

LAMORINDA WEEKLY

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Teacher and volunteer Toris Jaeger works with students Jonah Imberg and Ryan Stemmler at the Wagner Ranch Nature Area in Orinda.

Photo Sora O'Doherty

An asset for 40 years at Wagner Ranch Nature Area

By Sora O'Doherty

Sometimes in the midst of life, we need to say to someone, "Wow. You are doing a fantastic job!" Not when they leave or retire, but right in the middle of their career. Thus, Toris Jaeger was honored at a dinner on Sept. 29 in the Orinda Community Center celebrating her 40 years of service to the Orinda community as a teacher and volunteer at the Wagner Ranch Nature Area, where she'll be taking part in the ninth annual Olive Festival on Sunday, Oct. 14. More than 10,000 Orinda children have experienced the hands-on environmental education and social studies programs led by Jaeger since 1978 – and she doesn't plan on stopping any time soon.

Teaching wasn't Jaeger's first career choice. She thought maybe she'd be an anthropologist, an archeologist or a veterinarian. But she wound up taking a teaching credential in Ken-

tucky, where she went into teaching K through 8 in Leitchfield. Later she moved to Missouri, then to Minnesota, finally moving to California in 1972, where she continued to teach for four years. Jaeger loved teaching, but she didn't enjoy being inside. Moreover, subjects were taught separately and she wanted to connect things, to make them meaningful. By 1976, Jaeger decided to get out of classroom.

Jaeger found a master's program at Cal State Hayward, and signed up for her master's in environmental education. In 1978, she heard of a job opening at the Wagner Ranch Nature Area in Orinda. The rest, as they say, is history.

Her goal is to keep the curriculum standards-based, she says. "The core curriculum is trying to accomplish what we've been doing for 40 years: more hands-on teaching of the history

of the cultures and their contribution to California history." She teaches children about the plants and animals, her curriculum evolves every year, and she personally tries to stay current.

The nature area currently operates with a staff of four people, in addition to Jaeger, who teaches every day. The other staff share days. The staff changes, she says. The young ones need to find a full-time job. The ones who stay longer are usually retired or have the knowledge and experience and don't need the money. The Friends of the Wagner Ranch have paid the staff a stipend since 2009 and money raised at the Friends' Olive Festival pays Jaeger and the staff. Jaeger says she is 75 percent volunteer, 25 percent paid. But now the school board is looking at funding the programs again.

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Longtime Lafayette city manager resigns

By Nick Marnell



City Manager Steve Falk reads his resignation letter at the Sept. 24 city council meeting.

Photo provided

In a stunning statement at the Sept. 24 Lafayette City Council meeting, City Manager Steve Falk announced that he will depart at the end of the year.

"This afternoon, I have sent a letter to the city council with my resignation," Falk told the Community Hall audience. "It has been the great privilege of my professional career to serve Lafayette for 28 years, and I am proud of our many accomplishments on behalf of this splendid city. Our residents are engaged; the city council is a model of civility; and the professional staff is brilliant in every way."

An emotional Falk stopped to regroup for a few seconds before he continued. "The time has come, however, for La-

fayette to hear a new voice from the city manager's office and for me to discover my unexplored potential. I hereby resign the position of Lafayette City Manager, effective at the New Year. In the meantime, I will assist the organization in every way as it makes the transition to a new city manager. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve this extraordinary community for so many years. I will always Love Lafayette!"

In his letter to the council, Falk elaborated on his reasons for resigning.

"All cities – even small ones – have a responsibility to address the most significant challenges of our time: climate

change, income inequality, and housing affordability. I believe that adding multifamily housing at the BART station is the best way for Lafayette to do its part, and it has therefore become increasingly difficult for me to support, advocate for, or implement policies that would thwart transit density. My conscience won't allow it.

"Meanwhile, in recent years, I helped craft proposals to make Lafayette the very best version of itself. One effort was Measure C, which would have acquired at-risk wild spaces, doubled police patrols, created a downtown park, added new public parking, and restored the historic Park Theater. Another was Measure L, which would have reasonably allowed middle-income development along Deer Hill Road while delivering significant new recreation facilities to the community and avoiding expensive litigation. Local voters rejected both of those measures by wide margins.

"Elections have consequences, and one is that Lafayette residents deserve a city manager who is better aligned with their priorities," Falk wrote.

The city plans to hold a retirement party Nov. 27 at the Lafayette Veterans Memorial Center for Falk and other retiring city officials. As of late September, the city had not decided on a process for recruiting and hiring Falk's successor.

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Public Meetings

City Council

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

Planning Commission

Monday, Oct. 15, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Design Review

Tuesday, Oct. 9, 7 p.m.
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,
Arts & Science Discovery Center,
3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

School Board Meetings

Acalanes Union High School District
Wednesday, 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

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notes and announcements
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DANA GREEN

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City settles with Save Lafayette for \$650K to cover legal fees

By Nick Marnell

In a settlement agreement approved by the city council, Lafayette agreed to pay \$650,000 in legal fees to the attorney representing Save Lafayette, a nonprofit that supports slow growth and the preservation of the city's semirural character. The settlement capped a legal fight over the Deer Hill Road housing development that has gone on for years.

To facilitate the Deer Hill development with the O'Brien Land Company, the city passed an ordinance in 2015 changing the parcel zoning designation from office buildings and administra-

tive to allow the construction of 44 single-family homes. Save Lafayette filed a referendum petition challenging the ordinance, but the city refused to repeal the ordinance or put it up to popular vote. The nonprofit sued the city, lost, then won on appeal, and Lafayette placed the Homes at Deer Hill referendum on the ballot in June. Voters rejected the ordinance.

The court set a November date for a hearing on the resolution of a claim by Save Lafayette for its legal fees, but the city agreed to settle on Sept. 10.

"We were fighting for the public's right to vote," said Michael Griffiths, spokesman for Save Lafayette. "The city's goal was to deny the right to vote, and we knew they would lose."

Lafayette Mayor Don Tatzin said the city did not put the moratorium on the ballot immediately because it relied on case law that had been overturned. "Because Save Lafayette won, we had to make the payment," Tatzin said.

Typically, when a municipality approves a project like the Homes at Deer Hill, the applicant indemnifies the municipality re-

garding the costs of litigation or referendums related to the project. Per the settlement agreement, O'Brien was required to indemnify Lafayette for the expenses, costs and fees the city incurred in the lawsuit.

According to Jennifer Wakeman, Lafayette financial services manager, the city received a \$650,000 check from O'Brien on Sept. 19, and the city paid that same amount to the Save Lafayette attorney, Gary Garfinkle, the next day.

Hardware problems delay major intersection technology upgrade

By Nick Marnell

Signaling improvements to the major Lafayette intersection that everyone loves to hate have been pushed back indefinitely until the city receives and calibrates the proper hardware from an outside vendor.

In May, the city council reaffirmed support for the Downtown Congestion Reduction Plan strategy to test a second northbound right-turn lane at the intersection of

Moraga Road and Mt. Diablo Boulevard, and also authorized signal technology upgrades at that intersection and the First Street - Mt. Diablo Boulevard intersection. The project was expected to be completed in early August.

But the city ran into problems with its hardware vendor, Western Pacific Signal of San Leandro. The company agreed to provide the project hardware to the city within

two weeks under terms of a \$59,400 professional services agreement executed on July 9. Blaming complications with one of its suppliers, Western did not deliver the hardware until Aug. 24. The city tested the equipment and found that its installed computer chips were out of date.

The city sent a letter to Western Pacific demanding that the company correct the traffic signal control-

ler and computer processing unit issues. Western offered to send new hardware to the city, but according to James Hinkamp, city transportation planner, no tangible product exchange or transaction has taken place since a Sept. 25 conversation with the company.

"While we are hopeful this accelerates the project implementation from this day forward, we cannot provide a specific timeline until

we can calibrate the new equipment," Hinkamp said, because even when the order is finally delivered, the city will have to verify the specifications for system compatibility.

Until then, a right turn onto Mt. Diablo Boulevard from northbound Moraga Road can be navigated from only the far right hand lane.

A quick Q&A with County Superintendent of Schools candidates

By John T. Miller



Lynn Mackey Photos provided



Cheryl Hansen

Lamorinda Weekly reached out to Lynn Mackey and Cheryl Hansen, who will be facing each other in the upcoming Nov. 6 election for County Superintendent of Schools, about various topics involving education.

LW: What are you most proud of as an educator?

Mackey: I am proud of the work I have done to help students in our County get back on track, return to their district school, receive diplomas, enter college, and start careers. In my role at the County Office, I have developed partnerships with educational agencies such as the Community College District and community based organizations to bring services to students throughout the county. I am proud of my work, when, former students who had been unsuccessful in their district school and ended up in juvenile hall, say to me "Do you remember me? You were my principal and you helped me get my diploma."

Hansen: I am proud of my contributions and dedication to the success of all students, from the most fragile to the most independent, in my roles as educator, from classroom teacher, to principal, to County Office of Education administrator to School Board President.

As a three-time MDUSD Board President, I provided leadership changing the district culture to a

positive, forward thinking organization that attracts and supports the best staff, where students receive a comprehensive education preparing them for college and careers. I helped improve employee salaries and benefits, lifting MDUSD to one of the top three districts in Contra Costa, while maintaining a balanced budget.

As a County Office administrator, I developed and led credentialing and leadership training for over 1,700 administrators throughout the county and state, and provided professional development to our county's special education teachers to increase support for students with special needs.

As principal, I opened and led a new comprehensive high school in Fairfield-Suisun now serving more than 2,000 students.

LW: What are your qualifications?

Hansen: I am the only candidate with a breadth of authentic experience and proven leadership, from classroom teacher, to principal, to CCCOE administrator to school board president.

I have firsthand knowledge gained from 10 years as an administrator with the CCCOE, and have a deep understanding of districts, having served as vice principal, assistant principal and principal in three diverse K-12 districts. My experience has earned me the trust

and respect of educators throughout the county.

As a current MDUSD board trustee, my record of organizational change, educational advocacy, governance expertise, and development of community partnerships makes me uniquely qualified to lead the CCCOE forward.

Mackey: As deputy superintendent I have a deep understanding of the role and responsibility of the superintendent. In addition to being a school administrator in Alameda County, I have worked at every level of the Office of Education over the past 21 years. My long tenure at the County Office is a result of the quality of my work. I have been consistently selected for steady promotion from classroom teacher, to principal, and director

of large departments, before being appointed deputy superintendent. I have worked in departments from early education to adult education and everything in between. I am active on local and state levels in the work of statewide County Offices of Education, and have sat on a number of boards and committees. I have the experience to keep continuity, and the passion and enthusiasm to effect change that will lead to the future.

LW: What do you see as problems facing Contra Costa County Schools and how do you propose to fix them?

Mackey: One of the top concerns is the financial health of the districts, with rising costs and flat funding. Many districts struggle to keep their most promising pro-

grams. Although the issue of funding is not one that the County Superintendent can "fix" unilaterally, I will ensure our agency works collaboratively with every district in the county to ensure their fiscal health. I am committed to providing high quality and cost effective services. I will continue to advocate for adequate funding for all of our classrooms.

Another area of concern across all districts is balancing the social-emotional learning of students with academic achievement. I will support our districts and the County Office programs by ensuring social emotional learning is given a high level of support through the county office, focusing on the whole student.

... continued on next page

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City to name LLC Community Hall after Don Tatzin

By Nick Marnell



Don Tatzin observes from the audience as city council approves Community Hall renaming. Photo provided

Upon the recommendation of the Lafayette Library and Learning Center Foundation and the endorsement of the Lafayette Parks, Trails and Recreation Commission, the Lafayette City Council Sept. 24 approved the naming of the LLC Community Hall in honor of outgoing Mayor and Council Member Don Tatzin.

The process began with an August letter from Foundation President Victoria DeMoss requesting that the building be renamed to honor Tatzin for his accomplishments on behalf of the city. "Don has had a hand in every significant project that the city has completed over the last three decades," DeMoss wrote. She went on to point out what she termed Tatzin's greatest accomplishment: being the financial architect behind the \$50 million Lafayette Library and Learning Center. "It is therefore fitting that the Community Hall, where Don has devoted so many hours and which would not exist but for his efforts, be renamed to honor his service to the community," DeMoss concluded.

On Sept. 12, the Parks, Trails and Recreation Commission board

agreed and voted to endorse the foundation's recommendation, and the city council adopted the resolution renaming the building the Don Tatzin Community Hall.

Teresa Gerringer was a charter member of the Lafayette Library and Learning Center Foundation. She explained that the original thoughts of the foundation were to not offer to sell naming rights to the building unless someone came up with an enormous amount of money. "We wanted to leave it very much about the community," Gerringer said. But she told the council that she could not be more in support of naming the Hall after Tatzin. "And I know that the community supports this decision," she said.

"I'm pleased to accept this even though I'm not the most worthy person in this community to get this award," Tatzin told the audience. "I'm not even the most worthy person in this room to get this award."

The naming ceremony for the Don Tatzin Community Hall will be held later this year, concurrent with Tatzin's retirement celebration from the city council.

No election for the Lafayette School District board

By Pippa Fisher

This year will see no race for Lafayette School District governing board members as the four candidates take the four open spots on the board with no contest.

In November Jean Follmer will step back onto the board after taking a break for a few years. She will be joined in a four-year term by newcomer to the board Kenny Tuckerman, and by Rob Sturm who was appointed to the board only un-

til the next election a year ago following the mid-term resignation of Mark Kindhouse.

Suzu Pak will take the two-year remainder of Kindhouse's term, which, together with that of current board member Meredith Meade, will expire in 2020.

Stepping down from the board this November are David Gerson and Teresa Gerringer.

County Superintendent of Schools candidates

... continued from Page A2

Hansen: One of the largest concerns is the lack of service and support for our 18 districts. The current management has narrowed its role to basic bureaucratic duties and has eliminated support services, student programs, and professional development. As Superintendent, I will provide new leadership. Change must begin at the top. My leadership and record of accomplishment will bring much needed credibility, new energy, and vision to our County Office of Education.

LW: Finally, what is your position on charter schools?

Hansen: Charter schools began with the goal of offering public school choice, letting student and parents choose a school setting or instructional program that could address their learning needs. These charters share the goal of providing the best education possible for students.

Unfortunately, there has been an increase of "for profit" charters run by noneducators whose primary focus is not on educating, but using the system to exploit funding streams. These "for-profit" charters do not understand they are public schools and subject to the same

accountability as any other. "For-profit" charters use discriminatory admission practices, lack of innovative programs, questionable achievement data, high staff turnover, lack of financial transparency and fiscal accountability, and questionable governance practices.

Authorizing agencies such as the CCCOE must be proactive in their oversight, advocacy, and protection of students' educational rights and welfare.

Mackey: Charter schools should be held to the same level of accountability and transparency as traditional public schools and that academic and behavioral expectations should be held to a high standard. There are good charters and struggling charters. Issues facing some of our communities around charter schools need to be addressed at a state level to tighten the approval process and ensure that it happens on the local level with local involvement. As Superintendent, I will ensure the charter schools that have been approved by the County Board and receive thorough and transparent oversight while also receiving the support they need to ensure success for their students.

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Moraga

Public Meetings

City Council

Wednesday, Oct. 10, 7 p.m.
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

Planning Commission

Monday, Oct. 15, 7 p.m.
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

Design Review

Monday, Oct. 8, 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

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Moraga community groups sponsor mayoral candidates forum

By Vera Kochan



Photo Vera Kochan

Preserve Lamorinda Open Space, Viva Moraga, We WILL and Safe Moraga facilitated a standing-room-only city council candidates forum – with audience members ranging in age from toddler to retiree – at the Moraga Library Sept. 17. The three candidates running to fill two positions on the Moraga Town Council are incumbent Dave

Trotter, Mike McCluer and Steve Woehleke.

The interest shown by the size of the crowd mirrored Ana Moon of Safe Moraga's thoughts: "It's often difficult to differentiate candidate's positions just by looking at their websites or reading campaign mailers."

Each sponsor hoped the forum

would enlighten voters regarding some of the key issues facing Moragans in the coming months. Viva Moraga's Stephanie Gray expects the town leaders to help attract new retail to the area. Darlene Bennett of We WILL, felt it was important to promote public art and creativity. Her organization "would like to hear how the candidates think they can support these goals as we find creative ways to express the town's welcoming personality." Co-founder of Safe Moraga, Allison Anderman, stated that she was "excited for the opportunity to hear the candidates' views on how Moraga can continue to be courageous and proactive on gun safety." Finally, Suzanne Jones, founder of PLOS believed the forum would "allow voters to learn about the candidates' positions on open space develop-

ment." The proceedings began with moderator, Kathryn Oehlschlager, explaining the forum rules. Each candidate was allowed two minutes for an opening statement, one minute 30 seconds to answer each question and two minutes for a closing statement. They drew straws to determine who would go first and in what order. The questions were provided by each of the sponsoring groups.

When candidates were asked what they thought it will take to move the Moraga Specific Town Center Plan forward in real and actionable ways in the next 12 months, Trotter said he supports getting empty retail spaces filled quickly, especially the soon to be empty OSH building.

... continued on Page A11

Council fills Jeanette Fritzky's vacant seat with commercial litigator

By Nick Marnell



Renata Sos Photo provided

The Moraga Town Council Sept. 26 appointed lawyer and former planning commissioner Renata Sos to fill the vacancy created by the July resignation of Council Member Jeanette Fritzky, who passed away on Sept. 28. The makeup of the council will now include three lawyers: Mayor Dave Trotter, Council Member Kymberleigh Korpus and Sos.

Eleven candidates applied to fill the vacancy but by the time the

open session interviews were conducted on Sept. 25 and 26, three applicants dropped out, including two who regularly criticized the town's failed stormwater fee measure on social media. The eight candidates presented a wide swath of work and life experiences, from a financial professional to a candidate with an extensive public policy background to an advocate of a radical (for Moraga) suggestion to populate the town shopping center vacancies with high tech startups. Applicants ranged in age from the low 40s to the mid 70s.

In the end, after very little deliberation, the council members chose Sos, the candidate they knew and no doubt felt the most comfortable with. "To my surprise, there is clearly a superior candidate," Korpus said. "Renata will do Jeanette justice." Council Member Roger

Wykle agreed and said that Sos would carry on Fritzky's legacy.

Vice Mayor Teresa Onoda focused on the council succession plan. "We need someone with experience in the town," she said. "Next year Dave may not be here. I won't be here. We could have three new people." Trotter is running for reelection, and Onoda said she would not run.

The mayor had asked Sos if the town has the right to reasonably regulate development, and she said that it did. Trotter wrapped up the discussion by stressing that the coun-

cil needs someone, like Sos, who understands land use and development. "I give the nod to Renata," he said. "We need to hit the ground running."

Sos' appointment was approved unanimously. She will be sworn in at the beginning of the Oct. 10 town council meeting; her term runs until December 2020.

"I feel privileged and flattered to have the opportunity to carry on Jeanette's legacy," Sos said after the meeting. "This town has given me and my family so much, and I look forward to giving back."

The Lamorinda Weekly was saddened to hear that Jeanette Fritzky passed away on Friday, Sept. 28 from lung cancer. The Town of Moraga will fly flags at half mast as a tribute to Jeanette and to support her desire to bring public awareness to the heightened risk of non-small cell lung cancer for non-smoking Asian women. <https://www.cancer.org/cancer/non-small-cell-lung-cancer/detection-diagnosis-staging/signs-symptoms.html>

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Bullying Prevention Month in Moraga

By Vera Kochan

Mayor Dave Trotter issued a proclamation at the Sept. 26 Moraga Town Council meeting declaring October as Bullying Prevention Month. Bullying comes in many forms, including physical, verbal, sexual and emotional. Research has shown that it affects millions of American children and adolescents. Bullying has a wider reach now that cell phones and the internet are used as weapons to promote hurt and hate.

Wendell Baker, co-founder of the Moraga iKind Project, enthusiastically accepted the proclamation. Baker and co-founder, Eric Andresen, “were both working with Scouts for Equality to change the Boy Scouts policy that banned LGBT members. When the policy was changed to allow gay youth in May 2013, we decided to devote our energies to help build a better climate for the youth in town. There was a lot of information online suggesting community-wide bullying prevention programs and very little on what it would look like. We met with Bruce Burns, the Moraga School District superintendent, and the three of us decided we’d start a community-wide program and see what works.”

The local iKind program started at Joaquin Moraga Intermediate

School. Baker’s community-wide program decided to use the same name and became the Moraga iKind Project, which still works closely with the iKind committee at JM, as well as with groups at Campolindo High School, the Acalanes Union High School District, and other local organizations.

“The vision of the Moraga iKind Project is to promote civility and compassion in our community. Our mission is to promote kindness and courtesy, to foster courage and bravery, based on the belief that empathy and inclusion constitute the foundation on which community is built,” Baker said.

The Moraga Chamber of Commerce and town businesses are also encouraged to take the iKind pledge to promote and value kindness; treat all people with respect; show compassion and honesty; demonstrate courage. By becoming a “supporter,” iKind will supply free banners and window decals. They will also provide free wristbands and refrigerator magnets for businesses to give away to employees and customers.

JM’s iKind committee chose Stay KINected as this year’s theme. By combining “KIND” and “Connected,” they remind everyone of the importance to support

their efforts. The Committee includes Leadership and SMILE club students, teachers, staff and adult volunteers.

The C.A.R.E. Program (Compassion, Acceptance, Respect, Equality), was developed by the Diversity Committee of the Acalanes Union High School District. Baker states that “the four high schools use the C.A.R.E. Program, so we decided we’d use it as a basis for programs in the elementary and middle schools so that there is consistent messaging. We’ve also promoted the idea that high school students should help with C.A.R.E. programs at the middle school and middle schoolers should help with C.A.R.E. programs at the elementary schools.”

A free movie event is being sponsored by Moraga iKind and Stay KINected at the Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School Theater. “Race To Nowhere” is a PG-13 documentary exploring the tragic side of our achievement-obsessed society in regards to our children.

The film screening will be at 7 p.m. Nov. 7, followed by a student discussion panel and ice cream. The event is free, but you must RSVP at www.moragaikind.org.

Update for Rheem Sinkhole and Temporary Canyon Bridge Reimbursement

By Vera Kochan

Cynthia Battenberg, Moraga town manager, confirmed the reimbursement of \$1.5 million toward the Rheem Boulevard Sinkhole Project. The payment from the Federal Highway Administration “has fully repaid the Palos Colorado Account, as well as, replenished \$1.4 million to the town’s General Fund,” she says. With a remaining \$115,000 yet to be received, it brings the reimbursement up to 88.8 percent of costs.

Edric Kwan, Moraga’s public works director, and his team are handling the reimbursement for the Canyon Road Temporary Bridge Project. Kwan says, “We’ve basically got an IOU from the federal government.” His department is

in the process of submitting a reimbursement package request to Cal Trans and are working closely with state officials to dot all of the “i”s and cross all of the “t”s. “The original budget has gone through changes during the course of installing the temporary bridge. We want to fine tune our package to prevent additional reimbursement delays.”

Construction of the new Canyon Road Bridge is scheduled for 2019 and 2020. The two-year process is necessary when dealing with this type of structure. In order not to completely close the bridge to traffic, construction crews must work on one lane at a time.

Moraga Citizens Network hosts Candidates Night, Oct. 3

Residents will have another opportunity to hear from Moraga Town Council candidates at Candidates Night, sponsored by the Moraga Citizens Network from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 3 at the Holy Trinity Serbian Church, 1700 School Street in Moraga. Audience members can bring questions. The event is free.

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Orinda

Public Meetings

City Council

Tuesday, Oct. 16, 7 p.m.
Library Auditorium, Orinda Library
26 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563

Planning Commission

Tuesday, Oct. 9, 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:

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Owner hopes for quick sale of Orinda eyesore

By Sora O'Doherty

Following a rather long and difficult path, the property at 6 Linda Vista in Orinda may soon be sold as a teardown. Built in 1939, the small two-story cottage occupied a wooded, nonconforming lot in the Orinda hills, on a little over a quarter of an acre. The home was occupied for many years by one owner, who passed away at the age of 93 in 2012. His estate sold the property to a local builder, Brian Purcell, who tried to redevelop the property with a large residence for his own family, but was faced with resistance from some of the neighbors, who objected to the plans.

Purcell says that even though other neighbors welcomed his plan, he did not submit the plan to the city for approval, owing to the resistance he had met. Instead Purcell sold it to a woman who thought she could redevelop it for sale.

The new owner, Anna Siu, began on a renovation, but had many problems. The building was taken down to the beams, and, as work failed to progress, the property fell into disrepair. The Linda Vista neighbors filed a petition with the city in April 2016, seeking redress for the public nuisance. Siu defaulted on her loan at the end of 2017 and the property was repossessed by Crosswind Venture Fund LP.

The property went to auction in January 2018, with a listed price of \$947,500, but failed to sell. According to neighbor Susan Lucier, the spokesperson for the Linda Vista neighbors, there is currently a \$1.4 million lien on the property, far in excess of the \$759,145 current assessed value of the property. The house sits now in a boarded up condition, a dangerous eyesore cordoned off by the city with chain link fence. Orinda has responded to requests from the neighborhood to address potential fire danger at the property.

Drummond Buckley, Orinda's planning director, summarized the history of 6 Linda Vista. "For a long time it was an 'active' construction site, although the construction was taking place very slowly. More recently the construction site was abandoned and the property changed hands. The



Purcell design rendering

Image provided



Current status

Photo Sora O'Doherty

new owners boarded up the unfinished structure as part of a nuisance abatement code enforcement case by the city. However they never got the required 'board up permit' from the County. We re-opened the case recently when we learned that neighbors are still very concerned."

The neighbors have filed complaints with the County Building Department, alleging that there are code enforcement issues with the property. The Lamorinda Weekly contacted the current owner and spoke with Doug Cochrane, VP

of loan production at Crosswind Financial. "Our goal is to sell the property," he said. "We are currently interviewing local realtors with expertise in lot sales, who know the market," he added. Cochrane expects that the property will be listed with a local realtor in the near future, probably as a teardown. "I'm not sure if we'll have to take a loss on it," he said. "We've looked at a lot of different options, and hopefully we can get this resolved soon."

Upcoming EFO fundraising Read-A-Thon

By Sora O'Doherty

Celebrate literacy with Orinda's first-ever all ages Read-A-Thon from Oct. 6-12. Sponsored by the Educational Foundation of Orinda and The Friends of the Orinda Library, the event is a fundraiser for the library as well as Orinda school libraries. Participants are asked to find sponsors who agree to donate for each minute read. There will be a variety of prizes for most minutes read and most money raised. Prizes range from gift cards to the Friends Bookstore to a hosted pool/pizza party for the children or for the adults a hosted

wine and dine dinner party with a famous local author. There will be special recognition for participants who spend time reading to others in the Orinda community, for example those in senior homes.

All participants must meet the Oct. 15 deadline – either online or by turning in their hard copy logs at the Orinda Library. All results received by Oct. 15 will be eligible for the awards ceremony later that week. For more information, visit the Orinda library or the website: <https://99pledges.com/fund/readorinda>.

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

City Council pauses to consider action on trail easement and closure

By Sora O'Doherty

It was a packed house at the Sept. 17 Orinda City Council meeting, due to a controversy regarding a 10-foot-wide trail easement that runs across the parcel that is now 53 Rheem Blvd., providing a trail connection from Rheem Boulevard to Parkway Court. Letters received by neighbors in the area described the trail as having been used by children to walk to Glorietta Elementary School, as well as by neighbors and the general public, for more than 25 years.

A public trail easement was offered to the city in 2010 by the prior property owner, but on the recorded subdivision map, the city formally accepted the parcel map but rejected the offer of dedication of the trail easement. According to

the current owner of 53 Rheem, this, in effect, made the easement property private.

Kent DeSpain purchased the Rheem property in June 2015 and he stated at a Jan. 12, 2016 design review hearing, prior to building their home, that he had no intention of closing the trail. In a Sept. 13 letter to the council, DeSpain said he remembered four people who spoke about the trail at the January meeting. DeSpain, from San Francisco, said it was the first he had heard of a formal trail. "I recall being a little taken aback, but I quickly understood that as a new person in town and wanting to be a good neighbor, I said I had no intention of closing off the trail," DeSpain wrote.

After moving into their home last May, the family experienced several incidents where people using the trail easement "have wandered into my backyard, and in one instance a man was talking to our two boys while we were inside the house," DeSpain wrote, adding that he began a conversation with the city in mid-August, but nothing happened.

Other issues arose, and the family erected a locked gate across the pathway on Sept. 1, preventing any public access.

At the Sept. 17 council meeting, DeSpain told the city council that he apologized for "this colossal mess." He said that he had been told many times that the easement and property was private. DeSpain

submitted a 2016 email from former Orinda Assistant Planner Daisy Allen in which she told him, "Your concerns are valid. You cannot legally be required to keep the trail open to the public. . . ." DeSpain said, "It's not the fault of this council or the current staff, and it's not our fault either."

According to the staff report from the Sept. 17 meeting, "The owner of Parcel 'A' (53 Rheem Blvd.) at the time did not challenge longstanding public access." Under state law, the report stated, the offer to dedicate the trail easement remained open and can be accepted by the city council by resolution at any time. DeSpain did not want the city to accept the trail easement, expressing concerns about public safety as well as privacy issues.

Of the 25 residents who spoke at the Sept. 17 council meeting, all but three supported the easement. Aaran Schultz, who served on the Parks and Rec Commission, supported the easement, and Randy Miller stressed that the planning commission had promised to keep the easement open and suggested that a privacy fence would solve the DeSpain's desire for privacy in their backyard. This idea was seconded by Connie Miller, who pointed to the easement from Martha Road to Overhill, which has fences on either side.

Many talked about how important the trail was to them, and how it had influenced the purchase of their homes. Several speakers said that they lived adjacent to the trail and found it to be an integral part of the neighborhood and talked about how they enjoyed interacting

with their neighbors walking to the path.

Of the three speakers who were against the trail, Sally Kahn said she has lived at 51 Rheem since 1989. There was not a path until 2010, she said, adding that she had never been in favor of the path, although her children did use the path before 53 Rheem was built, "but we were right there, she said. "It wasn't like we had to walk across anybody else's property." She complained that the path is used at night, by bicycles, even motorized scooters. Her husband, Stuart Kahn, also opposes the trail.

Don Weston enjoyed walking his two daughters to school on the trail. "I've used it for 25 years," he said, "and as far as I know there have been no incidents." Several parents in their letters to the council cited concerns about safe routes to and from Glorietta with the path closed, and how Rheem Boulevard has no sidewalks and heavy traffic. Leeann Brady, who has multiple sclerosis and gait and balance issues and has been walking the easement path for 15 years, wrote "with the trail gone I have to get in my car to drive somewhere to walk."

Naomi Greenstone asked the council to accept the easement, noting that its use can be limited by regulations prohibiting use at night, or by motorized vehicles. Dave Simon, who lives on Parkway Court on the other end of the trail, said that he supports the easement for public safety and convenience. "Easements have a place in our community," he said.

... continued on page A14

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ConnectOrinda launch continues downtown development effort

By Sora O'Doherty

The ConnectOrinda launch party – intended to offer multiple efforts to get all Orindans involved in the process of improving the downtown area, consisting of the Village, the Theater District (also known as Crossroads), and the area between them, including

the BART station – will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 13 at the Library plaza. During the event, residents can participate in walking and biking tours and will have opportunities to express their views on downtown. Refreshments will be served and

there will be a modern-day scavenger hunt where participants will use cell phone cameras to compete. The briefing booklet for the project will be available, and there will also be maps and online surveys available to the public, including a map survey which will

allow respondents to comment on specific areas of downtown.

The ConnectOrinda process is working with the community to identify streetscape and transportation projects to improve downtown Orinda. Last June, the city council selected Eisen-Letunic to

work with city staff to manage the streetscape master plan, later renamed ConnectOrinda. The goal of the process is to identify projects with broad community support addressing six objectives:

... continued on Page A9

Friends of Joaquin Moraga Adobe delivers second deposit to J&J

By Sora O'Doherty

The Friends of the Joaquin Moraga Adobe moved one step closer to ownership of the oldest surviving building in Contra Costa County when FJMA President Kent Long handed over a check for \$25,000 to Matt Branagh of J&J Ranch Partners LLC on Sept. 24. The FJMA paid the first deposit of \$10,000 upon entering into the Memoranda of Agreement under which the developer agreed to restore the building and the Friends to purchase it and run it for the public benefit.

The FJMA has been working for nearly 10 years to secure the building's future. The Moraga Adobe is located on a hill in Orinda above Del Rey Elementary School. The Adobe was built by Don Joaquin Moraga, the grandson of Jose

Joaquin Moraga, the early Spanish explorer who founded the city of San Jose. In 1835, Mexico granted 13,326 acres, El Rancho Laguna de los Palos Colorados, to Joaquin Moraga and his cousin Juan Bernal. Six years later in 1841, Joaquin Moraga built the house, which remained in private hands until it was purchased by J&J Ranch. The Adobe was made a historical landmark in 1954 by the state of California.

Under the agreement with J&J, FJMA must pay a total of \$450,000 plus demonstrate an additional \$50,000 in reserves to purchase the 1841 structure and surrounding 2 acres. The deadline to complete the purchase is September 2021. For the next two years, FJMA will pay \$50,000 each year, leaving a

\$315,000 balance. Long says that the group is pretty confident that they will be able to complete the purchase. They are currently in a position to pay all the scheduled deposits, and anticipate even greater contributions now that the project is truly underway.

All purchase money from FJMA will be used to partially fund the restoration of the Moraga Adobe; the balance of the restoration costs will be paid by J&J Ranch. As part of the agreement, the building will be restored to its 1848 configuration of five rooms, with adobe walls up to three feet thick. Later woodframe additions will be removed, and the original 1840s walls will be stabilized. A separate structure with restroom facilities



Friends of the Joaquin Moraga Adobe with the presented big check

Photo Cathy Dausman

will also be built.

FJMA plans to create a museum and learning center focused on the Rancho days of early California, including furnishings and dem-

onstrations of daily life. Historic displays will tell the sometimes poignant stories of families like the Moragas, in addition to hosting rotating exhibits.

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Police Departments

Moraga Police Department Incident Summary Report



Table with 2 columns: Incident Category, Count. Includes Alarms (11), 911 Calls (9), Traffic (59), Suspicious Circumstances (5), Suspicious Subject (4), Suspicious Vehicle (8), Service to Citizen (45), Patrol Request/ Security Check (24), Vacation House Check (5), Supplemental Report (8), Welfare Check (7).

Vehicle violations

- Table with 2 columns: Violation Type, Address. Includes DUI Misdemeanor (Moraga Country Club), Excessive Speed (Donald Dr./Moraga Rd.), Hit And Run Misdemeanor (St. Marys College), Reckless Driving (Rheem Buredwood Ln.), Traffic Hazard (Bollinger Canyon Rd./St. Marys Rd.).

Other Criminal activity

- Burglary (1100 Block Moraga Way), Corporate Injury Spouse (100 Block Cypress Point Way), Fraud Credit Card (400 Block Woodminster Dr.), Grand Theft (900 Block Country Club Dr.), Misc Burglary (Not Available), Petty Theft (100 Block Miramonte Dr.), Vandalism (1100 Block Alta Mesa Dr.), Nuisance to the Community (1700 Block St. Andrews Dr.), Loud Music (1200 Block Rimer Dr.), Loud Party (St. Marys Rd./Bollinger Canyon), Public Assembly Check (Rancho Laguna Park), Public Nuisance (Rancho Laguna Park).

Other

- Accident Pd Needed (St. Marys Rd./Bollinger Canyon), Accident Property (Camino Pablo/Canyon Rd.), Death Non Criminal (1900 Block Joseph Dr.), Resist Delay Or Obstruct (100 Block Fairfield Pl.), Threaten Exec Officer (100 Block Draeger Dr.).

ORINDA POLICE

Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report

Table with 2 columns: Incident Category, Count. Includes Alarms (51), 911 Calls (8), Traffic (77), Suspicious Circumstances (7), Suspicious Subjects (6), Suspicious Vehicles (5), Patrol Request/ Security Check (29), Service to Citizen (53), Supplemental Report (22), Vacation House Check (22), Welfare Check (8).

Vehicle violations

- Table with 2 columns: Violation Type, Address. Includes Abandoned Vehicle (Parkway Ct./Glorietta Blvd.), Auto Burglary (20 Block Orinda Way), DUI Misd (50 Block Lucille Way), Hit And Run Misdemeanor (200 Block Sundown Terrace), Petty Theft From Veh (80 Block Tara Rd.), Reckless Driving (Moraga Way/Camino Pablo).

Other Criminal activity

- Battery (Orinda Intermediate School), Forgery (10 Block El Verano), Grand Theft (Orinda Country Club), Identity Theft (50 Block Park Lane Dr.), Petty Theft (Beverages And More, Police Department), Robbery Strongarm (Orinda Theater), Warrant Arrest (10 Block Theatre Sq 106).

Nuisance to the Community

- Barking Dog (70 Block Brookwood Rd.), Disturbing The Peace (100 Block Moraga Way), Intoxicated Subject (10 Block Theatre Sq 106), Juvenile Disturbance (10 Block Edgewood Rd.), Loud Music (20 Block Charles Hill Rd.), Loud Party (30 Block Kellie Ann Ct.), Public Assembly Check (CVS, Wagner Ranch School), Public Nuisance (St Stephens Dr./Eb Sr 24), School Assembly Check (Miramonte High School), Trespass (90 Block Underhill Rd.), Vandalism (10 Block Sunrise Hill Ct.), Fireworks (La Encinal/EI Toyonal), Prom Shoot (200 Block Glorietta Blvd.).

Fire Districts

Public Meetings

Moraga-Orinda Fire District

Board of Directors Wednesday, Oct. 3, 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.



MOFD and the firefighters union come to tentative labor agreement

By Nick Marnell

After nearly six months of negotiations, which included discussions with a state-appointed mediator, the Moraga-Orinda Fire District and Local 1230 reached a tentative agreement on a new three-year labor contract. The union ratified the tentative agreement on Sept. 18.

The term of the Memorandum of Understanding runs from July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2021. Among its significant provisions are salary increases of 3 percent across the board for years one and two and 2 percent in year three. A 2 percent equity adjustment will also be added to wages in the first two years, with 1 percent added in year three.

According to the district, salary

survey data showed firefighters, engineers and captains were behind the labor market in both salary and total compensation. The purpose of the equity adjustment increase was to move district salaries closer in line to salaries paid by comparable agencies.

"We worked very long and hard on this. We came to a pretty good compromise," Director Kathleen Famulener said about the MOU.

Director Steve Anderson was out of town when the two parties reached the tentative agreement. "Before I left I was very clear on what I would accept and not accept. When I came back, the MOU exceeded those upper limits," Anderson said. "We need to pay our

employees and we need to pay them well, but I have some serious questions about the MOU. Considering our finances, we were overly generous."

Other board members either declined to discuss the agreement or could not be reached for comment. Representatives from Local 1230 also declined to comment on the MOU.

The full cost to the district to implement the MOU for the 2018-19 fiscal year comes to more than \$750,000. At the Oct. 3 district meeting, should the agreement be approved by the board, the district will decide how to account for the added expenditure in the general fund.

MOFD open house features fire prevention exhibits and activities

By Nick Marnell



Photo MOFD

Fire prevention has everyone's attention, with some areas within the Moraga-Orinda Fire District lying in what Cal Fire calls a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone. MOFD Fire Marshal Kathy Leonard offers advice for all Lamorinda residents, whether living in a high danger zone or not, through this year's Oct 7-13 Fire Prevention Week campaign: "Look. Listen. Learn. Be aware. Fire can happen anywhere."

Look for places fire could start. Take a good look around your home. Identify potential fire hazards and take care of them.

Listen for the sound of the smoke alarm. You could have only minutes to escape safely once the smoke alarm sounds. Go to your outside meeting place, which should be a safe distance from the home and where everyone should know to meet.

Learn two ways out of every room and make sure all doors and windows leading outside open easily and are free of clutter.

"As we head into fall, we should make sure our homes are safer from fire risk from the inside out," Leonard said. She advises the following for inside the home:

- Check and replace batteries in all smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors. - Replace furnace filters and keep clear all combustible storage around furnaces and water heaters. - Know and practice your fire escape plan. Have two ways out of your home and a meeting place for your family. - Check all home extinguishers and replace if needed. - Establish a "kid free" zone around stoves and ovens. - Check extension cords to make sure the insulation has no cuts,

wear or is hot to the touch when used. Dispose and replace all damaged extension cords. Best to plug the appliance directly into the outlet.

- Turn off any portable heaters if you leave the room or go to bed. - Check the chimney damper to make sure it is open before having any fires in your fireplace.

Outside the home, Leonard stresses:

- Maintain your roof, gutters, decks and around the home free of dead leaves and vegetation. - Make sure your roof is clear from overhanging tree limbs, especially near your chimney. - Be aware of "Red Flag" warning days. These are weather conditions that increase the risk of wildfire.

"As we head into fall, it is important to remember that we must be vigilant about maintaining our vegetation to reduce wildfire spread risk. We have dry conditions and any spark can easily ignite into a fire. As the weather cools and the days grow shorter, we spend more time indoors, so we need to practice fire safety inside and out," Leonard said.

The fire marshal encourages all residents to come to the MOFD fall open house at Fire Station 41 in Moraga on Oct. 6 from 8 a.m. to noon to learn more.

MOFD campaign ad correction

By Nick Marnell

Sept. 19 Lamorinda Weekly campaign ad for Moraga-Orinda Fire District Division 1 candidate Greg Baitx stated that he had received the endorsement of the Moraga Town Council.

"It is not true," Moraga Mayor Dave Trotter said. "That would require a properly agenda action taken by the Council at a public meeting, which did not

happen. To my knowledge and as a matter of policy, the Council has never collectively endorsed candidates for other elected positions."

Baitx' campaign manager Jon Bensley said the incorrect endorsement was printed because the campaign mistakenly heard that members of the town council had endorsed Baitx at a public

event, and the campaign never received confirmation of any endorsement. Bensley has since apologized to each town council member and to Baitx' Division 1 opponent, Nathan Bell.

"We have removed all town council endorsement statements from our election material and future advertisements," Bensley said.

State Assembly candidates Baker and Bauer-Kahan woo Lamorinda voters

By Nick Marnell



Catharine Baker Photos provided



Rebecca Bauer-Kahan

Incumbent Catharine Baker, R-Dublin, and challenger Rebecca Bauer-Kahan, D-Orinda, are running for State Assembly in the 16th District, and the candidates discussed what they plan to do in Sacramento for the Lamorinda area.

On the fact that the Orinda Union, Lafayette, and Moraga school districts are among the lowest funded of all school districts in California through the Local Control Funding Formula:

Baker said she will fight for reforms of LCFF, a program that she said was clearly flawed. She agreed that school districts in her assembly district are underfunded. "The base grant is inadequate," Baker said. "That is why I co-authored a bipartisan measure to increase LCFF funding levels significantly in the coming years and inject all of that increase into the base grant, which ... helps all schools and students in Lamorinda." She also called for transparency and accountability over the expenditures made by school districts. "So we can better ensure the dollars are going where they should – to the classroom and

student success and not just administrative expenses," Baker said.

"I agree with the premise of the LCFF – it promotes local control of spending and prioritizes school districts that need more resources, but our legislators in Sacramento need to be prioritizing funding for our schools and doing everything they can to increase the base grant," said Bauer-Kahan, who called it a travesty that California is near the bottom in school funding out of the 50 states. "In Lamorinda, parent-run foundations work tirelessly to raise the millions in additional funding needed each year to fill in gaps in local school district budgets. We need to prioritize our children, our schools, and our future, and that's what I would do in Sacramento."

On increasing state special education funding:

Bauer-Kahan said she would explore ways to factor the Individualized Education Program – developed for kids who need specialized services – into the LCFF formula so that schools have more funding for special education. "In the Assembly, I will devote significant time to care-

ful scrutiny of this important budget issue, to help craft budget solutions that will contribute more money towards education funding," she said.

"I was proud to support Assembly Bill 2168," said Baker about a bipartisan bill that provides significant, sustained state funding for students with disabilities and special education needs. "This bill would also create a funding mechanism for state support of special education preschool." The incumbent said she also supported bills that provide special education teacher mentoring and co-authored a bill that calls on Congress to meet its promise to fund special education.

On increasing teacher salaries and providing them affordable housing:

"The consistent theme among teachers is the extremely high cost of living. Housing is one significant driver of that high cost," Baker said, noting that she has supported, and continues to support, various housing bills including Senate Bill 1413, which authorizes school districts to establish programs to assist teachers and school district employees with their housing needs. The bill also dedicates district-owned land to affordable rental housing and restricts occupancy to teachers and school district employees.

"This issue strikes particularly close to home, as we lost a significant number of teachers at an elementary school in Orinda last year because they could not afford to live near Orinda, and the commute to work was too burdensome. This is simply unacceptable," Bauer-Kahan said. She would work with local governments to find middle-class affordable housing options for

teachers and other critical public servants, such as firefighters and police officers, to live close to the communities they serve.

On being a strong advocate for local government in Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda:

Both candidates said that Sacramento has overreached when it comes to mandating local government actions, and the candidates primarily focused on AB 2923, the bill that Gov. Jerry Brown signed Sept. 30 which gives BART exclusive housing authority on land it owns within a half mile of a BART station, including land in Lafayette.

"We cannot take local control away from the cities and counties that know best how to tackle our housing crisis while not overburdening our schools, emergency services, roads and other infrastructure. Unfortunately, we did not have a representative at the table that could make sure this bill would take into account the needs and infrastructure of our cities," Bauer-Kahan said.

While she agrees that safe, affordable housing is an important issue, Bauer-Kahan said she will fight for local control. "We need to make sure this housing is strengthening the fabric of our community by providing a place to live for those that need it most. But it must fit the character and existing infrastructure of the community," Bauer-Kahan said.

"I lead the fight against this bill, because it put housing decisions – which should be left to local cities and counties who have the planning experience, expertise, and local accountability – with a transit agency that has zero experience planning housing and that already faces significant challenges meeting its primary goal: to

deliver safe, reliable, and clean transit service," Baker said. "BART is struggling and needs our help to fulfill its duties as a transit agency, and now is not the time to make BART responsible for housing."

Baker called SB 35 another example of overreach of local control. The bill essentially provides that if developers meet certain high-density and low-income housing requirements, their development proposals must be approved regardless of local input.

Other issues they promise to take on in Sacramento:

"I support bipartisan, comprehensive pension reform that will help school districts with the growing impact of unfunded pension costs while protecting the pensions our teachers have earned," Baker said. She named transportation a serious concern, and introduced a bill that provides testing of autonomous shuttles to BART stations. As a proponent for the local environment, Baker said she has led the effort to increase funding for the East Bay Regional Parks District.

Bauer-Kahan said she will work to promote gun safety. "I applaud Orinda following Moraga's lead and taking careful efforts to promote gun safety on a local level," she said, referring to what she called the city council's investigation of ways to strengthen gun control within Orinda city limits and possibly regulate the sale of firearms. The challenger also said she is a firm advocate for women's right to choose. "I am proud to be the only Planned Parenthood-endorsed candidate in this race and this issue affects all women, including the women in Lamorinda," Bauer-Kahan said.

ConnectOrinda ... continued from Page A7

to connect the two sides of downtown for all users, to support future pedestrian access along San Pablo Creek, to preserve Orinda's unique sense of place, to beautify the downtown, to build consensus to the final plan through community

engagement and to produce grant-eligible projects that can be funded.

In August, city staff and the consultant team held stakeholder interviews with 18 community groups and six commissions and committees. The launch event

is the next scheduled step in the process. Next year there will be a workshop in January during which three draft sets of projects will be presented to the community, based on the ideas generated during the launch. The community will have

the opportunity to comment on the proposed projects. In May a single set of near and long-term projects that have gathered broad community support will be presented to the community for final comments. The final plan will be presented

next September and will include a set of recommended projects and design guidelines for streetscape and other public improvements.

For more information, visit <https://cityoforinda.org/391/Connect-Orinda-Downtown-Streetscape-Mast>.

VOTE the **INDEPENDENT** Fire Board (MOFD) Candidates who will represent our community, not special interests.

"Voters shouldn't let union run Moraga-Orinda Fire Board"

East Bay Times and Lamorinda Sun Editorial 9/11/18



Division 1, South Moraga
www.Bell4MOFD.com



Division 4, Central Orinda
www.LucyTalbot4MOFD.com



Division 3, West Orinda/Moraga
www.VoteRedSmith.com

To make our community safer long term
MOFD MUST:

- **Maintain current firefighter staff level** and high-quality emergency services
- **Fund significant FIRE PREVENTION** initiatives
- **Pay down \$68 Million** unfunded Pension liability
- **Reduce response times** using technology and data

Paid for by: Lucy Talbot for MOFD 2018
Red Smith for MOFD 2018
Bell for MOFD 2018

1,000+ endorsements by Moraga-Orinda Voters

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.

Red Smith and Nathan Bell for MOFD board

I write to express my concern about the current elections in which firemen union members or their representatives are running for the board of MOFD. While I deeply appreciate the honorable, even lifesaving work that our firefighters perform in our community, it strikes me as a significant conflict of interest that firefighters would populate the board of directors charged with overseeing the firefighters. As a professional in the financial services industry, I work with numerous corporations, and such a conflict of interest would never be allowed in the private sector.

I've known Red Smith and his family for 17 years. Red coached my kids in the Moraga Baseball League, and our children went from Kindergarten through High School together.

I know Mr. Bell and his family by reputation as our children attended Campolindo High School together. More recently I've gotten to know his background, experience in the business world, and his guiding principles for the MOFD.

I understand they are both endorsed by Senator Steve Glazer and three of the current MOFD Board members.

While both of these men have impressive credentials (MBAs from Cal and Harvard), maybe the most important title they can carry in this election is independent tax-paying private citizen. These gentlemen are concerned citizens with the desire and business savvy necessary to balance the interests of the firefighters with the interests of the Moraga-Orinda Community while responsibly guiding the MOFD towards fiscal stability. I urge my neighbors to vote as I will this election season,

and that is to vote for independent citizens for the board of the Moraga-Orinda Fire District: Mr. Red Smith and Mr. Nathan Bell. Rupert Dusauzay, Jr. Moraga (Endorsement also received from Will Cogswell of Moraga)

Michael Donner for MOFD, Division 4

I am writing in support of Michael Donner for the MOFD Board of Director seat in Division 4. I have known Michael for 15 years since my son was in kindergarten with his son. He has been involved in the community and has done everything from creating and painting Glorietta Gopher yard signs to serving pizza for our firefighters during the Ghost Ship fire and clean-up.

Michael has served his entire career as a firefighter for the Oakland Fire Department. Over the years, Michael has become very passionate about emergency preparedness in our community. Throughout his 30-plus year career he has been to many major disasters. After returning from New York for 911, hurricane Katrina in Louisiana and the Loma Prieta Earthquake he realized there was an information void in Orinda. He worked with local schools to store emergency supplies. He collaborated with FEMA professionals to speak to the community on how to prepare for disaster.

Michael is a positive, passionate and motivated person that gets things done. He will make sound decisions and bring much needed fire experience to the board. Based on Michael's extensive experience in the fire service, his years of volunteering to prepare our community for a disaster and his dedication to the community, there is no doubt that he is the best choice for the job.

Please join me in voting Michael Donner to the MOFD Division 4 Board of Director seat!

Amy Schioldager
Lafayette

(Other endorsement received from Julianne and Chris Viadro of Orinda)

Amy Worth for Orinda City Council

Please join me in voting for Amy Worth for Orinda City Council on November 6, 2018. I had the pleasure of serving with Amy on the Orinda City Council, and I know her to be smart, thoughtful, respectful and a problem-solver. From planning new playing fields and tot lots, to providing books and supplies for Orinda's fine public library, to working with our schools to support student safety, to fixing Orinda's roads and storm drains, Amy has worked tirelessly to enhance our civic life in Orinda. Amy also works for Orindans at the regional level, ensuring that we receive excellent recycling and garbage services, and that scarce State and Federal transportation dollars are allocated to meet our transportation needs. It is due to Amy's strong advocacy that the fourth bore of the Caldecott Tunnel was built to increase our safety and ease our commutes!

Please vote for Amy Worth for Orinda City Council so that she can continue to serve our community.
Victoria Smith
Orinda

Don't let the Union retake MOFD

The MOFD is technically insolvent. It has unfunded retirement liabilities of \$62 million, about \$5,000 per family served. If not fixed, the MOFD will eventually go bankrupt and our fire service cut severely.

The MOFD put our fire protection in grave danger on December 9, 2003 when it signed a contract giving firefighters unsustainable retirement benefits. For the next 13 years the union ran the show. Alarmed, the community finally elected enough strong and astute board members who have begun to lead us away from a looming fire protection Armageddon.

Now is not the time to turn back. We need strong determined savvy leadership. Fortunately, Lucy Talbot is the District 2 candidate.

I have known Lucy Talbot and have worked with her on various community projects in Orinda for 26 years. She is a pillar of the community. She is open minded, passionate and tireless. She is very knowledgeable about fire department operations from her experience as a Motorola sales executive. She has extensive and hands on financial xpertise from her 33 years' experience running a family business. She is devoted to Orinda.

Join me in voting for Lucy Talbot. Vote to save our fire protection.
Carol Penskar
Former Chairperson, City of Orinda Finance Advisory Committee

Steve Anderson for MOFD, Division 3

I have the pleasure of writing to support the re-election of Steve Anderson as a Director of the Moraga-Orinda Fire District from voting Division 3 of the District. I served with Steve on the Fire District Board for four years. Steve always put the interests and safety of the residents of the District above all other considerations. He was exceptionally well prepared at every meeting. He consistently applies his decades of experience as a businessman to the issues of the District, making it clear that he expects value for taxpayer dollars. When Steve was President of the Board, he conducted every meeting with courtesy and respect for every visitor to our meetings and showed genuine interest in what they would say. In dealing with differing views of Board members, he worked hard every time to reach a consensus. After the coming election, no Board member will have more than two years of experience and at least two will have none. It is important to maintain continuity in the District, and Steve's intelligence, integrity and respect for others make him the right person at the right time to be re-elected to another four year term as a Director of the Fire District. I urge everyone in voting Division 3 of the Fire Dis-

trict to vote for Steve.

Fred Weil
Moraga

(Endorsement also received from John Wyro of Orinda, and Susie Epstein of Orinda)

It Just Takes Two!

Marvin Gaye and Kim Weston rode a popular wave with their hit tune, "It Takes Two!" So goes the upcoming election for Orinda City Council, with candidates Eve Phillips and Kathleen Jenkins.

How do you know if Ms. Phillips and Ms. Jenkins deserve your vote?

Do you believe, that all things considered, Orinda is a pretty darn nice place to live and is worth defending? Do you prefer council members who consistently seek to get input, directly from you, Orinda citizens, on important matters, rather than self-determining what is best for you? Do you prefer that your council members have no ties to the always-lurking, real estate development industry? Do you prefer council members who question awarding a succession of city contracts to consultants, which never seem to result in any positive results for Orinda citizens? Do you prefer council members with successful experience in crisis management? Do you prefer council members who understand the link between city council decision-making and the sustained quality of Orinda schools? Do you prefer council members who advocate BART's obligation to provide adequate parking capacity for their Orinda customers? Do you prefer strong council members committed to local control of land use and zoning matters, who are independent of and willing to stand up to the outsiders, who seek to determine Orinda's future?

Vote Eve Phillips and Kathleen Jenkins.

"It takes two, baby! It just takes two!"

Owen Murphy
Orinda

... continued on Page A12

IVOR SAMSON

Lafayette City Council



Specific Goals and Objectives

... NO Platitudes ...

- More aggressively defend City's legal interests
- Manage growth in light of infrastructure constraints and State reducing local land use control
- Restore meaningful dialogue between the City and schools
- End the East End's orphan status
- Develop regional solution to traffic issues in North East area
- Consider feasibility of developing inclusive, affordable housing (eg. for Lafayette public employees, teachers, and the disabled) in excess of legal requirements – moral imperative
- Consider updating Downtown Specific Plan and zoning to reflect present realities
- Prioritize and focus community attention on emergency preparedness
- Review processes for opportunities to increase transparency

Transparency
Accountability
Fiscal Discipline
Not a Rubber Stamp
Independent Thinking
A Different Perspective

HELP ME CONTINUE TO STAND UP FOR YOU!

More information: ivorsamsonforcitycouncil.net



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NEW LISTING! | 98 CORAL DRIVE, ORINDA

Fall in love with this 4BR/2BA ranch style home on a premier corner lot. Open beam ceiling and farmhouse style kitchen. Cute cute! Spacious front lawn and backyard pool. Popular Ivy Drive neighborhood. Close to top rated Orinda schools.

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Sleepy Hollow Cape Cod Treasure

NEW LISTING! | 6 SNOWBERRY LANE, ORINDA

Nestled on a serene cul-de-sac in the heart of the desirable Sleepy Hollow neighborhood, is this 3BR/2BA hard to find Cape Code style home. Filled with charm and character. Ideal floor plan. .39± acres of the best of California indoor/outdoor living.

Offered at \$1,475,000

Public invited to Moraga Oversight Committee meeting regarding Measure V

By Diane Claytor

In 2016, Moraga voters approved Measure V, a \$33 million bond benefitting the Moraga School District; these monies are intended exclusively for repairs and improvements to the four aging school properties. Some work has been

done during the past two summer breaks but most of the major projects, including improving the classrooms to make them more pleasant, safe and productive for children, will be performed over the next two years.

The spending of Measure V funds is closely watched by the 13-member Citizen's Bond Oversight Committee, comprised of a cross-section of Moraga residents. Their responsibility is to make sure all bond monies are spent only as the voters intended.

This Committee meets on a regular basis to review the projects and budgets. The next meeting is scheduled at 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 4 at the Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School Library, and the public is invited — and encouraged — to

attend. The architect and construction manager for the next phase will be there, showcasing design and development plans. This is a great opportunity for the community to take a look at the designs and comment or ask questions.

Moraga community groups sponsor mayoral candidates forum

...continued from Page A4

He'd like to revitalize Moraga Center and an extension of School Street. McCluer believed that the Chamber of Commerce and Viva Moraga must work together to help the town move forward toward prosperity, and Woehleke said the town's relationship with contractors and property owners is acrimonious. A spirit of cooperation is necessary for progress.

As for whether they believe Moraga adopting a safe storage ordinance that requires unattended guns to be safely stored is necessary for public safety, McCluer

said he supported the gun storage proposal, "because we can't have people selling guns out of homes or next to schools." Woehleke said he supported the ordinance because he lost a close friend to gun violence, and Trotter said he helped to beef up findings in support of the ordinance, and feels gun sales should not happen in neighborhoods and near schools.

When asked about the newly adopted hillside and ridgeline policies and which elements of the new policies they most strongly agree or disagree, all three candidates

expressed support of the policies. Woehleke said he is fine with the regulations and believes in protecting open space in Moraga, Trotter noted how he became involved in Ridgeline protection five years ago, and said property owners should be given alternatives on their land for building, and McCluer agreed with all parts of the ridgeline protection, noting how he would like to limit building that blocks views. Moraga can still develop, he said, but with parameters.

As for the recently announced efforts by John Muir Land Trust to

purchase the 84-acre Painted Rocks parcel, and what the candidates felt the Town Council's role, if any, should be in supporting such efforts to acquire open space for permanent conservation and public access, McCluer suggested building support for hiking trails with service groups, such as Kiwanis, that can raise interest/support for this. Woehleke said he also supports the collaboration approach, stating that the Town Council should take a leadership approach and approve a bond measure. And Trotter suggested providing an integrated trail

network and collaborate with The John Muir Trust Fund.

While both Trotter and McCluer both supported art in public places as a good idea to beautify the town, McCluer suggested using General Fund fees to support the program, and Woehleke said he was not enthusiastic about applying 1 percent of development fees for art, since the town is currently fiscally challenged.

"We can look outside everyday and see the art that is Moraga itself," Woehleke said.



SUSAN CANDELL
for LAFAYETTE CITY COUNCIL

Paid for by Susan Candell 2018 City Council, FPPC# 1410191

My Priorities:

- ✓ **Reduce Traffic Congestion**
- ✓ **Promote Open Space, Parks & Recreation**
- ✓ **Create Strong City - School Partnership**
- ✓ **Support Intelligent Growth in Line with Infrastructure Capacity**
- ✓ **Enforce the Commissioner Conflicts Ordinance**
(commissioner code of ethics)
- ✓ **Provide Safer Routes to Schools**
- ✓ **Develop Fire/Earthquake Emergency Evacuation Plans**

A Lamorinda resident for 40+ years, Nuclear Engineer, MIT and Cal graduate, 5 Patents, married with two children

Follow Susan
@susanforlafayette

email: susancandell2018@gmail.com

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
- **Regularly attended and contributed to City Council meetings for the last 5 years**
- **Very familiar and up-to-date with the issues and able to "hit the ground running"**
- Deep understanding of Traffic & Parking problems

Will Stand for What is Right for Citizens

- Advocate for our residents and our semi-rural quality of life
- Will defend our City's and Residents' rights, especially in terms of Health, Safety, and Traffic
- Will bring more transparency to our City's governance
- **One of only two candidates who support the new Commissioner Conflicts Ordinance**

Results-driven Professional Engineer

- **Will bring much-needed Tech and Engineering expertise to City Council**
- **Submitted 20+ technical letters** to the City regarding negative impacts of proposed projects all over City - succeeded in affecting positive change
- **Scientific skills** to understand complex Environmental Impact Reports. Will ensure any health or safety impacts are properly documented and mitigated
- **Technical understanding** of Traffic studies and has refuted studies when not representative of impacts

VOTE SUSAN CANDELL for Lafayette City Council!

To learn more or to get involved, go to our website at... **SUSANCANDELL.COM**

Letters to the Editor

Teresa Gerringer and Karen Maggio for Lafayette City Council

I write in support of Teresa Gerringer and Karen Maggio for the Lafayette City Council.

We have an opportunity this year to add two exceptional new members to the Lafayette City Council. Teresa and Karen have been working for years to make our city a better place to live. We are fortunate that they are willing to bring their experience, talent, intelligence, enthusiasm, vision and integrity to the Council.

Because of all that they have already done for us, they are the candidates that know best our city and each of its neighborhoods. They will be effective from day one.

Teresa Gerringer has served with excellence on the Lafayette School Board for 19 years (four times as President) and on the Lafayette Community Foundation Board for 17 years, and she co-chaired the Lafayette Library Community Campaign. It is exciting to consider what she can do on the Council to advance the city-schools partnership.

Karen Maggio has served with distinction on the Lafayette Planning Commission for 10 years (twice as Chair) and in numerous volunteer roles. Karen has been a strong leader in Lafayette's efforts to protect our hillsides and our environment. She helped create the Hillside Ordinance, and she has been a driving force in Sustainable Lafayette and the Lafayette Environmental Task Force. Among my top priorities as a councilmember and mayor were hillside protection and the environment. With Karen on the Council, I would feel confident about our future.

Teresa and Karen are the candidates who have a vision for our city. They know what must be protected and preserved, and they know when we must be progressive.

Teresa and Karen have supported transparency in each of their past positions and have served with complete integrity. If they say something, you can count on it, and you know they have the facts right.

Teresa and Karen know what it takes to make Lafayette a better place because they have been doing it for years. Please join me in voting for Teresa and Karen.

Carl Anduri
Lafayette

Former Mayor of Lafayette (2002-2003; 2010-2011; Council Member 2002-2012)

(Both also endorsed by Don Tatzin)

The differences in Lafayette City Council Candidates

As a retired psychologist and 33-year resident of Lafayette, I am grateful to the people who have volunteered their time and energy serving on our city councils and com-

missions over the years. I attended the Lafayette Homeowners Association town meeting on Thursday, Sept. 20, eager to hear from the five candidates running for two open positions for Lafayette City Council. I expected that differences of opinion would be shared with respect and a belief that all candidates want what is best for Lafayette, no matter how they disagree on specific issues. Unfortunately, that is not how the evening unfolded.

After Thursday's forum, I recognize that Lafayette needs to choose between two distinct approaches to problem solving. On one hand, we have three candidates (Maggio, Gerringer and Smith) who advocate for collaboration and increased participation by community members. They challenge our community to embrace the hurdles we face over the next decade with cooperation and inclusivity, making our concerns known by attending city council, town commission and school board meetings. I felt assured that they will listen and work with us. On the other hand, we have two candidates (Sampson and Candell) who do not appear to put much value in collaboration and respect. Over and above the content that they proposed, I was disturbed by their disdainful tone. They were confrontational and dismissive of other points of view.

We need City Councilors who listen to experts and citizens alike as opposed to Councilors who consider themselves as the only experts whose opinions matter. As psychologist John Gottman's research demonstrates, disdain is the biggest block to a healthy relationship. Let's elect leaders who will lead by collaboration not litigation, and let's all put in the time and energy it takes to help them do their jobs.

Beth Ferree, Ph.D.
Lafayette

Red Smith, MOFD board, Division 3

My wife Teri and I recently moved to the Wilder neighborhood in Orinda after decades in Moraga. We have noticed quite a bit of activity regarding the MOFD Board election in November, and we were pleasantly surprised to learn that our friend of almost 25 years, Red Smith, was running for MOFD Division 3, which includes our Wilder neighborhood.

Red is an accomplished technology executive and he has run several companies as a Silicon Valley entrepreneur. Red has lived in Moraga and Orinda for 30 years, and he has a passion for this community as evidenced by the dozens of activities he and his wife Gina have been involved with supporting their four children through local schools, pools, dance, and sports.

Of course while those years of service to this community have been important, Teri and I are strongly endorsing Red for MOFD Division 3 now because he is running on a platform to demonstrably increase the District's focus on fire prevention which should be top of mind for every resident in our community as we are surrounded by open space, brush, and dry fuel. Red is not only endorsed by the East Bay Times, but he is also endorsed by Dr. John Radke, PhD who is an esteemed Berkeley professor and global thought leader on fire prevention.

Additionally, most Moraga and Orinda residents know by now there is a massive unfunded pension liability at MOFD, and that future obligation must be managed by competent business and finance professionals. Red has an MBA from Berkeley and a finance degree from USC, and I know he will expertly represent local citizens and taxpayers, and not special interests, if he has to privilege to serve.

Please join us and vote for Red Smith by mail or at the polls.

Ron and Teri Fadelli

Orinda

(Other endorsement received by Hartwell Jordan of Orinda)

Dave Trotter for Moraga Town Council

I'm writing in strong support of Dave Trotter's re-election to the Moraga Town Council. Many younger families in town - mine included - want to see Moraga offer more diverse, high-quality retail and restaurant options that better reflect our community. Professionally, I specialize in retail leasing and shopping center development and I'm working with other community members to advance this goal. In the process, I've been impressed by the focused effort and skill that Dave has dedicated to this objective as a Councilmember.

Working with the Moraga Chamber of Commerce and others last year, Dave took the lead in crafting an amendment to Moraga's zoning ordinance that enables businesses and shopping-center owners to simplify and accelerate the zoning approval process. With Dave's leadership, the Town Council approved this new "Planned Development - Commercial" (PD-C) zoning district in just three months - lightning speed for a public entity and a critical step to attracting new business to Moraga.

In 2009, after the Town spent three years gathering public and stakeholder input, Dave helped draft the Moraga Center Specific Plan (MCSP), our community's best hope of creating a flourishing downtown retail district. This plan would create a new "main street" connecting School Street and St. Mary's Road, with retail space adjacent to

creek-oriented pedestrian trails and walkable housing. It would also revive the historic Moraga Ranch buildings, putting their legacy and charm to work for the vibrancy of our town. Dave supports updates to the existing MCSP, ensuring development that accurately meets the needs and wants of the community. I'm confident his dedication to the MCSP's vision of a thriving downtown where people can shop, dine, and gather with friends, is as strong as ever.

To make this vision a reality, we need Dave's wealth of experience and long-term knowledge of the Town. It's good to add new voices to the Council, but we also need institutional continuity and a proven leader, which only Dave offers in this election. Please cast a vote for Dave Trotter on November 6.

Meghan Basso
Moraga

Mike McCluer for Moraga Town Council

I'm writing to ask Moragans to vote for Mike McCluer for Moraga Town Council. After two sinkholes in recent years, Moraga is facing the consequences of many decades of deferred maintenance. Our storm drains need repairs estimated to cost over \$25 million. Like other municipalities, we also have growing unfunded pension liabilities for Town employees. Meanwhile, we're among the worst off of Contra Costa cities in terms of how little of each property tax dollar actually reaches our Town coffers. These are challenging financial problems requiring leaders with financial training and experience.

Lawyers and engineers are already well represented on the Town Council, but there is no councilmember who can provide the benefit of a career in fiscal management and budgeting. Mike McCluer is the only Town Council candidate with that kind of professional experience. After 30 years as a chief financial officer and similar roles in the finance sector, he would bring urgently needed financial knowledge to the Council.

Along with his fiscal expertise, McCluer has shown a great connection to and caring for Moraga. Volunteering with Moraga Rotary, he helped create the successful "All Access" playground recently built at the Moraga Commons. At a recent public candidate forum, he spoke unequivocally of the need to keep Moraga's open spaces and ridgelines safe from too much building. He volunteers on the Planning Commission as well, and has shown an eager interest in helping our existing businesses and adding new ones.

Moraga has difficult financial issues which must be addressed soon. A vote for McCluer is a vote to add financial expertise to our Council that is sorely needed and—hopefully—comes in time to prevent the next sinkhole.

Peter Bennett
Moraga

Chris Severson for AUHSD Board

As a current school board member on the Orinda Union School District Board, I know that school board trustees must have the ability to listen to all viewpoints, to work together collaboratively, and to always keep in mind the best interests of the students. Chris Severson embodies these qualities and deserves your vote in November for Governing Board Member of the Acalanes Union High School District.

Chris has been a strong advocate for public education for many years. He has the benefit of experience — Chris served for four years with me on the board of the Orinda Union School District from 2010-2014. As a fellow trustee, Chris always acted with the utmost integrity, and always kept the focus on what's best for students. Chris was instrumental in helping lead the district during the financial crisis and, as a result, the district was able to weather that

... continued from Page A10

storm with minimal impact on students in the classroom. Moreover, as an emergency room physician, Chris knows how important health and wellness is to student success, and intends to bring that focus with him to his role as trustee.

Chris is committed to maintaining and improving upon the excellent education our high schools provide. I urge you to vote for Chris Severson for Governing Board Member for the Acalanes Union High School District.

Sincerely,
Julie Rossiter

Orinda

Board Member, Orinda Union School District

Steve Woehleke for Moraga Town Council

We are writing this letter to express our enthusiastic support for Steve Woehleke for the Moraga Town Council. We are longtime residents of Moraga and have known our neighbors, Steve and Peggy, for over 25 years. Steve Woehleke has strong family and community values, a tireless work ethic and a deep passion for Moraga. That passion is reflected in his over 20 years of volunteer service in various activities in support of Moraga including 5 years on the Design Review Board and 10 years on the Moraga Planning Commission, among others.

My wife and I strongly agree with Steve's concerns that a very critical priority for Moraga is insuring Moraga's fiscal health. The catastrophic events of the Rheem Sinkhole and the demise of Canyon Bridge have made a significant impact on the Town's reserve to invest in infrastructure to minimize the chances of another catastrophic event. We believe we need some more discipline in the Town's fiscal performance.

Steve advocates fiscal responsibility, having more transparency, and improving the Town Council decision making to more methodically assess alternative benefit and risk scenarios to insure better outcomes. We firmly believe that this is the right approach to insure Moraga's financial health.

We are also fully supportive of Steve's commitment to protecting Moraga Open Space and Ridgelines. He promises to insure any new development approvals also include sufficient ingress for fire and police emergencies as well as insuring multiple egress for residents in case of emergency.

We are in total support with Steve's principles and priorities which are fully aligned with the Moraga General Plan. (www.steve4moraga.com)

My wife and I strongly believe that Steve Woehleke's passion for Moraga reflected over 20 years of public service in support of Moraga, his degree in Mechanical Engineering and his MBA in Finance, his extensive business experience and his commitment to insure Moraga's sound financial future and maintain Moraga's natural beauty, make him an outstanding candidate for the Town Council. We urge you to join us in supporting and voting for Steve Woehleke.

Brian and Nancy Gillespie

Moraga

Rebecca Bauer-Kahan for Assembly

As I sat in my kitchen yesterday watching Dr. Christine Ford bravely testify, I was absolutely dismayed to see the male Republican Senators on our nation's Judiciary Committee working so hard to destroy a woman who is trying to speak up for herself and for all women. My takeaway? We have no choice but to elect strong Democratic women in November at every level who we can consistently depend on to champion the rights of women. That's why Rebecca Bauer-Kahan gets my vote for Assembly, today more than ever. Stephanie Sandberg
Lafayette

Opinions in Letters to the Editor are the express views of the writer and not necessarily those of the Lamorinda Weekly. All published letters will include the writer's name and city/town of residence -- we will only accept letters from those who live in, or own a business in, the communities comprising Lamorinda (please give us your phone number for verification purposes only). Letters should be 350 words or less; letters of up to 500 words will be accepted on a space-available basis. Visit www.lamorindaweekly.com for submission guidelines. Email: letters@lamorindaweekly.com; Regular mail: Lamorinda Weekly, P.O. Box 6133, Moraga, CA 94570

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Wagner Ranch Nature Area ... continued from Page A1

If the two bond measures pass next November, plans for the nature area include building a visitor center, restrooms, and other facilities. Until 2009 the Educational Foundation of Orinda funded the staff; after the position was eliminated, the Friends pay the stipend and the parents donate money for supplies.

"I found my niche, and I'm so glad," Jaeger says. "I want to open the students up to nature and make them feel a part of it. California is part of their history, Orinda, its flora and fauna." She talked about overhearing students arriving at the Nature Area, not knowing that she could hear them, saying, "I love

this place. I wish we could be here every day. It's OK to make mistakes here, we can get dirty."

The dinner in Jaeger's honor was organized by Miriam Storch, a board member of the Friends of the Nature Area and a former student of Jaeger's who has worked with Jane Goodall. All of Jaeger's siblings except one came to the dinner, including her four sisters and one of her two brothers. Other attendees included other former students, and Lisa Siegrist, a direct descendent of the Wagners, who came in from Vermont; Jaeger promised her a hike in the nature area.

The annual Olive Festival is one of the few times that the Na-

ture Area is open to the public. Admission is free, and the event takes place from 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at 350 Camino Pablo, Orinda (adjacent to Wagner Ranch Elementary School).

There will be tours of the historic Wagner Ranch Nature Area, homesite of Contra Costa County's first surveyor general, Theodore Wagner, and opportunities to picnic amidst our county's oldest-producing olive grove. Five olive oil vendors will be doing tastings, and there will also be arts and crafts, live music, pond and garden activities, and more. For information, visit www.fwrna.org.

Trail easement and closure

Terry Murphy, who was the chair of the planning commission when it dealt with this in 2010, said, "The city council rejected the easement 10 years ago. Now here we are trying to get a public easement. To take the easement 10 years later," he added, would be a taking without compensation. He

also suggested that the easement could be used by "the people we hear about on the 6 o'clock news."

According to a letter submitted to council from DeSpain's attorney, DeSpain has entered into discussions with his neighbors as well as with City Manager Steve Salomon and was working toward a mutual-


ly agreeable solution to this matter.

Citing the need to take more time and work through legal issues, the council asked staff to continue to work on the issue. The city is also weighing the fiscal concern with the trail, including preparing the trail for public access and long-term maintenance, and also the li-

ability associated with it. Mayor Amy Worth said that she wants to resolve the issue as soon as possible. She talked about Orinda's Bike and Pedestrian Plan and said that she wished Orinda had more pedestrian paths.

Planning Director Drummond Buckley said that staff would work

... continued from Page A6 on the issue and bring it back to the council at its Oct. 2 meeting. The meeting occurred after this publication went to press. At that time, the gate remained closed.




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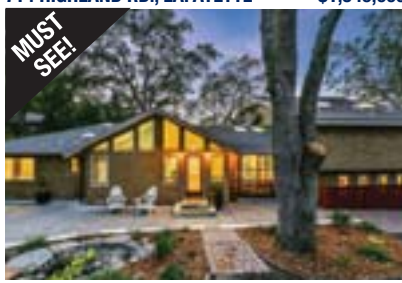







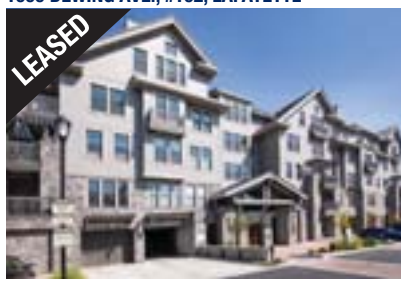








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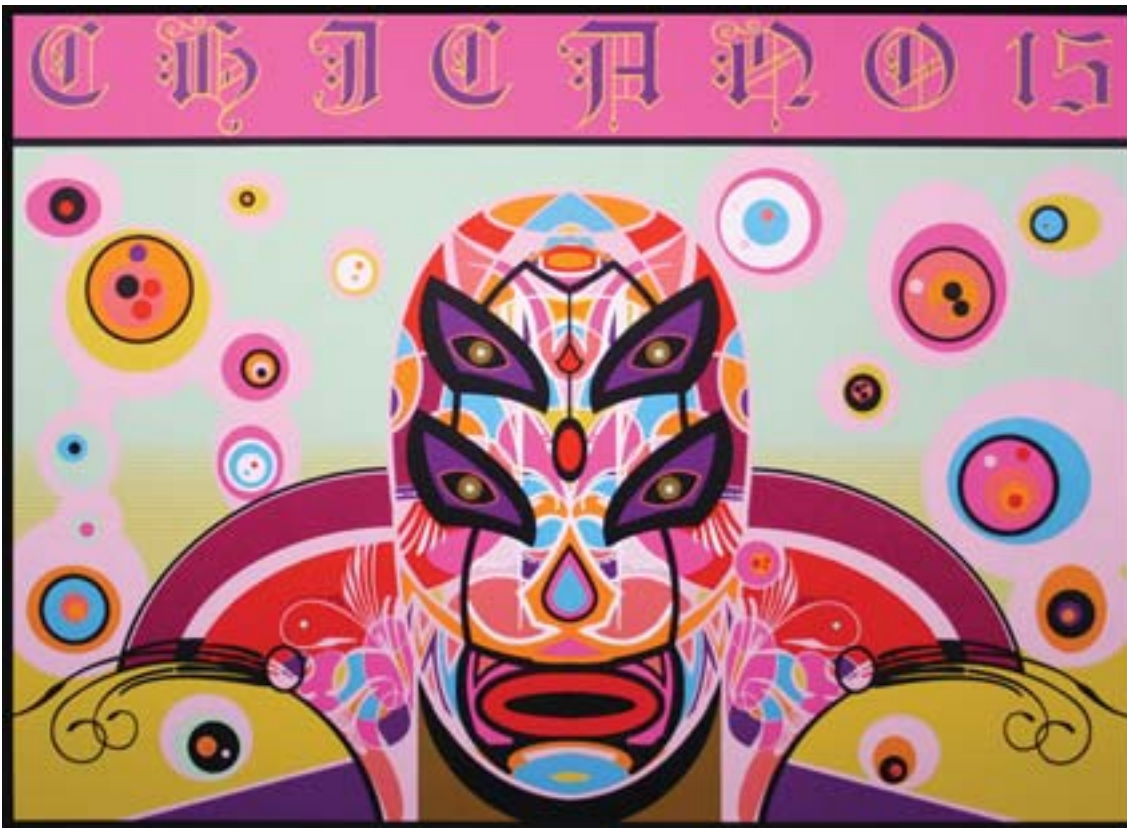
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~ Life in LAMORINDA ~

SMC 'Graphicanos' exhibit expresses art as visual literature

By Lou Fancher



Chicano 15, Quintin González, Serigraph 28" x 36" Fort Wayne Museum of Art Collection 2013.57.9

A museum in 2018 to be relevant is more than a mausoleum to 2D art on walls, 3D sculpture on pedestals or artifacts behind glass. To attract and engage visitors, modern day art institutions reflect a local community or region, capture the dynamic vibe of an era, genre or social movement, dazzle multiple generations with treasures of the past and innovative art that is a precursor of larger, future trends. Even with all manner of diversity at play, museums without hands-on, experiential programs that are accessible, occasionally even free, will wither.

Which is why the energy prevailing at Saint Mary's College Museum of Art as the fall season begins is a fortunate sign. On display now through Dec. 16 are three admission free exhibits: "Graphicanos: Contemporary Latino Prints from the Serie Project;" "Stanley Koppel: Artist as Activist;" and "Paint from Nature; William Keith and the Sierra."

It is not a referendum or critique of the museum's past to say that director Lauren Macdonald, new Curator April Bojorquez and Programs and Collections Manager John Schneider represent a fresh, energetic team. Instead, recognizing the strong leadership that preceded them, Bojorquez and Schneider speak of the strength of traditions and standards established prior to their tenure. They say the museum's history, permanent collection and past programming provides firm foundation for re-envisioned goals and objectives.

Bojorquez, just a few months into the job and new to the Bay Area, says the "Graphicanos" exhibit is exciting examples of potential because a number of student organizations are fully involved.

"Graphicanos" is a traveling exhibit that showcases 45 silk-screen prints representative of

the Chicano Art Movement. The works on display rise from the Serie Project, founded by Sam Coronado in 1993 and based in his hometown, Austin, Texas. The Serie Project studio trains people from underserved Mexican American and Latino communities in serigraphy printmaking; providing not just an artistic outlet, but a trade and means of income. "This art is significant because of the skilled printmaking technique shown, but also because it represented and supported Latino artists. It gave them a body of work, a series of sellable prints," says Bojorquez.

The works on display demonstrate vast range in content, subject and the degree of advocacy or outspoken, overt political messaging. Diverse also are the artists' use of color, added textures, digital and traditional techniques and style. Even so, they collect cohesively, such that a viewer can draw parallels between the skeleton figure adorning the box of "Un-Naturally Harvested" raisins in Ester Hernandez's Sun Raid to the bold red heart pierced by an arrow and wrapped in ropes that is held by a heroic Latino figure in Mauro H. Garza's Corazon de Azteca. Other works address social justice and cultural pride with a lighter touch, as in Margarita Cabrera's Plancha de Hierro (Iron Will) that has a cloud of white birds rise from a household iron emblazoned with an image of Our Lady of Guadalupe (the Mexican manifestation of the Virgin Mary). Portraits in the works by artists Maceo Montoya and Sandra C. Fernandez are equally compelling in presenting young people whose future years, the works suggest, will be not be easy and are to be approached with caution.

"Graphicanos" emphasizes that art is visual literature, according to Schneider. "It's activism, with

obvious messages that expand the conversation on topical issues."

To that end, Bojorquez says programs like the exhibit opening that included a dance performance by the Davalos Dance Company is representative of the museum's future plans. Led by Artistic Director Catherine Marie Davalos, who is also the director of SMC's Dance Program, the dance company two days later presented Radical Acts of Love, a site-adaptive dance-theatre work set to traditional Mexican music, poetry, spoken word, and original compositions.

Bojorquez says public programs they are developing will attract audiences from throughout the Bay Area. The directors and staff plan to visit local studios in search of new work that "best reflects the people and work in the Bay Area," according to Bojorquez. Art kits for families, panels and presentations led by students, faculty, artists and experts from the area invited in conjunction with exhibits, and other programs that place art as a touchstone for dialogue are in the mix. "Art makes words and individual experiences visual, comprehensible," says Schneider. "There's a real life narrative here."

Bojorquez, adding hopeful words to remember, says, "Artists speak out not only to the present social time and it's struggles, but to the future. Artists speak to what they imagine is a better way."

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Creating a sense of community at Moraga Country Club

By John T. Miller



Youngsters roast marshmallows in preparation for making s'mores at the Moraga Country Club overnight campout last month. Photo provided

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Under new Youth Activity Coordinator Kareena Manji, the Moraga Country Club has set up a number of events with the goal of improving the community feel of the club.

Most of the events are open to nonmember guests, but a member also attending the event must accompany them. According to Manji, "The cost of our events fluctuate depending on the type of event, but they can range anywhere from complimentary pool parties to very elegant wine dinners."

Events planned for the club's youth in October include a Father-Daughter Dance this Saturday evening, Oct 6; a Drive-in Movie night the following Sunday, Oct 7; a Kids Halloween Party from noon to 3 p.m. on Oct 27, and a Halloween Trick O' Treat Buffet from 3:30 to 5 p.m. on Oct 31.

For the complimentary Drive-in Movie night, participants will drive their golf carts onto the driving range and watch "Jumanji" on a large, inflatable screen. Movie snacks will also be provided.

So far, MCC has held a number of successful events, including a Back to School Pool Party on Aug. 18; an overnight Family Campout on Aug. 25-26; a Foosball Tournament and barbecue over the Labor Day weekend, and a Mother-Son Dance on Sept. 8.

Well over 100 people attended the complimentary pool party, which was geared toward bringing kids together on their last weekend of summer.

Throughout the summer, the MCC Waves swim team – with over 250 youngsters participating – played host to over a dozen social activities in addition to the weekly swim meets.

For the Family Campout, 17 tents housed about 65-70 people on the driving range starting at 5 p.m. Saturday, with a full buffet dinner and breakfast. Games, s'mores, music and the movie "Zootopia" entertained the overnight guests.

"This event received extremely positive feedback and we will definitely be having another one again," said Manji.

The Labor Day event, with nearly 150 attending, featured a Foosball Tournament with a Kids Division and a Parent/Kid Division and proved to be so popular that the adults want their own tournament, according to Manji. A barbecue lunch and dessert followed the tournament, with games and contests provided by a DJ.

The Mother-Son Dance featured a Safari theme and was hosted in the Main Dining Room with over 50 people attending. Moms and sons dressed up like lions and tigers. Again, a full buffet and dessert were provided along with games and activities including limbo, freeze dance and many more.

Manji summed up the Moraga Country Club's purpose, saying, "We are continually working to build a community that families are proud of and want to be a part of."

Members can contact the concierge's desk at (925) 376-2200 to find out more information on any of the upcoming events.

Sold-out LLLC Sweet Thursday event features author and civil rights activist

By Lou Fancher



Courtesy of Betty Reid Soskin

With people in their 40s, 50s and 60s snaking in a long line from the doorway and excited conversations ringing out across a plaza at Lafayette Library's Community Hall, it was easy to think a classic rock band or R&B star—The Beatles, Marvin Gaye, Aretha Franklin or another music celebrity—was scheduled.

And in a way, there was. Appearing Sept. 20 at Sweet

Thursday Presents, singer/songwriter, author and civil rights activist Betty Reid Soskin drew a sold-out crowd of nearly 200 people. Remarkable for a variety of achievements, Soskin at age 97 is the National Park Service's oldest ranger. Her memoir, "Sign My Name to Freedom" (Hay House, 2018), chronicles a pioneering life from her birth in 1921 in Detroit, Michigan, through growing up in the Deep South with Louisiana Creole parents and rich ancestral history.

The memoir reveals that upon moving to the Bay Area and becoming an adult, Soskin existed on a racial bridge that had her deeply invested in Oakland and Berkeley Black communities and organizations, but also living, working, marrying twice and raising four children in what were, at the time, predominantly all-white neighborhoods. Eventually, Soskin became active in city and state government and white-dominated academia, work-

ers' unions and businesses in Walnut Creek, Berkeley and Oakland.

With limited prompts from moderator Ruth Thornburg, Soskin framed her childhood years. "My father was a craftsman who worked with his father, an eminent builder in New Orleans," she began. Among her family's many achievements were regionally significant buildings and the first banana conveyor used on the docks in Mobile, Alabama. Notable also was the "offense" her father caused by suggesting a white man should address him by his last name and not "Louie," his first name. It was customary – and obviously egregious – racism. Her family had to leave town after her father stood his ground, which explains why she was born and the family lived for the next three years in Michigan, far from their relatives. "I'm glad it's not like that now," said Soskin.

... continued on Page C4

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Four strong women featured in THT's 'The Revolutionists'

By Sophie Braccini



From left: Sarah Mitchell and Kimberly Ridgeway in "The Revolutionists" at Town Hall Theatre. Photos Jay Yamada

It was an especially hard time for women in revolutionary France – when a woman was still considered a second-class citizen, and could still be beheaded for her political opinions. Playwright Lauren Gunderson chose to give a glimpse of the life of four remarkable women of that time, and for us to ponder what fighting for women's rights really meant when one's life was on the line.

The four very different women on stage try in their own way to transcend the predicament of their sex and attempt to effect change in a meaningful way during this tumultuous time.

The four characters are Marie-Antoinette, former queen of France, Charlotte Corday, political activist and assassin, Olympe de Gouges, playwright and writer of the bill of writes of women, and Marianne Angelle, a fictional black woman from the Caribbean who fights to free slaves. The play is not necessarily a history lesson, though the historical facts cited in the play are correct. Gunderson does not necessarily spend her time detailing who these four women were and what motivated them. What she presents is more a silhouette of who they were. Dressed in the accouterment of the period, the four women use contemporary language – including profanity, and body language that do a lot for the farcical aspect of the play.

The character de Gouges is a playwright herself and she wants to write something important about the events that are unfolding around her. She articulates the problematic that interlaces the whole play, is art necessary and meaningful when history runs amok? Is writing plays something more than a distraction for the rich? Corday and Angelle are action heroes, yet they seek the writer, because, in their own words if a story is not written, if words are not put behind it, then the story cannot endure, it does not exist.

The four women chosen by director Susan Evans hold their parts with passion. Heather Kellogg as Charlotte Corday, "the angel of assassin" is full of fire and conviction, Sarah Mitchell as Olympe de

Gouges wavers from passionate to being full of doubts, Kimberly Ridgeway as Marianne Angelle is a survivor and a fighter, Suzie Shepard as Marie-Antoinette is moving despite her foolishness, or maybe because of it.

De Gouges would have deserved a play of her own to pay tribute to her extraordinary courage and endeavors. She wrote, "A woman has the right to mount the scaffold. She must possess equally the right to mount the speaker's platform." Because she opposed the most extreme of revolutionaries she was executed in November 1793. Corday was an educated young girl living in the countryside who dreamed of republic and freedom for all. When extremists entered the French revolution, terrorizing and killing their opponents, she decided that the one journalist that had inflamed passions through his fanatical writing had to die so all could be saved. She knew she would die for her action and she was executed in July 1793. Marie Antoinette was executed in October 1793, 10 months after her husband, King Louis XVI.

Director Susan Evans, also artistic director at Town Hall Theatre, explains that she was able to gather an entirely female crew, including all the production team, to produce this play. She chose the play because she found Gunderson's text to be very relevant to our time, and a poignant drama, with many moments of humor. She noted that the writer was the most produced playwright in America in 2017; Gunderson was also the winner of the Lanford Wilson Award, the Steinberg/ATCA New Play Award and the Otis Guernsey New Voices Award. This production of "The Revolutionists" in Lafayette is a Bay Area premiere.

Opening night was Sept. 29 and the play will continue at Town Hall Theater through Oct. 20. Different events, such as Theater Club nights when patrons are encouraged to stay after the presentation to talk with the cast and director, are also scheduled. For information, visit www.townhalltheatre.com.



From left: Sarah Mitchell, Suzie Shepard, Kimberly Ridgeway and Heather Kellogg in "The Revolutionists" at Town Hall Theatre.



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Girl Scout Troop 31881 Takes on the Rainbow Community Center Art Station

By Aly Kirke



Photo Linda Murphy

The struggles of the LGBTQ community often go unrecognized. Luckily, places like the Rainbow Community Center in Concord exist. RCC works to provide LGBTQ+ youth with anything they might need.

That's why Lafayette Girl Scout Troop 31881 decided to support the RCC, organizing and helping stock a craft station where visitors can express themselves through art.

"The art station is a way for our youth to express internal emotions through a different and positive outlet. It's also a way for youth to connect with other LGBTQ+ people while sharing their art," said Christian Aguirre, RCC youth outreach counselor. "The girls are setting a good example. Volunteer your

time, attend community events, make donations, it all makes a difference."

Troop 31881 has been together since kindergarten and over the years it has become a group of four: Riley, Jordan, Natalie and Aly. The girls attend three different schools and the Troop keeps them connected.

With approval from RCC, the Troop collected a donated shelf with rainbow bins inside and received generous donations of art supplies. The girls organized supplies that RCC already had, painted the shelves with rainbows and flowers, and restocked brushes, markers and other supplies.

According to the True Colors Fund, the LGBTQ community makes up to 40 percent of the homeless youth population. This can be because they were disowned by their parents after coming out or being outed, to escape a dangerous situation.

RCC provides a Youth Program, counseling, a food pantry, a senior program, an HIV program and school-based support, presentations and guest speaking. The Community Center is open Monday through Friday, from 1 to 6 p.m., plus youth groups.

Fun at the Run on the Wilder Side

Submitted by Carolyn Mills



Photo provided

All ages enjoyed the Run on the Wilder Side fundraiser held at Wilder on Sept. 3 to benefit the Orinda Park and Rec

Foundation's campaign to raise money for the Community Park renovation.

AAUW Tech Trekkers thrilled by experiences at Grace Hopper STEM Camp

Submitted by Jan Cushman



Photo Sandra Fox-Sohner

Seven enthusiastic eighth-grade girls from Lamorinda who attended Tech Trek camp on the Stanford University campus in July were honored at a reunion and reception on Sept. 7 in Moraga.

Mary Conklin, Ella Easley, Marianne Eichmann, Jada Hembrador, Liesel Hilke-meyer, Isabelle Katz, and Maya Martono attended camp on scholarships sponsored by the Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette branch of the American Association of University Women. The OML Branch has been sending middle school girls to Tech Trek camp since 1998, and to date, it has sponsored 86 girls.

The girls were delighted with their special experiences bonding with "like-minded girls" who love science and math and seeing their future in a variety of possible STEM careers.

Tech Trek math/science camp is designed to encourage rising eighth-grade girls to persist with their excitement about science, technology, engineering and math through high school, college, and into their careers. The program features numerous hands-on activities as well as a chance for the girls to make friends with other girls interested in STEM and to meet professional women in STEM fields.

This year, core classes at camp included computer coding and cyber sleuthing, as

well as marine biology, CSI forensics, and aerospace engineering. At camp, the girls took apart computers, wrote computer code, dissected fish, went on a STEM hunt on campus, learned the physics of hand-made cars and went on field trips. They stayed up to midnight looking through a variety of telescopes and talking with engaging amateur astronomers. They "speed dated" to learn about the STEM careers of professional women, and learned about structural engineering and build structures using rolled up newspapers.

Some quotes from the girls: "This camp has been a fun, amazing and life-changing experience that I will never forget." "Thanks to this opportunity, I can leave with more confidence and an even greater love for STEM." "Continue to inspire girls like me to pursue STEM careers!" And "Tech Trek was one of the best weeks ever!"

AAUW-OML scholarships are funded through annual events, such as the Walnut Creek Restaurant Walk featuring 16 restaurants providing food from 6 to 9 p.m. on Oct. 9 or a paper shredding event from 9 a.m. to noon at 5A Rent-A-Space in Moraga (Cost: \$9 per file box).

For more information about Tech Trek, visit <http://oml-ca.aauw.net/tech-trek/>.

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Looking Good in Lamorinda Welcome to fall

By Moya Stone



Jamie Peters models a stylish fall sweater by Banana Republic. One of many fashion finds available at Wayside Thrift Store.

Photos Moya Stone

Recently popped into Wayside Thrift Shop in Lafayette and met with Thrift Shop co-chair Arlita Smith and Clothing Team Chairman Jamie Peters for a chat and a tour. Wayside raises money for Assistance League Diablo Valley and is named for the historic inn, which it is located on Golden Gate Way. Locals know the shop to be a hot spot of quality clothing, including some vintage, and name brands such as J. Crew, Ann Taylor, Michael Kors, Calvin Klein, to name a few. "Wayside Thrift Store is an ideal place to bring anyone who loves finding unique gems and well constructed pieces," says Lafayette stylist Julie Rubenstein, who often shops at the Wayside for her clients.

According to Peters, customers run the gamut from teenagers who come in on the weekends wanting something different to moms needing kids clothes or something for themselves. Smith says that Wayside "appeals to that customer who is looking for a treasure." The shop brings out new donated merchandise every day and their special events are a big hit. Every couple of weeks, Wayside has a theme event in which particular items are featured. Coming up on Oct. 9 is Cashmere. All the shop's cashmere will be out on the floor and at excellent prices. I'm told people stand in line waiting for the shop to open on event days.

Wayside is also a good option for Halloween costumes. I saw a fabulous vintage Pendleton cape - hello Sherlock Holmes! There was also an adorable giraffe costume just right for a toddler. Fall fashions now in the shop include sweaters, jackets, wool skirts, and blouses. I spotted several chunky sweater dresses and men's clothes, too, such as tweed jackets, slacks and ties. Accessories abound. Jewelry, shoes, handbags ... oh my. Wayside Thrift Shop is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday.

Among the trends for fall 2018 is a new twist on the scarf. Scarves are every woman's must-have for style and comfort around the neck but this season designers are showing the scarf in a new fashion - around the head. Head covers were all over the fall 2018



Fashions by Indonesian designer Itang Yunasz are part of Contemporary Muslim Fashions at the de Young Museum in San Francisco.

catwalks styled in different ways. From Hollywood starlet to Queen Elizabeth II, turbans to pirate style, head scarves are in. According to W magazine the desire for an "air of mystery" is what's driving this trend, which paired with sunglasses can help anyone go stylishly incognito. I found some beautiful scarf options at the Moraga Art Gallery in the Rheem Shopping Center. Hand painted silk by wearable art artist Natasha Faucault, these scarves are a good size and come in an array of fall colors for around the neck or head or both, your choice.

Speaking of covering up, the current fashion exhibit at the de Young Museum in San Francisco is the first to explore Muslim fashions. Contemporary Muslim Fashions is on now through Jan. 8 and features 80 original garments created by designers for Muslim women and all women who want to dress modestly. These fashions are colorful, made of rich and varied textiles, and appeal to a global market. Participating designers from the Middle East, Indonesia, Europe and the United States, provide examples of how cultural differences inform their designs. Additionally there are photographs and videos to help contextualize the fashions on display. Contemporary Muslim Fashions is a rare opportunity and a must see for serious fashion followers.

Have a fabulous fall season and remember, go forth in style.

Moya Stone is a fashion writer and blogger at www.overdressedforlife.com.



Hand painted silk scarves by Natasha Faucault available at the Moraga Art Gallery.

Share Your Celebrations and Remembrances

If you would like to share an announcement about a special event or achievement, such as a wedding, engagement, scholarship or graduation of a local resident, or about a special person from Lamorinda who has passed, send a photo along with your text (up to 250 words) to storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com, and include "Celebrations and Remembrances" in the subject line.

Community Service: We are pleased to make space available whenever possible for some of Lamorinda's dedicated community service organizations to submit news and information about their activities. Submissions may be sent to storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com with the subject header In Service to the Community.

Artist Michael Stehr shows work at Tally Home in Orinda

By Sora O'Doherty



Photo Sora O'Doherty

Tally Home in Orinda will host a reception and display works of local artist Michael Stehr at 5 p.m. Oct. 18. Currently some five of Stehr's pieces are on display in the shop. Stehr is a self-taught artist. A couple of years after he graduated from Stanford in 1991 with an art history degree, Stehr began to study the works of his favorite artists to learn how they handled techniques such as composition and color. Working alone in his studio, he copied his favorite works, learning in the manner of art students often seen copying great works of art in European museums. Stehr's favorite artist is Camille Corot. He likes to say that he's learned from his favorite artists and has had the greatest teachers. Corot, who painted in the early 19th century, was an inspiration to the Impressionists who followed him.

Unlike Corot, however, Stehr doesn't have an allowance from wealthy parents that allowed him the luxury of painting without concern about supporting his family. So Stehr in his day job is a decorative artist, offering his clients a range of special finishes for their interior decorating, including murals, gold leafing, and trompe l'oeil work. Stehr learned his trade putting himself through college as a house painter.

Stehr devotes himself to his fine art work on evenings, weekends and holidays. But he says, "I don't consider this work. It isn't a hardship; I would do it for fun." Nevertheless, Stehr actually does work very hard. He won't exhibit his works unframed, and doesn't want to spend what it would take to frame his works, so he does it himself. He has an annual exhibit at the Piedmont Center for the Arts each Novem-

ber, for which he produces some 40 new paintings and fabricates the frames for each, doing his own carpentry and metal leafing on the frames.

In addition, Stehr applies his art history expertise leading groups of art lovers through Rome and Paris several times a year. He has just conducted his 16th guided tour of Rome. He shares his own experience of the art aloud with his clients. He did his first guided tour in 2000. "It's been fun to build relationships," he notes, "with both the art and the people." He feels at home staying in the same hotels each time he visits. In fact, he has had an exhibition of about 16 of his paintings, which he brought over and displayed in the hotel where he stays. His clients usually extend their trips, either before or after joining him for the guided art tour. He is currently putting together a trip for painters, where they can practice their art in a European setting, likely either Sienna, Italy or the Loire Valley in France.

Stehr has done a lot of work in the Carmel home of Tally Home founder Megan Lindberg's father. Lindberg admires Stehr's European flare, which is what she wants people to experience at Tally Home. "I want it to feel like people are walking into Europe," she says of her store. The Oct. 18 event will be a Meet the Artist Open House, with light appetizers, wine and other beverages, starting at 5 p.m.

Beloved children's book author speaks at local Rotary meeting

By John T. Miller



Joanna H. Kraus Photo Andy Scheck

Renowned children's author and playwright Joanna H. Kraus spoke at the Lafayette Rotary meeting last week, entertaining the members with her recently published children's books.

Her two latest publications, "Bravo, Benny" and "The Blue Toboggan" are not at all alike. They are from different publishers, with their own illustrators and deal with very different subject matter.

"Both stories are based on actual events," said Kraus. "'Bravo, Benny' is more lighthearted about a girl who desperately wants a dog, but has to win over her grandmother's approval, while 'Blue Toboggan' deals with the grief of a young boy losing a close friend."

"Bravo, Benny," published in 2018 by Mirror Publishing, tells the story of Nina, who has wished for a dog on the last "eight years of birthday cakes," but must overcome her Granny Lil's unwillingness to have a dog in the house. In the end, Benny saves the day and wins Granny's reluctant approval.

"Blue Toboggan," a 2016 publication by Mascot Books, is a compassionate look at a young boy, Will, who loses his best friend Danny. The two of them were saving to buy a blue toboggan with silver stripes so they could "fly down Wildberry Hill, the two of us, faster than fast."

Kraus paraphrased from the blurb on the back of the book, saying, "With the help of a sympathetic teacher and class, Will learns that love and friendship don't have to die as long as you remember."

Rotary member Dr. Kelly Hood, who practices dermatology in Lafayette, invited Kraus to speak at the recent meeting.

"My kids read her books growing up," said Hood. "She's delightful to hear from and has lead such a varied and interesting life. Her books have universal themes appropriate for every age."

Kraus also spoke about her personal essay from the August issue of "Alive," a magazine published in Alamo. The article, titled "Aging in Place - My Manor and Me," describes a two-month nightmare at her Rossmoor home where sewage backed up into her tub. Just before that, she had endured bronchitis, an infected tooth, and a mysterious ailment that made walking extremely painful.

Once the problems were fixed - by plumbers and painters for the manor, and several medical experts for her body - all returned to normal. Until, that is, she learned shortly after that a patio support pillar and surrounding tile were cracking and she needed retinal surgery!

Kraus, who grew up in Maine, moved to California in the fall of 1995 when her adopted Korean son, who attended college at Sonoma State, announced that he would not be coming home to any more snow. She took an early retirement from her position as Professor Emerita of Theatre at the College at Brockport, State University of New York and moved to Rossmoor.

Kraus writes mostly for children and is an award-winning playwright of 18 published and widely produced scripts and an author of numerous short stories, children's books, articles and reviews.

Her books are available on the

websites of Amazon and Barnes & Noble, the publishers, or through your favorite bookstore via Ingram. They will also be sold at this year's Rossmoor Fall Bazaar from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 3 in the Oak Room at Gateway Clubhouse.

For more information, visit her website at www.joannakraus.com.

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ART

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>.

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

Valley Art Gallery presents its new fall show "Art's Up!" running through Nov. 10. Demonstrating a wide range of motifs, styles, media and prices, and representing the best of the best from more than 100 East Bay artists, the "Art's Up!" exhibition is a must-see show for residents of the Diablo Valley! In addition, there are beautifully crafted, ceramic, wood and glass pieces, and original designer jewelry. www.valleyartgallery.org; (925) 935-4311

The Moraga Art Gallery presents "Walk on the Wild Side," a new exhibit featuring the distinctive, strikingly colorful abstract paint-

ings 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.

MUSIC

Gonna Take a Sentimental Journey at 4 p.m. on Oct. 7 at the Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Rd., Lafayette. 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. 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_a0F0B00000J5pASUAZ

Crowden Music Center presents Community Music Day from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 21. at Crowden Music Center, 1475 Rose Street, Berkeley. Crowden's Community Music Day is a free musical carnival, with Instrument Petting Zoos, San Francisco Chamber Orchestra, face painting, prizes and more. Free. For more info see <https://www.crowden.org/concerts-and-events/community-music-day>

or call (510) 559-6910 or email concerts@crowden.org.

THEATER

Town Hall Theatre Company presents "The Revolutionists" 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

Mt. Diablo Peace and Justice Center is proud to host Bindu Mohanty, Ph.D., for its October Forum. Her presentation is entitled "Auroville: 50 years of experimenting with human unity." Mohanty is a writer, educator and sustainability consultant. This event takes place at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 10 at Mt. Diablo Peace and Justice Center, located at 1035 Carol Lane in Lafayette. Tickets are \$10 in advance; \$15 at the door; \$5 for Center members and free for students. They may be purchased online at <http://ourpeacecenter.org>.

KIDS, PARENTS & TEENS

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, 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.

Trick or Treat Street from 4 to 6 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 26 in Downtown Lafayette. For a fun, safe Halloween event, children and their parents are invited to Trick-or-Treat on Mt. Diablo Boulevard from Plaza Way to Dewing Avenue, Lafayette Circle and in La Fiesta Square.

Trick or Treat with the kids 3 to 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 31 at the Rheem Shopping Center in Moraga.

OTHER

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 nonprofits that serve children, families, and communities in need. Visit www.lafayettejuniors.org for more information.

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Join Orinda Books from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 6 for Paw Fund's Mobile Adoptions at the store. Looking for wonderful homes for rescue pups. And it's also a day to celebrate dogs. Friendly leashed dogs are welcome. There will be games, a raffle, and tips from Tailored Dog Training and tons of dog books for sale and book sales will also benefit Paw Fund, which provides free and low-cost pet health care and referrals to community members in Contra Costa and Alameda counties.

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.

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 REL. 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. Cost: \$9 per file box; keep your boxes.

Art of Mixology from 4:30 to 7 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 13 at Orinda's Theatre Square. This is Lamorinda Arts Council's largest fundraiser of the year, with an anticipated crowd of over 300 attendees, and host to over 20 bartenders creating luscious craft cocktails, competing for the Mixologist of the Year. Tickets are \$45 in advance, \$55 at the door. For information, visit lamorindaarts.org.

Sustainable Lafayette and Town Hall Theatre are co-hosting a special showing of "An Inconvenient Sequel - Truth to Power" at 6:30 p.m. on Oct. 16. Ten years after "An Inconvenient Truth" brought climate change to the forefront of mainstream culture, former Vice President Al Gore continues his tireless fight to educate the next generation of climate champions. Reception starts at 6:30 p.m., movie at 7 p.m., Q&A at 8:45 p.m. More information and tickets at townhalltheatre.com.

The Saklan School is pleased to host a screening of "Beyond Measure" by Reel Link Films beginning at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 18 at the Lafayette Veteran's Hall, 3780 Mt. Diablo Blvd. For more info or to RSVP visit: www.saklan.org.

Women of Spirit is a group of inclusive, curious women seeking connection, shared learning and growth with other women of diverse faith traditions. Women of Spirit is not affiliated with any religious institution, and all are welcome. Their next meeting is from noon to 2 p.m. on Oct. 19 at Orinda Community Church, 10 Irwin Way, Orinda.

Saint Mary's College Guild presents "A Night in Italy" from 5 to 9 p.m. on Oct. 20. Delicious Italian cuisine, Bella Musica by Joe Simone Duo, great food and fellowship. This event will be open seating with the exception of full tables of eight or 10 purchased under one reservation form. Make check payable to SMC Guild. Mail to: Donna Jollymour, 387 Calle la Montana, Moraga, CA 94556. For information call Donna Jollymour at (925) 299-1651.

The giant fall book sale sponsored by the Friends of the Moraga Library will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 20 at the Moraga Library, 1500 St. Mary's Road. Books, CDs, and DVDs of every category will be sold at prices ranging from 25 cents to \$3.

... continued on next Page

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Lorna Luft next to take the stage at Live at the Orinda Theatre, Oct. 4

'Star is Born' remake opens Oct. 5

By Derek Zemrak

MOVIE REVIEW



Lorna Luft Photos provided

Lorna Luft was born into Hollywood royalty, the daughter of Judy Garland and film producer Sidney Luft ("A Star is Born"). She will be bringing her musical talent to the Orinda Theatre at 7:30 p.m. Oct. 4 as part of the fall concert series, Live at the Orinda, where she will be singing the songs her mother taught her.

Luft's acclaimed career has encompassed virtually every arena of entertainment. A celebrated live performer, stage, film and television actress, bestselling author, recording artist, Emmy-nominated producer, and humanitarian, she continues to triumph in every medium with critics labeling her one of the most versatile and exciting artists on the stage today. The daughter of legendary entertainer Garland and producer Luft, music and entertainment have always been integral parts of her life.

Luft is a gifted live performer, frequently featured on the world's most prestigious stages, including The Hollywood Bowl, Madison Square Garden, Carnegie Hall, The London Palladium, and L'Olympia in Paris. She proves again and again that she's a stellar entertainer, proudly carrying the torch of her family's legendary show business legacy.



"An Evening with Lorna Luft: Featuring the Songbook of Judy Garland" is a theatrical extravaganza that melds one of the world's most familiar songbooks with personal memories of a loving daughter. The show features such standards as "You Made Me Love You," "For Me and My Gal," "The Trolley Song," "Get Happy," "The Man That Got Away," and many more.

Variety called Lorna's show "a rousing dramatically riveting music event," and it received two Los Angeles Theatre Alliance Ovation Awards (Best World Premiere Musical and Best Musical Direction).

If you have not had the opportunity to attend one of the fabulous cabaret shows at the Orinda Theatre, you don't want to miss this one. Seating is limited. It is recommended that you purchase your tickets as soon as possible, online at www.lamorindatheatre.com or at the Orinda Theatre box office.

Luft's book, "A Star Is Born: Judy Garland and the Film That Got Away," was released on Sept. 18. It explores the history of one of her mother's greatest screen performances. The 248-page book also includes never before seen family photos that capture Garland on and off the set as well as essays on the various abbreviated cuts of "A Star is Born." Lorna will be doing a book signing after the concert.

The most recent "A Star is Born" film starring Lady Gaga and Bradley Cooper will be released by Warner Bros. on Oct. 5 and opens at the Orinda Theater the same night. Warner Bros studio released the following description: Seasoned musician Jackson Maine (Bradley Cooper) discovers and falls in love with struggling artist Ally (Gaga). She has just about given up on her dream to make it big as a singer – until Jack coaxes her into the spotlight. But even as Ally's career takes off, the personal side of their relationship is breaking down, as Jack fights an ongoing battle with his own internal demons.

How lucky are we in Lamorinda to hear stories of the making of the Sidney Luft remake of "A Star is Born" starring Judy Garland as told by their daughter one night, and be able to see the modern recreation the following night in the same movie palace, the Orinda Theatre?

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- 26: Professor Kam-Biu Luk on cosmic rays and Antarctica California.

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Not to be missed

OTHER ... continued

East Bay Walk to End Alzheimer's at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 20 at Heather Farms Park in Walnut Creek. Put on your walking shoes and invite friends and family to take part in the annual Walk to End Alzheimer's, the nations largest event to raise awareness and funds for Alzheimer's care, support and research. Last year, more than 2,300 people participated, raising more than half a million dollars. This year the goal is to raise over \$650,000 locally. Register today at alz.org/walk.

Lafayette Res Run for Education beginning at 8 a.m. on Sunday, Oct. 21 in Downtown Lafayette. Burn some energy with the kids in the 5k, put on your serious running shoes for the 10k around the Lafayette Reservoir or simply walk your dog or push the stroller in the 2-mile fun run/walk! All ages welcome. Awards for fastest runners. Live music plus Healthy Lifestyles Fair. Register now for the 5k (8 a.m.), 10k (8:15 a.m.) or the 2 mile (8:45 a.m.) and choose your local school: Acalanes Dons, Burton Valley Bobcats, Campolindo Cougars, Happy Valley Huskies, Lafayette Leopards, Miramonte Matadors, Springhill Scorpions and Stanley Wildcats. www.lafayettechamber.org/resrun

Brian Pennis, C.S., will be talking about "Finding Innocence that is Power, Not Vulnerability" at 2:30 p.m. on Oct. 21 at the Christian Science Church in Danville, 650 Danville Blvd. Everyone is welcome—loving, free child care is provided—and the talk is free. The event lasts just one hour. Traduccion Simultaneo al Espanol in the Sunday School room. Come treat yourself

to an hour of peace, enlightenment and inspiration. Come to hear about God's spiritual power to heal, guard, guide and love you.

LOPC Breakfast Group at 7 a.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 24 at the Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, Davies Room. Speaker: Joe Terry, CEO of CVI Power Foundation. Topic: Where the Bible and Ironman intersect. \$5 donation at the door for breakfast. RSVP by noon on October 23 to janet@lopc.org or (925) 283-8722 x223.

Daughters of the Goddess Womyn's Temple welcomes womyn and girls of all ages to join them for their annual Womyn's Spiral Dance - A Multi-Cultural Celebration of Our Beloved Ancestors and Crones from 6:30 to 10:30 p.m. on Oct. 26 at the Orinda Masonic Temple, 9 Altarinda Road, Orinda. During this multi-cultural ritual, led by Kahuna Leilani, and accompanied by spiritual elders of different traditions, we come together to honor and celebrate our loved ones who have passed away. We build a collective altar dedicated to our Ancestors; each of us adding photos and mementos of those who we miss and remember. Tickets: \$23 advance by Oct. 22; \$29 at the door. <http://www.daughtersofthegoddess.com/2018-rituals/2018-spiral-dance/>

POLITICAL GATHERINGS

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.

Not to be missed

This free event is sponsored by the Moraga Citizens Network.

Consumer Action Committee (CAC) is hosting a Disability Education forum with Catharine Baker and Rebecca Bauer-Kahan from 10 a.m. to noon on Oct. 10 at Lafayette Methodist Church, 955 Moraga Road, Lafayette. Attend to hear each candidate answer questions about issues specifically affecting individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

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.

Lamorinda Republican Women Federated's meeting will take place at 11:30 a.m. on Oct. 18 at the Orinda Country Club. Please join us to hear Kathleen Jenkins and Eve Phillips, candidates for Orinda City Council discuss their individual platforms. This event will provide voters an opportunity to listen to and ask questions of these two candidates. For additional information, visit www.evefororinda.com and www.ordindaparksandrec.org/397/City-Council-Candidate-Info--11618. Cost: luncheon and speaker \$36; speaker only \$15; speaker only student \$5.

SENIORS

Cooking: Farmers' Market to Harvest Meal - Byron Park Dining

Not to be missed

GARDEN

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, Oct. 5: Seniors@LoveLafayette.org or (925) 284-5050. \$10 credit card deposit required to hold your spot. Members: Free; Non-members: \$10.

Montelindo Garden Club October meeting will be at 9:30 a.m. Friday, Oct. 19 at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center Community Hall. Presentation: Creating Pumpkulets; Speaker: Shawna Anderson, Horticultural Consultant and Manager of the Custom Container Department at Lafayette's Orchard Nursery. Shawna will demonstrate how to create Pumpkulets, a craft using a pumpkin and succulents. You will discover how you can create these perfect fall decorations for your own home.

Lamorinda Weekly

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A fabulous fig condiment complement for baked brie or barbecue

By Susie Iventosch



Fig-Shallot Jam

Photo Susie Iventosch

My son Joel called me one day all excited about the stuffed mushrooms he had made with fig chutney, shallots and Parmesan cheese, among other items of interest like blue cheese, barbe-

cue seasoning and Worcestershire sauce. I'm always delighted to hear what my kids have been up to in the kitchen, but what intrigued me most was the inclusion of fig chutney in stuffed mushrooms. Besides,

I'd been wanting to make fig jam as soon as figs were in season, so he sent me the list of ingredients in the fig chutney he'd purchased, which included raisins, red onion, candied ginger and red chile peppers. I decided to combine the shallots and figs into a simpler jam, and thought it would be great with brie and toasted walnuts on crackers or even as a condiment for grilled meats. This fig jam could not be easier to make, and it was perfect with a venison steak my husband put on the grill. Actually, I think it would be delicious with any grilled meat from lamb to turkey ... perhaps as an alternative to cranberry sauce for this year's Thanksgiving feast. This is not a weak endorsement, because I absolutely love cranberry sauce!

Fig-Shallot Jam

(Makes approximately one cup)

INGREDIENTS

- 1 pound figs, stems removed and cut into small pieces, 1/2-inch or so
- 1 small shallot, finely chopped
- ½ cup white sugar
- ¼ cup light brown sugar
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 2 tablespoons water
- 1 tablespoon balsamic vinegar
- 1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice

DIRECTIONS

Place all ingredients into a medium-sized sauce pan. Bring to a boil, and boil just long enough to melt the sugar, stirring occasionally. Reduce heat to low and continue to simmer, uncovered, for approximately 45 minutes to one hour, or until the mixture is thick and sticky. It should coat a spoon easily. Remove from heat and cool to room temperature. Mixture will thicken as it cools. Spoon into clean glass jars, or plastic jars with tight-fitting lids. If you plan to make a large batch and want to can this jam, follow your favorite canning process. I am not an expert at canning, however this jam will hold up well in the refrigerator for several months.



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.

An historical look back at commercial aviation in Lafayette, 1965

By Jim Moore



Ralph Demeree and Richard Osborn, Air News Photos, 846 California Street, SF CA

It may seem difficult to imagine today, but in the early 1960s the idea of helicopter airline service connecting Bay Area hub airports and some distant suburban communities was hot. Commercial airlines had not yet been deregulated and demand for passenger service was high throughout the nation. No exception to that trend, the Bay Area became the site of one of a handful of commercial helicopter airlines, others existing in Chicago, New York, and Los Angeles.

The Bay Area line, known as SFO Helicopter Airlines, came into existence in 1961 with the idea of linking San Francisco, San Jose and Oakland airports via direct service from a series of heliports situated throughout the area. Initial sites were in Marin County, Berkeley, in downtown Oakland (atop a parking garage), and at the Ferry Building in San Francisco. The airline employed Sikorsky S61 and S62 helicopters with seating capacities of 28 and 10 respectively. The price of a ticket from Lafayette to San Francisco airport was \$5.50 and two major airlines participated with SFO, Trans World and American Airlines.

Service began in Lafayette on

April 15, 1965 at a new heliport built on the hilltop behind the old Hillside Motel at 3738 Mt. Diablo Blvd. The facility was at the west end of town between Mt. Diablo Boulevard and Highway 24. It was an inauspicious beginning to say the least. The weather that year was not cooperative. Neither construction plans nor the FAA's required approach testing procedures proceeded as anticipated. As a result, practice landings were being conducted late into the night on April 14 to familiarize pilots with the approach and landing conditions of a new facility they were to begin using the next day.

On April 15, Opening Day, champagne and hors d'oeuvres were served in the heliport building while visitors lined up outside awaiting turns for free rides. Later in the evening of April 15, following additional touch-and-go landing practice at the facility, a distress signal was sent by one of the helicopters at about 7 p.m. indicating an overheating engine and the need to descend and make a precautionary landing. The pontoon-equipped aircraft was over water at the time and the two pilots prepared to set down in the water. With float gear

the maneuver was not especially dangerous except that it was night and visibility was obviously limited. The pilots radioed their position report before setting up their descent into the water telling the air controller, erroneously, that they were preparing to descend into the Lafayette Reservoir and requesting search and rescue accordingly.

In what must have been a sobering moment, the search and rescue teams arrived at the reservoir and found no evidence of the downed aircraft. The pilots had been mistaken in their position report; they were in fact over the Upper San Leandro Reservoir when the engine warning-light came on. The aircraft had descended safely into that body of water and was in the process of making a normal water landing when the aircraft struck a submerged log and rolled over. The pilot and co-pilot quickly evacuated the cockpit and climbed up on the overturned hull, where they spent a few very chilly hours awaiting rescue efforts slowed by inaccessible terrain and stormy weather conditions.

As if this catastrophe was not enough, the very next morning, April 16, another SFO helicopter crashed on the Embarcadero roadway in downtown San Francisco. This airplane, another of the Airline's Sikorsky S62 10-passenger helicopters, was downed by a reported bird strike, later confirmed by bird remains in the engine compartment. The aircraft was carrying a local radio traffic reporter, Ed Mattson, known to his listeners as Ted Taylor, and added drama was provided by his second-by-second account of what the Oakland Tribune described as an 800-foot drop onto the Embarcadero adjacent to Pier 18. Both occupants were injured in what was described as Taylor's most exciting commute report.

The new airline thus began operations in Lafayette in April 1965 with two accidents within hours of one another. An insurance company at the time estimated the odds against such an occurrence at 10 million to one.

Opening day in Lafayette was grey, intermittently rainy and blustery. Undaunted, SFO fulfilled its promise of free rides for the public with champagne, refreshments, and photographers to record the attendance of various local dignitaries. Interested local residents lined up awaiting their turn for a brief, and very bumpy, hop in the Sikorsky from which they could view their city from an altitude of several thousand feet.

Lafayette, an unincorporated city of a little more than 7,000 residents in 1965, needed the approval of the Contra Costa County Planning Commission and, ultimately, a vote of the County Board of Supervisors to amend the existing County Airport Plan to add the new heliport.



Overtuned helicopter in Upper San Leandro Reservoir, 1965

Photo Russ Reed, Oakland Tribune

Old timers will remember the controversy that surrounded this approval process at the county seat in Martinez. For the most part the project was favored by the community and surrounding towns, all appreciating the convenience and time savings associated with direct trips to the airports high above the congestion on local freeways. There was an important exception to this favorable view, however, emanating from the retirement community of Sunset Village situated directly across the street from the new heliport. During the course of the initial approval process and during the entire three-year period during which the heliport operated, the controversy split the community. Ruptures in long-standing relationships occurred, with neighbor standing against neighbor.

The residents of Sunset Village were virulently opposed to the new facility and their appearances in the County Auditorium in Martinez at times of scheduled hearings were lively, loud and angry. A typical session in the Supervisor's chamber in Martinez was characterized by two rows of heliport proponents in the front, left-side seats of the auditorium and the balance of the room filled with Sunset Village residents. The speakers for the proponents, helicopter airline personnel trying to explain what their operational plans and procedures would be as well as private financial backers of the venture, were drowned out in a stream of loud and hyperbolic opposition. Somewhat surprisingly, the proponents won the day on a four in favor with one abstention vote of the supervisors and received their permit to build the facility.

In 1965, aviation technology was on the cusp of some important breakthroughs in the area of avionics which, had they occurred earlier, might have significantly improved the nature of the helicopter service to Lafayette. In 1965 all service into and out of Lafayette was conducted under Visual Flight Rules, the FAA's designation for flight in which the ground is visible at all times. Instrument Flight Rules, allowing flight into low or no visibility weather were not available in helicopters flying over

the Berkeley Hills. This limitation became problematic in a region in which seasonal fog episodes were common, particularly in the spring of the year. When this occurred, and it did frequently, the aircraft couldn't fly. Taxi cabs had to be dispatched from around the region to come to Lafayette to pick up otherwise stranded passengers and carry them to their respective trunk airlines at the three airports. This became a major irritant to airline passengers.

Ironically, the needed technology was becoming available and was approved for use by New York Airways, a Manhattan-based helicopter airline, in February of 1965. An article in the Feb. 17 Wall Street Journal reported that the new technology, known as the Decca system, that would allow "all weather flights" had been certificated by the FAA for use in NY Airway's helicopters. The article also reported that the same system had been approved for use by the Army in the "South Vietnamese military action." The war in Vietnam, with its urgent need for emergency helicopter medical evacuations, ultimately brought the technological improvements required to evacuate wounded soldiers and marines under very adverse visibility conditions. Such technology, if available in Lafayette in 1965-68, the years of the life of the local heliport, would have allowed uninterrupted service during foggy weather.

The technical constraint, however, was far from the only obstacle facing the operation of the service. Opposition from the neighbors did not die when the County approved the operation in 1965. Indeed, it grew stronger and ultimately resulted in shortened hours of operation which had the predictably negative effect on the economics of the business. Finally, in 1968 after three years of relentless opposition, the private operators and helicopter airline agreed to shut down the operation and the facility was closed to further operations. The service was appreciated by many but vilified by (mostly) non-airline travelers in the vicinity. In the end, their efforts were successful, and Lafayette was out of the aviation business.

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LAMORINDA SPORTS

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SMC women's volleyball surpassing expectations halfway through season

By Jon Kingdon



Lindsey Knudsen (17) and Sienna Young (6)

Photo Tod Fierner

It's a fine line between victory and defeat. Last season the Saint Mary's women's volleyball team had a record of 9 and 19. This year, it only took the Gaels 11 matches to reach last season's win total and now have an overall record of 11-3 halfway through the season.

Head coach Rob Browning doesn't see that much difference in both teams: "I thought we were a good team last year but we had a lot of injuries and did not have a good record in five set matches going 2 and 6. This year we have won all five of our five set matches. Still with such a solid group of seniors, we are a better team this year."

This is a very balanced roster comprised of three seniors, four juniors, two sophomores and six freshmen. Browning has come to rely on his group of seniors, Lindsey Calvin, Lindsey Knudsen and Emily Bible: "The leadership of our seniors shows on and off the court. This group is a stronger, competitive team with great desire and a team connection which is allowing us to win the close games."

Browning utilizes an offense that is flexible and it allows the players to transition easily into the program: "We have a program that we like and we get our players to learn that system. In terms of personnel, they may play different positions. It's a simple system but it is a good one. The players are ready to jump in there when they arrive and run our type of offense. It's a fast offense and a little unique. We set the outside hitters faster and set slower in the middle. Together, it's hard to defend."

The two Lindseys, senior middle blocker Lindsey Calvin (132) and Lindsey Knudsen (127) are leading the offense in kills. Says Browning: "Calvin has really stepped up in her game as an attacker and Knudsen along with junior Sienna Young have also im-

proved their play on offense."

The overall improvement of the offense is apparent in the team numbers. Last season Saint Mary's averaged 46 kills per match. This season, the kills/match average is 53. The assist numbers have also improved from 43 to 50 per match.

Junior Alexa "Crash" Parker leads the team with 340 assists. Parker, who earned the nickname "Crash" from falling off a bicycle, does live up to her nickname, leading the team with 27 saves and is third on the team with 95 digs. Says Browning: "Alexsa came to Saint Mary's after being named as the Gatorade Player of the Year in Utah as an outside hitter but was moved to setter and is a very good all-around player." Freshman Alosina Thompson is backing up Parker. Says Browning: "Alosina has done a nice job stepping in and is learning quickly. Crash has been a good model for her and she has seen significant playing time in big matches." Thompson is second on the team with 115 assists and 104 digs.

The Gaels defense took a big hit when starting freshman libero Kelsey Knudsen (Lindsey's sister) was lost early in the season due to a serious knee injury. Fortunately for Saint Mary's, Bible has stepped in to replace Knudsen and the team has not seen any fall off in this area.

Browning takes great pride in the defense he installed, which was unique at the time: "We were the only ones that ran our type of defense with our blocking system and now everyone has taken on our philosophy and system utilizing swing blocking (using your open, cross, hop footwork along the net while swinging your arms in order to penetrate further over the net to block your opponent) but now it's much more common throughout women's volleyball."

Besides Knudsen and Thomp-

son, a third freshman outside hitter, Breyon Ashley from Dublin has also seen a fair amount of playing time. Says Browning: "Breyon is a very good player. At this point she is primarily a serving sub but she is also a dynamic blocker and player."

With victories over Utah and California, the Gaels entered into the league season with great confidence. The team began their league schedule playing the 24th ranked University of San Diego and No. 1 ranked team in the nation, BYU, on the road. Saint Mary's defeated San Diego 3-2 and lost to BYU 3-0. The victory over San Diego was particularly pleasing to Browning: "We beat San Diego on their home floor, one of the top programs for the past 15 years and that was a big win. The players believe in themselves and what they have built. This has led to our winning record and some very impressive comebacks."

With the maturation of the freshmen class and the anticipation of future commitments to the program, Browning sees a bright future for the women's volleyball team: "Along with our returning players, we have some top recruits coming in next year and also commitments from some high school juniors that will help us to continue on our track. We always want to be competitive in the West Coast Conference and to compete for championships."

NEXT LEVEL FLAG FOOTBALL

NEXT LEVEL FLAG FOOTBALL OVERVIEW

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Lamorinda boy's water polo preview

By Jon Kingdon



Photo Gint Federas

Hope springs eternal as the Lamorinda boy's water polo teams start their march through a series of tournaments and nonconference games prior to their conference games.

Campolindo, coming off a 24-4 record last year and making it to the championship game in Rocklin before losing to Sacred Heart Prep by a score of 5-4 has picked up where they left off winning three of their first four games. Despite losing four seniors who have gone on to play in college, head coach Miles Price speaks confidently about the Cougars prospects: "We are a veteran team with a lot of experience despite our losses through graduation. Still we are always looking to increase depth and there is room for the players to move up on the roster." With a 9-2 record so far this season, the Cougars are setting themselves up well for the post-season.

The captains for this year's team are seniors Garrett Dunn, Marcus Longton and Giorgio Alessandria who, according to Price, "are the leaders of the team in and out of the water."

Last season, Campolindo outscored their opponents by 209 goals and Price feels that the of-

fense is a solid group this year as well: "We have good size and speed. Our players have good water polo IQ as they have all for the most part participated in club water polo."

The defense is led by junior goalie Logan Estes and a freshman, West Temkin. Says Price: "Logan is tall, athletic with a good frame and has experience."

The overall goal for the Campolindo defense is to play with a high level or press, avoiding getting into zones and drops. "We want to be a good transition team," says Price.

Campolindo has three tournaments on their schedule. The Cougars have already played in the Santa Barbara Invitational, going 2-1 and will be playing in the South Coast Tournament in Newport and the North-South Tournament in Atherton later in the season.

Price, who played water polo at UC Santa Barbara and professionally in Spain and Australia, appreciates the challenges his team faces: "There are a number of high-level teams that we compete against in these tournaments and it's a good challenge to ourselves."

Price sums up the prospects

for Campolindo succinctly: "The key to the season is to play to our potential. We are a talented team and they have all shown up in really good shape."

Despite a 13-12 record last season, Miramonte closed with a rush, making it to the third round of the playoffs before losing to Campolindo. This is a largely veteran team as noted by head coach James Lathrop: "We have a good mix of seniors, juniors and sophomores. It's a good group that fun to work with. They are ready to learn and improve." After a slow start this season, the Matadors have won their last four games.

The captains for the team as voted on by the players are seniors Leo Berkman, Peter Hillen and Reid Schioldager. The lone junior in this group is Jackson Painter. It's not common for a junior to be named to be a co-captain but, says Lathrop: "Jackson is a very talented player and a hard worker. He is a leader by example." Painter played for the Youth National Team this summer.

Berkman and Painter are key players for the Miramonte offense but the group has a lot of depth, says Lathrop: "As a rule, we don't want to rely on one or two players. We have a balanced attack and any number of players can step up and be factors on offense."

On defense, senior Spencer Campos will be the starting goalie. He will be helped greatly by Peter Hillen, says Lathrop: "Peter is a key player on the defense. He is always assigned to guard our opponent's top player."

Miramonte played in the Elite 8 tournament this past weekend in Southern California at Harvard-Westlake High School and will be playing in the Southern California Tournament, the North-South Tournament and the Memorial Tournament.

"Playing in these tournaments allows us to test ourselves both physically and mentally against the top teams in California," says Lathrop. "It allows us to prepare for league play and the NorCal tournament."

The schedule for the teams is a little different this year with each of the teams in the league playing home games against each other, which Lathrop appreciates: "It allows us to play twice as many 'rivalry' games."

Lathrop's goal for the team is simple: "We just want to keep getting better every day in our skills and tactics. We have a good senior group and I'm excited about the underclassmen. I'm looking for the growth of the team and our younger players as the year progresses."

Coming to Acalanes from Las Positas College, first year head coach Robby Arroyo is no stranger to Acalanes and the Bay Area. Says Arroyo: "I live in the area and have been involved with the local water polo teams and am well aware of the strong history that Acalanes has had in water polo." As a four-year starter for the University of California water polo team, Arroyo played for Acalanes legend Steve Heastman for whom the aquatic center at Acalanes has been named.

The Dons have showed initial improvement from last year's 13-12 team beginning the season winning six of their first eight matches. Having lost four of their last five matches shows that there is still a ways to go. Arroyo appreciates the maturity of his team: "We are a mentally tough team with a lot of seniors contributing. The eleven seniors know that this is their last opportunity to compete and it shows in both practices and the games. The experience we bring has helped us out in a lot of tough games."

The Dons play an aggressive offense, getting the ball down the

pool as quickly as they can, getting behind the defense leading to some easy goals. Leading the offense are seniors Max Stryker and Jake Stone along with juniors Mac Darin and Charlie Betencourt. "The key, says Arroyo, is that all of the players on offense are working well together."

Senior Alex Archer is a key on the defense along with Stryker, Darin and Betencourt. In their eight games so far, Acalanes has outscored their opponents by 18, only giving up 8.7 goals per game. Arroyo has been utilizing two goalies, senior Jackson Kirke and sophomore Parker Tomkins, who plays about a quarter of the games. Both have contributed to the team's early success, says Arroyo: "Jackson has transitioned to goalie over the summer and has done a fantastic job. He has a huge wing span. Parker is learning the position well which is setting up to be our primary goalie the next two years."

Acalanes has already played in the Menlo Invitational and will be playing in the Southern California Invitational in October. Arroyo appreciates what the team can get out of these tournaments: "We get to play against the elite teams and players from around the state and the country, preparing up for the league season."

Besides the huge group of seniors, Acalanes has had a number of new players as well, which Arroyo sees as a positive: "Some of the additional players are taking time to learn but we have been able to work through the new ideas and approaches of playing and studying game film. As with any new coach, you're introducing new offensive and defensive schemes but I also recognize what they do well and what the prior coach has taught them. I'm always looking to see where we can add things in."

Acalanes-Miramonte girls water polo face off in rivalry game

By Jon Kingdon

Whenever there is a so-called rivalry game, commentators are always quick to say that with such games, you can throw out the record book. A comment like this generally occurs when one of the teams has a bad record. However, when both teams come into a rivalry game with top records, it becomes that much more

of an anticipated event.

Such was the case when the undefeated (13-0) Acalanes girls water polo team took on the defending champion (8-2) Miramonte team Sept. 26 at Miramonte High School. In a match that lived up to expectations, Acalanes remained undefeated, coming out on top 10-6.

Leading 7-2 at the half, Acalanes held off a late charge by Miramonte who got as close as 9-6. Acalanes head coach Misha Buchel's strategy was to attack and be aggressive: "We were really pushing the ball up the pool and feeding the ball inside to Lexi Rowell, Claire Rowell and Jewel Roemer and we were able to take

advantage of a number of power plays."

This however was a game won by the defense. The Dons were particularly concerned with containing Miramonte's Katie Lyons and were pleased with holding the Matadors to only six goals. Goalie Ava Donleavy had several stops in key situations and was, as

Buchel described her, "a rock back there." Besides Donleavy's performance, the defense led by Alex Fellner and Rowell protected Donleavy with several blocked shots.

Miramonte will have a chance to get their revenge the last game of the season, which will be played at Acalanes.

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East Bay Eclipse Soccer Club 08 boys lunar team wins tournament

Submitted by Kristine Rasmussen



Front, from left: Bulky Smith, Brody Suba, Oliver Rasmussen, Finley Geddes, Russell Gehrig, Luca Fazio, Nate Marek, Nikko Wang; back row: coach Daniel Moise, Preston Repulles, Cameron Rasmussen, River Lockwood, Henry Goodman, Harry Zimmerman, Walter Kane (not pictured Skyler Berkley). Photo Kristine Rasmussen

The East Bay Eclipse 08 boys' lunar team was undefeated in the San Ramon Summerfest Soccer tournament Aug. 25-26. They took the championship in the final game after overtime and penalty kick/shoot out to win 6-5. "Over the weekend our players showed an amazing sense for the team play that

we have been working hard on at practice. Above all, their never give up attitude and desire to win is a quality that is beyond measure. I am very proud of their hard work and dedication and I expect an exciting season ahead for us," said Coach Daniel Moise.

California Magic U13 Girls Sweep Tahoe Tournament

Submitted by Megan Shields



Photo provided

The California Magic U13 girls soccer team competed in the CUFA Tahoe Fall Classic taking first place in their age group. Teams participated in the tournament from across California and Idaho. The Magic girls finished 4-0 outscoring its opponents by a combined 14-2 goals. "The team played

extremely gritty soccer throughout the entire weekend," said head coach Michael Jacobs. "This is such a great group of girls to coach. The care, encouragement and trust they have for one another is an honor to be around. We are all so proud of them."

Acalanes shortstop spends summer on Great Britain Women's National Under 19 Softball Team

By Jon Kingdon



Photo Gint Federas

If you asked Acalanes sophomore Morgan Salmon "What did you do this summer?" you had best leave more than a few minutes to hear all that she experienced.

From July 5-22, Salmon played on the Great Britain Women's National Under 19 Softball Team. Since Salmon's father, Tom, was born in the United Kingdom, this provided Salmon with dual-citizenship.

Salmon's mother, Nicole, was a soccer player and Tom was a basketball player but Morgan's first love was softball, which she began playing at the age of 5 with the Pleasant Hill Baseball Association and has been playing continuously

as she enters her sophomore year in high school. Salmon also spends time as a swim coach for the Lamorinda Youth Association.

Softball is just beginning to become a major sport in England, says Salmon. "It's nowhere the level that it is in the United States but it is very competitive. Still, the majority of the players on the team were Americans and we had only 3-4 British players." Salmon was the youngest player on the team, which consisted of active and committed college players from schools like Yale and UCLA.

Robbie Robison, the head coach of the British team, is from

England, however all of the assistant coaches were Americans. Salmon appreciated the opportunity to work under different coaches: "I would say that every coach in softball is different in the ways that they teach the game and it was a cool experience. Our head coach did a good job, but he wasn't as tough as the American coaches."

Salmon played in 16 games overall against teams from the Netherlands, France, Ireland, Italy, Germany, Israel, Egypt, Nigeria and the Czech Republic, playing in England and climaxing with the final tournament in Starazano, Italy. "We did well, finishing sixth overall," said Salmon

It was more than just softball for Salmon: "It was a life changing experience. My social skills increased living abroad and talking to so many different people about their experiences, enabling me to connect to the rest of the world."

It was Salmon's mother who discovered that the British team was looking for eligible players from outside England. It was not the typical tryout to make the team, says Salmon: "I was asked to send them a video tape of me doing various softball skills from which they analyzed my hitting and fielding mechanics along with my strength

and conditioning." Salmon was chosen from over 500 applicants for one of the 20 spots on the team.

Of softball, Salmon says: "When you find something that you love and never want to *not* do it, it keeps you working and practicing. You just can't let it go. I really enjoy the speed and the intensity of the game."

Besides playing, Salmon is also a junior coach for the LMYA softball team because "I want to give back to the sport."

Salmon, who plays shortstop, has also played at various times for two club teams - Batbusters out of Stockton and the Suncats out of Gilroy and batted .600 last season as a freshman for Acalanes. Stepping in as a starter for Acalanes was a positive experience for Salmon: "The upperclassmen really welcomed me. It's a great experience playing with the team."

Acalanes head coach Victor Silva speaks glowingly of Salmon's talent and attitude: "As the season progressed, Morgan took over becoming the leader of the team. She was chosen all-league last season. She has the five tools to be a great player - hitting, hitting with power, throwing, fielding and running. Nobody works harder than Morgan. She takes ground ball after

ground ball and will hit about 150 balls. The upperclassmen saw how much she cared about the game and came to accept her. Morgan could be a great player in any sport and just recently had a growth spurt to 5'10" and has kept her coordination. Not to mention that she is also a straight-A honor roll student."

Salmon appreciates the help that she has received from her head coach: "He is amazing, the most beneficial coach I have ever had. He has been helping me since I was in the sixth grade, taking me to fielding and batting lessons. He has always been there for me and has been a constant help for me."

Besides Silva, Salmon cites three other coaches from her club teams: "Shawn Ching, who has helped be with my batting, Dave Gutierrez and James Jimenez, who have helped me with getting my name out to various colleges, though they can not contact me until my junior year."

Salmon has participated in various softball camps at Utah State, Iowa State and Clemson, which has provided her with a great deal of exposure to the Division I schools. Until then, the Acalanes Dons softball team will be the beneficiary of Salmon's talents.

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Sold-out LLLC Sweet Thursday event features author and civil rights activist

... continued from Page B3

Moving to Oakland in 1927 after their homeland was destroyed that same year by the massive New Orleans floods, the family lived with Soskin's grandfather in East Oakland. Her father worked in the hospitality industry, wearing a red bell cap while working in a hotel. "Our mothers were 50-cents-an-hour domestic servants, taking care of white people's homes and white people's children," she recalled.

Soskin's life as told in her memoir that includes entries from "CBreaux Speaks," the blog she created, is impossible to fit into a 60-minute presentation or a single news article. "You live 97 years, you've got lots of amazing stories," she said. But highlights from the night surely include her description of "trudging through polliwogs and swampland in an

area that is now probably where the Oakland Coliseum is," a brief but significant mention about visiting and being honored at the White House at the invitation of Michelle and Barak Obama, and her work with the National Parks.

Soskin was integral to the planning of the Rosie the Riveter/WWII Home Front National Historical Park in Richmond. Recreating the lost stories of African Americans and Japanese Americans who played vital, until recently unacknowledged roles in the war effort is Soskin's mission. She leads popular presentations at the park three days each week. "Make reservations; we're already booked through October," she suggested.

Reading a chapter from her memoir, Soskin said her life has been a "deliberate progression to

her personal political awareness now." Asked during an audience Q&A about education today, Soskin said, "I was educated before Prop. 13 when the public school system in California was the envy of the country. I did grow up with none of the African American literary heroes in my life. But because I had the same heroes my (white) friends were worshipping, I'm less separated out. I was also growing up in a time when the crushing weight of low-expectations was not something I was experiencing. There weren't enough African Americans in the public schools to make new rules against. We were expected to deliver as much as anyone else did. Children growing up now are living under the crushing weight of low expectations."


Lack of diversity, she said, diminishes the nation. "The diversity is where our richness comes. We are enhanced by those differences. To be all of who you are, no matter who you are, is the job of all of us," she said. Later, she added, "I am living in the future that we created back in the '60s. We made that together, all of us did, black and brown and yellow and straight and gay. That I get to give voice to that is such a privilege."

It's hard to resist using the word "divine" when referring to Soskin. To close the evening, this woman who has lived nearly a century and experienced unimaginable social, economic, political and personal transformation, whipped out a mobile device. Soskin, mouthing the words as they played, shared a

recording she made of "Sign My Name to Freedom," a song she wrote in 1964. Claiming that she has "lost my sense of future," but is enrolled in the grand improvisation that is life, Soskin has made a discovery. "Time is absolutely precious. Everything I do has to be real, truthful. I now can see the patterns I couldn't see when I was going through them." To Soskin, that there are other people sharing her purpose—to make the world better by reaching to higher points of truth—provides hope and means "we've got it right."

To learn more about Soskin or order her memoir, visit <https://www.signmynamebook.com/>. To see additional events offered at LLLC, visit www.lllc.org.

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Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 12 Issue 16 Wednesday, October 3, 2018



October Gardening Guide with Cynthia Brian. ...read on Page D14

Fire-resistant landscaping tips for front and back yards

By Jenn Freedman



Fire-resistant shrub: coffeeberry

Photos Jenn Freedman

Another scorching summer has led to record-breaking wildfires across California, including three major brushfires in Lamorinda. As residents contemplate landscape updates in the coming year, it is important to be aware of crucial guidelines that will aid in smarter landscaping decisions.

A firescape, or fire-resistant landscape, uses plants less likely to burn and strategically places them to resist the spread of fire to your home. Ac-

ording to the Cal Fire website, readyforwildfire.org, there are several fire-resistant landscaping tips to consider when designing your yard:

- Create fire-safe zones using stone walls, pathways, and patios.
- Cover bare spaces with rock, gravel, and gardens.
- While fire-proof plants don't exist, choose high-moisture plants that grow close to the ground and have low sap and resin content.

- Avoid continuous tree or shrub canopy adjacent to the home or other structures.
- Do not place medium to large shrubs beneath trees.
- Make sure to have a defensible space of 100 feet around your home, which is required by law and includes two zones: Zone 1 – or “lean, green, and clean zone” – extends 30 feet out from buildings, structures, and decks. Remove all dead plants/grass/weeds/debris from yard, roof, and gutter. Trim trees regularly, keeping branches at least 10 feet from other trees. Zone 2 – or “reduced fuel zone” – fills the remaining 70 feet (or to property line). Be sure to cut grass down to a maximum of four inches high, remove fallen debris, and create horizontal and vertical spacing between shrubs and trees.

... continued on Page D4



Fire-resistant tree: citrus

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| City | Last reported: | LOWEST AMOUNT: | HIGHEST AMOUNT: |
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| LAFAYETTE | 18 | \$780,000 | \$2,450,000 |
| MORAGA | 6 | \$475,000 | \$1,930,000 |
| ORINDA | 9 | \$1,050,100 | \$2,200,100 |

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.

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Previous Sale: \$1,360,000, 04-12-07
- 3319 Beechwood Drive, \$1,003,000, 3 Bdrms, 1252 SqFt, 1946 YrBlt, 8-31-18;
Previous Sale: \$565,500, 10-15-03
- 3303 Berta Lane, \$995,000, 3 Bdrms, 1296 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 9-6-18;
Previous Sale: \$46,000, 07-13-77
- 1216 Cambridge Drive, \$2,450,000, 4 Bdrms, 2565 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 8-31-18;
Previous Sale: \$119,000, 08-13-73
- 30 Circle Creek Court, \$780,000, 2 Bdrms, 1248 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 8-31-18;
Previous Sale: \$345,000, 11-20-01
- 985 Condit Court, \$1,325,000, 3 Bdrms, 1596 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 8-24-18;
Previous Sale: \$94,000, - -
- 3252 Greenhills Drive, \$1,860,000, 4 Bdrms, 3480 SqFt, 1986 YrBlt, 8-27-18;
Previous Sale: \$1,680,000, 08-24-16
- 963 Hawthorne Drive, \$1,475,000, 4 Bdrms, 1908 SqFt, 1941 YrBlt, 9-5-18;
Previous Sale: \$1,435,000, 03-30-15
- 3747 Highland Road, \$1,425,000, 4 Bdrms, 1827 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 8-27-18;
Previous Sale: \$660,000, 03-19-02
- 3155 Indian Way, \$1,750,000, 4 Bdrms, 2702 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 8-28-18;
Previous Sale: \$339,000, 07-31-87
- 670 Jennie Court, \$1,750,000, 4 Bdrms, 2433 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 8-29-18;
Previous Sale: \$1,150,000, 08-17-12
- 845 McEllen Way, \$1,480,000, 4 Bdrms, 2100 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 8-24-18
- 3445 Moraga Boulevard, \$950,000, 2 Bdrms, 768 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 9-6-18;
Previous Sale: \$900,000, 02-25-16
- 949 Oak View Circle, \$1,838,000, 3 Bdrms, 1904 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 8-28-18;
Previous Sale: \$1,100,000, 08-17-16
- 3336 Oak Court, \$1,248,000, 3 Bdrms, 1272 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 9-6-18;
Previous Sale: \$339,000, 07-07-92
- 3143 Old Tunnel Road, \$1,085,000, 3 Bdrms, 2013 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 9-4-18
- 3215 Sharon Court, \$1,335,000, 3 Bdrms, 1861 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 8-27-18
- 1226 Woodborough Road, \$1,487,500, 2 Bdrms, 2344 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 8-29-18

MORAGA

- 119 Ascot Court #6, \$490,000, 2 Bdrms, 1140 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 8-24-18;
Previous Sale: \$445,000, 08-18-06
- 625 Augusta Drive, \$855,000, 2 Bdrms, 1262 SqFt, 1976 YrBlt, 9-4-18;
Previous Sale: \$325,000, 05-07-99
- 350 Calle La Mesa, \$1,430,000, 3 Bdrms, 1974 SqFt, 1969 YrBlt, 8-30-18
- 315 Constance Place, \$1,625,000, 4 Bdrms, 2705 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 8-31-18;
Previous Sale: \$1,205,000, 06-02-03
- 651 Moraga Road #32, \$475,000, 2 Bdrms, 1144 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 8-30-18;
Previous Sale: \$275,000, 10-11-01
- 56 Parson Brown Court, \$1,930,000, 4 Bdrms, 3145 SqFt, 2000 YrBlt, 8-30-18;
Previous Sale: \$1,266,500, 09-19-01

... continued on Page D17





31 BROADMOOR STREET, MORAGA | OFFERED AT \$1,475,000

Prime Moraga Country Club location rarely available for-sale. This 2828 sq. ft. two story 4 bedrooms 2.5 baths home sits on an oversized 9000+ sq. ft. lot. The quiet, court setting is exceptional with its natural California beauty and adjacent open space. The home is just steps to satellite pool, nearby sports field & basketball court and walking distance to MCC Club House.

The comfortable master retreat is located on the first story offering all the right spaces including remodeled bathroom, two walk-in closets and separate home office. Take in lovely vistas of rolling Moraga hills from nearly every window and enjoy fall evenings on your spacious decks.

The open floor plan includes hardwood floors, vaulted ceiling and gorgeous gourmet kitchen with stainless steel appliances and stylish tile floors. Enjoy entertaining friends and family in your large living room with cozy fireplace.



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Fire-resistant landscaping tips for front and back yards

.. continued from page D1



Fire-resistant shrub: bearberry cotoneaster

Photos Jenn Freedman

Moraga-Orinda Fire District Chief Dave Winnacker reinforces the importance of firescaping: “MOFD encourages residents to consider fire resistant landscaping to increase the defensible space around homes and to make our community more resilient and prepared for a wildfire event. These passive measures significantly increase the survivability of homes and will dramatically slow the advance of fire, giving responders valuable time to suppress a fire before it spreads.”

While there are many choices for fire-resistant plants, examples of safer plants suitable for Lamorinda specifically include:

- Trees: western redbud, citrus, coast live oak, Carolina laurel cherry;
- Shrubs: aloe, coffeeberry, bush morning glory, pomegranate, Italian buckthorn, currant;
- Groundcover: bearberry cotoneaster, carpet bugle, candytuft, trailing South African daisy, fan flower; and
- Vines: cape honeysuckle, and potato vine.

For a comprehensive list of plants with favorable and unfavorable fire performance ratings, visit diablofiresafe.org/tolerance. Local nurseries, like Orchard Nursery in Lafayette, McDonnell Nursery in Orinda or the Moraga Garden Center, can also offer guidance on fire-resistant plants available locally. A plant’s fire resistance can be seriously compromised if not maintained: plants not properly irrigated or pruned have an increased fire risk.

Landscape contractors can offer guidance for firescaping your specific home as well as solid plant choices, such as Christian Ehrhorn of Misty Morning Gardens



Fire-resistant shrub: aloe

Photos Jenn Freedman

in Orinda. “When I design landscapes that require buffers from fire-prone areas, employing plant species and natives such as Coffeeberry and Cotoneaster are solid choices. When these types of low-growing dense species are planted in broad areas and combined with permeable hardscape elements like gravel or decomposed granite, they can act as a fire break.”

Plants not recommended for fire-prone areas generally have a low-moisture content, high percentage of dead matter/debris, and/or a high surface area to volume ratio. Examples of trees that fall into this unfavorable bucket include fir, spruce, and eucalyptus.

Ensuring we adhere to firescaping guidelines will safeguard our community into next summer and beyond.

OPEN SUNDAY 1-4PM



NEW THIS WEEK!



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206 Colt Court 4 Bed 2.5 Bath 3,275 Sq Ft \$1,875,000



713 Wee Donegal 4 Bed 3 Bath 2,284 Sq Ft \$1,050,000



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dave.schurhoff@compass.com
DRE 01834201



Mary Staten
925.890.6875
mary.staten@compass.com
DRE 01947354





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.

PENDING! | 219PaseoDelRio.com | Listed at \$1,425,000



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Feng Shui

Spring cleaning in the fall?

By Michele Duffy



Keeping surfaces tidy creates a more serene home experience so when you declutter cabinets, the surface mess can then easily be stored.

Photo provided

Most of us associate tidying up the areas where clutter accumulates in the springtime, however fall is equally relevant to let things go that no longer serve us and clutter definitely falls into that category. Feng Shui allows us to be more connected and aligned with nature by inviting the wisdom and healing nature offers into our homes. Clutter accumulates when energy stagnates and, likewise, energy stagnates when clutter accumulates. Clutter a symptom of energy drains, stuck, heavy or stagnant life force chi.

When you clear the physical, emotional and mental clutter, the stagnant energy in you and your environment releases and is free. Releasing the stuck energy may keep you in a holding pattern of exhaustion or procrastination, feeling overwhelmed, depressed or anxious.

Clearing clutter also gives you more clarity, better sleep, more vitality, greater joy, ability to move forward, welcome the new, weight loss, increased prosperity, more time, less cleaning and clearer thinking.

So like the sturdy trees around us that lose their leaves as a signal the fall season has arrived, you can also release and lose the clutter in your home that has accumulated over the year so far.

Since fall weather is much cooler, clearing out the garage is much more enjoy-

able in cooler temperatures. There is nothing more daunting or discouraging than trying to clean out the garage in 90-degree weather, so take advantage of the cooler air of fall, especially early in the morning, and get busy purging.

And with the fall and winter holidays coming soon, getting a head start on clearing our pantries, kitchen cabinets, dining room drawers, and other areas allows us to be better prepared to create a refresh on our upcoming holiday season. It also gives you a chance ahead of time to review all the moving parts, discard ratty dining room linens and make slight upgrades in your entertaining needs. Having plenty of time to plan intimate gatherings will truly allow you to entertain with grace.

Our clothes closets and dresser drawers need winterizing as well. Put the summer gear away and have the warmer sweaters ready to go. While you are winterizing your closets and drawers it's a great time to purge old clothes or things that no longer fit, or donate items to local charities. The same is true for clearing out the shoes and boots and perhaps donating the ones that no longer work.

Once the decluttering is under control you have a better idea of other needs you have, like perhaps painting your dining room, recovering chair cushions, hanging new drapes or whatever is calling your attention.

The finishing touches and creative flair will be far more fun to engage in with the heavy lifting of clearing out clutter already completed.

Feng Shui clutter clearing tips:

- Make sure the wind is not excessively strong or eerily still when you clear clutter. When the wind is excessively harsh, money can't accumulate, so it's a great time to get rid of dated documents, files and papers from your office.
- Choose a time of day when you're the most energized – not in your slump. Daylight and mornings are best of all.
- Wear yang colors of red, orange, pink or yellow clothing if possible – and avoid wearing black, grey or dark blue (yin colored) clothing.
- Take breaks. After 25 minutes you are free to stop for the day. If you feel like continuing, great!

Before you begin, start to shift the stagnation of the area by increasing the yang energy by turning on all of the lights, open the windows or door in that space – even if just a crack – and keep open until you finish, burn sandalwood or juniper incense and keep it burning the entire time. You can also use an electric diffuser with pure aromatherapy oils of sweet orange, neroli or bergamot. Clap and/or ring bells to wake up the space. Then play uplifting, joyful, loud-ish music and keep it playing while you clear.

Clear the clutter just 15-25 minutes at a time (you can set an alarm if you'd like). Take a break and then keep going only if you're inspired and excited to do so. Mark four boxes or bags as "Trash," "Recycling," "Donate," or "Transit to other house or business."

Consider whether each item lifts your energy, if you love it, if you use it, and if you need it.

... continued on Page D10





New Price!
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Feng Shui

Spring cleaning in the fall?



Creating spacious bookshelves requires ridding them of non-essentials and letting the natural beauty of organization shine. Photo provided

... continued from Page D8

If your answer is “no,” it’s clutter and has to go. After you finish for the day, empty the trash and garbage immediately outside of your home or business, take things in the transit box back to the room where they belong, and spray aromatherapy in the space or burn incense one more time.

Once a room is cleared, use aromatherapy cleaning products scented with pine, basil, lemon grass, tea tree, orange or rosemary to deep clean the walls, ceilings and floors of the room (delegate, if you wish). If you have carpeting or rugs, sprinkle a mix of baking soda with a few drops of aromatherapy oil of choice in rugs (also try Method or Mrs. Meyer’s cleaning products) and vacuum. Then admire your work and appreciate a real sense of accomplishment in taking care of your container and protecting your investment while creating healthy Feng Shui.

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| WEALTH & PROSPERITY XUN Wood Southeast Purple | FAME & REPUTATION Li Fire South Red Summer | RELATIONSHIPS Kun Earth Southwest Pink |
| FAMILY ZHEN Wood East Green Spring | HEALTH TAI JI Earth Center Orange, Yellow Brown | JOY & COMPLETION DUI Metal West White Autumn |
| KNOWLEDGE & SELF-CULTIVATION GEN Earth Northeast Blue | CAREER & OPPORTUNITIES KAN Water North Black & Dark Blue Winter | HELPFUL PEOPLE & TRAVEL QIAN Metal Northeast Grey |

The Bagua Map: Front Door

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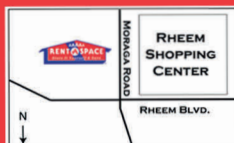
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Michele Duffy, BTB M.F.S. is an Orinda resident who, since 1999, enjoys creating “Space as Medicine” Feng Shui one space at a time, as well as hiking in nature, cooking, and spending time with her family; Canyon Ranch Feng Shui Master, International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



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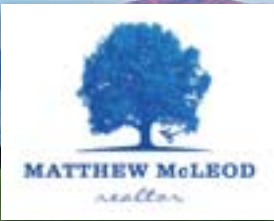
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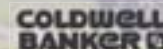
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Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for October

Born to be wild

By Cynthia Brian

"All journeys have secret destinations of which the traveler is unaware." ~ Martin Buber



The raging Gullfoss Waterfall blanketed by wildflowers.

Photos Cynthia Brian

Volcanoes, glaciers, highlands, prairies, lava flows, fire, ice. Nature untouched and untamed. Iceland.

Resting on the boundary where the North American and Eurasian Tectonic plates meet, Iceland is a country of intense volcanic eruptions, boiling hot springs, rushing rivers, venting steam, spouting geysers, powerful waterfalls, ice caves, aqua

blue lagoons, northern lights, and minimal sunshine. Most people live in Reykjavik, the capital, which has a population of only 338,378 and a median age of 38. Iceland, a country of fierce contrasts, is geared for the rugged and the youthful.

I visited this wild, wild country recently during the season of "the midnight sun" when darkness never comes and sleep is elusive. Twilight reigned supreme allowing for plenty of exploring and hiking adventures. Summer in Iceland was freezing cold with unpredictable blustery North Atlantic weather, gray skies, menacing clouds, bone-chilling rain, and gusty winds. Sunshine in any minimal amount was not on the agenda. My daily wardrobe included gloves, faux fur hat, layers of clothing, double mufflers, boots and a warm raincoat. Naturally, a bathing suit was always packed in my bag for that daily dip in a "secret" hot springs lagoon where the natives and visitors come to warm up.

As a traveler who dives into the culture of a nation, I wanted to indulge in the Icelandic cuisine. To supply fresh vegetables, hothouses operate year round using geothermal energy providing tasty and nutritious veggies to augment a diet of fish and meat. Dining out is expensive. The average price for a green salad was \$30. Everything I ordered at authentic local restaurants was unique and delicious with the exception of fermented shark which was the most disgusting, foul smelling, horrid tasting item I've ever experienced. I spent a full day sick to my stomach after just a few nauseating bites, yet this is considered an Icelandic winter staple.

... continued on page D16



The tallest dandelions ever.





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**PACIFIC
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Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for October

Born to be wild

... continued from Page D14



Carpeted in blue lupines as far as the eye can see.

Photos Cynthia Brian

What interested me most was the ever-changing unique landscape on this small isle bordering the Arctic Circle. I was mesmerized by the plethora of wildflowers, grasses, and moss carpeting the island. Flowers sprouted in the cracks of lava flows, spilled down the sides of volcanoes, and grew on the edges of the glaciers. While riding Icelandic horses (a small sturdy breed endemic to Iceland only) through the countryside, I saw miles and miles of blue lupines filling the fields as far as the eye could see. In the 1950s seeds from Alaskan lupines were scattered in a few regions of Iceland to help with erosion and soil improvement. They have now naturalized, much to the delight of visitors and the chagrin of the populace who have denoted lupines as invasive weeds that crowd out indigenous plants and stunt the growth

of hungry sheep. Acres of buttercups, wild perennial sweet pea, angelica, mustard, hawkweed, lady smock, Arctic sea rocket, meadowsweet, wild strawberry, gentian, Lady's mantle, marsh marigold, cornflower, yarrow, violets, and Iceland poppy hugged the ground. The dandelions grew to almost two feet tall and are harvested as a nourishing edible. Lichen and moss covered the fields of lava. The treasured Icelandic moss is said to be so delicate that a single footprint will take a hundred years to regenerate.

Autumn is an auspicious time to sow wildflower seeds in America. What makes a flower a wildflower? Basically, wildflowers grow happily without any human cultivation. They live and thrive within an interactive plant community. Many wildflowers are native to a certain region and when they freely reproduce in another area, they have naturalized.

If you'd like to introduce wildflowers into your landscape, decide on the species you want and buy seeds from a trusted company. Make sure the plants are not an invasive species. (You can always check the USDA plant database at <https://plants.usda.gov/java/>.)

Sow seeds directly into the ground or into containers. Make sure seeds are protected from winter chills and marauding birds.

Here's my list of beautiful wildflowers that will easily domesticate:

- Blackeyed Susans (*Rudbeckia*)
- Bluebells (*Mertensia virginica*)
- Buttercups
- California Poppy
- Columbine (*Aquilegia*)
- Coneflowers (*Echinacea*)
- Coreopsis
- Lupines
- Mustard
- Penstemons
- Wild perennial sweet pea
- Yarrow

If flowers can flourish in the extreme climate of Iceland, they will go wild in our temperate gardens. Create secret destinations that are born to be wild!

"Wild thing.

You make my heart sing.

You make everything.

Groovy!

I think I love you." – The Troggs



It is said that a footprint in the Icelandic moss will take over a hundred years to regenerate.

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Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

... continued from page D2

ORINDA

21 Cedar Lane, \$2,200,100, 4 Bdrms, 2761 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 8-31-18; Previous Sale: \$1,890,000, 11-23-16
 36 Dolores Way, \$1,100,000, 3 Bdrms, 1733 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 8-31-18; Previous Sale: \$430,000, 10-26-99
 7 Easton Court, \$1,200,000, 3 Bdrms, 1624 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 8-29-18; Previous Sale: \$880,000, 01-30-18
 11 El Dorado Lane, \$1,620,000, 3 Bdrms, 2528 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 8-30-18; Previous Sale: \$849,000, 05-29-03
 8 Fleetwood Court, \$1,316,500, 4 Bdrms, 2186 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 8-24-18; Previous Sale: \$695,000, 06-28-01
 66 Hacienda Circle, \$1,175,000, 3 Bdrms, 1790 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 8-27-18
 6 Lavenida Drive, \$1,680,000, 4 Bdrms, 2115 SqFt, 1953 YrBlt, 8-29-18; Previous Sale: \$1,680,000, 08-29-18
 9 North Lane, \$1,050,100, 3 Bdrms, 2212 SqFt, 1946 YrBlt, 9-5-18; Previous Sale: \$875,000, 09-30-15
 11 Paintbrush Lane, \$2,050,000, 5 Bdrms, 2738 SqFt, 2016 YrBlt, 9-4-18; Previous Sale: \$1,799,000, 04-07-17

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October Sale!

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25% off all Perennials, Trees and Shrubs
 Also on sale...benches, bistro sets,
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Cynthia Brian's October Gardening Tips

DISCOUNTED grass seed. October is the month to plant or refurbish your lawn. Since my favorite lawn seed is not sold in California, I have arranged for a special discount for my clients, readers, and radio listeners. Save 20 percent on Grass seed through Oct. 10, with code STAR20. Enjoy!

SPIDER WEBS strangling your plants? You might have spider mites. They make a spider web-like netting to protect themselves and their eggs and are almost impossible to see with the naked eye. Put a piece of white paper under the leaves of a plant and shake the plant. If a pepper-like substance falls on the paper you have spider mites. You can spray with a strong stream of water, use beneficial insects such as ladybugs or lacewings, or spray with NEEM oil. A chemical pesticide is not recommended as it kills the beneficials and not the spider mites.

RAKE leaves as they fall. As long as the leaves are not diseased, add them to your compost pile or to an area of your garden that could use extra mulch.

BUY spring bulbs now. Refrigerate tulips, hyacinths, crocus, and muscari for four to six weeks. Place in a mesh bag in the refrigerator away from any fruits that could emit ethylene gas, which will stunt blooms. Ranunculus and anemones do not need pre-chilling.

PLANT cool season vegetables including beets, carrots, lettuce, arugula, kale, cauliflower, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, peas, and onions.

CONTINUE picking tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, and squash for your meals.

HARVEST pumpkins, Indian corn, and gourds for Halloween and autumn décor.

DIVIDE clumps of daylilies, bearded iris, and clivia as they don't like to be crowded. Once divided, they will bloom more profusely.

GIVE new perennials a chance to settle in for a spring bloom by planting in October.

REDUCE irrigation as the weather cools. Reset timers or turn them off completely.

CHECK out fall colored deciduous trees and shrubs to add to your garden.

Happy Gardening. Happy Growing.
Cynthia Brian



An abandoned 4-wheeler in a wet field of buttercups.



Sprouting in the amazing formations of lava.



A variety of tiny blooms, including clover.



Wild times with Cynthia Brian, Skogafoss Waterfall, Katla Geopark, Iceland

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.

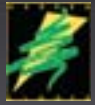
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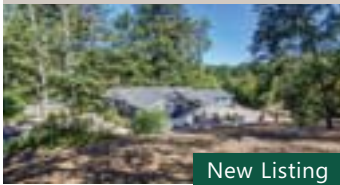
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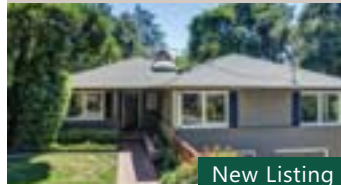
New Listing

1 Arbolado Court

Walk to town charmer beautifully updated thruout! Renovated kitchen, sparkling baths, spacious family room!

\$1,150,000

ORINDA



New Listing

32 Las Vegas Road

Updated traditional with views and privacy! Indoor/outdoor living, hardwood floors, French doors, master retreat.

\$1,395,000

ORINDA



3 Charles Hill Place

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

\$1,495,000

ORINDA



New Listing

4 Edgewood Road

Practically perfect in Orinda - Light, bright and open with 4 beds, 3 baths and a detached studio/office.

\$1,495,000

ORINDA

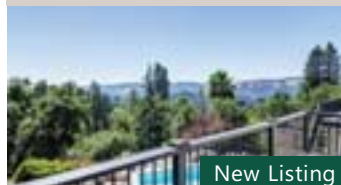


17 Valley View Lane

Classic & light filled 3 Bed/2.5 Bath traditional. Spectacular views on 1.10 acres with private backyard.

\$1,650,000

ORINDA



New Listing

64 El Gavilan Road

Great 5 Bed/ 3 Bath family home with spacious light-filled living in a functional 3364 sq.ft. floor plan.

\$1,750,000

ORINDA



63 Via Floreado

Incredible light-filled one-level living. Ideal easy living floor plan with large open living & dining rooms. Views too!

\$1,850,000

ORINDA



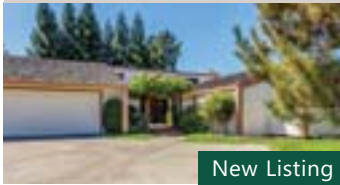
New Price

32 Orchard Road

Centrally located 4 Bed/3.5 Bath open floor plan home. Kitchen is a chef's dream! Expansive, relaxing deck and lawn.

\$1,927,000

ORINDA



New Listing

511 Hawkrige Terrace

Dramatic 2959 sq ft Orindawoods architect designed custom home. 4 bdrms + library, private level 1/2 acre. View!

\$1,930,000

ORINDA



New Price

1 La Senda

Extremely well maintained & updated 4 Bed/4 Bath OCC classic on gorgeous grounds. Large spaces inside and out.

\$2,425,000

ORINDA



New Listing

32 Candle Terrace

Very well maintained English country home. 4 Bed/4.5 Bath with a classic California style, designed by architect Patrick Anders.

\$2,999,000

MORAGA



30 Miramonte Drive

Beautifully remodeled townhome in Miramonte Gardens. This is the one you've been waiting for!

\$649,000

MORAGA



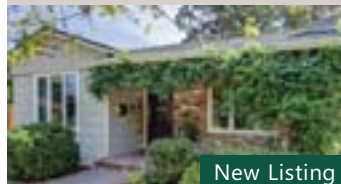
New Listing

117 Goodfellow Drive

Traditional, recently renovated, family home set on large 1.07 acre parcel with spectacular views.

\$1,295,000

WALNUT CREEK



New Listing

3287 Sugarberry Lane

Charming 3 Bed/2 Bath in desirable Woodland area. Updated kitchen. Great yard for entertaining!

\$938,000

PLEASANT HILL

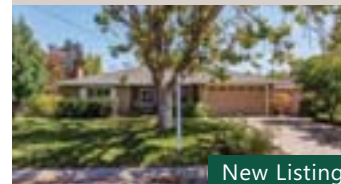


440 Ridgeview Drive

The perfect project! Demo is done, so bring your contractor and your creativity.

\$499,000

PLEASANT HILL



New Listing

1877 Maybelle Drive

Not typical Gregory Gardens! At the quiet end of Maybelle, sits this great 3 Bed/2 Bath home both inside and out!

\$875,000

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