all day-see <http://www.moraga.ca.us/dept/park-rec/july4> for the complete schedule.

OTHER

It's kitten season! The best time of year to visit Community Concern for Cats weekend adoption events. We bring beautiful, happy, healthy kittens who have been raised in foster homes to you from 1 to 4 p.m. every Saturday and Sunday at Pet Food Express in Lafayette and Pleasant Hill, and Petco in Walnut Creek. For more information, see www.communityconcernforcats.org.

Friends Corner Book Shop in Lafayette will be having a half price sale from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, June 30. All proceeds benefit Lafayette Library.

Moraga Fun Run at 8:30 a.m. on July 4 at the Moraga Shopping Center. www.moragafun-run.com

City of Berkeley presents Fourth of July at the Berkeley Marina from noon to 10 p.m. on Wednesday, July 4 at Berkeley Marina, 201 University Ave., Berkeley. Fireworks 9:30 p.m. Free event with live bands, food trucks, free photo booth, water balls, pony rides, dragon boat rides, Alcohol-free event. Parking \$20 vehicles/ \$50 large vehicles. For more info see <http://www.anotherbullwinkeshow.com/4th-of-july/> or call (510) 548-5335 or email Lisa@AnotherBullwinkeshow.com.

Document Shredding Fund-raiser from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on July 14 in the parking lot at 400 Taylor Blvd, Pleasant Hill. Bring old tax returns, bills, business records, bank statements and other documents containing personal information (no x-rays or film) to our fundraiser. Your documents will be shredded onsite by a certified shredding company. For questions, please call Diablo Valley Oncology (925) 677-5041 x272.

POLITICAL GATHERINGS

Congressman Mark Desaulnier presents Protecting the Environment Town Hall from 6:30 to 8 p.m. on July 2 in the Campolindo High School Multi-Purpose Room, 300 Moraga Road, Moraga. Please RSVP by visiting <https://desaulnier.house.gov/town-hall-rsvp>.

Please...

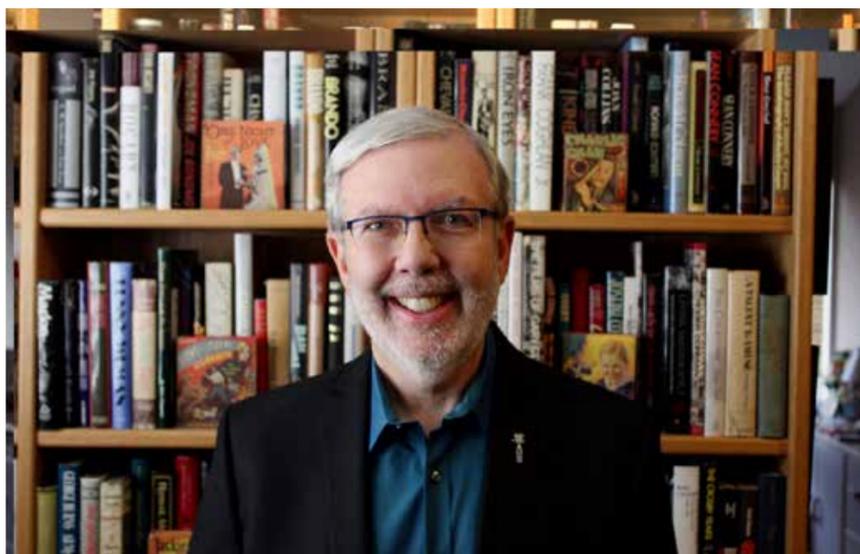


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Please submit events:
calendar@lamorinda-weekly.com

Leonard Maltin to be honored at the 21st California Independent Film Festival

By Derek Zemrak



Leonard Maltin

Photo provided

The 21st California Independent Film Festival is less than two months away and planning is already in full swing. The dates for the festival are Aug. 24-30 in Rheem and Orinda Theatres and it will end on Sept. 1 at the Castro Theatre in San Francisco.

CAIFF Director Lindsay Pirkle and I, president and founder, are very pleased to announce our first honoree, Mr. Leonard Maltin.

Maltin is one of the world's most respected film critics and historians. He is best known for his widely-used reference work, "Leonard Maltin's Movie Guide," and its companion volume "Leonard Maltin's Classic Movie Guide," as well as his 30-year run on television's Entertainment Tonight. He teaches at the USC School of Cinematic Arts, appears regularly on Reelz Channel and Turner Classic Movies, and hosts the weekly podcast "Maltin on Movies" with Baron Vaughn on the Earwolf network. His books include "The 151 Best Movies You've Never Seen," "Of Mice and Magic: A History of American Animated Cartoons," "The Great Movie Comedians," "The Disney Films," "The Art of the Cinematographer," "Movie Comedy Teams," "The Great American Broadcast," and "Leonard Maltin's Movie Encyclopedia." He served two terms as president of the Los Angeles Film Critics Association, is a voting member of the National Film Registry, and was appointed by

the Librarian of Congress to sit on the board of directors of the National Film Preservation Foundation. He hosted and co-produced the popular Walt Disney Treasures DVD series and has appeared on innumerable television programs and documentaries. He is the recipient of awards from the Los Angeles Film Critics Association, American Society of Cinematographers, the Telluride Film Festival, George Eastman House, Anthology Film Archives, and San Diego's Comic-Con International. Perhaps the pinnacle of his career was his appearance in a now-classic episode of "South Park." (Or was it Carmela consulting his Movie Guide on an episode of "The Sopranos"?)

Leonard Maltin will be honored on Sunday, Aug. 26 at the Orinda Theatre with the 2018 Golden Slate Award, for his years of contribution to film and film history. The afternoon will begin with a VIP reception at Cine Cuvée at 1:30 p.m. followed by a lecture from Maltin on the history of cinema at 3 p.m. Tickets for this event and all other CAIFF events will be going on sale July 1 to CAIFF members first, followed by the public.

"We are very excited about this year's film festival and the reopening of the Rheem Theatre. We will be making more announcements for our amazing list of honorees and the award-winner films from around the world in the upcoming weeks," states Pirkle.

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<p>June 29</p> <p>MIKE EDWARDS man in perpetual motion, maker of fine basement wines, and fireman extraordinaire.</p>	<p>July 6</p> <p>Patrick Coyle with an overview of Engineers Without Borders USA and the SF Professional chapter on global sanitation.</p>
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Happy Independence Day !! Stars & Stripes Forever

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: Happy 4th of July

Kathy Merchant President of the Lafayette chamber.

July 5: no meeting

July 14 is the 4th annual Tribute To The Troops at the Lafayette Res new stage
www.rotarylafayette.org
www.facebook.com/Rotary-Club-of-Lafayette-Ca-197392963631366

Lamorinda Weekly

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Fourth of July festivities in Moraga and Orinda



Looking for something fun to do on the Fourth of July? You won't have to go far, with many wonderful activities offered in Moraga and Orinda to help you celebrate. Start the day off with a full day of parades, pancakes, fun and games, starting with a fun run/walk at 7:30 a.m., a dog parade at 9 a.m., and the ever-popular children's bike parade kicking off at 10:30 a.m. at the Moraga Commons Park. Stick around for lots of fun entertainment, like jumpies and magic shows, as well as food, beer and wine and – of course – the fireworks after listening to the Dave Martin House Party closing celebration. To sign up for the fun run visit moragafunrun.com or buy a rocket in support of this event at moragarec.com.

Looking for more in Lamorinda? Not to worry. The city of Orinda will be rocking on the Fourth as well, starting with the Lamorinda Sunrise Rotary Pancake Breakfast at 7:30 a.m. followed by the flag raising ceremony at 7:55 a.m. at the Library Plaza in front of the Orinda Community Center before the start of the Haley's Color Fun Run for a Reason, which will offer participants a chance to enjoy a 2-mile run/walk or a 5-mile run through scenic parts of Orinda (see story on page B5). The EFO Big Band and EFO Summer Band will entertain participants assembled for the parade, which starts at 10 a.m.

Everyone is invited to meet up afterward at the Community Park for music and activities from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Have a happy and safe Independence Day!



Sample these scrumptious desserts using seasonal fruit

By Susie Iventosch

In the last issue, we featured a recipe for quark, a type of dairy product that resembles something between cottage cheese and Greek yogurt. It is enjoyed in Northern European countries, especially in Germany and in Slavic countries, and is used in many of the baked goods in those places. As promised, we are featuring the recipes for Andy Scheck's Cherry Quark Cake and my Goat Cheese-Quark Cheesecake in this issue.

Since the last Lamorinda Weekly issue, I've made my second batch of quark, and this time,

I allowed it to drain a little bit longer than the first time, which resulted in a texture more like soft cottage cheese than the smoother texture last time. Both batches, however, tasted the same and both worked very well in the baked goods made with the quark.

I need to note that we had a reader who was having some problems with the quark being too grainy in texture, and Andy and I think that the problem may have been in heating the buttermilk too quickly. So, if you have had a similar experience, try heating

the buttermilk very slowly over low heat until the point where the liquid starts to separate at the edge of the pot, but before it comes to a boil. Remove it immediately. Andy says this is the proper chemical reaction you want to have for the best quark.

Andy serves his cake at room temperature, and my family really enjoyed it like that, but our leftover cake was chilled and I actually preferred it cold. The filling and flavors were more concentrated when it was cold. This is a personal preference, so you can

experiment to see what you like best! Also, you can use almost any available fresh fruit you like for this cake. Andy used cherries and I made it with blackberries and blueberries, but it would also be lovely with peaches or apricots and perhaps even juicy plums. Look for the best in-season fruits!



Blackberries and blueberries in quark cake

Photo Susie Iventosch



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.

Swim or stay out of the lake? – blue-green algae toxicity

By Mona Miller, DVM



Illustration Jaya Griggs

A local veterinary hospital recently had a case that involved a get-away dog walking at the Lafayette Reservoir, who ended up swimming the length of the reservoir before entangling her leash in the weeds on the far end, enabling her rescue. In addition to being exhausted and frightened, this dog was potentially exposed to blue-green algae toxicity, and was hospitalized at one of the local 24-hour emergency hospitals. Although I have yet to see any formal announcements this year from the East Bay Municipal Utility District or the East Bay Regional Park District about this potentially deadly liver toxin, it reminded me to get the word out. It's one of the reasons to not allow your dog to swim in water containments that specifically don't allow people or pets in the water.

Blue-green algae is a natural bacterial component in most lakes. Under the right conditions, the algae goes into a bloom and some of these algae species can release cyanotoxins. These conditions include low-level water, limited water circulation and increase in heat and light. Blooms usually last a couple weeks before they dissipate. Toxicity in a patient occurs when the toxin is ingested or through skin contact. Signs involve skin rashes and irritations, nerve disease, or sudden severe liver damage. Unfortunately, the mortality rate is fairly high for patients with the neurologic or liver damage form. Signs are vague and include lethargy, not eating, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain and even shock. Signs occur well within 24 hours of exposure. There is no specific antidote to the toxin. There is also no specific test to check for the presence of the toxin, so knowing your dog's environmental exposure is a key factor in the diagnosis. Immediate aggressive veterinary care is recommended, including intravenous fluids and liver support injections, as well as monitoring bloodwork. Often, dogs are treated for a few to several days with intensive care support.

According to the East Bay Regional Parks District website, the first reports of toxic algae blooms occurred in 2014, in Lake Temescal and Lake Chabot (which still remains affected). Most likely, the

recent California drought, and to some degree climate change in general, has been responsible for algal blooms forming at these lakes. And according to the website mywaterquality.ca.gov, Lake Anza has had recent cyanobacteria observed near the swim and dam areas – although no toxins have been reported.

The dog that prompted my report on this topic did very well, and suffered no long-term effects. Not all algae blooms contain toxins. Interestingly, as of 2016, no deaths in cats from cyanobacteria have been reported in veterinary literature – it is possible that cats are not sensitive to the toxin, or perhaps they generally don't like to swim!

Prevention involves avoiding or decreasing exposure to potential algal bloom toxins. This includes avoiding obvious algae scum areas, found most along a shoreline, washing dogs thoroughly after letting them play or swim in a lake or river. If you think your dog might have been exposed to blue algae toxins, it is warranted to seek immediate veterinary care.

The state of California has a very informative website with a California Harmful Algal Blooms Incident Reports Interactive Map https://mywaterquality.ca.gov/habs/where/freshwater_events.html.

Additional reading can be done at the East Bay Regional Park District website: <http://www.ebparks.org/news/displaynews.htm?NewsID=246&TargetID=3>.



Dr. Mona Miller lives in Lafayette with her son, two cats and yellow Labrador. She attended UC Berkeley as an undergraduate, and received her DVM from UC Davis. She has been happy to call Lafayette home since 2001. She can be reached via email at MonaSDVM@aol.com. She welcomes questions from readers that may get incorporated into a column.

Andy's Cherry Quark Cake

Cake Crust

INGREDIENTS

1 ½ cups stone ground whole wheat flour (I used half unbleached flour and half stone ground whole wheat)
½ cup granulated sugar
1 egg
1 stick butter, cut into small pieces and left at room temp for about 30 minutes
Pinch salt
2 Tbsp. milk (you may or may not need this for the dough)

DIRECTIONS

On a flat surface or in a bowl, mix together flour, sugar and salt. Add egg and butter, and begin to incorporate egg and butter into flour mixture using your fingertips. You want to be able to gather the dough into a pliable mass so you may need to add just a bit of milk to make a workable dough. I did not need any milk, and mine easily came together by mixing just the dries with the egg and butter, but if your dough is too dry, then add just a little bit of milk at a time to be able to gather the dough.

Andy chills the dough for about 20 minutes in the refrigerator before pressing it into the bottom and about 2/3 of the way up the sides of a 10-inch springform pan. I did not chill my dough, which made it fairly easy to press the dough into the pan right away. It's very important to get the dough going up the sides, which helps keep the filling mixture from oozing out during the baking.

Set aside the crust in the springform pan while you make the quark-fruit filling. (Just a note ... this crust is delicious!)

Cherry Quark Filling

INGREDIENTS

2 eggs, separated
½ cup granulated sugar
¼ cup milk, heated until just warm to the touch
1 4-ounce package Organics (brand) Vanilla Organic Cooked Pudding and Pie Filling Mix (available at Whole Foods and through Amazon)
2 ½ cups quark
¾ pound cherries, pitted, or any other fruit you like (I used blackberries and blueberries)

DIRECTIONS

- Preheat oven to 350 F.
- Butter a 10-inch springform pan with removable bottom.
- Beat egg whites until stiff peaks form. In a separate bowl, beat egg yolks with sugar until smooth and well mixed.
- Add vanilla pudding mix to egg yolk mixture and stir well. Then, stir in about 2 Tbsp. of the heated milk. Save the rest in case you need it!
- Add the quark and continue to mix. If the batter is too dry, add a little bit of the reserved heated milk.
- Carefully, fold the egg whites into the batter using a rubber spatula.
- Add the fruit, and carefully fold into the batter, again using a rubber spatula.
- Pour filling mixture into the cake crust in the pan and bake for approximately 70 minutes, or until the filling is beginning to set and it turns a nice golden-brown. The filling will rise during the baking and then sink a bit after removing from the oven.
- Cool completely and then release the sides of the pan, removing the cake to a platter. Serve either chilled or at room temperature.



Goat Cheese Cheesecake

INGREDIENTS

Crust

2 ½ cups graham cracker crumbs
1 ½ sticks butter, melted

Filling

8 oz. goat cheese
8 oz. cream cheese
4 Tbsp. sugar
2 eggs (can also use ½ cup egg beaters)
4 oz. quark
1 Tbsp. vanilla

Topping

½ cup quark
¼ cup granulated sugar
1 Tbsp. vanilla

Compote

2 cups blueberries
4 Tbsp. honey
2 Tbsp. brown or granulated sugar
1 tsp. vanilla

For compote: In a small sauce pan, cook all ingredients over medium-high heat, until slightly thickened, approximately 15 minutes. Remove from stove and cool to room temperature. Set aside until ready to serve.

DIRECTIONS for Cheesecake

Preheat oven to 350 F.

In a mixing bowl, place graham cracker crumbs and melted butter. Mix well and pat into the bottom and sides of a well-buttered 9-inch pie dish. Set aside.

In a large mixing bowl, beat cream cheese, goat cheese and sugar with an electric beater until creamy. Add eggs and beat on low speed until well-incorporated. Stir in quark and vanilla.

Pour batter into pie dish with crust and bake for 30 minutes, or until center is barely jiggly. (Time may vary from oven to oven.) Remove from oven for about 10 minutes. Increase oven temp to 425 F.

Meanwhile, mix ½ cup quark, ¼ cup sugar and 1 Tbsp. vanilla in a small bowl. After the cheesecake has set out for the 10 minutes, carefully spread this mixture over the top and bake again for about 10 more minutes. Remove from oven. Cool completely and then refrigerate until cold. Serve cheesecake cold with compote spooned over the top.



LAMORINDA SPORTS

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Ryan Burnett – Campolindo Golfer on the way to North Carolina

By Jon Kingdon



Ryan Burnett tees off hole 9 at Chukyo Golf Club in Toyota-shi, Japan.

Photo provided

At the Campolindo High School graduation, they were short one student: Ryan Burnett. His absence was not due to a failing grade or an overlooked term paper, nor was it any type of silent protest on his part. Burnett was off on a little golf outing, competing in the Toyota Junior Golf World Cup, only 5,293 miles away in Toyota Shi, Japan.

This is a very prestigious tournament with 24 international teams competing. The teams came from the United States, Argentina, Canada, Colombia, Denmark, Italy, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Morocco, New Zealand, South Africa, Spain, Sweden and Thailand. Besides Burnett, the United States team was made of three other players from Texas, South Carolina and North Carolina.

Burnett experienced more than golf at the tournament: "It was my first time in Japan and it was an amazing experience. There were golfers from different countries I played with in each of the four rounds. After playing, we would hang out with the other teams. For the most part, the only difference was that the Japanese and the Koreans, though very respectful, were a lot more serious and businesslike on the course."

In addition to the golf, the tournament organizers brought the participants to a middle school that Burnett found very interesting: "The kids were lined up holding all of the countries' flags. We saw a PE class where they were teaching sword fighting and archery along with basketball."

The love of golf for Burnett began at a young age, "when my uncle got me some plastic clubs. It was just fun to whack the ball. I got better and better at it and fortunately I had the patience to accept the bad shots, which is the hardest thing to handle when learning to play golf. It can be very frustrating experience."

Burnett also played football, baseball and swam competitively until the eighth grade, all of which Burnett enjoyed, particularly baseball: "Baseball really helped me with my hand-eye coordination," says Burnett. "That is the biggest part of golf and it is a strength of mine."

Burnett would join his parents (Steve and Liz), who also play golf well, at the driving range and they soon joined the Round Hill Country Club to further allow him to develop his game.

Burnett learned at an early age that he had a special affinity for golf: "I was 12 when I played in my first tournament and went on to win 8 or 9 of the tournaments I played that year."

Beating his father for the first

time was also a milestone for Burnett: "When I was 12 years old, I played from one tee ahead of him and I shot a 38 for nine holes and he shot a 40. It was a quiet ride home but he was still filled with great pride."

When Burnett began high school at Campolindo his talent was a revelation to the schools' golf coaches, Steve Robinson and Gary O'Neal. Says O'Neal: "When Steve and I saw Ryan hitting great shot after great shot at the range, I asked him if he had an index (golf handicap). He said it was 0.8. We found a spot for him on the team. Besides being an honor student, Ryan has a very strong work ethic."

Burnett invests a great deal of time in his game: "After school, I would go right to the golf course and practice from one to six hours. I like to get up early in the summer and practice for a couple of hours and then play a round of golf. I also do a lot of stretching, lifting weights and rotation building exercises."

Even with all of the time invested in golf, Burnett did not ignore his studies at Campolindo: "I loved Campolindo and all the people there. I had a great group of friends and the academics were fantastic. With all of my tournament play, I had to miss 35 days of school this year but my teachers were very supportive and helpful. The time demands of golf may be the biggest of any sport. It's all about time management and knowing what you needed to do and then sticking to it."

With too many teachers for Burnett to acknowledge, he did single out two for special commendation: Trent Kauzer, his biology and AP Environmental Science teacher, and Caron Brownlee, who taught Contemporary Issues and Public Policy and Government and Economics. Says Burnett appreciatively: "They were always interested in what their students were doing, besides being awesome teachers and people."

With excellent grades and athletic talent, Burnett had his choice of a number of top schools and the recruiting process began his sophomore year in high school. For Burnett, the school had to be strong in academics and golf. That institution turned out to be the University of North Carolina. Says Burnett: "I knew I wanted to study business and they have one of the best undergraduate business programs in the country in addition to an amazing golf team. I hope to pursue professional golf, but I know that North Carolina will bring good opportunities my way regardless."

North Carolina's head coach Andrew DiBitetto is excited about Burnett's choice of North Carolina:

"Ryan is an incredible young man that is determined and has an excellent work ethic which has turned him into one of the top juniors in the country. He has experience playing against the best junior golfers in the country and on some very difficult golf courses. Mentally, Ryan is very mature and steady, on and off the golf course, which is one of the many reasons he has performed well under bright lights as well as in the classroom."

... continued on page C2

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Diablo Athletic League

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Baseball – 2017-18

1st Team All-League – Foothill Division

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Nick Kresnak Acalanes



Nick Berry



Davis Diaz

2nd Team All-League – Foothill Division

Ryan McNally Campolindo
Ryan O'Neil Campolindo
Simon Oh Acalanes
Vincent Mossotti Campolindo
Brians Merken Acalanes



Lucas Allen



Jake Delaney

Honorable Mention – Foothill Division

Ty Whelehan Acalanes
Thatcher Hurd Acalanes
Ryan McNally Campolindo
Stefan Raeth Acalanes



Will Bishop



Nick Kresnak

Most Valuable Pitcher – Valley Division

Bill Duby Miramonte



Bill Duby



Sam Liang

1st Team All-League – Valley Division

Sam Liang Miramonte
Adrese Azzani Miramonte
Charlie Mollahan Miramonte
Jake Hassard Miramonte

2nd Team All-League – Valley Division

Ben Jungbluth Miramonte
Ben Mollahan Miramonte
Joe Hollerbach Miramonte

Honorable Mention – Valley Division

Teddy Hoxie Miramonte
Will Cassriel Miramonte
Declan McMannus Miramonte
Michael Swinton Miramonte



Adrese Azzani



Charlie Mollahan

Boys Golf – 2017-18

Most Valuable Player – Foothill Division

Ryan Burnett Campolindo



Jake Hassard



Ben Jungbluth

First Team All-League – Foothill Division

Conner Steward Miramonte
Nicholas Klock Campolindo

Second Team: All-League – Foothill Division

Joe Henderson Miramonte
Ben Duncan Miramonte
Jay Thomas Campolindo
Tucker Gannon Acalanes

Honorable Mention: All-League – Foothill Division

Baron Szeto Campolindo
Travis Armistead Miramonte

DAL will continue in our next edition on July 11.

Ryan Burnett – Campolindo Golfer on the way to North Carolina

... continued from page C1



Team USA stands for the National Anthem as defending champions at the Opening Ceremonies of the Toyota Junior World Cup.



Boys Team USA. From left: Ryan Burnett, Michael Sanders, Reid Davenport, Jacob Bridgeman and coach Dave Jennings. Photos provided

Ironically, Burnett's most memorable victory came at a young age: "When I was 13, I was invited to the Junior World Championship in Southern California and gave up baseball to play in that tournament which I won in a playoff. It was the most satisfying win I ever had."

Burnett's first coach was Gary Bashford from the Round Hill Country Club: "I started with him

when I was 11 and he is still my swing coach today. He just understood how to teach and build a kid from a young age and would then ratchet it up as I got older. My mentor that I play with at Round Hill is Cody Blick, who is on the Canadian Tour. I always looked up to him and now we are just really good friends. The coaches at Campolindo, Steve Robinson and Gary O'Neal are amazing people.

They were always very supportive of everything I did. They volunteered their time and wanted to make all of us successful. It was an amazing environment to be around."

It was not just the coaches that helped Burnett: "As a freshman, there were two upperclassmen that took him under their wings," says Burnett. "Will Lagomarsino and Austin Fischer really helped

me. They taught me a lot as a freshman transitioning to high school and introduced me to a lot of people in the golf world."

Burnett has been able to combine an ultra-competitive attitude with an ability to keep his equilibrium, a combination that works in life as well as golf: "There is a fire inside me and I expect a lot of myself. You have to understand that it's just golf. All over

the country there are kids that allow their emotions to get the best of them. When my parents watch me play, even they can't tell whether I'm 5 under or 5 over par. There are two types of players, the one that get angry and the ones that use that anger for motivation."

It's an attitude that should carry Burnett far on the course and in life.

Submit stories to sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com

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The Lamorinda Missing Link Dirt Bike Team in Baja, Mexico

By Jon Kingdon



Sterling Butler on bike #95 wheelie

Photos provided

The phrase “Winning isn’t everything, it’s the only thing” has been used by coaches in just about every sport. The origin of this expression has often been attributed to former Green Bay Packer head coach Vince Lombardi. Just for the record, the earliest attribution for this quote should go to “Red” Sanders, a head football coach at UCLA who said these words in 1950 at a physical education workshop in San Luis Obispo. The phrase is hardly appropriate to sport of dirt bike racing.

This past April, a dirt bike team, named The Missing Link, comprised primarily of Lamorinda riders, competed for the second year in a row in the Norra Mexican 1000 Rally. The race is a five-day affair in Baja, Mexico. Day one is a 200-mile ride from Ensenada to San Felipe; Day two is 280 miles from San Felipe to Guerrero Negro; Day three is 329 miles from Guerrero Negro to Loretto; Day four is 298 miles from Loretto to La Paz and Day five is 153 miles from La Paz to San Jose Del Cabo for a total of around 1,300 miles.

The Missing Link Race Team comprises six riders all of whom grew up in the Lamorinda area: Wesley Caspillo (24), Will McKay (21), Mitch Butler (23), Sterling Butler (19), Paul Jackson (26) and Nick Torchio (24). Like an auto racing team, it is also comprised of a crew team – Ron Bribes, Chris Butler, Kent Mc Kay, Scott Butler, Mark Torchio and Albert Caspillo.

Sally McKay whose son is a rider and whose husband is on the crew explained how it all began: “Scott Butler, who was a racer back in the 1980s, along with Mark Torchio and Albert Caspillo, wanted to reignite the fire and get the boys racing.”

The first year the Missing Link team competed, they raced two bikes. This past year, they raced three bikes, though two of the bikes broke down during the race. The team also included two chase trucks, which carried the crew and the riders that were not riding and met up with the racers at each check point. Over such long distances, it was essential that the bikes be equipped with a GPS and the riders maintained constant radio contact with the crew.

The Norra Mexican 1000 is the only race in which the Missing Link competes in as all the competitors have full-time jobs or are in school. With all of the expenses involved – the bikes with all of their modifications, the crew bus, trailer, equipment and the admission fees – it costs about \$10,000 per person the first year.

Many of these were one-time expenses, according to

McKay: “After the first year, our major expenses were behind us. The second year, it primarily came down to the fees and the rooms and accommodations each night of the race.”

There are several hundred riders involved in this race in various categories. With all of the time, effort and expenses that are invested in the race, what do the winning racers earn for their efforts? Says McKay: “The only prize is for first place and for that they receive a trophy.”

There is in fact a professional circuit though the prize money is somewhat limited and the riders make most of their money through sponsorships and endorsements.

One doesn’t just show up to ride about 600 miles over the desert. It does help that all of the riders have grown up on dirt bikes but there is a need to be in good condition. Says Mark Torchio, a member of the pit crew: “The riders have to be in good shape. They stand up most of the time on the pegs of the bikes. They are up and down on all types of surfaces. The kids do a lot of running and build up their cardio.”

Besides the physical strain, there are other strains put on the riders, according to Torchio: “It’s a mental thing as well. It can be very tiring mentally. When you are going as fast as 90 miles per hour, you really have to know what you’re doing. There can be a wide range of injuries from broken bones to the rare fatality. The riders have to ride at a level they’re

comfortable with.”

Will McKay has been a rider for the past two years and already sees a large improvement in their performance over their first year of competition: “We are riding now with more confidence. The first year we did not know what to expect and the second-year, things went a lot smoother in that we knew what to expect.”

The more one rides in the race, the easier it gets, according to McKay: “It’s knowing how to ride in the race and to make the bike work perfectly, knowing when to brake and when to hit the gas and how to make the turns. You become more comfortable reading the turns at a faster speed.”

The people that put on the Norra Mexican 1000 race stress on their website the experience over a win at all costs mentality: “We have returned off-road motorsports to its roots — comradery, hot rodding and fun! The Mexican 1000 Rally is a fully-supported on-road/off-road rally open to vintage and modern vehicles. It is excitement-filled, with high-performance driving, incredible scenery and world-class adventure.”

Torchio confirmed that these were not just words from a PR flak: “The Norra race is more of a fun thing. At the end of the day, we go to the hotel and have a big dinner and everyone talks about their day, besides working on their vehicles. There is great support among all the racers – if you break down, other racers will stop to see if you’re okay. Baja is the last bastion of the wild West. Even though I’m not riding, when I get down there it re-energizes me. It’s a landscape where you are on your own. You have to think your way out of situations.”

Over such a long course, the pit crew is an essential part of the team. Says Torchio: “We run a bus as a rig for the crew along with another truck. We run down the highway and meet up with our riders when the course crisscrosses with the highway. We are in constant communication on radio with the riders and designate where we will meet them where we can check the tires and clean off the lenses, change the riders and fuel up the bikes.”

Over the years the technology of the bikes has improved exponentially according to Torchio: “The quality of the bikes has come a long way. The suspension is better and the engines are now fuel injected. It’s all electronically controlled. It’s a small computer running the mechanics.”

What is the true attraction of dirt bike riding. Torchio sums it up succinctly: “It’s getting out in nature. It forces you to forget the daily nonsense. You have to focus 100 percent on what you’re doing. You can’t daydream or you will end up on the ground. It’s not a draining focus. You live in the moment with the wind in your face as you are conquering new and complicated trails. It’s a sense of accomplishment.”



From left: Mitch Butler, Will McKay, Sterling Butler, Paul Jackson, and Nick Torchio

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Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 12 Issue 9 Wednesday, June 27, 2018



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

Home projects for younger hands

By Cathy Dausman



Matt Talbot (left) with an early woodworking project.

Photo provided

Whether mom or dad is a casual carpenter, an entry-level electrician, avid gardener or a full-time builder/contractor, chances are they'll be enlisted for some honey-do projects at home. The challenge becomes not just completing a project, possibly one for the kids, but completing a project (and saving your sanity) with the kids. Here are some tips when smaller hands want to work big tool jobs.

Safety first, cautions writer, editor, and woodworker A.J. Hamler. He specifies safety glasses, child-sized gloves and adequate protective clothing. "Eye protection is paramount," Hamler said, and

child-sized safety glasses are inexpensive and easy to find online. He buys his in bulk in bright colors kids love. A small apron is good. An old adult shirt over the child's clothes will also work as long as it's not big and baggy, Hamler said.

Hamler says children are naturally drawn to interesting activities, new gadgets or tools and doing things adults do, and home projects involve all three. Just two things will make the project a success: visible signs of progress (sawdust, wood scraps, etc.) and a finished object. Recently Hamler helped his 5-year-old grandson build his own step stool. "Even though I did almost everything, in his

mind his role was far more important."

Concentrate fully on the task at hand, Hamler advises. Turn off the TV, shoo the dog outside, and don't allow other children to play in your work space. Stop the project, he says, if a child becomes nervous, frustrated, tired or distracted. And once you start a project never, ever take your eyes off your child, Hamler said. "If you need to leave the room, take them with you – don't leave them by themselves with tools you want to supervise," he cautioned.

Demolition is any child's dream job. It is often more fun than construction itself because making a mess is part of the process. If there's sheetrock to be torn out or cabinets to be ripped up, just watch the hands go up to volunteer. Again, give everyone plenty of safety gear, including sturdy closed-toe shoes so stray nails don't end up in someone's foot.

When the weather gets sunny invite kids to join in your gardening and landscaping projects. They've learned a thing or two from their Lamorinda schools, where all grade levels have tilled the earth. Students and their parents owe a debt of thanks to the nonprofit Moraga Gardens Farm (www.Moragagardensfarm.org). "When my kids were in Moraga schools the gardens didn't exist," said Claire Curtin, a 10-year MGF member and current board member. Curtin and fellow MGF member Betty Cooper are rightfully proud of their organization's role in supplying plants for what she calls "the next generation of home gardeners."

... continued on page D4

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MORAGA	8	\$725,000	\$1,878,000
ORINDA	13	\$706,500	\$3,340,000

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LAFAYETTE

- 959 4th Street, \$1,305,000, 3 Bdrms, 1079 SqFt, 1938 YrBlt, 5-11-18;
Previous Sale: \$910,000, 02-11-14
- 3577 Boyer Circle, \$1,280,000, 3 Bdrms, 1662 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 5-11-18;
Previous Sale: \$520,000, 05-31-13
- 3253 Brookwood Drive, \$1,010,000, 3 Bdrms, 1803 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 5-11-18;
Previous Sale: \$849,000, 04-04-08
- 4008 Happy Valley Road, \$1,500,000, 3 Bdrms, 2327 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 5-11-18;
Previous Sale: \$810,000, 02-23-00
- 15 Julie Highlands Court, \$1,520,000, 4 Bdrms, 3539 SqFt, 1998 YrBlt, 5-17-18;
Previous Sale: \$664,000, 12-18-98
- 3274 La Canada, \$2,875,000, 5 Bdrms, 3078 SqFt, 1979 YrBlt, 5-15-18;
Previous Sale: \$1,950,000, 11-21-12
- 3305 Mildred Lane, \$1,447,500, 4 Bdrms, 1943 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 5-18-18;
Previous Sale: \$532,000, 08-19-99
- 428 Read Drive, \$1,150,000, 3 Bdrms, 2014 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 5-14-18
- 1619 Reliez Valley Road, \$1,845,000, 5 Bdrms, 3017 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 5-18-18;
Previous Sale: \$1,149,000, 06-14-11
- 1824 Reliez Valley Road, \$1,725,000, 3 Bdrms, 3061 SqFt, 1980 YrBlt, 5-14-18;
Previous Sale: \$765,000, 05-11-00
- 365 Shire Oaks Court, \$1,625,000, 4 Bdrms, 3031 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 5-14-18;
Previous Sale: \$1,350,000, 08-31-07
- 506 Silverado Drive, \$1,435,000, 4 Bdrms, 2927 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 5-17-18
- 1053 Via Baja, \$2,100,000, 4 Bdrms, 2512 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 5-18-18;
Previous Sale: \$1,140,000, 06-16-06

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- 105 Alta Mesa Court, \$1,116,000, 3 Bdrms, 2606 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 5-16-18;
Previous Sale: \$645,000, 04-04-03
- 501 Fernwood Drive, \$1,878,000, 5 Bdrms, 2716 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 5-15-18;
Previous Sale: \$719,000, 08-31-99
- 144 Miramonte Drive, \$801,000, 2 Bdrms, 1514 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 5-16-18;
Previous Sale: \$155,000, 05-08-86
- 1565 Moraga Way, \$680,000, 2 Bdrms, 1522 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 5-10-18
- 235 Rheem Boulevard, \$1,175,000, 4 Bdrms, 2435 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 5-15-18;
Previous Sale: \$93,000, - -
- 1822 St. Andrews Drive, \$1,115,000, 3 Bdrms, 2172 SqFt, 1981 YrBlt, 5-15-18;
Previous Sale: \$847,000, 07-06-15
- 17 Via Barcelona, \$975,000, 3 Bdrms, 2114 SqFt, 1990 YrBlt, 5-11-18;
Previous Sale: \$342,000, 06-15-95
- 112 Via Joaquin, \$725,000, 2 Bdrms, 1354 SqFt, 1980 YrBlt, 5-18-18;
Previous Sale: \$590,000, 02-27-15

... continued on page D11

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Home projects for younger hands

... continued from page D1



A.J. Hamler's grandson is proud of the stepstool he made with his grandpa.

“My boys have helped with our vegetable garden since they were little,” said Cheryl Collins of Orinda. This past year they planted new drought-resistant plants. Collins says her sons disliked the weeding chores but loved planting and harvesting. “They especially loved playing rotten tomato baseball with a shovel,” Collins said.

Three generations of the Lamorinda Talbot family have passed down a love of woodworking projects. Al Talbot’s father, George, had a workbench “littered with miniscule parts for the latest wooden ship or boat model,” recalled Al’s wife, Lucy.

She says Al’s first apartment was filled with the end tables, stereo speakers and book cases he crafted in his spare time. Lucy and Al’s son Matt picked up construction skills at age 5 by playing with a Brio MEC set. Later he built a cutting board and book shelves, and as a high schooler he rebuilt a service yard fence by himself as his father and grandpa looked on.

Stanley Middle School Wood Tech instructor Michele Murphy says her students often try out their new skills at home. “Parents tell me that their son or daughter now will go into their workshop and start tinkering with the tools or ask to help them with their projects,” Murphy said. Parents and grandparents often want to build a second Adirondack chair to match the one their eighth-grader built. Murphy says parents at open houses tell her over and over what a valuable skill woodworking was for their child to learn.

The community at large offers work projects suitable for children. Some big box hardware stores teach free projects aimed at the grade school set, (<https://tinyurl.com/y9yloh65>), and parents can learn woodworking skills alongside their children as young as age two at San Francisco’s Butterfly Joint (<http://thebutterflyjoint.com/>). Classes are taught by owner Danny Montoya, a credentialed early-childhood educator.

Once they reach 16, teens can swing a hammer alongside their parents while volunteering at Habitat for Humanity (<https://www.habitatbsv.org/get-involved>). This bonding time combines learning construction skills with life lessons.

So, grab your tools, your offspring, and get to work! You’ll be building lifelong memories, and possibly completing projects that will last nearly as long.

Consult these websites before your home work begins:

<https://www.familyhandyman.com/tools/diy-for-kids/view-all/>

<https://www.bobvila.com/articles/kid-friendly-diy-projects/>

http://www.ajhamler.com/woodworking_gallery



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Big Picture Market Update

Recently our clients have asked us more and more "Where are we in the current real estate cycle and do you foresee a correction in the near-future." This question is a valid considering the strong market that has persisted for years, rising interest rates and the new Tax Plan that reduced certain homeownership deductions.

Regarding interest rates, the Fed recently raised rates and signaled two more increases are coming before year-end. The latest rate increase was the second this year and the seventh since the end of the Great Recession. Another trend to keep an eye on is income growth rates and if they are keeping up with home price appreciation levels. According to Reuters, annual average income growth has remained below 3% even as home prices have risen on average more than 5% over the last few years. Historically and over the long-term housing growth moves in correlation to growth in income levels. In addition, the unemployment rate is now below 4% for the first time since 2000, stock markets are at or close to all-time highs, the Whitehouse is forecasting solid 4% GDP growth and political winds, while volatile, have recently calmed a bit.

In looking at the Lamorinda market, for homes below \$2M the market is as strong as ever due to limited inventory and rising incomes. For homes between \$2 – 3M the market remains unchanged as the strong economy and the demand for a remodeled home counter balances any negative impact from interest rates and tax ramifications. Homes above \$3M have recently shown some signs of softening as inventories are rising and switching costs are increasing for move-up buyers that currently have a \$1M tax basis and 3.5% mortgage on their existing home.

Given all this, we believe the Lamorinda market will remain strong for at least through 2019. While rising interest

rates are certainly something to watch, the gravitational pull of a strong economy, inventory shortages, and a robust stock market will likely offset any negative ramifications of rising interest rates.

For a more comprehensive discussion see the Insight section of our website at MartinHomesTeam.com.



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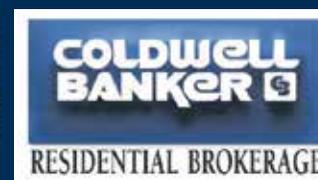
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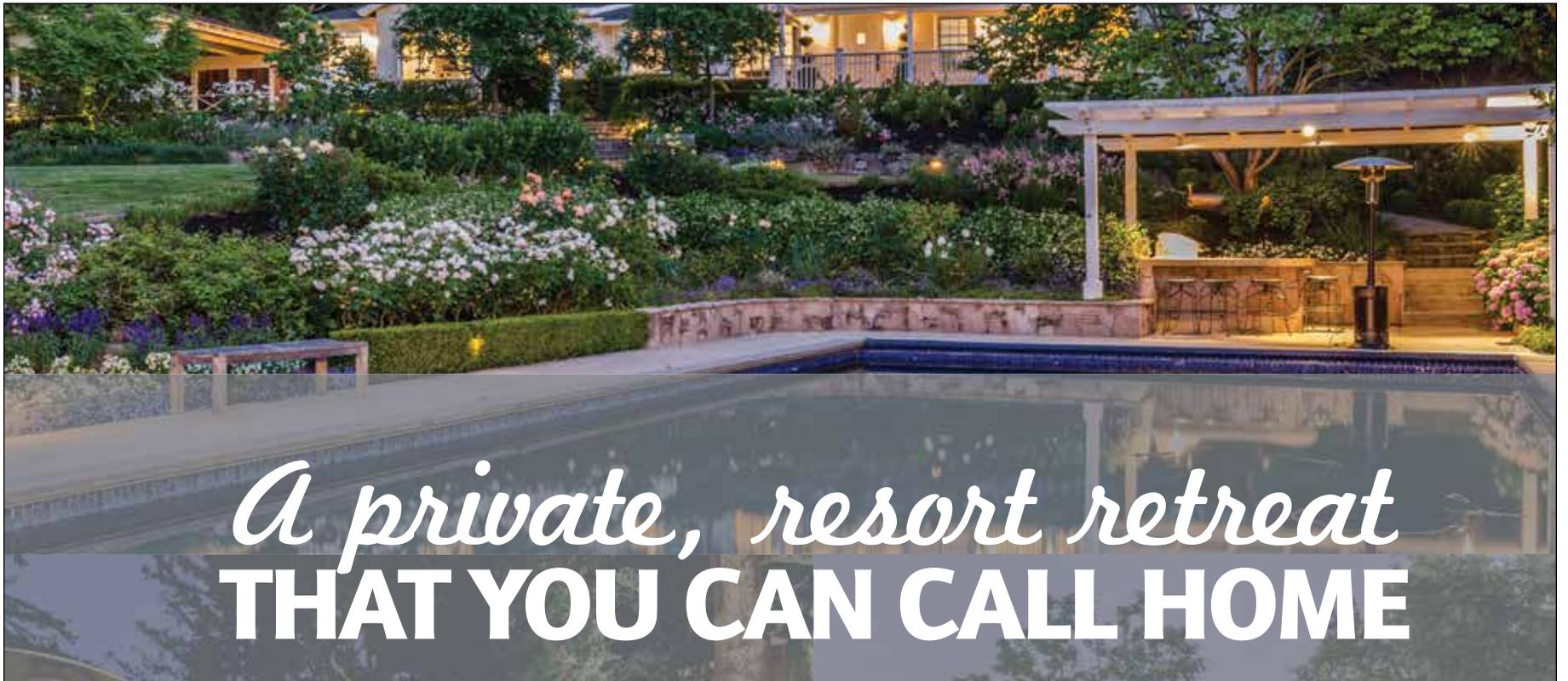
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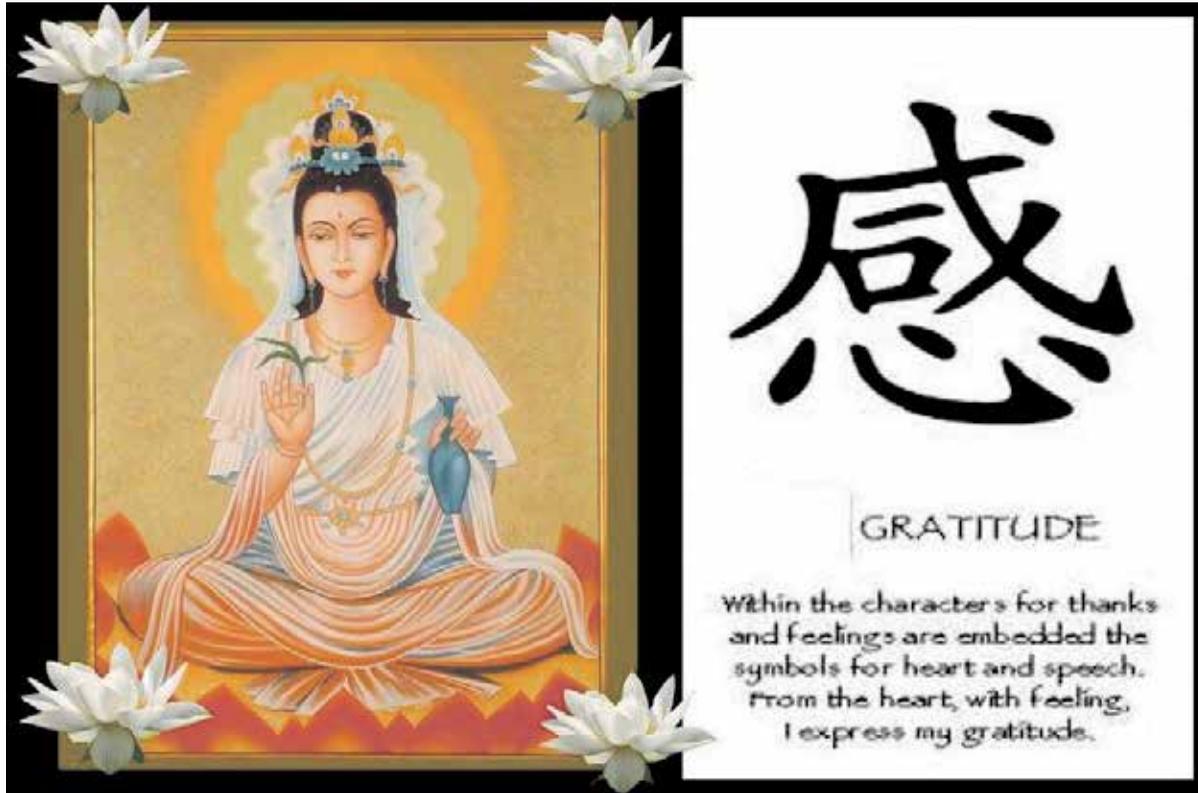
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Feng Shui

Activate the Helpful People & Travel Area this summer

By Michele Duffy



The Helpful People area includes gratitude, especially for the Divine, the most helpful of all.

Photos provided

Summer is upon us and while backyard “staycations” are a popular alternative to boarding passes, the warmer temperatures can beckon, inviting us to parts unknown where personal learning adventures await.

Summer travel fills our senses with memories of Ferris wheels on boardwalks along with salt water taffy storefronts and festive balloons floating up, up, up and away. We remember as long as water was in abundance for swimming, water fights, or a relaxing hot tub under a canopy of glittery stars: all was well in the world.

The Taoist animal sign of the Dog rules the Bagua area that includes travel, helpful people and heaven. In this 2018 Dog year, especially, travel is most definitely a favored activity, but remember to be generous and kind on the journey and express gratitude to all you meet along the way. Other Earth Dog qualities will serve you well, such as being honest, fair-minded, friendly, gentle, grounded and balanced.

I felt a close-to-home certain sadness after the world recently lost a wonderful travel journalist (although he

didn't consider himself a writer) – CNN's relevant Jersey Boy and travel cuisine king, Anthony Bourdain. Like many of his fans, he intimately welcomed you into his world, and I borrowed the show's many culinary secrets. Watching the last episode of his show about Buddhist Burma was beyond words for me and so may he be swiftly carried to a place of peace. We will miss him in our home and certainly, along with the world who knew him.

What always struck me as so necessary about how Bourdain traveled is more than just a curiosity for adventure but the importance of having a solid crew of travel partners. The world opens up to us through cuisine, film, music, language, art and literature, and for many world travelers, especially in summer, food is a major inspiration for leaving home comforts and getting onto the road.

The Feng Shui Bagua Area that rules travel also includes helpful people and also heaven, source, and universal values. Helpful people include benefactors, mentors, guides, teachers, helpers, supporters, fans, and any person

you meet along your journey who shares great grace. Not having this ease with the cheery help of others can clearly make one's life dreary and challenging, to say the very least, and so cultivate a fresh tribe of those you help this year, and ensure the help you receive in kind is abundant. When you are traveling, those friends you haven't met yet are on energetic standby to be of service to you. It's balanced karma, to a degree.

Heaven is more than just divine intervention, although that in itself is truly marvelous to experience and to have on one's side, but heaven in the feng shui sense is more of a quality. Heaven creates clarity and a lifting of uncertainty and confusion and chaos. So, especially as the 2018 Earth Dog year continues to progress into summer, clarity can assist our personal choice for a summer travel destination.

The Travel, Helpful People and Heaven area of the feng shui Bagua is located along the front entrance door wall, on the near wall as you look into the space. This is often overlooked area, which is relevant for a healthy life area of the Bagua map, is governed by the metal element, which can be activated with colors like white, silver, grey and metallic, or inspirational, helpful or grateful sculptures made of bronze, like of Ghandi, Buddha or Arch Angel Michael. Place a photo gallery of your family or friends who are also helpful to you in this area, but avoid placing any reminders of people here who made your life difficult. Place symbols of who and what you feel gives you a sense of deep gratitude. ... continued on page D10



Traveling often involves stopping and smelling the flowers. Placing a photo like these colorful poppies enjoyed on a trip to Big Sur recently can help activate the Travel, Helpful People and Heaven Bagua area.

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Feng Shui

Activate the Helpful People & Travel Area

... continued from page D8

Helpful people regularly improve your quality of life and are the ones you care about – and can even be dogs and other pets. Placing travel art or a photo gallery of places where we love to travel is also an excellent activator of this Bagua area.

The earth element “creates” or produces the metal element, so by placing the earth element in this area, we strengthen the metal governing travel, helpful people and heaven. To keep the feng shui strong and vibrant, minimize the fire element in this area, such as the color red, since it melts or destroys the metal element.

Remember that this Bagua area also rules gratitude. As we gather our helpful people together for a trip around the globe this summer and intermingle with other cultures, cuisines, music or art, many miles away from home, remember to be humble and travel gently as our souls experience the unexpected moment. This is made all the more sweet when we return home to where our heart is, feeling grateful for the good in the world and the good we have also created inside our welcoming homes.

May all travel in 2018 be safe journeys!



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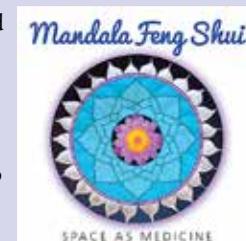
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Michele Duffy, BTB M.F.S. is an Orinda resident who, since 1999, enjoys creating “Space as Medicine” Feng Shui one space at a time, as well as hiking in nature, cooking, and spending time with her family; Canyon Ranch Feng Shui Master, International Feng Shui Guild (IFSG) Red Ribbon Professional. To schedule a professional 2018 Feng Shui Consultation, contact Michele at (520) 647-4887 or send an email to spaceharmony@gmail.com.



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Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for July

Independence Daze

By Cynthia Brian

"Independence now and forever." – Daniel Webster



Pelargonium citrosolum, also known as the mosquito plant, doesn't keep the mosquitoes away.

Photos Cynthia Brian

Anticipating the celebration of the Fourth of July was a huge deal when I was a kid. Those were the days when three weeks before the big day, stands selling fireworks, rockets, sparklers, fountains and more would line country roads and highways. Our station wagon filled with kids would pull up to these pop-up booths as we begged our parents for our favorite explosive entertainment. Our dad and uncles would buy boxes of various items to ignite on my grandparent's ranch to the thrilling ooh's and ah's of our large Italian family. Safety was always a major concern as we often read in the newspaper about people who lost a hand or started a fire while being less cautious. My dad was a captain in our county's volunteer fire department and he made sure that our Independence Day fun was safely executed.

Our morning would begin with us marching with our farm animals decorated in ribbons of red, white and blue in

a local parade, where there were always more participants than spectators. A delicious picnic with produce harvested fresh that morning followed. A bounty of salads of tender greens, juicy tomatoes, crunchy beans, and tangy cucumbers flavored with garlic, olive oil and wine vinegar remain in my memory. But it was the first bite of roasted white sweet corn slathered with butter and basil for the pre-fireworks barbecue that still to this day makes my mouth water.

The sound of weed whackers, lawn mowers, chain saws, blowers, and giggling children indicates that summer has arrived. In the heat of the day, swimming pools become our refuge while our patios are the place to kick back after a long day at work. Our gardens are resplendent with the colors of the rainbow as nature's annuals and perennials burst into bloom. Hydrangeas, Oriental lilies, daylilies, roses, gladioli, kalanchoe, clematis – and my favorite for this sea-

son, godetia. Godetia is not only brilliantly beautiful but also deer resistant. Swallowtails are fluttering throughout the landscape and finches have taken up residence in my favorite birdhouse perch. My garden is a living, breathing firecracker!

We must temper this marvelous warm weather excitement with our distressing recollections of the recent destructive wildfires. Heed the checklist from our local fire departments to create a defensible space around your home. To reiterate fire district recommendations:

- Prevent embers from igniting your home by clearing leaves, needles, and debris from gutters, eaves, porches and decks.
- Trim grasses and weeds.
- Prune tree limbs to keep the lowest branches 6-10 feet from the ground.
- Reduce "fire fuel laddering" by not allowing bushes or trees to touch one another.
- Keep combustible materials 15 feet away from structures.
- Maintain your property and be alert for any fire danger.

For further safety tips visit <http://www.mofd.org/fire-prevention/abatement>.

Whether you march in a parade, hike, bike, eat pancakes, picnic, barbecue or dance to your favorite beats, may you make your own memories this Independence Day while watching fireworks sponsored by our localities. Let freedom ring!



A delicate swallowtail butterfly feeds on a pink geranium.



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Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for July

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BE SAFE on the Fourth of July. Only 295 communities throughout California allow for the "safe and sane" use of individual fireworks. For more information visit: <http://ca-fireworks.presskit247.com/>.

WATER your orchids with an ice cube weekly. This is a simple way to monitor the moisture and keep your orchids hydrated and healthy.

BUY-A-ROCKET to support the Fourth of July fireworks in Moraga: <https://secure.rec1.com/CA/moraga-parks-recreation/catalog/index?search=rocket>.

MOW lawns more frequently, cutting no more than one-third of the grass height at each mowing to keep your lawns healthy. Water deeply and infrequently!

HARVEST plums and apricots. Pick up fallen fruit to prevent disease to the trees.

FIRE up the barbecue to grill your favorite veggies and sweet stone fruits.

PLANT squash now to use their blossoms for cooking in 30 to 40 days. Sowing okra, dill and cilantro will add to your garden's bounty later in the summer.

ENJOY containers or pathways of citronella geraniums, also called the Mosquito Plant or Pelargonium citrosum, in areas where you walk. The citrusy scent is pleasant when brushed up against, however, despite mass perception, my experience informs me that this plant, which does not contain citronella, does not deter the pesky biters. Empty all vessels with standing water daily to avoid an aquatic mosquito-breeding field. Turn on a fan and light a citronella candle.

Be grateful that we live in this beautiful land of spacious skies, fruited plains and purple mountain majesties. Proud to be an American!

Celebrate with glee our Independence this Fourth of July. Hurry, it is summer!

Happy Gardening. Happy Growing.



Armenian cucumbers are delicious sliced for snacks or salads.

Photos Cynthia Brian



A field of corn will be ready for the 4th.



Fresh greens tossed with oil and vinegar.



Cynthia Brian's new favorite deer resistant annual, Godetia sits amongst the carpet roses.



Cynthia Brian is proud to be an American.

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.

Buy a copy of the new book, Growing with the Goddess Gardener, at www.cynthiabrian.com/online-store.

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