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A smoky sky blankets Moraga in the late afternoon on Nov. 9.

Photo Sarah Christensen

# Smoke a reminder to plan ahead

By Cathy Dausman

Life, they say, is what happens when you're making other plans. But life in California – here and now – is defined by a new norm: year-round wildfires of unprecedented ferocity. “The weather has changed,” says Moraga-Orinda Fire District emergency preparedness coordinator Dennis Rein. “Having a major wildfire in mid-November is the new norm.” Just ask residents in Butte County. Or Solano. Ventura. Mendocino. Last year devastation hit the North Bay, while 27 years ago, Alameda County fought a firestorm whose effects still

resonate within the community. With fires again making headlines relatively close to home, Rein can only hope this will motivate Lamorindans to plan for the worst, yet hope for the best. Here are some ways to plan ahead: First, consult Lamorinda Community Emergency Response Team website for a checklist of “to do’s” in case an evacuation is ordered: <http://lamorindacert.org/documents/Evacuation%20Tips.pdf?x18924>. Make your smart phones smarter. Sign up for Nixle

alerts at [www.nixle.com](http://www.nixle.com) from local law enforcement agencies, and monitor county-issued warnings about shelter in place or evacuations by subscribing to Contra Costa County’s Community Warning System at <https://cwsalerts.com/registration/>. When it comes to evacuation orders, this tool, says Rein, is “a home run.” Red flags are flying at local fire stations, and you can add another layer of safety to your home with weather alert radio tied into area red flag warnings.

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## Lafayette mourns unexpected death of Council Member Mark Mitchell

By Pippa Fisher



Mark Mitchell Lamo archive

fayette more than Mark Mitchell,” said City Manager Steve Falk. “His political philosophy was simple: whatever is best for Lafayette. He always put his community before himself, and for that he deserves our highest respect and honor.” Mitchell was a lifelong Lafayette resident, moving to the city with his parents when he was just a few months old. He attended Lafayette schools and went on to graduate from UC Berkeley. He returned to Lafayette with his wife to raise their two children where he was very involved with Boy Scouts and youth sports, coaching 11 different teams over the years. He worked in real estate and property management. Mitchell served on the Planning Commission from 2001 until 2012 when he was elected to the city

council. He served as mayor from 2015-16. Mitchell’s work with the LPC included a number of long-range documents and policies that set the framework for development in Lafayette. A statement from the city read, “Always displaying great deference to the general plan, his work as a planning commissioner included general plan and hillside ordinance updates, and he was instrumental in formulating the downtown plan and the building of the Lafayette Library & Learning Center.” Mayor Don Tatzin remembers Mitchell as a thoughtful and dedicated public servant. “We are all saddened by his passing. Our thoughts are with his family at this time,” said Tatzin, adding, “Mark was the type of person we should

want to emulate. He was particularly helpful in improving the relationship between the city and the Lafayette School District and working to improve the East End. Mark’s actions reflected well on the city and on him. He served on the council for one reason: to better the city, not to enhance his position or draw attention to himself.” Falk said, “As his city manager, there were periods where Mark and I spoke to each other every single day. I will miss his curiosity, his positive attitude and encouragement of good staff work, his willingness to change his mind if he heard a better argument, his willingness to embrace an unpopular decision, and his fearlessness in defending that position. And of course, his abiding love for all things Lafayette. Mark

Mitchell was just a very fine, amiable man who chose to live his life as a citizen.” A standing-room-only celebration of Mitchell’s life was held Nov. 11 at Our Savior’s Lutheran Church in Lafayette. In lieu of flowers his family has requested that donations be made to any charity that residents and friends feel is important to them or to Habitat for Humanity, of which Mitchell had volunteered throughout his life. <https://www.habitat.org/> Residents are encouraged to share memories of Mark Mitchell in the city’s electronic memory book ([http://www.lovelafayette.org/city-hall/lafayette-listens?pd\\_url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.opentownhall.com%2Fportals%2F282%2FIssue\\_6929#peak\\_democracy](http://www.lovelafayette.org/city-hall/lafayette-listens?pd_url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.opentownhall.com%2Fportals%2F282%2FIssue_6929#peak_democracy)).

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**Public Meetings**

**City Council**

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

**Planning Commission**

Monday, Nov. 19, 7 p.m.  
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,  
Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

**Design Review**

Monday, Nov. 26, 7 p.m.  
Lafayette Library & Learning Center,  
Arts & Science Discovery Center,  
3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

**School Board Meetings**

**Acalanes Union High School District**  
Wednesday, Nov. 28, 7 p.m.  
AUHSD Board Room  
1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette  
www.aacalanes.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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**Voters elect Candell and Gerringer to city council**

By Pippa Fisher



Susan Candell voting

Photo Brian Candell

Voters had their say Nov. 6, electing Susan Candell and Teresa Gerringer to the Lafayette city council.

Candell comes to the council from her position on the Circulation Commission. Gerringer is a longtime Lafayette School Board

member.

Although results won't be certified until early December to allow for final counting of mail-in ballots, preliminary indications show Candell with 28 per cent of the vote and Gerringer with 23 per cent.

Ivor Samson garnered 21 per cent with Karen Maggio and Dave Smith trailing at 15.5 and 12.5 per cent respectively.

The election this year prompted plenty of strong feelings on several contentious issues within the city including a recently enforced, revised conflict of interest policy for the planning and design review commissions and controversy over development on Deer Hill Road.

Mayor Don Tatzin offered the winners his congratulations. "I also say thank you to the other candidates who did the hard work of putting themselves forward. I know that Teresa and Susan have the best interests of Lafayette at heart and have the capacity to be outstanding additions to the council. Their complementary skills will also blend well with incoming Mayor Cam Burks, and Council Member Mike Anderson," Tatzin posted on social media Nov. 7 as the results became apparent.

Election day played out under the shadow of Council Member Mark Mitchell's sudden passing the previous day (see related article on Page A1).

"While I am looking forward to representing Lafayette on (the) city council and want to thank the many wonderful volunteers who made it happen, I am deeply saddened that I will not be serving with Councilman Mark Mitchell," said Candell. "Ivor Samson and I, plus our family and friends

did have a party scheduled at the Roundup, but canceled in respect to Mark.

"When on council, I will always consider 'What would Mark do?' during my decision-making, and I know he won't steer me wrong. I will miss him. My thoughts and prayers go out to Mark's family during this difficult time."

Gerringer offered, "Congratulations to Susan and thank you to Ivor, Karen and Dave who put themselves and their visions for Lafayette forward. The campaigns were spirited and brought out strong feelings and opinions on issues facing Lafayette. The common thread is that all of us, no matter where we are in our history with Lafayette, love our community and are willing to step up to keep Lafayette a livable, lovable place. I am humbled and honored that voters have placed their trust in me. I take that trust seriously, and will represent everyone with integrity, compassion and thoughtfulness."

And Gerringer echoed Candell's sentiment about Mitchell. "In the meantime, I ask that we all take a moment to remember council member and friend, Mark Mitchell, and reflect on his leadership and unwavering commitment to Lafayette. May we all follow his example."

The council will need to appoint a replacement within 60 days of Nov. 5 to fill the vacancy on the city council left by Mitchell, whose term expires in 2020. The topic is on the agenda for discussion at the Nov. 13 city council meeting (after this issue of Lamorinda Weekly went to press).

**Time Travel at Town Hall Theatre**



Photo Rupert Coles

Town Hall Theatre went back in time Nov. 3 at the Sun King's concert celebrating 50 years since the release of the Beatles' White Album.

Concertgoers came dressed as characters from the album. From left: Paul Walton as Bungalow Bill, Mimi Petrlich and Colin Garter as Blackbirds (both honorable mentions), Jay Lifson as Mother Nature's son and Kathy Doyle as Mother Nature (third place), Paul and Chelsea Rustigan as John and Yoko (grand prize winners), contest judge Brad Gillis from the band

Night Ranger as a policeman and event organizer Tom Stack as the Maharishi. Not pictured in second place was Matt Chaney dressed as Rocky Raccoon and in fourth place were eight concertgoers dressed identically as a "murder of blackbirds."

Stack says this was Town Hall's greatest reach show. "Every winner was from Lamorinda, but we had guests from Placerville, Glen Ellen, Oakley, Richmond, Greenbrae, Palo Alto, Dublin, Castro Valley, Alameda, SF, and Fremont."

— P. Fisher

**Community Thanksgiving Breakfast, now in its 40th year**

By Pippa Fisher

It is a sure sign that fall is in the air and the holidays are almost here in Lafayette when it comes time for the annual Community Thanksgiving Breakfast. The event, now in its 40th year, will be held on Friday, Nov. 16 at Our Savior's Lutheran Church.

This year the featured speaker is Donna Wright Sommerville, co-founder of Grateful Gatherings. She will be presenting "Furnishing Homes with Hope," describing the work the organization does to assist families including single mothers, foster children and military veterans transitioning from homelessness or crisis into a new home with the help of volunteers, donors and partners.

Grateful Gatherings began in 2013 when Wright Sommerville, having seen a 10-year-old on the news talking about being homeless during the holidays, provided a Christmas dinner and presents for the girl and her family. When the

family was placed in a new apartment a few months later, Sommerville realized the family had no furnishings. She rallied 20 of her friends and within four days had collected enough furniture and household items to help the family set up their new home and new life.

The community breakfast, hosted by the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce, welcomes all to come together and share the morning meal. Pastor Dan Senter from Our Savior's Lutheran Church will provide the invocation and Rev. Robin Wells from the Lafayette United Methodist Church will offer the benediction at the end of breakfast. The event starts at 7 a.m. and should end by 8:30 a.m., making it a great way to start the day before heading into work.

The cost is \$25 per ticket. Tickets may be purchased online at <https://lafayettechamber.org/breakfast/> or through the chamber. No tickets will be sold at the door.

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# More coffee options coming to Lafayette with Philz

By Pippa Fisher



Philz is scheduled to open its new Lafayette store Nov. 19 in the Mercantile shopping center. Photo Pippa Fisher

The signs are up, the tables are in and very soon residents will wake up and smell the coffee ... at the new Philz Coffee shop in Lafayette.

The store is going in where the old Homegrown was at 3597 Mt. Diablo Blvd. in the Mercantile shopping center. The doors will be opening Nov. 19 and there is a special neighborhood event scheduled from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Dec. 8. This event will feature coffee and food sampling, crafts for kids, a photo booth and other family friendly activities.

Now with over 46 stores and over 1,000 employees, the Bay Area-based company opened its very first Philz Coffee shop in San Francisco's Mission neighborhood in 2003. The company's founder, Phil Jaber, spent 25 years perfecting unique blends of coffee and now Philz offers over 20 customized blends from high quality beans from around the world, roasted in its 50,000-square-foot facility in Oakland. Phil Jaber's son, Jacob, now runs the company.

Philz Coffee specializes in pour over coffee made one cup at a time. Philz Marketing Communications Manager Jolie Meschi explains,

"We do any cream and sugar you'd like for you. That means your coffee is not only fresh but made just the way you like it. While you won't find any espresso drinks on our menu, our team is well versed in recommendations that will satisfy any espresso or latte drinkers. Each of our blends was specially crafted by Phil himself, so they are unique to Philz."

And, reflecting the company's values, Meschi adds, "While the coffee is great, we really pride ourselves on service and the atmosphere we strive to create in the store. Come for the coffee, stay for the people."

Meschi says that the store will be staffed by a handful of team members coming from other Philz locations and that they've also done some new hiring. "The store is currently staffed, but we always accept applications," she says.

Philz Coffee in Lafayette will be open from 5 a.m. to 8 p.m. weekdays and from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. on weekends. The store has two-hour parking for customers around the back on Dewing Avenue. They also have a mobile app that allows customers to order ahead for quick pick up.

# Sarah's story – a Lamorinda connection across the pond

By Pippa Fisher



The Minack Theatre sits on the cliffs high above the Atlantic Ocean. Photo provided

Life's bizarre twists and turns occasionally change lives. So it was for the manager of a Lafayette shop, who found herself back in the country of her birth, having called the East Bay her home for 27 years.

And sometimes through these twists and turns, someone appears in our lives. So it was for this reporter recently on a trip back to my home country of England. I was visiting the small village of Porthcurno in remote, rural southwest England with some American friends from Lamorinda. In particular, I had wanted to show my friends the beautiful Minack Theatre, hewn into the rocks of the cliffs high above the Atlantic Ocean. We toured the theatre and learned the history behind it, and as we were paying for our purchases in the gift shop, Sarah Welsh, working at the till, asked where we were from.

It is an understatement to call it a coincidence that we met her in this tiny village and that she not only knew of Lafayette but also had managed Madison's for five years. And it seemed providential she spoke to me, as I am always

ready to tell a Lafayette story.

This is Sarah's story.

Sarah Welsh moved to California in January 1990 to be with her boyfriend, Brian. They had met in Zurich, Switzerland where they had both worked in the same restaurant. At the end of their contracts Brian spent some time with Sarah back in her native England before returning to the U.S.

Sarah joined Walnut Creek-born and raised Brian in California and they were soon married. They visited her family in England every so often and on one such trip renewed their wedding vows at her twin sister's wedding.

In 1994 Sarah started working in the David M. Brian store in Walnut Creek where she managed the restaurant for 15 years. When the store relocated she worked in the stationary department and was soon promoted to manager of the Madison gift and card shop in Lafayette. "I spent five years there and loved it," says Sarah, "Particularly when the loyal customers of the community would pop in and have a chat."

... continued on Page A10



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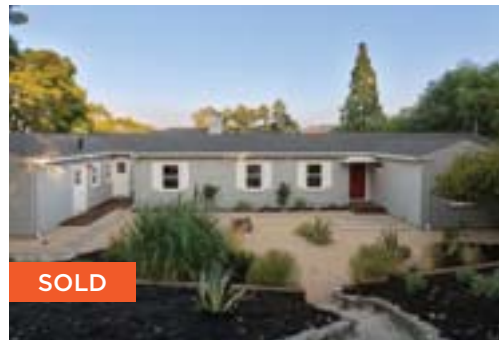
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## Moraga

### Public Meetings

#### City Council

Wednesday, Nov. 14, 7 p.m.  
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

#### Planning Commission

Monday, Nov. 19, 7 p.m.  
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

#### Design Review

Monday, Nov. 26, 7 p.m.  
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

#### School Board Meetings

**Moraga School District**  
Wednesday, Dec. 11, 7 p.m.  
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School Auditorium  
1010 Camino Pablo, Moraga  
www.moraga.k12.ca.us  
See also AUHSD meeting page A2

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

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## McCluer and Woehleke secure two slots on Moraga Town Council

By Vera Kochan

The three town council candidates, incumbent Mayor Dave Trotter, current Moraga Planning Commissioner Mike McCluer and former Planning Commissioner Steve Woehleke, found themselves running in a tight race on Nov. 6. Election Day results put McCluer in the top slot, with 3,544 votes, Woehleke second with 3,018 votes, and Trotter following at a close third with 2,832 votes.

The candidates ran on similar platforms that addressed the feedback of concerns from Moraga residents. The General Plan and open space, public safety, balanced budgets, healthy local business, attracting new retail, infrastructure and schools were all hot topics on the campaign for office.

After the election, all three candidates were asked if they had any observations or comments re-

garding the election, as well as go-forward plans for Moraga or for themselves personally.

McCluer stated, "I would like to thank the residents of Moraga for all of their support, and I am truly humbled and grateful to serve this wonderful town. I look forward to working with my town council and staff colleagues, and pursuing my campaign goals of protecting open space, improving financial management (especially infrastructure/pension costs), bringing in new retail, and finally, improving relationships/collaborations, better communication and more transparency in all that we do throughout the town."

Woehleke's post-election thoughts took him back to the campaign trail, and the time he spent canvassing Moraga's neighborhoods, engaging the residents in

conversation about issues that were important to them. Two issues that seemed to reverberate were Moraga's ability to safely evacuate in the event of a fire and increasing traffic congestion within the town via Canyon Road. He also acknowledged the significant role social media played in election-related dialog.

Woehleke said, "Moraga's town council, supported by the town commissions and boards, represents the practice of democratic governance as intended for our great nation. I am honored and humbled to have been elected. I thank all voters for participating in this important process. I will strive to listen to, represent and serve all Moraga citizens." He added, "While a theme of the election may have been 'time for change,' the town council is definitely going to miss Dave Trotter,

including his extensive institutional knowledge. The town owes a debt of gratitude to Dave."

Trotter acknowledged, "While I'm disappointed, I'm also at peace regarding the result of the election. It's been a rare and true privilege to serve on the town council and represent the people of Moraga for three full terms. I'm so grateful to have had that opportunity. I had a very good run. During my 12 years on the council we accomplished many good things, both great and small, that benefited the Moraga community. I congratulate Mike and Steve and wish them, and the entire council, good luck and best wishes moving forward."

The Contra Costa County Elections Division has until Dec. 4 to certify the final election results, which could include absentee, mail-in or provisional ballots.

## Veterans Day Tribute at the Commons

By Vera Kochan



Veterans Day is meant to honor the service of all United States military veterans.

In 1926, the U.S. Congress adopted a resolution requesting that President Calvin Coolidge issue annual proclamations calling for an observance of Nov. 11. World War I formally ended at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918, when the Armistice with Germany went into effect.

It took 12 years for a Congressional Act to officially make Nov. 11 an annual legal holiday. Originally known as Armistice Day, the name was

changed to Veterans Day in 1954.

Moraga Commons Park played host in honoring America's veterans in a patriotic 9 a.m. ceremony on Monday, Nov. 12. Moraga Boy Scout Troops 212, 234, 246 and 249, along with Cadette, Senior and Ambassador Girl Scouts from Orinda/Moraga Service Unit 327, were on hand for the Advancement of the Color Guard before the Pledge of Allegiance.

Retired U.S. Navy Capt., SC, John Haffner served as master of ceremonies. "I spent

four years in Vietnam. I'm really pleased with today's turnout, and the involvement of the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts," Haffner said. "It's the first time I've ever heard the National Anthem played on a saxophone."

A common thought expressed by guest speakers Mayor Dave Trotter, Supervisor Candace Andersen and State Assembly Member Catharine Baker, was to remember and honor the ultimate sacrifice given by America's fallen military personnel and thank those who made it home, for their service to our country.

Retired U.S. Navy Capt. John Haffner, right, leads the Pledge of Allegiance with former Saint Mary's College president, Brother Mel Andersen, FSC. Photo Vera Kochan

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# Does Moraga RecycleSmart?

By Vera Kochan



Food Waste turns into Compost and returns nutrients to the soil.



Photos courtesy RecycleSmart

Recycling has always been a bit confusing: Can glass jars be recycled? Does soiled cardboard go in the green bin or the blue bin? And what do the numbers on the bottom of plastic containers mean, anyway? But when China enforced strict recycling sanctions through a 2017 policy called “National Sword” – which bans 24 types of solid waste (various plastics and unsorted mixed papers), and sets a tougher standard for contamination levels at no more than 0.5 percent – a new wrinkle was added to the recycling mix. Acceptable waste must not only fit specific guidelines and go into proper bins, but recyclable waste must now be clean as well.

The folks at RecycleSmart understand that washing trash would be counterproductive to local water conservation efforts, and they don’t encourage wasting a lot of water to clean out food containers. They suggest rinsing out containers in dish water after you finish washing the dishes or putting containers in the dishwasher when you run a load. Residents can also wipe out dirty containers with a paper towel and throw the towel into the green recycle bin, which is not just for grass clippings or tree branches anymore. Any soiled paper items (pizza boxes, used napkins, etc.) should be recycled via the green bin.

Of course the best form of recycling is to reduce total

waste entirely. Ashley Louisiana, waste prevention and recycling manager at RecycleSmart, is pleased with Moraga’s recycling efforts. “The Town of Moraga is currently at 2.3 pounds per person, per day – our lowest throughout the service area, which is very good. Moraga doesn’t have a large commercial base, which means residents carry the majority of the responsibility.”

All jurisdictions report to the state of California (CalRecycle) annually, said Louisiana. “Our per capita target is 4.7 pounds per person, per day (the state provides a calculation-based target). Each jurisdiction has to meet their target to meet Assembly Bill (AB) 939’s 50 percent diversion requirements. RecycleSmart is well below our target and meeting our state requirements.” Last year’s diversion rate as a regional agency for the entire service area was 60 percent.

While humankind works on a viable solution to its waste problems, there are measures that Moraga residents can take which are good for the environment, as well as the wallet.

While plastic bags at local grocery stores are a thing of the past, plastic bags like those that hold loaves of bread or cover newspapers during a rain storm can be used in a secondary way, like when picking up after your dog when you go on a walk.

Any used cans of household paint can be given to many hardware or paint stores who in turn donate your colorful leftovers to schools or other needy organizations, provided the labels are still intact and the cans are tightly sealed.

Lucky enough to own a home that has natural hardwood floors? Don’t cover them up with carpets. Carpets may look nice, but can be packed with pollutants, are not good for people who have certain allergies and must usually be replaced every 10 years, according to the American Lung Association. And if you’re shopping for new furniture, make sure you only buy wood certified by the Forest Stewardship Council. The council notes wood that is tagged with this logo has been harvested in a more environmentally friendly way than wood used to make conventional furniture.

... continued on Page A10

## OSH closes its doors



Photo provided

It was a sad day, said Moraga resident John Anderson, who watched as this store fixture from Moraga’s Orchard Supply Hardware was purchased and hauled outside on the store’s final day of operation Nov. 3.



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## Orinda

### Public Meetings

#### City Council

Tuesday, Nov. 27, 7 p.m.  
Library Auditorium, Orinda Library  
26 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563

#### Planning Commission

Tuesday, Nov. 20, 7 p.m.  
Library Auditorium, Orinda Library  
26 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563

#### Citizens' Infrastructure

#### Oversight Commission

Tuesday, Nov. 20, 7 p.m.  
Sarge Littlehale Community Room,  
22 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563

#### School Board Meetings

#### Orinda Union School District

Monday, Dec. 10, 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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## Phillips out, Worth, Fay, and Kosla elected; both school bonds pass

By Sora O'Doherty

Although the results of the November general election won't be certified until 30 days after the election, it appears that Orinda Mayor Amy Worth won re-election with the highest number of votes cast, followed by Dennis Fay. Nick Kosla was the third top vote getter, but incumbent Eve Phillips was only about 300 votes behind, so that could possibly change before the count is finalized. At the end of polling on Nov. 6, there was still a backlog of votes to be counted, including vote-by-mail ballots, provisional ballots and conditional ballots submitted subject to approval of registration. As of 5 p.m. on Nov. 9, the number of ballots remaining to be counted was 108,000. At that time, the reported results were: Amy Worth: 4,878; Dennis Fay: 4,054; Nick Kosla: 3,892; Eve Phillips: 3,600

and Kathleen Jenkins: 2,502.

Both Orinda school bonds passed by a wide margin. A 55 percent vote was required; one bond passed with over 68 percent and the other with over 65 percent, which means that the future of Orinda schools will be filled with construction and technological upgrades. Orinda had not proposed a bond measure for the past 25 years, which left the Orinda Union School District with outdated infrastructure. Because state law limits the amount of money that can be raised with a single bond issue, Orinda placed two bond measures on the ballot. In addition, this year, in preparation for the bond issues, OUSD adopted a Facilities Master Plan, so the public can know what the funds raised by the bonds will be used for over the upcoming years.

Worth, who ran indepen-

dently, will hand over the role of mayor on Dec. 11, about a week after the election is due to be certified. Traditionally in Orinda the vice mayor is selected by a vote of the city council to be mayor, and the vice mayor post is usually filled by the highest vote-getter in class. The newly elected city council members will be installed on Dec. 11 as well, and any outgoing members will be honored. Council Member Dean Orr, who decided not to run for re-election, will definitely be stepping down, and it currently appears that Nick Kosla will take the place of Eve Phillips on the council. The election of the new mayor and vice mayor is conducted in open session.

In other contests, the race for the Assembly member for the 16th district was too close to call as of Nov. 9. Democrat

Rebecca Bauer-Kahan, who was challenging incumbent Catherine Baker issued a statement on Nov. 7 thanking her supporters. "Yesterday's election was historic for our country and our state," she said, adding that voters "across the country rejected divisive and destructive rhetoric and policies." Baker could not be reached for comment.

The marijuana business tax County Measure R passed with a large majority, with some 201,739 (71.86 percent) voting yes and 79,000 (28.14 percent) voting no. The measure authorizes Contra Costa County to tax commercial marijuana businesses in the unincorporated area in the amount of up to \$7 per canopy square foot for cultivation and up to 4 percent gross receipts for all other marijuana businesses to fund general county expenses.

## Hillcrest Drive residents get traffic to slow down, at least temporarily

By Sora O'Doherty

Neighbors lined both sides of Hillcrest Drive on a bright autumn morning, holding up signs urging drivers to slow down. The cars did move through slowly, as drivers read the signs and were careful to avoid the parents and children standing by the side of the road on Nov. 5. But in the following days, some drivers returned to their bad habits of speeding, Hillcrest residents report.

Hillcrest Drive runs into Glorietta Elementary School. "The street becomes a conduit for school traffic each day school is in session," said Hillcrest resident Heather Swedeen, although parents are supposed to turn onto Martha Road from Glorietta Boulevard for carpool drop off and pick up. The problem of parents exceeding the speed limit when rushing to drop off and pick up children is exacerbated, Swedeen says, by a blind curve halfway between Overhill and Martha roads. With dozens of students and families walking on Hillcrest to get to school or simply cross-



Orinda residents on Hillcrest Drive hold signs to encourage drivers to slow down.

Photo Sora O'Doherty

ing the street to get their mail, the neighbors believe it is a recipe for disaster. Which is why a group of them have filed an application with the city of Orinda for traffic calming measures. The residents are requesting "no right turn during school hours" signs from both Martha and Overhill roads onto Hillcrest, with the exception of Hillcrest Drive residents.

They would also like to see speed cushions, a school crosswalk at the intersection of Martha and Hillcrest, a speed limit of 15 mph as well as parking restrictions.

"This school year seems to be worse than others as we've seen several near-accidents of cars barely missing kids walking and riding their bikes to school," Swedeen said. "One Monday, we clocked more than 100 cars

passing through Hillcrest Drive between 7:45 and 8:05 a.m., many (if not most), going well in excess of the speed limit," she added.

Residents plan to put post-cards on cars that are illegally parked and to work with the Orinda police department to ticket those drivers who are breaking the law.

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## Litigation looms over 53 Rheem easement

By Sora O'Doherty

Although the city of Orinda appears determined to reopen the easement across 53 Rheem Blvd., Associate Planner Adam Foster admits that litigation appears likely. The city once again adopted the easement that allows children to walk to Glorietta Elementary School at its Oct. 30 meeting, after staff found that some modifications were needed to the resolution approved by the council on Oct. 16.

According to Foster, the council "again voted to accept the public pedestrian trail easement connecting Rheem Boulevard and Parkway Court." Foster added that "staff is working to promptly record this resolution with the County," in an email sent to interested parties. He also attached an exchange of letters between attorneys related to the

city's acceptance of the trail. There are three parties involved: the property owners, Kent and Dawnelle DeSpain, their neighbors, and the city.

Foster says that the city remains committed to reopening the trail to the public and is currently evaluating its legal options. Eric Schaffer, who represents a group of interested neighbors, also has urged the DeSpains to work cooperatively with the neighbors and the city to open the easement trail. However, the DeSpains appear to have abandoned the idea of working with the city. In an Oct. 30 letter to city attorney Osa Wolff, the DeSpains' attorney, Nathan Scheg, stated, "The DeSpains are done. They are done with the bullying. They are done with the lies. They

are done with the City's disingenuousness." Scheg says that the city and the residents of Orinda should be ashamed of themselves for the falsehoods they have spewed. He continued on to warn the city "not to attempt 'self-help' regarding removing the DeSpains' private gate."

Scheg's legal arguments have been refuted by Schaffer, as well as by Wolff, who continues to assess the city's legal position. Scheg argues that the easement does not exist because it was rejected by the city and that the trail was never heavily used, as can be demonstrated, he says, by trail logs kept by the DeSpains from the time they moved in. Further, the DeSpains rely upon a representation by a former Orinda employee that the DeSpains could

not be legally required to keep the trail open to the public.

An alternative argument offered by Scheg is that the easement is covered by a portion of the California Government Code that deals with public access to the bank of a waterway, river, or stream and the public easement along a portion of the bank, requiring such an easement to be accepted within three years of the approval of a final subdivision map.

Wolff disagrees. She wrote to Scheg, "The creek you reference is private, not public. Moreover, the trail easement accepted by the City provides a pedestrian connection between Rheem Boulevard and Parkway Court, its purpose is not access to or along the banks of the creek. Additionally, although City

acceptance of the trail easement does not legally depend on there being direct benefit to the residents of Subdivision MSO 05-951, such benefit is present here." Schaffer has said that "while creative, this argument fails on its face for two irrefutable reasons," which he explains are that San Pablo Creek is not included in the statutory definition of a public waterway and that the easement is not a public route to the banks of the creek, but provides pedestrian access between Rheem Boulevard and Parkway Court, neither of which, Schaffer states, are public waterways. "Your legal arguments are simply flawed," Schaffer concluded; "... the city is well within its legal rights to formally accept the dedication of the trail easement."

## Orinda's 42nd Annual Holiday Bazaar this weekend

By Sora O'Doherty

For the past 41 years community members have been coming to the Orinda Community Center to shop for one-of-a-kind holiday gifts. This year's 42nd Annual Holiday Bazaar, to be held at the Community Center from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday,

Nov. 17, will feature items from over 55 vendors. Members of the public are invited to live up their holiday shopping experience with handmade holiday decorations, clothing items, organic food items and more. Children will also have the opportunity to take free pic-

tures with Scooter the Clown.

This year, according to Orinda's Parks and Recreation Supervisor Jennifer Weiss, local vendors will be bringing a wide variety of goods, including handmade scarves and doll dresses, skincare and hydration drinks,

prints and cards by local artists, homemade decorative home decor, custom jewelry, stylish bra straps and hats, handmade stationary and custom unique purses, gourmet chocolates and Sima's custom dips and sauces. Weiss enthused, "We will have handmade

Irish pottery, trendy purses and bags, custom shawls and trendy statement jewelry, just to name a few!" In addition to photo opportunities, Scooter the Clown will be roaming making free balloon animals for all.

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# Little decided in MOFD division races

By Nick Marnell

The Election Day voter turnout gave few clues to the new composition of the Moraga-Orinda Fire District governing board.

As of the Nov. 9 report from the Contra Costa County Elections Division, the Division 1 race featured a candidate ahead of his opponent by 55 votes and in Division 4, the margin was 50 votes. Only in Division 3 did a candidate show a relatively comfortable 394 vote lead. The preliminary leader in each division was the union-backed candidate: Greg Baitx over Nathan Bell (1), Steven Danziger over Steve Anderson and Red Smith (3) and Michael Donner over Lucy Talbot (4).

lots needed only be postmarked by Nov. 6 and did not have to be received by Election Day.


"I am extremely grateful that my approach to the issues facing MOFD resonated with the voters. I will strive for a balanced approach while never losing sight of our core mission which is to serve and protect the community," Danziger said. Likely due of the closeness of the races, many candidates declined to comment, as did district director Craig Jorgens, supporter of three non-union-backed candidates.

Per county records, MOFD voter turnout averaged 56 percent, higher than the 48 percent reported for the county as a whole. Through the Nov. 9 updated tally, Division 1 voters had cast 2,304 votes, Division 3 voters had cast 3,154 with 3,238 votes cast in Division 4. The county expects to certify the election results by Dec. 4.


# Fire Districts

## Public Meetings

**Moraga-Orinda Fire District**  
Board of Directors  
**Wednesday, Dec. 5, 7 p.m.**  
*Nov. 21 cancelled*  
Go to the website for meeting location, times and agendas.  
Visit [www.mofd.org](http://www.mofd.org)



**ConFire**  
Board of Directors  
**Tuesday, Dec. 4, 1:30 p.m.**  
Board Chamber room 107, Administration Building, 651 Pine St., Martinez. For meeting times and agendas, visit <http://alturl.com/5p9pu>.



# Lamorinda rebuilt fire stations heading to the home stretch

By Nick Marnell



Fire Station 16 in Lafayette Photo courtesy ConFire

Protection District board of directors approved the rebuild of Fire Station 16 in Upper Happy Valley earlier this year, work began in April.

Assistant Fire Chief Aaron McAlister said that 100 yards of concrete were poured in late October, the exterior walls have been framed and that the roof trusses were delivered and installed the second week of November. As did Winnacker, McAlister cited no major change orders, and weekly visits from an arborist have helped ConFire keep in place a resolute heritage oak tree, unimpressed by the new construction.

McAlister said the latest Station 16 project estimate is still in line with the original \$3.4 million contract authorized by the board.

Both fire stations should be operational in March, with the Fire Station 43 companies rolling into the new building from their temporary structure on the St. Stephen's Episcopal Church parking lot. The Lafayette station will be staffed once Academy 52 recruits graduate in February and are assimilated into the district.

Helped by construction friendly weather, and no additional contractor drama, the new Lafayette and Orinda fire stations are well on their way to spring 2019 completions, according to fire district officials.

pected to be completed by the third week of November, with additional grading of the parking lots and sidewalk areas scheduled for later in the month.

According to Glorainn Sasser, MOFD administrative services director, the latest estimate for the Orinda fire station construction sits at \$6 million, nearly \$2 million over the original budget.

Since 2012 north Lafayette has been without its fire station, and after the Contra Costa County Fire

Groundbreaking for Orinda Fire Station 43 on Via Las Cruces took place Nov. 9, 2016, and the reopening was originally scheduled for October 2017. Three contractors later, work began in earnest this year and Moraga-Orinda Fire District Chief Dave Winnacker updated the progress for his board at its Nov. 7 meeting.

Roof decking, the waterproof membrane and gutters were completed, and asphalt roofing material was installed in early November. Windows were scheduled for installation by the end of November with doors – not including garage doors – set for early December. Completion of these elements will hopefully seal the building from the impacts of rain or inclement weather, according to the chief.



Fire Station 43 in Orinda Photo courtesy MOFD

# MOFD starts process to relocate Fire Station 41

By Nick Marnell



Land next to Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School on Camino Pablo Photo Andy Scheck

The Moraga-Orinda Fire District board authorized Fire Chief Dave Winnacker to enter into preliminary discussions with property owners as the first step in possible relocation of Moraga Fire Station 41 and the district administrative headquarters, also located in Moraga. Two of the properties under consideration are the land adjacent to the Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School in Moraga and a tract along Moraga Way, adjacent to Fire Station 44 in Orinda.

fore we move forward," said board President Brad Barber.

Those things included developing a global strategy for locations of all district stations, essentially starting from scratch and then showing how the move of Station 41 fits in with that strategy. Also critical was a concrete financial plan. "How will we generate the funds to do this?" said director John Jex.

Other questions posed at the Nov. 7 district meeting included a decision on the training ground. Should it be moved too, or should

MOFD consider training out of the district, such as at the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District training center in Concord? Is the plot at JM big enough? Could the district consider a parcel swap with the Moraga School District, or straight acquisition?

Germane to former director Pete Wilson was how the move would affect service delivery – both positively and negatively. And the most repeated comment from directors and outside speakers had to do with public input, to the sense that there simply can never be too much. Positive public feedback received by ConFire at its workshops went a long way to eliminating negative public reaction over the reconstruction of Fire Station 16 in Lafayette.

Moraga School District Superintendent Bruce Burns said that there is enough interest on the school district's part that it will soon discuss the idea of a transaction with MOFD at a future board meeting, possibly as soon as December.

# Police Departments

## Moraga Police Department Incident Summary Report

**Oct. 23 - Nov. 5**

Alarms	20
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	9
Traffic	68
Suspicious Circumstances	8
Suspicious Subject	6
Suspicious Vehicle	10
Service to Citizen	50
Patrol Request/ Security Check	37
Supplemental Report	11
Welfare Check	3

### Vehicle violations

- Abandoned Vehicle
- Police Department
- Excessive Speed
  - 400 Block Moraga Rd.
  - 100 Block Devin Dr.
  - 200 Block Ivy Dr.
  - Camino Pablo/Hodges Dr.
  - Safeway
  - 1300 Block Camino Pablo Canyon Rd./Larch Ave.
  - Pinehurst Rd./Canyon Rd.
  - Hacienda
  - 1700 Block St Andrews Dr.
  - Safeway Parking Lot
  - Moraga Way/Camino Pablo, Orinda
  - 100 Block Calle La Montana Donald Dr./ Moraga Rd.
  - 200 Block Sheila Ct.
  - 100 Block Natalie Dr.
  - Chevron On Moraga Rd.
- Reckless Driving
  - Rheem Blvd./Fayhill Rd.
  - Moraga Rd./Ascot Dr.
  - Moraga Way/Ivy Dr.
  - Library
  - Larch Ave./Canyon Rd.
- Traffic Hazard
  - Rheem Center

### Other criminal activity

- Accident Property
  - 1000 Block Country Club Dr.
- Petty Theft
  - Buckingham Dr./Moraga Rd.
  - 80 Block Miramonte Dr.
- Nuisance to the Community
  - Disturbance-Fight
    - 1700 Block St Andrews Dr.
  - Disturbing The Peace
    - Canyon Rd./Camino Pablo
    - Camino Pablo/Canyon Rd.
    - 80 Block Courter Ln.
  - Loud Noise
    - Campolindo High School
  - Loud Party
    - 10 Block Tamarisk
    - 2000 Block Ascot Dr.
    - Camino Pablo School
  - Public Nuisance
    - 1100 Block Al Ta Mesa Dr.
    - 500 Block Center St.

### Other

- Contrib Delinquency Minor
  - 10 Block Dolores Ct.
- Violation Custody Order
  - Dollar Tree

## ORINDA POLICE

### Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report

**Oct. 21 - Oct. 27**

Alarms	28
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	8
Traffic	55
Suspicious Circumstances	4
Suspicious Subjects	5
Suspicious Vehicles	6
Patrol Request/ Security Check	21
Service to Citizen	33
Supplemental Report	9
Vacation House Check	16
Welfare Check	4

### Vehicle violations

- Occupied Stalled Vehicle
  - Camino Pablo/Manzanita Dr.
  - Moraga Way/Camino Encinas
- Reckless Driving
  - San Pablo Dam Rd./Castro Ranch
  - Camino Pablo/Eb Sr 24
- Vehicle Theft
  - Camino Pablo/Wildcat Canyon Rd.

### Other criminal activity

- Identity Theft
  - 10 Block Hall Dr.
- Petty Theft
  - Safeway
- Petty Theft Veh Parts
  - 100 Block Crest View Dr.
- Warrant Arrest
  - 10 Block Camino Pablo

### Nuisance to the Community

- Barking Dog
  - 10 Block Lost Valley Dr.
- Disturbance-Domestic
  - 200 Block Ivy Dr.
- Disturbing The Peace
  - Tahos Rd./Silverwood Ct.
- Loud Music
  - Lombardy Ln./Van Ripper Ln.
- Loud Noise
  - 20 Block Moraga Via
- Loud Party
  - 10 Block Great Oak Cr.
  - 10 Block Great Oak Cr.
  - Monte Vista Rd./Marston Rd.
  - 10 Block Rabbie Rd.
- Public Nuisance
  - 80 Block Davis Rd.
  - 10 Block Camino Sobrante
- School Assembly Check
  - Glorietta Elementary School
  - Miramonte High School (2)

### Other

- Ac Pd Needed
  - Camino Pablo/Orinda Way
- Accident Injury
  - Camino Pablo/Santa Maria Way
- Accident Property
  - Camino Pablo/Miner Rd.
  - Wb Sr 24 At Camino Pablo
- Missing Adult
  - 10 Block E Altarinda Dr.
- Ordinance Violation
  - 10 Block Bobolink Rd.
  - 40 Block Sunnyside Ln.
  - 100 Block Moraga Way

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



# Letters to the Editor

A tribute to Tatzin

I am writing to express my profound appreciation for Mayor Tatzin's 33 years of service on the Lafayette City Council. Throughout his tenure, the community has made tremendous strides in fiscal resiliency, beautification, and environmental stewardship. Notably, he championed the effort to create the Lafayette Library and Learning Center, the new cornerstone of our community. Additionally, he ensured that the City utilized sound fiscal practices resulting in Lafayette's ability to weather downturns in the economy while other cities struggled. And most notably, he supported the City's efforts to be an environmental leader by voting to join MCE – the single greatest environmental action that the City has done to date. Please join me in congratulating Mayor Tatzin for his efforts to make Lafayette a community we all "love".

Glenn R. Cass  
30+ year Lafayette resident  
Design Review Commissioner

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

## AUHSD governing board election results

By John T. Miller

Local voters re-elected a pair of incumbents and one newcomer to the Acalanes Union High School District board of directors on Election Day Tuesday.

Incumbents Nancy Kendzierski garnered 19,566 votes (31%), and Bob Hockett received 17,339 votes (28.1%), while Christopher Severson, a former member of the Orinda Union School District Board, received 15,614 votes (25.3%).

Paul Derksen, the current PTA president for Las Trampas Creek Council of PTAs, failed in his attempt to join the board with 9,196 votes (14.9%).

Kendzierski felt honored to be re-elected, saying, "I look forward to continued close collaboration with all of our stakeholders in our great district with amazing students and an incredibly supportive com-

munity." Proudly claiming 55 years in the California public school system as a student, teacher, and administrator, Hockett also looked forward to his work on the school board. A primary focus of his, he says, will be "to meet the needs of all of our students, especially those who struggle with academic, health – both physical and mental – and social issues."

Severson, whose children attend schools in the AUHSD, looks forward to adding his voice to discussions on the school day and calendar, homework and school safety. He says, "I am particularly interested in furthering efforts towards student wellness."

It should be noted that the board positions are voluntary and offer no salary or stipend to the members.

## The word was out: vote

By Vera Kochan



Photo Vera Kochan

As Election Day approached, every public source of information seemed to become the unofficial town crier for consciousness. The buzzword was simple: vote. And, vote they did. Voters for the Moraga, Orinda and Lafayette council seats turned out at approximately 55 percent, well over the county average of 48 percent.

On Tuesday, Nov. 6, Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School, one of the many voting precincts peppered throughout Lamorinda, experienced a steady stream of voters all day with the biggest rush happening after 5:30 p.m., as people stopped by to vote on the way home from work.

Joshua Peal, precinct coordinator, said prior to the rush, "It's a really good turnout; triple that of previous elections and two thirds of the votes are coming in by mail."

When asked if he had any thoughts as to why this election had such a strong voter turnout, Peal hypothesized that it was due

to the results of the 2016 elections. "It might just be my opinion, but I also feel that Obama Care and the whole health care issue made people want to participate."

Provisional ballots were also available to voters who lost their ballots or left them at home. These ballots allowed a voter (even those registered in another city), the ability to cast their vote. The only caveat being that you were left out of casting a vote for your city's candidates and issues if you voted outside of your registered city.

Without conducting an exit poll, voters were asked why they were compelled to vote in this election.

A teacher, who asked to remain anonymous, commented about Proposition 8 (the Dialysis Treatment Initiative). "It feels like it's a national issue, not just California." As a teacher, she also felt it important to cast her vote for State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Dave Cummins basically liked the format and presentation of this election ballot, but felt that vital information was missing. "I was confused by the whole section for the various judges. There was no information as to who they were or why we were voting for them. I ended up not voting for any of them, because to vote with no information is irresponsible."

Cummins did have a future Election Day suggestion for Joaquin Moraga's lack of parking spots during school hours. "Request that the fire department allow provisional parking in otherwise temporary zones, if you can prove you're there to vote."

Most voters who stopped to chat outside the polling location answered that they felt it was important to vote.

Wendy Edmisten proudly said, "We vote in every election; just because."

# Scholarship named in memory of beloved educator

By John T. Miller

With the passing of Joe Anthony last June – a former Acalanes Union High School District teacher, counselor and administrator – the Rossmoor Scholarship Foundation has named a \$3,000 scholarship in his memory.

His wife of 69 years, Cecilia Anthony, said, "Joe sat in all the chairs" in the local school system.

Anthony began teaching in the AUHSD in 1955 before becoming a head counselor at Del Valle. In the late 1960s he became an assistant principal at Campolindo High School and advanced to principal at Las Lomas during the 1970s. Beginning in 1980 he served as assistant superintendent for four years and moved to superintendent until his retirement in 1989.

Although retired, Anthony's commitment to education never ended. When Joe and Cecilia moved to Rossmoor in 2012 he was recruited to serve on the RSF, becoming one of its most beloved

trustees, according to foundation correspondent Marilyn Mansfield: "He had a long struggle with emphysema and COPD, but pushing a walker and an oxygen tank never stopped him from doing everything he could for the foundation and the students needing scholarships."

Anthony joined fellow volunteer trustees interviewing scholarship applicants at Concord High School for many years. The RSF will fund the \$3,000 memorial scholarship beginning in 2019 to a student at Concord High.

Every year, RSF awards more than 50 scholarships of \$3,000 each to high school seniors from Acalanes, College Park, Concord, Ygnacio Valley, Las Lomas, Mt. Diablo and Northgate, and second-year Diablo Valley College students to help them pursue a college education. Students can apply through their school's career centers.

Recipients are chosen for their academic and leadership ability,

extracurricular activities, community service and/or work experience, a personal essay, teacher's recommendation, and a lack of family or financial support.

Many fellow teachers, administrators, and former students shared their love, respect and admiration for Anthony at a memorial in August. Other former students, including some who graduated more than 50 years ago but who still remember him fondly, sent cards to his wife.

His fellow RSF members remember Anthony as "a man with vision and passion for youth."

Additional scholarships will be named for Anthony if more funds are received from the communities he served, enabling local students with financial needs to pursue college educations.

For more information on the RSF foundation, or to make a donation, visit [rossmoorscholarshipfoundation.org](http://rossmoorscholarshipfoundation.org).

## Smoke a reminder to plan ahead

... continued from Page A1



Photo Cathy Dausman

Rein recommends a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration all-hazard public alert radio, which uses a 90-decibel siren (slightly less noise than a jet aircraft one mile out). It works on battery backup in event of power failure. One version available for sale online can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/y8ye873z>.

Cal Fire's Incident Information page ([http://www.fire.ca.gov/current\\_incidents](http://www.fire.ca.gov/current_incidents)) provides timely details on major incidents including each fire's location, acreage burned and percent of containment.

To borrow a phrase from the International Association of Fire Chiefs, employ a "Ready, Set – Go!" mentality. Be ready with preparedness understanding, be set with situational awareness when fire threatens and act early (go) when fire starts.

"Leave early" (when fire threatens)," says Rein. "Don't wait to be told to go, just go!"

### Related stories:

<http://www.lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue1120/Be-fire-evacuation-ready-Lamorinda.html>

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**Lafayette Kindergarten and TK registration dates**  
 Registration for Lafayette students entering TK and Kindergarten for the 2019-20 school year will take place Jan. 14 and 15. Additional information can be found at www.lafsd.org.  
 In addition, an informational presentation, "A Roadmap to Kindergarten," will be held at the Burton Valley Elementary multi-purpose room at 561 Merriewood Drive from 6 to 7 p.m. Jan. 20 for all interested parents. This presentation is for parents only.

**Kindergarten/TK registration times (Jan. 14 and 15):**

Burton Valley Elementary: 9 to 11 a.m. and 1 to 3 p.m.  
 561 Merriewood Drive, Lafayette (925) 927-3550

Happy Valley Elementary: 9 to 11 a.m.  
 3855 Happy Valley Road, Lafayette (925) 927-3560

Lafayette Elementary: 9 to 11 a.m.  
 950 Moraga Road, Lafayette (925) 927-3570

Springhill Elementary: 9 to 11 a.m.  
 3301 Springhill Road, Lafayette (925) 927-3580

**Sarah's story – a Lamorinda connection**  
 ... continued from Page A3



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cruise was proposed to me, I had a date to aim towards.

"My older sister and her husband flew out to join me at what was a very emotional time for me having to say goodbye."

Together they took a British ship, which Sarah says was most fitting as it sailed out under the Golden Gate Bridge. The voyage brought them via the Panama Canal to Southampton, England.

"The time spent on the cruise was a great transition for me. After one month at sea I stepped on British soil again where my sister and husband made me feel most welcome at their home in beautiful Porthcurno, Cornwall."

Coincidentally, on the day that Brian died the other flat in the Victorian property above her sister's Porthcurno home came on the market. It remained unsold until December when, with plans to renovate for herself and to run it as a B&B, Sarah and her sister finally purchased it. "It was almost as though it was waiting for me to return," reflects Sarah.

Sarah says it was strange at first being back in the UK permanently after 27 years away. "It was the little things that I had to get used to again, like the climate. Hearing different phrases ... my American accent was very strong, which people found amusing.

"I continue to stay in touch with friends when I get a free moment to email," Sarah says. "Although I may be thousands of miles away, they'll never be forgotten. Since I am now a dual citizen, I feel I have the best of both worlds."

Author's note: If it was a coincidence that I met Sarah 6,000 miles away in a remote village, imagine Sarah's reaction less than a week later when Madison's property-owner Joan Bruzzone, coincidentally on a tour of England, also wandered into the theater.

And it all started with a tea towel.

Joan Bruzzone runs into Sarah 6,000 miles from home in a second coincidence in one week.

Brian had suffered throughout his life from chronic asthma, which Sarah says became crippling at times, especially during heat waves.

"He had both knee and hip replacements and eventually remained on disability. I was able to take care of him in between working a full-time job. We rented a small cottage in Pleasant Hill where we were quite happy," says Sarah.

Sarah took six weeks off work to recover from her own knee surgery in June 2015.

In July of that year Brian passed away unexpectedly. "He passed away the first day I returned back to work. I never did get the chance to tell him how my first day was. It was, in fact, the hottest day of the year," she says.

Sarah was devastated but remembers the love and support she had from her Lamorinda community and in particular from her work friends.

"It was Dana Lim (manager of McCaulou's in Lafayette) who from that moment on took me under her wing and took care of me," says Sarah. "I continued to work with the tremendous support of all my work colleagues throughout the company, for which I am forever grateful."

With her world completely changed, Sarah says she had no doubts that she would return home to England to be with family. "It was just a question of when. I had the tedious task of selling everything and emotionally being ready to do so. When the idea of going home on the last leg of the world

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**Does Moraga RecycleSmart?**  
 ... continued from Page A5

Disposing of old, unused medications down the sink, in the toilet or throwing them into the trash is environmentally dangerous. The California State Board of Pharmacy warns that these chemicals contaminate every living thing in the ocean. Simply empty the contents of the original container into a sealable plastic bag and deposit it into the green drop box at Moraga's police station located at 329 Rheem Blvd. Do not put anything other than medications into the green drop box.

Local residents can also learn simple ways to make an impact, such as by composting. RecycleSmart sponsors annual community workshops and is offering a home composting workshop focusing on worm composting, or vermicomposting, from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Dec. 1 at the Heather Farm Community Center in Walnut Creek.

"Worm composting is a very compact and easy composting method," explains Louisiana. "It's a great opportunity for people who are interested in composting at home, but don't want the 'work' of a backyard bin. It's a great introduction for families with children, and the perfect composting method for residents who live in condos or smaller spaces, and even classrooms!"

To register online visit www.recyclesmart.org/workshops.

# ~ Life in LAMORINDA ~

## Turkey Trot returns to MCC

By John T. Miller



Last year's run

Photo Wendy Scheck

Over 560 runners and walkers of all age groups, along with infants in strollers and pets, participated in the Turkey Trot Fun Run on Thanksgiving morning last year at the Moraga Country Club. This year is shaping up to be another re-sounding success, with a 5K Run/Walk scheduled to begin at 8:15 a.m., and a 1.5-mile race starting at 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, Nov. 22.

Ron Haas, general manager and chief operating officer of the club, says, "After a successful start last year introducing the event to the Moraga Community we are excited to host this year's run."

The event is open to runners – and walkers – of all ability levels. Family and friends of MCC mem-

bers, along with anyone else in the community are encouraged and welcome to attend.

The event benefits the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano. "So in addition to working up an appetite for your own Thanksgiving feast with all the fixings, you will know that you are helping others less fortunate," adds Haas.

Last year's inaugural event raised over \$5,000 for the Food Banks.

The course offers participants an opportunity to run and/or walk the paved roads and paths of the beautiful Moraga Country Club.

The organizers made some slight changes this year to the routes so both the 1.5-mile and 5K races will

now be on the back nine of the golf course. "These new routes will be slightly more challenging due to the hills, but the scenery will more than make up for it," says Haas.

Overall male and female winners in each run will receive a special award along with runners in the following age groups in both distances: 10 & under, 11-20 years, 21-50 years, 51-65 years and 65 and older.

Haas created the event last year, with the support of the Moraga Chamber of Commerce, as part of the club's goal to "launch a new tradition of family friendly community connectivity."

He urges people to sign up soon: "This event will fill up quickly and there is no better way to start the family festivities than with a fun morning out on Moraga Country Club's Golf Course."

The 5K fee is \$30 plus a \$4.50 signup fee, while the 1.5-mile race costs \$20 plus a \$3.45 signup fee.

Once again, participants will get bibs with automatic timers provided by Ford Timing, along with a Turkey Trot race bag including a T-shirt, discount vouchers, GU energy gel, and more. Beverage stations will be available along the way.

More information, along with an opportunity to donate, can be found on the MCC website at [www.runsignup.com/moragaturkeytrot](http://www.runsignup.com/moragaturkeytrot). Registration ends Wednesday, Nov. 21 at 10:30 p.m. Moraga Country Club is located in Moraga at 1600 St. Stevens Drive.

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## Hip-hop musician and filmmaker discusses his film, as well as issues of race and activism at SMC

By Lou Fancher

When people in the Bay Area think of Saint Mary's College, a small private catholic college tucked away in the quiet cul de sac town of Moraga, funk-punk hip-hop musician and politically engaged independent filmmaker Boots Riley isn't the first person who springs to mind.

If outsiders know of the college at all, it's likely to be because of the strong national profile of the Gaels men's basketball team. Dig a layer deeper, perhaps there's familiarity with SMC's innovative Jan Term that has students in Moraga and all over the world stepping outside of their traditional course of study to learn among other topics about dog behavior, good deeds, horror films, social justice playlists, or to travel to Australia to study endangered species or to Puerto Rico to provide hurricane rebuilding assistance. A near-scholar or historian of the school might know of its five-point Lassalian mission related to social justice, community, faith, respect for the poor and education.

Importantly, it is on this political, ethical, often radically countercultural foundation of kindness and consideration for all people that an organic connection was forged between SMC and Riley. The Oakland-based artist ap-

peared Nov. 7 on the campus in an interactive discussion presented by the Ethnic Studies Department. Riley's music and recent film, "Sorry to Bother You," touches on themes that prove cultural expression is political expression, according to Michael Viola, an assistant professor in the Justice, Community and Leadership program. "How can we use film to critique power and society? It's important in this moment of division, of folks not interested in dialogue, to have Boots here to talk to us," said Viola.

Introducing Riley to the audience of approximately 200 people, Viola centered an account of the filmmaker's accomplishments within the context of the Black Radical Cultural movement. Like a hymn, spiritual, or folk song, he suggested, Riley's film includes pain, beauty, protest, articulated hope and revolution – all grounded in ethical, collective calls to action.

The film that has received considerable critical attention features Cassius Green, a character of color whose ability to master a "white voice" shoots him to the top of a telemarketing company's capitalistic stack – whereupon everything goes haywire, to say the least. ... continued on Page B7

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**Cycle Recycle returns**



Bobbie and Tom Preston with donated bikes for the past 20 years, Moraga residents Bobbie and Tom Preston have been collecting repairable bikes to be refurbished and given to charitable groups to distribute at Christmas as part of Cycle Recycle. To date over 3,300 bikes have been collected. This year the recipient organizations include Oakland International High School's Earn-A-Bike program, Marsh

Creek Detention Center (which repairs and provide bikes to various Contra Costa County charitable programs as Christmas gifts for low-income kids), and Trips for Kids in Marin (which repairs bikes for their Christmas giveaway to children of needy families).

New and/or used bikes and trikes – in working order or repairable – or useable bike parts may be delivered to the side driveway of the Preston's home at 1307 Larch Avenue in Moraga throughout the month of November only. No skateboards or plastic bikes please; no need to call beforehand, but for more information contact the Prestons at (925) 376-8474.

**'The Addams Family Young@Part' opens Dec. 6 at OIS**

Submitted by Jeanette Lipp



Ghoul cast crew

Photos provided

O rinda Intermediate School's Bulldog Theater proudly presents the musical, "The Addams Family Young@Part" Dec. 6-8 at OIS.

In the kooky, upside-down world of the Addams family, to be sad is to be happy, to feel pain is to feel joy, and death and suffering are the stuff of their dreams. Nonetheless, this quirky family still has to deal with many of the same challenges faced by any other family, and the spookiest nightmare faced by every family creates the focus of Lippa, Brickman, and Elice's musical: the Addamses have lived by

their unique values for hundreds of years and Gomez and Morticia, the patriarch and matriarch of the clan, would be only too happy to continue living that way. Their dark, macabre, beloved daughter Wednesday, however, is now an 18-year-old young woman who is ready for a life of her own. She has fallen in love with Lucas Beineke, a sweet, smart boy from a normal, respectable Ohio family – the most un-Addams sounding person one could be! And to make matters worse, she has invited the Beinekes to their home for dinner. In one fateful, hilarious night, secrets are disclosed, relationships are tested, and the

Addams family must face up to the one horrible thing they've managed to avoid for generations: change.

There are three casts, comprising approximately 80 OIS students along with an additional 22 OIS students serving on tech crew. Performances will run Dec. 6-8 at the OIS Bulldog Theater. The performance lasts approximately 90 minutes, with one intermission. For show time information and to purchase tickets, visit www.showtix4u.com. Tickets are also available at OIS Theater one half hour prior to show times.



Vampire cast crew

**Submit stories and story ideas to storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com**

Weekend getaways

Rutherford retreat

By Fran Miller



Rancho Caymus Inn courtyard

Photos provided

It's natural to think of the Napa Valley as one 'place.' But the 30 north to south miles that comprise this verdant valley feature distinct towns, each with its own personality. At the northern most portion is Calistoga, the famous mud baths of which promote a laid back and relaxed vibe. Driving south on Highway 29, St. Helena comes next where an old-fashioned main street features high-end boutique shopping and the famed Model Bakery, the English muffins of which are an Oprah fave. At the southern end is downtown Napa, where a recent renaissance includes luxury hotels and numerous wine tasting rooms that stay open past dark. Just north of this is Yountville with its quaint walkable downtown and Michelin-starred restaurants. And smack in the middle of the valley is Rutherford. With a population of just a few hundred, this hamlet is known primarily for its concentration of Cabernet Sauvignon producers. Add a luxury boutique inn, a restaurant that's a fave of both locals and visitors, and tiny Rutherford becomes an ideal weekend retreat.

Designed and opened more than 30 years ago by the late vintner, designer, pilot, and renaissance woman Mary Tilden Morton (of Berkeley's Tilden Park and Morton Salt families) Rancho Caymus Inn is an off-the-radar gem. Current owner George Altamura Jr. completely remodeled the place a few years ago while retaining and elevating Morton's original Spanish aesthetic. The vibe is charming and luxuriously intimate. Rooms and suites surround the central swimming pool and feature heritage wood ceilings, fireplaces, living areas, private patios, and hacienda-style furnishings.

Enjoy complimentary evening wine tasting Thursday, Fri-

day and Saturday evenings, and a spectacular complimentary daily breakfast buffet featuring, among a number of delicious items, Model Bakery baked goods. The kitchen also serves snack and meal items that can be enjoyed poolside, in-room, or in the small dining area.

Steps away from Rancho Caymus Inn is one of the valley's most beloved restaurants, Rutherford Grill, where both locals and visitors gather for American comfort fare and hearty pours of local varietals. Sit at the bar for lively conversation, or hide out in a comfy booth. If weather permits – and it almost always does – choose a patio table. Don't miss the seasonal grilled artichoke, the barbecue pork ribs, or a classic cheeseburger. The wine list is a great Napa Valley read – featuring some of the area's most prized labels.

For something more casual, don't miss La Luna Market & Taqueria directly across the street from the Inn. Locals rave about the made-to-order burritos and enchiladas, which can be picked-up to-go, or enjoyed at the picnic tables located in front.

Also within walking – and aroma – distance of Rancho Caymus Inn are a number of fabulous wineries. Beaulieu Vineyards' fermentation tanks are directly behind the Inn – as is its tasting room. Elizabeth Spencer's family and dog friendly tasting room and quaint gardens are directly across the street. Round Pond's palm-tree lined estate is about a mile away, as is Alpha Omega and its beautiful Vineyard Terrace where the hospitality is refined and relaxed. Enjoy their premium wines while gazing at the majestic Mayacamas Mountains. Visit one; visit all. A Rutherford stay makes it easy to enjoy the spoils of this bountiful wine growing region.



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# National Charity League event focuses on philanthropy and mental health

Submitted by Laura Dillard & Cheryl Bjornson



The Acalanes Area and Lamorinda Chapters of the National Charity League hold first ever joint meeting.

Photo Ann Murphy Photography

The two local chapters of National Charity League held their very first joint meeting Oct. 14, bringing together 200 young women from the Acalanes Area and Lamorinda Chapters of National Charity League. NCL is an organization of mothers and their daughters in seventh to 12th grade

that focuses on community service, leadership development and cultural experiences. The daughters are referred to as Ticktockers. For this special event, the Senior Ticktockers chose to focus on teens in foster care and teen mental health. They hosted two fantastic young female speakers.

The first was Sydney Somerville, the founder of FreeStyle, a branch of the local philanthropy Grateful Gatherings that gathers new and gently used clothes for teen girls in foster care, then creates pop-up boutiques where teen girls in foster care can shop for as many items as they would like. The NCL

Ticktockers organized a tremendously successful clothing drive for FreeStyle. At the Ticktocker Day event they sorted the clothes to help prepare for the next FreeStyle boutique opening. The experience of choosing new clothes at the boutique can be life changing. Somerville shared a story of a

young woman who was excited to go to school again because of the confidence and joy these new outfits gave her.

The second speaker was Lauren Cook, author of "The Sunny Side Up" and "Name Your Story." Lauren is a marriage and family therapist who is passionate about destigmatizing mental health concerns and adopting healthy approaches to lifelong psychological wellness. Lauren asked many questions of the Ticktockers and brave seventh-grader Emmie Cimperman actually kicked off the open conversation. A lively and meaningful discussion among the entire group followed. The Ticktockers learned that over 25 percent of us experience mental health conditions and that seeking and offering help is a sign of strength that we all need to encourage. The Acalanes Area and Lamorinda NCL Chapters look forward to more joint events in the future. For information, visit [nationalcharityleague.org](http://nationalcharityleague.org), <https://gratefulgatherings.org/> or <https://thesunnygirl.wordpress.com/about/>.

## Scouts clean up after festival

Submitted by Siv Ricketts



More than 30 Scouts and adults from Moraga Boy Scout Troop 212 gave three hours of their time to serve their

Lamorinda neighbors by cleaning up after the close of the 2018 Lafayette Art & Wine Festival.

## Boy Scouts canvass Lamorinda neighborhoods for food drive

Submitted by Charles Regan

Youth from local Scouting organizations were observed canvassing Lamorinda neighborhoods on Saturday, Nov. 10. The uniformed Scouts distributed informational door hangers to residences promoting the 2018 Scouting For Food program benefiting the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano.

Keep an eye out for the uniformed Scouts again on Saturday, Nov. 17 as they return to neighborhoods to collect food donations from participating residents. This year's goal is to maximize community involvement and all residents can participate by simply contributing a single non-perishable food item. Participation is easy; residents who receive

a door hanger can place their nonperishable food donations outside, in a recycled bag or box marked with the door hanger, in view of the street by 9 a.m. this Saturday morning.

Residents who did not receive a door hanger can participate by delivering their nonperishable food items directly to local designated collection sites on Nov. 17 at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Moraga at 3776 Via Granada, Moraga or The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Pleasant Hill at 555 Boyd Road, Pleasant Hill Road. Food donations benefit Food Bank programs.

## State of discourse in Sacramento discussed

Submitted by Michael Metcalf



From left: Ian Cook, club president, Sen. Steve Glazer, and Barry Behr, member at large.

Photo provided

California state Sen. Steve Glazer spoke about the state of discourse in Sacramento and some of the reasons why there seems to be so little comity among elected representatives at the Oct. 25 meeting of the Kiwanis Club of Moraga Valley. His comments were not restricted to state politics; Glazer suggested his remarks applied equally to general interpersonal interactions. He remarked that the all-too-common approach to conversation is confrontation, right from the outset. "Much more could be accomplished if parties in a discussion could begin by finding something on which they might agree, then proceed to work on areas of disagreement. What happens, however, is two parties immediately jump on a point of disagreement, after which reaching any compromise is difficult. What is needed is for people to

join with one another with more positive orientation, thinking from the outset that something can be found in common." Glazer shared some positive experiences where he has found common ground with people with whom he shares hardly anything in common, noting it can be done. His remarks applied not just to the state of affairs in Sacramento, but to other areas of interpersonal interactions as well. A lively group discussion followed what was described as a hopeful and upbeat presentation.

Kiwanis frequently invites speakers to talk on thought-provoking subjects. Topics are required to be apolitical. The club even steers clear of political forums or debates. For information, visit <https://www.moragavalleykiwanis.org>.

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.

### 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.

## In Memory

### Norah Bain



On October 18, 2018, Florence Norah Bain, longtime resident of Orinda, California, passed away at the age of 96. Norah Lunt grew up in Harrogate, Yorkshire, in the north of England, with her parents Stanley and Florence, and her sister Vera. In 1947 she crossed the Atlantic on the Queen Mary to visit her aunt Elsie Wright in Berkeley, California, where she met brothers George and Hugh Bain. George and Norah were married in Harrogate the following year, then returned to California where their son George Donald was born in San Francisco.

When George was called up in the Air Force Reserve at the beginning of the Korean War, Norah and her 2-year-old son returned to England. Her daughter Kathleen Florence was born in Harrogate. George was declared Missing in Action. Two years later Norah and her two young children returned to their home in El Cerrito.

In 1956 Norah married Hugh Paul Bain and they moved to Orinda, where various family members have lived ever since. Nora's sister Vera Neilson of Bury St Edmunds in England died in 2003. Hugh Bain died in 2007 after 51 years of happy marriage.

Norah is survived by her two children, Don Bain in El Cerrito and Kathie Bain in Orinda, daughter-in-law Nora Weldon, son-in-law Andy Norrell, grandchildren Jeffrey Kottcamp in Sacramento, Sarah and Chris Weld in Lafayette, Eric and Kristy Norrell in Nevada City, Dana and Bubb Rader in Santa Cruz, and great-grandchildren Ada Norrell, Sloane Weld, Leon Rader, and Greer Weld. Norah was also very close to her nieces and nephews in Canada and the UK: Anne and Clive Field in Qualicum Beach BC, Heather Price in Malvern UK, Jeremy and Jonathon Neilson in UK, and their children and grandchildren.

Norah taught pre-school both in England and many years later in Lafayette. In the 1970s she developed a keen interest in birding. She belonged to the Mount Diablo Audubon Society and worked as a docent at Audubon Canyon Ranch in Marin for more than 20 years. She also taught birding classes in Orinda, and led many field trips. She received the William Penn Mott Jr. Environmental Award. In the last years of her life she took up painting.

Hugh and Norah attended the Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church almost from its founding, and Norah maintained the connection to the last days of her life through her friend Pastor Judy Durff.

Norah loved little children and nature. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to one of the following or a nonprofit organization of your choice:

- Lindsay Wildlife Experience
- Friends of Wagner Ranch Nature Area
- Audubon Canyon Ranch

A memorial service is planned at 1:30 p.m. Nov. 18 at LOPC. For information, please inquire via email at: [norahbainservice@gmail.com](mailto:norahbainservice@gmail.com).

# Is graduate school the sensible next step after college?

By Elizabeth LaScala PhD

Some high school students know they want a graduate or professional degree even before they start their undergraduate years. Others do not consider it at all or decide they want an advanced degree much later in their college years or after they enter the workforce and decide a graduate degree is needed for advancement and to earn a higher salary. Many students may consider a graduate education for solid reasons related to love of learning, advancement in a career and greater earning power, but some may use it as a way to put off having to deal with adulthood, getting a job and being fully independent.

Whether further education means pursuing a master's degree, professional degree or a doctorate, prospective students who are still in college should carefully address these six questions:

1) **Do you have interests that lean towards graduate work?** The best way to find out, if you attend a larger school, is to take graduate courses in your intended program; if you go this route, be sure that you have taken the prerequisites and receive permission from your school as well as the professor who teaches the class. Sometimes courses will carry an undergraduate and a graduate course number. If you later choose to enroll as a graduate student, those courses could be waived, and the credits possibly applied to your graduate degree.

2) **What if your college does not offer graduate-level courses?** If you are not permitted to enroll in graduate courses at your school, or you go to a small liberal arts college with few or no graduate programs, approach faculty in your major to find out if you can pursue an

independent, supervised and possibly funded, research project for academic credit. Credit-bearing research will give you the opportunity to write a graduate-level paper, and possibly present it at conferences, where you may defend your work. Many graduate level programs will expect you to take on such an effort along with advanced courses. College is the best time to learn how to tackle it.

3) **Do you need to go to graduate school immediately after college?** Sometimes it might pay to wait, possibly to work and save money, or just because you need a break from the classroom. Graduate school faculty, who are involved with admissions in many programs, often prefer that incoming students have some work experience. Too often college juniors and seniors, especially those with a liberal arts degree, prefer graduate school to the possibility of underemployment. But unless you are absolutely sure that you can dive into more advanced classes, and confidently go to school while many of your friends are working, you might end up pushing yourself further in debt without improving your prospects for a more lucrative, or rewarding employment. Even worse, you might not finish the degree, but still have debt to pay off.

4) **Is it worth the money?** As a prospective graduate student you may borrow through the Federal Direct Loan program, as well as from the Federal Graduate Plus program, as long as you do not have an adverse credit history. The Graduate PLUS loan allows you to borrow up to the cost of attendance, minus any other financial aid received. But is that much debt worth it? Usually, the answer is no. Even well compensated professionals, such as physicians, can find themselves struggling to repay tens of thousands of dollars of debt long into their careers.

5) **How can you reduce your costs?** Saving money, and going to graduate school later, meaning not immediately after college, might reduce some of the debt risk, especially if you live with your parents. But, it is important to remember that the longer you stay away from a classroom, and the demanding academic work it entails, the less likely it is you will return. Also, consider that while entry-level salaries in some majors, such as accounting, computer science and engineering, allow a recent college graduate to live fairly well, many other fields do not come close—which means you may not be able to save much if you live on your own. For these reasons, you may want to consider institutions that offer degree programs that offer scholarships, fellowships and/or research and teaching assistantships to help reduce your costs.

6) **Closing thoughts.** A graduate degree can lead to a more lucrative and rewarding career, and is often times a necessity to practice in many fields. However, the decision to pursue an advanced degree is not to be taken lightly and this decision falls

more on the student's shoulders than their choice of a college did a few years before. Students who are about to complete their bachelor's degree often fear the

unknown about life after college. Fear of adulthood and independence should not be reasons to attend graduate school. Certainty about your degree path, motiva-

tion to work hard and confidence to be successful are the ingredients that should drive the process of earning a graduate degree.

## College and Graduate School Advisor

Elizabeth LaScala, PhD, has decades of admissions expertise. Elizabeth personally guides each student through every step of applying to well-matched schools, making the entire process more manageable and successful. She has helped place hundreds of high school students in the most prestigious colleges and universities in the US and abroad. Elizabeth, along with a team of expert consultants, also coach graduate and professional school applicants in the sciences, humanities, medicine, business, and law. Elizabeth attends conferences and visits campuses to make personal contact with admissions networks and stay current on admission trends.

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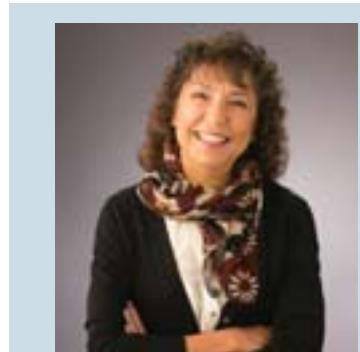
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Dr. Amelia Ausman



Elizabeth LaScala, PhD personally guides each student through each step of selecting and applying to well-matched schools for undergraduate and graduate school study. Over the past two decades, Elizabeth has placed hundreds of students in some of the most prestigious colleges and universities in the US. 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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# Local child chefs land a winning title in Moraga Pear Recipe Contest

By Susie Iventosch



Sherwood siblings in cooking gear!

Photos Celine Sherwood

The 20th annual Moraga Pear & Wine Festival was held on Sept. 22, celebrating Moraga's pear history and offering plenty of fun for families including a pie-eating contest, music, wine tasting, face painting and inflatable bouncy houses. But, the activity that is always most dear to my heart is the annual Pear Recipe Contest. I just love to see all that pear creativity coming out of Lamorinda kitchens.

This year's adult winners included Tom Smith for his Cream Cheese and Pear Tart; Elaine Cable for her Pear and Chèvre "Cigars"; anonymously submitted Pear Pistachio Sweet Rolls and Ana Patterson for both her Pear Stuffed Crepes and Endive with Pear appetizer. The winning youth entry was awarded to the Sherwood Siblings — Ben, 8, Eva, 6, Lilly, 4, and Annie, (who goes by Tweety), 2. And were they ever excited when they heard the announcement of their winning entry!

Their recipe, which according to their mom, Celine Sherwood, was a last minute experiment because Ben and Eva brought a Pear Festival flyer home from school only the day before the contest. As the kids inquired about the meaning of a recipe contest in general, they all realized that this particular event offered a youth category. Inspired by this news, they loaded up the car and headed for Safeway to buy ingredients for their recipe. In the end, their masterpiece combined three different recipes — an Italian cake made with mascarpone cheese, an apple bundt cake, and baked pears filled with cinnamon ricotta.

"We only had time to make one cake, so we didn't have time to make a test cake that we could taste and tweak," Celine said. "We weren't even sure it was going to be edible!"

In fact, they never even had a chance to taste the cake until they brought leftovers home after the contest. But, it helped enormously that cake is one of the Sherwood children's favorite things to make when they get to work in the kitchen.

"My favorite thing to cook is cake," Eva pointed out. "And my dad's favorite to eat is pumpkin cheesecake."

Ben added, "I love to make chocolate chip cookies, but Oreos cake is the best."

"I really love rainbow cake with swirly colors," Lilly reported.

Tweety remained silent, but I'm told she loves pizza best!

The Sherwood's Ricotta Pear Cake is especially interesting because it has no leavening agent, so it is very dense and moist, almost like a pudding-cake. It also calls for very ripe, almost overly ripe pears, which lend a very fruity taste. What I loved most about the cake is the shape, because they baked the cake in the Nordic Ware Rose Bundt pan, one of Celine's favorite kitchen utensils. When I made the cake at home, I used a regular bundt pan, but the Sherwood kids' cake was so much prettier than mine. I'm definitely going to have to add that pan to my inventory.

For the Sherwood family, home baking was born of necessity. Lilly has a serious nut allergy and it became very difficult for Celine to find baked goods that were nut-free

and prepared in a completely nut-free facility. Baking at home allows Lilly to enjoy all the fun childhood treats without fear of anaphylaxis shock. But what prompted the children's involvement in the kitchen was the discovery that Ben, who was struggling in kindergarten, is "Twice Exceptional" (2e for short). These individuals are both gifted (high IQ) and have a disability that can range from dyslexia and auditory or sensory processing issues to Tourette's or any other issues that may interfere with the person's ability to learn in a traditional environment. They are considered "exceptional" due to the fact their intellectual abilities coexist with their special needs. Unlike most people who fall somewhere in the middle of the bell curve when tested in various skill sets and abilities, 2e individuals fall on the far ends of the IQ curve and can be in the 95th percentile in some areas while in the bottom percentile in others.

Celine realized they needed a way to get Ben hooked into developing areas he struggled with like reading, math, fine motor and executive functioning skills. After trying different kinds of activities and programs that didn't pan out, she put his motivation for sweets to work, thinking that baking would incorporate many of the skills he needed help with such as measuring, reading, and working together with his sisters, all the while enjoying the "sweets" of his labor.

While this is not foolproof and didn't address all of Ben's issues, it was a great way for Celine to observe his struggles first-hand and help guide him through it. "As I said, it wasn't a miracle life-changing thing for us, but it was something we could do at home and together," Celine said. "We started with cookies and after several failures due to Ben and Eva fighting, or not paying attention to recipes, they slowly learned, through eating several batches of less than spectacular cookies, that baking is a science and when they don't cooperate, 'things taste bad' as they would say."

I would suggest the "proof is in the Ricotta Pear (Pudding) Cake" that the Sherwood family has come a long way from inedible batches of cookies and struggling to work together in the kitchen. When I had the pleasure of meeting Celine and her adorable children, they were all super enthusiastic about their love of cooking and their favorite cooking utensils and aprons, and so pumped on their first-ever recipe contest results. They are already planning and concocting ideas for next year's contest. The Sherwood family has been a true inspiration to me, both as a mom and a cook, and as a member of this community.

Celine highly credits the entire Camino Pablo Elementary School staff and faculty, who have gone above and beyond to help not only Ben, but all students at the school to succeed and meet their potential.

More of the Sherwood family recipes, including Celine Sherwood's Smashed Carrots, a savory and sweet pairing that both her children and I rave about, as well as her Winter Wild Rice dish, will be featured in an upcoming issue.

To see all of the winning recipes from the Pear & Wine Festival, visit [www.lamorindaweekly.com](http://www.lamorindaweekly.com).

## Moraga Pear Festival Recipe Contest Winners 2018 Youth Recipe Contest Winner

### Ricotta Pear Bundt Cake

The Sherwood Siblings (Ben, Eva, Lilly and Annie)

#### 2018 Youth Dessert Winner

**Ingredients**  
 ½ cup unsalted butter (melted)  
 2 eggs  
 1 teaspoon honey  
 ¾ cup milk  
 1/3 cup ricotta cheese (can substitute mascarpone or cream cheese)  
 2/3 cup granulated sugar  
 2/3 cup all-purpose flour  
 3 overly ripe pears (peeled and cubed)  
 ½ teaspoon cinnamon  
 ¼ teaspoon ground ginger  
 ¼ teaspoon cardamom  
 PAM baking spray with flour (in blue can with read cap)

#### Directions:

1. Heat oven to 350 F (325 F for convection ovens)
2. Spray Nordic Ware Rose Bundt pan with PAM baking spray until well coated and place in fridge.
3. In a large bowl, add all wet ingredients (melted butter, eggs, honey, milk and ricotta cheese) and beat with hand mixer until blended (does not have to be completely smooth).
4. Add sugar and flour to bowl and mix until batter forms.
5. In a separate bowl, place the cubed pears, cinnamon, ground ginger and cardamom and toss until the pears are coated with the spices.
6. Add pears to cake batter and gently fold the pears into the batter.
7. Pour batter into a well chilled bundt pan and smooth the top evenly.
8. Place in oven and bake for 30-40 minutes or until a toothpick inserted into the center of the cake comes out clean.
9. Let cake cool completely and turn out onto a cake plate.

\*\*\*A chocolate version can be made by adding 1 cup unsweetened cocoa powder during step 4 of the directions.

This cake is great as a dessert served with caramel sauce and/or a scoop of ice cream.



The Sherwood siblings with their award winning Ricotta Pear Bundt Cake. From left: Ben, 8, Lilly, 4, Eva, 6, and Annie, 2.

## Cream Cheese and Pear Tart Tom Smith

### 2018 Adult Dessert Winner

#### Ingredients

**Crust:**  
 1 stick butter softened  
 1/3 cup sugar  
 ½ tsp vanilla  
 2/3 cup finely chopped walnuts  
 ¾ cup flour

#### Directions

Pre-heat oven to 350 F. In a medium bowl, mix together the butter, sugar and vanilla. Add the walnuts and flour and mix. Press mixture into bottom of 10-11 inch tart pan. Bake the crust for 10 minutes and cool.

#### Fillings:

8 oz cream cheese (softened)  
 1 egg  
 ¼ cup sugar  
 ½ tsp vanilla  
 2-3 pears but into thin slices  
 1 tsp sugar  
 ½ teaspoon cinnamon

#### Directions

Increase the oven temperature to 350 F and pre-heat. Mix the cream cheese, egg, ¼ cup sugar and vanilla in a small bowl. Spread mixture over tart base. Place pear slices around top of cream cheese mixture. Mix 1 tsp. sugar and cinnamon together and sprinkle on top of the pears. Bake 25 minutes.

Cool and refrigerate prior to serving.

## Pear and Chevre "Cigar" with Thyme Pear Honey

### Elaine Cable

### 2018 Adult Appetizer Winner

#### Ingredients

For "Cigars"  
 2-3 ripe pears (I use Bartlett), peeled and diced  
 ½ shallot, finely minced  
 3 Tbsp butter  
 1 5oz log of quality Chevre  
 1 package phyllo dough, thawed  
 4 Tbsp honey  
 1 Tbsp fresh thyme leaves  
 Pinch of salt and pepper  
 Parchment paper  
 Baking sheet

#### For Thyme Pear Honey:

3 Tbsp honey  
 1 Tbsp pear, finely mashed  
 pinch of fresh thyme leaves

#### Instructions

##### "Cigars"

1. Pre-heat oven to 350 F.
2. Melt 2 Tbsp butter in a saucepan, over medium heat. Reserve the other Tbsp for later use.
3. Add diced pear, minced shallot, salt and pepper
4. Turn heat to medium-low and stir mixture occasionally until lightly caramelized.
5. You want the mixture to be thick, not juicy. This may take up to 15 minutes to achieve.
6. After mixture is thickened, turn off heat and set aside.

##### Next:

1. Cut phyllo sheet in half lengthwise and then in half cross ways to make 4 rectangles measuring

approximately 6" by 8".

2. Brush the rectangles with remaining Tbsp of butter, making sure to reserve a little to brush over the tops.
3. Sprinkle some thyme leaves along the short edge of the phyllo rectangles, then lightly fold over to encase the thyme.
4. Spread about a Tbsp of the cooled pear mixture along the opposite short edge of the rectangles, then crumble some of the chevre in a line on top of the pear mixture.
5. Starting with the pear/chevre side, roll the phyllo once over the pear/chevre mixture and continue rolling to the folded-over thyme edge, then rolling over it to seal.
6. Complete step 5 with remaining phyllo rectangles.

Place "cigars" on a parchment-lined baking sheet and brush the tops with the remaining melted butter.

Bake in a 350 degree oven for 15-20 minutes or until golden brown.

Serve immediately with a drizzle of pear honey and a sprinkle of thyme leaves.

#### Pear Honey:

Warm 3 Tbsp of honey in a saucepan over medium-low heat. Add the Tbsp of finely mashed pear. Mix well to incorporate. Add the pinch of fresh thyme, last. Cool slightly and drizzle over warm "cigars" just before serving.



## Adult Recipe Contest Winners

### Other Recipes

#### Pear Pistachio Sweet Rolls 2018

##### Ingredients

For: Dough: 2 ¾ cup all-purpose flour  
¼ cup sugar  
2 Tbsp butter  
1 egg  
1 package instant (quick rise) yeast or 2 ¼ tsp  
½ cup water  
¼ cup whole milk  
1 tsp salt

##### For: Filling:

4 pears (I use Bartlett) peeled, cored and roughly diced  
¼ cup finely chopped pistachios, plus more for garnish  
2/3 cup brown sugar  
¼ cup (1/2 stick) butter PLUS 1 Tbsp, room temperature  
1 Tbsp ground cinnamon  
¾ tsp vanilla extract

##### For: Vanilla-Cream Cheese Glaze

4 oz cream cheese room temperature  
2 Tbsp melted butter  
2 Tbsp milk  
1 tsp vanilla  
1 cup powdered sugar

##### Directions

In a large bowl or a bowl of a stand mixer, combine the flour, yeast and salt. Mix the ingredients until dispersed evenly. Then in a small microwave-safe bowl, combine the sugar, butter, water and milk. Heat on high until mixture is hot and butter is almost melted (1 -1 ½ minutes). Gradually add milk mixture to flour mixture. Add the egg and mix until a soft and sticky dough forms. You may need to add a tsp more flour, if the dough is too tacky and not pulling away from the sides of the bowl. At this point, stop and turn oven on to 200 degree. The rolls will rise in the warm oven.

If using a stand mixer, switch to the dough hook and set on the lowest speed for 4 minutes, or until the dough becomes elastic. If not using a stand mixer, knead by hand on a slightly floured surface for 3-4 minutes. Then cover the dough with plastic wrap and allow it to rest on the counter for 5 minutes.

Place the diced pears and the 1 Tbsp of butter in a medium saucepan and sauté over medium-high heat. Cook until pear juice is absorbed and mixture is thickened and lightly caramelized (8-10 minutes). Set to cool.

Once the dough has rested roll it out on a lightly floured surface until it measures a 16x9 inch rectangle. Prepare the filling by combining all the ingredients except butter in a small mixing bowl. Spread the butter over the top of the rolled dough. Spread the cooled pear mixture over the butter then follow with the brown sugar mixture and finally layer the chopped pistachios reserving a few tsp for garnish.

Tightly roll the dough and cut into 12-16 equal portions. Place the rolls into a lightly greased 9x13 pan or two 8x8 pans. Gently press a piece of aluminum foil over the top. Then TURN OFF the oven and place covered rolls inside to rise for 25-30 minutes. They should have doubled in size. Remove the rolls from the oven and turn ON the oven to 375 degrees. Once heated, bake the rolls for 15-18 minutes or until the centers are lightly golden brown.

#### Vanilla Cream Cheese Glaze

Beat together cream cheese, butter and vanilla until smooth and creamy. Slowly beat in the powdered sugar adding milk a little at a time until smooth and lump-free. Drizzle glaze over warm rolls and garnish with reserved chopped pistachios.

#### Pear Stuffed Crepes

##### Ana Patterson

#### 2018

Makes 12 portions

##### Ingredients

For stuffing:  
2 Bosc pears  
2 Bartlett pears  
2 Asian pears  
1 quarter butter (unsalted)  
1 lemon  
1 spoon cinnamon

##### For crepes:

5 eggs  
1 cup flour  
1/3 cup milk  
2 spoons of beer

##### For serving:

¼ cup of dulce de leche  
Powdered sugar

##### Instructions

For the crepes: Add all crepe ingredients to a blender; in a nonstick pan, medium heat put a small amount of the butter to grease the pan, add five spoons of batter and wait until fully cooked then flip (cooking time is quite fast) Repeat for each crepe.

In another pan toss chopped pears (in small cubes), add butter, cinnamon and juice of one lemon then cook on medium heat. Wrap succulent cooked pears with crepes. Serve warm and sprinkle powdered sugar with a drizzling of dulce de leche.

#### Endive with Pear

##### Ana Patterson

#### 2018 Appetizer

Serves 15

##### Ingredients

3 large endives  
2 large red pears  
chopped walnuts  
gorgonzola cheese-crumbled  
3 spoons of honey  
1 lemon

Mix all ingredients in a bowl and drizzle three spoons of honey. Leave the skin on one of the pears for color. Clean the endive and separate the leaves. Stuff each leaf with pear mix and serve.

## Hip-hop musician and filmmaker at SMC

... continued from Page B1



Boots Riley speaks at Saint Mary's College.

Photo Adriana Avila/Saint Mary's College

Riley said he set out to write a slice-of-life film set in a workplace that included humor. Working “within the moment,” he never intended to create the genre-bending movie that reviews in Rolling Stone and other national publications call everything from “degraded” to “brilliant” to “a funny kick in the ass to capitalism.” To sell the movie to producers, Riley described the film with typical movie gobblede-

gook: “An absurdist dark comedy with magical realism and science fiction inspired by the world of telemarketing.” But actually, he said, backers wanted to know which stars were engaged and how his film would be like films that had made a lot of money. If he had said it was “The Titanic” mixed with “Get Out” (a highly rated 2017 horror film), it would have been widely welcomed,

suggested Riley.

Asked what obstacles other than trying to box the film into a describable genre he faced, Riley said that having never before directed a movie, his ability to stick to a small budget and a screenplay with “crazy stuff in it” were primary – but as the film’s critical and box office success proves – not insurmountable challenges.

Riley’s political activism be-

gan during his teen years. His parents were grassroots organizers involved in the NAACP, the progressive labor party, and the 1968 strike at San Francisco State University that led to the creation of the first ethnic studies program and other changes on the campus. He took from them a strong belief in communities coming together to create change. Attention to rules and categorizing – good as guidelines, but also potentially artificial or biased limits meant to be tested – had him studying how struggles suffered by groups in conflict with each other could be resolved when people joined in solidarity to oppose a common foe.

Addressing questions asked by faculty and students, Riley spoke about unequal labor conditions, unemployment, white supremacy, race and gender exploitation and the idea of whiteness as a reaction to racist tropes about people of color. “They’re savage, lack family structure, the capacity to learn, all things which the whole point is to have this thing that says poverty is the

fault of the impoverished,” he said. Instead, he suggested poverty and unemployment are essential to capitalism and to say otherwise is hypocritical. “Without them, everyone who’s employed could demand whatever they want.” Later, Riley said, “We can’t boycott our way out of capitalism.” Organized strikes and work stoppages launch real movements that bring results. “What does it do if we just know about it and don’t have the teeth to cause something to happen?” he asked.

Riley encouraged students to base build; cultivate leaders who are extroverted and likely to form relationships; be enlightened and educated, but understand that people need to put food on the table, care for their families, hold onto jobs. Even so, he said about responding with truth to oppressive power structures through art, films, walk outs, labor strikes or by any other means necessary, “As long as we voice our disdain, with enough people doing it, things will change.”

## www.Lamorindaweekly.com

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- Orinda accepts 53 Rheem Blvd. easement; homeowners threaten suit
- Saint Mary’s men’s basketball preview
- Plenty of money and plenty of nastiness define MOFD board races
- Letters to the Editor
- Bollinger Valley Project temporarily on the shelf
- Lamorinda Election Results
- Communing with nature in the outdoor classroom

If you wish to view any of the stories above go to [www.lamorindaweekly.com](http://www.lamorindaweekly.com) and click the link below the story.

◆ **Not to be missed** ◆ **Not to be missed** ◆ **Not to be missed** ◆

**ART**

**Fall Exhibitions at the Saint Mary's College Museum of Art** through Dec. 16. "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 through Jan. 5. For more information, visit [www.moragaartgallery.com](http://www.moragaartgallery.com) or call (925) 376-5407.

**MUSIC**

**The SMC Jazz Band will present** the last two concerts of the semester at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 15 and 5 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 16 in the Soda Center's Claeys Lounge. The SMC Jazz Combo will also perform and vocalists Gianna D'Arrigo and Leah Dobson will also be featured. Tickets available at the door: General \$5 / Seniors; Students \$2.

**Cantare Con Vivo Chamber Ensemble** presents Sing We

and Chant It at 4 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 18 at the Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, 49 Knox Dr., Lafayette. Tickets: General \$22, Student \$10. Website: <https://www.cantareconvivo.org/upcoming-events>

**THEATER**

**Town Hall Theatre "Lost & Found"** Season 2018-19 continues with the holiday offering: the West Coast Premiere of "Great Expectations," an adventure-packed adaptation of the classic Dickens' coming-of-age story by Gale Childs Daly. "Great Expectations" will have 12 performances, including two previews, Nov. 29 through Dec. 16 at Town Hall Theatre Company, 3535 School Street, in Lafayette. Tickets are \$18 - \$30, and are available through the Box Office at (925) 283-1557 or online at [www.TownHallTheatre.com](http://www.TownHallTheatre.com).

**Solo Opera and award-winning** Bay Area composer, David Conte, bring to life the timeless turn of the century short story, "The Gift of the Magi," by O. Henry. Set in the original 1905 time period, the opera will contain a cast of seven singers, accompanied by a seven-piece chamber orchestra under the baton of Maestro Alexander Katsman. The opera will be performed at 8 p.m. on Nov. 30 and Dec. 1, and at 2:30 p.m. on Dec. 2 at the Leshner

Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek. Tickets: \$25-\$40, call (925) 943-7469.

**The Saint Mary's College Dance Company** presents Limbo at 8 p.m. on Thursday, Friday and Saturday Nov. 15, 16, and 17 at the LeFevre Theatre, 1928 Saint Mary's Road, Moraga. There will be one matinee show on Saturday, Nov. 17 at 3 p.m. The sensational dance show choreographed by the senior class at Saint Mary's College showcases pieces that reflect their fears, excitements, and questions accompanying their journey through and beyond Saint Mary's. This show explores the past and present, here and there, reality and imagination, and everything that lies in between. Join the senior choreographers as they explore the unknown and struggle to survive in a state of limbo. Tickets: \$5 for General Admission and Free for SMC students with student ID.

**OTHER**

**Saint Mary's College Guild's Thanksgiving luncheon** will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 15 in the Soda Center on the Saint Mary's College campus. All are invited to attend. A traditional Thanksgiving meal with turkey, stuffing and all the trimmings will be available. The speaker will be Dr. Mary Volmer, SMC faculty member and author of two

books. Reservations should be sent to Carmen Hughes, 26 Inverleith Terrace, Moraga, CA 94556. Tickets are \$35. Questions may be directed to her at (925) 376-7365. All proceeds benefit Students seeking financial aid scholarships.

**40th Annual Community Thanksgiving Breakfast** will be held 7 to 8:30 a.m. on Friday, Nov. 16 at Our Savior's Lutheran Church located at 1035 Carol Lane in Lafayette. Everyone is invited to come together to share in a breakfast. Donna Wright Sommerville, co-founder of Grateful Gatherings will be the keynote speaker. Tickets are \$25 per person and are available online at [LafayetteChamber.org](http://LafayetteChamber.org). Tickets will not be sold at the door.

**Mountain Shadow Film Society** presents "Pick of the Litter," a documentary about the training of service dogs at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 17 at the Walnut Creek Library, 1644 Broadway St. It follows a class of pups for two years, the amount of time it takes to train a guide dog. We will also show "Rouff," a creative, animated short film. In addition to the adorable puppies on film, we will have a special visit from a Guide Dogs for the Blind canine trainee and its handler. General admission \$12. <http://mountainshadow.org>

**Let's give thanks for the wonder** of cats and kittens! Community Concern for Cats invites you to meet adorable adoptables at this weekend's adoption event from 1 to 4 p.m. on Nov. 17 and 18 at Pet Food Express in Lafayette and Pleasant Hill and Petco in Walnut Creek. For more information, see [www.communityconcernforcats.org](http://www.communityconcernforcats.org).

**Women of Spirit is a monthly** gathering of inclusive, curious women seeking connection, shared learning and growth with other women of diverse faith traditions. First half hour is social time, followed by a gathering to include a warm welcome, inspiring speakers, discussion at table groups, and warm group closing. The next meeting is from 7 to 9 p.m. on Nov. 27 at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, 3776 Via Granada, Moraga. We are not affiliated with any religious institution, and are open to all. For more information, visit <https://www.facebook.com/womenofspiritlamorinda/>

**For the 21st year, Bobbie and Tom Preston** will be holding the Cycle Recycle, collecting repairable bikes to be refurbished and given to charitable groups to distribute at Christmas. This year the recipient organizations include Oakland International High School's Earn-A-Bike program, Marsh Creek Detention Center, and Trips for Kids in Marin. New and/or used bikes and trikes—in working order or repairable, or useable bike parts may be delivered to the side driveway of the Preston's home at 1307 Larch Avenue in Moraga, throughout the month of November only. No skateboards or plastic bikes please; no need to call beforehand, but for more information contact Bobbie or Tom Preston at (925) 376-8474.

**Hospice East Bay Presents Tree of Lights 2018** at 4:30 p.m. on Nov. 29 at the Roundup Saloon parking lot, Mt. Diablo Blvd and Lafayette Circle East, Lafayette, Dec. 1 in Orinda Village by Bank of America, and at 5:30 p.m. on Dec. 16 at the Moraga Country Club, 1600 St. Andrews Drive. <https://hospiceeastbay.org>

**Saint Mary's College Guild's Christmas Luncheon** fundraiser from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Dec. 5 at the Soda Center, Moraga Room. It will feature The Award Winning St. Mary's Choir directed by Dr. Julie Ford and accompanied by Sharon Kim, pianist. We will have a raffle for the infamous Christmas money tree along with 6 other fabulous gift baskets. We will also have the delicious annual Bake Sale! All proceeds benefit students applying for financial aid scholarships. Cost is \$45. Send a check made out to SMC Guild addressed to Karen Kinsey, 135 Longfield Place, Moraga, CA 94556 - Direct all questions to Karen (925) 376-2225

**The Lamorinda Wine Growers Association** is hosting its 1st Annual Holiday Celebration from 6 to 10 p.m. on Dec. 6 at the Serbian Cultural Center, 1700 School Street, Moraga. Join us for local wine, food and dancing to the music of Diamond Dave. Seating is limited and must be 21 to attend. For more information and to register: <https://lamorindawinegrowers.com/event-calendar/#/event/register/2018/12/6/lamorinda-wine-growers-association-holiday-party>

**All women are invited to "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star,"** Presbyterian Women's annual Christmas tea to be held from 1 to 3 p.m. on Dec. 7 at Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church. There will be musical entertainment as well as a traditional tea. Call (925) 288- 9990 for reservations.


.. continue on next Page

*Lamorinda's Religious Services*

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682 Michael Lane, Lafayette, 284-7420, [www.stanselms.ws](http://www.stanselms.ws)

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Reading Room/Bookstore M - F 11 - 4; Sat 11 - 2  
[www.christianscienceorinda.org](http://www.christianscienceorinda.org)

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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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# 'Can You Ever Forgive Me?' at Orinda Theatre

By Derek Zemrak



## MOVIE REVIEW



Twentieth Century Fox Film Corporation All Rights Reserved Photo Mary Cybulski; © 2018

Sometimes life is stranger than fiction. If your friends in Hollywood wrote a script about a popular author who starts forging signatures to pay her rent – no one would believe it. So, this is where the real-life story comes in and makes the new film “Can You Ever Forgive Me?” believable, interesting and enjoyable.

The story is about Lee Israel, brilliantly portrayed by Oscar nominee Melissa McCarthy, who made her living in the 1970s and '80s profiling the likes of Katharine Hepburn, Tallulah Bankhead, Estee Lauder and journalist Dorothy Kilgallen. When Lee is no longer able to get published because she has fallen out of step with current tastes, she turns her art form to deception, abetted by her loyal friend Jack (Richard E. Grant). An adaptation of the memoir “Can You Ever Forgive Me?” relays the true story of the best-selling celebrity biographer.

The film is directed by Marielle Heller (“The Diary of a Teenage Girl”) and it truly captures the essence of who Lee Israel was. Yes, she was once a celebrated best-selling author but was also a curmudgeon and a lost soul. McCarthy is stellar in the role of Lee Israel. She will receive an Oscar nomination for the performance. McCarthy is an outstanding actor when given the right script. If you have never seen “St. Vincent,” a small indie film from 2014, where McCarthy stars opposite

Bill Murray (it is not a comedy), please do yourself a favor and watch it. It is a charming film and one of my all-time favorites. McCarthy is deserving of the Oscar for Best Actress but this year the competition in the female category will be tough with Lady Gaga (“A Star is Born”) and Glenn Close (“The Wife”). Any other year McCarthy would be a shoe-in to walk home with a gold statue.

Richard E. Grant also gives an Oscar-worthy performance in the role of Jack, Lee’s partner in crime. Grant has had a long career as a character actor in such films as “Gosford Park” and “The Iron Lady.” Grant should receive an Oscar nod for the role. He was amazing.

It is that time of year to start seeing all the Oscar contenders. When the Oscar nominations are announced on Tuesday, Jan. 23, you will be hearing “Can You Ever Forgive Me?” read more than once.

“Can You Ever Forgive Me?” – now playing at the Orinda Theatre – is rated R for strong language, brief male nudity, implied sex, plus alcohol and drug use. The film has a total running time of 1 hour and 46 minutes.

Magician, Timothy James returns to the Rheem Theatre this Saturday, Nov. 17 for two shows at 6 and 8 p.m. Tickets are available at the Rheem Theatre box office.

### Lynn's Top Five

## What is ESG investing and why does it matter to so many?

By Lynn Ballou CFP®

Socially Responsible Investing. Impact Investing. Sustainable Investing. And most recently, ESG Investing. In these current strained political times, more and more investors look more closely at their investment selections and discuss these options with their advisors. And of course as citizens of the Bay Area, we are more attuned to this topic than most. So, what exactly is ESG Investing and what might it mean to you? I recently discussed this important topic with two members of EP Wealth Advisors’ Investment Committee. I think you will find their remarks, which follow, very valuable.

**Defining ESG Investing:** Geniffer Takacs, CFA and associate portfolio manager with EP Wealth Advisors, explains that “Technically, ESG investing stands for Environmental, Social and Governance, although the acronym is used interchangeably to cover a wide spectrum of goals and strategies that involve responsible investing that cover a variety of humanitarian, environmental, ethical and social concerns.”

**Whap happened to the phrase “Socially Responsible Investing”?** Takacs notes that “negative and exclusionary screening has been the primary method of Socially Responsible Investing. For example, one of the first major movements in SRI was divesting from companies doing business in South Africa during apartheid and redirecting those investments. Unfortunately, one of the main drawbacks to SRI was traditional investors sacrificed diversification from their portfolio by excluding certain companies/industries. Over time SRI has evolved from in-

vestments based on moral objections to include investments that aligned with investor values-based preferences which is known as ESG investing.”

**What are some typical ESG considerations or “screens”?** Sid Ean, senior portfolio manager with EP Wealth Advisors, points out that “there a number of different factors, metrics and data to consider in constructing an ESG strategy. Typically these factors are industry specific key issues such as climate change, human capital and labor management, corporate governance, gender diversity, privacy and data security, to name a few. The risks and opportunities of companies differ industry to industry therefore companies should be evaluated on the key issues specific to their respective industries.”

**Is ESG investing now standardized?** Not yet! “There are a variety of challenges in using ESG data and the ESG metrics are weighted differently across different fund managers and data providers,” according to Takacs. Ean provided the perspective that when SRI was first introduced different analysts weighted specific areas more than others. He also explained to me that a chart of the issues has evolved in the industry. As an example, “environmental” screens would include climate change issues, pollution and waste, as well as environmental opportunities. Further, “social” screens can include human capital, product liability and stakeholder opposition. And “governance” screening looks at corporate governance and corporate behavior. Complex indeed.

**Should I only own ESG screened investments?** Although there is emerging research

that an ESG based portfolio can at the very least hold its own compared to the performance of other, more traditionally asset allocated portfolios, Ean hastens to point out that “An ESG strategy is not a silver bullet when it comes to investing. Having a solely ESG strategy does not guarantee that you will outperform the rest of the market. An investor should define what they want to achieve and determine what approach they want to take when incorporating ESG investing into their portfolios.”

While this is an exciting, some would say nerve wracking, time to be an investor, it’s important to stay current on what you hold and why, and all your options. Reach out to your team of advisors, including your Certified Financial Planner, to clarify your goals and resources to be sure you remain on the right track.



Lynn Ballou is a CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ professional and Regional Director with EP Wealth Advisors, a Registered Investment Advisory Firm in Lafayette. Information used in the writing of this column is believed to be factual and up-to-date, however, we do not guarantee its accuracy. This column does not involve the rendering of personalized investment advice and is not intended to supplement individualized professional advice. A financial, tax and/or legal professional should be consulted before implementing any of the strategies directly or indirectly suggested and discussed. All investment strategies have the potential for profit or loss.

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### Service Clubs Announcements

### Lafayette Rotary Club

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<b>November 15:</b> <b>Lorraine Granit Ph.D.</b> “The Meaning of Service in the New Age”	<b>November 22:</b> <b>Thanksgiving-</b> <b>no meeting</b>
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[www.rotarylafayette.org](http://www.rotarylafayette.org)  
[www.facebook.com/Rotary-Club-of-Lafayette-CA](https://www.facebook.com/Rotary-Club-of-Lafayette-CA)

### Not to be missed

#### POLITICAL GATHERINGS

**Lamorinda Republican Women Federated's** meeting will take place at 11:30 a.m. on Nov. 15 at the Orinda Country Club. Please join us to hear Allison Johnson discussing water conservation and the importance of Central Valley Farmers. Johnson is the co-president of the Saint Mary's College Republican Club. Cost: luncheon and speaker \$36; speaker only \$15; speaker only student discount price \$5. Reservations needed; please contact Elsie Euing at [ejeuing@comcast.net](mailto:ejeuing@comcast.net) or (925) 254-8614. For more information, go to <http://www.lamorindarepublicanwomen.org/>.

#### GARDEN

**Moraga Garden Club presents Live Birds, Taxidermy, Artifacts and Fun with Jenny Papka** at 9:30 a.m. on Nov. 15 at the Holy Trinity Cultural Center, 1700 Center St, Moraga. Jenny Papka graduated

with honors from UC Davis in Environmental Interpretation. She has been involved with native wildlife since 1988. Her working experience includes working with more than 30 species of raptors. Join us to learn how these birds of prey see their world, their place in the wild, and how they adjust to captive life. This event is free and open to the public. Refreshments. For more information go to [moragagardenclub.com](http://moragagardenclub.com).

The Montelindo Garden Club's November meeting will be at 9:30 a.m. Friday, Nov. 16 at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center's Community Hall. Presentation: Saving the Monarch Butterfly. Victoria “Tora” Roche, the former Park Supervisor for the City of Oakland until her retirement, is a champion of Monarch butterflies. She will speak about the alarming decline in their population and resulting local efforts to foster the development of Monarch caterpillars and to create habitat for Monarchs.

**Please submit events:**  
[calendar@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:calendar@lamorindaweekly.com)

## Lamorinda Weekly

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In this season of gratitude, we are thankful for our families, our customers and our amazing community. Happy Thanksgiving to you and yours!



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# LAMORINDA SPORTS

## Girls volleyball playoffs

By Jon Kingdon



Madi Risch

Photos Gint Federas

Once again it has proved to be a successful season for the Lamorinda girls volleyball teams.

Acalanes raised their record from 13-16 last season to 17-14 this year. Making the NCS playoffs, Acalanes could lay claim to the dubious distinction of having to make the longest and shortest road trips during the playoffs. Due to a fluke rule regarding Eureka High School winning a conference championship, the third seeded Dons were forced to drive 250 miles each way to play their first-round match, much to the chagrin of coach Ernie Rodriguez: "The game was scheduled to be played at 7 p.m. and they wouldn't move the game up an hour as we requested." What added to the frustration was how it was observed that "we could have beaten them with our J.V. team."

After a five-set victory over San Marin, Acalanes made the much shorter four-mile road trip to play Miramonte in the semifinals in a truly memorable match. The Dons won the first two sets (25-18, 25-13). The Dons offense has been led by Madi Risch, Kennedy Cornish and Elsa Clever. Setter Lane Webster and libero Cailey McVay both contributed with numerous digs and assists. With Miramonte winning the next two games by identical 25-23 scores, Miramonte won the final game by a 15-7 score.

Acalanes still qualified for the CIF State Championships and took another long drive to Sacramento to play Christian Brothers. Once

again, the Dons jumped out to a 2-0 lead but were unable to handle prosperity, losing their next three games (25-22, 25-22, 21-25, 18-25, 13-15).

Campolindo concluded their season with a 27-9 record. The Cougars made it to the championship game in the NCS, coming up short against Bishop O'Dowd. Still Campolindo went to the Division I state championship as the No. 3 seed. After a five-set victory over Menlo School (25-13, 20-25, 25-16, 18-25, 15-8), Campolindo was supposed to play St. Francis (Sacramento) at home. Due to the air quality or lack thereof, the game was moved to Sacramento much to the chagrin of Campolindo. The change certainly worked against the Cougars, who had a 9-1 home record this season. In close matches, there is always a home court advantage which helped St. Francis and they defeated Campolindo in five sets (25-13, 20-25, 25-16, 18-25, 15-8).

With only three seniors on the team, Vuong observed that "we're a young team. We played well to this point and we will continue to improve."

After defeating Rancho Cotate, San Francis Drake and Acalanes, Miramonte met Marin Catholic in the division III championship game going down to defeat in three games.

Miramonte (18-11) was seeded 10th in the state tournament and traveled to Mountain View for their

first match, coming up with another five-set victory (17-25, 22-25, 25-22, 25-21, 17-15).

Like Acalanes and Campolindo, Miramonte was forced to make a long road trip, traveling 133 miles to Grass Valley to take on the second seeded Nevada Union. Once again, the Matadors returned with another five-set victory over a higher seeded team (21-25, 25-21, 25-21, 23-25, 17-15). Head coach David Chao's strategy was to keep the team focused on each game: "We kept reminding the girls that every game is a new game so you don't have to be nervous."

As usual, the offense was been led by Jennifer Giron, Meaghan Hohman and Kaylyn Goode. Chao cited two sophomores on the front row that really stepped up to help the defense, Caitlin Dolorico-McPeake and Nikki Lynch. Chao particularly cited the play of Lynch: "Nikki came here with absolutely zero experience in volleyball. She came here from the Czech Republic where she was a top goalie in field hockey for the Czech team."

... continued on Page C3

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## Campolindo boys water polo in NCS finals

By Jon Kingdon



West Temkin



Luke Vandenberghe

Following up a 24-4 season in 2017, Campolindo headed into the championship game against San Ramon Valley with a 21-5 record. The game, originally scheduled to be played last Saturday, Nov. 10, was postponed to Wednesday, Nov. 14 due to the problems with the air quality.

Having won eight of their last nine games, the Cougars headed into the playoffs on a roll. The No. 1 seeded Cougars defeated Northgate (12-8) in their first match and easily defeated Las Lomas (23-7) in their semifinal match.

Campolindo head coach Miles Price appreciates how well the team is playing: "The team has really come together. We have been consistent all year and our losses have been very close."

In fact, of the five losses this season, all to teams from Southern California, four of the games were lost by only one goal (Loyola-LA 14-13, Harvard-West-lake-11-10 and 8-7, 8-7). Their only loss by more than one goal was to Newport Harbor 12-8.

With both a powerful offense and balanced defense, Campolindo has outscored their opponents 327-200.

The defense has been led by freshman goalie West Temkin. Says Price: "West has been playing really well. In fact, he is the best goalie in our league."

Besides the play of Temkin, the team's defenders have contributed as well according to Price: "Our defense has been anchored by a smothering press. Giorgio Alessandria and Jack Larsen have been keys in this area."

On offense says Price: "All of our seniors have really stepped up while juniors Tom McGuire and Soren Jensen were also great contributors. Our strategy to work from the inside out to Beck Jurasius (who will be playing for Stanford next year) was very effective."

The Cougars should be fresh for their game against San Ramon Valley as Miles was able to pull his starters out of the game having led 14-1 at the half and 19-4 after three quarters.

Miramonte made it to the second round of the NCS playoffs, defeating Monte Vista 15-12 in the first round and losing a last second heartbreaker to San Ramon Valley 14-13. The Matadors concluded their season with a 14-12 record and were 4-2, finishing second

in their league, behind only Campolindo.

Despite the loss, head coach James Lathrop spoke highly of the team's effort: "Our boys played with great passion and team focus and are looking forward to getting back in the pool for the CIF Nor Cal regionals. We got contributions from a lot of players. Leo Berkman, Jackson Painter and Narayan Sharma were our most consistent perimeter attackers on offense. Casey Estes and Brady Hoover made improvements throughout the season in the center position.

On defense, we adopted an approach that required the coordinated play of several players. Peter Hillen handled the opponent's centers. Painter and Hoover played well against our opponent's top perimeter attackers."

## MOL Football wins Orange Bowl

Submitted by Tim Jones



Photo provided

The MOL Football 2018 5th/6th grade Buccaneers team are Orange Bowl champions.

The team was coached by Stefano Patitucci and Matt Roberts.

## OIS X-country boys team champions

Submitted by Jason Curry



Photo provided

The 7th/8th grade boys from Orinda Intermediate School won the cross-country league championships Nov. 1 at Kennedy Grove park. The team was led by Graham Ballantyne, who was second

overall. Brant Ballantyne, Sam Barbir, Nick Govea, Alex Cao and Jason Wagner all contributed outstanding performances to help bring home the title.

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# Lamorinda girls water polo playoffs

By Jon Kingdon



Brooke Westphal



Claire Rowell

The 2017 Lamorinda girls water polo teams all had successful seasons, led by Miramonte winning the championship over Monte Vista with an undefeated season and Acalanes and Campolindo both making it to the semifinals.

So how could there be a better season for the three schools? Once again, all three schools made it to the semifinals of the NCS tournament. Once again there is an undefeated local team in the finals – Acalanes coming into the game with a 26-0 record. The difference this year is that they will be facing off against Campolindo who defeated the defending champion Miramonte by a score of 8-6. Due to the air quality, the match has been re-

scheduled from Saturday to Wednesday, Nov. 14.

Prior to the season, Acalanes head coach Misha Buschel spoke with great optimism about how “this should be our year.” Buschel has had many weapons to utilize this year: “This depth of our talent is the high-water mark for the team. Our defense has been led by Ava Donleavy, who has been solid in the goal for us. Our unit has been really good from the goalie forward. We’re on a string, working great as a unit. They all understood what we are trying to do.”

The effectiveness of the defense has contributed to the offense, according to Buschel: “We have been very effective

with our defense feeding our offense facilitating the transition on offense setting up a lot of 2 on 2’s and 3 on 3’s, areas which we have been very effective, winning the even number matchups. With our trifecta on offense, senior Lexi Rowell, her sister sophomore Claire Rowell along with junior Jewel Roemer, we have had a lot of options that has made it difficult for teams to take everything away from us.”

Campolindo head coach Kim Everist comes to the championship hoping to alter the saying three times a charm to four times a charm having lost to Acalanes three times this season (8-7, 8-5, 10-6).

If you’re looking to make a bet on the game, the one sure thing might be to bet

on the under. Senior goalie Cam Sutter, whom Everist describes simply as “a warrior,” has led a defense that has only given up six goals a game heading into the final game. Says Everist: “The strength of our defense is that our players are aware of where they are and working as a unit.”

Campolindo has averaged 11 goals a game with Everist favoring an aggressive offense forcing the ball up the pool.

Buschel has nothing but respect for the Cougars: “They fight and play hard. They’re a disciplined team and they don’t make a lot of mistakes. We have to avoid mistakes and stay out of foul trouble. They are a very good team and they have our attention.”



Camryn Sutter



Katherine Hawkins.

## Girls volleyball playoffs

With a new system to learn and five senior starters on the team, the team has shown some inconsistency in their play through the season which led to a lower seed in the state championship despite

having defeated Del Oro and Pleasant Valley in the regular season, two teams that were given higher seeds. Says Chao: “We were mis-seeded but with the tenth seed, the other teams may have gotten overcon-

fident with our lower seed.”

Despite the air quality issues, last Saturday Miramonte was one of the few schools that did not have their game postponed and they played their quarter-

.. continued from Page C1

final game at Head Royce. For the third straight match, the Matadors played a five-set match but came up short to the sixth ranked Head Royce (22-25, 25-18, 25-19, 25-22, 15-12).



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# Browne & Tolan Sailing Team awarded the Dave Diola Memorial Cup

Submitted by Rachel Browne



From left: PICYA Commodore Winston Bumpus, Sean Tolan and Sophia Browne

Sophia Browne (Acalanes High School) and Sean Tolan (Nea Community Learning Center), both sailing for Encinal Yacht Club, were presented with the Dave Diola Memorial Cup on Oct. 1. This Memorial Cup is awarded to the winners of a race or a series of races competing as a two-person team in the Club FJ Division Class in grades 8 thru 12. Sophia and Sean sailed a Club FJ (a 13.3-foot sailboat) in the Winter BAYs Re-

gatta series, which consisted of four local regattas hosted by St. Francis Yacht Club, San Francisco Yacht Club, Encinal Yacht Club and the Peninsula Youth Sailing Foundation. The Browne/Tolan team took the first place award in the overall BAYs series as well. The award was presented by the Pacific Inter Club Yacht Association (PICYA), which promotes recreational boating, youth sailing and many other civic activities.

# California Magic 08 Girls win Kick or Treat tournament

Submitted by Megan M. Shields



Photo provided

The 08 Magic Girls soccer team earned first place in their division in the Diablo FC Kick or Treat tournament held Oct. 27-28 in Concord. "The team has been working diligently on their ball handling, ball control and passing skills this fall. They played with

teamwork and passion throughout the tournament. I'm very proud of the progress of the team," said coach Tony Neto. The Halloween tournament hosted 75 teams from across Northern California.

# California Magic Boys U9 team wins Boo Cup

Submitted by James Mura



Photo provided

The California Magic Boys U9 soccer team won the San Ramon Boo Cup Oct. 27-28. The boys defeated the Dan-

ville Mustangs and Lodi United and others over the course of four exciting, dramatic games.

# Dolphins win the 2018 7th grade MOL Super Bowl

Submitted by Bill Boselli



Front row, from left: Mason Zirkel, Kiren Foster, Scott Lyons, Henry Garbo, Jake Ruffalo, Jack Becker; back row: coach Bill Boselli, Danny Martin, Roman Munter, Trevor Carrillo, coach Andy Orear, JD Orear, Christian Cervenka, Bryce McLaverty, Jake Boselli, and coach Rich Zirkel. Photo provided

Congratulations to the Dolphins on winning the seventh grade MOL Football Super Bowl. The team played exceptionally well on Nov. 4 and beat the undefeated Bengals, 12-6.

# Wildcats win the 2018 Pac-12 MOL Super Bowl

Submitted by Bill Boselli



Front row from left: Jake Montero, Weston Caligari, Tyler Winkles, Riley O'Toole, Charlie Holmes; back row from left: coach Troy Winkles, Nolan Shindle, Hudson Orland, Drew Davis, Adam Shedd, Jackson Boselli, Anders Brune, coach Bill Boselli. Photo provided

Congratulations to the 2018 Wildcats on winning the Pac-12 MOL Super Bowl on Nov. 4. The team was able to beat the undefeated Irish in a hard-fought game, winning 6-0.

# Stanley girls volleyball team wins Piedmont Invitational

Submitted by Gina McKenzie



Photo provided

Back row, from left: coach Sarah Westergren, Lauren Kuo, Apple Walton, Charlotte McKenzie, Sierra Lashinsky, Georgia Winkles, Kate Keuler, Nikita Vayner; front row: Alexia Silverberg, and Kylie Choi.

The Stanley Middle School 8B girls volleyball team won the Piedmont Invitational on Saturday, Sept. 29.

# Stanley Middle School runners' success

Submitted by Leland Yee



Photo provided

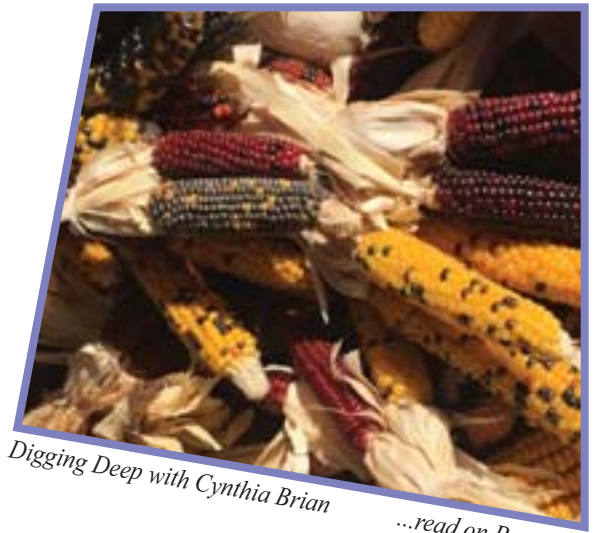
Stanley Middle School varsity teams Photo provided Stanley Middle School cross country athlete Megan Yee came in first out of 120 other East Bay schools and won team overall and second place. The boy's team came in fourth overall competing with 20 other East Bay schools. The girl's team competed with 17 other East Bay schools and won team overall and second place. The boy's team came in fourth overall competing with 20 other East Bay schools.

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# Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 12 Issue 19 Wednesday, November 14, 2018



*Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian*

*...read on Page D10*

## New lighting, color and upholstery design trends unveiled

By Amanda Eck



*Photo provided*

I love to keep up with what's trending in color and see what's new for lighting and upholstery, so I recently returned once again from North Carolina following the fall furnishings market at High Point. The High Point Market is the largest furnishings industry trade show in the world, bringing more than 75,000 people to High Point, North Carolina, every six months. With more than 2,000 exhibitors and 11.5 million square feet of showrooms, it is the Disney World for interior designers. It's a great way for me to see new products that will be introduced to the marketplace the following season. High Point also offers me the ability to touch, feel and sit on pieces that I am considering for client projects.

As with every market, there is always a buzz around color. And the fall market did not disappoint; there was lots of color. Navy is still going strong and was seen paired with burgundy, orange, green or blush. Speaking of blush, this soft hued pink was still everywhere, from upholstery to artwork to wallpaper. I have even noticed big chain retailers like Target and Pottery Barn are embracing the blush trend. Green as with blue is, of course in my book, always "in", especially the warmer more muted tones of green, from olive to sage. Red is also making its way back into the hearts of the furnishing industry. I saw lots of red paired with soft shades of blue. One color, that I personally am not a huge fan of, that seemed to be trending was purple! It was more of a soft lavender or light lilac. It was seen paired with creams, taupes, and even mint green. Needless to say, color is making a comeback – and it's bold and bright.

*... continued on Page D6*



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ORINDA	12	\$965,000	\$3,225,000

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1133 Palomares Court, \$1,381,000, 3 Bdrms, 1807 SqFt, 1946 YrBlt, 10-5-18;

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1054 Vista Bella, \$3,250,000, 4 Bdrms, 3542 SqFt, 1977 YrBlt, 10-1-18;

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2910 Windtree Court, \$2,750,000, 6 Bdrms, 3860 SqFt, 1979 YrBlt, 10-5-18;

Previous Sale: \$619,000, 05-09-97

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651 Moraga Road #5, \$360,000, 1 Bdrms, 669 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 10-4-18;

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Previous Sale: \$1,000,000, 07-26-17

325 Rheem Boulevard #A, \$985,000, 2 Bdrms, 1938 SqFt, 1990 YrBlt, 10-3-18

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146 Crestview Drive, \$3,120,000, 5 Bdrms, 4538 SqFt, 1969 YrBlt, 10-4-18;

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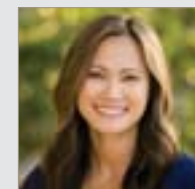
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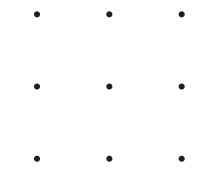
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415.999.6116  
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# Just Listed

## 3346 Betty Lane



Rendering

4 Bed 3 Bath 3,018 Sq Ft \$1,950,000

This incredible new home will be completed in mid-November and offers a flexible open floor plan, exquisite finishes throughout, and impeccable attention to detail. 10 foot ceilings in main living area with 8 ft doors. The great room features a 12 foot glass folding door that opens to a 400 square foot California room overlooking the large level backyard. This one-of-a-kind property showcases Lafayette living at its finest.



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**Claudia Gohler**  
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**Dave Schurhoff**  
925.997.9569  
[dave.schurhoff@compass.com](mailto:dave.schurhoff@compass.com)  
DRE 01834201



**Mary Staten**  
925.890.6875  
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5 bedrooms | 4 bathrooms | 2954 sq. ft. | 1.04 acres  
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## Proposition 5

We have clients that have been anxiously awaiting to see how Measure 5 fared in the midterm elections. Prop 5 proposed removing the current strenuous transfer requirements for homeowners over 55, disabled persons or disasters destroyed properties allowing these homeowners the ability to keep their current tax when moving anywhere within the State. Under the current rules, homeowners 55 plus or disabled can sell their primary residence and transfer its assessed value to a replacement home of equal or lesser value, but only in the same county. Seniors who sell before buying can spend up to 5% more if they buy within the year or up to 10% more if they buy within two years of selling, but they cannot spend one dollar more if they buy first and sell later.

We woke up this morning to see that Prop 5 did not pass. California voted no due to concerns that Prop 5 would cut local revenues. One client has been anxiously waiting for months in hopes that Prop 5 would pass so that they have more flexibility to purchase a new home while maintaining their tax basis. This client lives locally and wants to move from a large two-story home into a single-story home due to safety and mobility concerns. Unfortunately, our clients can't sell their current home and move to a similar single-story home and keep within the allowed 5% difference in sales price that would allow them to maintain their tax basis. The type of home they were looking for is trading significantly higher than what they could sell their current home for.

Clients like ours will need to make concessions and decisions on how to move forward. Our best advice is that sellers who need to keep their current tax basis should sell before buying so they know exactly how

much they have to spend for maintaining their tax basis.

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



**ERIN & DARRICK MARTIN**

Direct: 925-951-3817

Erin@MartinHomesTeam.com

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**MARTIN**  
HOMES

**COMPASS**

## New lighting, color and upholstery design trends unveiled

... continued from Page D1



*Photo provided*

Lighting is also always exciting to see at market. For one, scale is very important and sometimes it's hard to judge lighting from catalog images. Beautiful lighting can take a room from drab to fab. I've had clients who were not yet ready to commit to a full kitchen or bath remodel, but with just an upgrade in lighting we were able to make a difference. A lot of homes in our area have either builder grade lighting or fixtures that are from the '80s and need to be replaced. Consider sourcing lighting from local shops that carry unique pieces instead of running to the nearest Home Depot. Circa Lighting is a great resource for fixtures and they have recently opened a new showroom in San Francisco. It's worth a trip to the city, but they do have an online showroom if you are so inclined.

As far as finishes on lighting, we saw it all at market. From rustic iron to modern chrome, brass both lacquered and un-lacquered to wood and even gesso finishes.

... continued on Page D8



*Grateful for*

**MY FAMILY,  
MY CLIENTS,  
AND MY AREA**



**2018 TRANSACTIONS TO DATE:**

1028 Dyer Dr Lafayette - \$1,235,000  
115 Coral Drive Orinda - \$1,310,115  
112 Sleepy Hollow Lane Orinda - \$2,650,000  
20 Camino Sobrante Orinda - \$1,205,000  
27 La Noria Orinda - \$4,250,000  
1 Heather Lane Orinda - \$2,700,000  
2 Modoc Road Orinda - \$3,340,000  
3305 Mildred Lane Lafayette - \$1,447,426  
1 Tappan Way Orinda - \$2,499,000  
7 Overhill Road Orinda - \$1,750,000  
865 Mountain View Drive Lafayette - \$1,300,000  
106 Brookline Street Moraga - \$1,170,000  
3423 Freeman Road Walnut Creek - \$1,250,000  
222 Moraga Way Orinda - \$2,600,000  
45 Evergreen Drive Orinda - \$1,510,000  
32 Orchard Road Orinda - \$1,862,000  
7 Sycamore Road - Off-Market (Rep: Buyers)  
74 Scenic - Pending, Listed for \$2,695,000  
137 Overhill - Pending, Listed for \$1,425,000  
3 Easton Court, Orinda, Pending, Listed for \$1,375,000

*Just Listed & Coming Soon - 3 Lost Valley Court, Orinda - Call Agent for Details*



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## New lighting, color and upholstery design trends unveiled

... continued from Page D6



*Photo provided*

Texture was also making a statement this market. From upholstery to case goods, lighting to accessories, all had an element of texture that created interest and warmth. As you know I've mentioned before, wallpaper is back and adding textural wallpaper (i.e. sisal, grasscloth) to case goods was everywhere this market. Nightstands, console tables, coffee tables to mirrors were covered with this type of wallpaper and sealed with a clear sealant to create a very durable and unique piece of furniture. I also saw several pieces with mixed textures, for example, nesting tables with a combination of wood, metal and shagreen (shagreen is a faux sharkskin that is used as a decorative material for its natural rough surface). There were painted pieces like buffets and nightstands that had grasscloth insets on the door panels and wooden headboards that framed grasscloth insets.

There was so much to see and so little time, as usual, but I do hope this helps give you a little insight into High Point Market and all its glory. I always come away from market inspired and full of ideas, ready to incorporate them into my projects.

Until next time, Lamorinda readers!

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

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

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





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Updated MCC Home with Great Views!  
Open Sunday from 1-4



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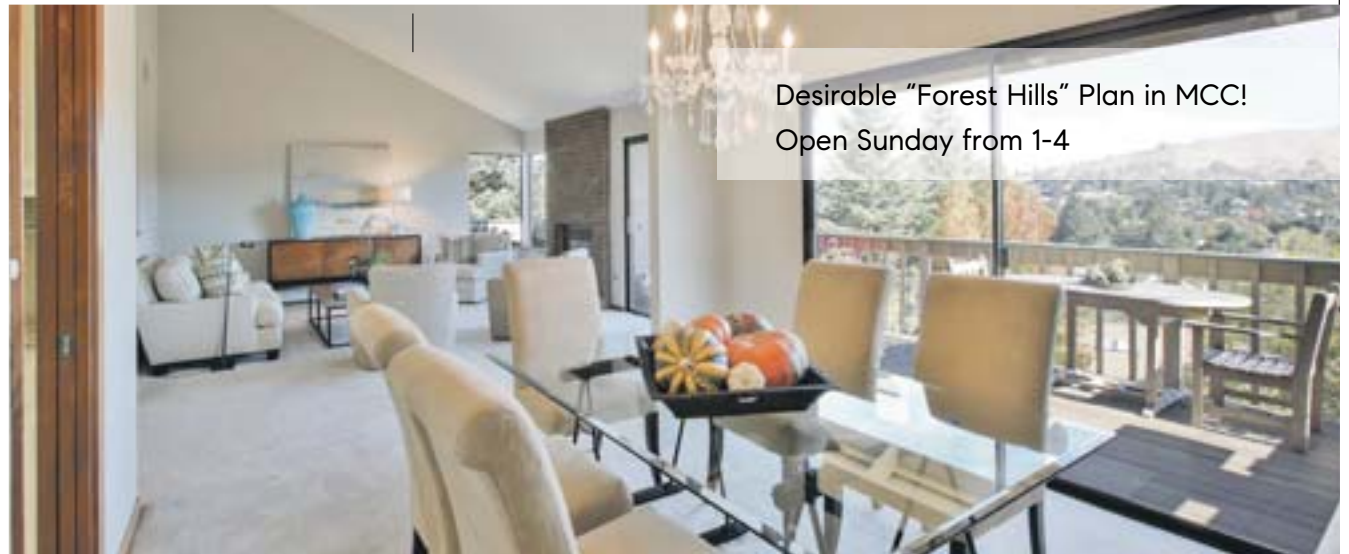
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Desirable "Forest Hills" Plan in MCC!  
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*Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian*

## Cultivating thankfulness

By Cynthia Brian

*“Gratitude is the fairest blossom which springs from the soul.” – Henry Ward Beecher*

**A**s I was admiring the crimson leaves fluttering to the ground from the liquid amber tree, I was overcome with gratitude for our distinct California seasons. How boring life would be if every day and every thing remained constant, unaltered, impervious to transformation.

November ushers a time for reflection, providing the perfect opportunity to express our gratitude for being alive in a rapidly changing world. The days are shorter and the nights are cooler. Waiting for the rain to materialize, we begin our cleanup in our fall landscapes. It's time to rake the leaves, mulch the garden and sharpen tools. Soon we'll be covering our patio furniture or storing it until summer. Frost intolerant plants must be blanketed or if in containers moved to warmer locations. Persimmons can be harvested with the Hachiya variety left on countertops to soften. Holly berries begin turning their vibrant red, a final hedge pruning is necessitated, and spring-flowering bulbs require planting. In preparation for our Thanksgiving gathering, we decorate with pumpkins, colorful Indian corn, gourds and autumn leaves. The magic of the holidays has begun.



*A spectacular gnarly lacey Japanese maple tree is full fall attire.*

*Photo Cynthia Brian*

How can we cultivate thankfulness? Create your personal guided meditation. Take a walk in nature to drink in the beauty. Be watchful. I heard fluttering of wings and watched with glee as a large crow landed in a tree a few feet from me, completely oblivious to my presence. I whispered, “Thank you.” Listen closely. Do you hear any of the creek frogs beginning their wooing sounds? Are the squirrels chirping and cooing as they gather acorns and nuts for the winter? Say, “Thank you.” Are the leaves on your Japanese maples, crape myrtles, or pistaches turned into jewel tones of saffron, ruby and ginger? Utter, “Thank you.”

... continued on Page D12

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## 30 Las Palomas, Orinda

5 Bed | 3 Bath | 2,532 Sq Ft | 0.26 Ac | \$1,395,000

Gorgeous two level contemporary located in the desirable Orinda Country Club neighborhood.

This spacious and light filled home boasts a flexible floor plan including a sleek and modern kitchen with high end appliances, walls of glass that open to a spacious deck with views, and a flexible downstairs space perfect for teens, office, or art studio. Top rated Orinda schools.



**Suzi O'Brien**

925.286.8520

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*Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian*

## Cultivating thankfulness

... continued from Page D10



*A privacy screen hedge of holly with green berries on the verge of turning red.*

*Photos Cynthia Brian*

We take for granted so many things in life. By starting to be grateful for the simple essentials such as running water, electricity, clean air, a cozy bed, food on the table and people who love us, we can begin a daily routine of being grateful. Add appreciation to the plants and trees that grace your garden providing privacy, flowers, fragrance, shade, food and stress relief, and you'll take the first step on your journey of gratitude.

Before long we will be putting our gardens to bed and our tools in the shed. For the



*Harvested bulbs waiting to be planted.*

moment, the sun is shining and we are blessed to live in a climate that allows us a long growing period filled with healthy outdoor activities.

This year when you celebrate the American ritual of Thanksgiving, mulch your mind by living every day with mindful thankfulness. Harvest the riches of gratefulness.

*"As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them." – John Fitzgerald Kennedy*





## NEW LISTING! 141 OVERHILL ROAD, ORINDA

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## Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for November

**CHECK** out Jackson & Perkins catalog celebrating their 130-year anniversary. They have created a special rose to mark the occasion, Four Roses Bourbon, a graceful deep red heat-tolerant specimen that is easy to grow and resistant to disease. Through Dec. 31 get free shipping on orders of \$75 or more with coupon code LAPARK at <http://www.jacksonandperjuns.com> or 20 percent off order with code SHARE20.

**DECORATE** with flint corn, also known as Indian corn. The kernels are "hard as flint" and come in colors of red, blue, black, white and yellow. This corn is edible and used in polenta and hominy.

**TRAIN** fig, apple, rose and Eureka lemons to grow on an espalier on a fence.

**PRIVACY** is critical to our relaxation. As privacy screens plant a laurel or holly hedge. Prune to your desired height and width.

**HARVEST** Fuyu and Hachiya persimmons. Fuyu, commonly called "apple persimmons," can be sliced and diced into salads and eaten raw. Hachiya persimmons need to be very soft and mushy before consuming. It's best to pick them now before the birds and squirrels ravage the crop.

**BUY** copies of "Be the Star You Are! Millennials to Boomers Celebrating Positive Voices in a Changing Digital World and Growing with the Goddess Gardener" to give as holiday gifts. Pick up at StarStyle® studios or enjoy free shipping. Available at [www.CynthiaBrian.com/online-store](http://www.CynthiaBrian.com/online-store).

**WALK** in the woods to witness the halt to chlorophyll production in the leaves of the trees. Gather a bag of the colorful autumn treasures for your Thanksgiving table.

**ENJOY** the warm sunshine and cool breezes of November. Winter is coming.

**DIG** holes for your spring bulbs and cover. If you have clumps of iris or Naked Ladies that need dividing and replanting, this is the month for the task.

**FEED** annuals and lawns with a fertilizer high in nitrogen. **PLANT** groundcovers and deciduous trees that boast fall wardrobes. Your local nurseries have a plethora of suggestions and selections.

**FINAL** chance to sow garlic and onions for next season's dining of Mediterranean staples.

**BE** grateful for today.

Take time to give thanks for the little things every day, not just once a year. Having an attitude of gratitude makes every moment shine brightly.

Happy Gardening. Happy Growing. Happy Thanksgiving!

Cynthia Brian



*An espalier of apples or other fruits adds interest to a wall or fence.*

*Photos Cynthia Brian*



*Hachiya persimmons need to be harvested before the birds and squirrels devour them.*



Close up of a laurel hedge.



Cynthia Brian is happy with the grape harvest.

Cynthia Brian, The Goddess Gardener, raised in the vineyards of Napa County, is a New York Times best-selling author, actor, radio personality, speaker, media and writing coach as well as the Founder and Executive Director of Be the Star You Are!® S01 c3.

Tune into Cynthia's Radio show and order her books at [www.StarStyleRadio.com](http://www.StarStyleRadio.com).

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).

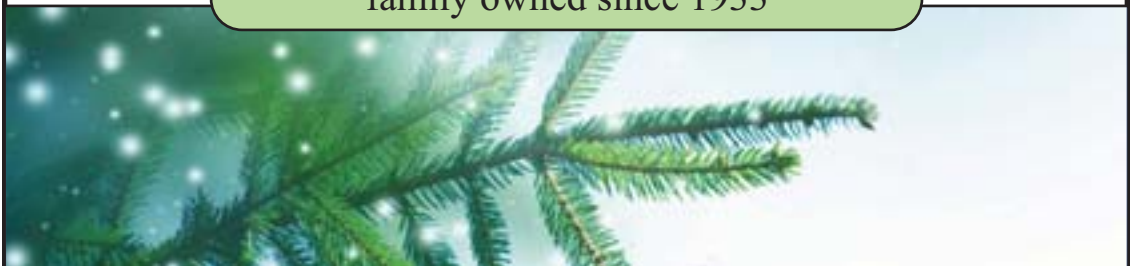
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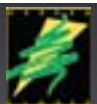
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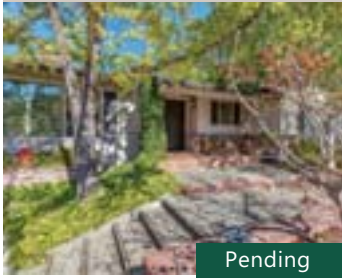
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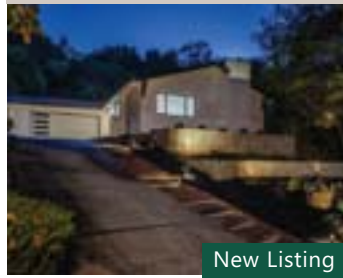


### 15 Parkway Court

Spacious 3 Bed/3 Bath open floor plan living in fabulous Glorietta neighborhood on desirable cul-de-sac.

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## ORINDA



### 9 Easton Court

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

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## ORINDA



### 208 The Knoll

Unique Orindawoods contemporary 2 Bed/2.5 bath/2116 square foot townhome.

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## ORINDA



### 3 Charles Hill Place

Renovated mid-century 4 Bed/3.5 Bath haven! 3157 sq.ft. of light filled living amongst the Orinda hills.

\$1,495,000

## ORINDA

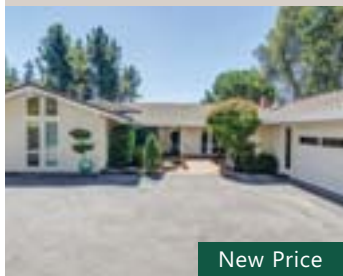


### 17 Valley View Lane

Beautifully renovated traditional 3 Bed/2.5 bath on a 1.1 acre knoll setting. Chef's kitchen, indoor/outdoor living.

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### 63 Via Floreado

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

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## ORINDA



### 147 Camino Don Miguel

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

\$1,749,000

## ORINDA

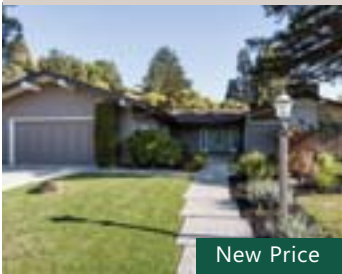


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### 1858 Joseph Drive

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## MORAGA



### 1096 Sanders Drive

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## MORAGA



### 308 Rheem Boulevard

Delightful and renovated 5 Bed/4 Bath with functional floor plan on 1.04 acre beautifully landscaped lot.

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## PLEASANT HILL



### 20 Whitfield Court

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