

# Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 12 Issue 20 Wednesday, November 28, 2018



*Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian*

*...read on Page D12*

## Antiquing: A fun way to recycle

By Vera Kochan



*Two-piece hutch (top piece 18th century, bottom piece 20th century)*

*Photo Vera Kochan*

When people hear the word recycle, they usually think of bottles, cans and paper – and what bin to toss them into (green or blue). It's rare that folks equate antiquing with recycling, unless you're the owner of Orinda Village Antiques, Susan Leech, who has been refurbishing furniture since 1982, when she first opened her shop at 107 Orinda Way.

Much more happens than recycling of wood through the reuse of furniture. The popular phrase comes to mind, "One man's junk is another man's treasure," but to those who love historical pieces, that phrase is never assigned to antiquing. For Leech, it's all treasure!

*... continued on Page D4*



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## Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

City	Last reported:	LOWEST AMOUNT:	HIGHEST AMOUNT:
LAFAYETTE	9	\$795,000	\$3,210,000
MORAGA	6	\$710,000	\$2,000,000
ORINDA	5	\$680,000	\$1,900,000

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

### LAFAYETTE

- 810 Acalanes Road, \$2,800,000, 5 Bdrms, 5271 SqFt, 2008 YrBlt, 10-19-18,  
Previous Sale: \$2,600,000, 05-15-14
- 42 Circle Creek Court, \$795,000, 2 Bdrms, 1248 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt,  
Previous Sale: 10-19-18,
- 912 Dana Highlands Court, \$1,550,000, 5 Bdrms, 3103 SqFt, 1994 YrBlt, 10-15-18,  
Previous Sale: \$1,100,000, 07-07-15
- 1176 Glen Road, \$1,895,000, 4 Bdrms, 2578 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 10-18-18,  
Previous Sale: \$1,080,000, 02-08-11
- 3417 Goyak Drive, \$1,335,000, 4 Bdrms, 2071 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 10-17-18,  
Previous Sale: \$630,000, 10-07-10
- 857 Las Trampas Road, \$1,511,500, 3 Bdrms, 3067 SqFt, 1987 YrBlt, 10-15-18,  
Previous Sale: \$1,150,000, 07-11-12
- 3279 Mt Diablo Court #25, \$800,000, 3 Bdrms, 1731 SqFt, 1986 YrBlt, 10-18-18,  
Previous Sale: \$730,000, 05-30-13
- 1040 Oak Knoll Road, \$1,235,000, 3 Bdrms, 1520 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt,  
Previous Sale: 10-19-18,
- 1 Oliveira Lane, \$3,210,000, 5 Bdrms, 5269 SqFt, 1904 YrBlt, 10-17-18,  
Previous Sale: \$1,000,000, 08-01-89

### MORAGA

- 3812 Campolindo Drive, \$1,305,000, 4 Bdrms, 2192 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt,  
Previous Sale: 10-15-18
- 10 Hansen Court, \$952,000, 3 Bdrms, 2095 SqFt, 1984 YrBlt, 10-19-18,  
Previous Sale: \$650,000, 03-21-13
- 288 Lakefield Place, \$2,000,000, 7 Bdrms, 4032 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt,  
Previous Sale: 10-16-18
- 77 Marie Place, \$1,235,000, 4 Bdrms, 2102 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 10-16-18,  
Previous Sale: \$885,000, 05-21-13
- 126 Miramonte Drive, \$710,000, 2 Bdrms, 1514 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 10-19-18,  
Previous Sale: \$629,000, 09-05-06
- 1722 Saint Andrews Drive, \$985,000, 3 Bdrms, 2079 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 10-18-18,  
Previous Sale: \$910,000, 09-27-17

### ORINDA

- 5 Heather Lane, \$1,650,000, 4 Bdrms, 4720 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 10-15-18
- 15 Honey Hill Road, \$1,900,000, 4 Bdrms, 2751 SqFt, 1969 YrBlt, 10-19-18
- 6 Idyll Court, \$1,300,000, 3 Bdrms, 1936 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt,  
Previous Sale: 10-17-18
- 14 Snow Court, \$680,000, 6 Bdrms, 3667 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 10-19-18
- 224 The Knolls, \$1,129,000, 3 Bdrms, 2252 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 10-17-18,  
Previous Sale: \$1,000,000, 06-16-17
- 24 Vista Del Mar, \$1,592,000, 4 Bdrms, 2382 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 10-18-18



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**COMPASS**



# Antiquing: A fun way to recycle

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Orinda Village Antiques owner Susan Leech in doorway.

Photos Vera Kochan

Leech was born in Nottingham, England, but grew up in the United States. She goes back to her birthplace often for visits. She has virtually lost her British accent, however when she reminisces about the UK, a faint trace of it crops up in her speech.

According to Leech, anything between 50-100 years old is considered a collectible and over 100 years old is considered an antique. “Women are good at re-inventing the wheel. We repurpose things into different rooms and use them not necessarily for the original purpose it was intended,” she explained, as she held up an old pewter mug with lid that she had turned into a candle holder.

Many of the china cabinet/hutch pieces of furniture in the shop are mix and match. The top piece of the cabinet was not made for the bottom or vice versa. They can even come from different centuries. It’s all part of the recycling process.

When asked how to identify what type of wood a piece of furniture comes from, Leech explained, “You can tell by the grain.” One of the more common trees used to make furniture 200 years ago was rosewood from Brazil; its deep rich brown tones with a darker grain was a popular choice among the wealthy. “Rosewood is not seen anymore. It was harvested to death,” Leech said.

A discussion about the overexploitation of trees turned into a history lesson. “Lots of trees are gone in England, because from the mid-17th century through the

19th century, ship building for the Royal Navy was in high demand,” Leech said. “The biggest trees were saved for the ship masts, while the rest was harvested to build the fleets.”

When asked if she had heard of wood with the Forest Stewardship Council label, Leech said. “Yes, I’ve heard of it, but it’s a relatively new concept and wouldn’t apply to antiques.” According to the FSC, wood that is tagged with this logo has been harvested in a more environmentally friendly way than wood used to make conventional furniture.

Leech believes antique stores are very good for the environment. Customers help to recycle wood and glass while keeping things like 200-year-old porcelain figurines, bone china and silverware out of landfills, thus turning a cherished possession from a bygone era into a personal treasure.

“My job is to take something and give it a new lease on life,” Leech said.

For information and hours of operation, visit [www.orindavillageantiques.com](http://www.orindavillageantiques.com).



There are three antique stores in Orinda. In addition to Orinda Village Antiques: Tally Home at 85 Orinda Way and Hilton House Consignment & Design at 21 Orinda Way.

## Book a special High Tea at Orinda Village Antiques

Orinda Village Antiques hosts “History of High Tea – Taking Tea in the English Manor,” where Leech serves a delectable array of homemade sweet and savory treats while giving her guests a history lesson, and she insists that men are some of the most astute pupils she’s ever had. Tea parties aren’t just for girls anymore. The tea is by appointment only. For more information visit [www.orindavillageantiques.com](http://www.orindavillageantiques.com) or call (925) 254-2206.





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## Feng Shui

# Using mirrors strategically in the home

By Michele Duffy



Mirrors over fireplaces correct a long list of challenging Feng Shui.

Photos provided

**M**irrors are symbolic of the water element, which governs the winter season including November, December and January and they are the one Feng Shui tool you can instantly benefit from when placing them correctly throughout your home. The shape of the mirror – a round mirror for Metal, a rectangular mirror for Wood, and a square mirror for Earth – comes into play and mirror placement per the BAGUA map is important, but the most important aspect is incorporating mirrors in the following ways to enhance your space and welcome positive energy into your home.

First, let's begin in the foyer. There are lots of conflicting Feng Shui ideas in terms of placing the mirror opposite the door, which reflects all the positive chi back out, however I have also seen many small dark foyers and the placement here can open the space and make it seem much bigger, thus overriding other concerns.

... continued on Page D10



# The Paddy Kehoe Team

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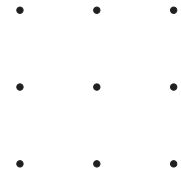
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## Feng Shui

# Using mirrors strategically in the home

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With all things being equal it's best to place the mirror on the side wall so it's not behind the door. The light and powerful chi from outdoors will reflect inside and the mirror also enlarges the feeling of the foyer in a beneficial way. The middle front area of the home, according to the BAGUA, is also ruled by Career and the water element, and since mirrors represent water and are also very yang/active, if your front entrance or foyer is in the middle of your home, a mirror placed here is seen as a stimulant to your career.

While we are on the topic of the Front Entrance area, another Feng Shui use for a mirror is over the front door facing out toward the street. We place a special type of mirror here called a BAGUA mirror, used to deflect negative chi away from the home. If your home faces an electrical tower or water tower, a busy road, a church (happy and sad events here), a fire or police station, a graveyard or an empty lot, place a BAGUA mirror outside over your front entrance doorway to deflect the negative chi away from your home.

Next, mirrors also correct and adjust "missing" areas of the Feng Shui BAGUA map. If, when you overlay the BAGUA map over your entire home, you are "missing" an area or two or three, do not despair. Mirrors to the rescue! Chances are if your home is not perfectly rectangular or square you are missing a BAGUA map area. Mirrors visually extend the space when you place one on both adjacent walls to the area that is missing in the BAGUA map. When the mirrors are placed this way, the space is visually expanded and the missing area is no longer as prominent. Missing areas symbolize that very little energy exists there, creating struggles or blocks, so adjusting and correcting that problem is important on many levels.

You can also simply use mirrors decoratively by placing them to add more light into your environment; by placing a mirror opposite a lush natural outdoor landscape it has the potential to bring more natural light into that area of your home. This also works really well in darker rooms or in those with scant natural lighting. If the mirror reflects trees and flowers into your home, then you welcome the upward growth of wood energy, or if there is a mountain, then a lot more grounding energy visits.

Adjusting an ill-placed fireplace is also the function of hanging a mirror over one. No one will know you are adjusting with the decorative mirror (water) over the fireplace (water overcomes fire) if you have one in your master bedroom (too much fire can cause marital disharmony), or in the center of your home (fire burns up your health) or a fireplace located in the metal areas of home (fire melts metal) including helpful people or children with equally challenging results. Placing a mirror over a fireplace in these instances will prevent the negative effects and allow for a strong adjustment.

While we are mentioning bedrooms, it is smart Feng Shui to limit mirrors in the places we are meant to sleep soundly since mirrors are considered Yang or active. If you begin to have trouble sleeping in your bedroom and have lots of mirrors, try this experiment. Cover the mirrors with sheets for a couple of nights and notice if your sleep improves or not. Use the examples in this column to discover other places and uses for your bedroom mirrors if your sleep improves when they are not as much of an influence in your bedroom.

Finally, since this time of year we are enjoying our dining rooms a lot with family and friends gathering, the dining room is one of the most festive rooms to place a large mirror to reflect happy times, multiply the number of our guests as well as the wealth we have by sharing the harvest with others. Remember, mirrors are referred to as the aspirin of Feng Shui because they are prescribed to quickly adjust many challenges, therefore by just moving one or two mirrors strategically, you will create many levels of benefits – all the while creating more light and space in a subtle way that doesn't scream Feng Shui.

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

*The Bagua Map: Front Door*

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





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## Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian

# Making scents

By Cynthia Brian

*"If you have a garden and a library, you have everything you need." – Marcus Cicero*



*Pick narcissus to add sweet scents to indoor spaces.*

*Photo Cynthia Brian*

With all of the disasters and tragedies of this year, logic seems to have disappeared. The senseless shootings of innocent people and the devastating California fires have rendered so many of us feeling helpless and hopeless. But in times of turbulence, besides the consolation of close relationships with family and friends, I advise my clients to turn to two things: gardens and books.

The smoke from the Camp and Paradise fires has been so thick and suffocating, that spending time in the garden has been impossible. Continued alerts have been pinging on my cell phone warning me of the dangers of breathing toxins. The alerts advise to avoid being outdoors as the air quality is hazardous to our health. The sky is gray and gloomy with harmful haze reminiscent of Beijing. When the sun pokes through the smoke, it is a roiling red.

To combat the noxious air, I have been freshening my home with the calming aromas of hand crafted potpourri and herbal sachets. Although making scents does require time and considerable clean up, potpourri,

wreaths, and sachets make beautiful hostess gifts and holiday décor. Be prepared for magnificent earthy scents wafting to your nostrils as you style your ingredients. To fashion your own rustic creations, choose sweet smelling botanicals with strong colors that will dry well. If you enjoy burying your nose in a flower or herb, these are specimens for your project.

My recommendations for making lovely potpourri include:

rose	rosemary	yarrow
lavender	bay	eucalyptus
chamomile	tulip	amaranth
nigella	orchid	lemon leaves
sage	bougainvillea	marigold
thyme	daffodil	nasturtium
liquid amber	oregano	

I also like to dry citrus rinds and add whole buds of small flowers to the mix. Remove petals from stems and dry on a cookie sheet. If you are in a hurry, you can heat your oven to 150-200 F and put the pan in the oven until

the flowers are dry, but not cooked. I prefer to allow them to dry naturally on a counter in my garage as I find the fragrance is fuller and lasts longer.

Once all the leaves, flowers and herbs are dry, it's time to design various "flavors" of potpourri. I make seasonal potpourri in varying color schemes and smells. For holiday scents, add cinnamon sticks, shaved nutmeg or other spices. You can also spritz the mixture with a few drops of your favorite essential oil and toss with your hands before adding the ingredients to jars, bowls, netting or clear wrap to give as gifts.

With the sweet perfume of my garden inside my house, I can turn my attention to books.

As you've probably read, I published my seventh and eighth books recently, an extreme endeavor to publish two books in one year while still working on numerous other projects, yet somehow the task was accomplished. Book One in the Garden Shorts Series, "Growing with the Goddess Gardener" is filled with 24 months of inspiration, tips, photos and stories that you can use now in times of distress.

... continued on Page D15



*Finished potpourri is ready for gifting.*



## 141 OVERHILL ROAD, ORINDA

Wonderful single-level Glorietta home with fabulous Northwest facing views! 3 bedrooms plus office, 2 bathrooms, 2,300± sq. ft. on a .40± acre lot with secluded yard and large lawn area. Excellent central Orinda location, close to 12 years of top rated schools. Just a short distance to Glorietta Elementary School and Meadow Swim & Tennis Club via nearby path at the end of Catherine Court. Commuter's dream just minutes to freeway, BART and downtown Orinda. [141overhillroad.com](http://141overhillroad.com).

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# Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for December

**BANISH** the winter blah's with Amaryllis. Try something different with Nymph Amaryllis that showcase distinctive heavily petaled flowers on strong stems.

**LOVE** the actress Judi Dench? You can now buy her special rose: a sun-kissed shade of apricot with a fragrance of cucumber and kiwi from David Austin Roses. <http://www.DavidAustin.com>

**DECORATE** with living plants. Popular and easy to grow specimens include Split-leaf Philodendron and Fiddle-leaf Fig to Palm, Dieffenbachia, Zeke and Snake Plants.

**MAKE** wreaths from cuttings from redwoods, cedars, pines and fir. Prune your trees and use the boughs!

**MOW** lawns short as the grass is dormant. Winterize with an application of fertilizer to help the grass survive and thrive during the cold months.

**ADD** color to the winter garden with asters and cyclamen.

**LOOKING** for plants that will grow in your area? Use Plant Finder at <https://www.highcountrygardens.com/>

**REVIVE** your soil with mulch and plant a cover crop on bare dirt to bring nutrients and pump carbon into roots to feed microorganisms.

**GROW** sage (*salvia officinalis*) for culinary and prescriptive enjoyment. Place in full sun with well-drained soil, water occasionally when you notice the leaves curling, and harvest stems above new growth. Don't cut into the wood or the plant will die back.

**BUY** autographed copies of Cynthia Brian's first edition books with free shipping and extra freebies all benefiting disaster relief at <http://www.CynthiaBrian.com/online-store>.

**PICK** sweet smelling narcissus as they begin to bloom to freshen your bathrooms.

**PROTECT** frost tender plants with burlap, blankets or sheets.

**DISCOVER** the lotus flower. This time last year I was in Cambodia where every establishment showcased glorious arrangements of lotus symbolizing purity, enlightenment and awakening. We could use more of this botanical symbol of peace and protection.

**BREATHE** easier with a harmonica class to increase your lung power. Contact Jack Pawlakos, [jepawlakos@gmail.com](mailto:jepawlakos@gmail.com).

**CONTINUE** being grateful for being alive and living in wild California.

Happy Gardening. Happy Growing.



The lotus flower symbolizes peace and protection.

Photos Cynthia Brian



Use slices of Meyer lemon as well as leaves to add fragrance to potpourri.



Sage can be added to bouquets or used as incense.



Drying flowers and herbs on a cookie sheet.

## Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian

# Making scents

... continued from Page D12

The second book is “Be the Star You Are! Millennials to Boomers Celebrating Gifts of Positive Voices in a Changing Digital World.” This book illustrates how similar the various generations are and offers insights on how we can all prosper to make this world a better place.

I am shamelessly promoting these books in this column for three reasons:

1. They will make fabulous, life enhancing gifts for the

holidays. (Buy them at <http://www.CynthiaBrian.com/online-store>)

2. The proceeds from sales of all of my books benefit Operation Disaster Relief to help the victims of the California wildfires recover. (<http://ow.ly/X0Ia30mF4zZ>)

3. I will continue to donate copies of my books to Operation Disaster Relief that is spearheaded by the volunteers of the top rated local charity Be the Star You Are!®

501 c3. (<http://www.BetheStarYouAre.org>)

To borrow a tagline from Sow True Seed, these books are “open-pollinated, untreated, and GMO-Free!” And they are filled with ideas, exercises, and fun activities that you can do indoors even when the air is unbearable outside or the weather is insufferable. I encourage you to support disaster relief by buying copies of the books and start enjoying making scents and sense.



A zeke plant is an excellent houseplant choice for areas with low light.



Liquid Amber leaves can be included in autumn potpourri sachets.



Buy Cynthia Brian's books with free shipping, extra goodies, and money goes to Disaster Relief at [www.cynthiabrian.com/online-store](http://www.cynthiabrian.com/online-store)

Cynthia Brian, The Goddess Gardener, raised in the vineyards of Napa County, is a New York Times best-selling author, actor, radio personality, speaker, media and writing coach as well as the Founder and Executive Director of Be the Star You Are!® 501 c3.

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

Buy a copy of the new book, Growing with the Goddess Gardener, at [www.cynthiabrian.com/online-store](http://www.cynthiabrian.com/online-store).

Available for hire for projects and lectures.

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

# LAMORINDA'S LEADING INDEPENDENT REAL ESTATE FIRM

## ORINDA



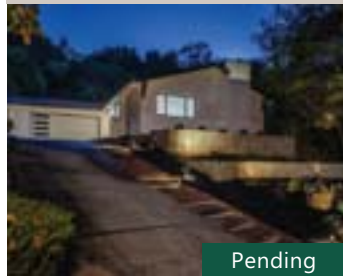
Coming Soon

### 76 La Cuesta Road

Wonderfully designed 3 Bed/2 Bath Orinda Hills view home with one level easy living floor plan.

Call for Price

## ORINDA



Pending

### 9 Easton Court

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

\$1,195,000

## ORINDA



Pending

### 208 The Knoll

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

\$1,248,000

## 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.

\$1,579,000

## ORINDA



### 63 Via Floreado

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

\$1,740,000

## ORINDA



### 147 Camino Don Miguel

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

\$1,749,000

## ORINDA

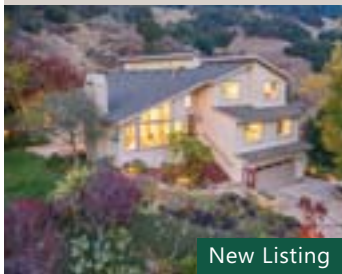


### 64 El Gavilan Road

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

\$1,750,000

## ORINDA



New Listing

### 3 Lost Valley Court

Custom contemporary 6 Bed/4 Bath rebuilt masterpiece sits on 2.11 acres in the gorgeous rolling hills of Orinda.

Call for Price

## MORAGA



Pending

### 1096 Sanders Drive

Charming & immaculate 3 Bed/2.5 Bath single-level in walking friendly neighborhood. Beautiful yard!

\$1,350,000

## MORAGA



### 308 Rheem Boulevard

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

\$1,599,000

## PLEASANT HILL



Lots & Land

### 20 Whitfield Court

Truly special parcel with ideal privacy set at top of knoll with views of Mt. Diablo.

\$1,375,000

## The Village Associates:

Ashley Battersby  
Patricia Battersby  
Shannon Conner  
Meara Dunsmore

Linda Ehrich

Emily Estrada

Joan Evans

Linda Friedman

Dexter Honens II

Anne Knight

Susan Layng

Charles Levine

April Matthews

Hillary Murphy

Karen Murphy

John Nash

Altie Schmitt

Judy Schoenrock

Ann Sharf

Amy Rose Smith

Molly Smith

Jeff Snell

Lynda Snell

Steve Stahle

Clark Thompson

Angie Evans Traxinger

Ignacio Vega

Ann Ward

Jenny Lyons Wilhite

Margaret Zucker

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