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SMC Gaels junior forward Jaylen Crim, center, takes a shot.

Photo Tod Fierner

Saint Mary's soccer starts season strong

By Jon Kingdon

The Saint Mary's Gaels women's soccer team continued its strong start, winning four of their last five games. The team lost last season's leading scorer, Hannah Diaz, who graduated last year to play professional soccer, and it was late in the recruitment season when head

coach Travis Clarke came on board in 2015, so the Gaels currently have a lot of freshmen and sophomores on the roster, but Clarke is optimistic about the strength of the players and how that strength is starting to show. One player to watch is sophomore goalie Maleah Milner, who won the starting posi-

tion late last season and who Clarke calls very athletic and cerebral, saying he thinks she will develop into an elite college goalie. Other standouts include junior forwards Jaylen Crim and Jordyn Cunningham, who both are on pace for a great season. (See the full story on Page C1.)

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LAMORINDA WEEKLY

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Lamorinda EBMUD directors project continued water rate increases

By Nick Marnell



John Coleman Photos provided



Marguerite Young

The Lamorinda board members for the East Bay Municipal Utility District ran unopposed in the 2018 general election, so John Coleman and

Marguerite Young will retain their seats for the next four years, a period in which they foresee water rates continuing to rise for their customers.

"I am proudest of my efforts to accelerate the replacement of our distribution infrastructure, 4,200 miles of pipeline with an average age of 70 years," said Young, Ward 3 director. She pointed out the acquisition of Carr Ranch in Moraga and the major upgrade to the Orinda Water Treatment Plant as other major accomplishments during her tenure.

Young, whose ward includes Moraga and Orinda, said she will remain focused on the distribution pipeline, accelerating the pace of replacement to ensure reliable service and minimize main breaks. She expects to see pipeline and reservoirs being replaced throughout Moraga and Orinda prioritized based on risk

of failure, changing water demand and other benefits such as improving pressure for firefighting and coordinating with public road repair and repaving.

She acknowledged customers' frustration with disruptive EBMUD activities over the last two years. "We have stepped up our coordination with local jurisdictions including Moraga and Orinda, which I hope will lead to smoother operations and less community disruption during projects that of necessity tear up streets or disrupt traffic patterns. This is especially challenging in Orinda and Moraga with their narrow streets and limited detour options."

Young does not back down from the need to raise water rates,

citing that pipeline replacement "is very costly and is the major driver behind the rate increases that I've supported. I do expect our rates to continue to increase even while water use declines, as we come to grips with the need to address periods of water scarcity due to our changing climate and to upgrade our infrastructure to ensure that we can continue to deliver clean safe reliable water to our taps 24/7/365."

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Lamorinda 2018 Elections

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Our Homes D1-D16

Cozy home design ideas just in time for autumn – Page D1





Public Meetings

City Council

Monday, Sept. 24, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Planning Commission

Wednesday, Sept. 26, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Design Review

Monday, Sept. 24, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Arts & Science Discovery Center,
3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

School Board Meetings

Acalanes Union High School District
Wednesday, Oct. 3, 7 p.m.
AUHSD Board Room
1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette
www.acalanes.k12.ca.us

Lafayette School District

Wednesday, Oct. 10, 7 p.m.
Regular Board Meeting
District Office Board Room
3477 School St., Lafayette
www.lafsd.k12.ca.us

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

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Residents make their case for saving trees and pipeline safety at special meeting

By Pippa Fisher



Photo Pippa Fisher

Dialogue is set to continue and chainsaws appear to be set aside, for now at least, following a special meeting which saw top executives from PG&E facing a variety of tough questions and concerns from residents.

The special meeting, called for by Vice Mayor Cam Burks, brought together the utility, the California Public Utilities Commission and residents for a meeting with city council leaders Sept. 10.

The conversation in front of the regulatory body CPUC is a result of over a year's frustration by residents who want answers to over 150 safety-related issues.

Initially concerned by the spring 2017 decision made by the council, allowing the removal of hundreds of trees on both privately and city-owned land which PG&E claims is needed for pipeline safety as part of the Community Pipeline Safety Initiative, residents' concerns grew to address the lack of automatic shut-off valves, exposed pipe-

line, lack of testing and aging infrastructure. Residents formed the group Save Lafayette Trees, which brought a lawsuit against PG&E and the city.

In a packed room following a lengthy presentation from PG&E during which time Council Member Mike Anderson intervened to keep the meeting on track to save enough time for all residents to speak, close to 30 of those residents argued their points articulately and wanted their voices heard.

Speakers included high school students, engineers, biologists and first responders who took issue with many of PG&E's claims that tree roots potentially damage pipeline and that trees should be removed to allow emergency response access. Several speakers demanded the \$500,000 paid to the city by the utility as part of the agreement should be returned and put toward making Lafayette's pipelines safer.

SLT co-founder Michael Dawson accused PG&E of scare

tactics and said that residents have lost trust in the utility. "This half-billion dollar Community Pipeline Safety Initiative is an unregulated and unnecessary program, not required by law. Six years after its rollout, PG&E has not improved their pipeline safety record," he said.

Michael Dawson and many of the speakers asked for PG&E to release the city from the 2017 agreement and for the formation of a citizens advisory committee to work with the city and the utility.

Having heard public comments Anderson suggested the first step would be for PG&E to release the city from any deadline. He said he was happy for the city to return the money and wanted the issue placed on a future agenda. Since Mayor Don Tatzin and Council Member Ivor Samson both recuse themselves from meetings with PG&E, such a future meeting will have to be when all three remaining members of council can attend.

It did seem that PG&E was listening and is open to continued dialogue.

PG&E Marketing and Communications Manager Jeff Smith commented after the meeting that they would be open to continuing a dialogue with those parties provided it includes the city and the CPUC. "We are in the process of deciding on next steps," he said.

Smith said that PG&E appreciated the city's interest in looking to facilitate a path forward to address this important public safety issue and pointed to the

utility's previous participation in "multiple good-faith discussions with well-intentioned members of the community looking for more information on how to make their city as safe as possible."

SLT co-founder Gina Dawson was a little more positive after the meeting. "It was awe-inspiring to me. From the Campolindo Environmental Club students to the octogenarian, what a range of people passionately united on a community-wide issue," she said.

Gina Dawson credits Burks for getting PG&E and CPUC in the same room. "Kudos to Mark Mitchell and Mike Anderson for ensuring residents adequate time to comment. Hearing everyone's voices was critical. Mike's offer of return of CPSI money and question of tree cutting deadline was incredible and certainly the right thing to do, in my opinion. The public witnessed a genuine, unfettered response to their concerns," she said.

Burks too was optimistic. "It was a very constructive meeting. My hope is that PG&E and Save Lafayette Trees will keep the dialogue going and will bring back to the council a solution – one that balances both safety and citizens' concerns – so that the council can act in the best interests of all Lafayette residents."

Gina Dawson acknowledges there's still a lot of work to be done, but says "I think the city and PG&E have clarity on what the community thinks necessary to restore credibility."

Perfect weather for Lafayette's 23rd annual Art and Wine Festival



Photos Pippa Fisher

By lunchtime on Saturday the festival was already bustling with crowds browsing the booths such as the one shown here – Tsalt, an Oakland-based gourmet seasoning company started by Cole and

Tsatsaa Campi.

Under cloudless skies and a temperature hovering around 70 degrees, it was a picture-perfect day to stroll, enjoy wine and examine local art. – P. Fisher



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Restricted access on reservoir trail while EBMUD repaves

By Pippa Fisher



The repaving of the trail around the reservoir is needed for the more than one million people who use the facility each year. Photo Pippa Fisher

Runners and walkers who rely on pounding the pavement on the loop around the Lafayette reservoir will have to adjust their plans as the East Bay Municipal Utility District will be closing first one side and then the other to allow for repaving of the trail known as the Lakeside Nature Trail.

The work is set to start Sept. 17 and is estimated to last through Oct. 5. EBMUD will be paving one and a half miles on the western side first, leaving the other side open to

the public. Once that work is completed the utility company will be repaving the eastern side. Connecting trails to the closed portion will also be closed.

The work is necessary as part of general maintenance and upkeep on the pathway, explains EBMUD Community Affairs Spokesperson Kathryn Horn, who notes that the last time the trail was repaved was 12 years ago. The reservoir has in excess of 1 million visitors per year.

Mayor proclaims Gold Star Mothers' Day in Lafayette

By Pippa Fisher



From left: Jonathan Vega Yelner with his mother, Yolanda "Jolie" Vega, grandmother Santia Vega Montalvo, aunt Synthia Vega Montalvo, and brother Mathew Vega Yelner. Photo provided

The Lafayette City Council issued a proclamation to declare Sept. 30 Gold Star Mothers' Day – a day for residents to acknowledge and honor the sacrifice of gold star mothers and families.

Gold star moms include mothers, stepmothers, grandmothers, mother-in-laws and guardians whose son or daughter died during active-duty service in the United States military during a period of war or hostilities in which the U.S. Armed Forces were engaged.

These young men and women include those who died not only in combat but also in the hospital, on training, by suicide and at home while on leave from service.

As Lafayette resident Yolanda Vega, president of the Golden Gate Chapter and herself a gold star mom says, "It's a distinction none of the mothers/families want," but says they accept the recognition since they are proud of their children.

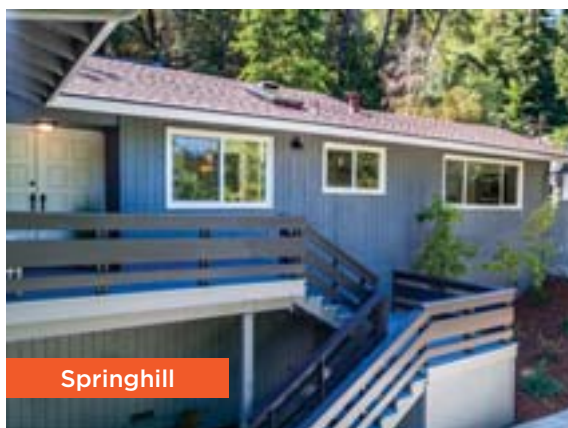
The tradition of the gold star began during World War I. Gold star mothers and families raise funds for veterans, active-duty service members and their families as well as other gold star families.

Locally the group visits veterans at the Martinez VA hospital, letting them know they are honored and not forgotten. Gold star mothers and families support Veteran's Court, sit on boards, which provide healing, training, coaching, recognition, counseling and career placement. They march at parades, speak at public events and meet with civic leaders to raise the visibility of military men and women. They have formed foundations to identify and assist veterans who need a helping hand and they lay wreaths at the cemeteries and military monuments during Wreaths Across America.

Gold Star Mothers' Day is observed in the U.S. on the last Sunday of September each year.

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Moraga

Public Meetings

City Council

Wednesday, Sept. 26, 7 p.m.

Special Council Meeting:

Tuesday, Sept. 25, 6 p.m.

Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

Planning Commission

Monday, Sept. 17, 7 p.m.

Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

Design Review

Monday, Sept. 24, 7 p.m.

Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

School Board Meetings

Moraga School District

Wednesday, Oct. 9, 7 p.m.

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

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Candidates to fill Fritzky's council seat to be interviewed last week of September

By Nick Marnell

Eleven candidates, nine of whom filed on the last possible day, applied to fill the Moraga Town Council seat vacated by the August resignation of Jeanette Fritzky. The position will be filled immediately upon the appointment of an applicant, and the term of office will expire in December 2020.

The council opted to use an application-interview-appointment process to fill the vacancy, similar to the procedure used by Lafayette in 2016 to select Ivor Samson to fill a vacant seat on its governing board. The applications, due on Sept. 12, included questions on the candidate's background and a statement of qualifications. The candi-

date also had to describe a vision for Moraga and key issues facing the community. The town expects to make the applications public by Sept. 25.

The 11 applicants range from a lawyer to a financial advisor to an education consultant to a Moraga planning commissioner to a former director of the Moraga-Orinda Fire District. Candidate interviews, the next step in the process, will take place on Sept. 25 and 26 at the Moraga town chambers. The interviews will be conducted by the four town council members.

"We need a half hour with each of them," suggested Council Member Kymberleigh Korpus, and

the council agreed on an interview format of a five minute candidate statement followed by 25 minutes of questions and answers. The Sept. 25 meeting will begin at 6 p.m. and the meeting the following evening will start one hour later.

As an edge might be gained for a candidate who listens to preceding interviews, the council agreed that the order of the interviews would be selected at random by the town clerk and published ahead of the meeting. The fact that some candidates would attempt to grab that edge did not faze at least two council members. "It would not affect my opinion one way or the other as these are open and pub-

lic meetings," Roger Wykle said, and Korpus agreed. "It would not negatively affect my opinion of a candidate at all if that candidate sat through all the prior interviews in an attempt to improve their performance during their own interview," she said.

A decision on the candidate could be made at the end of the Sept. 26 session, or the council could push back the decision to a succeeding council meeting, as long as the council names Fritzky's successor by Oct. 21. Should the council fail to do so, the town would be required to hold a special election at cost that could exceed \$100,000.

Plan for fun at annual Pear and Wine Fest

By John T. Miller



Last year's pear pie-eating contest.

Photo provided

The Town of Moraga will celebrate its 20th Annual Pear and Wine Festival this weekend on Saturday, Sept. 22, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Moraga Commons

Park. Admission is free to the public.

The family-friendly event will include activities for all ages while celebrating Moraga's pear history.

Kids activities will include chalk art, face painting, a petting zoo, inflatable jumpies, and other games and prizes. Local DJ RyanO will provide entertainment.

Three Lamorinda wine growers will be offering tasting at the event, including wines from Captain Vineyards, run by Sal and Susan Captain of Moraga, Meadow View Winery run by Bill English, and Vincenza Ranch Vineyards, owned by Tony Inzerillo.

Captain Vineyards, which has been certified Green since 2009 and uses only dry-farmed organic grapes from the Lamorinda region, will be pouring three varietals from their wines, which may include Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Petite Verdot, Petit Syrah and Granache.

Meadow View Winery will offer Chardonnay, Rosè, Pinot Noir, a Tuscan style blend, Cabernet Franc, Cabernet Sauvignon and a

Syrah. All grapes except the pinot noir are grown in Lamorinda.

Vincenza varietals include Cabernet Sauvignon, Chardonnay, Meritage, Petite Syrah, Sangiovese, Super Tuscan Blend and Zinfandel. They are also known in the Lamorinda area for their exclusive Pear Wine made annually for the Moraga festival.

Beer will also be offered along with pear cider.

Over 30 community groups will have booths at the festival. Food and drink will be available, along with ice cream, and pear pies by the slice or whole. Families can also bring picnics if they prefer.

Scheduled events include announcing the winners of the pear recipe contest at 1 p.m. and a pear pie-eating contest at 1:30 p.m.

While there are no longer any commercial pear orchards remaining in the Moraga region, the event, says Parks and Recreation

Supervisor Breyana Brandt, "is to celebrate the pear history here. In 1913, this was the largest pear growing community in the nation."

Seedlings of pear trees planted by the padres at San Juan Bautista are now, more than 200 years later, the oldest fruit trees in California. According to the Moraga Historical Society, they remain in a fair state of vigor in spite of long neglect, producing large amounts of fruit yearly. Most of the pears in the Moraga Valley are Bartlett pears, planted around 1913 by James Irwin of the Moraga Company.

Brandt reports that the Moraga Park Foundation coordinates an annual pear harvest, gleaned from the town's many trees and donating them to the Contra Costa and Solano County Food Bank.

Moraga Commons Park is located at the corner of St. Mary's Road and Moraga Road.

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Edy Schwartz leaves deep mark on the town of Moraga

By Sophie Braccini



Edy Schwartz

her friends and people who worked with her described her as a force that had changed many lives and influenced the town.

The proclamation that was given to her children and grandchildren talked about Schwartz's many achievements. She was the one everyone called simply Edy, who never sought any official position, personal benefit or egotistical gratification, and tirelessly worked for over 10 years for the public good in Moraga.

Mayor Dave Trotter talked about her civic involvement, including her work during the 1974 campaign to incorporate Moraga and the creation of the Moraga Citizens Network in 2005, her volunteerism as president of the Chamber of Commerce and her tireless efforts to save the Rheem The-

atre. He also noted that Schwartz founded both the Moraga Community Foundation and Lamorinda Presents, and recognized the community conversations Schwartz initiated with her friend Maura Wolf after the 2016 presidential election.

Several people talked at the council meeting, telling their stories and how Schwartz had impacted them. Derek Zemrak, co-owner of the Rheem and Orinda theatres and founder of the California Independent Film Festival, unveiled a plaque engraved in Schwartz's name to be added to the theatres' Hall of fame.

Schwartz, who referred to herself as an introvert, was described by her very longtime friend Ellen Beans as a bridge builder, a visionary who saw possibilities because

she had no bias, and could reach out to all because she was nonjudgmental.

A teacher and a psychologist she was a peace activist who believed in democracy. Her life was spent seeking people and convincing them of what could be. Beans confirmed privately that Schwartz's ultimate quest was spiritual. She was a humanist who believed in the power of being present. Schwartz was lead by the same principles she was living. She sought wisdom in her personal life to be able to lead from the wide lens of compassion. She thought that the key to affecting social change and being a leader was to take full responsibility for her life and align her values of humility, generosity, compassion, courage, equanimity, and joy with her ev-

eryday actions.

All these years, she also worked with groups of friends on her spiritual quest: reading, studying and always seeking to better herself and live her life by the values that were most important to her.

Schwartz was loved because she loved people, and inspired them to be their best. Her life was a process of bettering herself in order to better serve her country, her community and her family.

Schwartz is survived by her husband, Jeff, with whom she had been married for 55 years, her son and daughter, both living with their spouses in Moraga, and four grandsons. The family has invited her friends to a celebration of her life at 3 p.m. Oct. 6 in the Redwood Circle at Rancho Laguna Park. (See Remembrance, on Page A15.)

Moraga Auto Row may be on its way out of town

By Nick Marnell



Everything must go!

Photo Nick Marnell

Moraga residents who want to purchase a used car can wade through social media postings, click on automobile websites like AutoTrader or stop along the west side of Moraga Way between School Street and Viader Way and literally kick the tires of a handful of cars for sale.

At any given time, three to five

cars are parked along the artery, many featuring window signage that includes sales data like year, mileage and asking price. The practice has been going on for as long town officials can remember.

Things may be about to change. Town officials took a drive along Moraga Way in early September and determined that the auto

row clearly violated the town's municipal code, which states that "no operator of a vehicle may park the vehicle upon a street for the principal purpose of advertising or displaying it for sale unless authorized by resolution of the town council."

... continued on Page A16

Pear & Wine Festival
Saturday, September 22
11:00 am – 3:00 pm



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Orinda

Public Meetings

City Council

Monday, Oct. 2, 7 p.m.
Library Auditorium, Orinda Library
26 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563

Planning Commission

Tuesday, Sept. 25, 7 p.m.
Library Auditorium, Orinda Library
26 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563

Citizens' Infrastructure

Oversight Commission

Wednesday, Oct. 10, 7 p.m.
Sarge Littlehale Community Room,
22 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563

School Board Meetings

Orinda Union School District

Monday, Oct. 8, 6 p.m.
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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Orinda amends private street policy – residents unhappy; Gee votes no

By Sora O'Doherty

The city council adopted a revised policy on accepting private streets on Sept. 4, with Council Member Darlene Gee casting the only negative vote and Council Member Eve Phillips recusing herself as a new homeowner on a private street. Many private street residents spoke at the meeting in opposition to the revised policy and of 34 written submissions, only two supported the revised policy.

Director of Public Works Larry Theis and City Manager Steve Salomon recommended the revised policy, which requires, among other things, that the street "be required for traffic circulation which provides benefit to the general public." This would appear to rule out cul-de-sacs, and public speakers questioned how the city could justify its existing 82 public cul-de-sacs but refuse to consider adding any private ones. The policy also requires streets to be brought up to current standards, which in some cases may be impossible and in other cases might be prohibitively expensive.

Vice Mayor Inga Miller returned repeatedly to the concept of "public benefit," suggesting that without it, adopting any private streets would constitute a gift of public funds, but did not address the apparent contradiction in treatment of existing public and private cul-de-sacs. City council members pointed out that private street residents benefitted from the maintenance of public streets, but did not address the fact that while private street residents pay taxes equal to public street residents, including new fees that cover damage garbage trucks do to public roads, residents of public streets enjoy maintenance of their streets and do not bear any liability for events such as sinkholes, while private street residents enjoy no such maintenance and bear full liability.

Theis and Salomon have been

promoting the idea of special benefit assessment areas, and provisions for them have been included in the revised policy. This would require 60 percent of property owners on a private street to put up \$1,000 each to have a vote on a special benefit assessment area. If approved by over 50 percent of residents, they would pay additional taxes over a period of from 10 to 30 years to cover the cost of bringing the street up to current standards, and in return the city would accept the street, maintain it and assume the liability for it, if it met all the other criteria in the policy. If the special benefit assessment area is approved, the \$1,000 deposits would be returned to the property owners, but if the special benefit area were not approved, the city would retain the deposits to cover its costs for the public hearings and election on the issue. If adopted, the costs would include an initial engineering study to determine the condition of a road, including any underlying structures such as drains or culverts, and what would be required to bring it up to current standards. Residents objected that the costs of both the study and the actual work have been overestimated by the city.

City staff argue that most cities have both public and private streets, and that residents who live on private streets knowingly accepted all the consequences of that designation when they purchased their

homes. Private streets in Orinda fall into different categories. Some, as in more recent developments, were designed to be private and were not offered to the city. Others, mostly in older developments, were offered to the city when the development was completed, but, for whatever reason, the city declined to accept the street. Some of these developments were completed long ago, before the incorporation of the city in 1985. At that time, standards for roads might have been much less stringent, according to Orinda Senior Civil Engineer Jason Chen. However, Valerie Colber, an Orinda resident and property owner for more than 60 years, said that deeds do not state that the street is private. "Most taxpayers never requested that their streets be private," she claimed.

Gee said that while she appreciated staff coming back to the council with the revised policy, it was not what she had expected and she disagreed with the resolution proposed by staff and did not support it. She pointed out that city maintenance and drainage plans for the public streets are not complete. "The community has pulled together," she said, "and the avenues of raising funds are limited while there are no viable resources." Thus the council will probably have to ask the voters to approve additional funds to complete the work on the public roads.

... continued on Page A11

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Democratic Party of Contra Costa County
Lamorinda Democratic Club, Central Labor Council of Contra Costa County
International Association Of Firefighters Local 1230
Moraga-Orinda Professional Firefighter's Assoc.
Orinda resident, Robert Lipp, FEMA, USAR Task Force 4 Chief
Orinda resident, Lance Calkin, Albany Fire Chief
Adrian Sheppard, Richmond Fire Chief
Darin White, Oakland Fire Chief
James Williams, Asst Chief, Sonoma County
Manuel Navarro, Division Chief Menlo Park Fire
Brian Oftedal, East Contra Costa Fire District
Don Parker, San Ramon Valley Fire Board
Tyehimba Peyton, Lathrop Manteca Fire Board
Melinda Drayton, Oakland Deputy Chief
John Baker, Retired Oakland Fire chief
Bill Moore, Retired Oakland Fire Chief
Alford Nero, Retired Tracy Fire Chief
Ray Dossa, Retired Battalion Chief
Megan Bryan, Firefighter, Saint Mary's College Women's Basketball '02

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OUSD welcomes new board member Liz Daoust as Rossiter exits

By Sora O'Doherty



Liz Daoust Photos Sora O'Doherty



Julie Rossiter

As Liz Daoust was the only person nominated to run for the open seat on the Orinda Union School District board; no election was necessary and the district was spared the expense. She will take her seat in December for a four-year term, along with returning members Carol Brown and Jason Kaune, who supported her by running with her as a slate.

Daoust is the mother of three girls, ages 8, 7 and 5, all attending Glorietta this year, and Daoust is thrilled to have them all in one

school. Already a board member of the Friends of the Orinda Library, Daoust is devoted to volunteerism, and is very excited to take on the challenge of the OUSD. "I really love serving this town," she said during a recent interview, adding, "I really care about kids, teachers, and community. Teachers are my favorite people," she mused, "I am so impressed by the amount of energy and patience they devote to their students."

Daoust earned a master's from Harvard in educational policy

and management. During graduate school, she tutored and started teaching middle school as soon as she completed her degree. She has also been dean of students both in New Hampshire and Palo Alto. Thus she has a combination of both teaching and administrative skills that is, she says, somewhat rare among school administrators. Daoust says that she respects all the members of the school board and is excited to work with them and with Superintendent Carolyn Seaton, whom Daoust praises as being a wonderful communicator who has assembled a great team.

The two school bonds on the November ballot have been taking up some of Daoust's time, as she campaigns for their passage. She anticipates that her term on the board will be busy with facility upgrades. Although the position on the school board is voluntary, Daoust takes a professional approach to it. "I see this as my next job," she says.

Outgoing OUSD Board Member Julie Rossiter feels she is leaving the district in a good place.

When Rossiter was first elected

to the OUSD board in 2010, it was in the middle of a budget crisis that brought deep cuts to the school budget. But in the intervening eight years she believes that the district has made great progress, developing a new strategic plan, adopting a facilities master plan, and hiring Seaton as the new superintendent. "These are all positive changes," Rossiter believes, and represent a ton of accomplishments. As she finishes her second and final term on the board, Rossiter is hard at work promoting the two school bond issues that will be on the ballot in November.

So what does Rossiter anticipate new board member Liz Daoust will be facing when she joins the board? If the school bond passes, Rossiter anticipates lots of positive developments on the facilities side. She hopes that work will continue to try to centralize fundraising efforts, similar to what Lafayette and Moraga have done, to shift the effort from the individual school level to the district level.

Other continuing and upcoming projects for the board include

professional development for teachers and an ongoing commitment to hiring and retaining the best teachers. Each of the schools in the district is developing "maker spaces" where kids can come and experiment with the process of making things. Orinda Intermediate School offers this as an elective, Rossiter says, while at the elementary schools students may have access to the maker space during recess, at lunch, or after school. In the maker space kids might find robotics, or LEGO walls. One of the developments to look out for if the bonds pass is the future development of the Wagner Ranch Nature Area. One of the bonds specifically provides for broadening community access to the nature area. Rossiter would like to see a classroom space added to area, and ultimately thinks the district will be able to provide a much more robust facility and programing.

Although she'll be off the board, Rossiter intends to remain actively engaged in education, be it fundraising or policy advocacy.

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Fire Districts

Public Meetings

Moraga-Orinda Fire District Board of Directors
 Wednesday, Sept. 19, 7 p.m.
 Go to the website for meeting location, times and agendas. Visit www.mofd.org

ConFire Board of Directors
 Tuesday, Oct. 9, 1:30 p.m.
 Board Chamber room 107, Administration Building, 651 Pine St., Martinez
 For meeting times and agendas, visit <http://alturl.com/5p9pu>.

Share your thoughts, insights and opinions with your community.
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MOFD welcomes Truck 44 into its apparatus fleet

By Nick Marnell



From left, firefighter-paramedic Jeremy Kshevatzky, Capt. Brad Nygard and engineer Clayton Hoover.

Photo Nick Marnell

That head-turning, bright red, articulated fire truck that has been on training runs in Moraga and Orinda streets for the past few weeks was put into service Sept. 10 at Moraga-Orinda Fire District Station 44. The \$1.2 million truck is part of a major apparatus purchase approved by the district board in 2017.

The new vehicle is indeed a showstopper. “We’ve been getting a lot of comments from the public and from other agencies about how beautiful this truck is,” Capt. Brad

Nygard said.

But the truck has not arrived without controversy. Two district board members voted against its purchase, with director John Jex wary that the district was not in a solid enough financial position to spend nearly \$3 million on new apparatus. Others argued that a quint – a vehicle that carries an aerial ladder, a ground ladder, a pump, water and a hose – would have been a more prudent purchase.

A quint operates both as a fire truck and a fire engine but accord-

ing to many firefighters, does neither operation well. “I know what an engine can do and I know what a truck can do,” Capt. Daryle Balao, one of the original MOFD firefighters, said at the time. “My responsibility as a truck captain is to open holes and break things so that the engine company can put the fire out.” A ladder truck carries extrication equipment and specialized rescue supplies. It carries more tools than an engine but no water. Its 100-foot aerial ladder is bigger. Its features are more in line with cur-

rent firefighting needs, said Balao.

The Spirit of Saint Mary’s, the truck donated to MOFD by the college in 2001, became a reserve vehicle at Station 41 once the new truck was put into front line service at Fire Station 44. That change also caused controversy, with Moraga residents complaining about the district moving the truck to Orinda.

“I make no decisions based on politics of the district,” said Fire Chief Dave Winacker. The chief stressed the central location of Station 44, noting that the travel time from the station is almost identical to both Orinda Village and Saint Mary’s College.

As for accessibility, Winnacker said that Truck 41 was unable to access 170 streets and courts and an additional 21 portions of various streets and courts in the district. Because of the increased mobility of its articulating chassis, Truck 44 will be able to access all but six streets and courts. That list excludes areas that MOFD does not respond with a truck, such as Canyon, Bollinger, and other outlying areas. In those areas, road access is not the issue, but the rural nature of the community with the associated vegetation and property setbacks makes a truck ineffective, and Winacker said the district responds with an engine instead.

Moraga Police Department Incident Summary Report Aug. 28 - Sept. 9

Alarms	27
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	8
Traffic	99
Suspicious Circumstances	9
Suspicious Subject	4
Suspicious Vehicle	9
Service to Citizen	38
Patrol Request/ Security Check	32
Vacation House Check	13
Supplemental Report	11
Welfare Check	1
Abandoned Vehicle	St. Marys Rd./Moraga Rd.
Accident Property	Moraga Rd./Lucas Dr.
Auto Burglary	20 Block 24 Hour Fitness

Battery Sexual Civil

Civil Standby
 Disturbing the Peace
 Drunk in Public

Excessive Speed

Campolindo High School
 1500 Block Canyon Rd.
 Homegoods
 Starbucks
 10 Block Magee Ct.
 2000 Block Ascot Dr. (2)
 1400 Block Moraga Way
 Safeway
 Moraga Way/Moraga Rd.
 Canyon/Cam Pablo
 Moraga Rd./Corliss Dr.
 Canyon Rd./Country Club Dr.
 Walking Trail X From St. Marys Canyon/Camino
 Camino Ricardo/Corliss Dr.
 Lucas Dr./Moraga Rd. (3)
 Home Goods

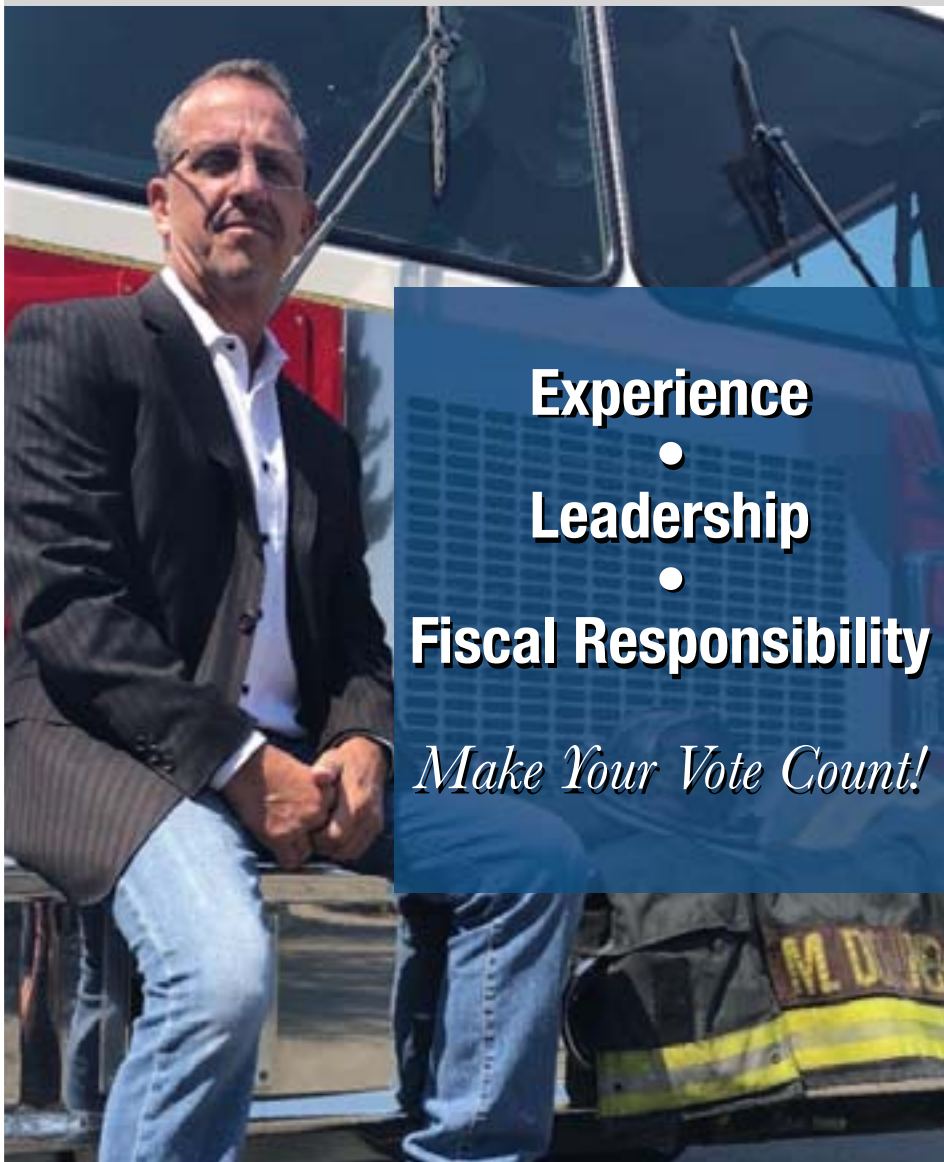
Found Property
 Grand Theft
 Hit And Run Misdemeanor
 Identity Theft
 Loitering
 Lost Property
 Loud Music
 Loud Party
 Medical Hospital

Moraga Commons
 200 Block Draeger Dr.
 Alemany Dr./St. Marys College A
 Police Department
 20 Block Carr Dr.
 100 Block Quintas Ln.
 1700 Block Donald Dr.
 Police Department
 Ascot Dr./Moraga Rd.
 Hacienda
 10 Block Miramonte Dr.
 2000 Block Ascot Dr.
 70 Block Miramonte Dr.
 Draeger Dr./Moraga Rd.
 1000 Block Sanders Dr.
 900 Block Country Club Dr.

Missing Juvenile
 Motorist Assist
 Ordinance Violation
 Petty Theft
 Public Assembly Check
 Reckless Driving
 Shoplift
 Traffic Control
 Traffic Stop
 Verbal Dispute
 Warrant Arrest

Campolindo High School
 Bank Of America
 100 Block Ascot Ct.
 Campolindo High School
 Rheem Valley Shopping Center (5)
 10 Block Roberts Ct.
 Seven Eleven
 Moraga Rd./Campolindo Dr. (3)
 Safeway
 Moraga Way
 Safeway (3)
 Canyon Rd./Camino Pablo
 Camino Pablo/Rimer Dr.
 10 Block El Camino Flores
 10 Block Laird Dr.
 300 Block Blk Rheem Blvd.

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Moraga Police Department investigates death of child stranded in vehicle

By Nick Marnell

A 19-month old toddler died Sept. 11 after being left unattended in a car on Hardie Drive for several hours by a family member.

Moraga police and Moraga-Orinda Fire District emergency personnel responded to a medical call around 4 in the afternoon and discovered a child who was not breathing. Paramedics performed life saving measures and transported the child, Lily Aracic, to John Muir Medical Center in Walnut Creek, where she was later pronounced dead.

The outside temperature at the time first responders arrived at the scene was approximately 80 degrees.

"It is an absolute tragedy," Moraga Police Chief Jon King said. "It has impacted everyone, including my officers, firefighters, the dispatchers, the people in the emergency room." It was the first incident of its kind he can remember in Moraga, King said, and the third this year in California.

The chief outlined preventive measures for drivers who bring a child along for the ride. "Look before you walk," he said, advising drivers to make sure that a child, or a pet, or even valuables like a laptop or a briefcase, are in plain view in the back seat of the car. He suggested purposely leaving something in the back seat near the passenger, like a phone, or a purse, something you absolutely have to get, and no way would forget.

King also recommended setting up checks and balances between the driver and the destination. "If a child should be dropped off somewhere at 9:00, and the child has not arrived by 9:15 or so, have the receiving party call just to check on the delay," he said.

The incident is under investigation by the Moraga Police Department. The determination of the exact cause of Aracic's death is pending a report by the Contra Costa County Coroner's office.

Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report Aug. 26-Sept. 8

Alarms	54
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	5
Traffic	107
Suspicious Circumstances	5
Suspicious Subjects	13
Suspicious Vehicles	13
Patrol Request/ Security Check	26
Service to Citizen	46
Supplemental Report	16
Vacation House Check	26
Welfare Check	4
Abandoned Vehicle	40 Block Brookwood Rd.
Accident Injury	McDonnell Nursery
Accident Property	Bear Creek Rd./Camino Pablo Village Gate Rd./Orindawoods Dr. Wells Fargo
Annoying A Child	100 Block Crest View Dr.
Auto Burglary	Wilder Sports Fields
Battery	10 Block Patricia Rd.
Burglary	McCaulous

Civil Problem	Wagner Ranch Elementary
County Solicitor Permit	10 Block Eastwood Dr.
Dependent Child	Moraga Way/Valley View Dr.
Disturbance-Domestic	Camino Pablo/Eb Sr 24
Drunk In Public	500 Block Moraga Way
Dui Misd	San Pablo Dam Rd./Camino Pablo Rheem Blvd./Glorietta Blvd. Orinda Intermediate School
Fireworks	Los Arboles/Camino Don Miguel 20 Block Marston Rd.
Found Adult	10 Block Altarinda Cr.
Found Property	Orinda Senior Village
Grand Theft From Building	50 Block La Espiral
Hit And Run Misdemeanor	Pine Grove Business Complex
Identity Theft	Police Department Ardilla Rd./Camino Pablo 10 Block Orinda Way
Juvenile Disturbance	20 Block Lavina Ct. 500 Block Miner Rd. Glorietta Elementary School
Loitering	Sycamore Rd./Miner Rd.
Loud Music	70 Block Hillcrest Dr. (2)
Loud Noise	10 Block Lloyd Ln.

Loud Party	10 Block La Campana Rd. Orinda Country Club 500 Block Miner Rd. (2)
Medical Hospital	10 Block Great Oak Cr. 10 Block Lost Valley Dr. 100 Block Overhill Rd. Miner Rd./Camino Pablo McDonnell Nursery
Ordinance Violation	30 Block Charles Hill Ln. 10 Block Great Oak Cr. 10 Block Cielo Ct. 10 Block Valley Dr.
Other Misdemeanor	10 Block Camino Sobrante
Petty Theft	30 Block Charles Hill Cr. Safeway 20 Block Austin Ct. Sleepy Hollow School
Petty Theft From Veh	Orinda Way/Camino Sobrante
Public Assembly Check	Avenida De Orinda/Orinda Way Orinda Way/Avenida De Orinda E Altarinda Dr./Orindawoods Dr. 800 Block Ironbark Pl.
Public Nuisance	Hall Dr./Moraga Way
Reckless Driving	Moraga Way/Ivy Dr. (2)

Residential Burglary	10 Block E Altarinda Dr.
Robbery Strongarm	Hidden Valley Rd./Tahos Rd.
School Assembly Check	Mhs (7)
Traffic Hazard	300 Block Camino Pablo Del Rey School Rheem Blvd./Glorietta Blvd. 10 Block Charles Hill Rd. Orchard Rd./Glorietta Blvd. 500 Block Miner Rd. 100 Block Orchard Rd. Canon Dr./El Toyonal
Trespass	300 Block Camino Sobrante
Vandalism	20 Block La Cuesta Rd.
Verbal Dispute	100 Block Crest View Dr. 10 Block Mira Loma
Walk Through	Cvs 10 Block Camino Sobrante (2) Theater Square
Warrant Arrest	Miramonte High School Camino Pablo/Brookwood Rd. 10 Block Theatre Sq 106

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- Moraga Teacher's Association

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MORAGA-ORINDA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT | **DIVISION 1**

Lafayette City Council candidates answer questions ahead of the November election

By Pippa Fisher



Susan Candell Photo provided



Teresa Gerringer



Karen Maggio



Ivor Samson



Dave Smith

Lamorinda Weekly reached out to the Lafayette City Council candidates and posed four questions on key topics pertaining to Lafayette. Responses were limited to 50 words due to space constraints. The issues are complex, however, and to learn more, residents can attend the Lafayette Homeowners Council Candidates Night, to hear what all city council candidates and school board members have to say at 7 p.m. Sept. 20 at the Lafayette Veterans Memorial Hall.

Running for city council this year are Susan Candell, Teresa Gerringer, Karen Maggio, Ivor Samson and Dave Smith.

Responses are listed below each question and are presented in alphabetical order of the candidates' last name.

1. How should city government handle downtown development and what is your opinion about the recent Deer Hill Road development proposal or the passage of Assembly Bill 2923?

Candell: Lafayette can and should act now to enforce balance between growth, parking, traffic and infrastructure. AB2923 is flawed and sets minimum zoning standards that our infrastructure cannot manage. The 315 Apartments at Deer Hill will cause irreparable harm to the environment and

gridlock. Lafayette urgently needs to be proactive.

Gerringer: Development needs to adhere to the General and Downtown Specific plans, to safeguard school, traffic and safety impacts. AB2923 is new law that allows BART to step in to build housing and commercial space on its property; I worked hard against this measure because it bypasses local planning.

Maggio: Lafayette's General Plan, the Downtown Specific Plan, and the Hillside Ordinances guide our city's progress. The plans and rules were developed after years of community input. AB 2923 would undermine these and our community's authority to control planning decisions near BART stations. Cities should band together to vigorously oppose AB2923.

Samson: Downtown development must be consistent with the General and Downtown Specific plans and must be scrutinized for impacts, especially on traffic. Proposed development on Deer Hill should be carefully reviewed for impacts, especially on schools, traffic and public health. I fought for retention of legal counsel with land use expertise.

Smith: As I've knocked on doors, I've heard concern about development negatively impact-

ing our quality of life and frustration that resident voices are often ignored. Deer Hill exposed divides and AB2923 will further test us. It's been 16 years since we last updated Lafayette's General Plan. Let's unite around a collective vision.

2. Traffic is a growing concern among Lafayette residents. What do you think is the best strategy for tackling traffic, especially in the Pleasant Hill Road corridor?

Candell: As a Circulation Commissioner, I'm helping roll out the Downtown Congestion improvements. I advocated for residents on Reliez Valley Road to increase safety and reduce delays for their bus routes, and will continue this new regional cooperation and find real traffic solutions for Pleasant Hill Road without an enormous price tag.

Gerringer: Pleasant Hill Corridor traffic is a regional issue requiring collaboration with other jurisdictions to implement solutions, like efforts to reduce Reliez Valley Road traffic. Continued collaboration with schools to implement recommendations of the Downtown Congestion Reduction Study, particularly pedestrian/bike pathways to schools, downtown and BART is also required.

Maggio: Planning tools such as Streetlight Insight access data

from smart devices, determine root causes of congestion, and forecast future conditions. Unlike surveys and traffic counts, the tools determine trip origins (residents vs. non residents) and best ways to mitigate traffic at its source. I would deploy such tools to inform strategies.

Samson: Traffic congestion is a reality which, given geography and infrastructure, can only be tweaked. I advocated for traffic calming along Reliez Valley Road, which has helped somewhat. Because the ability to control traffic stops at the city limits, meaningful change along the Pleasant Hill Road corridor requires regional solutions.

Smith: With kids at Springhill and Diablo Valley Middle School, I've experienced painful commutes and difficulty of BART parking. We must rethink our traffic patterns, public transportation, and parking options. I propose a Lamorinda Jitney (regional transit option) that leverages technology, takes cars off our roads, and meets the needs of our working families.

3. Do you think transparency in the current city council is an issue? If so, how would you suggest improving it? If not, please feel free to take a moment to explain your position.

Candell: City council should

not approve significant deals with utilities, developers or others without public communication and discussion. Conflicts of interest have been addressed for commissioners, which I supported. Lafayette residents are knowledgeable, involved, and well-informed, and I will advocate for more resident input and transparency, not less.

Gerringer: As a 19-year member of the Lafayette School Board, I believe in engaging the community in transparent, open and meaningful ways, and complying with open meeting laws that define what business is conducted in open or closed session. Given these rules the current council operates in a transparent manner.

Maggio: The Brown Act requires full disclosure in documentation of city matters and council activities. While the city may comply with Brown, the issue is in a lack of detail and content in its documents. I would ensure that all documentation is complete, clear, and fully covers the matters disclosed.

Samson: Yes. I fought for a stringent conflict of interest ordinance over strenuous opposition and have advocated other measures to improve accountability and transparency.

... continued on next page

SUSAN CANDELL

A Voice for the Voters!

for LAFAYETTE CITY COUNCIL



A Lamorinda resident for 40+ years, Nuclear Engineer, MIT and Cal graduate, married with two children

"...Susan has been an active community volunteer in many municipal areas, including traffic, safe school routes, planning and development. She's respectfully encouraged our current City Council members to push their thinking beyond the status quo. Susan's decision making process is always well-informed, independent and objective. Lafayette needs Susan's fresh approach."

-- Jean Follmer,
Former Lafayette
School Board Member

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- ✓ CREATE STRONG CITY - SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP
- ✓ PROVIDE SAFER ROUTES TO SCHOOL
- ✓ REDUCE TRAFFIC CONGESTION
- ✓ PROTECT OUR HILLSIDES AND RIDGELINES

Susan Candell is the Most Qualified Candidate to Deliver Smart Solutions!

Established, Experienced Community Leader

- Circulation Commissioner
- Lafayette Community Foundation Board Member
- President, Springhill Valley Homeowners Association
- Active at City Council meetings for past 5 years
- Deep understanding of Traffic and Parking problems

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- Advocate for our residents and our semi-rural quality of life
- Will protect our City and voter rights when faced with excessive growth
- Supported new Conflict of Interest Ordinance (commissioner code of ethics)

Results-driven Professional Engineer

- Will bring much-needed Tech and Engineering expertise to City Council
- Will provide technical evaluations of our programs for health and safety
- Submitted 20+ technical letters to the City regarding negative impacts of proposed projects

"I am not supporting Susan because I know I will agree with her on every decision. I am supporting her because I know she will truly listen, that she has the technical background to understand complex issues, and because she has the courage and determination to do what she thinks is right for the community."

-- Traci Reilly
Former Lafayette City Council Member

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The Lafayette Homeowners Council sponsors Candidates Forum, Sept. 20

The Lafayette Homeowners Council (LHC) is sponsoring its yearly Candidates Night at 7 p.m. Sept. 20 at the Lafayette Veterans Memorial Hall, 3780 Mt. Diablo Blvd. All residents are welcome. This year five candidates will be on the November ballot for just two City Council positions. Each candidate will have five minutes to introduce themselves and speak regarding their individual positions on various Lafayette issues. After each of the candidates have spoken, members of the audience will be able to ask questions of any candidate.

Also, the LHC has invited the four School Board "candidates" to its Candidates Night and each has been asked to introduce themselves and speak for 2-3 minutes regarding their views on schools and education in Lafayette.



The meeting will also include a brief "Annual Meeting" agenda by the LHC and we also hope to hear from our mayor.

Moraga Citizens Network hosts Candidates Night, Oct. 3

Moraga's Candidates Night will feature the three Moraga Town Council candidates – Mike McCluer, Dave Trotter and Steve Woehleke – who will speak on important issues from 7 to 8:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 3 at the Holy Trinity Serbian Church, 1700 School Street in Moraga. Bring questions or submit your questions via email to MCN94556@gmail.com. This free event is sponsored by the Moraga Citizens Network.

Orinda City Council Candidate Forum, Oct. 3

The Orinda Association will host the City Council Candidate Forum, featuring candidates Dennis Fay, Eve Phillips, Kathleen Jenkins, Amy Worth and Nick Kosla, from 7 to 9 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 3 at the Orinda Library Auditorium.

<p>experience</p> <p>ANA ZIMMANK SRES GLOBAL LUXURY SPECIALIST M. 925.640.6008 ana.zimmank@camoves.com CalBRE #00469962</p>		<p>the difference</p> <p>When it comes to your most important real estate investments, trust the professional who is exceeding expectations every day. Whether you are looking for the perfect home to suit your lifestyle or want to sell your home for the best return, you can count on me to carefully guide you through the process.</p> <p>Experience the difference.</p> 
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Lafayette City council candidates

... continued from Page A10

I have a different, legal-based perspective, but more needs to be done to ensure that we have responsive municipal government that listens to its citizens.

Smith: The seminal issue is a lack of trust with many residents feeling outside and unheard. We must reimagine our community engagement strategies to better listen to residents. I have 15 years of experience putting the public back in public engagement and providing venues for dialogue that build empathy and trust.

4. Many residents have expressed anger about plans by PG&E to cut down hundreds of trees in Lafayette and have many safety concerns they want the utility company to address. How do you believe the city should proceed with PG&E regarding these issues?

Candell: As an engineer, I know gas pipeline integrity proj-

ects should include pipeline inspections, remote shut-off valve installation, old pipeline replacements, but not necessarily tree removal. The city should help residents protect their trees, listen to the CPUC regarding PG&E actions, and compensation spent on replacing trees in place.

Gerringer: The city (hosted) a forum with residents, PG&E, and the California Public Utilities Commission to address resident concerns and find common ground. Facilitating an open dialogue will result in better outcomes. Letting PG&E know our concerns and working with them is necessary to keeping Lafayette beautiful and safe.

Maggio: Our community cares about trees. The Tree Protection Ordinance protects them. Utilities should be required to follow the same ordinances that our citizens are required to follow. At the

Special City Council Meeting on September 10th the city and PG&E (explained) how they are complying with the ordinance.

Samson: I represent clients in litigation against PG&E and receive benefits from PG&E due to past employment. Accordingly, I am recused from all matters related to PG&E and cannot comment. I do, however, encourage everyone to actively join in the on-going city/PG&E debate.

Smith: Our city needs to set the table for community conversations where PG&E, California Public Utilities Commission, East Bay Regional Parks, and our concerned residents can work together on jointly owned solutions that prioritize safety, our natural environment, and builds trust. I specialize in structuring cross-sector partnerships to find collaborative solutions.

Orinda amends private street policy

... continued from Page A6

Gee pointed out that some 1,500 households of voters in Orinda live on private roads, implying that this could affect the passage of future road measures. Gee supports the formation of a task force to examine potential solutions to the private streets issue, which has been rejected by the council. "I have never found it beneficial," she concluded, "to not listen to people."

Mayor Amy Worth said that she had discussed the matter with Bobbie Landers, who was mayor of Orinda at the time it was incorporated. Most cities have public and private roads, she said, and most

cities do not have a policy on accepting private roads. "We would love to be able to accept all of the private streets," she said, but concluded that the city's very small budget made her mindful of taking on any public liability.

Several revisions to the revised policy were considered by the council. In the end, they added language that allows the city council to approve exceptions, on a case by case basis, to the rule that excluded private roads subject to homeowners' associations or similar entities from acceptance as public streets.

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IVOR SAMSON Lafayette City Council

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When I was appointed to fill the last two years of a vacant City Council seat in December 2016, I thought that this was a real opportunity to contribute a meaningful public service for a limited period of time.

After being sworn in, it quickly became apparent that I was the odd man out - or at least in the minority - on a number of issues that reflected a different approach to my view of how local government should work. I have pushed back on that approach, sometimes successfully; sometimes not, and feel that it is important to have an elected Council member who consistently advocates the following principles:

TRANSPARENCY

- I pushed through a stringent Conflict of Interest Ordinance over significant opposition to help restore confidence in the integrity of the land use and permitting processes.
- I believe that all meetings should be open to the public to the extent allowed by law. Closed sessions should be limited to narrowly defined circumstances.

INDEPENDENT THINKING - NOT A RUBBER STAMP

- I was the only City Council Member who refused to approve the City Manager's contract because it contained terms which I thought were manifestly unfair to the City.
- I was the only City Council Member to advocate putting Measure L on the November 2018 ballot to allow for more reasoned evaluation and discussion instead of rushing it to the June ballot.
- I was the only City Council Member to oppose Measure L. I did not rush to judgement; I spent over a month trying to understand the various legal and factual issues before I came to my decision.
- I don't vote for "feel good" resolutions just for the sake of political correctness. I listen and stand up for my community. I try to carefully consider the merits of all matters brought before the Council and vote accordingly, regardless of peer or political pressure.

COLLABORATION, FISCAL DISCIPLINE, AND ACCOUNTABILITY

- As custodians of your tax dollars, we must spend the public's money sparingly and wisely.
- We need to look for areas where we can create better partnerships and share resources such as strengthening the collaboration between the City and our schools.
- We must consider how future housing development impacts our schools and traffic.
- We must listen well in order to lead and we must ensure accountability to the citizens of Lafayette at every step of our actions.
- The proverbial buck stops with the Council!

A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE

- My professional career has been spent as a commercial litigator trying complex cases. I place great value on due process, fairness and openness while maintaining a position of strength.
- I will proactively protect the City's legal interests.
- I am not afraid to be in the minority if I believe it is in the City's best interest.

"Ivor and I have sometimes been on the opposite side of things, but that's OK because he fights for what he believes in and I want him elected to the City Council to continue fighting for Lafayette." – Vice-Mayor Cam Burks

I have been very fortunate to have lived a full life as part of this community. I started out as one of the founding members of the **LAFAYETTE HOMEOWNERS COUNCIL** in the early 1980's, then served on the **PLANNING COMMISSION**, and was elected to **THREE TERMS ON THE CITY COUNCIL**, stepping down in 2006. Along the way, I was honored to be selected as a **LAFAYETTE CITIZEN OF THE YEAR** and a **CALIFORNIA LAWYER OF THE YEAR**. I have brought a different - more independent and citizen focused - perspective to the Council.

HELP ME CONTINUE TO STAND UP FOR YOU!

Moraga Town Council candidates square off on complex local issues

Curated by Nick Marnell



Mike McCluer



Dave Trotter Photo provided



Steve Woehleke

Incumbent Dave Trotter and challengers Mike McCluer and Steve Woehleke, all vying for two open seats on the Moraga Town Council, discussed various local topics with the Lamorinda Weekly.

Lamorinda Weekly: The 2018-19 budget does not include funding to address needed repairs or to replace assets such as major equipment or facilities. In addition, Moraga does not have enough revenue to address infrastructure needs. According to the town's budget document, "Due to the town's small budget and ongoing lack of sufficient investment in its infrastructure, the town could be one emergency away from another cash flow problem." Yet residents expect the infrastructure to be re-

paired and maintained. How do you propose to accomplish that, without enough money available to do it?

Candidates: Using over-budget Measure K funds is the method McCluer favors to repair infrastructure. He will also aim to fill empty storefronts and investigate cost savings of reorganizing town departments, including outsourcing and pursuing shared service agreements.

Trotter said that the town will strive to obtain public grants and reimbursements to help cover infrastructure projects. He said that the storm drain project, crucial to the town's infrastructure, is not going away. "I have proposed at council meetings that the town track property tax receipts during the course of the year, and at the midyear budget (revision) apply 50 percent of the anticipated coverage to storm drain repairs and maintenance," Trotter said.

Woehleke will minimize infrastructure maintenance and renewal costs through use of sound business practices. He would also fine-tune the town finances and sell nonessential, nonperforming assets to raise funds. Only as a last resort would he seek approval of additional funding from Moraga citizens.

Lamorinda Weekly: Even with property tax revenue forecast to increase 5 percent a year, the town's five-year financial plan projects that the town will not have hit its council goal of a 50 percent general fund reserve by 2023. As such, together with the problem outlined in the previous question, would you say that Moraga has a revenue problem or a spending problem? Can you give examples of what you would propose to achieve a healthier town bottom line?

Candidates: Trotter insists that the town has a revenue problem, not a spending problem, largely due to its low share of property tax receipts. He does, however, advocate for less spending, noting that he voted against the community meeting room and the studies on proposed St. Mary's Road roundabouts. And he said that obtaining grants and reimbursements will help the town's bottom line.

"Moraga may have both revenue and spending problems,"

Woehleke said. To improve fiscal health via the spending side, he will "strive to ensure that major expenditures are optimized including through use of proven business practices." On the revenue side, he advocates continuing to work in partnership with the Chamber of Commerce to encourage new businesses.

"In my opinion we do have opportunities to cut expenses," McCluer said. He would build revenue through an aggressive support of new retail in Moraga by expediting the permitting process and creating a welcoming climate for new businesses.

Lamorinda Weekly: What is your stance on the recent hillside development and ridgeline protection policy? How is it fair to property owners, environmentalists and the no-growth faction alike? And, considering the financial challenges presented in earlier questions, why is the policy worth a quarter of a million dollars in legal costs to defend?

Candidates: "I choose not to judge fairness, as the new regulations are being litigated," Woehleke said. He does not believe that the Moraga community seeks litigation except as a last resort and he is concerned that for a fiscally challenged small town like Moraga, the litigation costs will be a burden.

McCluer said there is a very strong consensus from Moraga residents that these guidelines are appropriate and necessary to better protect ridgelines, scenic views and hillsides. Regarding litigation, he said the town's duty is to serve the interests of its residents and when necessary use funds to defend what the residents have clearly indicated they want.

"I strongly support the recent adoption of the new hillside, ridgeline and open space protections policies that are now embodied in amendments to the town's General Plan, zoning ordinances and design guidelines," Trotter said. He calls the regulations balanced, and says they fairly accommodate competing interests and do not preclude all development. "Defending the town's land use and zoning regulations against unjustified attacks is both essential and in the public interest," he said.

Lamorinda Weekly: Mor-

aga retail will suffer a major blow in 2019 with the departure of Orchard Supply Hardware. It sometimes seems as if, in retail, for every two steps the town moves ahead, it slips back one and a half, and storefronts continue to sit vacant. How do you propose to help Moraga attract - and retain - a vibrant retail sector?

Candidates: According to McCluer, one underlying problem in attracting new retail is that Moraga has one of the most difficult approval processes in the East Bay. "The town has made good progress to date in trying to change that, but we need more and this is a central goal of mine," he said.

Trotter said he has worked to develop a new zoning ordinance which promises to streamline the ongoing efforts to enhance the retail opportunities and refurbish the Rheem Center, and he said that zoning designation is available to all shopping center owners. Implementation of the Moraga Center Specific Plan remains his high priority, and Trotter said that the preserved Rheem Theatre will act as a magnet, drawing patrons to nearby restaurants and businesses.

To enhance the commercial districts, Woehleke looks to assign each new potential business a council member advocate, revise Moraga's planning process to better match current conditions and become a council liaison to the Chamber. "We cannot succeed without cooperation of the major property and business owners, and acrimonious relationships need to be resolved," he said.

Lamorinda Weekly: At the May 23 council meeting, a speaker commented that a large part of the No vote against the proposed Moraga storm drain fee had "nothing to do with stormwater" but with "people's vitriol against (the town) council, and what is happening and what has happened in the past." The speaker called for the council to "improve on transparency and decision making." What steps would you take to increase council transparency and to improve its decision making?

Candidates: "The council meets and makes its decisions in public with cameras rolling,"

Trotter said. He explained that the town has taken many steps to better communicate with Moraga residents about what is going on, including the About Town e-newsletter and live streaming of all council meetings. "The unsuccessful storm drain measure shows we must do a better job engaging in very transparent outreach to the community before moving forward with any new funding proposal," Trotter said.

Woehleke believes that transparency is a key factor in quality decision making. "The town council is your team. Every successful team has a mix of individuals who bring unique strengths to maximize the positive outcomes. I can and will make a significant positive difference on the functioning of the council by building this critical competency," he said.

"I share the speaker's concerns, and addressing the storm drain infrastructure problem and improving transparency are among my highest priorities," McCluer said. "Full, complete, and easily accessible information should be available to the public regarding all major decisions and expenditures. I feel that the recent declaration of a financial emergency and drafting of the storm drain fee measure should have included more effective and open communication with the public."

Summary

The three candidates shared many similar elements of their vision of Moraga four years from now, such as an improved financial position, dedicated infrastructure funding, open space preservation and a stronger retail market. But each candidate also presented one unique suggestion in his long-range outlook.

McCluer was the only candidate who promised to address the town's unfunded pension liability, Trotter envisions completion and active use of a new public trail network on Palos Colorados, Bellavista, and Painted Rock properties and Woehleke foresees a long-range Lamorinda traffic management plan - even using autonomous buses - to account for the growing population of all three communities.

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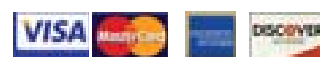
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Candidates for Orinda City Council comment on current issues

By Sora O'Doherty



Dennis Fay



Kathleen Jenkins



Nick Kosla



Eve Phillips



Amy Worth

The Lamorinda Weekly posed questions about issues that are likely to come before the Orinda City Council during its upcoming term to the five candidates running to fill the three positions that are on the ballot in November: Amy Worth, Eve Phillips, Nick Kosla, Kathleen Jenkins, and Dennis Fay. Owing to space limitations, candidates were limited to only 50 words per answer. Their responses to each question are below, in reverse alphabetical order.

1) Downtown Development: What are your thoughts about the future of downtown Orinda?

Worth: There are many possibilities for Orinda's "living room." With robust community engagement, we can make a local-serving, unique downtown. We are engaged in community discussion about the Crossroads and the Village. Many things are possible, including housing, enhanced retail and restaurants. Now is the time to make downtown serve Orinda's future needs.

Phillips: I'd like to see the downtown better meet the needs of our Orinda community. Common requests I hear (and want to facilitate) include: fill the empty lots and buildings; improve (or at least retain) parking; attract restaurant and grocery options; and maintain the family-friendly appeal.

Kosla: There is widespread support for a more vibrant, convenient and revitalized downtown; with more retail options, community-gathering spots and a restored creek. These goals are consistent with our "village character." If Orinda does not address the deteriorating state of downtown soon, the state will do it for us in a one-size-fits-all solution.

Jenkins: Any downtown project should be collaborative, rigorous, and community-driven to determine future direction and be reflective of the entire community's desired changes. There is an expressed desire for more vibrant social settings, such as upscale restaurants, outdoor seating, and family recreational amenities, all of which is compliant with our General Plan.

Fay: First, local control of land use is paramount – no state control. I hear all the time that Orindans wish they had more in-town shopping, dining and entertainment. I'd work to promote businesses that attract activity, like the Orinda Theatre and seek uses for vacant buildings – all without sacrificing Orinda's small town character.

2) Accessory Structures: A law that allowed accessory structures to be built within 5 feet of the property line is currently stayed. What adjustments, if any, should be enacted?

Worth: Options might include restricting accessory structures to required side and rear yard setbacks in underlying zones, lowering the maximum height, and/or requiring design review (or neighbor sign-off as a precondition of avoiding design review). Planning staff will bring the options to the Planning Commission, then to the City Council for action, at noticed public meetings.

Phillips: Our City statutes should reflect the will and expectations of our residents. In this case, neighbors felt that accessory structures were allowed in such a way that was inconsistent with what was anticipated. We need to ensure that our laws in fact meet the community's expectations.

Kosla: State law increasingly is limiting local regulation of ac-

cessory structures. Orinda has to comply but also ensure that they do not unduly interfere with neighbors' enjoyment of their own property. We should ensure that well-planned and designed accessory structures run smoothly through the permitting process, while minimizing the impact to neighbors.

Jenkins: California Laws AB 2299, SB1069/SB2406 effective Jan. 1, 2017 mandate local jurisdictions adopt state standards on ADUs. As ADUs can be allowed or even avoided through an ancillary and separate discretionary process in areas with health and safety risks, I agree with extending Emergency Ordinance 18-10 to resolve such issues.

Fay: This issue seems to be the result of a particular situation. The Orinda City Council has placed a moratorium on accessory structures while the matter is being studied by staff. I would await the staff analysis before forming a firm position on the matter.

3) Gun Safety: Many Orindans have expressed a desire for the city to enact some form of gun control legislation, in particular two proposed ordinances dealing with safe gun storage and gun dealers. What is your position?

Worth: Public safety is a high priority for me. We must ensure that Orinda is a safe place. The Council is exploring options for increased gun safety. At a recent meeting, there was significant public input. Possible ordinances will return to the Council at a publicly noticed meeting in October for an open, thorough discussion before any ordinance or city policies are adopted.

Phillips: While we all want to keep our community safe from gun violence, we need to ensure any ordinance we enact will actually solve the problem and in a Constitutional manner. I look forward to future discussion on this topic to do the right thing for Orinda.

Kosla: Gun safety is critical; weapons should be stored safely and Orinda should have a say over what products are sold here. In assessing proposed ordinances, we need to ensure that any they do not open the city to undue litigation risk. We also must ensure that local police are able to enforce the ordinances.

Jenkins: State of California Law succinctly defines Criminal Storage of handguns as set forth in Penal Code 25100; 25105. Consideration of additional restrictive language put forth by any local ordinance should be compared to State law for possible liability issues before being contemplated for Orinda.

Fay: I support sensible gun safety legislation. Gun locks are an effective way of preventing someone from causing injury, on purpose or accidentally. The Orinda Police Department offers free gun locks/cables. Regarding the two ordinances being considered by the city, they may not be perfect but you must start somewhere.

4) Private Roads: Orinda appears to have a somewhat unusual situation with the proportion of private roads in the city. Residents are concerned that they are not receiving equal treatment for their taxes, and are also afraid what might happen in a disaster, similar to the Miner Road sinkhole. Do you have any suggestions how the city could handle this issue?

Worth: Under current policy,

to be considered for public adoption, a street must be brought up to standard. There is a process to assist private road owners with long term self-funded maintenance via establishment of benefit assessment districts. I support this process which provides maintenance options, while limiting Orinda's financial and liability exposure.

Phillips: Being a private road resident (and thus recused currently from this topic), I am sympathetic to their frustrations. But the city is not in a financial position to take on private roads; we do not yet even have enough funding to maintain the public roads we have today.

Kosla: Adopting private roads into the public domain would require careful legal and financial analysis, as the city would assume the costs of maintenance and potential liability. We should explore

what options we have to continue to study this issue; including harnessing the professional expertise within our community to assist us.

Jenkins: The city council voted to rescind/supersede Resolution 56-90 with Resolution 59-18 with the caveat that those with private road may file for inclusion into the public maintenance road program if roads meet the General Plan 2.3.2, paragraph g., "voluntary dedication

of private streets will be considered on a case-by-case basis."

Fay: As a member of the Citizens Infrastructure Oversight Commission, I made the motion recommending a task force to review the private roads matter. I stand by this recommendation; it is the best way for all parties to understand the facts. The recently adopted city policy is unlikely to satisfy the private roads interests.

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Letters to the Editor

Note from the Editor:

Due to an incredibly large volume of candidate letters, for and against, we were only able to include one letter per candidate, but have noted if multiple letters were received.

Dennis Fay gets our vote

Dennis Fay was our neighbor for several years and was always a friendly “hello” over the back fence. His friendliness and interest in participating in neighborhood events showed a concern for what was happening on our street and in our town.

Dennis was an excellent appointment to the Roads Committee. With his background as the executive director of the Alameda County Transportation Committee, he was a perfect member for our Infrastructure Oversight Commission. Further, the fact that he was made chairman of the committee, suggests his fellow committee members recognized his leadership abilities and willingness to get involved. The committee should be proud of the major decisions they made for our city and its infrastructure... with Dennis at the helm.

We believe Dennis understands the issues facing us now and the budget constraints to carry them out. He has our city's interests at heart, now and for the future. We will be voting for him. Join us. Gayl and Harlan Hirschfeld
Orinda

(Other endorsements received by Orinda residents Richard Nelson, Elisabeth Jewel, Marcia Fick, Bill Judge, Jill Fernald and Charles Levine)

Amy Worth for Council

My husband and I enthusiastically endorse Amy Worth for the Orinda City Council. We have attended city council meetings and have been able to watch her as a representative of our city.

Amy listens to people, acts unselfishly in her decisions, and has a vision for the city. She responds quickly to concerns from citizens and is able to deal fairly with a variety of personalities. She works on solutions that will benefit the entire city as a whole.

Amy has integrity and is committed to public service. Please vote for Amy Worth for Orinda City Council.
Doreen and Bill Wagner
Orinda

(Other endorsements received from Orinda residents Ellen Dale and Bill Judge)

Stanley student raises concerns

I'm a student going to Stanley Middle School and I'm concerned about the route that me and many others bike riders take to school each day.. Going down Pleasant Hill Road is very dangerous and risk-taking for bike riders. I feel as if the cars coming from the freeway can lead to potential injury. I feel this way because there is vegetation blocking the visibility of the cars coming off the freeway. To solve this problem, I deem it necessary to cut some of the plants and bushes clearing it and making it easier to see cars is coming down.

Chase Caicedo
Stanley Middle School student

Greg Baitx, MOFD Board Division 1

I am writing to endorse Greg Baitx for the Moraga-Orinda Fire District Board of Directors Division 1. In recent years, MOFD has been governed by directors that do not put public safety as their top priority. After attending dozens of board meetings, it is very clear to me that a majority of the current directors have little to no understanding of how a fire department operates, other than the financial aspect. And based on Fire Station 43 being \$1.6 over budget and 18 months behind schedule, I question if that's considered a strength.

Greg's opposing candidate for Division 1 claims his top priorities are “high service levels, including greater emphasis on prevention through community education” and “fast emergency response times”. I'm curious as to how someone with zero background in “prevention” or the fire service in general, plans to accomplish these goals. This is where Greg Baitx's professional experience and expertise come into play. Greg knows the ups and downs of fire prevention, the history, why it exists, and most importantly, how to effectively implement and improve prevention in MOFD. With respect to response times, Greg has walked the walk, having worked in the fire service from coast to coast. From FDNY, to multiple fire agencies on the west coast, Greg knows what goes into making faster

response times because he has faced those challenges in the past.

It's time for a change; we need a director who doesn't have a one-track mind, instead, knows the intricacies of what is required to make the Moraga-Orinda Fire District a great organization that provides the best service levels possible to its citizens. Please vote for Greg Baitx for MOFD Division 1.
Chris Davies
Moraga

(Other endorsement received from Jackie Hoover of Moraga)

Michael Donner, MOFD Division 4

We are writing in support of Michael Donner who is running for the Moraga-Orinda Fire Department Board of Directors in District 4. We can say without reservation that Michael will be a tireless director who is committed to planning for and insuring public fire safety. In these times of severe fire events Michael brings his 30 years of experience to protect our community.

We have known Michael for over 10 years and have seen him work in numerous volunteer capacities. When we first met him, he was making sure our family had a plan for fire evacuation in our home and what we should do when we traveled. Some examples of his community involvement are: visiting kids classes and educating our youth on fire safety, managing Glorietta Elementary's Emergency Response shelter and the Great ShakeOut earthquake drills. He has also worked as a coach, and a board member of the non-profit, Random Acts, for over 14 years.

He is a committed community member, an amazing parent and a steadfast volunteer. Our community should be so lucky to have him on the Board.

Julianne & Chris Viadro
(Other endorsement received from Scott Mollahan, and Brian and Laura Millham of Orinda)

Nathan Bell for MOFD Division 1 for Fiscal Responsibility

As one who served as a CFO for a large public financial institution, I know the financial management of large organizations can be complex. While tempting to leave the “details” to middle management, ultimately, the senior officers and board of directors are responsible. I write today to encourage my fellow Moragans to vote for Nathan Bell for the office of Director of the Moraga-Orinda Fire District, Division 1. I have known Mr. Bell for more than 25 years as a neighbor, friend and a member of my church. I know him to be a person of good will, well-educated and with significant financial acumen.

As previously reported, past MOFD boards of directors have allowed the MOFD deficit to exceed \$50 million on a net present value basis (assuming a 7% discount rate). If earnings on the funds set aside to provide for this liability fall short of 7% per year, which is very possible, if not likely, the deficit will balloon. For example, if a 6% discount rate is assumed, the deficit would be about \$75 million. For the sake of our children and future Moragans, we need to elect financially savvy individuals to the MOFD Board. Nathan Bell is such a person and I encourage your vote being cast in his favor.

Lou Helvey
Moraga

No for Baker

I thought dirty tricks went out with Tricky Dick Nixon! I was stunned yesterday to open my mailbox and see a mailer from Catharine Baker's Assembly campaign that tried to trick me into believing Governor Brown has endorsed her. The mailer contains a large picture of Governor Brown and a quotation about Catharine Baker, with a giant headline, “What does Democratic Governor Jerry Brown say about Assemblywoman Catharine Baker?” Anyone looking at this mailer would think Brown has endorsed Republican Baker. I couldn't believe my eyes, so I called Governor Brown's office and was told that no, Governor Brown has not endorsed her. So, what gives? In these tricky times, I need a candidate I can trust who has integrity and I will not settle for anything less. Catharine Baker just lost my vote. I am now supporting Democrat Rebecca Bauer-Kahan.

John T. Johnston
Orinda

Candidate Nick Kosla Supports Revitalizing Orinda's Downtown

For years, Orindans have looked on while

of our downtown has become...more tired, sleepy. I support a City Council candidate this November who supports a thriving downtown.

Nick Kosla grew up in Orinda. He and his wife Larissa, also an Orinda native, are raising their daughters here. Nick served as Chair of the Orinda Planning Commission and knows from experience what works and what won't in a small downtown. Nick focuses on listening to all.

Nick Kosla: Thoughtful, balanced, experienced, collaborative, committed.
David W. Anderson
Orinda

(Other endorsement received from Janet Pease of Orinda)

McCluer for Moraga

Please support Mike McCluer for Moraga Town Council to protect Moraga's hills, ridges, and open spaces.

Mike McCluer has an impressive record of service to Moraga, helping to realize the brand new All-Access Playground at the Commons with Moraga Rotary, and currently serving as a Moraga Planning Commissioner. With a successful career as a CFO under his belt, he can also offer valuable financial expertise to the Town.

In addition, McCluer has made open space preservation a priority, actively supporting stronger regulations protecting Moraga's undeveloped hills and ridges. The Town Council recently adopted such changes, making revisions to the General Plan and other codes, and McCluer was an active member of the community during that multi-year process, attending workshops and submitting comments in favor of greater protection for open space.

Now, the Bollinger Valley proposal for 85 new houses will come before the Council very soon. Moraga needs McCluer, with his long-standing commitment on this issue, to help ensure that Bollinger's prominent ridgeline, landslides, and steep hills are spared from the kind of excessive grading that just occurred at the Bellavista development on Rheem Blvd.

Moraga's candidates usually say they'll adhere to the General Plan's vision of preserving Moraga's ridges, hills, and scenery, but when the pressure is on that's easier said than done. Please vote for McCluer, who took the initiative to work for open space protection even before he became a candidate.

Jan Blumer
Moraga

Steven Michael Danziger for the MOFD Division 3

For the first time in 8 years voters will have a choice of candidates in the Moraga Orinda Fire Division 3 election. The choice should be a “no brainer” as only Steven Michael Danziger has any Fire Service or governmental experience. We emphatically endorse Steven Michael Danziger for the MOFD Board and urge others in the District to do the same.

We met Steven over 35 years ago when he was serving as a Commissioner in Hayward. Since then he has retired after an outstanding career with the City of Oakland, with his wife Leesa raised two sons here, and is known for his long history of volunteering with youth and community organizations. For his entire working life he was in the public sector. He worked 20 years as a civilian Administrative Manager with the Oakland Fire Department responsible for HR for approximately 700 employees. He speaks proudly of his work managing the care of firefighters on Workers' Comp and disability, and in the Oakland Fiance and City Managers Office under legendary City Manager Henry Gardner.

Steven's volunteering in the community goes back over 20 years. He was an OBA & OYA sports coach, Scoutmaster of Troop 57, and VP of a swim club. Steven is presently an Orinda Parks & Rec Commissioner, member of the Art in Public Places Committee and a UC Master Gardener. As an avid gardener he can be found monthly at the Moraga Farmer's Market speaking about UC based research and pesticide free gardening. He recently made his 69th Red Cross blood donation. He cares about others and is dedicated to public service

Steven understands how the fire service operates, he wants to make Moraga, Orinda

and Canyon a safer place to live, he knows about governmental budgets and loves living in this community. Steven will bring a unique perspective to the Board-someone who has experience in the Fire Service.

and government. Please consider voting STEVEN MICHAEL DANZIGER for MOFD District 3 Director.
Mark Dulberg and Marlene Ehlers-Dulberg
Orinda

Support for Gerringer

Teresa Gerringer is the best candidate for Lafayette City Council. I say this as a past Mayor and member of the City Council. Teresa has been a 19-year member of the Lafayette School board, active in her church, a 17-year member of the Lafayette Community Foundation, and on the committee to raise funds to build the Lafayette Library and Learning Center, as well as a past member of that board.

Teresa is an experienced, proven leader who knows every neighborhood and the many issues facing our city. She will further her work strengthening the city-schools partnership. Teresa will work to manage growth in Lafayette by adhering to the General Plan, to safeguard schools, traffic and safety impacts, while ensuring that we balance economic vitality and our community's special character. She will engage the community and listen to concerns and work collaboratively to find solutions, as she has in the past. And, Teresa will keep our city's government and finances transparent and accountable.

Teresa has already proven that she can roll up her sleeves and do the work to make our city the best it can be.

Anne Grodin
Former Mayor Lafayette

Support Dave Trotter for re-election

I encourage Moraga voters to support Dave Trotter for re-election to the Town Council. He has worked tirelessly for Moraga and his accomplishments bear that out.

As Mayor five years ago, Trotter proposed a process to update Moraga's rules regarding open space development to better reflect the values and priorities of Moraga residents. His efforts were effective and, after extensive public hearings, the Town drafted and successfully adopted last spring new rules that offer much more robust limits on ridgeline and hillside development.

Our town was recently hit with two major calamities in the space of one year—the Rheem sinkhole and failure of the Canyon Bridge—and yet, under Trotter's and other Councilmembers' leadership, the Rheem sinkhole has been fixed and the bridge was promptly reopened. Thanks to careful financial management over his past decade of service, Moraga had sufficient funds to draw from to pay for these major unbudgeted projects, and now approximately 90% of those costs are being paid back to the Town from state and federal funds.

Trotter has consistently demonstrated a strategic approach to issues, seeking the right solution with the interests of multiple parties in mind.

In 2007, he helped negotiate \$17 million dollars in developer payments to Moraga to compensate for the elimination of the golf course from the Palos Colorados development; in 2012 he campaigned hard to gain community support for Moraga's voter-approved 1-cent sales tax to fund street repairs; and in 2016 he helped find a practical solution to the Livable Moraga Road project which allowed for the creation of bike lanes, without sacrificing any vehicle lanes, as commuters insisted upon. These are just a few of his long list of accomplishments for the Town

I haven't agreed with Trotter on every issue, nor would I expect that in every case. But what matters in the end is the magnitude of his commitment and dedication to this Town, the untold hours he has given without compensation, and the consistent benefits he has produced for all of us.

Dave Trotter has been good for this Town, and we would do well to keep him on the Council.

Timothy Meltzer
Moraga

In Memory

Edy Schwartz

1943-2018



Edith (Edy) Schwartz, passed away, surrounded by family in her hometown of Moraga, on Sept. 8, 2018 at the age of 75.

Edy was born in Reno, Nevada, to Fred and Gerda Rau. The family moved to Piedmont, California in 1948, where Edy attended Wildwood Elementary School and was a 1960 graduate of Piedmont High School. Edy attended San Francisco State University where she received her BA in elementary education and teaching in 1964.

Edy met Jeff Schwartz when they were early teens. They started dating and married in 1963. Together they would spend 55 years, raising their family, traveling the world, and educating on the critical issues of the time.

Moving to Moraga in 1967, Edy taught in the Moraga School District until the birth of her son John. Following the birth of her daughter Cathy, Edy began what would become a life-long career of raising public awareness on issues ranging from nuclear non-proliferation to the importance of grass-roots activism in our national and local political systems.

In 1998, Edy received her master's degree in psychology and counseling from John F Kennedy University. Turning her efforts to local topics, Edy spent two decades focused on issues critical to the Town of Moraga. Her work in Moraga included: being a founding member of the Moraga Citizens Network, president of the Moraga Chamber of Commerce, and a Community Liaison to Saint Mary's College of Moraga. Edy was Director of Community Marketing for the California Independent Film Festival, where she raised awareness on the importance of the Rheem Theatre to the Town of Moraga. In 2010, Edy was recognized as the Moraga Citizen of the Year, and in 2014 the Contra Costa Commission for Women inducted Edy into the Women's Hall of Fame.

Edy is survived by her beloved husband Jeff, her son and daughter-in-law John and Julianne Schwartz, her daughter and son-in-law Cathy and Richard Harris, her four grandchildren Trent and Ethan Schwartz, and Riley and Bodhi Harris, her brother and sister-in-law Ron and Susan Rau, and her sister, Judy Puckett.

A celebration of Edy's life will be held at 3 p.m. Oct. 6 in the Redwood Circle at Rancho Laguna Park in Moraga.

The family requests that in lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the Moraga Community Foundation: <https://moragacommunityfoundation.org>.

Charlotte E. Colhoun

Sept. 6, 1923—Sept. 1, 2018



Charlotte E. Colhoun of Moraga, Calif., passed away on Saturday, Sept. 1, 2018 at the age of 94, five days short of her 95th birthday.

Charlotte was born outside of Omagh, County Tyrone, Northern Ireland to Orr and Phoebe Kyle on Sept. 6, 1923, one of five children. In 1944 she married William J. (Jim) Colhoun and immigrated to California three years later with dreams in their hearts and one small child. Two more boys followed. They raised their family in Oakland, Calif., until moving to Orinda in

1964 and operated their sales business, which Charlotte continued to run following her husband's passing in 1979.

Charlotte was a member of the Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church and several community organizations helping people and families in need. She was awarded Volunteer of the Year for her volunteer work at the Frank Robinson Center by the Oakland Rotary Club in 1998.

Charlotte is survived by three sons, Albert (Nancy), James (Lisa) and Norman (Janice), her grandchildren, Heather, Shannon, Jeff, Julie, Kevin, and Katie, and her brother, Orr Kyle.

A gracious and loving woman, she will be missed by all especially the wonderful staff at Aegis Assisted Living in Moraga, where she resided the last six years. The family invites all to attend a memorial to Charlotte on Oct. 3, 2018, 11:30 am, at the Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Drive in Lafayette, CA. A reception will be held following the Celebration of Life. Please RSVP to Jim Colhoun by Sept. 28 if you can attend at (925)200-2795 or by email at Jim@APR.com.

In Memory

Mildred ("Millie") Wright-Brown

(March 15, 1927—Aug. 28, 2018)



Mildred ("Millie") Therese Wright-Brown, 91, passed away peacefully at home in Angels Camp, Calif., on Aug. 28 with two of her sons, Kelly and Darrell at her side. She was born on March 15, 1927 in Flint, Mich., to Dennis and Agnes Murphy, and was the sixth of 10 children.

Millie received her B.S. from Michigan State, and her M.S. from USC in Physical Therapy. She married Henry Wright in 1952 and had four children, Kelly, Palmer, Darrell, and Shauna. As a widow

Millie married William Brown (1926-2006) in 1996. Millie raised her children in Orinda, worked as a physical therapist for seven years in Berkeley and 19 years in Angels Camp. She was a Third Order Carmelite, member of the Italian Catholic Federation, and choir member at St Patrick's Catholic Church in Angels Camp, as was her late husband Bill. Millie also had a tender devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the Infant Jesus of Prague and to the Blessed Virgin Mary, especially as the Immaculate Heart of Mary of Our Lady of Fatima. She was also devoted to the Holy Rosary, which she prayed every day, preferably along with her children when they were with her. She strongly believed that "the family that prays together, stays together."

Millie is survived by her brother Dennis J. Murphy, her four children, Kelly Wright, Dr. Palmer Wright, Darrell Wright, and Dr. Shauna Wright-Chase; four grandchildren: Kelly Wright, Jr., Marshall Wright, Kendall Chase, and Owen Chase; three step-children: Patricia Brown-Johnston, Nancy Brown, and Robert Brown; and 23 nieces and nephews.

Funeral Mass was held Saturday, Sept. 8 at St. Patrick's in Angels Camp.

Memorial contributions can be made to St Patrick's Catholic Church or to Angels Memorial Chapel either directly or through the family.

In Memory

Norman Schlansky

1942-2018



It is with great sadness that we must announce the passing of a cherished member of the community, Mr. Norman Schlansky. The passionate Brooklyn Dodgers fan passed on August 30, 2018. He and his late identical twin brother, Arthur, were born in Brooklyn, N.Y. on June 13, 1942 to their loving parents, Henrietta and Morris. The couple, and their young daughter Marilyn, were pleasantly surprised.

Norm graduated from Brooklyn College with a BA in Political Science. While working for Empire Trust in N.Y., he met the love of his life, Loretta, whom he married in 1971. When Mr. and Mrs. Schlansky moved to California in 1974, they only planned to stay for two years. However, they quickly grew attached to the area and decided to stay. In 1984, Norm began working for Sungard, where he continued until his retirement in 2001.

Norm was a proud parent to his two daughters, Melissa Fritts and Joanna Schlansky, and greatly enjoyed being an important part of their lives. He was also honored to be loving grandfather to Melissa's two children, Kileigh and Ryan Fritts.

Many remember Norm from the Moraga Ranch Swim Club. He also enjoyed golfing at Moraga Country Club, or having two desserts with his many friends. A proud member of the Senior Men's golf group, Norman always had a smile on his face. The laughter he shared was contagious to anyone he met. His sense of humor was incomparable, and the patience and kindness he showed to everyone was legendary.

Norman Schlansky is survived by his wife of 47 years, Loretta Schlansky, his sister Marilyn Sokolow, his daughters Melissa and Joanna, and his grandchildren Kileigh and Ryan.

A Celebration of Life luncheon will be held in his memory at Moraga Country Club, from noon to 3 p.m. Sept. 29.

In Memory

Fay Huie Lee



Fay Huie Lee was born in Brooklyn, NY on Aug. 25, 1935 and died in Walnut Creek, Calif., on Sept. 11, 2018. Born to Chinese immigrant parents, Fay remained a proud New Yorker - with the Brooklyn accent to match - all of her life. She graduated from James Madison High School in 1953 and received a Bachelors of Fine Arts from Pratt Institute in 1956 and a Master of Arts in 1959 from New York University.

She worked as a designer for Andrew Geller Shoes in New York City and then as a home economics teacher in Buffalo, New York. In her later years, she was an office manager, interior designer, real estate agent, and travel agent.

Fay had three daughters (Laurel Lee-Alexander of Monterey, Kristen Lee of Mountain View, and Erika Lee of Minneapolis) with her former husband Dr. Howard Lee and moved to Orinda in 1971. Fay was a creative and multi-talented artist who was active in the Calligraphy Guild and the Orinda Arts Council. She moved to Rossmoor in 2000. Fay is survived by her older sisters, brother-in-law, three daughters, her sons-in-law and five grandchildren. She was loved, cherished, and admired by her family and will be greatly missed.

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Lamorinda EBMUD directors ... continued from Page A1

Ward 2 Director John Coleman represents Lafayette. He sees his job as a customer advocate. "I try to protect the ratepayers. I opposed the last two budgets because the rates were too high," he said. Coleman would like to see a debate to have rates based on need and usage, such as on lot size, weather conditions and where customers live. "People have done an excellent job of conserving water. We're selling less than we did in 2013. Our job is to sell water, but there is a fine line between selling and conserving," the director said. He delivered the same warning as Young. "Rates are not going to be reduced. We have capital needs, and the pipelines are very old." Coleman said the district is looking at testing models for the new Lafayette Reservoir tower. "We want to preserve the tower, unless it will cost millions of dollars. Then we will be hard pressed to do it." The tower project is slated for completion in 2020. Other Lafayette projects ahead include repaving the trail around the Reservoir, which Coleman said will be completed in 2019. "And we will be tearing down the Leland Reservoir and putting in two smaller reservoirs, to improve water quality issues," Coleman said.

Moraga Auto Row may be on its way out of town ... continued from Page A5

According to Town Manager Cynthia Battenberg, the town is in the process of issuing warning notices and having them placed on the vehicle windshields in an effort to educate the owners prior to citing them for a violation. "We're not looking to generate revenue through this," said Police Chief Jon King. Rather, the chief pointed out the problems the auto row may cause, such as preventing those who have a legitimate need for the parking spots from using them, or crimes such as break-ins and auto theft. The auto row is across the street from the Moraga Safeway, where an armed robbery occurred in January. "You don't want your streets looking like a used car lot," added King, who said that the town is working with legal counsel on the exact wording of the ordinance to make sure it is specific enough as to exact locations. Larry Yu of Moraga parked his 2003 Mercedes Benz on the lot for five days and said he had about three responses. He said he would not be particularly upset if the town halts the unofficial auto sales program. "I'll just take the car home. Maybe I'll buy an ad in the newspaper," Yu said. Now there's an advertising strategy whose comeback is long overdue.

Share your thoughts, insights and opinions with your community.
 Send a letter to the editor: letters@lamorindaweekly.com



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 Glenn and Kellie Beaubelle



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 Nancy Stryker



LAFAYETTE - Sold in 8 days with 8 offers
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 Finola Fellner



ORINDA - Pending
 Orinda Country Club location, gorgeous sunset views, classic vaulted beamed ceiling, single level floorplan, hardwood floors, French doors. 5bd/2.5ba, with separate 1bd/1ba au-pair/guest setup. Listed at \$2,375,000
 Lynn Molloy



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COMPASS

~ Life in LAMORINDA ~

Paintings from Spain

By Sophie Braccini



Painting by Allison McCrady

Photos provided

Allison McCrady has been a fixture of the Lamorinda art scene for many years, creating plein-air and abstract paintings and owning the AMFA Art Gallery that offered interesting art in the Theatre Square gallery for many years. Then she hung up the keys, packed her bags and flew to Spain where she let the brilliant Mediterranean sun flood her canvas. Now it is at her friend Jennifer Perlmutter's Lafayette gallery that she is showing some of her new creations.

McCrady dropped her suitcases in the port of Valencia, on the southeastern coast of Spain.

She had no regrets about leaving the art gallery. She said there was a time for managing a business and promoting the work of others, but it is now the time for her art to take a new turn.

In the very touristic Mediterranean region she tackled large 6 foot by 10 foot canvasses and took a turn creating a mix of more figurative art as well as abstraction. She was immediately out there on the art scene, displaying and selling her art, somewhat driven by the desire of the locals and the tourists to find in her painting the local ambiance.

There were paintings of fruits

and flowers, paintings of charming ports reflecting in the blue waters of the Mediterranean sea, and still in the bold, familiar McCrady style, colorful abstract painting, this time on huge canvases, where an intense luminosity takes the center stage.

McCrady returned from Spain and now lives in the Bay Area – but not for long. She says that she wants to explore more of the world, testing her creativity against new places and new people. Next year may be another McCrady exhibition in Lafayette presenting a new facet of her work from another locale.

McCrady's paintings can be viewed by appointment through September at Jennifer Perlmutter Gallery, located at 3620 Mt Diablo Blvd. in Lafayette. The gallery and is open Wednesday to Saturday from noon to 6 p.m.



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Tradition lives on for longtime Moraga family

By Diane Claytor



Three generations of St. Mark's Nursery School students: Susan Grafft (right), her daughter Kingsley Frazier (middle) and Frazier's children, Clark and Marley. Photo provided

erations they've had in the 56 years since the school was established as a wholly owned subsidiary of St. Mark's United Methodist Church.

St. Mark's Nursery School is, in many ways, very much the same today as it was back when Grafft attended in the mid-1960s or when Frazier attended in the early '90s; yet, in other ways, it's quite different.

For many years, the nursery school only offered part-time programs for 3- and 4-year-olds; 3-year-olds attended two days a week while 4-year-olds could come three days a week. And the hours were short: only 9 a.m. to noon. Then the community began asking for full-time care and St. Mark's obliged. The school is now open from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and accommodates part-time and full-time 2-, 3- and 4-year-olds.

Peterson noted that the school's basic philosophy — a child-driven, play-based curriculum in a nurturing environment designed to inspire learning, creativity and fun — is very similar to what it was when Grafft and Frazier were preschoolers. "When I look at pictures of what the kids were doing 30 or 40 years ago at the school and what we're doing today, they're very much the same," Peterson said. "Children are still building things, doing a lot of outside play, getting dirty, having fun — the same things they were doing in the beginning.

"We have also always done a lot of community building," Peterson continued. "We support the larger community as well as our parent community, providing numerous opportunities to connect with one another."

Grafft's parents moved to Moraga before she was born and, in fact, her mother lives across the street from Frazier (her granddaughter). Grafft, who has spent most of her life in Moraga, had such wonderful memories of St. Mark's Nursery School that there was no question in her mind that's where she would send her three children. Frazier, who also fondly remembered her time there, did look into various options when it was time to enroll her children in preschool but still came back to St. Mark's, finding it to be the perfect fit. "Now that Marley is in TK, I can really see what an excellent job St. Mark's did in preparing her for school. Just seeing how happy she is and how much she's grown in these first few weeks of elementary school tells me that she was really ready and much of that is thanks to St. Mark's," Frazier declared.

With Marley Frazier now enrolled at Moraga's Camino Pablo Elementary School, it appears that history will continue to repeat itself; both Grafft and Frazier also attended CP — and both went on to Joaquin Moraga and Campolindo. The tradition lives on.



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Two-and-a-half-year-old Clark Frazier loves playing with the wheelbarrow at St. Mark's Nursery School in Orinda; his sister, Marley, 4 and a half and a recent St. Mark's graduate, loved playing in the nursery school's lofted doll house. She came by that naturally — the doll house was a favorite of her mom, Kingsley Frazier of Moraga, when she attended St. Mark's Nursery School 25 years ago. It was also fondly remembered by her grandmother, Susan Grafft, when she and her older sister went to the very same nursery school in the mid-1960s.

Yes, that's right. Three generations of Grafft family members have loved their time at the Orinda nursery school. That's very unusual, noted the school's current director, Claire Peterson. She said last year there were three second generation families but as far as she knows, the Grafft family are the only three gen-



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Outdoor jazz concert in Lafayette

Submitted by Marie Williams

There's something simply sublime about soft jazz in an outdoor setting and Lamorinda residents will have an opportunity to experience just that at the annual Big Band Concert from 4 to 6 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 23 at the Lafayette Christian Church Courtyard Patio in the Grove, featuring The Lafayette



Photo provided

ette Studio Big Band — a 17-person jazz orchestra.

Having played weddings, festivals, corporate events, and even backyard parties, The Lafayette Studio Big Band boasts performers who have worked with The Temptations, The Fifth Dimension, Frank Sinatra Jr., Bob Hope, The Harry James Orchestra, Judy Collins, Joe Henderson, Joel Dornham's Afro Latin Octet, Pete and Sheila Escovedo, Richard Bean, Rawl Rekow, Wayne Wallace, Michael Wolfe, Tom Politzer, Wayne Bergeron, The Coasters, The Drifters, and more. Its musicians have been in opening acts for musical

greats like Earth Wind and Fire, Chicago, Ray Charles, Joe Williams, Lou Rawls, Nancy Wilson, Earl Klugh, Diane Shur, David Bowie, The Stray Cats, Van Halen, Stevie Nicks, Men at Work, Confunkshun, and The Spinners, Carmen McRae, Dave Brubeck, Dick Dale and The Del Tones, Ike and Tina Turner, The Beach Boys, Righteous Brothers, Kenny Rogers and The First Edition.

Don't miss this fun afternoon in this beautiful oak grove. No reservations required. There is a suggested donation of \$20 for adults, and \$5 for a refillable glass for craft beer or wine and snacks. To listen to a sample of music, visit www.lafayettebigband.com. For more information, call (925) 283-8304.

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Gold Coast Chamber 19th's season: a story of collaboration

By Sophie Braccini



Last year's concert at the Lafayette Library Community Hall.

Photo Alicia Gholami

The Gold Coast Chamber ensemble and its artistic director Pamela Freund-Striplen are an integral part of the new wave of chamber music companies that present powerful public programs incorporating different sets of musicians coming from a larger pool of professionals. Freund-Striplen has created the 2018-19 season in collaboration with several different groups, curating the programs with them and bringing to Lafayette world-class performances.

The first of the seven season recitals is called "Chamber Players Coast to Coast," featuring the Manhattan Chamber Players for a mostly 19th century European classic music program, with the addition of a commissioned creation by a local composer. It will take place at 7:30 p.m. on Sept. 29 at the Lafayette Community Hall. Another performance will be offered in Piedmont in the afternoon the fol-

lowing day.

The relationship between Gold Coast and the Manhattan Chamber Players started one and a half years ago. Having heard of each other, the groups reached out and Freund-Striplen began a discussion with Luke Fleming, the group's artistic director and fellow viola player. Freund-Striplen said that their vision was very similar and together they decided on a program that juxtapositions three European composers known for creating unique nationalistic music.

The concert will include Ernest Chausson's "Concerto for Violin, Piano and String Quartet" – a piece Freund-Striplen describes as very romantic, adding that it was the starting point for Fleming and her as they structured that concert. Chausson was a promoter of French music and his style evolved to more dramatic tones, while maintaining the reserve that was the mark of the

French music of that century.

The opening piece will be by Spanish composer Joaquin Torina. Freund-Striplen said that people are going to be transported by the warm, rich and evocative "Scene Andalouse for Piano Sextet, Op. 7" that will be played that night. Torina, who studied in France, was a great admirer of Spanish composer Isaac Albenitz, who drew his inspiration from folk Andalusian music.

The third nationalistic composer is British; Vaughan Williams' "Phantasy Quintet" will contrast with the other two composers as he is known for his wide range of moods, but also for his inspiration drawn from ancient English music, such as English madrigals. Freund-Striplen also noted that she loved the meditative quality of the work and the beautiful use of the viola.

The three pieces are also characterized by their featuring of soloists, piano, violin or viola. Freund-Striplen explains that the concert will be a hybrid between soloistic and chamber music.

The fourth element of the concert is the creation of a piece commissioned to local composer Mary Bianco for this evening. Freund-Striplen explains that Bianco is a patron of the Manhattan Chamber Players and she created a short trio just for that night. Freund-Striplen was excited to announce that Bianco would be present at the concert

and would answer a few questions about her light, uplifting piece.

The season's other concerts will also feature partnerships with diverse groups and musicians, sometimes the new generation of chamber musicians that Freund-Striplen is proud to see come forth to carry the torch. The season will also include the now traditional free family holiday concert in December.

Last year, several concerts sold out, so it is recommended to get tickets in advance. For more information, visit www.gcplayers.org.

Volunteer visits help seniors stay in their homes



Lafayette volunteer Leonara Holmes, left, enjoys time with Iris Timmerman. Photo provided

Iris Timmerman, a former nurse, has difficulty hearing, so socializing in groups is too difficult, but thanks to a program offered through John Muir Health, Lafayette volunteer Leonora Holmes, age 63, has been making a difference in Timmerman's life for nearly a year now.

Holmes signed up as a Caring Hands volunteer last October and says she gets as much out of the program than she puts into it – maybe more – noting how the 93-year-old Timmerman was teaching her painting and crafts.

"Iris taught me to paint today," Holmes wrote to the Caring Hands Volunteer Coordinator Stacy Appel after one visit. "She had smocks, paint and canvas all ready to go."

The Caring Hands Volunteer Caregivers Program serves seniors in Central, East, and South Contra Costa County, including all of Lamorinda. The program is a collaborative community outreach program which offers finely-tuned one-on-one matches between neighbors, always free of charge, to help aging adults in Contra Costa County remain independent in their own homes as long as safely possible.

A collaboration between John Muir Health, social service agencies, faith communities and the community-at-large, the program helps break the cycle of isolation and despair that may make health problems worse.

Volunteers provide life-enhancing services such as friendly visits and companionship, social outings, transportation and escort to medical appointments, help with shopping and errands, assist care to give a break to a family caregiver, reading

mail and letter-writing, but do not provide cleaning, bill-paying services, personal or medical care.

Services are generally provided once a week, for one to three hours to meet a senior's ongoing need, and are scheduled on the times and days that work best for the volunteer. Matches are created between volunteers and people over 60 years old who may be frail, isolated, or disabled. By providing free non-medical assistance, Caring Hands help seniors stay in their homes and remain independent as long as safely possible.

A former teacher, Holmes heard about Caring Hands through her church, and while her previous experience had been with children, not seniors, Leonora couldn't wait to begin the training.

"An attentive friend like Leonora has been an ongoing delight for both volunteer and care receiver," said Appel.

"Thank you for making her my match," Holmes wrote to Appel after a recent visit. "It has been an immense blessing! Today we went to the Ruth Bancroft Garden, lunch, and stopped at Ace Hardware to pick up a few art supplies for Iris. She is a lot of fun to be with and very appreciative each time I am there."

More volunteers are needed and the next training will be held Sept. 28 at the John Muir Health Medical Center in Walnut Creek. To learn more, or to apply for the next training, contact Appel at Stacy.Appel@johnmuirhealth.com or (925) 952-2999, or visit the Caring Hands website at johnmuirhealth.com/caringhands.

— J. Wake

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Cancer survivor brings comfort to UCSF pediatric oncology patients

Submitted by Elizabeth Dietsch

Colby Suppiger, a Life Scout rank in Troop 224, is a cancer survivor who chose to give back a “whole big bunch” and then some, working tirelessly on his Eagle Scout project, which took over his entire garage and house, and involved over 45 people and 165 hours to make 250 blankets for children who will be undergoing chemotherapy at UCSF Benioff Children’s

hospital in San Francisco and Oakland.

Suppiger’s original goal was to make 100 blankets, but thanks to special additional contributors, that goal was far surpassed.

When he was in the seventh grade, Suppiger was diagnosed with lymphoma, a blood cancer that was located in his bone marrow. “Those six months were probably and will probably be the

worst six months of my life,” Suppiger said in an announcement to his Troop in July. “However the doctors, my family and my friends helped me get through the chemotherapy and I can’t thank them enough. Something that I will never forget is my orange blanket I always carried with me to the hospital. It sounds simple but my blanket gave me the feeling of safety and hope that I would be home and feel better soon.”

Suppiger said he took the blanket with him everywhere he went for the six months he was going through treatment – and he still has the blanket today. “I want every kid who has to go through what I went through to have their own blanket,” he said. “That feeling of safety and security goes a long way.”

Organized and supervised by Suppiger, Boy Scout Troop 224, Girl Scout Troops 33132 and 32913, and many parents worked closely together over one

weekend making the blankets. Over the past year Suppiger successfully raised over \$1,000 he needed to make his target of 100 blankets. Then, there was a very generous donation from Cary and Stacy Schirmer of Lafayette. Cary Schirmer is the CEO of Walnut Creek-based HPG International, who felt the contribution to pediatric oncology was an invaluable cause to support.

UCSF Hematology/Oncology Department of Pediatrics is “particularly known for work in childhood cancers such as leukemia, lymphoma, brain tumors, neuroblastoma, sarcomas and retinoblastoma.”

One of Cary Schirmer’s main suppliers of materials is Polartec. His supplier from Polartec had survived breast cancer and was also very sympathetic toward the cause.

Together, HPG and Polartec donated approximately 350 liner yards – which is over 400 pounds of very



Colby Suppiger during chemotherapy treatment in the seventh grade with his orange blanket. Photo provided

high quality fleece. This was in addition to the 200 yards of material Suppiger purchased.

The Troop came together in full force both Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 25-26, cut the material and wove the blankets.

While making the blankets, people quietly gathered ahead of time and said a quiet prayer for someone they knew who had survived or had not survived

cancer. At the large tables throughout the house and garage, one could hear summer stories and fall plans. There was laughter and joy and most of all a great feeling of gratitude by Suppiger, who extend special gratitude for the incredible support he received from his family, Mikaela Truong, Justin Lee, Matthew Raffel, Troop 224, Girl Scout Troops 33132 and 32913 and Ms. June Jung, his Eagle Scout mentor.

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The health hazards of early specialization in sports

By Kevin M. Roth, M.D.



As a child growing up in Moraga in the 1980s, every fall I played MOL flag football; every winter I played LMYA basketball; spring was dedicated to MBA baseball; and in the summers, I swam and played tennis at the Moraga Country Club. Playing three or four sports used to be the norm for kids. Today, however, young athletes increasingly are focused on year-round participation in a single sport, a trend called “early specialization.” Early specialization is defined as intense, year-round participation in a single sport to the exclusion of other physical activities.

Tiger Woods may be the poster child for early specialization (it is well-known that he began swinging a golf club before the age of 2). Many parents and coaches, following the success of the Tiger Woods model, have encouraged their young athletes to dedicate themselves to a single sport. And, intuitively, this makes sense – athletes who

focus on a single sport are able to hone a specific skill set and develop the muscles and muscle memory necessary for their chosen activity. With this dedication, focus and training, it would seem to follow that athletic excellence is almost a guarantee.

However, while year-round baseball, soccer or gymnastics may result in some improvements in certain skills, early specialization often does not produce the desired result. Instead, numerous studies have shown that early specialization can lead, among other issues, to overuse injuries, burnout, and decreased enjoyment. When a child plays a sport year-round, that child’s young, developing body does not have an adequate opportunity to recover from repetitive physical demands. When the body is in a weakened state, injuries such as sprains and muscle strains are much more likely. Further, overused muscles have a tendency to become overdeveloped,

and other muscles, equally important to a developing body, are ignored. It also cannot be overlooked that competitive athletics are mentally and emotionally demanding on children and, without an offseason, there may not be relief from those stresses.

Physician organizations such as the American Orthopedic Society for Sports Medicine, of which I am a member, and the American Academy of Pediatrics have warned against the dangers of early specialization and uniformly advocate against it. Interestingly, it has been shown that professional baseball players who specialized and played only baseball prior to high school have a higher rate of serious injury during their professional careers. While many people believe that Tiger Woods’ story is true for all professional athletes, a recent study of professional baseball players showed that fewer than half specialized during childhood/adolescence. Further, when

asked, only 22.3 percent of professional athletes said they would want their own child to specialize and play one sport.

Parents often have more influence in their child’s early specialization than is appreciated. Parents assume very important roles in their children’s sports participation, from carpooling to and from practices and competitions, arranging outside personal training and instruction, purchasing equipment, and providing encouragement and support. In a recent study, parents of highly specialized youth athletes were more likely to expect that their child aspired to play that sport in college or professionally. In this same study, no parents from the non-specialized group of children said that they would be willing to hold their child back a grade in order to gain a competitive athletic advantage, whereas 7 percent of the parents of specialized children said that they would be willing to do so.

As a parent now of two children entering the Lamorinda sports world, I see firsthand the pressure placed on the kids in our community, even at a young age, for athletic accomplishment. And it’s hard not to get swept up in our early specialization culture. We’re a part of a community where Matt Biondi started his swimming career, where seven local athletes competed in the Beijing Olympics, and where a hometown hero such as Buster Posey is our neighbor. Further, there’s nothing quite like seeing your child

excel in something that he or she is passionate about. I can understand why Earl Woods, Tiger’s father, began teaching Tiger to grip a golf club at 10 months old and then continued with intensive training when his son showed interest and promise in the sport. But I also know through my practice as a sports medicine physician that pediatric overuse injuries are steadily increasing and traditionally “adult” injuries, such as ACL tears, are showing up with greater frequency in younger athletes. As parents, what are we to do?

First, I recommend that children be given plenty of opportunities for free, unstructured play. Free play not only allows children to develop a diverse set of musculoskeletal skills, it also allows for creativity and imagination, both important skills in a developing child. Additionally, I recommend that young athletes participate in a variety of sports during developmental years. This is how we played sports when we were young – one sport per season. Playing multiple different sports allows the development of a wide range of motor skills and gives the child an opportunity to identify the sports that he or she enjoys. A good rule of thumb is that children should not participate in more hours per week of structured athletics than their age – so a 10-year-old should not be playing organized sports for more than 10 hours per week. Children who do specialize at a young age and/or who participate in more

sport per week than their age, should be monitored closely for signs of fatigue, overuse injuries, burnout, or decreased performance. These children also should be given adequate opportunities for rest, recovery, and non-sport specific conditioning in order to develop other muscles and well-rounded motor skills.

Perhaps most importantly, encourage your children to love the game and play for that reason. We may or may not be parents to the next Tiger, but we can at least make sure that we’re not being tiger parents along the way. I look forward to seeing you at the next soccer game, baseball field, Luna class, swim meet, or CAPA performance!



Dr. Kevin Roth is a Board Certified and fellowship trained orthopedic surgeon specializing in Sports Medicine who practices in Oakland and Dublin, and lives in Orinda with his wife and two children. More information about Dr. Roth’s practice can be found at www.KevinRothMD.com.

Type 2 or Pre-Diabetes?

Almost 50% Of The US Population Is Living With Either Type 2, or Pre-Diabetes... And Most Don't Even Know It. If You Think You're Safe, Think Again! – THIS MAY BE THE MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION YOU HAVE EVER READ IN YOUR LIFE!

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Abnormally high glucose numbers (fasting) begin at 100 mg/dl., but testing only 2 times a year results in a huge number of people being left in the dark, and keeping them in a pre-diabetic state commonly for decades. The easiest time to turn Type 2 Diabetes around is before diagnosis and prescription medication.

“On Average, Type 2 Diabetes Takes Decades To Develop, And The Complications Of Elevated Glucose Levels Have Been Shown To Begin With Pre-Diabetes”

Do you remember what your doctor said to you when he/she gave you the news that you had type 2 diabetes? “You are going to have to make changes in the area of _____ and _____.” (You fill in the blanks)

You most likely filled in the blanks with **diet and exercise**. Right? Why do doctors tell their patients this phrase, even to the extent that we know it by memory? **Because it’s true!** But what is commonly the action of the doctor immediately after suggesting this lifestyle change? Typically, something like this, “I am going to prescribe you 500 mg. of Metformin which should help lower your glucose numbers.”

This is what is clear to almost everyone I talk to who has type 2 diabetes or Pre-Diabetes...Even though there is acknowledgement that type 2 diabetes can be reversed through very specific changes in the way a person eats and exercises, that is clearly not the focus within the insurance environment of today’s healthcare.

The focus seems to be on managing the symptoms (high glucose levels) through medication, instead of addressing the cause of this chronic and inflammatory condition, allowing it to progress, which results in devastating complications like kidney failure, heart disease, loss of balance, amputation, blindness...etc.

ENVIRONMENT MAKES THE DIFFERENCE!

Everyone has heard a story of someone within their circle of friends or colleagues reversing Type 2 Diabetes. Scientific literature clearly states that Type 2 Diabetes is reversible. Intuitively most people with Type 2 Diabetes know there is a way to lower high glucose numbers, and sustain them. So, where and how is this taking place?

I am glad you asked. For the last decade, I have had a laser-like focus within my clinical practice of helping people with Pre and Type 2 Diabetes learn to understand how the human body responds to different food. Macronutrients specifically (Proteins, fats, and carbohydrates). Successfully, this focus returns glucose levels to a normal and healthy range. When normal fasting glucose levels are attained, prescribing doctors typically reduce and/or eliminate medications.

Let me say this...I am not saying that everyone is ready to make the changes required to exit a Type 2 diabetic state. I don’t even know if you qualify for my Balancing Blood Sugar Program. That is yet to be determined, and requires a proper history and examination. And I know that you’ve been overwhelmed with information which seems to contradict what you read the day before about reversing T2D.

That is why I’m offering you a seat at my next live presentation, this coming Saturday Here’s you’ll get:

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- Personal examples of several of my patients who have completely turned Type 2 Diabetes around, **NATURALLY!**

The information that you will receive during this presentation has been described as, “...unlike any conversation taking place during your typical HMO/PPO doctors office visit.” These principles of exiting the state of Type 2 Diabetes are simply not what insurance-based healthcare is focused on.

I don’t have the space to go into more details here, which is why I am inviting you to a 60 minute, live presentation. The old-fashioned kind where a you can relax, sit and listen to a knowledgeable, practicing doctor, feeling comfortable enough to ask any question you like.

The word Doctor literally means Teacher (in Latin).

Why hasn’t your doctor told you about this approach? Because it doesn’t fit into the model of “Let me give you a medication to cover up the problem”. This is a functional approach to correct the problem, not unnaturally lower sugar numbers.

Here’s What To Do Now

This Saturday morning, September 29th, at 11am, Harvest House Natural Foods in Concord, is Dr. Thomason’s only scheduled talk on “How To Exit The State Of Type 2 Diabetes” on calendar for this year. There is no cost to attend. Call 925-407-0888 today and we can reserve a seat for you and a loved one.



Our office is located on Olympic Boulevard in Walnut Creek; just a few minutes from you.

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Sincerely,

Dr. Brian E. Thomason, D.NMSc, BCIM, D.C.



PRESENTING DOCTOR: Brian E. Thomason, D.NMSc, BCIM, DC, CAFNI. Dr. Thomason has post-graduate training in functional neurology, blood chemistry analysis, neurotransmitters, and functional endocrinology. He has been helping people both locally and internationally return glucose numbers to normal for the past 23 years. If you have been diagnosed Type 2 Diabetes or Pre-Diabetes and medications are not working for you, there is hope, there are answers.

To Reserve a seat at this Saturday, September 29th, 2018’s informative and entertaining presentation...

Call (925)-407-0888 (Attendance is Free, but seating is limited to the first 26 who register)

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ART

The Moraga Art Gallery presents "Walk on the Wild Side," a new exhibit featuring the distinctive, strikingly colorful abstract paintings by member artist Josie Osolin, whose work invariably evokes a sense of energy and passion. Also featured in the show are two guest artists: Jenn Norpchen, specializing in wild, whimsical gourds, reincarnated as birds, frogs, snails and other creatures, and Terry Ow-Wing, an Asian-influenced glass artist whose work has evolved from her background in architecture, photography, and glass blowing. The show runs through Oct. 20. For more information, visit www.moragaartgallery.com or call (925) 376-5407.

Bay Area Studio Artists will present "Herd," an exhibit of paintings in acrylics and oils at Orinda Books, 276 Village Square, Orinda, during the month of October. You're invited to the artists' reception from 1 to 3 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 6. Or stop by the bookstore during regular hours. BASA is a group of local artists who have been painting and showing their work together since 2010. Their show "Herd" explores the herd instinct, that urge to gather with others of your own kind. It explores herds of many kinds, including some whimsical varieties. For more information on BASA, see the website: <http://www.bayaareastudioartists.com>.

The Jennifer Perlmutter Gallery presents "Color and Pattern," an immersive experience of paintings and sound that will delight and engage the public. On view are paintings by Andy Cunningham and Angela Johal, with a special sound performance by artist Jon Fischer and musician Danny Clay. The work is on view through Sept. 29.

Fall exhibitions at the Saint Mary's College Museum of Art Sept. 20 through Dec. 16, opening reception 4 to 7 p.m. on Sept. 20. "Graphicanos: Contemporary Latino Prints" from the Serie Project and "Stanley Koppel: Artist as Activist." <https://www.stmarys-ca.edu/museum>

Rossmoor 2018 Art & Wine Event from 5 to 7 p.m. on Sept. 24 at Rossmoor Event Center, 1021 Stanley Dollar Drive, Rossmoor. Enjoy sampling fine wines while viewing original artwork and bidding on exciting silent auction items. General admission includes a commemorative wine tasting glass and hors d'oeuvres. Talented artists from the Rossmoor Art Association will showcase their photography, sculpture, ceramics and jewelry. Tickets: \$30. <https://hospice.ejoinme.org/MyEvents/2018RossmoorArtWine/tabid/970133/Default.aspx>

The Town of Moraga is celebrating the 20th Annual Pear and Wine Festival from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 22 at Moraga Commons Park. Stop by and enjoy wine tasting, pear pies and pear cider. Hosted by local DJ RyanO, the event will feature kids' activities - face painting, petting zoo, inflatable jumpies, chalk art, games and prizes. The Pear and Wine Festival will feature some hometown fun including a pear recipe contest and pear pie eating contest. Community groups, artisans, and local businesses are encouraged to apply with the Parks and Recreation Department for a booth at the festival.

MUSIC

Cantare Con Vivo kicks off their 32nd season in early October with

the Chorale's annual Ice Cream Family Concert, Gonna Take a Sentimental Journey, featuring folk and popular songs, Broadway selections, light classics, and spirituals starting at 4 p.m. on Oct. 7 at the Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Rd., Lafayette. In keeping with tradition, ice cream will be provided free for everyone in attendance following the concert. Tickets: \$27.50 General, \$65 Family, \$10 Student. https://cantareconvivo.secure.force.com/ticket/#sections_a0F0B00000J5pA-SUAZ

Classical Pianist Robyn Carmichael will perform her piano solo program "Peers, Friends, Rivals: Four Romantic Masters," which includes pieces by Mendelssohn, Chopin, Schumann, and Liszt, at 7 p.m. on Sept 22 at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Walnut Creek. Carmichael's program has received rave reviews and standing ovations in recent performances; a concert not to be missed! Donation at the door: average \$20; Students \$10 (all are welcome regardless of donation). For more information, visit: <https://www.robyncarmichael.com> or stpaulswc.org.

Lafayette Studio Big Band Concert from 4 to 6 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 23 at Lafayette Christian Church, Courtyard Patio in the Grove, 584 Glenside Dr. Lafayette. Enjoy this fun afternoon in the beautiful oak grove, listening to Count Basie style jazz. No reservations required. Listen to a sample of music on www.lafayettebigband.com. Suggested Donation: \$20 for adults, and \$5 for a refillable glass for craft beer or wine and snacks.

Two Gold Coast Chamber Players performances, 7:30 p.m. on Sept. 29 in the Lafayette Library Community Hall, and at 5 p.m. on Sept. 30 at the Piedmont Center for the Arts, 801 Magnolia Ave., Piedmont. Pre-concert talk 30 minutes prior to each concert. Tickets: \$45 General, \$40 Senior, \$15 Student. Purchase online: www.gcplayers.org or by phone: (925) 283-3728.

The Contra Costa Chamber Orchestra presents its new concert, "How to Make it in America," at 2 p.m. on Sept. 29 at El Campanil Theatre, Antioch and Sept. 30 at the Leshar Arts Center, Walnut Creek. The concert will explore music penned by several of the most ambitious, diverse composers to make a name for themselves in America. For more detail on the program, visit www.ContraCostaChamberOrchestra.org.

THEATER

Town Hall Theatre Company presents "The Revolutionists" Sept. 27 through Oct. 20 at the Town Hall Theatre Company, 3535 School Street, Lafayette. For tickets, prices, and showtimes: www.townhalltheatre.com; Box Office: (925) 283-1557.

LECTURE & LITERATURE

Saint Mary's College MFA in Creative Writing program presents The Roy E. and Patricia Disney Forum - An Evening with Kevin Young at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 19 at Hagerty Lounge, SMC Campus. Kevin Young is the director for the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, newly named a National Historic Landmark, and Poetry Editor of the New Yorker. He is the author of 13 books of poetry and prose. Free.

"Hughie" by Eugene O'Neill, directed by Eric Fraisher Hayes at 8 p.m. Sept. 21 - 22 and 27 - 29, and at

2 p.m. Sept. 23 and 30 at Old Barn, Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site, Danville. It is the middle of the night in the lobby of a run-down hotel in midtown New York City. Two lost souls—a small-time gambler and the hotel night clerk—find themselves in an hour of existential crisis struggling to balance self-preservation with duty to their fellow man. Ticket price: \$40. Tickets available at: www.villagetheatreshows.com

Saint Mary's College MFA program presents Afternoon Craft Conversation with Tongo Eisen-Martin from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 26 at the SMC Museum of Art. This craft talk presupposes that among other potentials, poetry exists within a multidimensional overlap of two spheres of insight; one, that of the music or math of language, and two, the social realities that the poet navigate and digest. Students will explore the strategies, mechanics, and resulting art of prolific poets from various epochs of craft and social contradiction. By the end of the talk, students will be exposed to a useful set of strategies they can use in their own writing and also a lens of social analysis to synthesize with their writing. Free.

KIDS, PARENTS & TEENS

Stop by the Be the Star You Are! charity booth between 1 and 3 p.m. on Sept. 22 at Pear and Wine Festival at Moraga Commons for free activities for kids, reading circle, and book signing by contributors to the new book, Be the Star You Are! Millennials to Boomers. www.BetheStarYouAre.org/Events

Mindful Littles presents Heartful Connections with Special Friends from 1 to 2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 29 at Las Trampas 3460 Lana Lane, Lafayette. Mindful Littles is grateful to be partnering with Las Trampas to offer a unique class to connect and be heartful with friends who have developmental disabilities. This workshop will leave you with a warm fuzzy feeling. Kids age 4-11. Suggested donation \$18.

Lamorinda Moms Presents Dr. Allison Briscoe-Smith "How to Talk to Kids About Race" beginning at 6:30 p.m. on Oct. 16 in the Orinda Intermediate School Multi-purpose room. Broaching the topic of race with children can be challenging. Many of us do not even know how to begin to start such an important, complicated subject without feeling anxious about whether we are doing it right. In just two hours, Dr. Allison Briscoe-Smith will present powerful ways to help you facilitate these must-have ongoing conversations. Tickets: \$20 plus service fee; Lamorinda Mom's Members and educators \$10 plus service fee.

OTHER

Healing circle, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. first Wednesday of every month, and 4 to 6 p.m. third Sunday of every month at St. Mark's United Methodist Church, 451 Moraga Way, Orinda. Practitioners of various healing traditions gather to share together for the first hour. Then an hour is open to the community to learn about the practices and experience them. Contact Michele Robbins for more information at shalompastor3@gmail.com.

Please submit events:
calendar@lamorinda-weekly.com

Magic returns to the Rheem Theatre for two shows on Sept. 22

By Derek Zemrak



Timothy James Photo provided

Time flies when magic is involved. It has been over a year since illusionist Timothy James has performed at the Rheem Theatre in Moraga. James' shows in 2017 amazed Lamorinda residents with six sell-out performances. His sleight-of-hand artistry, knack for reading thoughts, predicting futures, and uncovering strange coincidences that defy explanation, will astonish all in attendance.

James has performed for Fortune 500 companies, cruise ships, comedy clubs and performing art centers across the country. He's also entertained celebrities such as Oscar-winning actress Geena Davis, movie star Shia LaBeouf, Journey bass guitarist Ross Valory, and the Oakland A's.

He is the winner of numerous awards for sleight of hand and variety entertainment including the Lance Burton Award of Excellence from the World Magic Seminar in Las Vegas.

Get ready for an unbelievable, hilarious evening with James. The 6 p.m. show is for the younger kids and the youngest at heart, while the 8 p.m. show will be geared toward teens and above. Both shows will be fun for the whole family. Tickets can be purchased at the Rheem Theatre box-office or online at www.lamorindatheatres.com.

"The House with a Clock in Its Walls" starts this week at the Rheem Theatre with a preview screening at 7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 20. The movie is based on a Gothic horror children's novel first published in 1978. Lewis Barnavelt, after losing his parents, is sent to Michigan to live with his Uncle Jonathan. He discovers his uncle is a warlock and Lewis enters a world of magic and sorcery. But this power is not limited to good people: Lewis learns of Isaac Izard, an evil wizard who wanted to cause the Apocalypse so that he could see what happened afterward. To do this, he constructed a magical clock using black magic that will keep ticking until it reaches Doomsday. The wizard died before he could finish the clock, but he hid it in his house, which is where Uncle Jonathan and Lewis now live. They must find the clock before it's too late and before Isaac's wife, Selena, finds it.

"The House with a Clock in Its Walls" is rated PG and is a perfect Halloween movie for all ages!



◆ Not to be missed

OTHER... continued

The Many Faces of Prostate Cancer from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Sept. 27 in the Lafayette Library and Learning Center Community Room. Come and experience an event focusing on the unique issues of prostate cancer patients. Join an engaging panel of medical experts who will discuss the latest information regarding ongoing screening, risk factors, and advances in treatment. Q & A session to follow presentation. Space is limited, advanced registration is required. RSVP to Shayna at (925) 677-5041 x272 or sjung@dvohtm.com.

Lafayette Juniors 25th Annual Rummage Sale from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 6 at Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Dr., Lafayette. Special Early Bird Entrance fee of \$5 per adult from 7 to 8 a.m. Pre-loved designer clothes, baby and kid clothes, toys, children's gear, furniture, household goods, and much more. Cash and credit cards accepted. All sale proceeds benefit local non-profits that serve children, families, and communities in need. Visit www.lafayettejuniors.org for more information.

The UC Theatre Taube Family Music Hall presents "Teton Gravity Research: Far Out" at 6:45 and 9:15 p.m. on Oct. 12 at The UC Theatre Taube Family Music Hall, 2036 University Avenue, Berkeley. Join Teton Gravity Research for the winter kickoff party of the year, a one-night only premiere of TGR's new ski and snowboard film, "Far Out," presented by REI. Cost: \$18 - 20. For more info see <https://www.theucetheatre.org/event/1759412-teton-gravity-research-far-berkeley/> or call (510) 356-4000 or email information@theucetheatre.org.

The Lamorinda branch of AAUW will hold its 5th Annual Tech Trek Shred Fest, a secure pulverized paper shredding event. Shred papers on site from 9 a.m. to noon on Oct. 13 at 5A Rent-a-Space, 455 Moraga Road, Moraga. \$9 per file box; Keep your boxes.

◆ Not to be missed

Middle Eastern Festival 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 22 and 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 23 at St. John the Evangelist Orthodox Church, 501 Moraga Way, Orinda. Food, games, live entertainment, folk dancing, crafts, Middle Eastern heritage exhibits and more. Entrance fee: adults \$2; children under 12 free. For information, visit www.stjohnorinda.org or call (925) 258-4255.

Serbian Food Festival from noon to 10 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 6 at Holy Trinity Serbian Orthodox Church 1700 School Street, Moraga. Live Serbian Music, delicious homemade pastries and a bounce house for the kids.

POLITICAL GATHERINGS

Catharine Baker, the 16th Assembly District Representative, will be the LRWF Monthly Speaker at 11:30 a.m. Thursday, Sept. 20 at the Orinda Country Club. Baker is a Republican Assembly person serving since 2014 for the Lamorinda and Tri-Valley areas. This talk will be highly informative and offers a chance to hear about the changing dynamics of the Golden State's politics firsthand. Luncheon and program: \$31 For more information regarding this event www.lamorindarepublicanwomen.org/ or <https://www.facebook.com/Lamorinda-Republican-Women-Federated-136134033113066/>

The Lafayette Homeowners Council (LHC) is sponsoring its yearly Candidates Night at 7 p.m. on Sept. 20 at the Lafayette Veterans Memorial Hall at 3780 Mt. Diablo Blvd. All residents are welcome! This year five candidates will be on the November ballot for just two City Council positions. Each candidate will have five minutes to introduce themselves and speak regarding their individual positions on various issues regarding our City. After each of the candidates have spoken, members of the audience will be able to ask questions of any candidate. The meeting will also include a brief "Annual Meeting" agenda by the LHC and the group also hopes to hear from the Lafayette mayor. www.LafayetteHomeowners-Council.org

Moraga's Candidates Night from 7 to 8:30 pm. on Oct. 3 at the Holy Trinity Serbian Church, 1700 School Street, Moraga. Come meet the three Moraga Town Council Candidates - Mike McCluer, Dave Trotter and Steve Woehleke - and hear them speak on important issues. Bring your questions or submit your questions to MCN94556@gmail.com. This free event is sponsored by the Moraga Citizens Network.

In an effort to bring clarity to your thoughts so that your well-informed vote can be cast on Nov. 6, the Orinda Moraga Lafayette (OML) branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) will host an impartial, informational presentation moderated by the Diablo Valley League of Women Voters (LWV) at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 16 at the Orinda Community Church, 10 Irwin Way, Orinda.

SENIORS

"Free Digital Materials and Services Through the Library - What They Are and How to Access Them," presented at the Lafayette Community Center from 10:30 a.m. to noon on Sept. 27 in the Elderberry Room. E-books, digital magazines, language learning, museum passes, streaming movies (including classics and documentaries). The library has so much to offer! Learn how to access the multitude of free materials and services - all from the comfort of your own home. Free. To reserve your spot, contact Lafayette Senior Services: Seniors@LoveLafayette.org or (925) 284-5050.

Cooking: Farmers' Market to Harvest Meal - Byron Park Dining Services Team from 2 to 4 p.m. on Oct. 11 at Byron Park, 1700 Tice Valley Blvd., Walnut Creek. There is nothing quite like a meal created from farm-fresh, in-season ingredients. In this demonstration-style class, learn how easy and enjoyable it is to visit your local farmers' market or produce stand in the morning and create a delicious and healthful menu for that night's meal using all those fresh ingredients. RSVP to Lafayette Senior Services by Friday, October 5: Seniors@LoveLafayette.org

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Service Clubs Announcements

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or email lamorindasunrise@gmail.com

September 21	September 28
Young Women of STEM	Exposé ! Skip McCowan reveals all, mostly.
Welcome autumn, hues of gold and orange.	

Lafayette Rotary Club

Step in on a Thursday and join us for our lunch meeting.
Thursday at noon Oakwood Athletic Club, 4000 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette.

September 20: Joe Di Prisco: The Simpson Family Literary Project	September 27: Joanna Krause "Writing From Your Life"
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www.rotarylafayette.org
www.facebook.com/Rotary-Club-of-Lafayette-CA

◆ Not to be missed

or (925) 284-5050. \$10 credit card deposit required to hold your spot. Members: Free; Non-members: \$10.

GARDEN

The Moraga Garden Club will hold its next meeting at 9:30 a.m. Thursday, Sept. 20 at the Holy Trinity Church, 1700 School Street, Moraga. The guest speaker will be Steve Lambert of Garden Lights Landscape. Interested parties are welcome to attend the 9:30 a.m. social hour, the 10 a.m. meeting and the presentation by Steve Lambert, immediately following the meeting.

The Montelindo Garden club's September meeting will be at 9 a.m. on Sept. 21 at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center Community Hall. Presentation: "Designing with Palms," with speaker Jason Dawees. Dawees is the author of the book

"Designing with Palms," released in 2018. He is the horticulturalist and palm expert at Flora Grubb Gardens in San Francisco. His book will be available for purchase. www.montelindogarden.com

Lafayette Community Garden and Outdoor Learning Center 7th Annual Harvest Fest from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sept. 23 at the Lafayette Community Garden. There will be garden tours, talks, music, scarecrow building, art card decoration, food and drink and other activities to welcome the fall season. Free.

Please submit events:
calendar@lamorindaweekly.com

Lamorinda Weekly

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Apples add to these cookies' fall harvest feel

By Susie Iventosch



Apple Oatmeal Harvest Cookies

Photo Susie Iventosch

On several of my bike rides lately, I've been tempted by apples ... orchards loaded with apples. Ripe apples of every color adorn the trees from yellow to red to green. We don't have apple trees in our yard, and I must say, it was really difficult not to reach out and grab a few to eat along the

way. Alas, these were not my trees, so I refrained. Still, it got my fall cooking brain going and made me think of how tasty it would be to add some chopped apples to oatmeal cookies. Once this plan was set in motion, I could hardly wait to get back to the kitchen to start baking. This oatmeal cookie recipe

is one I've used for years, but have never added apples to it before. The cookies are soft and delicious with the warm flavors of cardamom and cinnamon spice, and the apple chunks only add to that fall harvest feeling.



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.

Apple Oatmeal Harvest Cookies

(Makes about 3 dozen)

INGREDIENTS

- 2 cubes butter (1 cup), softened to room temperature
- 1 1/2 cups light brown sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 2 large eggs
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon cardamom
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 2 cups instant oats
- 1 apple, peeled and finely chopped (I used Honeycrisp)
- 1/2 cup currants
- 1/2 cup coarsely chopped walnuts

DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 350 F. Generously spray or grease two baking sheets. In a large bowl, cream together butter and brown sugar. Add vanilla and eggs and beat until well integrated. In a separate bowl, mix together flour, baking soda, spices and salt. Stir into butter mixture until blended. Add oatmeal, apples, currants and nuts and stir well. Drop by large spoonful onto very well-greased baking sheets. Bake for approximately 10 minutes, or until golden brown. Remove from oven and allow to cool just a few minutes. Before cookies are completely cool, carefully separate cookies from tray with a metal spatula. Allow to cool completely before removing from tray because these cookies are very soft and can easily fall apart if not completely cooled and set before moving.

Family Focus Five things to avoid saying to your child

By Margie Ryerson, MFT

Parents start out in a vaulted position in the eyes of our children. It is up to us to preserve this position. Even if it seems that your child doesn't care what you say, think or feel, he is paying attention and caring.

Parental words and actions can hurt even many years later. Often, grown women and men become tearful in my office while remembering a parent's hurtful comment or seeming disregard. Sometimes a parent will think saying something hurtful isn't a big problem as long as there's an eventual apology. But the initial hurt a child experiences can linger for a long time.

Here are some comments to avoid saying to your child. Some are highly critical, while others can be a set-up for ongoing conflict.

1) **"You're stupid/lazy/mean/selfish/a brat/inconsiderate."**

When you label your child, usually in anger and frustration, that term can resonate with him or her for years. Even if you have complimented your child 20 times more often than you have criticized her or him, your negative comment will carry much more weight.

When you're angry, take a few breaths and think first what you want to say. Remember to formulate "I" messages and to describe the behavior you don't like. This

usually takes some forethought. There are more benign ways to get your message across, such as: "I know it's hard sometimes to share, but Cassie would like a turn on the scooter. Can you please give her a turn in a few minutes? That would be really nice."

2) **"Never" or "always"**

Sweeping generalizations are usually not accurate and can be quite inflammatory. They are also not fair since most behavior isn't so extreme. Parental statements using "always" or "never" tend to alienate children and cause resistance and rebellion. Instead of saying, "You never put away your laundry," it would be better to say, "I wish you would put away your laundry without my having to remind you."

No one wants to drop everything immediately to do someone else's bidding. Instead of saying, "I want you to set the table/clean your room/empty the garbage/do the dishes right now," give your child some latitude. It's much better to give some notice, such as, "You have five minutes before it's time to put away your LEGOs." Or, "Please do the dishes as soon as possible after dinner." And be sure to obtain an agreement. If you have an agreement it is much easier to remind your child to do something

he or she promised and avoid being accused of nagging your child.

3) **"Because I say so" or "Because I'm the parent/adult"**

This kind of power play doesn't go over well, and usually generates resentment if your child is over the age of 3. It's better to say that you have reasons for your decision and you'll share some of them with your child when he or she calms down or after they cooperate.

It's a delicate balance because you don't want to be in the position of having to explain yourself to your child before he or she acts upon your request. This would be placing yourself in a weak position with your child; he or she would then be the judge of whether or not your request is fair or appropriate.

If you wait until your child has complied, then you still maintain control but you show you are willing to share your reasoning so he or she can be more a part of the process.

4) **"If you don't do what I've asked, you're grounded/you have no cell phone for a month/ you've lost all your privileges."**

Parental threats tend to elicit anger and resistance, not cooperation. Often they are made impulsively and contain unrealistic or extreme measures. If you don't follow through with them, you are exposed as a parent who doesn't

mean what you say and you risk losing your future credibility.

It's better to have an agreement about consequences ahead of time for misbehavior, disrespectful comments, or failure to perform chores.

Then you can say, "Unfortunately, I'll need to apply the consequence we discussed if you don't apologize/clean up your room by the deadline."

If you don't already have an agreement, you can take time to think about what you want a consequence to be. You don't have to specify immediately what action you will take. You can say, "If you don't do what I ask, I'm going to have to think of a consequence for you."

Reluctant discipline is best, while threats are alienating.

5) **Comparing him to his siblings or to anyone else**

Whether or not your intentions are good, comparing your child to someone else, even favorably, places you in a position of being judgmental. Just about everyone dislikes feeling judged by others, and knowing we're being judged makes us self-conscious around those who are doing the judging. After all, the same person who complimented us at the expense of someone else can turn around at any point and compare us unfavorably.

If parents want to promote



Margie Ryerson, MFT, is a marriage and family therapist in Orinda and Walnut Creek. Contact her at (925) 376-9323 or margierye@yahoo.com. She is the author of "Treat Your Partner Like a Dog: How to Breed a Better Relationship" and "Appetite for Life: Inspiring Stories of Recovery from Anorexia, Bulimia, and Compulsive Overeating."

harmonious sibling relationships, making comparisons sabotages this effort. If they are compared unfavorably, children grow to resent the person they're being compared to, while a favorable comparison can set up unhealthy rivalry among siblings.

As I've written before in this column, comparing ourselves to others too much can lead to discouragement and lowered self-esteem. You will probably need to help your child avoid doing this to him or herself as it's such a natural tendency. Consequently, it's even more important not to add external comparisons to those he or she may already struggle with internally.

'black odyssey' back at Cal Shakes

By Sophie Braccini



"black odyssey" 2018 poster

Photo provided

Last year Cal Shakes created a premier of Marcus Gardley's play, "black odyssey," reset in Oakland. The epic story of Ulysses Lincoln, on his long journey home from the war in Afghanistan, was an all-time success both with the public and critics, winning the company numerous awards. Cal Shakes opens the adventure again, with a limited edition this year, from Sept. 25 through Oct. 7 with several inno-

vative initiatives such as a "Pay What You Can" performance on Tuesday, Sept. 25.

Contemporary playwright Gardley wrote "black odyssey," a tale seeking the roots of the black ethos in America, transcending the race issue, reaching all of us, independently of background, wondering about redemption, about our roots and about what it means to be human.

The public did not miss the significance of this story of wanderings and longing built on Homer's ancient Greek myth. The success of "black odyssey" was record-breaking at the Bruns Theater and the production won a collective 16 Theatre Bay Area Award nominations, including nominations for Outstanding Ensemble, Production, and Direction.

Cal Shakes Artistic Director and "black odyssey" director Eric Ting said that he was thrilled to bring Gardley's enthralling journey back to the Bruns. "We're celebrating this homecoming in a few special ways," added Ting. "Marcus was the recipient of our annual Guiding Star award earlier this year, and the city of Oakland surprised him at the awards ceremony with the proclamation of Marcus Gardley Day on the reopening of the production, Sept. 26, 2018."

The "Pay What You Can" performance is a deliberate effort to make theater performances available to all, independent of economic situation. Tickets for the performance will be available starting at 10 a.m. on the day of the show through TodayTix and the Cal Shakes Box Office at (510) 548-9666.

Then on Sunday, Sept. 30, Cal Shakes will host a Second Line lesson and parade with "black odyssey" co-choreographer Latanya D. Tigner for community partners and audience members in conjunction with the 4 p.m. performance (lesson starts at 3:15 p.m.). Second Line is one of the cornerstones of the New Orleans parade tradition, and is featured in "black odyssey." The afternoon will feature a live New Orleans-style band playing before and after the show. The event is included in that day's ticket price.

This year's cast incorporates returning and new actors, such as JD Mollison as Ulysses Lincoln, and Tony Award winner Cleavant Derrick as Great Grand Daddy Deus.

Details and tickets are available at calshakes.org. Performances are held at the Bruns Amphitheater, 100 California Shakespeare Theater Way, Orinda.

Cadets with a cause

Submitted by Charisse Stratford



Troop leader Charisse with Thea, Jordan, Natalie, Olivia, Maya, Sarah, Caroline (Cassie not present) at the May 10 Bronze Project award ceremony.

Photo Richard Lang

Girl Scout Troop 33134 began their first year at Stanley Middle School on the heels of completing their Bronze Project and graduating to Cadets.

Troop 33134 showcased their yearlong Bronze Project, "Save the Oceans, Save the Earth," at the 2018 Lafayette Earth Day Fair. Their goal was to bring attention to one of the leading causes of damage to our earth - water pollution. Oxybenzone, a common ingredient in many sunscreens, was highlight-

ed as one major pollutant causing deformity and death to coral reefs. Scientists say it only takes one drop of oxybenzone in six-and-a-half Olympic-size swimming pools' worth of water to do serious harm, according to outdoorindustry.org. The recipe for DIY reef-friendly sunscreen and samples were handed out to over 100 attendees. Coincidentally, the state of Hawaii banned sunscreens containing Oxybenzone the same week this troop received their Bronze Award.

In the article, "Local author's debut novel 'A River of Stars'" published in the Sept. 5 issue of Lamorinda Weekly, the information about Vanessa Hua's parents' move from China was incomplete. Her parents were born in China, but met in Chicago in the 1960s, and then moved to Orinda in 1975, the year Hua was born.

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LAMORINDA SPORTS

Saint Mary's soccer starts season strong

By Jon Kingdon



SMC sophomore goalie Maleah Milner

Photo Tod Fierner

In beginning his fourth season as the head coach of the Saint Mary's College women's soccer team, Travis Clarke feels the Gaels are beginning to turn the corner in becoming a successful team. Following a 7-11-1 season, Saint Mary's has begun the season by winning four of their seven games.

Early in the season, the Gaels went back to Vermont to compete against the University of Vermont and the University of Maine, coming away with two victories. Clarke saw many benefits for the team in making such a long trip: "It was a good opportunity for team bonding and allowed us to play teams with a different style of play. Back East, they play a more physical and direct game. Vermont had a left sided center kid that could hit the ball 50 yards beyond our back line. That is something we don't see out here. Not to mention that Vermont was very beautiful."

When Clarke was first hired in 2015, it was late in the recruiting season and he lost out on a number of players. "At that point, there were a number of recruits that decommitted which left us with a small recruiting class which is one reason why we only have two seniors on our roster this season," says Clarke. "Each year we have worked hard to get impactful players for our team and it is now starting to show."

After beginning the season with two losses, the Gaels have

won four of their last five games. Clarke has a special feeling for this team: "Our team is very hard working. We are more athletic than we have been in the past. We just have to figure out how to win the close games. We are 2-2 in overtime games and we could conceivably be 6-1. We are a young team with lots of freshmen and sophomores that are still developing as the season goes on."

One of the first aims for the team this season was to replace Hannah Diaz who graduated last year to play professional soccer and was by far the team's leading scorer last season.

The Gaels only averaged 0.89 goals per game last season, while this season, the Gaels are averaging 1.29 goals per game. "We have to find a way to get the second goal in our games," Clarke says. "It just has to do with executing. We have had the scoring opportunities but we have to do better finishing off plays and continue to generate more chances to score. I'd like us to get up to at least 1.7 goals per game."

Two junior forwards, Jaylen Crim and Jordyn Cunningham, are both on a pace to exceed the numbers Diaz put up last season.

Crim who had two goals and one assist last season already has two goals and three assists after only seven games this season. "Jaylen is very athletic and has the ability to get behind the opposing team's defenses," says Clarke.

"She was named the most valuable player in TD Classic in Vermont early this season."

Crim attributes the improvement to the entire team: "Our team is better this year as a whole. A lot of our players have stepped up this year. We are doing a better job in finding the open man and connecting more passes this year. I did a lot of extra work on my own and worked on developing new shots and my overall game."

Cunningham, who was the sixth leading scorer last season with one goal and one assist already has three goals and one assist this season. Clarke appreciates Cunningham skills: "Jordyn has very good height and is very technical. We got her used to turning and facing the goal this year and she has been an effective scorer."

Cunningham has been more assertive on the field: "I am more confident this year. My coaches and teammates have been a great help for me. Since we are such a young team, all of the upper classmen have been leaders."

Defensively, Clarke's goal is to see his team only give up one goal a game. Last season, the team gave up an average of 1.79 goals per game. This year the number is down to 1.57 goals per game. Much of the credit goes to sophomore goalie Maleah Milner, who won the starting position late last season. According to Clarke, "Maleah only gave up two goals in the spring. We have made some mistakes all over the field that have led to some goals that were not her fault. We have only one bad game against Fullerton (losing 5-1) we have only given up six goals in the other six games. Mahleah has been very consistent. She is very athletic and cerebral. She thinks the game and has a high soccer IQ. Mahleah is quick and nimble and makes great reaction saves. She can develop into an elite college goalie."

Milner who has not given up a goal in her last two games has been growing as a key player on the team: "As a freshman last year, I was more concerned with proving that I belonged. This year, I am working on taking on more of a leadership role. This year we have a new mindset. We learn from a game like the loss to Fullerton and we move forward. The team has bought into the vision Coach Clarke has for the team."

... continued on Page C3

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Lamorinda Weekly Girls Water Polo preview

By Jon Kingdon



Acalanes goalie Ava Donleavy

Photos Gint Federas

By any and all standards, the 2017 girls water polo season would have to be declared a success for the Lamorinda teams, both singly and as a whole. Acalanes, Campolindo and Miramonte had a combined 69-11 record in the regular season and an 11-2 record in the playoffs, which included a championship. Each of the schools also had girls that have gone on to play water polo for the top schools in the nation, both athletically and academically. As the 2018 season begins, optimism continues to reign supreme in Lamorinda.

Coming off a championship, undefeated season, Miramonte's girls water polo team only lost six seniors to graduation. However, when five of those seniors have gone on to play Division 1 water

polo in college, it can prove to be a shock to the system. As satisfying as winning a championship can be, Lance Morrison, in his second year as the Matadors head coach, is not resting on his laurels: "Last year is over and we're not looking back. We look at every year as a new set of cards. We want to be in the conversation. Each year we look at what we need to change and what we want to hold on to."

Despite losing so many key players to graduation, the cupboard is far from bare for Miramonte. Returning on offense is senior attacker Katie Lyons, who led the team last year with 99 goals, was third on the team with 50 assists and also led the team in steals, and is a key component for the Matadors. Says Morrison: "Katie has a strong competitive

drive and is incredibly explosive with a unique ability to score and make plays."

Complementing Lyons will be junior center Sally Fellner and senior utility Abby Fleming. Morrison appreciates what each brings to the pool: "Sally is a top center and a very strong competitor who has been dedicated to working on her weakness and improving her strengths. I have coached Abby since her freshman year. She is very skilled and is always ready to attack when teams aren't looking. She has a big heart and cares a lot about this team."

Morrison is quick to point out that it's not individuals that make a team successful and that no one does anything by themselves but in fact everyone has to work together as a unit.

On defense, senior goalie Savannah Sherwood, who only gave up an average of 3.3 goals per game last season, which included five shutouts, leads the defense. Says Morrison: "Savannah is a top goalie in our area and beyond. She has good size, stature and athleticism. She is very long and athletic along with good instincts and intelligence and a real sense of where the ball will be which allows her to make big blocks. Savannah is a very good passer as well." In front of Sherwood is junior center defender Chloe Morrison who "is hard to set against."

With a 1-0 record so far this season, Miramonte will be competing in three tournaments – the Sierra Shutout, The Woodcreek Invitational and the Nor Cal Invitational.

Morrison uses these tournaments as indicators as to how good of a team he has: "We need to play all the top teams. One win against a tough team like Monte Vista is not enough to tell us where we stand. After we've played everyone at least once, we'll have a much better idea of where we are but, at this point, we need a few more games to know."

Over the last five seasons, Miramonte has established themselves as a consistent powerhouse amassing a record of 112 and 26, demonstrating their ability to consistently play at a high level. Says Morrison: "We may have a bulls-eye on us as defending champions but I believe that it is because we are consistently a top program that

teams want to beat every year. We will compete at the highest level of play regardless of who we play. That's the culture we want. We want to look past what we can't control and find a way to compete."

Campolindo made it to the third round of last year's playoffs, losing to the ultimate winner of the tournament, Miramonte.

Head coach Kim Everist has approached this season with a new attitude: "Our concept is aiming for more. We don't want to get too focused on the wins and losses. Our philosophy is to have a mindset on things that we can control. It's about striving for more and trusting each other."

Despite the graduation of three seniors that have gone on to play Division 1 college water polo, Everist speaks highly of her current roster: "We have a good senior group with a number that may go on to play at the next level as well. I'm really stoked. The girls are really determined to take care of the game. They are dialed in to the little details. They always show up and are ready to go."

This year's captains are seniors Christina Crum, a center defender and Zoe Crouch, a perimeter player who led off the season scoring six goals in the opening victory against Sacred Heart Prep. Everist appreciates the role and effort that they and the seniors are providing: "Our players are buying into accountability and the seniors are leading them and helping me keep the players in line."

Other key players on offense are two juniors, attacker Nina Munson and perimeter Lola Ciruli. Sophomore Tallulah Clancy has also been a force as an attacker. Everist also singled out senior Jessica Henningsen who was a substitute last year but "this year she has been playing gangbusters."

Senior Cam Sutter is returning as the team's goalie and is being backed up by another senior Katherine Hawkins. Everist has come to rely on assistant coach Joe Born to specialize on the defense. Born, who played at Miramonte and the University of California, has also coached for the Lamorinda Water Polo Club Team.

Everist appreciates the early success of the Cougars who have won four of their first five games

but keeps her priorities straight: "I want them to have fun. I enjoy the kids and want them to enjoy the game."

With a 21-5 record last season and a triple overtime loss in the third round of the playoffs to tournament runner up, Monte Vista, Acalanes head coach Mischa Buchel has approached this season with great optimism despite losing Bella Wentzel and Lauren Etnyre to the college ranks.

Beginning the season with six consecutive wins has done nothing to dampen Buchel's enthusiasm: "We have a number of players that played a lot last season and returned this year."

In their six games, the Dons have only given up a little more than three goals per game which does not surprise Buchel: "Our defense is excellent. It is definitely going to be our strong suit this year and should only get better when junior Brooke Westphal, who does a little bit of everything for us, fully recovers from a concussion she suffered at the Junior Olympics this summer."

Junior Jewel Roemer, who played for the Women's Youth National Team in Serbia this summer and who is only in her second year playing for Acalanes, has proven to be a real force for the Dons, says Buchel. "Jewel has been incredible on both offense and defense. She has tons of steals and blow up plays. She has a great ability to read the play even before the offense players knows what they want to do. On offense she has a real knack to get the ball to the right players."

The goalie position is in the very capable hands of sophomore Ava Donleavy for which Buchel finds great comfort: "As a freshman Ava was spectacular and has improved from there. She is a vocal presence back there and is a natural at directing traffic which is very helpful for the defense."

Leading the offense is senior center Lexi Rowell, who is the key to the Dons' offense, says Buchel: "No one has been able to guard Lexi one-on-one. She gets a lot of space and is able to draw a lot of exclusions (when the opposing player is forced to leave the pool for 20 seconds). Our half court sets have been very good so far this season."

... continued on Page C3



Miramonte goalie Savannah Sherwood

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Moraga Baseball Pinto Champion Phillies

Submitted by Charles Murrin



Photo provided

The Phillies won the Moraga Baseball Association Pinto Championship (7- and 8-year-olds) by sweeping a double header from the Pirates on June 3 at the Saint Mary's College softball diamond. The Phillies faced elimination in the first game, down 14-10 entering the bottom of the last inning but promptly rallied for five runs to claim the victory, 15-14. The Phil-

lies won the championship with a wire to wire 14-8 win in the night cap. The Championship capped a terrific season by the Phillies who went 14-3 on the year and placed five players on the league All Star team. The Phillies were led by Oliver Murrin, Jude Waide, Hudson Ortland, Kian Malekafzali and Riley O'Toole and received strong contributions from Jake Pinedo,

Brody Chapman, Henry Golinveaux, Cohen Pearce, Ethan Meyer and Baron Conrad in a great team performance. The Pirates also ended a fine season, having handed the Phillies two of their three losses. The Phillies were coached by Charley Murrin and Jon Waide. The Pirates were led by coaches Brian Shaffer, Brian Sullivan and Chad Hamilton.

Miramonte Gregory Austin selected for Goodwill Series

Submitted by Bob Williams

While attending a Stanford Baseball camp in July, Miramonte junior Greg Austin, Mator pitcher, was selected to play baseball for the American team in the upcoming Goodwill Series, which will take place this coming December in Australia and New Zealand. Greg will play on a team made up of high school players who were selected from across the country.

players are the best in their country. Many are professional players and Olympic team players.



Photo provided

This is the 25th year headed to the land "down under." The journey helps prepare players for a future career as a baseball player, either at the collegiate or professional levels, as they need to be in top physical and mental condition in order to compete every day. The State Team Australian baseball

Staying with host families not only prepares players for their future host family endeavors during collegiate summer leagues and minor league baseball seasons, but it also allows them to appreciate a new and exciting culture, different customs, cuisine, and communication as well.

A magical win for the 06 boys

Submitted by Angela White



Standing, from left: Ace Reeder, Kai Lucas, Andrew Lara Ramirez, Mack Fisher, Tiko Moodie, Kadin True, Faisal Shaghahi, John Tuggle, Aiden Rascher, Noah Rabinovitz, coach David Landeros; kneeling: Harlem Clemons, Paulo Trento, Pepukai Allard-Chigamba, Ryan Rho-Baity, Niko White, Khalil Rashad, Cyrus Rowley; not pictured: Drew DeFrancisci and James Jenkins. Photo provided

The U13 Magic Boys took first place in the San Francisco Golden Gate International Tournament Labor Day weekend. They won four out of four games and defeated Total Futbol Academy from Pasadena 2-1 in the Championship game. The boys came out strong and outscored their opponents 27 to 4 throughout the weekend. They displayed stellar offensive and defensive skills, which led them to their victory. They have had a very successful summer winning the last two tournaments.

Campolindo senior Teddy Buckley takes Ed Sias Invitational title

Submitted by Eric Yabu



Campolindo senior cross-country runner Teddy Buckley won the Varsity Small Schools race Sept. 8 at the Ed Sias Invitational at Hidden Valley Park in Martinez. He covered the hilly two-mile course in 10:18, the second fastest in school history. His 11-second victory led his team to a second-place finish in a field of 18 teams and 130 runners.

Photo Jim Woidat

Submit stories to sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com

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Girls Water Polo preview

... continued from Page C2

This year's captains are Rowell, Alex Fellner and Kylie Walker and have proven very helpful to Buchel. "They are all doing a good job being the leaders on the team. They are very encouraging to their teammates."

What is new for all of the teams is how close the referees are calling fouls this year. The powers that be feel that the game has gotten too physical so the officials will be calling more kickout fouls which is going to provide more power play opportunities for the teams, says Buchel. "Instead of 5-10 power plays, we may see 12-

15 power plays in some games. In that we were only 1-9 in power plays against Carondelet earlier this season, this is an area that we will spend more time on."

With so many returning players this year, it has facilitated the process for Buchel: "Though we're not senior heavy, a lot of last year's sophomores have stepped up. We've been able to jump into things sooner. We have a clear sense of each other and where we wanted our players to line up. We feel that if we are going to do it and be successful, this is our year."

Saint Mary's soccer

... continued from Page C1

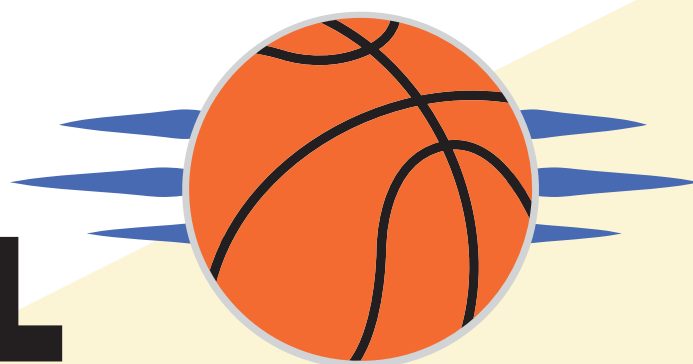
Clarke has a leadership group of five players: Crim, Kelsey Hill, Annysa Dominguez, Anna Parker and Jasmine Edwards. Each of the players has an area of responsibility, according to Clarke. "Kelsey is so competitive that she handles the on-the-field issues, seniors Dominguez and Edwards deal with the day-to-day stuff and all captain-related issues, Parker is in charge of the locker room and meeting with individual players and Crim handles off the field community service projects."

Four of the 10 freshmen have

seen significant playing time – defender Haley Prentice, forward Kaytlin Brinkman, midfielder Cady Hittenmiller and defender/midfielder Amaya Tomlinson. It is not an easy adjustment for freshmen to step onto a college varsity, Clarke says. "There is a big adjustment for the players to compete on this level. They are competing against players that at this point have more size, power and speed. As our freshmen continue to mature and put in the work in the weight room, they will certainly be able to compete on a far more level plane."

"This team will continue to learn, grow and develop as the season progresses," concludes Clarke. "At this point, win, lose or tie, our goal is to get 2 to 5 percent better each game in every area of the game. The coaches use their video editing equipment to break down every play and the players wear heart rate monitors in both practice and in games. The bottom line is that we want to compete for championships and as our players get more experience, we expect that to happen."

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Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 12 Issue 15 Wednesday, September 19, 2018



Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian

...read on Page D10

Make your home an autumn oasis

By Amanda Eck



Photo provided

I love when the sun starts to set a little earlier and my thoughts turn to warm blankets, comfort food, and lazy rainy Sundays (hoping to see some much needed rain this fall). Even though our family schedule seems to pick up during the autumn months – basketball practice, after school activities, etc. – we try to take time in the evenings to slow down. We even have an 8 p.m. no electronics rule when school starts (that includes Mom and Dad). This helps us as a family focus on spending time reading, playing board games, or sneaking in a cup of hot cocoa before bed. I truly enjoy making our home cozy and inviting so we can be reminded to take time and enjoy one another during the autumn season and rest up before the crazies of the holidays hit.

Here are five of my favorite ways to summon autumn's splendor:

1) Fall Foliage: Once the trees start to turn to shades of orange and red I love to trim a few branches and bring them in. Now here in the Bay Area that might not happen until November, so I do have a few faux branches on hand I use in September and October. Local craft stores like Hobby Lobby or Michael's are great places to shop for faux branches. Try to look for stems that are realistic and avoid fake flowers. Instead, look for branches with leaves, seed pods, or small acorns on them. And of course once the leaves start to change grab your clippers and head outside.

2) Candles: If you asked my husband he would tell you I am a candle hoarder. I love candles. I especially love yummy fall scented candles. Pumpkin spice, cinnamon, and anything that smells like coffee! I also keep a stash of unscented candles. They make great accents for dinner parties or scattered through out the house to bring in a warm glow as the sun starts to set. If I had my way, our home would only be lit by candles when the sun sets – no lamps for me!

3) Fresh gourds and mini pumpkins: I was at Safeway last week and they already had their mini pumpkins out, so grab them while you can. Place mini gourds and pumpkins on the entry table or on your coffee table gathered in a bowl. If orange is not your color, try using the white mini-boo pumpkins; they coordinate with any décor from contemporary to farmhouse. And don't forget your front porch; large pumpkins are not just for Halloween anymore.

4) Fuzzy throws: I love to bring out the blankets when the temps begin to dip in the evenings. Pottery Barn has some beautiful cashmere blankets in warm autumn colors.

... continued on Page D4



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Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

City	Last reported:	LOWEST AMOUNT:	HIGHEST AMOUNT:
LAFAYETTE	9	\$795,000	\$2,900,000
MORAGA	3	\$730,000	\$1,328,000
ORINDA	13	\$520,000	\$3,456,500

Home sales are compiled by Cal REsource, an Oakland real estate information company. Sale prices are computed from the county transfer tax information shown on the deeds that record at close of escrow and are published five to eight weeks after such recording. This information is obtained from public county records and is provided to us by California REsource. Neither Cal REsource nor this publication are liable for errors or omissions.

LAFAYETTE

8 Foothill Park Terrace, \$1,325,000, 4 Bdrms, 2902 SqFt, 1959 YrBl, 8-22-18;

Previous Sale: \$765,000, 07-23-10

105 James Place, \$1,950,000, 3 Bdrms, 1981 SqFt, 1965 YrBl, 8-15-18;

Previous Sale: \$1,365,000, 05-22-12

797 Moraga Road, \$1,845,000, 3 Bdrms, 2748 SqFt, 1950 YrBl, 8-15-18;

Previous Sale: \$170,000, 12-20-01

3279 Mt. Diablo Court #10, \$795,000, 3 Bdrms, 1731 SqFt, 1987 YrBl, 8-16-18;

Previous Sale: \$400,000, 10-20-00

1009 Pine Lane, \$2,900,000, 5 Bdrms, 4829 SqFt, 2003 YrBl, 8-22-18;

Previous Sale: \$2,100,000, 08-18-11

4033 Tilden Lane, \$1,740,000, 4 Bdrms, 3012 SqFt, 1986 YrBl, 8-20-18;

Previous Sale: \$1,700,000, 12-15-16

3275 Vals Lane, \$1,795,000, 3 Bdrms, 2656 SqFt, 1949 YrBl, 8-22-18;

Previous Sale: \$1,176,000, 07-14-11

1013 Windsor Drive, \$1,000,000, 3 Bdrms, 1756 SqFt, 1960 YrBl, 8-16-18

1003 Woodbury Road #103, \$1,200,000, 2 Bdrms, 1638 SqFt, 2015 YrBl, 8-17-18;

Previous Sale: \$1,220,000, 08-04-16

MORAGA

1913 Ascot Drive, \$821,000, 2 Bdrms, 1379 SqFt, 1973 YrBl, 8-22-18;

Previous Sale: \$810,000, 03-20-18

2028 Ascot Drive, \$730,000, 3 Bdrms, 1660 SqFt, 1972 YrBl, 8-17-18;

Previous Sale: \$500,000, 08-27-04

33 Thorndale Place, \$1,328,000, 4 Bdrms, 2171 SqFt, 1968 YrBl, 8-14-18

ORINDA

67 Brookwood Road #11, \$520,000, 2 Bdrms, 897 SqFt, 1963 YrBl, 8-17-18;

Previous Sale: \$38,000, 02-09-76

1 Daisy Lane, \$1,365,000, 4 Bdrms, 1988 SqFt, 1973 YrBl, 8-21-18;

Previous Sale: \$561,000, 08-13-99

11 Daisy Lane, \$1,400,000, 3 Bdrms, 3354 SqFt, 1973 YrBl, 8-15-18;

Previous Sale: \$1,150,100, 11-19-14

88 Davis Road, \$1,400,000, 3 Bdrms, 2489 SqFt, 1941 YrBl, 8-23-18;

Previous Sale: \$760,000, 04-16-04

33 Don Gabriel Way, \$1,250,000, 3 Bdrms, 1845 SqFt, 1949 YrBl, 8-16-18;

Previous Sale: \$950,000, 12-06-05

188 Ivy Drive, \$1,820,000, 5 Bdrms, 2649 SqFt, 1953 YrBl, 8-22-18;

Previous Sale: \$900,000, 08-23-04

53 La Espiral, \$1,250,000, 3 Bdrms, 1688 SqFt, 1954 YrBl, 8-22-18;

Previous Sale: \$785,000, 07-27-09

86 Meadow View Road, \$2,050,000, 5 Bdrms, 3248 SqFt, 1951 YrBl, 8-16-18;

Previous Sale: \$675,000, 11-15-96

491 Moraga Way, \$760,000, 3 Bdrms, 1832 SqFt, 1950 YrBl, 8-23-18

9 Rich Acres Road, \$1,630,000, 4 Bdrms, 2642 SqFt, 1987 YrBl, 8-22-18;

Previous Sale: \$100,000, 04-28-86

204 The Knoll, \$965,000, 2 Bdrms, 2116 SqFt, 1974 YrBl, 8-17-18

19 Valley View Road, \$3,456,500, 5 Bdrms, 4375 SqFt, 1966 YrBl, 8-16-18;

Previous Sale: \$3,220,000, 04-01-13

28 Via Callados, \$1,665,000, 4 Bdrms, 3288 SqFt, 1976 YrBl, 8-14-18;

Previous Sale: \$1,425,000, 07-31-15



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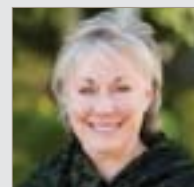
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Make your home an autumn oasis

... continued from Page D1



Photos provided

For a less expensive option HomeGoods carries an array of blankets this time of year. Throw one over the sofa, on your favorite chair, or at the foot of your bed. There is nothing more comforting than a fuzzy throw on a chilly afternoon.

5) Bake something: And last but not least – bake something yummy! Even if baking is not your thing, head to Trader Joe's and pick up a box of pumpkin bread. No one will ever know. Those who know me, know I don't enjoy cooking or baking, but for some reason when fall arrives I make an exception. All things pumpkin for this girl. I even add some organic canned pumpkin to my morning smoothie. If you're not into sweets, then pull out the Crockpot and try some new fall soup recipes. Pinterest is a great resource for Crockpot ideas.

I hope you enjoy my easy autumn tips and I wish you a wonderful, cozy week!

As the Owner and Principal Designer of Lamorinda-based Amanda Carol Interiors, Amanda Eck believes your home's interior should be both approachable and well-appointed. She often asserts, "Beauty is a necessity."

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

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



Amanda's Comfort Soup

(this can be made in the Crockpot or on the stove)

INGREDIENTS

2 cups of chopped celery

2-3 cups of chopped carrots

3-4 cloves of garlic (I use Trader Joe's frozen garlic)

4 cups of chicken or vegetable broth

2 cans of diced tomatoes

1 can of white beans

Chopped spinach or kale (optional)

Seasonings: sea salt, garlic powder, onion powder, Italian or any herb seasoning

1 package of cheese tortellini (in the refrigerated or frozen section)

DIRECTIONS

Sautee celery, carrots and garlic in olive oil until soft. Add all the other ingredients except tortellini (this will be added 5-10 minutes before serving). Bring to a boil then reduce heat to medium low for 30 minutes to 1 hour or set Crockpot for 4-5 hours on high.

Enjoy!





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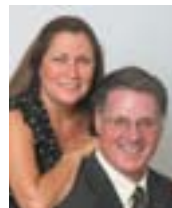
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219 PASEO DEL RIO, MORAGA

Spacious and well-maintained by the original owner, this 4 bedroom 2.5 bathroom single-story home in Campolindo has a charming courtyard entry, a remodeled gourmet kitchen with granite countertops, a family room with a brick fireplace, a formal dining room and a living room with vaulted open beam ceiling and a stone fireplace. Other amenities include dual-pane windows and doors, numerous skylights, recessed lights, hardwood floors, pull-down stairs to attic storage, newer central heating and A/C and a 2-car attached garage. The beautiful flat rear yard is completely fenced and has lawns, aggregate and brick patios, a fire pit, a sport court and a sparkling pool and spa. Close to Campolindo High School, Cabana Club Swimming Pool and Lafayette Reservoir rim trail via a path at the end of the street.

219PaseoDelRio.com | Listed at \$1,475,000



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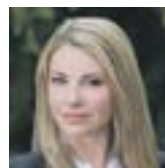


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COMPASS

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SHIFT IN THE MARKET

Starting in late Spring and continuing through the Summer we have seen signs of the market beginning to soften for certain properties in Lamorinda. We thought it would be useful to share our observations on this new trend and what buyers are prioritizing in today's market. This is particularly useful information if you are considering selling your home in the near future.

The predominate trend is that buyers are willing to pay a premium for homes that were just completely remodeled or new construction. Most buyers moving into Lamorinda are two income earners or work tons to be able to afford to buy. The idea of remodeling seems time consuming and daunting and buyers today value time more than ever.

Along the same lines buyers are picking convenience and are increasingly less concerned about picking the "right" neighborhood. They want easy access to transportation, shopping and restaurants and are extremely commute conscience.

Flat yard space remains consistently important. For many buyers the yard does not have to be huge, but it must feel usable. Despite how environmentally unfriendly grass can be, especially in drought years, buyers still want grass and an area that they can see their kids, dog or friends recreating outdoors.

Location is impossible to alter and yard space is hard to change (although often there are creative ways to make your yard more user friendly). Also, remodeling may not be an option or something that sellers want to take on given the expense and inconvenience of a large remodel project. As the market changes it is important to understand that after eight years of market growth we are possibly shifting towards a buyer's market unless a property checks every box in terms of location, yard space and updates. See the Market

Update section of our website for further details and market insights.

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



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Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian

Splish splash

By Cynthia Brian

"Happiness is a day by the pool."



The gazebo anchors the pool in this pretty backyard.

Photos Cynthia Brian

I can't remember if I first learned to swim in the creek behind our house or in the big round cattle troughs in the hills. Growing up on the ranch both locations offered a cool respite from the heat of the day, however it was the makeshift pool at the end of the September grape harvest when my dad would wash out the gigantic tanks used to haul the grapes to the winery that gave us the most joy. We'd fill the bins with well water and we'd have an instant deep swimming pool, albeit with the strong scent of fermentation. Splashing around in pink water was grand amusement!

By the time I was a freshman in high school, our parents decided it was time for a real pool. Since we lived in the boondocks, 12 miles from the nearest town, they knew that if we had a pool,

all of our friends would hang out at our house and my parents could keep a watchful eye on their five children. My dad got on the Caterpillar tractor, dug a big hole, and built us a pool. True to our parents' expectations, the pool was an instant hit, complete with a plethora of screaming teens playing Marco Polo.

My Mom went to work landscaping around the pool, creating lounging areas, installing umbrellas, adding two brick circles with wrought iron patio tables and chairs, and of course, plenty of containers of flowers. Today that original pool is still the focal point of our ranch entertainment where we gather for swimming, barbecues, bonfires and family fun.

... continued on Page D12

Patti Camras

I believe in the art of living well.

Whether helping first-time home buyers & move-up buyers or downsizing empty nesters & seniors, I want my clients to live well at every stage of their lives. I'll do whatever it takes to help them enjoy a seamless transition from one of life's passages to the next. This is my promise.

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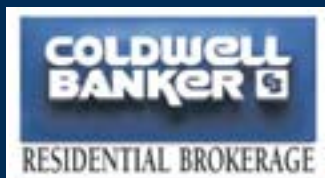
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Located in the heart of Moraga on a small cul-de-sac, this magnificent custom built home met all the buyer's needs.

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Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian

Splish splash

... continued from Page D10



A long, shallow pool perfect for floating.

The next best thing to an ocean, lake or river view is a pool in the backyard offering a bucolic vista with the sensibility of nature. A swimming pool has the ability to anchor a landscape. Learning to swim is a necessary life skill and the exercise of swimming is one of the best full body workouts. Much research has been done on the calming effects that being around water has on humans. Stress levels are lowered by designs with both green and blue spaces: the green being plants and trees and the blue are water features.

I am a water baby and a nature girl with an urgent need to be surrounded by both. Whether you want to incorporate a pool that resembles a natural lake or a lap pool for strenuous swimming, having a private pool will offer you, your family, and friends years of enjoyment while enhancing the beauty of your garden. Children and teens not only get playful exercise but the pool will become a hub of activity with birthday parties and other celebrations. And, you'll know where they are and with whom!

In the recent article "Poolside Living" by Cathy Dausman (<https://www.lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue1214/Poolside-living.html>) suggestions for installation were chronicled. Make sure to add solar to your budget for both the economic and environmental benefits. If you've been pondering the idea of adding a big splash of water to your landscape, this is the month to take the plunge in order to be ready for the next summer season.

Although I savor the memories, I doubt I'll ever swim in a cattle trough or grape tank again, but I will always be ready to dip into a cool pool.



Splish, splash we are taking a bath! Even these geese love private pools!



Lap pool, flanked by lawn, with an ethereal arbor at one end.



Trees cast striking shadows on this tranquil pool and spa.

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Cynthia Brian's Mid-Month Gardening Guide

WATER lawns and perennials deeply and thoroughly. September is notoriously hot and it's essential to keep an eye on your plants. If they are drooping, they are thirsty.

IRRIGATE succulents, cactus, and native specimens sparingly as their water requirements are minimal.

HYDRATE yourself constantly. Don't garden in the heat of the day as you could get dangerously dehydrated. Toil in the morning and the evening.

CUT back hollyhocks to the ground once they have finished flowering. Save the seedpods to share with friends. Within a few weeks, you'll see new green growth as the hollyhocks will continue to thrive.

PRUNE fruit trees after harvesting.

STAKE any smaller trees that may break in winter winds.

CONTINUE deadheading roses and flowering perennials to prolong the blooms until winter.

DONATE to Operation Fire Disaster Relief to help in California's recovery. www.BetheStarYouAre.org

RAKE leaves as they fall and put them in the compost bin. If you can shred the leaves, they will compost quicker.

KEEP mulch away from trunks of trees and around shrubbery.

BEGIN preparations to renew lawns. October is the month to reseed or install a new lawn. Research what type of grass you want to install. I'm a fan of Pearl's Premium. Check it out online at www.PearlsPremium.com.

GRAB some freebies while visiting me and other contributors to my eighth book, "Be the Star You Are! Millennials to Boomers Celebrating the Gifts of Positive Voices in a Changing Digital World" at the Pear and Wine Festival from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 22. Get your books autographed with sales benefitting literacy outreach projects. Visit <http://www.CynthiaBrian.com/books>. Thank you to Lamorinda Weekly for sponsoring.

COLLECT seedpods from marigold, bachelor button, amaranth, calendula, Four O'clock, hollyhock, zinnia and forget-me-not. Spread on a cookie sheet to dry or place in brown paper bags. Next month they will be ready to scatter for a reward of flowers in spring and summer.

PLACE hay under growing pumpkins to keep them from rotting.

PLANT asters, the colorful workhorse of the fall garden that create habitats for pollinators and grow in poor soil.

SWIM and enjoy the final days of summer. If you are considering installing a pool, start the design process now. Find inspiration in the photos in this issue.

Happy Gardening. Happy Growing.

Cynthia Brian



Lights in and around a tropical pool add elegance to the night landscape.



An elegant cabana offers pristine poolside dining.



Lush landscaping plus swimming, volleyball, and a waterfall.



A serenity pool mimics a natural lake.



Cynthia Brian lecturing at Writer's World with her eight published books.

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!® 501 c3.

Tune into Cynthia's Radio show and order her books at www.StarStyleRadio.com.

Buy a copy of her new books, Growing with the Goddess Gardener and Be the Star You Are! Millennials to Boomers at www.cynthiabrian.com/online-store.

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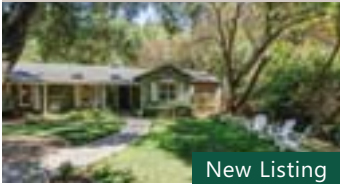
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Renovated mid-century haven! 3157 square feet of light filled living amongst the Orinda hills.

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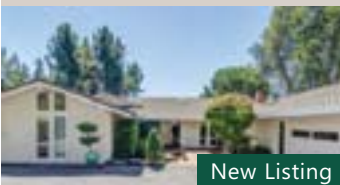


147 Camino Don Miguel

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\$1,995,000

ORINDA



1 La Senda

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\$2,650,000

ORINDA



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4030 Happy Valley Road

Elegant gated 4 Bed/4.5 Bath Happy Valley estate. Extraordinary attention to detail & gorgeous grounds!

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