

# LAMORINDA

WEEKLY

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Last year's Lafayette Res Run at Lafayette Reservoir. Photo Gint Federas

# Get set for annual Res Run this weekend

By Pippa Fisher

The Chamber of Commerce and the City of Lafayette are getting ready to host the 26th annual Lafayette Res Run for Education. This year the event, which attracts all ages and all levels of athletic ability – from serious runners to dogs in tutus – will be held on Sunday, Oct. 21. It is a family affair – grandparents running with grandchildren and everyone in between. There is something for all levels, including some elite runners. From the fast, flat

5K certified race for runners only (no baby strollers or dogs allowed) to the more challenging, hilly 10K certified race (leashed dogs and baby strollers permitted) which takes runners up around the reservoir, to the 2-mile run/walk for fun, which is not timed and is just for fun. The races start and end on Mt. Diablo Boulevard at Oak Hill Road. The staggered starts are at 8 a.m. for the 5K, 8:15 a.m. for the 10K and 8:45 a.m. for the 2-mile fun run.

Hilary and Bob Shipway are both local Lafayette runners with a long history of coaching at the middle school and CYO level. Hilary Shipway says she has been running in the event on and off for the last 18 years and enjoys seeing her students in the same race. She says the Res Run is one her favorites because of community: “It’s my hometown race, it’s easy to get to, it’s a great course and it’s one of the most scenic.”

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# Many speakers but not much controversy as Orinda adopts safe gun storage ordinance

By Sora O'Doherty



Free gun lock Photo Sora O'Doherty

A new law making it an infraction to fail to keep guns safely stored was unanimously adopted by the Orinda City Council Oct. 2 and will be finalized Oct. 16. Members of the public had asked the city to adopt two ordinances: the safe gun storage ordinance, and another governing gun dealers. The council, however, only moved forward on safe gun storage for several reasons. Primarily, existing regulations prohibit the sale of guns by businesses located in residential zoning districts and, while there are currently no businesses selling guns in Orinda, the council would be made aware of any such proposed business, which would require the

city to confirm that there were no applicable licensing or registration rules. Further, the city is well aware that when the city of Pleasant Hill tried to ban gun dealers, they were sued and were forced to settle – and that legal action was costly. Council Member Eve Phillips asked staff to explain how the Orinda ordinance would differ from the one adopted by the Town of Moraga. City attorney Osa Wolff explained that the Orinda ordinance was drafted to be very close to the Moraga law, which has not been legally challenged, with the exception that under the Moraga law, a second occurrence of unsafe gun storage is deemed a misdemeanor, while multiple offences under the Orinda law will remain infractions, enforced as code violations with escalating fines. The new law applies to guns in any residence and requires that firearms be stored in a locked container or disabled with a safety device. Many speakers supported the proposed ordinance. Diane Bianchi, representing the League of Women Voters, said that the League supports the ordinance as a health and safety measure. Shannon Pedroni said that if one death was prevented, the law will be worth it. She said that the risk of suicide

increases in houses where guns are kept. Julie Oliver said that the law would be good for high school students and middle school students. Stacey Crinks, the chair of parent education at Miramonte, supported the law and cited statistics, such as how 96 Americans are killed by gun violence every day. Dan de Busschere expressed concern about the liability of the city and the possibility of federal litigation. Cris Kniel said, “We don’t need more rules, we need more education.” He also found the ordinance to be redundant to state law, but Kelsey Wolfman, a mother of three, said that she has witnessed both incidental and intentional gun violence and in her opinion the ordinance takes the matter of gun safety a step further than state law. She also referred to the offer by the Giffords Law Center to find pro bono representation in the event that the city was sued. Several other speakers referred to the Giffords Law Center offer, and Wolff confirmed that the San Francisco law firm Farella Braun & Martel, LLP has offered pro bono representation. In response to questions from the council members, Police Chief Mark Nagel confirmed that the Orinda police department

provides education, collects guns and ammunition, and provides free gun locks. City Manager Steve Salomon said that staff will work on education regarding the new law, and pointed out that with advances in technology a gun owner can still quickly access a weapon, even if safely locked. Council Member Darlene Gee said it was a good measure, and pointed out that she has a CO2 detector because state law requires it. There is an epidemic of issues related to guns, she said. The council is trying to represent the values of the community, so she supported the law. Council Member Eve Phillips also supported the law because, she said, it is clearly what the community wants, although she did have concerns about potential liability. Mayor Amy Worth said that it was incumbent on the council to convey the importance of gun safety.

Lamorinda 2018 Elections

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 Moraga City Council Forum – Page A5  
 Lafayette City Council – Insert (Lafayette only) covering all five candidates

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<p>St. Mary's Road roundabout discussed – Page A4.</p> <p style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 2px;"><b>Fire Districts    A8</b></p> <p>MOFD board approves labor contract – Page A8.</p>	<p>Two Lafayette men receive award for green efforts – Page B1.</p>	<p>SMC men's soccer 'in the zone' – Page C1.</p>	<p>Celebrating the bounty of fall – Page D1.</p>



**Public Meetings**

**City Council**

Tuesday, Oct. 22, 7 p.m.  
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,  
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

**Planning Commission**

Monday, Nov. 5, 7 p.m.  
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,  
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

**Design Review**

Tuesday, Oct. 22, 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. 17, 7 p.m.  
AUHSD Board Room  
1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette  
www.acalanes.k12.ca.us

**Lafayette School District**

Wednesday, Nov. 14, 7 p.m.  
Regular Board Meeting  
District Office Board Room  
3477 School St., Lafayette  
www.lafsd.k12.ca.us

Check online for agendas, meeting  
notes and announcements

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**City postpones follow-up meeting with PG&E officials**

By Nick Marnell

Because of the unavailability of key community members, Lafayette postponed its meeting with Pacific Gas and Electric Company officials to discuss pipeline safety and other public frustrations with the utility. The meeting planned for Oct. 22 was rescheduled for Nov. 13.

Over much of this year community members, led by community group Save Lafayette Trees, lashed out at PG&E regarding their concerns over natural gas pipeline safety, tree removal on private property and lack of clear communication to the public over disruptive projects

like the closure of St. Mary's Road during the summer. In response to the complaints of his constituents, Vice Mayor Cam Burks organized a special city council meeting on Sept. 10 that included company officials and representatives from the California Public Utilities Commission to listen to the public and come up with answers and solutions to their concerns.

About 30 residents attended the meeting that Burks spearheaded and the vice mayor said that the dialog was frank and open but that a follow-up session was required for the company and the CPUC to

return to the public with solutions. Several community members leading the efforts regarding pipeline safety will not be available for the planned Oct. 22 session. Gina and Michael Dawson of Save Lafayette Trees will be speaking in New Orleans at a conference hosted by Pipeline Safety Trust, a pipeline safety advocacy group.

"Even if we were going to be there on Oct. 22, we still haven't had a discussion with PG&E since Sept. 10," Michael Dawson said. "We need PG&E to engage with us now, but nothing has happened. We are anxious to get this done and I

hope the company shares the same energy."

"Everything is being evaluated right now with respect to this engagement," said PG&E spokesman Jeff Smith. Burks promised that a member of the city staff will attend a meeting with representatives of Save Lafayette Trees and company officials prior to the Nov. 13 council meeting, but though Burks and Smith said a meeting was in the works neither could commit to a date.

**AUHSD board candidates offer their insights about education**

By John T. Miller



Nancy Kendzierski



Paul Derksen



Christopher Severson



Bob Hockett Photos provided

Incumbent Nancy Kendzierski, along with candidates Paul Derksen, Christopher Severson and Bob Hockett are vying for three open seats on the Acalanes Union High School District board. Lamorinda Weekly reached out to the candidates to answer questions about educational priorities, milestones and challenges faced by Lamorinda high schools. The following are the questions and answers.

**LW: What are your top three priorities (from Voter's Edge California website):**

**Kendzierski:** Support the District's strong academic focus and performance. Maintain fiscal stability. Work closely with parents and the community to continue and enhance their invaluable support.

**Derksen:** Maintain and enhance academic excellence for all students at all schools. Preserve and promote fiscal stability and responsibility. Create opportunities to recruit and retain qualified teachers and staff.

**Severson:** Special attention to student wellness. Maintain superior public education. Efficient deployment of scarce resources.

**Hockett:** Support programs which meet the needs of each and every one of our students. Support aggressive recruitment of top-notch teachers in the face of the growing teacher shortage. Promote fiscal responsibility.

**LW: What contributions to education are you most proud of?**

**Kendzierski:** I am proud of our efforts to continuously explore ways to improve the educational experience for AUHSD students, including new initiatives like block schedules, academy periods, wellness centers, new science standards and new graduation requirements. Excellence isn't maintained by standing still. Contributions like these are the result of a team effort over time and I'm very proud to be part of a board, administration, staff and community that work together for the students' welfare.

**Derksen:** As an educational advocate, volunteer, and proud

member of our community, I am committed to keeping our schools exceptional. Whether I volunteered in a classroom, ran a school auction, kept the books, or lead the organization, every thing we do to maintain and enhance the education of our students, is a win. I think we can't educate a whole child without the engagement of parents and communities. I've been fortunate to contribute in many ways and want to take it up to the next level by running for the AUHSD governing board.

**Severson:** I was elected to the OUSD board during a critical time and served for four years as board member as well as president. We faced financial and school climate challenges and the district was on much better footing compared to when I started in 2010.

**Hockett:** I am proud of my 33 years of high school teaching. As a student at Acalanes, I was fortunate to have many enthusiastic teachers with a deep passion for teaching and student learning, and great respect for, and rapport with, students. I tried to be that type of teacher. Having a positive impact and influence on my students for 33 years is a source of pride and humility.

**LW: What are your qualifications?**

**Kendzierski:** I have been an active parent and community volunteer since moving here in 1995, including 12 years on the executive boards of PTAs and as a Moraga Education Foundation director since 2005. As a volunteer school legislative representative, I gained significant knowledge of education legislation and school funding and worked with all the schools and partner districts in the AUHSD attendance area.

I have five years of experience on the AUHSD board. My areas of focus have been finance and legislation, plus more recently equity and wellness/mental health. My experience as a high-tech research manager helps me understand decision-making and fiduciary responsibilities and provide leadership on

financial issues. I have worked with stakeholders through task forces, community meetings, educational forums, and individual conversations to encourage collaboration and communication among all parties.

**Derksen:** For nearly 15 years I have volunteered in public schools in a wide variety of leadership positions including treasurer, president, auction chair, and education foundation director. Currently, I am PTA president for Las Trampas Creek

Council of PTAs, working with all PTA schools in the AUHSD attendance area. Our legislative efforts reach out to all public schools in the area. I believe in the value of a quality public education. I want to work with teachers, parents and the community to ensure AUHSD students receive the outstanding education they deserve.

**Severson:** I understand the role and have already succeeded as a school board member. I have a working relationship with our superintendent

and have collaborative contacts across the communities served by the AUHSD board as shown by broad endorsement support.

**Hockett:** My experience as a classroom teacher for 33 years, as well as the knowledge obtained as an AUHSD board member for the past four years.

**LW: What major difficulty faces the AUHSD and how do you propose to remedy it?**

**Kendzierski:** As part of attending a high-performing district, AUHSD students also face issues of high expectations, pressure and stress, and are not immune to problems with depression, suicide ideation, bullying, alcohol/drug use, etc. Starting this year, each school has a Wellness Center where students can drop in and receive many different kinds of coordinated support to eventually help reconnect them back to learning.

... continued on Page A16

**YES ON PROPOSITION 5 AND NO ON PROPOSITION 10**

Homeownership and private property rights are on the California ballot this November and the election outcome will determine our state's housing future. REALTORS® throughout the state are committed to protecting homeownership and are urging our clients, colleagues and fellow Californians to look closely at this year's ballot. The state's housing future depends on it.

**YES ON PROP 5**

The Property Tax Fairness Initiative (Prop 5) removes the unfair moving penalty for seniors, the severely disabled and disaster victims across the entire state while still ensuring they pay their fair share of property taxes.

- Seniors will have the freedom to downsize or move closer to family.
- The severely disabled will be able to move to more practical homes.
- Many disaster victims will now have the opportunity to move without being penalized.

Too many Californians feel like they will never be able to become homeowners. Eliminating the moving penalty for seniors, disaster victims and the severely disabled will create more opportunities for homeownership for first time buyers and young families.

**NO ON PROP 10**

Prop 10 will make California's housing crisis worse. It's the wrong solution for a state that desperately needs to create more affordable housing for middle class families. Seniors, veterans, both gubernatorial candidates - Democrat Gavin Newsom and Republican John Cox - and affordable housing experts all oppose Prop 10 because it will make housing less available and less affordable.

Prop 10 will:

- Let government dictate rental pricing for privately owned single-family homes.
- Reduce home values by more than 10%, according to MIT researchers; an average loss of approximately \$39,000 per California homeowner.
- Significantly restrict what single-family homeowners can do with their homes.
- Could allow bureaucrats to charge homeowners a fee for taking their home off the rental market.

The facts are clear: Prop 10 will reduce affordable and middle-class housing in California and drive down existing home values. For more information, please visit [www.housingforCalifornia.com](http://www.housingforCalifornia.com).

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For more information, please visit: [amcsr.org/cayes5no10](http://amcsr.org/cayes5no10)

**We urge California voters to vote Yes on Prop 5 and NO on Prop 10.**

Prop 5 will allow seniors, the disabled and victims of natural disasters to move to a home better suited to their needs without facing drastically higher property taxes. Prop 10, by allowing for the dramatic expansion in rent control, will actually decrease the availability of affordable housing because there will be no incentive for builders to create more housing.

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The Lafayette School District is currently seeking interested applicants for the Community Revenue Study Committee. The committee will analyze and explore current and potential revenue sources for the Lafayette School District.

Applications are available on the District website at [www.lafsd.org](http://www.lafsd.org).

## Acalanes Wellness Fair features new Wellness Center

Submitted by Graham Wiseman



Photo provided

The third annual Wellness Fair held Sept. 28 at Acalanes High School, organized by the Acalanes Parents Club, Wellness Committee led by Holly Nolan, Graham Wiseman, Kelsey Kobayashi and Sylvia Sheehan along with Acalanes parent volunteers, featured ARF Therapy Dogs, Smoothie Blender Bikes, Zumba Dancing, Kaiser Permanente Health Education on sugar in drinks, Ping Pong, Henna

Tattoos, Sleep Knowledge, Stress Balls, Self Defense, Contra Costa Crisis Center, Gratitude Wall, Nutrition, Pilates and, most importantly, a walkthrough of the new Acalanes Wellness Center for over 100 students.

The event was well attended during an academy period and showcased Acalanes parents' commitment to mental health wellness.

## Res Run this weekend

... continued from Page A1

The atmosphere is festive, with live music provided by Stanley Middle School and a Healthy Lifestyles Fair.

Dr. Christina Alba and her husband have had a vendor booth for Rivulet Chiropractic at the event since 2014. She says she and her husband have run the 5K with other members of the Chamber as well as some of their Orange Theory workout buddies and BodyZing trainers.

"The most enjoyable aspect of the Res Run for Education is the community coming together to celebrate," says Alba. "It's like a health and wellness block party really early in the morning! I love the fact that beneficiaries are our local schools so it makes it a total family affair."

It is a time to mingle with neighbors and friends, even for those who are just spectating, and there are plenty of those – usually as many as enter the event.

Vice Mayor Cam Burks says he and his family are big fans of the event.

"My wife, Julia, and two daughters, Hannah and Sadie, who attend Stanley and Acalanes, are looking forward to running together as a family this year," he says.

Burks says that he is grateful to the Chamber of Commerce for hosting this event. "Not only does it directly benefit our local schools, it represents a special community gathering and annual family-oriented tradition that exemplifies Lafayette's hometown character. It's something we look forward to every year."

The race benefits local schools and the programs and series of the Chamber. Participants can choose which school they want to help at registration. Previously funds raised have been used to provide instructional assistants, field trip funding and technology in the classrooms.

Registration for the event is now open online at <https://lafayettechamber.org/resrun/>. On-site registration will open at 6:30 a.m. Sunday, Oct. 21.



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**Moraga**

**Public Meetings**

**City Council**

Wednesday, Oct. 24, 7 p.m.  
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

**Planning Commission**

Monday, Nov. 5, 7 p.m.  
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

**Design Review**

Monday, Oct. 22, 7 p.m.  
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

**School Board Meetings**

**Moraga School District**  
Wednesday, Nov. 13, 7 p.m.  
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School Auditorium  
1010 Camino Pablo, Moraga  
www.moraga.k12.ca.us  
See also AUHSD meeting page A2

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

**Town of Moraga:**

www.moraga.ca.us  
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**Chamber of Commerce:**

www.moragachamber.org

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**St. Mary's Road roundabout project discussed with public**

By Vera Kochan



Simulation of the two roundabouts as presented at the recent meeting. Photo Vera Kochan

**T**own representatives and project team members invited the public to attend another community informational meeting Sept. 27 at Saint Mary's College to hear updates regarding the St. Mary's Road and Rheem Boulevard/Bollinger Canyon Road roundabouts. The public was given a choice to attend a 4:30 p.m. or 6:30 p.m. presentation, both of which covered the same information.

The purpose of the meeting was to answer many of the questions and concerns collected from comment cards filled out by attendees from the July 2017, meet-

ing. On hand to address the issues were Moraga Public Works Director/Town Engineer Edric Kwan, Moraga Chief of Police Jon King, Moraga Senior Civil Engineer and Project Manager Shawn Knapp, Kimley-Horn and Associates Consultant Project Manager John Pulliam, and Kimley-Horn, and Associate Consultant Roundabout Design Engineer Sean Houck.

The largest concerns the project team received from last year were regarding outreach, safety, alternatives and finance. The request for more public outreach and communication is what led to last month's

update meeting. Safety questions about whether there are existing issues at these intersections were addressed, alternative intersection improvements instead of roundabouts were explored, and concerns about project costs were examined.

King discussed safety issues, noting that visibility was a major issue at the St. Mary's/Rheem intersection. The drop in road elevation momentarily leaves drivers wanting to turn left from Rheem Boulevard onto St. Mary's Road without a clear view of oncoming traffic. A collision at the current intersection is much more hazardous than a side-swipe at a roundabout. Drivers at the St. Mary's/Bollinger intersection often don't come to a complete stop before joining the flow of traffic, and there is potential for tragic results. "When you add to the mix pedestrians, joggers and bicyclers at both intersections," King said, "a roundabout will reduce collision points."

Alternatives studied included leaving the intersections as is, installing two large roundabouts at both intersections, installing traffic signals, or adding a large roundabout at St. Mary's/ Rheem with a mini-roundabout at St. Mary's/ Bollinger. The roundabout/mini-

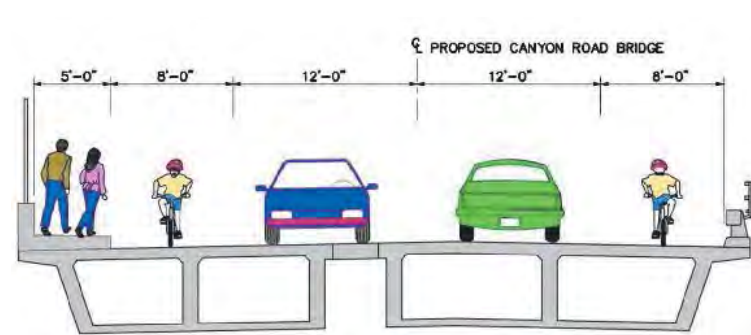
roundabout concept showed a marked savings in safety cost, reduction of time spent waiting at intersections, reductions in operation and maintenance cost and a slight decrease in emissions. While the initial capital cost was slightly higher than other alternatives, the accumulated costs compared to all of the proposed alternatives was substantially lower over time.

At this point, funding from the Contra Costa Transportation Agency is \$450,000. Lamorinda Fee and Finance Authority is \$140,707. No Town General Funds will be used. The CCTA and LFFA funds can't be repurposed for a different project and the town will seek grant funds to complete the project. Project costs have been dropping since the early stages of the project in 2009 when options included a bridge over the creek near Bollinger (\$11 million) or two full-sized roundabouts (\$7 million). The latest incarnation of one full-sized roundabout and one mini roundabout (\$350,000 for final design and \$2.6 million to construct) ended the meeting on a positive note.

The project team plans to make its presentation to the city council on Oct. 24.

**New Canyon Bridge design and construction update**

By Vera Kochan



TYPICAL SECTION - BRIDGE COMPLETE

Image provided

**I**mpressive plans for the construction of the new Canyon Bridge were revealed to the Moraga Town Council during its Oct. 10 meeting. Heading up the presentation were Edric Kwan, Moraga's public works director, Shawn Knapp, the town's senior civil engineer, and Jack Walker, lead design engineer from NV5.

The old bridge, built in 1936, was already scheduled to be replaced due to a biannual Caltrans inspec-

tion. In 2013, the town was awarded a \$3.2 million grant from the Highway Bridge Program (HBP).

In 2014, Caltrans authorized phases that included preliminary studies, environmental impact, right-of-way and preliminary engineering. That same year, public works held its first community meeting covering issues such as speeding, funding, environment and pedestrian/cyclist access.

... continued on Page A15

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**MCN Sponsors Town Council candidates' forum**

By Vera Kochan



The Moraga Citizens Network sponsored a Moraga Town Council candidates' forum Oct. 3 at Holy Trinity Cultural Center. Unlike the Sept. 17 forum held in the Moraga Library, questions to the candidates were submitted by MCN subscribers.

Current Moraga Mayor Dave Trotter, Mike McCluer and Steve Woehleke are running to fill two council seats in November's election. The event was moderated by Chris Laszcz-Davis and began with each candidate allowed two minutes for opening comments.

One of the questions brought up involved infrastructure and services. The concern is for the current status of storm drains, and the long-term plan, road maintenance, and a community gymnasium.

Woehleke feels it's important to minimize costs by bringing in industry experts and volunteers who live in the community to better predict what the annual costs will be. Maintenance is crucial. He does not advocate a community gym. "All the fa-

cilities are already available and exist outdoors in Moraga," he said, adding that he's not in favor of the town financing one.

McCluer wants to be proactive, stating, "We need to have funds for road replacements and then maintain them." He feels that the town has the ability to save on expenses and apply the savings to infrastructure. McCluer supports a community gym.

Trotter said, "The town budget can probably deal with ongoing maintenance costs for storm drains, but doesn't have a budget for major capital deficits such as repairs." He would like to apply surplus from property tax receipts toward infrastructure. Trotter wants funds from Palos Colorados to pay for a community gym and to partner with the Moraga School District.

The Rheem Theatre in recent years has gone through closures and reopenings. The candidates were asked if they support community ownership.

... continued on Page A15

**Jeanette Fritzky Tribute Walk planned for Oct. 27**

By Vera Kochan

A tribute walk honoring late Council Member Jeanette Fritzky will be held at the Moraga Commons Park, 1425 St. Mary's Road, Moraga. The 1.6-mile roundtrip walk along the Lafayette-Moraga Trail on Saturday, Oct. 27, will benefit the American Cancer Society. The goal is to raise \$20,000 and increase awareness about lung cancer.

Fritzky's family honored her wishes for a private Celebration of Life on Oct. 4. The Town of Moraga also chose to honor Fritzky by flying the town flags at half-mast Oct. 4-5.

She was a much admired public figure and many of Fritzky's constituents wanted to express their appreciation for her and her devotion to Moraga. After approaching Fritzky's family, the decision was agreed upon to hold a fundraiser. Fritzky's passion about educating the public to the risk of lung cancer in Asian women who have never smoked, made the American Cancer Society an easy choice as the walk's beneficiary.

Sponsors for the walk include The Jeanette Fritzky Tribute Walk Committee, the Town of Moraga, Moraga Scout Troop 234, Moraga Chamber of Commerce and the Moraga-Orinda

Firefighters Association.

Edy Schwartz, who passed away Sept. 8 after losing her battle with brain cancer, will also be honored at the event.

**THE JEANETTE FRITZKY TRIBUTE WALK**  
 benefiting  
 The American Cancer Society

**OCTOBER 27, 2018**  
 MORAGA COMMONS PARK 12:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.  
**BEATING CANCER, ONE STEP AT A TIME**  
[www.JeanetteFritzkyTributeWalk.com](http://www.JeanetteFritzkyTributeWalk.com)

**Event Schedule**

- 11 a.m.** Registration (free) opens at Moraga Commons Park (look for the signs)
- 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.** Complimentary food and beverages (donated by generous Moraga businesses)
- 12:30 p.m.** Opening flag ceremony by Scout Troop 234
- 12:35 p.m.** Speakers
- 12:45 p.m.** Walk begins
- 3 p.m.** Walk ends

For more information, to register and/or donate visit [www.jeanettefritzkytributewalk.com](http://www.jeanettefritzkytributewalk.com).

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MORAGA \$1,490,000

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 Shirley Sutton | 925.285.6555  
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ORINDA \$749,000

9 Birch Court | 2bd/2ba  
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MORAGA \$689,000

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## Orinda

### Public Meetings

#### City Council

Tuesday, Oct. 30, 7 p.m.  
Library Auditorium, Orinda Library  
26 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563

#### Planning Commission

Tuesday, Oct. 23, 7 p.m.  
Library Auditorium, Orinda Library  
26 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563

#### Citizens' Infrastructure

#### Oversight Commission

Wednesday, Nov. 14, 7 p.m.  
Sarge Littlehale Community Room,  
22 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563

#### School Board Meetings

Orinda Union School District  
Monday, Nov. 12, 6 p.m.  
Regular Board Meeting  
8 Altarinda Rd., Orinda  
www.orindaschools.org  
See also AUHSD meeting page A2

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

#### City of Orinda:

www.cityoforinda.org  
Phone (925) 253-4200

#### Chamber of Commerce:

www.orindachamber.org

#### The Orinda Association:

www.orindaassociation.org

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letters@lamorindaweekly.com

## Discover & Go offers free BART rides to select venues through year's end

By Sora O'Doherty

The Contra Costa County Library is once again offering free BART access for use with Discover & Go reservations through December. County residents 18 or older can submit requests for BART tickets, which will be mailed to cardholders' homes within five business days of the request. The offer is limited to one request per household (for a \$15 BART ticket) and is available while supplies last.

The promotion, a partnership between 511 Contra Costa and the library, is intended to encourage the use of public transportation to visit museums.

"The Bay Area is full of amazing venues that include cultural learning experiences and fun," said County Librarian Melinda Cervantes. "This partnership with 511 Contra Costa is making travel easier and helping our environment."

Since its inception in 2011, Discover & Go has met Contra Costa County Library's goal of providing access to culture inside and outside the library by partnering with over 90 northern California museums, and has made over a million cultural visits possible for library cardholders; 511-Contra Costa's Trip Planner feature can be used to

plan Discover & Go trips.

The following venues are valid destinations for the BART ticket promotion: Asian Art Museum, California Academy of Sciences, California Historical Society, Children's Creativity Museum, Chinese Historical Society of America Museum, Contemporary Jewish Museum, de Young Museum, Exploratorium, Habitot Children's Museum, International Art Museum, Lawrence Hall of Science, McConaghy House (Hayward Area Historical Society), Museum of Art and Digital Entertainment, Museum of the African Diaspora, Oakland Mu-

seum of California, UC Berkeley Art Museum, Pacific Film Archive, and the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts.

To sign up for BART tickets, view your October, November or December reservation on your Discover & Go account, click "Retrieve Pass" then click on the 511 banner on your Discover & Go pass to request your BART ticket.

For more information about the program, contact the Contra Costa County Library at ASK@ccclib.org or (800) 984-4636.

## Visiting Czech student preparing for Orinda Czech celebration

By Sora O'Doherty



Tabor Meetings 2018. From left: 2017-18 Visiting Student Marek Vybiral, Former Visiting Student and Tabor President of the Orinda-Tabor Sister City Committee, Michal Vašek, Orinda Vice-Chair of the Orinda-Tabor Sister City Committee, Slavka Ruzicka, Orinda Union School District Board Trustee Cara Hoxie, Orinda Vice Mayor Inga Miller, 2016 Host Mother Eileen Fitz-Faulkner, Orinda Mayor Amy Worth, and 2016-17 Visiting Student Adam Kraus. Photo provided

Marie Ružicková is enjoying her time at Miramonte High School as a visiting student from Orinda sister city Tabor, even though she is homesick. Actually, Ružicková isn't exactly from Tabor, but a really small village about 20 kilometers from Tabor, where she goes to school. Her mother, an assistant at a school for autistic boys, brings her to Tabor each day by car and train where she attends a French high school. Her father makes puppets, and, as a hobby with a friend, performs puppet theater.

In addition to attending school, she is also helping children learn Czech dancing for the local celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Czech Republic, which will be hosted on Oct. 21 in the Founders Auditorium of the Orinda Community Center by the Orinda-Tabor

Sister City Committee. In addition to Czech dancing, there will be Czech food, beer and wine. Doors will open at 10:45 a.m., and from 3 to 4 p.m. there will be a screening in English of the documentary film, "Accidental Army."

At Miramonte, Ružicková says that she is one of the few students who is free to enjoy many electives, so her course work includes U.S. History, English, French, Art, Drama, Photography, and Public Speaking. "High school in the Czech Republic is not so competitive as here," Ružicková said. "I really see how people want to have all A's and take advanced placement classes."

Ružicková has been in Girl Scouts for 11 years, and now leads a small group of Scouts who meet every week for 2-3 hours. Ružicková finds Girl Scouts to be a

little bit old fashioned and says her group prefers to do things a bit differently, pursuing some programs about current affairs and global issues.

Ružicková arrived in Orinda on Aug. 10, and will return to the Czech Republic in January. She is staying with a host family who has a sophomore student at Miramonte and another student at Orinda Intermediate School. When she returns home, Ružicková would like to change her school. She'd rather go to a high school in Prague. She is thinking of pursuing a career in teaching, or perhaps journalism, and may seek to study political science in college. The main difference between education in the Czech Republic and here is that in the Czech Republic, where there are many universities, third level education is completely free. Students usually enter university knowing what they want to major in. The level of difficulty in getting in to university depends on a student's preferred major. Acceptance is not based on high school grades,



Marie Ružicková, 2018-19 Visiting Czech Student

Photo Sora O'Doherty

but upon an exam plus a personal interview. The biggest university is in Prague, and most of Ružicková's siblings have gone there.

Ružicková has taken BART into San Francisco several times, and found the city to be diverse, with varied neighborhoods. The ocean appeals to her, but she misses her close friends at home, with whom she can talk about personal matters.

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## One way or the other, Rheem easement will reopen

By Sora O'Doherty



The gate at 53 Rheem.

Photo Sora O'Doherty

Orinda City Manager Steve Salomon asked the city council on Oct. 2 to once again continue action on accepting the easement at 53 Rheem Blvd. and promised that on Oct. 16 he would either return to them with an agreement with the property owner, or he would then advise them to accept the easement. The council agreed to do so.

Both the property owner and the neighboring residents are now represented by legal counsel and the neighbors appeared ready, if reluctant, to proceed with litigation over the issue if necessary. Salomon said that there had been meetings with the property owner and his attorneys. "We believe that the goal of getting the trail open can be met," he said.

If the city can reach an agreement with the property owner, Kent DeSpain, Salomon said the city attorney will then draft the agreement and the easement would then open "with relatively little pain." Still, he noted, "the devil is in the details;" but he estimated that there is a reasonable chance of agreement. The option of accepting the easement at the Oct. 2 meeting was available, but Salomon believed that it would result, potentially, in creating more acrimony. He acknowledged that there was urgency, and pledged to work very hard to get agreement.

Attorney Eric Shaffer of Bowing & Shaffer was hired to represent the homeowners who support the trail easement being opened. He argued that the easement creates a public good and that there had been a fair amount of legal and actual notice. The easement has been used for decades, he said, and children cannot walk on Rheem or Glorietta to get to Glorietta Elementary School. Shaffer said that the homeowner had recognized the easement when getting planning permission for his home. "Representations to the planning commission are important," Shaffer said, referring to DeSpain's promise to the commission to keep the easement open.

John and Allison Bannisadr, longtime residents who lived for 13 years on Parkway Court, said that they cared deeply about the easement, which John Bannisadr used to mow so that children could use it. Jon Cooper urged the council to accept the easement. He said that he had offered to pay for the homeowner's privacy fence and landscaping, but that the homeowner had not responded to his offer. Alexis Miller, a mother and an attorney, said that she has done a fair amount of legal research and believes that the city's interpretation of the law is correct. "We don't want to litigate, but we will," she said, if necessary.

... continued on Page A13

## New principal at Orinda Intermediate School

Submitted by Carolyn Seaton



From left: Board Members Cara Hoxie & Jason Kaune, OIS Principal Stacy Wayne, Board Member Julie Rossiter, Board Vice President Hillary Weiner, and Board President Carol Brown.

The OUSD board of trustees approved Stacy Wayne as the next principal of Orinda Intermediate School, effective immediately. Wayne, who has been the OIS associate principal since 2011, earned a bachelor's degree in international relations from UC Santa Cruz and a master's in educational administration from San Francisco State University. She previously served for 10 years as a middle school language arts and history teacher and for an additional three years as a teacher leader on special assignment.

Wayne's selection as OIS principal leaves a vacancy in the associate principal position. Toni McShane, revered former middle school administrator in Lafayette, will continue supporting the leadership team at OIS until a replacement is found.

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# Fire Districts

## Public Meetings

### Moraga-Orinda Fire District

Board of Directors  
**Wednesday, Nov. 7, 7 p.m.**  
 Go to the website for meeting location, times and agendas.  
 Visit [www.mofd.org](http://www.mofd.org)



### ConFire

Board of Directors  
**Tuesday, Oct. 23, 1:30 p.m.**  
 Board Chamber room 107, Administration Building, 651 Pine St., Martinez. For meeting times and agendas, visit <http://alturl.com/5p9pu>.



## Split MOFD board approves three-year labor contract with firefighters union

By Nick Marnell

The Moraga-Orinda Fire District came within one vote of a near meltdown.

A deeply divided MOFD board narrowly approved a three-year labor contract with the firefighters union Oct. 3 and staved off an impasse and a likely unfair labor practice charge filed by the union had the agreement not been passed. The board voted 3-2 in favor, with the swing vote coming from Director Steve Anderson, who had previously balked that the agreement was overly generous to the union.

"It was political suicide," Anderson said of his vote to approve the agreement. "But it was the best thing to do for the district. We needed that so that MOFD can move on, and the chief can do the job he wants to do." Anderson is fighting a hotly contested Division 3 race against a union-backed candidate and an independent.

The agreement includes a 13 percent wage increase over the three years, a portion of which is a 5 percent equity adjustment, used to address how far district employee wages had drifted below comparable compensation in

the market. "It was a way to catch up to the median," said district lead negotiator Jeff Sloan.

"I am still in shock," said Division 3 independent candidate Red Smith. "I guess it was a parting gift to labor from the three board directors that are either retiring or being challenged for their board seats."

Kathleen Famulener, one of the two directors who is retiring, voted for the agreement. Famulener has been in favor of pay increases for the rank and file since the beginning of negotiations, to the extent that she protested the funding of the district pension stabilization trust in order to have more money available for firefighter compensation. Outgoing President Brad Barber, hoping to bring the community together, cast a yes vote despite his reservations. "The financial condition of the district is a serious problem," Barber said. "We don't have enough revenue and we have too much pension liability."

Director Craig Jorgens, who voted no, disagreed with the comparables used to arrive at the equity adjustments, insisting that salary and benefits – not just sala-

ry – should have been included in the formula. Jorgens also called the negotiation process broken, complaining that the public only saw information once the tentative agreement was reached, allowing not enough time for citizen input.

The other no vote was cast by John Jex, the director who based his action on what he often cites as the tenuous financial condition of the district. "Our general fund reserves are totally inadequate," Jex said. According to the latest audited district financial statements, MOFD reports an unfunded pension and retiree health care liability of \$68 million and a general fund reserve of nearly \$5 million.

With such a bitterly divided final vote, neither management nor labor engaged in any high fives or victory laps, and reactions were muted, if any. "We looked forward to having this contract settled so we can move on to other things," said Vince Wells, Local 1230 president. Fire Chief Dave Winnacker declined to comment on the agreement.

The new labor pact runs through June 30, 2021.

## Fire chief dismisses two employees for unauthorized political activity

By Nick Marnell

Two Moraga-Orinda Fire District aides acted without authorization or approval by looking up the addresses of candidates running for seats on the district board and conducting exterior hazard abatement inspections on their property. On Sept. 26, at the Orinda home owned by Division 4 independent candidate Lucy Talbot, the aides posted a 30-day notice to abate fire hazards, which required a large-scale removal of trees.

"I was flabbergasted," Talbot said. "It would have required thousands of dollars of expense. As a candidate, I want to be a model citizen, so I reached out to other board members and took it to the chief."

Fire Chief Dave Winnacker went to Talbot's house the next day and apologized to her for the

actions of his employees. Talbot said the chief did a walk-through of her property and told Talbot that her home was absent any major violations.

The chief immediately terminated the two employees. He said that the aides were attempting to help the candidates by making sure their homes were not in violation of any ordinance. The employees inspected the homes of all six new candidates but issued a notice only at Talbot's.

"It was an act of complete insubordination," Talbot said. "I am convinced there was malice intended."

Local 1230 President Vince Wells said he did not know either of the two district aides, who were hourly, unrepresented employees. "I take offense that there is an assumption that, because

it's a candidate we don't support, any of our members would have been behind that. That's not how we do business," he said.

Winnacker released a statement afterward. "I am personally and professionally embarrassed by this unauthorized action and understand the violation of the public trust that it represents. We have conducted a top to bottom review of recent inspections and the policies and procedures that govern the district aides who conduct this work. We are conducting reset training and enhanced oversight to ensure this does not happen again. I apologize to those affected and to the community. This action does not reflect MOFD's culture or our commitment to those we serve."

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## Police Departments

### Moraga Police Department Incident Summary Report Sept. 25 - Oct. 8



Alarms	16
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	10
Traffic	68
Suspicious Circumstances	2
Suspicious Subject	11
Suspicious Vehicle	9
Service to Citizen	57
Patrol Request/ Security Check	19
Supplemental Report	12
Welfare Check	6

### Vehicle violations

Abandoned Vehicle	Country Club Dr./Canyon Rd. 40 Block Wandel Dr. 2100 Block Ascot Dr.
Excessive Speed	Rheem Blvd./Chalda Way Canyon/Country Larch Ave./Wandel Dr. Carter Dr./St. Marys Rd. Larch Ave./Roberts Ct. Larch Ave./Ross Dr. Morgaga Way/Eastwood 7/Eleven Parking lot Alta Mesa Dr./Moraga Rd. Rheem Blvd./Park St. Country Club Dr./Canyon Rd.
Reckless Driving	Walford Dr./Rimer Dr.
Revoked License	Ascot Dr./Moraga Rd.
Traffic Hazard	Campolindo High School Ascot Dr./Moraga Rd. St. Marys College

### Other Criminal activity

Animal Cruelty	Cedarwood Dr./Rimer Dr.
Fraud False Pretenses	1300 Block Camino Peral
Identity Theft	700 Block Augusta Dr.
Petty Theft	Police Department Safeway
Vandalism	Sanders Ranch Rd./Camino Pablo
Pablo	1100 Block Moraga Way 100 Block Miramonte Dr.

### Nuisance to the Community

Disturbance-Domestic	1000 Block Larch Ave.
Loud Music	800 Block Camino Ricardo
Loud Noise	10 Block Merrill Dr.
Loud Party	2000 Block Ascot Dr. 2000 Block Ascot Dr. 2000 Block Ascot Dr. 10 Block Miramonte Dr. 30 Block Miramonte Dr. Corliss Dr./Ashford Pl.
Public Assembly Check	St. Marys College Starbucks

### Other

Accident Property	Corliss Dr./Lynwood Pl.
Death Non Criminal	20 Block Miramonte Dr.
Mentally Ill Commit	St. Marys College
Other Non Criminal	1200 Block Rimer Dr. 1000 Block Larch Ave.
Run Away Juvenile	Campolindo High School
Violation Restraining Order	700 Block Augusta Dr.

### ORINDA POLICE

### Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report Sept. 23-Oct. 6

Alarms	45
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	5
Traffic	98
Suspicious Circumstances	9
Suspicious Subjects	10
Suspicious Vehicles	13
Patrol Request/ Security Check	45
Service to Citizen	48
Supplemental Report	12
Vacation House Check	31
Welfare Check	7

### Vehicle violations

Auto Burglary	Wilder Sports Fields (2) Nations
Hit And Run Misdemeanor	100 Block Spring Rd.
Petty Theft From Vehicle	Wilder Sports Fields (2)
Reckless Driving	Wildcat Canyon Rd./Camino Pablo Moraga Way/Glorietta Blvd. Camino Sobrante/Orinda Way 20 Block Loma Vista Dr.
Traffic Hazard	600 Block Moraga Way Orchard Rd./Valley Dr. 100 Block Ardith Dr. 100 Block Orchard Rd. 10 Block Camino Pablo 40 Block Camino Sobrante 30 Block Orinda Way

### Other Criminal activity

Battery	Moraga Way/Glorietta Blvd. Santa Maria Way/Camino Pablo
Fraud False Pretenses	500 Block Tahos Rd.
Misc Burglary	70 Block Brookwood Rd.
Petty Theft	Safeway
Residential Burglary	70 Block Brookwood Rd. Wilder Sports Fields
Warrant Arrest	Safeway

### Nuisance to the Community

Accident Injury	Calvin Dr./Calvin Ct.
Accident Property	Coral Dr./Moraga Way 10 Block Shawnee Ln. Monte Vista Rd./Camino Pablo Camino Pablo/Monte Vista Rd.
Barking Dog	10 Block Crest View Ct. 100 Block Glorietta Blvd. 10 Block Ellen Ct.
Disturbance-Domestic	Pleasant Hill Rd./Deer Hill Rd.
Disturbing The Peace	Camino Pablo/Eb Sr 24 10 Block Crest View Dr.
Drunk In Public	Rite Aid
Harassment	10 Block Estates Dr.
Loud Music	Lomas Cantadas/Tres Mesas Meadow View Rd./Glorietta Blvd.
Loud Noise	200 Block Orchard Rd. (3) 10 Block Frogs Leap Way Dalewood Terrace/Dalewood Dr.,
Loud Party	100 Block Camino Sobrante Sundown Terrace/Silver Oak Terrace,
Public Assembly Check	10 Block Theatre Sq.
Run Away Juvenile	10 Block Edgewood Rd.
School Assembly Check	300 Block Camino Pablo MHS (4) Orinda Intermediate School Sleepy Hollow School (2) Del Rey School
Trespass	El Ribero/Camino Sobrante



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# MOFD Division 1 race features stark differences between candidates

By Nick Marnell



Nate Bell



Greg Baitx

Photos provided

Independent candidate and Moraga businessman Nate Bell runs against union-backed Greg Baitx, a Moraga resident and firefighter with the East Contra Costa Fire Protection District, for the Division 1 seat on the Moraga-Orinda Fire District board of directors.

Each candidate explained his position on these current MOFD issues.

**Given the recent firestorms in Napa and Santa Barbara, how much more of the MOFD budget should be allocated to fire prevention as opposed to fire suppression, where most of the dollars now go? What initiatives would you propose?**

Baitx agrees that fire prevention is a major part of the fire service and the district needs to look at how it can improve its prevention efforts. "Fire suppression and prevention work hand in hand. I don't believe in taking from one to give to another," he said.

"It is sad that out of a \$25 mil-

lion budget we allocate next to nothing for fire prevention strategies, unlike some of our neighboring fire districts," Bell said. He would look for every opportunity to increase district fire prevention programs and saluted Fire Chief Dave Winnacker for his creative efforts in this regard.

**Two other potentially conflicting district budget priorities are paying down the unfunded pension liability and paying firefighters competitive salaries. What would you do to accomplish both goals?**

Bell rejects the notion that the only valid comparable in determining firefighter compensation is the salary level of other fire districts, as fire districts vary tremendously in operations and their ability to fund future liabilities. He noted that there are more than 60 applications for a current open MOFD position for a paramedic-firefighter. "I don't understand why MOFD cannot avail itself of

the supply-demand dynamic when it is in its favor, just as any private sector business would," Bell said.

Baitx stressed how lucky Moragans are to be protected by the members of the Moraga-Orinda Fire District, who are held to some of the highest standards in the county. "We have to stay competitive with other departments with respect to salaries. We can still pay down our unfunded liability and stay competitive with other departments," he said.

**Residents of the district have always demanded superior service. During the recession MOFD reduced daily staffing to 17 personnel from 19, which included one ambulance in Orinda that was staffed full time with firefighter-paramedics. How will you work to restore the pre-recession staffing levels?**

"Returning our staffing level to 19 is a main priority for me," Baitx said. He said there are many avenues to explore for accomplishing this, including a federal grant, and taking a closer look at where money is now being allocated.

Bell said that the board should rely on the fire chief for this decision, though he noted that it is very expensive to increase staffing. He explained that the MOFD employee headcount yields a figure of about \$450,000 per head, as opposed to about \$90,000 for the Moraga School District. "In a fire

district that has less than 10 percent of its calls for fire and the vast majority for medical emergencies, I believe any staffing should reflect those realities," he said.

**Lafayette threatened to secede from the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District over what it claimed was inequitable service for the amount of money the city paid to the district. Many in Orinda feel similarly about MOFD: that Orinda pays more for the exact same district services than Moraga does. How do you address that longstanding complaint?**

Bell is open to reviewing the claims of concerned Orinda citizens, and he notes that the terrain of Orinda is much more challenging and causes more wear and tear on the district equipment. "Having said that, I am a candidate to represent Moragans and would need clear and convincing evidence, once considering all variables, as to the inequity," Bell said.

"I have not been part of, nor have I heard of any conversations claiming inequitable service. As a resident of Division 1, and hopefully the elected representative for Division 1, I will be the voice for Division 1," Baitx said.

**Candidate summary**

"My motivation for running is to protect service levels that I feel are under attack by our current board," said Baitx, who offers

that he brings much needed fire service experience that his opponent lacks, and stresses that he is a fiscal conservative who has a personal stake in the district's finances, including paying down the long-term liabilities while balancing adequate service levels.

Baitx dismisses accusations that there is a conflict of interest with his being an East County firefighter, as he will not be able to make any decision that will affect his pay, benefits or district. "My opponent will bring nothing new to the board. We currently have directors with business backgrounds. The product of their business minds is the rebuilding of Fire Station 43 that is well over budget and 18 months behind schedule," Baitx said.

Bell said the district has continued to outspend its resources, pointing to its recent labor contract, which he says strikes him as being tone deaf to the reality of an unfunded liability of \$68 million. "Given the optimistic 7 percent discount rate used to derive that liability, I believe the unfunded liability is closer to \$100 million," Bell said. "Think about that. We have some 55 employees and a \$25 million annual budget and as much as a \$100 million unfunded liability. I see this as a serious threat to the well-being of our community. We can address this burden without cutting services, but it will not be easy."

# Two Orindans compete to succeed Brad Barber in MOFD Division 4

By Nick Marnell



Michael Donner



Lucy Talbot

Photos provided

Independent candidate and Orinda businesswoman Lucy Talbot runs against union-backed Michael Donner, a retired firefighter, for the Division 4 seat on the Moraga-Orinda Fire District board of directors.

The candidates explained their positions on current MOFD issues. (See article on Division 1 for the questions in their entirety.)

**On fire prevention:**

Donner recommends adding one additional full-time fire prevention officer to help address the increasing demands due to high fire danger and the new construction in the district because the current staffing level of 1.5 makes it challenging to run a comprehensive, effective fire prevention program.

"I would like to see an emphasis on prevention programs such as defensible space, weed abatement, notification and strategic evacuation plans that are shared with the community while collaborating with Public Works, Orinda Police, EBMUD, Cal Trans and PG&E. In addition we need to have a senior citizen outreach program," Donner said.

"Fire prevention is a very cost-effective way to lower risk of a fire-storm in our community," Talbot said. She explained that the Circle Oaks community, which survived the Napa firestorm, spent approximately \$330 per year per household over 12 years to make the community Fire Safe, with most of the funding coming from outside grants.

She pitched for a prevention program that could support elderly or fixed income households who require expensive tree removal by having the district do the work and putting a lien on the home until it is sold, with a caveat. "This program requires cash up front for which MOFD has effectively no budget," Talbot said.

**On salaries and pension liability:**

"The firefighters union is spending tens of thousands of dollars funding their three union candidates to take over the MOFD board to vote in favor of their hand-some wages and benefits," Talbot said. She does not agree with union statements that the \$68 million unfunded pension and medical liability will take care of itself as real estate values rise because property taxes go up and down with the economy and with natural disasters as well. "We don't want reduced services, layoffs and salary cuts similar to what Orinda experienced in the 2008 recession. We need to build reserves while the economy is good," Talbot said.

Donner credited the board for having made great advances in lowering district liabilities. In 2022, once the pension obligation bond is paid off, he proposes to focus on paying down the unfunded liability while addressing his No. 1 priority which is emergency service.

Believing that MOFD firefighters deserve to be compensated similarly to surrounding departments of their size, Donner said it was fortunate that the three-year contract was voted in by the district board. "Now that a new contract has been approved, I can focus on my No. 1 goal which is public safety," he said.

**On staffing levels:**

"Restoring staffing levels from 17 to 19 is a very important issue to me," Donner said. He noted that the minimum one-hour ambulance roundtrip transport time from Station 45 leaves downtown Orinda vulnerable for any type of 9-1-1 service. "I would like to restore staffing with two firefighter-paramedics on an ambulance in Orinda, which allows for an engine crew to respond to fire or other emergency needs of the district including another medical emergency," he said.

"There are other ways to improve service than just adding

more people," Talbot said. She explained that the district already has increased the number of available ambulances from two to four since the layoffs and moved the dedicated ambulance to central Orinda, in addition to the one in central Moraga. She proposes to learn from other districts which post ambulances where the greatest need exists, not just in a station waiting for a call.

**On municipal inequity:**

Talbot said it was her understanding that the community was never given a public document disclosure by the Orinda City Council, any committee or county agency that provided a quantified analysis of the breakdown of expense allocation between municipalities. "Until this question is addressed, there will always be doubt in some taxpayer's minds about fair ex-

pense allocation," Talbot said.

Donner said the distribution of county assessed taxes is not the responsibility of the MOFD board. He noted that there are two fire stations in Moraga and three in Orinda, and also hundreds of Orinda residents that are serviced by Station 41 in Moraga as their first due engine or ambulance. "This subject has been reviewed by two separate panels and no new information has been revealed," Donner said.

**Candidate summary:**

"The recent fires throughout California have proved that preparation and planning for fire is critical," Donner said. He feels strongly about educating the community on how to prepare for a wildfire and said he has been working with school districts on this subject for many years. "Additionally, I

would like to educate our community on how to maneuver garage doors during power outages," he said. "There were several fire fatalities in the Atlas and Tubbs fires in the North Bay less than a year ago. Many of those fatalities occurred in their garages."

"I'm an active member of the community whose business experience managing finances and budgets for my own \$12.5 million, 33-year-old company, as well as experience working with the public sector on budgeting and sales of emergency communications equipment, prepares me to add value serving on the board," said Talbot, who stressed she will not be swayed by organizations attempting to influence her to further their own agendas and thus will not accept contributions from any organization.

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# Incumbent looks to hold off two challengers in MOFD Division 3 race

By Nick Marnell



Steve Anderson



Steven Danziger



Red Smith Photos provided

Steve Anderson, director since 2012, is in a heated race for the Moraga-Orinda Fire District Division 3 board seat. His opponents are union-backed Steven Danziger, a retired fire administrator, and independent Red Smith, a technology executive.

Each candidate presented his views on current district issues. (See article on Division 1 for the questions in their entirety.)

### On fire prevention:

Anderson pointed out over a dozen fire prevention programs the district has put in place under his watch, including multiple-agency fire exercises, coordination with PG&E and EBMUD to reduce the existing fire loads, and public workshops detailing homeowner responsibilities, mitigation efforts and drought-resistant planting. He said he took on the water district over the substandard water flow in district fire hydrants. "I have personally met with EBMUD officials to address this issue," Anderson said.

Danziger said that national guidelines call for five positions in prevention, but MOFD presently employs 1.5, causing dramatically increased workloads. "As director I will use a balanced approach to prevention and suppression while maintaining adequate staffing to respond to any emergency," he said. "My knowledge and experience in the fire service and government will be a benefit in these efforts."

Smith faulted the current board for approving a new labor contract which provides a 13 percent salary increase to MOFD personnel over the next three years despite an estimate of 9 percent property tax growth over the same period. "So the exiting board just spent more money than they have which means that the difference has to be made up by taking from other parts of the budget, including fire prevention. If elected, I will have to review updated financial reports to determine if fire prevention can even be a line item," Smith said.

### On salaries and pension liability:

According to Danziger, the new labor agreement took a major step in ensuring that MOFD employees are paid at a rate comparable to other Bay Area entities and will be a major factor aiding the recruitment and retention of highly trained fire personnel. Paying down the unfunded pension and benefit liabilities is a major issue with public safety institutions nationwide, Danziger said, but as director he will continue to support the district's efforts to aggressively fund those obligations. "After 2020 and the payoff of an older bond the board can take action to address paying off all unfunded liabilities in 20 to 30 years," he said.

"First, it is very important to point out for MOFD taxpayers that all of the money in question - current compensation and fu-

a six year period where the staffing level ballooned to 19 per shift, which contributed mightily to our unfunded pension liabilities, and the cost of that to taxpayers was unsustainable so it was lowered back to 17 in 2014," he said. Smith believes that all staffing decisions should be made based on workload and not on the fictitious notion of pre-recession staffing levels.

With the approval of the new labor contract, MOFD has virtually unabridged management rights, Anderson said, which means the fire chief can develop new and innovative organizational, equipment, technology and personnel opportunities. He stressed that these concepts will put MOFD in the forefront of 21st century fire and emergency processes and procedures and will reduce the district total operational and personnel costs.

In 2013 the board agreed to restore two positions when the economy improved, according to Danziger, and the economy improved but the positions remain vacant. "Not staffing two dedicated ambulances has a ripple effect of potentially increasing response times, loss of fire protection during ambulance transports, strain on automatic aid and delayed implementation of programs like fire prevention and education," Danziger said. He is strongly in favor of restoring those positions using a federal grant and reserve funds that are available for essential services.

### Or municipal inequity:

Anderson said that the concept of a fire district is exactly that: all buildings, equipment and personnel serve the district-at-large, and that the district has not and does not track the source of each dollar and on what item that dollar is spent. He said the only other option for Orinda is consolidation with the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District. "Consolidation means Orinda would lose local control to the county board of supervisors. A separate Orinda would lose Moraga's historic ambulance rights - the primary reason the district was formed," he said.

tion means Orinda would lose local control to the county board of supervisors. A separate Orinda would lose Moraga's historic ambulance rights - the primary reason the district was formed," he said.

The district encompasses three municipalities but it is one district, said Danziger, who noted that there are three stations in Orinda and two in Moraga. He said that all residents of the district pay 1 percent of assessed valuation in property taxes and conceded that Orinda does pay more than Moraga, but that is a result of higher valuations. "It is my belief that this issue of equity has taken up enough of the board's time and is no longer an issue without more compelling supporting documentation," Danziger said.

"As a candidate for the only MOFD division that spans both Orinda and Moraga, this topic is particularly a challenge for the Division 3 director," Smith said. "That said, taxpayers should note that MOFD expenses are likely just one of many items where Orinda and Moraga citizens split fees and costs and, in order to truly evaluate what is equitable, all of the other joint costs should be part of the analysis."

### Candidate summary:

Danziger dismissed the anti-union rhetoric that he said is being used to scare voters and stressed that he was proud to have the support and confidence of the MOFD firefighters. "When I accepted their endorsement I told them that it would be under the condition that I am going to do my homework on the issues and will make informed, independent decisions in the best interest of the community, while being fiscally responsible, accountable and transparent. I intend to build bridges with others and represent everyone equally in order to make the community as safe as possible," Danziger said.

... continued on Page A15

**Nobody knows what it takes to protect our community like the men and women who answer the call.**

With our fire risk at an all-time high Moraga-Orinda needs leaders who don't just talk about fire and EMS safety ... we need leaders who have lived it.

*"Fiscal responsibility, transparency and a steadfast commitment to the highest level of fire and emergency medical service. Greg, Michael and Steven will be strong and independent voices for your safety."*

*-Your Moraga-Orinda Firefighters*



## GREG BAITX

Active front line East Contra Costa firefighter

18 years' experience & commitment to fire and EMS

Committed to fiscal responsibility



## MICHAEL DONNER

Retired firefighter with 30 years on the front lines

Certificate of Valor for Cypress Structure response

Understands importance of preparation



## STEVEN DANZIGER

20 years as an administrator with Oakland Fire Department

Also worked with finance & city manager

Prevented Workers' Comp fraud & abuse saving taxpayers millions

**On November 6, support leaders that walk their talk.**  
For Moraga-Orinda Fire District Board

# BAITX | DONNER | DANZIGER

Paid for by International Association of Fire Fighters Local 1230 Political Activity Committee

# Men's Hair by Galina

1038 Second Street, Unit A  
Lafayette

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## Letters to the Editor

**Teresa Gerringer for Lafayette City Council Support for Gerringer**

I am writing to heartily endorse Teresa Gerringer's candidacy for the Lafayette City Council. She will bring fiscal discipline, thoughtfulness, dedication and a wonderful ability to listen to, really hear, and bring consensus among diverse stakeholders. I saw this in action for 8 years when we served together on the Lafayette School District Governing board – nobody was as strong a representative as she was. From the day Teresa move here 22 years ago when she saw a need she jumped in offering her time and talents to help improve Lafayette; her involvement goes far beyond the school community. She made substantial contributions to LMYA swimming, Lafayette Methodist Church, the Lafayette Library and Learning Center, Lafayette Community Foundation, Springbrook Swim Club and Las Trampas Inc Center for Disability Services.

Teresa's knowledge of our community is deep and her commitment is unparalleled. I would encourage my fellow citizens to vote Teresa Gerringer for City Council.  
Ann Appert  
Lafayette

I am writing in support of the candidacy of Teresa Gerringer for Lafayette City Council.

I have known Teresa for over 25 years and have served with her on the Lafayette School Board where I found her to be an advocate for education and a collaborative colleague. Through her work on the Lafayette Community Foundation Board for the past 17 years and the Lafayette School Board for the last 19 years, she has shown an unselfish ability to work for the common good. She will serve as an excellent liaison between our City and our schools.

Teresa played an integral role in the conception and construction of the Lafayette Library and Learning Center, raising money to build it, and serving on the first Foundation Board to govern it. Lafayette citizens are fortunate that Teresa is once again willing to give of her time to make our community a better place for all of us.

Please join me in voting for Teresa on Nov. 6.  
Mary McCosker  
Lafayette

**Beg to disagree about two council candidates**

I'm replying to Ms. Ferree's Letter to the Editor "The differences

in Lafayette City Council Candidates" from October 3. I'm not a retired psychologist. I consider myself a critical observer of local politics. I too went to the Lafayette Homeowners Council meeting and listened to each candidate's presentation followed by the Q&A. I completely disagree with Ms. Ferree stating that two of the five candidates were confrontational per her professional diagnosis as a retired psychologist. In her opinion, they seem to have not much respect for the process. I perceived them as very confident. They have experience collaborating with the citizens of Lafayette on essential issues like conflict of interest on public committees and controversial housing developments. They have volunteered their time successfully on councils, commissions, and boards. If being confident about current problems, being unafraid to state how you voted (even if you were in the minority at times), and forthcoming about your beliefs is disdainful, then showing disdain may become my new campaign slogan.

I prefer that any day over candidates who talk in vague platitudes in order to be liked and make the voter feel like they are a Gutensch. Ms. Ferree likes the idea that the other three candidates advocate for collabora-

tion and increased participation by community members. I don't know if Ms. Ferree attends City Council meetings regularly. If she does, she should know that unfortunately very few of the many concerned Lafayette citizens actually participate in these meetings. Because of that, the Council does not always get the variable input they need to make better-balanced decisions. I prefer a diverse City Council made up of members who do not all agree with each other and/or City staff 100% of the time. Just like the citizens of Lafayette do not all agree all the time. To me, that seems like a nicely balanced representation for our Council.

Please vote for Ivor Samson and Susan Candell!  
Anouschka Wardy  
Lafayette

**Who will serve best on the Lafayette City Council**

At Lafayette's Candidates Night, two candidates, Ivor Samson and Susan Candell, made personal attacks on their fellow candidates. We deserve better than that.

Samson tried to embarrass newcomer Dave Smith for stating his opposition to the 315-apartment project for Deer Hill. He said Smith would need to recuse himself and thus his constituents

would have no voice on the project. Samson neglected to point out that Candell, in numerous writings on Next Door, indicated her own objection to the very same project.

And, as the former lawyer for PG&E, Samson has already recused himself, and will continue to recuse himself, from our second most controversial issue - PG&E's wide-ranging cutting of trees and strategic replacement of neglected gas pipelines. By his own standards, Samson's and Candell's constituents would also have no voice on our two most critical issues.

We need positive, collaborative leadership. Teresa Gerringer and Karen Maggio offer just that. As women and community leaders, each has a proven history of bringing together disparate, sometimes passionate viewpoints and building coalitions to address challenging issues before our city. We need team builders who believe in a bright future for Lafayette, envisioned not by tribal instincts but by a common vision. For a stronger, cohesive Lafayette, Teresa Gerringer and Karen Maggio deserve our community's support at the ballot box. Please take action and give them your vote!

Carol Singer  
Lafayette

... continued on Page A12

# 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

**Nathan BELL**



Division 1, South Moraga  
www.Bell4MOFD.com

**Lucy Talbot**



Division 4, Central Orinda  
www.LucyTalbot4MOFD.com

**Red Smith**



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

## Uniquely qualified for council

It is not often that Lafayette voters can add the only uniquely qualified candidates, Susan Candell and Ivor Sansom, to fill much needed positions on the City Council. The current council members do not have engineering backgrounds, or legal expertise. Susan is a highly qualified Nuclear Engineer, with degrees from MIT and Cal. She is currently a Circulation Commissioner, Community Foundation Board Member and President of the Springhill Valley Homeowners Association. She has deep, local understanding of Environmental Impact issues, i.e. health and traffic safety problems. Ivor is a lawyer. But not just any lawyer. He has also been Lafayette Citizen of the Year, California Lawyer of the year, and a "three term" Lafayette City Councilman in prior years. He was also a founding member of the Lafayette Homeowners Council and has served on the Planning Commission.

As long time residents, Sara and I have worked on Lafayette issues with each of the candidates. We know them to be independent thinkers, who have invested their time tirelessly to understand the needs of our fellow citizens. And more important, taken action on those needs. They have certainly earned the trust and support of many of us in the community. Our city will almost immediately need the professional eye of Susan regarding new or updated Environment Impact Reports. If Mayor Tatzin is correct in predicting legal action against the city, it will be imperative that Ivor be right there, to play a significant City Council role. Timing is everything. This election is about selecting the right talent to build the strongest, formidable City Council to face, with confidence, the significant challenges before us. Vote Candell and Samson. We really need them!

Sara and Ron Brown  
Lafayette

## Candell and Samson for council

We write to endorse Susan Candell and Ivor Samson for Lafayette City Council. All of us taxpayers and voters know that Lafayette will be different in five years. AB 2923 is law, but we don't know how its implementation will unfold. Steve Falk has resigned as City Manager, but we don't know who will replace him. Whether those changes are for better or worse depends directly on the City Council we elect next month. As the saying goes, we live in interesting times.

Susan and Ivor share three crucial qualities. First, as a highly accomplished engineer and attorney respectively, they are professionally qualified to make sense of the complicated land use choices, and the countless overlapping regulatory and financial constraints, that Lafayette will face. Second, they are loyal to no one but the Lafayette voter. They fought an uphill fight to enact our new Conflict of Interest ordinance, to ensure that every voter in Lafayette knows that our City acts solely for us and our best interests. Third - just what are those interests? Reasonable people may disagree on every issue, and Lafayette's homeowners' associations are famously strong-willed, but that doesn't make us wrong. Indeed we're still blessed with founding members of our community, the generation who built the Lafayette we love and preserved it all these years - those folks' voices must be heard in any discussion about the future. Susan and Ivor have the long robust histories of service to our community, and the established relationships with Lafayette HOAs, to understand what a "best outcome" looks like through the lens of our values and priorities.

Our City Council's job is to

get that best outcome for us from every opportunity and challenge that lies ahead. For that we need Councilmembers with the professional acumen to watch our back; the transparency and integrity to bargain for our side only; and the local wisdom to know what Lafayette voters want. On November 6, please vote for Susan Candell and Ivor Samson.

Cathy Beier, Secretary; George Burt, Vice President ; Dr. Barbara Persons, Director; Peter Yun, Director  
Acalanes Valley Homeowners Association

## Trotter and McCluer for Moraga Town Council

Of the three candidates running for Moraga Town Council, Dave Trotter and Mike McCluer are the clear choice for those of us who value open space and want to preserve the look and feel of Moraga.

McCluer is new to the planning commission but prior to that as a private citizen he participated in the hillside/ridgeline project and supported stricter regulations.

I didn't always support Trotter. As a planning commissioner in the 1990s he favored the Palos Colorados project which I and other open space activists opposed. We also opposed his first Council campaigns. But that was then and this is now. I haven't changed much but Dave has. Beginning with his successful Council election in 2006 he's become a strong proponent of open space issues in Moraga. The recently approved Hillside/Ridgeline Ordinance that he personally initiated five years ago is the latest example of his commitment to protect Moraga from unwise development.

Why is open space so important? Because our remaining open space and semi-rural landscape are the essence of Moraga. In the past I've called our community an oasis in an East Bay gradually choking on housing density and traffic. In the 40+ years I've lived here, I've seen gradual change in Moraga. That will continue, but it's vital that we have council members who will stand up to the developers who are still banging on the gates, clamoring to build, build, build on lands that can't handle building and ought to be left alone.

I don't normally support long-term politicians, but in this case I'm making an exception. Trotter has served Moraga well on the Council. He's been adaptive and creative and has accomplished much, but he still has one more BIG THING to do: Bollinger Canyon is threatened with a project that requires old-style massive grading to deal with the same landslide soil conditions that prompted the Moraga Open Space Ordinance (which I helped pass). Based on their records, Trotter and McCluer offer the best hope for extending MOSO-type protections to Bollinger Canyon. They deserve your vote.  
Richard Immel  
Moraga

## Clarification regarding signage for Moraga Council candidates

I've received some questions from members of the Moraga community regarding signs that have recently appeared asking voters to vote for myself and Steve Woehleke.

These signs were put up by a third party, but have given some the mistaken impression that Mr. Woehleke and I are running together as a slate. I want to state for the record that I'm running as an independent candidate, not as part of any slate.

I strongly encourage all Moraga voters to review the priorities and qualifications of all three candidates and vote for whomever they conclude will most effective-

ly represent the best interests and values of Moraga.

Thank you,  
Mike McCluer  
Candidate for Moraga Town Council

## Woehleke for Moraga Town Council

We are writing this letter to express our enthusiastic support for Steve Woehleke for Moraga Town Council.

We have known Steve and his family for a number of years and they have lived in Moraga for 31 years. Steve has extensive volunteering service having devoted 5 years on the Moraga Design Review Board; 10 years on the Planning Commission and 5 years on the Hacienda Foundation Board.

Steve brings 33 years of experience as an engineer where he gained extensive expertise in project management and organizational competency in decision making as it relates to project management. Steve also holds an MBA in Finance.

We live in a town with limited financial resources, witness the razor thin budgeted surplus expected this fiscal year. At the same time we also face substantial unfunded liabilities relating to needed storm drain repairs (\$25+ million) as well as a \$6 million (and growing) unfunded pension liability.

Recent history with the Town's approach and overall strategy relating to the temporary Canyon bridge is not encouraging and is of concern - initial cost estimate of \$2 million with a September 17th disclosure that the costs are now \$3.7 million and perhaps more?

Moraga's single largest immediate challenge is to address our needed storm drain system repairs. A funding plan and a prudent, cost effective and a thoroughly vetted project management approach needs to be developed - Steve has the engineering skill set to help the Town achieve these goals.

Steve will also act as a fiduciary for the Town. Witness the discussion at the candidate's night presentation where the other two candidates were in favor of evaluating now the building of a community gym (and adding to the Town's budget, the associated costs of carrying it) when we also face more significant resource needs for the storm drains and pension issues. At this meeting, Steve had the honesty and integrity to say "no" and not be in favor of a gym at this time (but not ruling it out permanently). We both are all in favor of adding facilities that would enrich our community but not when we cannot presently afford it. We need fiduciaries on our Town Council that say "no" when it is appropriate. We need the members of our Town Council to make better decisions - we need Steve in that room to help make this happen.

Moraga needs Steve's skills on the Town Council and we enthusiastically encourage all of Moraga to vote for Steve!  
Edward F. and Denise K. B.  
Silicani  
Moraga

## Orinda City Council

### Support Amy, Dennis and Nick for Council; Nathan, Lucy & Red MOFD; Christopher AUHSD

We are indeed fortunate there are several outstanding candidates running for local offices in this November's election. Please join me in voting for these capable community members!

Orinda City Council  
· Amy Worth  
· Dennis Fay  
· Nick Kosla  
MOFD Fire Board  
· Nathan Bell (Division 1)  
· Red Smith (Division 3)  
· Lucy Talbot (Division 4)

AUHSD School Board  
· Christopher Severson  
I personally know all candidates and can highly recommend them as great community volunteers, fiscally prudent and welcome open communications. They all deserve your vote.  
Sue Severson  
Orinda

## Thank you, Amy Worth

We have lived in Orinda and Lafayette for 52 years, the most recent 33 years in Orinda. We are grateful for the quality of Orinda's local government. We urge our fellow Orindans to vote to reelect Amy Worth.

- Orinda has been financially well-managed and remains one of only a few California cities without an unfunded pension liability, allowing us to use all of our revenues to fund current services;

- Orinda has creatively found a mix of outside grants, county and local sales tax revenues and bond proceeds to maintain our infrastructure;

- Orinda built and secured long-term funding for our wonderful Orinda Library;

- Orinda is one of the safest cities in California, with a City Council that pays close attention to public safety and partnership with our Fire District;

- Orinda's leaders have been dedicated to increasing the vitality of our downtown areas while preserving the semi-rural character of our residential areas;

- Orinda has accomplished these and many other priorities by being led by City Council members in an open, transparent, thoughtful, collaborative way - attentive to community priorities.

Amy Worth deserves great credit and our gratitude for her years of service. We count on Amy to keep up the great work. Amy has our enthusiastic support in the November elections.

Bob Fisher  
33 year Orinda resident  
Mayor and Councilman, Lafayette, 1968 - 1976  
Chair, Lafayette Fire and Police Service Commissions  
Chair, Contra Costa County Mayors Conference  
Chair, Contra Costa County Local Agency Formation Commission

## Dennis Fay for Orinda City Council

I am writing to express my strong support for Dennis Fay for Orinda's City Council. I've gotten to know Dennis as someone who listens respectfully, weighs decisions logically, and in the end just gets things done. We are extremely lucky to have people like him willing to give their time and expertise for the betterment of our city. I grew up in Orinda and am now raising my three girls in this lovely community - I put my full faith in Dennis Fay to represent us all on the city council. Please vote for Dennis!

Arran Schultz  
Orinda

## I support Dennis, Nick, and Amy ("DNA") for Orinda City Council

I will cast my three votes for Dennis Fay, Nick Kosla, and Amy Worth for City Council. Each candidate brings a different type of valuable experience needed to address the critical issues facing Orinda.

Dennis Fay is a retired transportation engineer with years of service on Orinda's Citizens Infrastructure Oversight Commission (CIOC) which has overseen the renewal of our public roads.

Nick Kosla is an expert in municipal zoning regulations and entitlement law and has served as chair of the Orinda's Planning Commission.

Amy Worth is respected for her many years of service on the Council and her connections

## ... continued from Page 9

and influence on regional bodies whose decisions affect Orinda.

All three candidates will listen closely to citizen views and through long residency in Orinda understand Orinda's values and the quality of life that we all want for ourselves, our children, and future generations.

Please join me in voting for Dennis Fay, Nick Kosla, and Amy Worth for Orinda City Council.

Bob Burt  
Orinda

## Vote for Jenkins and Phillips

I write to endorse Kathleen Jenkins and Eve Phillips for Orinda City Council. Here's why.

One of the most important issues facing Orinda is the future of our two downtowns. Of the five candidates running for the three seats that are at stake in this election, only Kathy and Eve have committed that any new development must be subject to the current height and density limits, and parking requirements. The other candidates have only made vague statements about preserving our village character.

Kathy and Eve have been the subject of false accusations that they are opposed to new development. Nothing could be further from the truth. Eve was the only member of the City Council to vote in favor of the conditional use permit for the two uses sought by the owner of 25A Orinda Way, across from the library. Kathy spoke out publicly in support of that project.

See the minutes of the June 6, 2017 Council meeting.

<https://cityoforinda.app.box.com/v/citycouncilmeetings/file/213807886615>

Kathy and Eve, unlike the other candidates, have not made a career of working for the bureaucracy or working as consultants to developers. They bring a breath of fresh air. Eve was the only member of the current Council to vote against the recent \$250,000 streetscape consultant contract. <http://www.lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue1209/Eisen-Letunic-winsstreetscape-master-plan-contract.html> Kathy has gone on record as in favor of fiscal responsibility and fewer consultants.

Please vote for Kathleen Jenkins and Eve Phillips for Orinda City Council.  
Nick Waranoff  
Orinda

## Endorsing Amy Worth

In the current political environment it is easy to feel that our elected representatives should change for the sake of change. However, some leaders only get better with time. Amy Worth of Orinda is one of those leaders.

Over and over, she has shown vision and clear decision-making capabilities as Orinda grapples with crumbling infrastructure, downtown revitalization and regional housing and transportation issues.

Her strong relationships with local, state and national leaders help Orinda on an on-going basis. When our city needs something, she knows whom to contact and they always respond. As a member of the Metropolitan Transit Authority, she is in a unique position to help drive the right balance between local and regional transportation planning interests and to help Orinda leverage regional programs.

Our community is fortunate that Amy has chosen to give her time and energy to us, rather than to the many other opportunities that she has. I look forward to voting for her for Orinda City Council and hope that others will, as well.

Paula Reinman  
Orinda

... continued on Page A14

# Plant-powered in Lamorinda

By Jenn Freedman



Kabab Burger's sampler platter

Photos Jenn Freedman

Plant-based eating has become a global trend that is here to stay: from millennials to elite athletes to corporate workplaces to mainstream health organizations, veganism – a diet that excludes all animal products (meat, dairy, and eggs) – has emerged from the fringes and is verging on mainstream. In fact, according to a report by research firm Global Data, the U.S. has seen a 600 percent increase in people identifying as vegans in the last three years – or 6 percent of American consumers.

Using that statistic, Lamorinda could have upwards of 3,500 vegan residents, and while that may not be the case (yet), it's a safe bet that we have plenty of plant-hungry locals. But whether you follow a strict plant-based diet, want to decrease your meat/dairy intake, or are just a passionate and curious foodie, there is good news: Lamorinda has more options than ever before!

Sure, vegans can find some-

thing to eat at almost any restaurant by omitting a few ingredients of a menu item or just ordering side dishes ... though more and more, chefs are intentionally crafting delectable dishes using only plants, and this is something to celebrate. Here are a few of my favorite discoveries:

**Baagan Plant Grill** is a vegan Indian food truck that recently joined the Moraga farmers' market every Sunday, with a full-page menu that offers burgers, teas and more. The spicy mung burger is satisfying to the taste buds and the eyes ... piled high with a rainbow of veggies and an herbal cashew spread, easily washed down with a refreshing blackberry sage lemonade. And don't miss the vida potato cakes served on a chana salad with a cilantro-lime cashew dressing and one of the best tangy tamarind sauces I have ever tasted. Just the other day my omnivorous friend told me that she had just tried a burger and tea from Baagan ... and her verdict: "It was filling and delicious, without the same heavy feeling after from my typical choice."



Town's veggie and farro bowl

Also in Moraga, **Town Bakery & Cafe** features an incredibly fresh organic farro bowl with assorted seasonal vegetables and mushrooms that taste like they were just picked from the garden ... and they were – the seasonal produce comes from Moraga Garden Farm just down the road. One of the new spots in town, **Noodle Theory**, has a spinach ramen miso bowl with

roasted mixed mushrooms and truffle oil that is delicate yet decadent – sure to hit the spot on a cooler day. And do not miss the spicy dry sautéed green beans ... those gingery, slightly sweet bites are additive.

Lafayette has some solid options as well. **Roam Burger** has



Roam Burger's veggie burger

been impressing me for years with their shockingly delicious homemade vegan burger made with beets, quinoa, black beans, dates and more, that even my omnivorous friends order regularly. For a hearty feast order on a bun with fries (russet, sweet, onion, and zucchini are all vegan), or for a lighter meal, order over the farmers market salad or next to the seasonal veggies. **Kabab Burger** offers an entirely plant-based sampler platter, which includes hummus, Turkish salad, baba ganoush, spicy eggplant, pickles, tahini, dolmas and my favorite, their falafel balls. **Paxti's** is the go-to pizza joint with their signature vegan deep dish pizza with spinach, garlic, red onion and Daiya cheese on a whole wheat crust. Kale salad lov-



Sideboard's fiesta bowl

ers should check out **Sideboard's** fiesta bowl, which includes black and white beans, tomatoes, quinoa, and brown rice with a tangy jalapeno cilantro vinaigrette. For a healthy grab-and-go vegan meal or snack, **Urban Remedy** has dozens of options – salads, bowls, protein bars, juices, soups, and snacks. Try the Japanese inspired black rice

umeboshi bowl, a satisfying balance of textures with the crunchy rice and seed blend next to the silky avocado and miso flavored dressing. For a unique flavor profile, check out the veggie chopped salad with sweet potato, smoked vegan cheese, and eggplant "bacon" bits with a tangy lemon dressing. And consider stocking up on my current snack addictions while you're there: the sour cream and chive kale chips and the carrot curry crackers.

Important to note, most Asian/Indian cuisines naturally have vegan choices, and Lamorinda has over a dozen such eateries. I am still working through these tasty options and look forward sharing more plant-based highlights soon. Bon appetit!

## Rheem easement will reopen

... continued from Page A7

Another neighbor, Nancy Brown, was visibly upset as she addressed the council. "This land is our land," she said, "and we would be wonderful partners and friends."

"This isn't new," she added, "we shook hands on it."

But Terry Murphy, former chair of the planning commission, said that the easement had not existed since the city rejected it 10 years ago. He argued that the DeSpains bought the property with only a sewer easement.

"The convenience of neighbors

should not outshine the property rights of homeowners," he concluded.

Several neighbors spoke kindly about DeSpain, but agreed that the easement has been in existence for decades and supported it being open to the public. The meeting concluded with a continuance of the matter for two weeks when it would again come before the council, which intended to accept the easement on Oct. 16. That meeting occurred after this publication went to press.

### experience

**ANA ZIMMANK**  
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## Issues that Matter in Lafayette

Vote for **Susan Candell**, the **City Council Candidate** with the right perspective, the needed expertise and a record of standing with citizens

- Vote for hiring a City Manager who supports balanced development
- Vote to uphold the Commissioners' Conflict of Interest Ordinance
- Vote for public involvement and transparency in city decisions

### Issue #1: City Manager & Balanced Growth

In his retirement letter Mr. Falk included a statement, with which I completely agree: "Elections have consequences, and one is that Lafayette residents deserve a city manager who is better aligned with their priorities." Mr. Falk and his now publicized pro-growth agenda have been one of the reasons that many of the new housing developments were pushed through the approval process quickly. Many of the projects do not include any affordable housing units. None of them come with any significant infrastructure improvements to reduce the adverse traffic and parking impacts. Many of us believe we need a more balanced approach.

**Lafayette needs to hire a City Manager who will focus on all the important elements - residents, services, schools and traffic,** particularly for downtown in-fill developments. We also need a City Manager who will hire experienced, capable land-use attorneys to protect our city's open space, hillsides, ridgelines and recreational areas.

#### Susan's Position:

I support OPEN and PUBLIC discussions during the interview/hiring process of our next City Manager to ensure we select the best candidate to represent the needs of our citizens and protect the rights of our city.

Be an informed voter!  
Understand the most pressing issues facing Lafayette!

### Issue #2: Lafayette Must Support the Conflict of Interest Ordinance

Two Questions:

1. Is it ok for a Commissioner to be hired by a developer for a project in Lafayette?
2. When that project is on the agenda at the Commission meeting, is it ok for that Commissioner to recuse him/herself, then stand up and to present that same project to that Commission?"

If you answer "No", you are in agreement with almost all the residents I have spoken with over the past year. This practice is illegal, according to the the California Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC), and yet for years, more than six Commissioners from both the Planning Commission and the Design Review Commission did so more than 15 times. The law is clear, yet our City Attorney wrote a statement that defended the Commissioners, when she should have clearly recommended stopping this practice. I have heard from residents, who witnessed this practice while presenting their own home-improvement projects, and I believe that our residents deserve the same level playing-field as developers.

#### Susan's Position:

Lafayette must maintain a fair, legal and ethical process for approving development projects. **Only 2 candidates – Susan and Ivor - support the new Conflicts Ordinance. Be informed on this issue before voting in November if you support fair and transparent government in Lafayette.**

### Issue #3: Downtown Specific Plan Must Involve Citizen's Input

Our Downtown Specific Plan ('DSP') took over six years to sign. The reason it took such a long amount of time was because Steve Falk and staff went against the residents and homeowners associations requests for downtown planning.

The final Downtown Specific Plan is far better because of resident input, but it isn't anywhere near what residents and homeowners requested. The new DSP should consider the changes to the Housing climate with the recent passing of more than eleven new State Laws including AB2923, the BART bill that takes planning control over the BART parking lots away from the City of Lafayette. The retail climate has also fundamentally changed, and we need to ensure our zoning is updated to allow new, desirable retail to come to Lafayette.

#### Susan's Position:

We need to deeply understand these new laws and be proactive to ensure that our local policies are sufficient to prevent negative impacts from these projects. **Housing will be built, growth will happen, so let's make sure that we minimize negative impacts and preserve our welcoming and vibrant downtown.** I also intend to reopen the plan for the East End of Lafayette, the more service-oriented end of Lafayette from First Street to the Lafayette Park Hotel.



Read the facts or email Susan with questions

**SUSANCANDELL.COM**  
suscandell2018@gmail.com

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

# SUSAN CANDELL

## Letters to the Editor

### Eve Phillips Blocks Progress on Orinda's Downtown and Roads

As I've observed our city council votes over the past four years, it's clear that first-term council member Eve Phillips has consistently voted against progress on improving our downtown and roads. As examples, Eve was the only council member of five to vote against these critical items:

1) Sole vote against simply initiating a council discussion on ways to improve our downtown (July 21, 2015)

2) Sole vote against approving a small contract with experts on downtown improvement, which ultimately resulted in a useful report with action items that city staff has since pursued (November 15, 2016)

3) Sole vote against commissioning a plan to improve our public spaces downtown, including downtown creek restoration (June 19, 2018)

4) Sole vote against placing a bond on the 2016 ballot to improve our roads, going against the will of almost 70% of Orinda's voters who ultimately approved it. The revenue has since helped repave pot-holed roads throughout Orinda (Feb 16, 2016).

On Election Day on November 6th, all Orindans who care about progress on downtown and our roads should be aware of Ms. Phillips' voting record and vote accordingly.

Anthony Malutta  
Orinda

### Nick Kosla for Orinda City Council

One of the best decisions our family has ever made was to make Orinda our home. Growing up, Nick was blessed with life-long friends, warm community, magnificent natural surroundings and a security that only a town like Orinda can provide through dedicated leadership. Nick, with his beautiful home-town wife and daughters will work hard to ensure Orinda continues down a path of responsible decisions ensuring all residents the confidence that the best is yet to come. Grand/Mom Kosla will Pick Nick Francine Kosla

### Looking for leaders we can trust in State Assembly

I want to commend the East Bay Times for its endorsement of Catharine Baker in the 16th Assembly District race. I appreciate that it called out Bauer-Kahan for making several misleading statements about Baker. Dishonesty in politics is running too rampant and we need leaders we can trust. Moreover, when Bauer-Kahan was called out on her false statements, her reply was an uninspiring, "That's what I was told." We teach our children to do their own research and it is certainly reasonable to expect the same out of someone who wants to represent us in the Assembly. I simply won't vote for someone who will distort the truth to win an election just because that's what they were told to say. The Times nailed it: "voters deserve better" than Bauer-Kahan. Please vote for Catharine Baker.

William Weber

Moraga

### Rebecca Bauer-Kahan for Assembly

As a Lamorinda resident for over 30 years and an environmental scientist for almost 40, I used to take BART into the city for my commute. However, I have seen BART get more and more crowded, dirtier, and less safe, as BART's infrastructure has just not kept up with the exponential housing growth in the East Bay, particularly the areas north and east of Lamorinda. As our housing crisis increases and affordable housing gets pushed further

and further from the job hub in San Francisco, our transportation problems have gotten exponentially worse. Our local roads in Lafayette and Orinda are getting choked and polluted, as well, due to increased traffic in the area. I have seen cars exit Highway 24 and head parallel to the highway on surface streets, driving through Lafayette and Orinda merely to avoid highway traffic. We need to prioritize improving our public transportation options, not just for commuting, but to get people out of their cars and improve air quality. Rebecca Bauer-Kahan has pledged to accomplish these issues in the Assembly. She gets my vote.

Dr. Booker Holton, Ph.D. Ecology  
Orinda

### A vote for Bauer-Kahan

Governor Brown has not endorsed the Republican Assembly representative Catharine Baker, although her mailer purposely misleads voters by making it appear that he did.

Catharine Baker's assertion in her mailer that Rebecca Bauer-Kahan somehow made "secret promises" about future votes is patently absurd and not based on any facts. Rebecca has not signed any secret pledges or contracts about future votes – to the contrary, she is committed to her core values. To state otherwise is dishonest and underhanded, plain and simple.

During these turbulent political times, Lamorinda deserves to have a candidate that actually represents the values of our district. Rebecca Bauer-Kahan is much more representative of our district's progressive values, and deserves the support of our residents.

Josh Norek  
Lafayette

### Vote for Baker and for education

Education is not a partisan issue. Assemblywoman Catharine Baker has been a champion for education issues and an ardent supporter of our schools and students. School funding remains insufficient and unstable, and our students need her continued vigilant advocacy on their behalf in Sacramento. Assemblywoman Baker does more than just advocate for better education funding; she is a visible, active, and engaged public servant who holds education workshops and town halls, promotes STEM learning and college preparation, leads child abuse prevention efforts, recognizes outstanding students and teachers, and is still an involved parent. She listens closely, asks critical questions, and makes thoughtful decisions on behalf of her constituents, even those who are not yet old enough to vote. Her actions have proven to us she is best suited to serve our students and the future of our children.

Join us to re-elect Catharine Baker for Assembly.

Suzu Pak, Clerk, Lafayette School District Governing Board  
Mark Gundacker, President, Child Abuse Prevention Council of Contra Costa County

### Vote for a healthy future with Bauer-Kahan

This is a frightening time when the Trump Administration is putting big business interests over the protection of wildlife and a clean environment, in spite of the warnings of reliable climate science. It is vital that we have someone representing our Assembly District who will fight 100% of the time for critical issues like (1) healthy classrooms free of chemical-based cleaners and (2) protecting people, our parks and wildlife. Catherine Baker may espouse her willingness to cross the aisle for our environment, but

when I checked her record myself, it is far, far less than 100%. Baker voted against support for local agencies to use water more efficiently (AB1668), against setting new pollution limits for big polluters exploiting 'cap and trade' (AB378), against providing state funds to the low-income communities most harmed by pollution (AB523), and against mandating that all new developments undergo environmental review (AB890). I cannot support a record like that, so I will be voting for Rebecca Bauer-Kahan for a healthy future for all of our children and grandchildren.

Susan Forman  
Orinda

### MOFD

#### Concern over conflict of interest

As an MOFD Division 1 property owner and taxpayer, I am deeply concerned with the obvious conflict of interest that Greg Baitx will have if elected to the MOFD Board. He is an active member of Local 1230 - the very same union that negotiates with our MOFD Board for its firefighters' compensation including retirement. Clearly Baitx will have an interest in supporting his union versus the taxpayers of Moraga and Orinda. It baffles me how his candidacy is even legal, if in fact it is? Will Baitx have to recuse himself from all matters impacting the union? Why in the world would we elect someone with conflicts that would either preclude representing his constituents, requiring routine recusal, or voting notwithstanding such obvious conflicts.

I'm also greatly troubled reading that Baitx, one of three allied firefighter union candidates, in a union-paid advertisement in this publication's September 19th edition, falsely claimed that the Moraga Town Council endorsed him for MOFD Board.

As an attorney, I know it's illegal for government entities to endorse candidates for office. Yet, there it was, in black and white. We now learn by retraction that Moraga Council members have denied Baitx's false endorsement claim.

Worse yet, uniformed MOFD employees cited Lucy Talbot, the competing non-union Division 4 candidate, issuing a retaliatory abatement notice demanding thousands of dollars of tree removal. Incredibly, they issued the same punitive notices to Talbot's neighbors that dared host a "Talbot for MOFD" sign. We now learn that these harassing notices were not authorized by the Fire Chief or Marshall, yet exclusively targeted the non-union candidate and her supportive neighbors. Unsurprisingly, no similar violations were issued anywhere else in the Division. We cannot tolerate this kind of thuggery and intimidation by our fire union or its rank and file.

I ask a simple question to all MOFD residents: Do the citizens own the MOFD or does the MOFD own us? With the above antics and strong-arm tactics, it appears, sadly the latter appears to be the case.

I encourage a vote for the non-union candidates of Bell, Smith and Talbot for MOFD Board.

Larry Pines  
Moraga

### Support for Baitx, Donner and Danziger

My name is Janet. I am a Firefighter that works for the Moraga-Orinda Fire District and a member of Local 1230 and a resident of Moraga.

In last editions Letters to the Editor, Carol Penskar claims the Moraga-Orinda Fire District is "technically insolvent ... will eventually go bankrupt ... (and) the union ran the show."

I couldn't disagree more. Although we can't find any official document to support \$62 million in unfunded retirement liabilities I do agree unfunded liability is a concern. To keep that concern in perspective the latest County Retirement Association Actuarial Valuation and Review shows the funding ratio of market value to actuarial liability is 90.8% funded. The MOFD Long Range Financial Forecast predicts continued revenue exceeding expenditures with the continual growth of reserve accounts. Both the community and your firefighters have a shared interest in being financially sustainable as our careers typically span decades. Therefore we support Greg Baitx, Michael Donner and Steve Danziger for the MOFD Board. Tackling unfunded liability and financial stability are all high priorities for Baitx, Donner and Danziger as well as their opponents. However, only Baitx, Donner and Danziger are able to provide a balance with their experience and expertise in fire service and public administration, which all of their opponents lack. We have been called a special interest group. In reality our firefighters are an actively involved component of this community with a unique perspective. We want the same thing that all of the community members want. That is to have a high level of firefighting, fire prevention and emergency services for a very long time. Therefore please vote for Greg Baitx, Michael Donner and Steve Danziger.

Janet Brandi-Routt  
Moraga

### Severson for Acalanes Union High School District board

Please join me in voting for Chris Severson for the Acalanes Union High School District board. I've known Chris for many years. He is organized, smart, and collaborative. As an ER physician with teens of his own, he is focused on student health and wellness. I know how important it is for our schools to support our teens in their overall wellness, as well as academics. Chris will certainly help all our students to succeed. Sincerely,  
Katie Solomon  
Lafayette

### Costa County Board of Education, Area 2

Sarah Butler for Contra Costa County Board of Education, Area 2.

Please join me in voting for Sarah Butler for the Contra Costa County Board of Education, Area 2. I have known Sarah for ten years. She has been a tireless advocate for education in our local schools, both as a parent and as an Orinda School Board Member, 2012-16. Sarah has the experience and qualifications to well serve our communities on the County Board of Education. As a teacher, I understand the role of the County Board of Education which is to serve as a link between their constituents and the County Office of Education and the County Superintendent. In that role we need someone with Sarah's experience and knowledge of education, education policy, budget expertise, and student advocacy. The children of Contra Costa deserve the support of the most qualified representative. Vote for Sarah Butler for the Contra Costa County Board of Education, Area 2.  
Colleen Sullivan  
Orinda

### Hansen for Contra Costa County Superintendent

Thank you for your article on the upcoming election of Contra Costa County Superintendent of Schools. It is a little known and often misunderstood role that impacts our local districts, schools and children. I am a graduate of

... continued from Page 12

Miramonte High School, grew up in Moraga and had a wonderful career in education in Mt. Diablo Unified School District (retired in 2015). I am currently an elected Trustee for Mt. Diablo Unified. I am supporting Cheryl Hansen for this important educational leadership role. I am familiar with the careers of both of these candidates and know that Cheryl Hansen has the breadth and depth of experience and knowledge that is needed. I have seen how easy it is to mislead voters as to one's actual experience, especially those unfamiliar with the positions and organizations. As voters are "hiring" the next County Superintendent, it's important to drill down on the two candidates' resumes and credentials. Cheryl Hansen is the only candidate who earned all her positions through a normal application, interview and selection process. Her resume represents authentic experience and proven leadership.

A key role of this position and the Office of Education is to support the 18 school districts throughout our county. That requires a leader who has walked the walk and talked the talk of school district educators and leaders. We need a change agent who has the ability to make the County Office of Education a 'go to' organization it was meant to be, a true service provider. Cheryl Hansen understands this. She also has the experience and knowledge to ensure fiscal accountability, provide critical services to students with special needs, leverage resources for the betterment of all school districts and students, and build strong partnerships with all stakeholders.

I strongly encourage you to vote for Cheryl Hansen.

Joanne Durkee  
Pleasant Hill

### Other letters

#### An Open Letter to the Lamorinda Weekly

As men who have followed the Kavanaugh Hearings either live on TV or through the media we disavow the implication by Senators, The White House and by Judge Kavanaugh himself that excessive drinking by boys and men is part of the male maturation process. We affirm that abusive behavior toward women and girls is never acceptable conduct, whether sober or under the influence of alcohol.

We praise Professor Ford for her courage in articulating the abuse she endured and affirm that we will work to effect change toward a more compassionate and equitable society by our example and actions through our schools and churches. We will never condone those traditions that have done so much damage to the health and aspirations of women and girls.

We ask the assistance of all people of faith to help us channel our resolve toward our vision of God's justice for all.

Don Stump, Paul Bro, Ted DeAtley, Norman Bardsley, Richard Black, Joe Warren,

Frank Scudero, John Mendenhall  
Members of The Men's Breakfast Group of Lafayette Christian Church

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](http://www.lamorindaweekly.com) for submission guidelines. **Email:** [letters@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:letters@lamorindaweekly.com); **Regular mail:** Lamorinda Weekly, P.O.Box 6133, Moraga, CA 94570

# MCN Sponsors Town Council candidates' forum

... continued from Page A5

Trotter said if it meant keeping the theater open, he would give serious consideration to making it an historic landmark. He appreciates the efforts of the Moraga Community Foundation to keep it open and beautifully maintained, adding that it helps bring business to other retail institutions in the area.

Woehleke stressed that the town doesn't own the theater, so it doesn't have total control of its fate. As far as town ownership, he's open to alternatives. If something is designated as an historic landmark, the owners are restricted with what they can do with their facilities. McCluer already considers the Rheem Theatre an historic landmark. With regards to community ownership, he'd like to keep an open mind and listen to proposals.

Candidates were asked if they would support a local ordinance banning or limiting the use of plastic straws and plastic/Styrofoam to-go containers. McCluer stated that there would be

a large monetary impact on businesses, and they would need lead time to make the conversion and find a replacement product that would please the customers. He suggested checking other towns' solutions. Trotter reasoned, "If there's a statewide rule it is easier for businesses to comply. If food is taken to-go, there really is no alternative other than plastic. Plastic containers can be reused or recycled." Woehleke believes people need to self-monitor their actions, stating that Moraga shouldn't wait for government to make environmental changes. He proposed a town task force.

Other questions asked of candidates involved pension and healthcare liability, council actions and town procedures, commercial development and major landlord relations, residential growth and traffic and congestion issues. To see the full forum, which was video taped in its entirety, visit [www.lamorindaweekly.com/html/MCN-Candidates-night-2018.html](http://www.lamorindaweekly.com/html/MCN-Candidates-night-2018.html).

# New Canyon Bridge design

... continued from Page A4

A second public outreach meeting was held in 2015, with revised bridge designs conforming to Moraga residents' suggestions, concerns and expectations. The new plans addressed speeding and pedestrian/cyclist access and safety, as well as sight visibility and bridge lighting.

Partial project study submittals to Caltrans began in 2016. Included were national environmental studies, a noise technical memo, air quality conformance, visual technical memo, a traffic study and bridge type selection.

In 2017, with the new bridge design and construction on schedule to begin in 2018, a landslide occurred adjacent to the bridge. In April of that year, the town closed the damaged bridge to all traffic and quickly scrambled to install a temporary one-lane, signal controlled bridge by mid-November.

The new bridge will be approximately 55 feet longer and two feet wider with retaining walls for added stability. Made of concrete, steel and pilings it will also be re-positioned slightly south of the old bridge location. In 2019, the first phase will begin as the new northbound lane and approach is constructed, while traffic continues to use the temporary bridge. In 2020, construction for the southbound lane and removal of the temporary bridge begins, while traffic in both directions takes place on the new northbound lane.

Key design elements included from public input are bike lanes,

multi-use paths, lighting, improved sight distance, aesthetics and safer guardrails.

With all of these new design factors, the town requested a \$7.2 million budget. A major setback to the project was a 2018 funding freeze by HBP. The intrepid team at public works appealed the freeze, sighting the urgency of the situation, and Caltrans released the funds, approving a new budget of \$6.5 million. The \$700,000 funding shortfall is still to be addressed. The public works team is requesting that Caltrans provide the funding during the fiscal years of 2018-19, because funding for the temporary bridge lease expires in September 2019. At this point, the town would have to pay the \$12,000 monthly rental fee.

Caltrans has set Nov. 1 as the deadline to accelerate funds and provide any due documentation. These documents include environmental, right-of-way and utility clearances. A final design is also required.

The construction of the new Canyon Bridge is scheduled to start in January when the town begins to advertise for construction crews. Opening bids will be accepted in February, and in March the town council will review and award the bid. The actual construction process will begin in April. All of this hinges on the 2018-19 Caltrans funding acceleration. If that fails, the town will have to re-evaluate its options.

# MOFD Division 3 race

... continued from Page A10

Moraga and Orinda citizens and taxpayers should be aware that one of the candidates running for the board is an active firefighter and a member of Local 1230, the same union as MOFD firefighters, Smith said. He called it a massive conflict of interest that an active firefighter in the same union local would oversee his own brotherhood on a governing board. "There will be many issues requiring board vote that will impact union Local 1230, and it is not appropriate for taxpayers to have their elected candidate recuse himself on all labor impacting matters," Smith said.

Every decision Anderson has

made in the last six years, he said, he based on three hallmarks: what is best to ensure MOFD can meet its mission of saving lives and property; ensuring MOFD personnel have excellent morale, training and necessary equipment to accomplish that mission; and accomplishing the above within the fiscal constraints of the district. "Fiscal prudence, attention to detail, and cooperative leadership enables a vigorous and time-sensitive MOFD response to Moraga and Orinda's needs for fire protection and emergency medical services," Anderson said. "Results count."

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



**trick or treat**

Costumed children are invited to Trick or Treat the businesses of Rheem Valley on Halloween, October 31<sup>st</sup> from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.  
Free\* Halloween Candy from participating businesses.

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## AUHSD board candidates

... continued from Page A2

**Derksen:** Given the state of school funding in California, challenges always face our public schools. Staying focused on fiscal responsibility and stability continue to be key. Funding of the district's pension liabilities requires continued monitoring. Since one of the board members not continuing brought financial experience to the table, I'm hoping my financial experience can fill that gap. Although our district is a destination for teachers and staff, the potential teacher shortage forces us to find smart ways to recruit and retain qualified teachers and staff.

**Severson:** Student wellness is a big concern of mine. As a parent of three children currently in the district and as an Emergency Medicine Physician, I have many insights into how we can help our students successfully navigate the high school years. We need strong working partnerships between students, parents, educators and community organizations for solutions and to help ensure meaningful change.

**Hockett:** There are many, but I will focus on the very significant

teacher shortage, which has already reached crisis proportion in many California school districts. Presently, AUHSD has been only slightly impacted because our highly motivated students, along with extremely supportive parents and community, have made our district highly desirable to teach in. As our many veteran teachers retire, coupled with the high cost of living in the Bay Area, we will have to grapple with that shortage. We need to actively recruit teachers, strive to keep salaries and benefits among the best, and maintain good conditions for teaching.

**LW: What is your opinion about school start times and schedules?**

**Kendzierski:** The research on school start times is clear and we need to accommodate it. Block scheduling has been a step in the right direction, including a later start time on a majority of school days, longer periods to provide time for in-class collaboration and work on projects, and wider spacing of classes through the week that can mean homework for fewer classes on any given night. There is still more to be done and it's im-

portant to work with our partner districts, families and communities in this ongoing process.

**Derksen:** I believe the current school board did due diligence getting input from all stakeholders and made a decision they believe is in the best interest of our students. Since its implementation starts next school year, I would be honored to be part of the process to implement and monitor the progress.

**Severson:** I want to help further any efforts between students, parents and staff that will contribute to student success and wellness. I think this conversation (start times and schedules) is ongoing and productive so far.

**Hockett:** I believe an 8:30 starting time is desirable and would probably be healthier for our students. Presently we start school at 8:35 three days a week, and at 8 a.m. two days a week. To start the other two days later might result in some stakeholder opposition due to the possible negative impact of pushing back the end of the school day by some 30 minutes those two days. But I believe we should have that discussion.

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# ~ Life in LAMORINDA ~

## Two Lafayette men pulled into the Green Rings circle

By Sophie Braccini



Former Vice President Al Gore presents Steve Richard (left) and Wei-Tai Kwok with their Green Rings from the Climate Reality Project. Photo provided

Steven Richard and Wei-Tai Kwok call themselves ordinary citizens, but the volunteer actions they took over the last six years have pulled them from making a difference behind the scenes to the front stage with former Vice President Al Gore. At the recent Climate Reality Project training in Los Angeles these two Lafayette citizens were honored with a Green Ring Award for “outstanding work towards solving the climate crisis.”

“It was like stepping into the movie we had been watching, and being part of the action,” recalls Richard, adding that it came as a complete surprise to him and his friend Kwok when an hour before the award they were pulled from the sessions they were mentoring and heard they would be the honorees.

On stage, Gore recognized the two men for inspiring others and leading to actions in support of fighting climate change and greenhouse gas emissions.

Richard and Kwok believe that they were acknowledged because, following their common inspiration, they started developing local groups – meet-ups at first, that were emulated by the organization and morphed into chapters. The two of them, whom Gore affectionately called “Batman and Robin,” are now managing the Bay Area chapter of the Climate Reality Project,

engaging and organizing people to support legislation, engage companies and organizations to affect change, and create climate challenges all over the Bay Area. There are now 80 chapters in the U.S., 40 of them in universities.

It was Gore’s 2006 movie, “An Inconvenient Truth,” that started the adventure for the Lafayette residents. Kwok remembers how, after seeing the movie, he wondered if it was all true, and if it was, what should be done about it. After a few months of research to confirm the science behind Gore’s claim that climate change was upon us and human-driven, he decided to leave his marketing company in San Francisco to work for the renewable energy industry.

In the meantime, Gore started the Climate Reality Project, inviting any interested people to be trained to become an ambassador for fighting climate change in their community. The program offers trainings to 800-900 people at a time all around the world three times a year. Kwok went in 2013 and Richard was trained in 2016.

Richard was not new to a green commitment; over 10 years ago he and Bart Carr started the group Sustainable Lafayette, which continues to be very active locally. This time in Los Angeles, Richard says that about 250 people came from the Bay Area and are now back, ener-

gized and ready to make change happen.

Richard says that each time he goes back to a Climate Reality Project meeting he learns something different as new facts emerge, new science is analyzed, and positive changes happen that can be shared.

Richard and Kwok may be preaching to the choir in the Bay Area, but they see that in everyday life many things are left to be done that could make a difference. Richard talks about MCE, for example, the green energy company that now provides electricity to most of Lafayette and Moraga. Residents can opt for a “Deep Green” level for their electricity supply, meaning that 100 percent of their electricity is sourced from renewable production. Right now only a small fraction of the population does so, when it costs just a few dollars more a month. “Our objective is to have at least 1,000 household choosing deep green locally,” says Richard.

Richard says that he devotes about 80 percent of his time to the organization and that this group is working alongside other very impactful organizations such as 350.org or Citizens’ Climate Lobby. People interested in the project can join the chapter at <https://www.climate reality project.org/chapters>.

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## Art show at Orinda Books celebrates instinct to stick together

By Kara Navolio



Cassie Tzur of Walnut Creek attended the artist's reception for "The Herd Instinct" on display at Orinda Books.

Photo Kara Navolio

"The Herd Instinct," the newest art exhibit on display at Orinda Books, speaks to the instinct we all have to come together. Most of the paintings feature animals, from cows to ladybugs and whales to jellyfish, in various groupings, sometimes in a whimsical manner.

Bay Area Studio Artists provided the works for this show, which will run through Oct. 31. BASA, a group of Bay Area women who have been painting together for 11 years, meet on Thursdays and Saturdays at Marcy Wheeler's studio in Walnut Creek. They have exhibited together throughout the Bay Area and at several locations in Napa.

The current exhibit features large and small canvases by group members Suzun Almquist, Jeanette Baird, Ellen Reintjes, Sharon Tama, Joanne Taueffer, and

Wheeler, along with two guest artists, Ruth Stanton and Lassie Colebourn.

"Marcy is the mentor of the group," stated Tama. "After we paint, we have critique sessions which enhance the experience for everyone."

Almquist added, "Marcy creates a safe environment to critique. We trust each other, and each artist's work becomes better as a result."

Everyone in the group paints what they enjoy painting. The group then examines everyone's work and how it might fit together for a theme. Once a theme is decided upon, others in the group might paint a work specifically for the theme.

"Some of my most important life work has been working with these women (in BASA)," stated Wheeler. "We each have our own

strengths that we bring together in this group." The group has even made some collaborative large scale paintings where each member paints a few small canvases that are brought together at the end to create one large piece. A favorite was one of Robin Williams that can be seen on the group's website: www.bayareastudioartists.com.

Maria Rowland, owner of Orinda Books, is proud to provide a venue for local artists to show their work, something the store has been doing for many years now. Each show runs for one month, and her schedule is booked through 2019.

"The artist's reception is something that I added after I bought the store," explained Rowland. "It's a great chance for the artists to talk about their work and kick off each show." For more information, visit www.orindabooks.com.



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## New vision of education explored in film, 'Beyond Measure'

By David O'Connell



Photo provided

The Saklan School will host a screening of Vicki Abel's latest film, "Beyond Measure," on Oct. 18 at the Lafayette Veterans Hall. Abel's earlier film, "Race to Nowhere," chronicled the problems with the U.S. educational system that is often transfixed on test scores, competitive college admissions and plowing through a curriculum a mile wide, but an inch deep.

Abel does what students are asked to do when they come across a problem: Do not just tell me about the problem; come to me with a solution.

In "Beyond Measure," Abel travels across the country discovering schools that have a new vision of education. She speaks with educators, parents and most importantly students, asking viewers to reconsider the purpose of education. What if our education system valued personal growth over test scores? Put inquiry over mimicry? Encouraged passion over rankings? What if we decided that the higher aim of school was not the transmis-

sion of facts or formulas, but the transformation of every student? And what if this paradigm-shift was driven from the ground up?

"Beyond Measure" speaks to the idea that schools should be places that are academic, but also require students to play a role in the design of their education – a place where students develop a love of learning by leading their own learning, a place where intrinsic curiosity is fostered, creating a passion for learning, a place where students develop the courage to try new things as well as the courage to fail.

Anyone interested in helping shape the future of education is invited to attend the showing 6:30 p.m. Oct. 18 at the Lafayette Veteran's Hall. Tickets are available at Saklan.org.

Direct link to the ticket site: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/beyond-measure-presented-by-the-saklan-school-tickets-48037453316>.

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# SMC alum brings Hollywood to Rheem Theatre

By Vera Kochan



Photo provided

Saint Mary's College alumnus, actor Mahershala Ali, who won the Best Supporting Actor Oscar for his performance in the 2017 Academy Award Best Picture winner, "Moonlight," is returning to Moraga to promote his new film, "Green Book," which is based on a true story.

In "Green Book" Ali portrays a jazz pianist on a concert tour of the Deep South during the 1960s. With his white chauffeur, played by Viggo Mortensen, they use the Green Book as a guide for motels and restaurants that welcomed blacks.

A special advance screening of "Green Book" will be held on Thursday, Oct. 25 at the Rheem Theatre, with the proceeds benefiting the Moonlight Scholarship (established in 2017 with inspiration from Ali) for students in the SMC

High Potential Program.

The High Potential Program's mission is to provide access to higher education for underrepresented students. It seeks to foster success for first generation and/or low-income scholars transitioning from high school to college.

The Moonlight Scholarship is funded through private donations and provides financial support for students in the HP program. To date, 17 scholars have benefited from this foundation.

The movie will begin at 5:30 p.m., and a conversation with Ali, Director Peter Farrelly, and Producer Jim Burke will immediately follow the screening.

To RSVP for the Green Book Special Advanced Screening, visit [www.stmarys-ca.edu/greenbook](http://www.stmarys-ca.edu/greenbook).

# Orinda Books partners with Paw Fund for a pet-friendly day

By Kara Navolio



Irma, a chihuahua/terrier mix nicknamed Squirmy, is one of the adorable pups available for adoption. Photo Kara Navolio

Over 100 residents stopped by Orinda Books on Oct. 7 to cuddle kittens and play with pups for a Paw Fund adoption event. Forty hopeful pet lovers turned in applications, and several adoptions were completed that day. Pet lovers could also find a large selection of pet-themed books for sale with a portion of the proceeds donated to the nonprofit organization.

Paw Fund has a unique mission compared to other nonprofits supporting pets. Paw Fund's main goal is to provide free vet care to homeless and low-income pet owners. "Our mission," stated Jill Posener, "is to help people help their pets." The organization, founded in 2011, offers a monthly clinic in Berkeley where pet owners can get minor health issues addressed for free. They often see over 150 pets at these clinics where they offer vaccines, treat minor conditions, and spay and neuter pets. They have a vet on staff, but the organization is primarily run by a regular crew of 30 volunteers.

They even have an outreach group that visits homeless encampments, bringing their services to populations who have no transportation. "It empowers people

when they can get the proper care for their animals," added Posener. These animals, in turn, offer emotional support to people who might really need it.

In some situations, their clients might have to surrender their pets or find homes for litters. These are the pets that are offered for adoption at Paw Fund Adoption events. Their clients never have to worry that these animals would be euthanized; they are all cared for in foster homes until permanent homes can be found.

While Paw Fund serves the Berkeley area, they partner with similar organizations that also offer free or low cost clinics like theirs in Oakland (PALS East Bay) and Contra Costa County (Furry Friends Pet Relief).

On some occasions when pets might need a more extensive procedure they are able to partner with Animal Rescue Foundation and other vets for services.

A link on the Paw Fund website ([www.pawfund.org](http://www.pawfund.org)) will lead you to Pet Finder where their adoptable pets are featured. The next adoption event is Oct. 20 at Holistic Hound in Berkeley.

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# Stanley students' thoughts on sticky notes create a wall of inspiration

Submitted by Angie Zener



Sticky notes posted on a wall poster explain what a hero is to Stanley Middle School students. Photos provided

To emphasize arts education and promote performing and visual arts at the local schools, the National PTA organization runs an art contest called the PTA Reflections Program – an arts recognition and achievement program for students first launched in 1969. National PTA organization chairwomen Yuki Fujimoto and Dina Bogan, along with Stanley Middle School PTA president Denise Cain, created an oversized poster at Stanley, posing this question to its students, “A Hero Is...,” to stimulate creative thinking around this year’s PTA Reflections theme: Heroes around me.

Hundreds of kids participated on Wednesday, Sept. 26 by posting their responses on sticky notes, such as: A Hero is ... “My birth mother for being brave to put

me up for adoption.” The Reflections Program provides opportunities for students to express themselves creatively and to receive positive recognition for original works of art inspired by a pre-selected theme, while increasing community awareness on the importance of the arts in education.

Stanley Middle School participates in the program each year. Last year, there were over 110 entries with one student even moving to compete at the state level. This year Fujimoto, Bogan and Cain decided to elevate the visibility of the Reflections Program.

Other activities planned for the next month will continue to encourage participation.

## New Troop 243 Eagle Scouts

Submitted by Laura Levandowski



From left: Nik Levandowski and Ben Krey Photo provided

Boy Scout Troop 243 in Lafayette is inducting two new Eagle Scouts – Ben Krey and Nik Levandowski – at an Eagle Court of Honor Nov. 3 at the Lafayette Christian Church. To earn this highest advancement rank in Scouting, Scouts must fulfill requirements in the areas of leadership, service, and outdoor skills, complete at least 21 merit badges, and plan, organize, lead and manage a service project benefiting his community.

Krey, a junior at Acalanes High School, has been active in Troop 243 since bridging from Cub Scout Pack 643 in fifth grade. For his Eagle Project Krey had an interest in building something that would last. He learned of a third-grade class in Richmond that was in need of culturally appropriate books and somewhere to store them. He raised \$400 for the purchase of books and built two sets of shelves. He delivered the

books and shelves to the classroom and was lucky enough to meet the students. He hopes this project will have a lasting impact on the classroom

Levandowski, who is a senior at Campolindo, joined Troop 243 in fifth grade after starting his scouting life as a Cub Scout in Pack 643 at Burton Valley Elementary. He learned that clothing donations to the homeless rarely include socks, and health conditions like diabetes, prevalent in the homeless population, can be further complicated without access to clean, dry socks.

For Levandowski’s Eagle Scout project, he collected over 700 pairs of clean socks and assembled toiletry bags with wipes, Band-Aids, lip balm, toothbrushes and more for the homeless population in East Oakland.

Both join the less than 4 percent of all Scouts who achieve Eagle Rank.

## In Memory

### Jeanette Fritzky

Nov. 20, 1954 – Sept. 28, 2018



To say Jeanette Fritzky was a woman of many talents is quite an understatement. A devoted wife and mother, daughter sister and friend, Jeanette also found time to represent her community as a member of the Moraga Town Council.

Elected in 2016, she was the voice of stability, respect and dignity for more than two years until she passed away Friday, Sept. 28 at John Muir Medical Center in Walnut Creek after a brief but valiant fight with cancer. Her family was at her side. She was 63 years old.

Born in Ohio, one of five siblings to Chinese diplomats, Jeanette received her BS in Pharmacy from The Ohio State

University and an MBA from Tulane University. Jeanette enjoyed a productive and rewarding career in pharmaceutical sales and marketing. She rose through the ranks of companies like Roche and Chiron to become a top pharmaceutical executive. She also formed a successful marketing consulting firm while raising a family.

In July, Jeanette was diagnosed with stage four non-small lung cancer. She resigned her post on the town council to begin cancer treatments. Her family discovered that 20 percent of new lung cancer diagnoses are in women who never smoked, and within this group, Asian woman non-smokers are at disproportionately increased risk.

Jeanette was active in the Moraga community, serving as vice president of the NorCal Lacrosse Association board, served on Moraga’s Parks & Rec Commission and for three years she served as treasurer for the Moraga Boy Scouts of America Troop No. 234. She was also an avid Oakland A’s fans.

She is survived by her husband Bob and four adult children Zac, (daughter-in-law Lindsey), Patrick, Lindsay, Ann and two grandchildren, Auden and Asher.

A memorial walk and tribute in Jeanette’s memory will be held Saturday, Oct. 27 from noon to 3 p.m. at the Moraga Commons Park. The 1.5-mile walk is being sponsored by the American Cancer Society with additional sponsorship by the Town of Moraga, Moraga Rotary and Troop 234 Moraga.

For more information, please visit the Jeanette Fritzky Tribute Walk page at <http://jeanettefritzkytributewalk.com/>.

## In Memory

### Myron Konjoyan

1931-2018



Myron Seamone Konjoyan, a 55-year resident of Moraga, passed on Sept. 13, 2018 after a short illness. Myron was born May 7, 1931 in Oakland and was raised in Glendale, California. Nicknamed “Rocky,” he was a basketball star at Hoover High School and attended Glendale College. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps during the Korean War. After his discharge, he married Arax Tulanian in 1955, and would go on to found two successful businesses: The Rheem Patio in Moraga and later Konjoyan’s Oriental Rugs in Lafayette.

Myron was an active member of the Armenian Triple X Fraternity, in which he held leadership positions in his chapter, and was a faithful member of St. Vartan’s Apostolic Church in Oakland and former chairman of its trustees.

He was a passionate USC football fan and never missed a televised game. But his number-one focus was always his family, which, during his illness, he called his “shots of penicillin.”

He is missed by his wife Arax, sons Jon and David, daughter Nancy Kurkjian, daughter-in-law Pamela Madieros, son-in-law Rick Kurkjian, grandchildren, Karly and Adam Kurkjian and brother, Norman Konjoyan.

Though Myron will be greatly missed, he now has the best seat in the house for every USC game.

## In Memory

### Joan Muer

Dec. 11, 1932 – Aug. 11, 2016



Joan Marie Muer, 85, of Rancho Palos Verdes, CA, passed away peacefully on August 11 after a 10 year battle with Alzheimer’s.

Joan McCarthy was born in Detroit, MI, on December 11, 1932. She graduated from St. Ambrose High School and attended Detroit Mercy College. She married Ray Muer on April 21, 1955.

During their married life, Joan and Ray lived in San Francisco, St. Louis and Moraga while Ray worked in the fields of advertising management and radio sales. While in Moraga, Joan earned her Bachelors degree in Psychology from Holy Names College in Oakland. Joan worked for 20 years as a Supervisor for the state of California in Unemployment

Development. After retirement, Joan and Ray moved to Manhattan Beach, California. Joan later moved to Rancho Palos Verdes, California.

In addition to raising a family and working for the state of California, Joan was involved in community groups such as Friends of the Moraga Library and the Assistance League. She enjoyed playing bridge with her bridge group, needlepoint, knitting and travel. Our fondest memories of Joan involve her incredible role as devoted mother and grandmother to her children and grandchildren.

Joan is preceded in death by her husband of almost 60 years, Raymond Joseph Muer, her parents, Dennis and Edna McCarthy, her sister Barbara Fronrath and her brother James McCarthy. She is survived by her sister, Rosemary Doherty, and her three children: Lisa Muer Tanner, Julie Muer and Thomas Muer. She is also survived by her six grandchildren: Devin Ray Tanner, Spencer Thomas Tanner, Amanda Marie Tanner, Natalie Violanda Natole, Cora Albrecht Schoppe and Tolya Ray Muer.

A formal mass will be held at St. Perpetua Chapel in Lafayette on Friday, Nov. 23 at 10:30 a.m., followed by a burial at Queen of Heaven Cemetery in Lafayette. There will be a reception immediately following the burial at the Lafayette Park Hotel.

### 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](mailto: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](mailto:storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com) with the subject header In Service to the Community.

# Team Laura roots for a Moraga mother fighting for life

By Sophie Braccini



Team Laura gathers at Moraga Commons in support of Laura Cryan Zellmer's fight against cystic fibrosis.

Photo Sophie Braccini

Laura Cryan Zellmer has not had it easy. The almost 45-year-old Moraga mom has a whole team of family and friends rooting for her and supporting her years-long fight against cystic fibrosis. Lamorinda Weekly wrote about the movie she made in 2014 to tell her story to her son Everett, who was then 6. The paper also featured a story about the 2016 lung transplant that given Cryan Zellmer a new lease on life. Now, as Cryan Zellmer awaits a new transplant at UCSF because her transplant lungs were rejected by her body, an entire community is rallying around her to bring her love, hope and to raise money for a foundation the Zellmers started to support those not as fortunate as themselves.

When Jamie Rubin, a friend and part of Team Laura, talks about Cryan Zellmer, the first thing she mentions is her smile and her infectious laugh. Rubin describes a warm and engaging woman, appreciating the beauty in life, taking time for others, and who never has anything negative to say. Rubin was raised in Moraga, as was Cryan Zellmer, and they became friends when their children found themselves in the same class. She says that she is part of an 11-person group that along with the family that also lives locally has been taking turns visiting Cryan Zellmer in the hospital and starting the Team Laura campaign, which became viral.

Cryan Zellmer had two good years with her new lungs but last summer doctors found that her lung function was decreasing rapidly. By Labor Day she had to be on oxygen 24/7. It was diagnosed that the cause was Chronic Rejection, which means that the lungs are failing and there is no other cure than a new transplant. According to her husband's posts, the decline has been very fast and she is now in the hospital and everyday everything is much harder. He noted, "Our relief will come at someone else's loss."

The Zellmers started a non-profit to support families affected by cystic fibrosis who are additionally impacted by a lack of financial means that make it difficult to get adequate treatment. For example, the Zellmers will have to live for three months in San Francisco close to UCSF after the operation for Cryan Zellmer to get the follow-up care she will need. Cryan Zellmer feels that she is fortunate enough to have the needed support, but that it is not the case for everyone.

Team Laura designed a T-shirt with the help of Teddy Yuen (a Moraga man himself) made by Spoken Cloth that was sold out within a month, allowing the team to raise \$10,476. The Los Perales Elementary class where Cryan Zellmer's son, Everett, goes to school started to spread the word. Friends talked to friends and supporters from all over the country started posting

pictures of themselves wearing the shirt on Team Laura's Facebook page, and sharing touching posts such as, "Please, join me in finding the time and space to pray for our dear sweet Laura Cryan Zellmer. That her body will stay strong and focused on healing, as she waits for the miracle of a second lung transplant."

On Sunday, Oct. 14 the Moraga supporters gathered at the Moraga Commons Park for a group photo. Rubin says that the purpose was to show to Cryan Zellmer the breadth of her local support and to give her strength.

The gathering was impressive. Tens, if not hundreds of Cryan Zellmer's friends of all ages came to the park flooded with warm fall sunlight, in their grey or blue T-shirts showing a pair of lungs, emblazoned with the letter L for Laura. Rubin shared news of Cryan Zellmer who she had seen the day before in the hospital; a friend brought a drone that took a video of the gathering for her.

The other objective of the group was to entice people to sign up to become organ donors themselves. That can be done online at <https://registerme.org/campaign/teamlaura>. Rubin adds that those who want to support Cryan Zellmer can post on the Team Laura's Facebook page as she often goes there to read the posts.

# Art Moves Project set to present latest artistic work in Lafayette, Oct. 19

Submitted by Christy Mack



Art Moves Project brings new forms of public art to Lafayette by commissioning California artists and choreographers from varying disciplines and backgrounds using exploratory and socially relevant themes. "Encased: Presented" will be installed at Lafayette Plaza Park, at the corner of Golden Gate Way and Mt. Diablo Boulevard in downtown Lafayette.

"Encased: Presented" reflects the collaboration among choreographer Yukie Fujimoto with No Strings Attached Dance Company, musician Marquise Moore and architect Lara Dutto. Their work delves into "What Surrounds You?" The public art installation will be held Friday, Oct. 19 at Lafayette Plaza Park, featuring two free performances at 4:30 and 6:30 p.m.

"We experience the Lafayette Plaza Park with its adjacent traffic intersections and streets as part of the daily routine of living here. This Project provides an intervention into the ordinary with an artistic installation of bold colors, unexpected forms and movement," explained Lara Dutto. "With AMP,

we are creating a shared community experience that can prompt a shift in perception. I'm interested in what this can reveal about our sense of place, ourselves and our surroundings."

Adults and children alike will have the chance to witness the result of this unique Oct. 19 Art Moves Project-led collaboration and will be invited to share their thoughts on "Encased: Presented" by writing on an interactive installation.

"We are thrilled to support AMP through a Kiwanis Club of

Moraga Valley Foundation grant," said Ibis Schlesinger of the foundation. "We are especially intrigued by this project because it brings free outdoor dance performances with art installations to our community, making art here visible and accessible and helping instigate dialogue across all ages."

Art Moves Project is a public art initiative founded by Lafayette residents Yukie Fujimoto, Christy Mack and Lissa Resnick. AMP merges different artistic forms and brings art out of traditional indoor venues to outdoor spaces. AMP is supported by the Lamorinda Arts Council, local foundations and businesses, and many generous private donors. For more information, visit @artmovesproject on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter and [www.lamorindaarts.org/art-sincubator](http://www.lamorindaarts.org/art-sincubator).



Photos provided

# Annual Art of Mixology benefits LAC



Photo Jennifer Wake

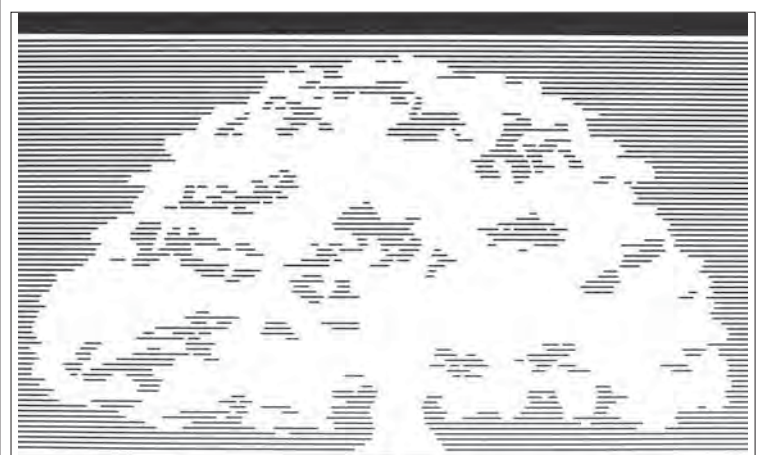
Hundreds of thirsty pleasure seekers attended the Lamorinda Arts Council's fifth annual Art of Mixology fundraiser Oct. 13 at Orinda's Theatre Square, which featured approximately 20 well-known and upcoming East Bay mixologists who came together to offer unique cocktails and vie for the coveted Mixologist of the Year award.

Portia Battistini of Lafayette's The Cooperage American Grille was named Mixologist of the Year for 2017 with her unique beer and bourbon creation entitled "Hops N Apricots," which is now her No. 1 selling drink on her menu. Battistini returned this year to assist her co-worker Patrick Dwyer for the title. "Nothing can beat last year's highlight and how special it was to win while my mom and grandma

happened to be visiting from England. My mom was my barback and my grandma was taking pictures and they got to meet everyone I work with. I just love this event and the community; everyone is so nice and it is local!"

This year's event was made possible thanks to generous donations by Lamorinda Theatres, Republic Services, Alain Pinel Realtors, Diablo Magazine, Orinda Theatre Square, Lafayette Park Hotel, The Fourth Bore, La Piazza, Taverna Pellegrini, Land Home Financial, Edward D. Jang DDS and Associates, Picolli Napoli, Meredith Peterson Homes, Sucherman - Insalaco LLP, Safeway, Spirit-Works, and Compari Brands: Aperol Spitz and SKYY Vodka.

- J. Wake



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## Lamorinda's Religious Services

### WORSHIP WITH US

ALL ARE WELCOME

Sundays, 9:30 am & 5 pm



10 Moraga Valley Lane  
mvpctoday.org  
925.376.4800

### Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church 433 Moraga Way, Orinda, 254-3422 www.holyshepherd.org



8:30 a.m. Traditions Worship Service  
9:45 a.m. Education for all ages  
10:45 a.m. Celebrations Worship Service  
Coffee Fellowship at 9:30 and 11:45 a.m.  
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unityofwalnutcreek.org

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Sundays at 8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m. 11:30 a.m.  
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Faith Formation for children and adults

3454 Hamlin Road | Lafayette | stperpetua.org  
925.283.0272 Parish | 925.284.1640 School



### Lafayette United Methodist Church

955 Moraga Road 925.284.4765 thelumc.org  
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Opportunities to Love God, Love Others,  
and Serve the World

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In-church Youth Zone, 10 AM Nursery Childcare  
682 Michael Lane, Lafayette, 284-7420, www.stanselms.ws

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Sunday Service and Sunday School 10 - 11 am  
Informal Wednesday Meeting 7:30 - 8:30 pm  
ReadingRoom/Bookstore M - F 11 - 4; Sat. 10 - 2

www.christianscienceorinda.org

## Not to be missed

### 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.bayaar-eastudioartists.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. "Graphicanos: Contemporary Latino Prints" from the Serie Project and "Stanley Koppel: Artist as Activist." <https://www.stmarys-ca.edu/museum>

**In the spirit of the season, the Moraga Art Gallery** presents "Holiday Magic in Porcelain and Paint," a colorful new show featuring the works by two of Lamorinda's most celebrated artists: Lafayette's Donna Arganbright and Orinda's Maria SantaStefano. The show, which includes paintings, jewelry, ceramics, photographs, and many other gifts of art by the gallery's 14 members and guest artists, runs from Oct. 24 to Jan. 5. The public is invited to a free opening reception from 5 to 7 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 27. For more information, visit [www.moragaartgallery.com](http://www.moragaartgallery.com) or call (925) 376-5407.

### MUSIC

**Acalanes High School is proud to present** its first Instrumental Music Department concert of the year at 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 18 at the Acalanes High School Performing Arts Center. This concert will feature the String Orchestra and Symphonic Wind Ensemble as well as music performed by the full Symphonic Orchestra. The Symphonic Wind Ensemble will be joined by amazing guest artist Riley Lindsey, who graduated from DePaul University in Chicago with a Masters in Performance on Tuba.

**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](mailto:concerts@crowden.org).

**The Sun Kings – two nights two shows** at Town Hall Theatre Company in Lafayette: Friday, Nov. 2, "Very Best of The Beatles;" Saturday, Nov. 3, "The Beatles White Album 50th Anniversary Gala Celebration." Doors open at 7 p.m. and music starts at 8 p.m. Tickets: \$35 advance; \$40 at the door. Tickets and more information at [www.towhalltheatre.com](http://www.towhalltheatre.com).

**The Lamorinda Big Band featuring Terry Miller, Brian Nova, Leslie Darwin O'Brien and Michael Henning** debuts at 7 p.m. on Nov. 7 at Orinda Community Church, 10 Irwin Way, Orinda (above Safeway). Tickets: \$10 at the door. Questions? Visit [tmkids.org](http://tmkids.org).

### THEATER

**Town Hall Theatre Company presents "The Revolutionists"** through Oct. 20 at the Town Hall

Company, 3535 School Street, Lafayette. For tickets, prices, and showtimes: [www.townhalltheatre.com](http://www.townhalltheatre.com); Box Office: (925) 283-1557.

**The Lafayette-based Peter Pan Foundation** and the Bay Area chapter of the Make a Wish Foundation have partnered this year to bring wishes to life for children with life-threatening illnesses on almost 40 occasions. The foundation will come together again for a benefit performance of Wish Upon a Star at 2 p.m. followed by a concert at 7 p.m. on Oct. 20 at the Orinda Community Center. Cost: \$10. All proceeds will be donated to the Make a Wish Foundation.

**12 Angry Jurors - An Acalanes DramaDons Production** at 7 p.m. on Oct. 24 in the Acalanes High School Little Theater, 1200 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette. Students: \$7, General: \$12. An emotionally impactful and mature presentation by the Acalanes High School DramaDons. Tickets and Information at [AHSPerformingArts.org](http://AHSPerformingArts.org).

**Diablo Ballet opens its 2018-19 season** with "A Swingin' Holiday and Carnival of the Imagination," Nov. 9 through 11 at the Del Valle Theatre in Walnut Creek. Single tickets are \$15-\$49. Please visit [www.lesherartscenter.org](http://www.lesherartscenter.org) or call (925) 943-SHOW (7469) for tickets. [www.diabloballet.org](http://www.diabloballet.org).

### LECTURE & LITERATURE

**Town Hall Theatre is excited to announce** their new staged reading series, "In the Wings," which launches with a one-night only reading of "Placebo" – a smart, new offbeat serio-comedy by Melissa James Gibson. "Placebo" will have one performance only at 8 p.m. on Nov. 12 at Town Hall Theatre Company, 3535 School Street, in Lafayette. Tickets are \$10 general admission and free to subscribers, and are available through the Box Office at (925) 283-1557 or online at [www.TownHallTheatre.com](http://www.TownHallTheatre.com).

### HALLOWEEN EVENTS

**Halloween Parade for Tots at 1 p.m. on Oct. 25** in the Orinda Community Center Park located at 28 Orinda Way. Calling all Paw Patrol Marshalls and Chases, Princesses, Dinosaurs, and Yodas, come join the fun, and follow Glenda the Good Witch for a stroll around the park. Halloween themed activities will also be available for those wanting to participate. In case of rain, the event will be held indoors.

**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.

**Haunted Laboratory – beware of the evil scientist** and watch out for the spooky experiments being done inside at the Lafayette Youth Commission Haunted House Saturday, Oct. 27 and Sunday, Oct. 28 at the Lafayette Community Center, 500 St. Mary's Rd. Times: 5 to 6:45 p.m. (Not Too Scary at \$3 per person); 7:30 to 9 p.m. (Very Scary at \$5 per person). Tickets on sale now at [www.lafayetteterec.org](http://www.lafayetteterec.org).

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

**"Halloween Night Live" Halloween skit** from 7 to 9 p.m. on Oct. 31 at 12 Lynwood Place, Moraga (off of Corliss.) Don't miss the 25th year of this annual performance.

### KIDS, PARENTS & TEENS

**Mindful Littles is partnering with some local chefs** for our Cookin' for a Cause program from 3 to 5 p.m. on Nov. 4 at Orinda Community Church, 10 Irwin Way, Orinda. For this service project, we are helping Operation Dignity. We will make dinner at a local kitchen in Orinda and then deliver the meal to Operation Dignity so that the residents can enjoy a hot meal. We will provide all supplies needed to cook the meals, so all you have to do is show up with a big heart and be ready to have some fun. Cost: \$25. For more information and to register, please visit us at: [https://www.flip-cause.com/secure/cause\\_pdetails/NDEwMjA=](https://www.flip-cause.com/secure/cause_pdetails/NDEwMjA=)

### OTHER

**The Saklan School is pleased to host** a screening of "Beyond Measure" by Reel Link Films beginning at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 18 at the Lafayette Veteran's Hall, 3780 Mt. Diablo Blvd. For more info or to RSVP visit: [www.saklan.org](http://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. Friday, 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. Saturday, 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 ten purchased under one reservation form. All proceeds benefit students seeking scholarships for financial aid. Make check of \$45 payable to SMC Guild. Mail to: Donna Jollymour, 387 Calle la Montana, Moraga, CA 94556 For information call Donna Jollymour (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.

**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 nation's 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](http://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 chose 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](http://www.lafayettechamber.org/resrun)

# Local horror host brings Halloween to the Rheem Theatre

By Derek Zemrak

MOVIE REVIEW



Photo provided

**L**ord Blood-Rah, host of the syndicated TV show "Lord Blood-Rah's Nerve Wrackin' Theatre," will be bringing his own brand of Halloween chills and cheer to the Rheem Theatre at 7 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 27.

"Lord Blood-Rah's Nerve Wrackin' Theatre Halloween Psycho Show" will feature a hand-picked selection of Halloween and horror related short subjects followed by a screening of Francis Ford Coppola's very first film, the thrilling psychological tale of madness and axe murderers, "Dementia 13." There will also be a trivia contest, The Cranial Cavity Search, as Lord Blood-Rah calls it on his TV show, with prizes awarded to those with a grasp of classic horror trivia.

The self-proclaimed High Lord of Geekdom, Lord Blood-Rah, is the creation of life-long horror and science fiction fan Frank Wallace-Ailsworth. Growing up in the San Francisco Bay Area in the late '60s and early '70s, Wallace-Ailsworth was introduced to genre films, both classic and not so classic, through the legendary local TV show "Creature Features," hosted by Bob Wilkins and John Stanley which aired on KTVU from 1971 to 1984. This became the inspiration that would drive the creation of "Lord Blood-Rah's Nerve Wrackin' Theatre" in 2009.

Originally a series of live film events across the Bay Area, the show came to television in 2007. Each week on various channels including ZPTV on Roku and other online outlets, "Lord

Blood-Rah's Nerve Wrackin' Theatre" presents the best, worst and wildest horror and sci-fi films ever made with comic commentary from the Lord himself.

"Lord Blood-Rah's Nerve Wrackin' Theatre Halloween Psycho Show" marks his return to the Rheem Theatre where he has hosted many Sci-Fi Day film festivals and film events throughout the past several years.

For tickets and more info go to [www.LamorindaTheatres.com](http://www.LamorindaTheatres.com). Find out more information on Lord Blood-Rah at [www.lordbloodrah.com](http://www.lordbloodrah.com).

See you there if you DARE!

### Upcoming events:

#### Rheem Theatre

**Oct. 12 – 18** – Mountain Cry (International Film Showcase)

**Oct. 25** – Saint Mary's College: "Green Book" with Director and Cast

**Oct. 27** – Lord Blood-Rah's Nerve Wrackin' Theatre Halloween Special

**Nov. 3 – 4** – "Child Disrupted" screening and Q&A with filmmaker (CAIFF Best Short Subject Documentary Winner) 3, 5 and 7 p.m. on Nov.3; 5 and 7 p.m. Nov.4

**Nov. 9 – 16** – "The Guilty" (International Film Showcase)

**Nov. 17** – Magic Show with Timothy James (6 and 8 p.m.)

**Nov. 23 – 30** – "Frank & Ava" (indie film about Frank Sinatra and Ava Gardner)

**Dec. 1** – Psychotronix Film Festival

**Dec. 8 – 9** – Three's Company Christmas Parody Play

**Dec. 14 – 21** – "The Gold Seekers" (International Film Showcase)

**Orinda Theatre**

**Nov. 8** Live at the Orinda Concert Series with Multi Grammy nominee, Maureen McGovern- 7:30 p.m.

**Nov. 8** Free Movie Night – "Deliverance" 6:30 p.m.

**Dec. 13** Free Movie Night – "A Christmas Story" 6:30 p.m.

**Dec. 16** Live at the Orinda Concert Series with two-time Tony Award nominee, Karen Mason – 7 p.m.

## Not to be missed

### OTHER ... continued

**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. Traducion 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.

**Blessing of the Animals, beginning at 11 a.m.** Sunday, Oct. 21, during worship celebration at St. Mark's United Methodist Church, 451 Moraga Way in Orinda. Service begins at 11, and is followed by potluck lunch. Bring your furry, feathered, and scaled friends for a special blessing as we celebrate the love and wisdom given by our animal companions. Please bring cats in carriers and dogs on leads to ensure they feel safe and secure. More info, email pastor Michele Robbins, [shalompastor3@gmail.com](mailto:shalompastor3@gmail.com).

**Lamorinda Toastmasters meetings 7:30 to 9 p.m.** on Tuesday nights at Temple Isaiah - 945 Risa Road, Lafayette. Our mission is to provide a supportive and positive learning experience in which members are empowered to develop communication and leadership skills, resulting in greater self-confidence and personal growth. Everyone over 18 is welcome. <https://lamorinda.toastmastersclubs.org>

**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 Bi-

ble and Ironman intersect. \$5 donation at the door for breakfast. RSVP by noon on Oct. 23 to [janet@lopc.org](mailto: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/>

**Jeanette Fritzky tribute walk noon to 3 p.m.** Saturday, Oct. 27 at the Moraga Commons Park. Details at [jeanettefritzkytributewalk.com](http://jeanettefritzkytributewalk.com).

**American Association of University Women (AAUW) members** of the Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette Branch are hosting a Game Day from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Miramonte Gardens Clubhouse on Thursday, Nov. 1. After enjoying a catered lunch guests will play Bridge, Bunko or Dominoes. Reservations are \$40 and are available by contacting Laura Monin at (925) 631-6667.

**The music of Mexico is featured in this year's All Souls Festival** at 9:30 a.m. on Nov. 4 at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 1035 Carol Lane, in Lafayette. With ravishing voice, an array of guitars, and beautiful

## Not to be missed

violin, Cascada de Flores honors and advances Mexico's rich musical traditions, builds multicultural bridges, and celebrates the gift of life. Families will honor loved ones by building a small altar, telling a few good family stories, sharing pan de muerto, and enjoying the amazing art of Carla Winters as she paints children's faces in traditional Dia de los Muertos style. The morning is free but we still pass the plate around. For more details, click on the All Souls Festival banner at [www.oslc.net](http://www.oslc.net).

**Celebrate Veteran's Day from 9 to 10 a.m.** on Nov. 12 at the Moraga Commons Park. Speakers and refreshments.

### POLITICAL GATHERINGS

**Lamorinda Republican Women Federated's** meeting will take place at 11:30 a.m. Thursday, 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](http://www.evefororinda.com) and [www.ordindaparksandrec.org/397/City-Council-Candidate-Info--11618](http://www.ordindaparksandrec.org/397/City-Council-Candidate-Info--11618). Cost: luncheon and speaker \$36; speaker only \$15; speaker only student \$5.

### SENIORS

**California Highway Patrol: Age Well/ Drive Smart**, presented by a CHP Officer and CHP Sr. Volunteer Cindy Lima from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 25 in the Elderberry Room, Lafayette Community Center. Discover the keys to driving safer and driving longer. You have the ability to change your driving habits or take other correc-

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## Service Clubs Announcements

**Lafayette Rotary Club**

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Thursday at noon Oakwood Athletic Club, 4000 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette.

<p><b>October 18:</b></p> <p><b>BART Director</b> <b>Deborah Allen</b></p>	<p><b>October 25:</b></p> <p><b>Supervisor</b> <b>Candace Anderson</b></p>
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## Not to be missed

## Not to be missed

### GARDEN

**The Moraga Garden Club will hold their next meeting** at 9:30 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 18 at the Holy Trinity Church, 1700 School Street, Moraga. The guest speaker will be Michelle Sneed of the California Water Science Center, U.S. Geological Survey. She will discuss "Water Availability and Land Subsidence in California." Interested

parties are welcome to attend the 9:30 a.m. social hour, the 10 a.m. meeting and the presentation by Michelle Sneed, immediately following the meeting.

**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 Pumpkultents; Speaker: Shawna Anderson, Horticultural Consultant and Manager of the Custom Container Department at Lafayette's Orchard Nursery. Shawna will demonstrate how to create Pumpkultents, 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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26,600 printed copies; delivered to homes & businesses in Lamorinda.

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# Caramel-icious bread pudding a perfect dessert for cool fall days

By Susie Iventosch



Cinnamon Apple Raisin Bread Pudding

Photo Susie Iventosch

I love bread pudding because it's such a great dessert (or breakfast) for crisp autumn days. And, I really can't think of any better accompaniment to an apple dish than caramel sauce! This sauce is the same one we used for the caramel-glazed apple cake last year, so it won't be anything new or daunting for any of you caramel lovers out there. The twist on this bread pudding is the use of cinnamon-raisin bread in place of regular bread. I was able to purchase a whole loaf of the bread so it could be cubed, but if you can only find sliced bread, that will work too. If you prefer plain bread, just use it instead and then add some sea salt to the caramel glaze, for a salted-caramel bread pudding. I recently saw this on a menu and willed it to land on my plate. It was amazing!

I've just received the winning

recipes from the Moraga Pear and Wine Festival recipe contest, so look for those in an upcoming issue.



Susie can be reached at [suziventosch@gmail.com](mailto:suziventosch@gmail.com). This recipe can be found on our website: [www.lamorindaweekly.com](http://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.

## Cinnamon Apple Raisin Bread Pudding with Caramel Glaze

### Bread:

1 loaf cinnamon raisin bread, cut into 1-inch cubes and slightly toasted (approximately 6 cups)

### Apples:

1 ½ cups Honeycrisp or Braeburn apples, skin on, cored and coarsely diced  
2 tablespoons butter  
2 tablespoons brown sugar  
½ teaspoon cardamom  
½ teaspoon cinnamon  
¼ teaspoon nutmeg  
¾ cup walnuts halved, and toasted

Heat butter and brown sugar in a skillet until butter is melted. Add apples and spices and cook for about five minutes over medium-low heat. Add toasted walnuts for the last minute or so. Remove from stove and combine this mixture with bread cubes in a large bowl.

### Custard:

3 large eggs  
1 egg yolk  
1 ¼ cups milk  
¾ cup heavy cream  
2 teaspoons vanilla  
½ teaspoon salt  
¼ cup sugar

In a large bowl, whisk all custard ingredients together and pour over bread and apples. Mix well, by pushing bread down into the custard and allow to sit and soak for about an hour in the refrigerator before baking.

When ready to bake, preheat oven to 325 F. Pour bread pudding mixture into a well-greased 2.5 quart casserole dish. Bake for approximately 45 minutes, or until it is golden brown, slightly puffed, and a knife inserted into the center comes out clean. Allow the pudding to set up for 15-20 minutes before serving. Serve with a scoop of ice cream or frozen yogurt and drizzle the caramel glaze (recipe below) over bread pudding and ice cream.

### Caramel Glaze:

4 ½ tablespoons butter  
4 ½ tablespoons light brown sugar  
3 tablespoons heavy cream  
1 teaspoon vanilla

In a small heavy pan, melt the butter. Add brown sugar, cream and vanilla. Bring to a rolling boil and boil rapidly about two minutes or until mixture thickens to coat a spoon. Cool until slightly thickened. Spoon over serving of bread pudding and frozen yogurt or ice cream.

You can find most of the recipes published in the Lamorinda Weekly on our website. Click Food tab. [www.lamorindaweekly.com/html2/food1.html](http://www.lamorindaweekly.com/html2/food1.html)

## Tell me more about UCLA!

By Elizabeth LaScala, PhD

With easy access to the beach, mountains and Hollywood glitter, it's no wonder that UCLA received more applications last cycle than any other UC campus. Increasing its appeal further is the fact that Los Angeles is a global capital for entertainment, aerospace, fashion, finance and healthcare. UCLA's campus bleeds into Westwood

Village, one of the most desirable neighborhoods in the world, a short drive to Beverly Hills, where movie stars and other influential elites call home.

UCLA ranks among the country's top 10 public universities and its strengths span fields from the arts to engineering. Overall, UCLA accepted only 14 percent of those who applied to join the

Class of 2022. Top name professors, innovative academic programs and cutting edge research drives the number of applications sky high each cycle—113,000 high school seniors applied to UCLA last November—more applications than any college in the nation, and the 30,000 undergraduate member campus is the largest in the UC system.

Excellent grades and super strong test scores are "musts" to get in for most students. But that's not all it takes to be admitted. A holistic application process in combination with data on trends which I have reviewed since 2008 informs us that UCLA seeks to admit the most distinguished, talented and unique scholars in not only California, but across the U.S. and abroad. It's no wonder that those who get into UCLA are likely to stay put (97 percent of the freshmen who entered in 2016 returned for their sophomore year, and 79 percent finished their degrees in four years). Both measures are excellent for such a large university.

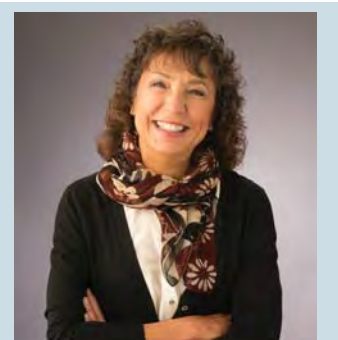
As a national research university, UCLA is credited as the original home for more than 3,000 inventions, including the foundations for the Internet. UCLA is also a leading producer of talent for the motion picture industry. UCLA alumni, over 500,000 strong worldwide, including Francis Ford Coppola, Randy Newman and Tim Robbins, have collected 38 Academy Awards. The most prominent campus in NCAA Division I athletics in the system, the university's athletic teams compete in the NCAA Division I Pacific 12 Conference and UCLA's athletes have won 261 Olympic medals and captured 116 NCAA team championships — more than any other American university.

UCLA's most popular majors are in the social sciences and biomedical sciences, but there are strong programs in virtually every other academic department, in particular architecture, computer science, engineering, mathematics, nursing and the visual and performing arts. Undergraduates have a selection of 125 majors and more than 80 minors. But unlike UC Irvine (<http://www.doingcollege.com/college-profile-uc-irvine/>) UCLA offers no undergraduate business program. It does offer a major in business economics, however, which can be paired with a minor in entrepreneurship studies.

One "need to know" about academics: the university calendar is based on a quarter system while similar schools, includ-

ing UC-Berkeley (<http://www.doingcollege.com/resources/college-profiles/>) run on longer semesters. Students beware! On the quarter system the work goes faster and the grading is not any easier. Compound this with the huge size of the introductory classes and relatively smaller access to professor support, as well as 1,200 clubs and organizations to choose from, and you will better understand that good study habits and the ability to resist the many beach, sun and party distractions is essential to academic success.

UCLA has been called America's finest urban public university—and one of the best research universities in the world. There's a sense of pride in being a Bruin that is difficult to match at similar schools—and it lasts well beyond graduation.



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

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# LAMORINDA SPORTS

## Saint Mary's Men's Soccer performs as a whole

By Jon Kingdon



Steve Dougherty

Photo Tod Fierner

When an athlete performs to his absolute maximum on the field, it's called "being in the zone." It's not a common event but neither is it a rarity. Seldom is it when a team as a whole performs in said zone. Such is the case with the Saint Mary's Men's Soccer Team this year. The Gaels have won their first 13 games and are the only Division I soccer team that is undefeated and untied, which includes the women's teams as well.

Currently ranked sixth nationally, it's the first time since 2014 Saint Mary's has been ranked at all. Still, the team is taking it in stride says Cooper: "Everyone is in form and the guys are just treating every day like professionals. I know they are enjoying it and are humbled by it and we now have a target on our back. We can only control what we can control."

The team's record is all the more impressive as they were coming off a 6-6-5 record in 2017. Saint Mary's head coach Adam Cooper attributes the im-

provement to the growth of the team: "When you look at our record, a lot of it comes down to maturity. A lot of the ties from last season are now becoming wins as the players have grown in the game."

Still, the team has only one true senior, Steve Dougherty, along with seven juniors (two redshirt juniors) and 18 freshmen and sophomores. Cooper admits that "this is still a relatively young team but a number of the juniors are in their third year as starters. I'm not afraid to play freshmen. I want the best 11 players on the field and the young players have to be ready and get the experience."

Cooper is starting two of the 11 freshmen on the team: midfielder Sebastian Schacht and defender James Person with still other freshmen getting significant playing time. Says Cooper: "They are learning quickly though they will make some mistakes but the older players are good at leading the team."

Mark Twain said that there are

lies, damned lies and statistics. However, with Saint Mary's, it's a case where the statistics tell the story. Last year the Saint Mary's offense averaged 1.41 goals per game. This year they are averaging 3.15 goals per game. The defense has been even better. In the goal, junior Remi Prieur has only given up four goals for a miniscule 0.31 goals per game with 11 shutouts.

It's not just Prieur's physical skills, it's the intangibles as well, says Cooper: "Remi is a great leader in the back. He is vocal in organizing our team. He organizes the defense and comes up big when needed."

Assistant coach Josh Duffy attributes the success of the defense to the unit as a whole: "The back line, Filippo Zattarin, James Person, Valentin Sponer and Jeremiah Michael, have all stepped up this year." In a classic team performance by the defense in their opening league game last week, a 4-0 win over Pacific, Prieur did not have to make a single save. Pacific took all of three shots the entire game and in fact got no shots off in the second half.

... continued on Page C3



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## Lamorinda girls tennis teams show strength on the court

By Jon Kingdon



Photos Gint Federas



With a combined 33-9 record so far this season, the Lamorinda girls tennis teams are positioning themselves for the upcoming postseason tournament. Each of the schools has improved their won-lost record and are doing so with a large number of underclassmen.

When a team has finished the prior year with an 18-2 record, it's not easy to improve on such a performance. Yet Miramonte has found a way so far this year as they have won their first 15 matches. Miramonte coach Michael McCollom speaks of his team in no uncertain terms: "This is the best team I have coached." There are not many teams that could play without their No. 1 player and not miss a beat as Miramonte has done. They march inexorably through their schedule. Sophomore Amber Lee who is nationally ranked has only been available to play for Miramonte in only three matches as she plays in various other tournaments. She won all three matches.

The team is comprised of 10 juniors and seniors and 10 freshmen and sophomores. The sophomores have proven to be the foundation of the team in singles play with a combined 33-7 record by themselves.

Sophomores Macey Dowd and former New Yorker Henrietta Schmuck have stepped up to fill the void at first and second singles with great success. Dowd is 10-1 while Schmuck's record is 10-3. Taking advantage of the team's great depth, Miramonte has used 10 different players in singles play this season.

As effective as the singles play has been for Miramonte, the doubles play has proven even more effective with a combined record of 32-4. McCollom has used 14 different doubles combinations. Leading the doubles teams is the pairing of senior Michelle Tang and junior Peyton Smith who are 11-0 this

year. The teams of senior Maya Harrison and sophomore Marlowe Randolph-Malachowski are 4-0 and junior Anna Hyman and senior Paige Millham have a 4-3 record.

In such a competitive situation with so many players competing for playing time, McCollom has seen no issues with the players: "This is a very deep team. It's the most collegiate team I have ever had. They love each other and like being with each other. With such a young team, there is still room to improve."

Helping McCollom are his senior co-captains, Tang and Millham who he credits with "building the team's esprit de corp."

First year Acalanes head coach Drew Diefenbach has led a big turnaround from last year's 9-8 record to its current record of 14-3. Diefenbach has brought a great deal of personal experience having played for Miramonte High School and Cal Poly SLO, founded Paragon Tennis in Orinda, and having coached professionally at the Olympic Club in San Francisco, so he was familiar with some of his players prior to his arrival.

With a 14-3 record, the Dons are second only to Miramonte in league standings. The singles players have proven to be the dominant group on the team. Sophomore Eliza Bates has an 11-3 record playing No. 1 singles. Says Diefenbach: "Eliza has a powerful serve and forehand. She is very knowledgeable of the game and understands what she needs to do to be a winner."

Another sophomore, Jasmine Toni, has won 15 of her 17 matches, which Diefenbach attributes to her consistency and how well she moves on the court. Diefenbach appreciates what Toni brings to the team besides her play on the court: "Jasmine has also taken on a leadership role though only a sophomore as she is so supportive of her teammates which sets the tone for the rest of the team." Se-

nior Sydney Bell rounds out the top three on the team with an 11-4 record in her matches. Says Diefenbach: "Sydney has played for years. She is able to keep the ball deep and is a real fighter that does not give up."

When you include juniors Zoe Cate (9-1) and Madi Price (9-1) and sophomore Erin Warenski (8-2), the Dons have a combined 59-12 record in singles matches. In fact, says Diefenbach: "All of the girls have improved as the season has progressed."

The doubles teams have not been able to match the success that the singles players have had: 19 different doubles combinations with a 25-16 record in all their matches with seniors Naomi Berkowitz and Anika Mohanty leading the way with a 6-1 record. Diefenbach remains optimistic about this group: "Our doubles teams have really improved. They are really grasping the strategy of the game and how to implement it in their matches."

With his prior experience in coaching, Diefenbach has kept things on an even keel: "I know that all of the girls have different personalities. I am not a yeller. If there are issues, I will talk about them. Still I am a very competitive person. Besides improving all of the girls technically, my goal has been to improve their will to perform well and have the desire to win regardless of the score. I want them to fight on every point."

Despite a 3-10 record last season, with the majority of his single's players either freshmen or sophomores, Campolindo coach Steve Robinson remained optimistic, noting: "The key for 2018 is for the girls to work hard in the offseason." With an improved record of 5-6 at this point in the season, it seems that the Cougars took Robinson's advice to heart.

"This is a good and balanced roster," says coach Sunon Faulkner. "The strength of the team is its depth without any one dominant

player. They work as a team and compete to the end of every match. This is a cohesive group. Everyone puts in the work and we are improved from last year."

Junior Kate Brown has taken on the onus of playing No. 1 singles, says Faulkner: "Kate has really improved her play on the court and in the mental part of the game. She has gotten tougher as we ask her to play the top opponents in all of our matches."

Playing No. 2 singles is junior Celia Campo, whose effort Faulkner appreciates: "Celia is a raw talent. She is still learning the game. She never quits and is a role model for her teammates."

The rest of the singles players are junior Sara Vranesh, sophomore Lauren Brewer and Noel Seo and freshman Claire Ross

Co-captains Maile Nomura and Charmae Wang have been the leaders on the team, according to Faulkner: "They help get the players ready for practice, warming them up. They both provide great spirit, doing things like getting the players to wear war paint the day of matches."

The doubles teams have proven to be the most successful part of the team led by Juliette Barlier and Wang (4-1) and Alex Bonardi and Nomura (4-1). The sister team of junior and freshman Isabelle and Francesca Restrepo also have a winning record (2-1). Faulkner appreciates how well Francesca has handled playing with her sister: "There is a lot of pressure on Francesca to play up to her sister's level. It's a good life lesson for her and they both get along well."

With the Cougars third in the league behind Miramonte and Acalanes, Faulkner sees a positive with her players: "This is a group of good citizens. They are all responsive to each other. They work as a team and compete to the end of every match. I love them all."

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# MAAC Charity Golf Raises Funds for Painted Rock Land Trust, Mineta Legacy Project and Eth-Noh-Tec

Submitted by Sharron Sue



18th Annual MAAC Charity Golf Tournament Winners, from left: Steve Kobayashi, Ron Tanaka, Craig Oki, and Steve Oki. Photo provided

The 18th Annual and final Moraga Asian American Club Charity Golf Tournament was held Sept. 23 at Corica Park. Tournament Chairs Sharron Sue and Ron Tanaka announced, "We thank our golfers, as well as our generous major supporters who donated prizes and contributed to the overall success of the event: Monterey Hilton Garden Inn, Corica Park, Berkeley Bowl, Moraga Garden Center, Lee's Florist and Nursery, Tokyo Fish Market, Russell Takei, DDS, Todd Fujinaga, Derrek Tomine and Ronald

Wake, DDS." The charity golf tournament raised funds and donated \$1,000 each to the Campaign to Save Painted Rock, The Mineta Legacy Project and Eth-Noh-Tec.

The Moraga Asian American Club began more than 20 years ago to promote civic involvement, inclusion and respect for differences in celebration of Lamorinda's diversity. Since its inception, the golf tournament has been raising money to support these goals, but after a tremendous run of 18 years, the tournament will sunset.

# Navy girls' soccer compete in the Dublin Fall Classic

Submitted by Joel Flory



From left: Abbie Wang, Mia Wang, Sena Hens, Matilda Nethery, Isabella O'Callaghan, Avery Williamson, Kaela Reid, Zoë Lehrman, Kylie Weiss, Ingrid Flory, Madeline Wong, Gabriella Tibbals, and coach Alex Sanchez. Photo Joel Flory

The Lamorinda United 09 Navy girls' soccer competed in the Dublin Fall Classic and took first place in the gold division. They went undefeated in the tournament going 4-0 and outscoring opponents

12-2. The team played their possession style game and pulled out a gritty 3-2 overtime win in the championship game against North Marin United 09 Green.

**Submit stories to sportsdesk@lamorindaweekly.com**  
(we prefer to receive your original photo file, minimum size: 200 dpi and 1200 pixels wide)

# Saint Mary's Men's Soccer performs as a whole

... continued from Page C1

The offensive numbers are equally impressive as the Gaels have outscored their opponents 33-4. They have outshot their opponents 195 to 98 and have 53 more shots on goal as well. Cooper attributes much of the success the growth of the team: "We have a lot of good offensive pieces and the guys are working well together. With the players knowing each other's movements, the offense is getting more shots."

Once again, it's a group effort that should be credited for the success of the offense. Ten different players have scored for Saint Mary's so far this season. There are many reasons for the improved offense, according to Cooper: "We have good attacking players. The team is creating more scoring opportunities. We have different facets to our offense and set

pieces. Even some of the defenders have stepped up and scored."

The two leading scorers on the team are junior forwards Jake Rudel (10 goals and 2 assists) and Anders Engbretsen (6 goals and 5 assists). Says Duffy: "Jake is the fastest player in the country. He generates a lot of opportunities with his feet and Engbretsen has a good shot and is a good attacker with the ball on his feet. Our front five attackers have helped us to create a lot of opportunities and chances to score."

A team does not go 12-0 without a group chemistry that allows them to work so well together as a team. There is a strong international flavor to the team. The roster has 17 players on the team from the United States (13 from California) and is complemented with 10 players from 10

different countries – The Czech Republic, Germany, Holland, Italy, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Spain and Sweden.

Says Cooper: "Our foreign recruiting has been really strong the last four years. The players come from different cultures, background and soccer experiences. They enjoy learning about each other. They come in with different styles and techniques. Still we make sure it's the right fit for the players we recruit. The players like to hang out with each other off the field and that helps on the field. My assistant coaches, Josh Duffy and Charlie Campbell manage the personalities of the team. We have fun in practice, which helps in team bonding. Our co-captains, Dougherty and Prieur, are the team leaders, holding themselves and the team ac-

countable."

Duffy stresses the importance of recruiting the right players: "Soccer is soccer but the guys we bring in have to fit the culture. We want to recruit good people that understand the philosophy of Saint Mary's, which is to come in to learn and leave to serve. The mentality fits the mold."

Saint Mary's was the first team this year this year to reach double figures in victories, leading the nation in shots on goals, and is fourth in offensive scoring and fifth in save percentage. Says Cooper: "This has been a season with a lot of firsts. It's the best start in school history. We are definitely setting a high bar for years to come."



James Person

Photos Tod Fierner



Sebastian Schacht

www.Lamorindaweekly.com

Most Frequently Viewed Stories From Our Last Issue:

Summary of website content including headlines like 'State Assembly candidates Baker and Bauer-Kahan woo Lamorinda voters', 'MOFD and the firefighters union come to tentative labor agreement', and 'Longtime Lafayette city manager resigns'.

- MOFD and the firefighters union come to tentative labor agreement
- State Assembly candidates Baker and Bauer-Kahan woo Lamorinda voters
- MCN Candidates night 2018
- Owner hopes for quick sale of Orinda eyesore
- Letters to the Editor
- Longtime Lafayette city manager resigns
- A quick Q and A with County Superintendent of Schools candidates
- City settles with Save Lafayette for \$650K to cover legal fees
- Hardware problems delay major intersection technology upgrade
- City Council pauses to consider action on trail easement and closure

If you wish to view any of the stories above go to www.lamorindaweekly.com and click the link below the story.

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# Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 12 Issue 17 Wednesday, October 17, 2018



Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide

## Legends of the fall

By Cynthia Brian

"Delicious autumn! My very soul is wedded to it." – George Elliot



Apples are ripe and ready. Bobbing for apples was a game begun because of the goddess Pomona.

Photos Cynthia Brian

Fall is filled with legends, myths, fairs and festivals, all celebrating the bounty from various cultures around the world. Pomona was the Roman goddess of apples. Bacchus, the Roman god of grapes, and his Greek counterpart, Dionysus, taught humans how to make wine. Many Native American tribes traditionally held special autumn dances to celebrate the corn harvest and the Hopi considered this the most auspicious time of the year for weddings. The Chinese and Vietnamese commemorate farmers and family reunions with Moon festivals, lotus seed paste-filled moon-cakes, and retelling of folk tales. The ancient Celts, who lived 2,000 years ago, marked the end of the harvest with the festival of Samhain, the origin of our Halloween.

In my 20s, I was booked as a model by a talent agency named Demeter. Having always been fascinated by Greek mythology, I revisited my history books for a refresher lesson.

Demeter, the sister of Zeus, Poseidon and Hades, was the goddess of the harvest, agriculture and grain. After her daughter Persephone was abducted by Hades and brought to the underworld, Demeter wandered the earth heartbroken, refusing to allow crops to grow. Being king of the gods, Zeus knew he had

to intervene or everyone would starve so he sent Hermes to Hades to bring Persephone home. Before she left to see her mother, Hades tricked Persephone into eating a few pomegranate seeds guaranteeing that she would return to the darkness for one season a year. Demeter mourned that time which became known as winter but celebrated the previous season, autumn, by reaping the abundance of the crops.

Fall is considered a time to slow down, seek serenity, and soothe the sores of summer. It's a time of color changes, chillier temperatures and cooler temperaments. Most of all, we rejoice the fruits of our toils. October has also been a premier month for earthquakes, fires and financial failures. Be prepared as this fact is not a myth. ... continued on Page D12



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## Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

City	Last reported:	LOWEST AMOUNT:	HIGHEST AMOUNT:
LAFAYETTE	5	\$844,000	\$2,200,000
MORAGA	9	\$500,000	\$3,500,000
ORINDA	11	\$880,000	\$3,025,000

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

### LAFAYETTE

- 1051 Brown Avenue, \$1,005,000, 3 Bdrms, 1764 SqFt, 1969 YrBlt, 9-14-18
- 29 Olympic Oaks Drive, \$1,726,000, 3 Bdrms, 2484 SqFt, 1996 YrBlt, 9-14-18;  
Previous Sale: \$1,350,000, 12-09-14
- 735 Silver Crest Court, \$2,200,000, 3 Bdrms, 5374 SqFt, 1985 YrBlt, 9-7-18;  
Previous Sale: \$728,000, 06-16-88
- 1025 Sunnybrook Drive, \$844,000, 4 Bdrms, 3688 SqFt, 1941 YrBlt, 9-7-18;  
Previous Sale: \$110,000, 07-25-75
- 30 Sunrise Lane, \$1,055,000, 2 Bdrms, 2334 SqFt, 1981 YrBlt, 9-17-18;  
Previous Sale: \$360,000, 10-31-91

### MORAGA

- 119 Ascot Court #2, \$520,000, 2 Bdrms, 1140 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 9-7-18;  
Previous Sale: \$375,000, 02-10-14
- 41 Ascot Place, \$791,000, 2 Bdrms, 1478 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 9-11-18;  
Previous Sale: \$590,000, 02-23-07
- 2151 Camino Pablo, \$3,500,000, 9-7-18;  
Previous Sale: \$3,500,000, 08-17-12
- 752 Country Club Drive, \$770,000, 2 Bdrms, 1262 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 9-13-18;  
Previous Sale: \$770,000, 08-13-18
- 1850 Joseph Drive, \$1,739,000, 4 Bdrms, 2469 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 9-17-18
- 1153 Larch Avenue, \$1,465,500, 5 Bdrms, 2414 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 9-7-18;  
Previous Sale: \$980,000, 01-23-07
- 651 Moraga Road #14, \$500,000, 3 Bdrms, 1394 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 9-13-18;  
Previous Sale: \$480,000, 10-16-07
- 214 Paseo Bernal, \$915,000, 3 Bdrms, 2044 SqFt, 1979 YrBlt, 9-14-18;  
Previous Sale: \$553,500, 10-01-03
- 1831 St. Andrews Drive, \$1,190,000, 2 Bdrms, 1987 SqFt, 1980 YrBlt, 9-7-18;  
Previous Sale: \$879,000, 04-23-08

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- 34 Ardilla Road, \$1,200,000, 2 Bdrms, 1245 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 9-11-18;  
Previous Sale: \$850,000, 10-29-14
- 43 Crestview Drive, \$1,295,000, 3 Bdrms, 1931 SqFt, 1946 YrBlt, 9-13-18;  
Previous Sale: \$53,000, 08-06-73
- 27 Ivy Drive, \$1,150,000, 3 Bdrms, 1520 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 9-14-18;  
Previous Sale: \$973,000, 06-14-16
- 58 Ivy Drive, \$1,040,000, 3 Bdrms, 1245 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 9-14-18;  
Previous Sale: \$330,000, 07-31-97
- 43 Orinda View Road, \$3,025,000, 3 Bdrms, 4035 SqFt, 1995 YrBlt, 9-17-18;  
Previous Sale: \$490,000, 09-03-92
- 43 Parklane Drive, \$1,060,000, 3 Bdrms, 1428 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 9-7-18;  
Previous Sale: \$405,000, 03-25-99
- 12 Southwaite Court, \$1,100,000, 3 Bdrms, 2461 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 9-13-18;  
Previous Sale: \$315,000, 03-05-92
- 28 Southwood Drive, \$1,850,000, 4 Bdrms, 2709 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 9-7-18;  
Previous Sale: \$1,490,000, 10-22-14
- 167 Stein Way, \$1,792,000, 4 Bdrms, 3377 SqFt, 1997 YrBlt, 9-7-18;  
Previous Sale: \$192,500, 11-29-16
- 46 Underhill Road, \$880,000, 3 Bdrms, 1560 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 9-13-18
- 8 Williams Court, \$1,400,000, 4 Bdrms, 2094 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 9-7-18;  
Previous Sale: \$976,000, 03-21-14



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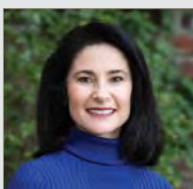
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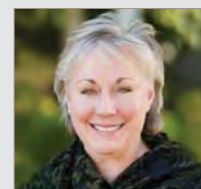
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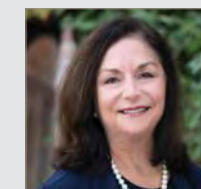
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## A Bellwether Sign for Lamorinda Real Estate

We want to share a bellwether sign of our long-term bullish view on Lamorinda real estate. While we realize that all real estate markets are subject to cycles as our economy changes, we closely monitor leading indicators of how our local real estate market will perform over the next decade.

Recently, CNBC released the Upstart 100, its annual list of the 100 most promising start-ups around the world. This list is another perfect example of what we tell our clients every day; Silicon Valley is moving north to San Francisco and the East Bay making Lamorinda a viable commute option for today's "new-tech" workforce.

There are 33 Bay Area companies on the list. Of these 33 companies, 22 are in San Francisco or the East Bay. This is great news for the long-term future of Lamorinda home values. Fifteen years ago, you would have only seen one or two San Francisco based start-up companies on the list as most Bay Area companies would have been located on the Peninsula, which has historically been the heart of the Silicon Valley. Today 90% of "new-tech" is San Francisco based and moving east.

While Lamorinda might not achieve the price per square foot levels of Palo Alto, the price gap will continue to narrow over the next decade with promising start-ups continuing to locate in commute reach of our community.

We look forward to hearing from you with your real estate questions.



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HOMES

**COMPASS**

## The Real Estate Quarter in Review

By Conrad Bassett, CRP, GMS-T

The third quarter of 2018 showed solid activity on the residential side of Lamorinda real estate versus the year ago quarter. This activity continues to be based more upon a short supply of available properties than on a significant change in the market.

Per Contra Costa Association of Realtors statistics reported from July 1 through Sept. 30, 76 single-family homes closed in Lafayette, a decrease from the 85 that closed in the third quarter of 2017. Sales prices ranged from \$776,000 to \$4.97 million. The average number of days on market was 22 versus 26 for the same period in 2017. The average sales price was \$1,696,918. In the same period a year ago it was \$1,713,249. In 2016 it was \$1,565,394, in 2015 it was \$1,462,872 versus \$1,310,790 in 2014.

In Moraga, the number of single-family closings was 31, slightly below the 39 in 3Q 2017. Prices ranged from \$800,000 to \$3.5 million. The average sales price was \$1,509,248, which is the highest quarterly average ever. A year ago it was \$1,386,634, a \$140,000 increase from 3Q 2016 when it was \$1,245,605, which was actually below the \$1,281,936 in the third quarter of 2015. The average marketing time was 16 days, down from 19 days a year ago.

In Orinda, the number of single-family closings was 83, a slight increase from the same period a year ago: 73. It was also 73 two years ago in the third quarter. Sales prices ranged from \$760,000 to \$12.25 million with an average price of \$1,777,666 – a large increase from \$1,601,869 a year ago and an increase from 2016 when it was \$1,558,244. It took an average of 33 days to expose a home to the market this last quarter. A year ago it was 26.

In the third quarter of this year, on an average price per square foot basis, Lafayette detached single-family homes sold at \$688.12. A year ago it was \$640.73. Moraga homes sold for \$607.47 up a bit from a year ago's \$551.21. In Orinda it was \$622.76 – a slight increase from \$603.07 a year ago.

In Lafayette, the average sales price was right at 101.3 percent of the final asking price. In Moraga, for the first time in several years, it was under 100 percent of asking – 99.6 percent – and in Orinda it was 102 percent. In many cases, there were still multiple offers on homes and the result was a closing price above the asking price.

In Lafayette, 46 of the 76 closings sold at the list price or above. In Moraga, 19 of the 31 sold at or above asking and in Orinda it was 48 of 83.

In the condominium/town home category, Lafayette had three resale closings. They were priced from \$780,000 to \$1.2 million; Moraga had 25, up from 19 a year ago and from 25 in the same period two years ago. Sales prices ranged from \$350,000 to \$1.127 million. Moraga Country Club had three attached home sales – \$770,000 to \$1.068 million. Orinda had one condominium and two townhomes at prices from \$520,000 on Brookwood to \$975,000 in Orindawoods.

As of Oct. 10 there were 78 pending sales in the three communities combined. A year ago there were 87 pending sales per the MLS. The asking prices for the pending single-family detached homes range from \$589,000 to \$4.395 million. It should be noted that there are no "Potential Short Sales" that are currently pending and subject to lender approval. There is one pending foreclosure.

It is interesting to point out that of the 78 pending sales in the area, 24 have received acceptable offers since Oct. 1. That is an average of over two per day. Usually many of the sales are completed prior to the start of school. Depending upon how many of the homes are being purchased by families with children who are new to Lamorinda, it may impact certain grades at the elementary level.

Inventory, however, continues to remain low although it is increasing when looking at the available homes in Lafayette where there are 61 on the market as of Oct. 10 and there were 42 at this time one year ago.

In Moraga buyers have their choice of only 21 properties, down from 28 properties a year ago.

Orinda inventory has increased to 48 currently available from 43 one year ago.

Current asking prices range from \$439,000 for a condominium in Moraga to \$9.975 million for a Lafayette property.

At the high end, 36 homes closed above \$2 million in the three communities combined during the quarter. In the year ago period there were 31.

There are 42 currently available above this amount – 24 in Lafayette, 18 in Orinda, and none in Moraga.

Interest rates have crept up a little, but for those who can afford Lamorinda, it does not seem to have been much of a deterrent. Activity will likely remain strong going forward through the end of the year. Continued office building in the East Bay and a low supply and high demand should continue to push the market higher.

# Sleepy Hollow Mid Century Beauty

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## 9 St. James Court, Orinda

3 Bed | 2 Bath | Bonus Room | 2,733 Sq Ft | 0.85 Ac | \$1,675,000


Private one level mid century tucked into the Sleepy Hollow Van Ripper neighborhood. Sophisticated and inviting, walls of glass, gorgeous views, flexible detached space ideal for 4th bedroom, office gym or art studio. Top rated Orinda schools.



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**NEW THIS WEEK!**



**2 Juniper Drive, Lafayette**

4 BEDROOMS | 4 BATHS | 3208 SQ. FT. | 1.25 ACRES | \$1,570,000

This lovely and intriguing parcel sits up a charming lane so convenient for Orinda and Lafayette living at it best. Beautiful Mt. Diablo views!!



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# Coming Soon!

Completely renovated home in the Glorietta neighborhood!



Coming soon to the sought-after Glorietta neighborhood is a completely renovated 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom home on .8 acres! The home's creekside location and tranquil setting will make you feel like you are away from it all, while the short jaunt to downtown Orinda, top-rated schools, Highway 24 and BART reflect its ideal central location.



SC

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27 Harrington Rd., Moraga

2959 Sqft | 4 Br | Office | 2.5 Ba | .34 acre | 3 Car Garage

[www.27HarringtonRd.com](http://www.27HarringtonRd.com)

\$1,995,000

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Happy Valley with Views  
First Open Sat. & Sun. 1-4

3 Valley High, Lafayette

3220 Sqft | 4 Br | 3.5 Ba | 1.65 Acre | 3 Car Garage

[www.3ValleyHigh.com](http://www.3ValleyHigh.com)

\$1,595,000



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Lafayette | Moraga | Orinda



[www.Orinda.com](http://www.Orinda.com)

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# Great views from ATOP GLORIETTA!



**137 Overhill Road, Orinda 94563**

**2214 Square Feet, 3 bed, 2 bath .38 Acre Lot, 2 Car Garage and VIEWS!**

Welcome to 137 Overhill Road in the coveted Glorietta neighborhood in Orinda. This serene and simple, single-level home has been lovingly remodeled and maintained over the last 25+ years and is a wonderful house to call home!

Upon entry, be wowed by the awesome & expansive North West facing views offering changing vistas of morning rolling fog and incredible sunsets over the Berkeley hills. In order to enhance the view experience and the California indoor/outdoor living, the family room and dining room were expanded including walls of windows and sliding glass doors off the dining/living room, updated kitchen & master to a large deck perfect for outdoor dining, living and entertaining.

**Offered at \$1,425,000**

**Open House: Saturday 10/13 1-4 | Sunday 10/14 1-4**

FINDING THE *Right* FIT



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*Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide*

## Legends of the fall

... continued from Page D1



*Tomato plants look ugly, but the fruit is super sweet.*

*Photos Cynthia Brian*



*Tomatillos are ready for salsa.*

Purple loosestrife brightens gardens although it could easily become an invasive species. Keep an eye on yours if you have it cultivated. Grapes are being crushed into a new vintage, guavas are self-harvesting, apples are ready for bobbing, pistache and Japanese maple trees are blazing gold and crimson, begonias are in full bloom, and the final days of picking fresh produce from our vegetable gardens loom closer. As the French proverb states, "Autumn is the hush before winter."

The days are shorter, the nights become longer as we commence the holiday

fetes of the forthcoming two months. Autumn is indeed delicious both literally and metaphorically. Decorate for a Trick-or-Treat party, prepare for Thanksgiving, and get ready for the Christmas and Hanukkah festivities of December with cuttings from your landscape.

Enjoy these final days of fluttering leaves and warm sunshine while indulging in the harvests and legends of fall.







**COMING SOON IN ORINDA!**

Charming 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom single-story home with 2000± square feet of living space on a 0.40± acre lot with lovely yard and views. Just minutes to downtown, freeway and BART.

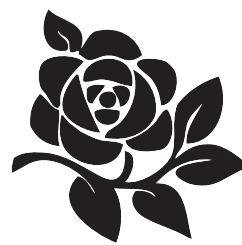
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# Cynthia Brian's Mid-Month Gardening Guide for October



*Guavas are self-harvesting, meaning they fall to the ground when ready to eat.*



*Photos Cynthia Brian A mole hole and trail along the alyssum and lawn.*

**VISIT** the library to find books relating to the myths, tales and legends of autumn.

**BUY** spring blooming bulbs including anemone, elephant ears, ranunculus, caladium, dahlia, freesia, shamrock and calla lilies.

**DECORATE** for All-Hallows Eve with corn stalks, gourds, pumpkins, apples and grasses.

**BRING** the outside in with green, air purifying houseplants such as dieffenbachia, fan palms, sail plant, fern and philodendron.

**PLANT** shrubs and ornamental trees for year around interest now to allow them to develop strong roots before winter dormancy. Consider hydrangea, lilac, forsythia and viburnum.

**ELEVATE** your garden with climbers of wisteria, clematis, sweet pea and climbing hydrangea.

**COMPOST** leaves, grass cuttings, and fall debris to reinvigorate your spring soil.

**DIVIDE** ornamental grasses that have a dead center with a ring of living green. They need to be reinvigorated.

**HARVEST** apples, tomatillos, tomatoes, eggplant, squash and grapes.

**COLLECT** baskets of self-harvested guavas that have fallen to make autumn desserts.

**CUT** kale leaves as needed. Collect seed pods to plant.

**PRUNE** dead branches from trees, especially deciduous trees such as Japanese maple and evergreens such as redwoods to encourage new growth.

**STOMP** on the mounds of moles that may be invading your lawn or building tunnels along your sidewalks. Although moles don't eat plants, they do destroy the beauty of the soil with their burrowing for grubs, beetles, worms, and insects. If you are wondering if you have moles or gophers, here's a tip: Gopher mounds are crescent shaped with an opening in the middle whereas moles leave a rounded, volcano-like pile of fluffy dirt without an exit aperture. Both are territorial and destructive, however, gophers are worse because they eat your plants and the roots. Eradicate moles by collapsing their channels. Stomp away!

**SEED** your lawn with Pearls Premium that grows deep roots and is a water saver. Use code STAR20 at checkout for a 20 percent discount at [www.PearlsPremium.com](http://www.PearlsPremium.com). Discount extended to Oct. 31.

**MAKE** an emergency "go bag" as fires or other disasters can strike at any time.

**CREATE** an arrangement or floral bouquet in pink honoring Breast Cancer Month.

**SCHEDULE** a garden consult with me, your guide on the side, before you put your yard to bed for the winter. Email [Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com](mailto:Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com).

Happy Gardening. Happy Growing.

Cynthia Brian



*Elevate your garden by scattering seeds of perennial sweet peas.*



A container planted with pistache turns bright crimson.



Cynthia Brian salutes with her favorites: flowers, fountains, and wine!

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](http://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](http://www.cynthiabrian.com/online-store).

Available for hire for projects and lectures.

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New Listing

### 44 Robert Road

Opportunity! Classic Rancher on .57 acre lot on cul-de-sac. Access to Lafayette Reservoir. Update & enjoy!

\$899,000

## ORINDA



### 1 Arbolado Court

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

\$1,150,000

## ORINDA



New Listing

### 137 Overhill Road

Fabulous 3 Bed/2 Bath single level Glorietta charmer with incredible views! Central Orinda location.

\$1,425,000

## ORINDA



New Listing

### 4 Edgewood Court

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

\$1,495,000

## ORINDA



### 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.

\$1,857,000

## ORINDA



### 511 Hawkridge Terrace

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

\$1,865,000

## ORINDA



### 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



### 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

## LAFAYETTE



New Listing

### 3140 Maryola Court

Super sharp 4 Bed/3 Bath home offering distinctive quality, finest appointments.

\$1,475,000

## LAFAYETTE



New Listing

### 2 Juniper Drive

Uniquely classic 4 Bed/5 Bath wood-crafted home with open-living design set on a private knoll with Mt. Diablo Views!

\$1,570,000

## LAFAYETTE



### 4030 Happy Valley Road

Fab New Look! Elegant country living in Happy Valley with gorgeous private grounds.

\$2,849,000

## MORAGA



New Price

### 117 Goodfellow Drive

Exceptional design appeal on a gorgeous 1.07 acre lot with incredible views, sun light, & privacy.

\$1,250,000

## MORAGA



New Listing

### 31 Fieldbrook Place

Stunning view from a beautifully updated 4 Bed/3 Bath home on quiet cul-de-sac.

\$1,495,000

## WALNUT CREEK



New Listing

### 1072 W. Holly Drive

Walnut Creek Charm! 3 Bed/2 Bath single story home located on a fabulous corner lot. Lots of natural light!

\$895,000

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