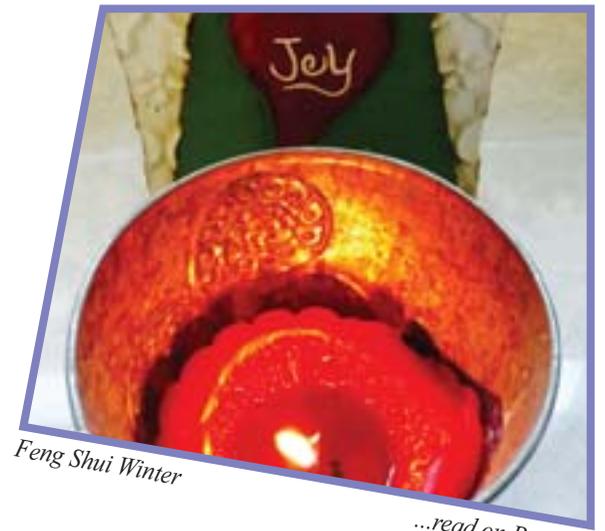


Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 12 Issue 22 Tuesday, December 25, 2018



Feng Shui Winter

...read on Page D4

Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian

Garden Trends for 2019, PART 1

By Cynthia Brian

"Great things are not accomplished by those who yield to trends, fads, and popular opinion." — Jack Kerouac



Bromeliads are colorful and easy to care for.

Photo Cynthia Brian

I'll never forget how excited my mother was to play "Vanna" alongside Pat Sajak on the TV hit, "Wheel of Fortune." It was the first time in the 30-plus years of the show that anyone stepped into Vanna's beautiful shoes to wave bye-bye, and at 87-years-young, my mom definitely had a reason to gloat. Mom never owned a computer nor even knew what social media was, but a few days after her historic TV appearance, she called me to say that everyone said she was "trending." She didn't have a clue what trending meant, but she knew it must be something fun, fabulous and futuristic.

So what does "trend" actually mean? Every dictionary claims a varied description but in general a trend means an upward drift, a tendency to move in a certain direction. I've never been a person who embraced trends as I believe in being original. I like to connect and having meaning in my surroundings. I prefer style. A style is classic, enduring and lasting. Nevertheless, no matter what your personal design preference is, understanding trends can help you identify what you may be missing or what you need to pay attention to. After you know what is trending, it's up to you to express your true individuality.

Trends are what drive sales and help consumers identify new products and services on the market. For over 20 years, the Garden Media Group has had its fingers on the pulse of a gardening nation. In 2001, outdoor spaces as living rooms were the big hit. The year 2002 was container gardening. By 2006, we had recognized the importance of growing our own food and being sustainable. The birds and bees highlighted our efforts in 2008, and because of the drought, 2011 became the year of succulents. Finally in 2015, millennials were recognized as becoming the next major gardening group, and by 2018 the focus was on wellness.

So what is the chief theme of 2019? No surprise, it is me to she. With the "#Me Too" movement launched, in gardening we are looking to the she, as in Mother Nature, to lead us to the light. Temperatures are rising, major disasters are a regular occurrence, and species are dying. We need to save our planet and being a gardener is one of the first lines of defense. Gardening connects us to nature as we birth the "new environmentalism." Through horticulture, we can assist with solving climate change and biodiversity loss. By finding joy in nature, we have the opportunity to save the environment. When we save our world, we save our species.

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Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

City	Last reported:	LOWEST AMOUNT:	HIGHEST AMOUNT:
LAFAYETTE	20	\$645,000	\$4,825,000
MORAGA	6	\$1,260,000	\$1,545,000
ORINDA	10	\$950,000	\$3,268,000

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

910 Acalanes Road, \$1,190,000, 4 Bdrms, 2133 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 11-16-18, Previous Sale: \$1,175,000, 04-17-17
 3349 Betty Lane, \$960,000, 3 Bdrms, 1154 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 11-05-18, Previous Sale: \$700,000, 04-20-18
 375 Castello Road, \$1,101,000, 3 Bdrms, 1554 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 11-16-18, Previous Sale: \$650,000, 05-10-12
 206 Colt Court, \$1,885,000, 4 Bdrms, 3275 SqFt, 1984 YrBlt, 11-15-18
 1000 Dewing Avenue, \$1,170,500, 2 Bdrms, 1443 SqFt, 2017 YrBlt, 11-13-18
 3105 Diablo View Road, \$830,000, 3 Bdrms, 1508 SqFt, 1947 YrBlt, 11-14-18
 1200 Estates Drive, \$3,860,000, 4 Bdrms, 4401 SqFt, 2002 YrBlt, 11-08-18, Previous Sale: \$3,375,000, 02-18-14
 3739 Highland Road, \$1,323,000, 4 Bdrms, 2281 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 11-13-18, Previous Sale: \$859,000, 06-14-12
 1267 Laurel Lane, \$1,770,000, 4 Bdrms, 2294 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 11-08-18, Previous Sale: \$1,066,000, 03-24-11
 3 Moss Lane, \$715,000, 2 Bdrms, 1442 SqFt, 1987 YrBlt, 11-16-18, Previous Sale: \$202,000, 12-01-88
 10 Moss Lane, \$940,000, 2 Bdrms, 1442 SqFt, 1987 YrBlt, 11-05-18, Previous Sale: \$790,000, 03-20-15
 3694 Nordstrom Lane, \$7,800,000, 2 Bdrms, 1035 SqFt, 1988 YrBlt, 11-16-18
 3921 North Peardale Drive, \$1,400,000, 3 Bdrms, 1989 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 11-14-18, Previous Sale: \$1,575,000, 10-08-18
 1036 Oak Knoll Road, \$1,150,000, 3 Bdrms, 2063 SqFt, 1953 YrBlt, 11-16-18, Previous Sale: \$700,000, 09-16-10
 3394 Orchard Valley Lane, \$800,000, 5 Bdrms, 1460 SqFt, 1953 YrBlt, 11-16-18
 942 Raintree Place, \$2,800,000, 4 Bdrms, 3248 SqFt, 1983 YrBlt, 11-13-18, Previous Sale: \$1,150,000, 08-17-10
 1244 Rose Lane, \$7,800,000, 4 Bdrms, 11054 SqFt, 1998 YrBlt, 11-16-18

... continued on Page D10

Happy Holidays from

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meeting all your aesthetic and functional needs...
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Kurt Piper



Barb Brawner



Kim Siegel

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Escrow Officer



Jessica Parisi
Transaction Coordinator



Dasha Sienitsky
Social Media and
Listing Launch



Lori Rembac
Preferred Stager



Lindy Evans
Preferred Stager



Meg Foley
Project Manager



Alex Gutierrez
Landscape Projects



John Haidarian
Interior and Exterior Paint



Oscar Ascencio
Construction Projects



Kurt Piper
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Kurt Piper Group



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Feng Shui

Winter's water element

By Michele Duffy



Water flows in this local creek.

Photo provided

Winter's yin and crisp dawn breath invites the dazzling dew left each morning only to retreat with the morning sun and clear blue skies. Water's qualities inform winter days with the gurgling of streams on a brisk hike, and winter blankets our psyches with chilly and dormant seasonal change that invites going deep, getting toasty next to a fireplace, bundling up for long nights of clear starry skies and greater efforts to rest, take a breath, store our energy, and most importantly recharge the kidneys sufficiently before spring arrives.

According to the Feng Shui BAGUA map, the water element rules the Career area which also includes life path, emotions, intuitiveness and spirituality. Water symbolizes the flow of life, freshness and freedom. Water's qualities and water symbolism also include financial well being or being well off, life-force, spirituality, rejuvenation, courage, mystery and depth.

At home, well-placed water elements also include the areas of the Bagua that are first and foremost, ruled by the water (Career) element, but placement in the Bagua areas ruled by the wood element, located at the middle left and the far left area from the main entrance door, is a wise choice as well.

Usually placing an actual water feature, such as a fountain or an aquarium, are the best ways to activate the water element. Water is also activated by correctly placing wavy or flowing art, blues and black colors, or images of waterfalls, calm seas and gentle forest streams. Layering mirrors skillfully will activate the water element in your home office space as well. Placing water literally and symbolically, and the flowing abundance that is associated with the water element, is not recommended in any bedroom, since it's too activating, but placement at the front entrance, backyard, or left area of Wealth &

Abundance is a good choice. I recommend placing an image of water in the master bedroom versus an actual water element so sleep is not disturbed by too much movement or yang energy.

Luckily water allows life to flow and like each of the other five elements contains both yin and yang properties, and reflects the slow growth of winter with quietness and calm (yin) that accompanies a winter season's snowfall (yin) or conversely, the fierce and icy winter storms (yang) that can stop humans in their tracks. It's lively spirited essence must lend enough abundance to pave the way for the new beginnings of a spring that deeply blooms.

The best Feng Shui of all is to choose homes and offices with existing vibrant FengShui, such as those with ample natural light and placement above the road. Avoid homes on sharp angles, dead ends, and roundabouts or cul-de-sacs, unless a fountain or planted garden is in center for all to enjoy. Recognizing at home and in the moment that winter can be left outdoors and with a few small adjustments to our homes' interior can help you spend longer winter days inside, here are nine Feng Shui tips to create your cozy winter retreat:

- 1) Switch all blankets, sheets, decorative pillows textiles to fuzzier, warmer versions.
- 2) Fill baskets with blankets in family or living rooms, near a fireplace.
- 3) Contrast the coolness of the season with a warm glow of red hues.
- 4) Use your kitchen stove often and make tea with local honey.
- 5) Light soy candles, especially in the kitchen.
- 6) Turn up the lights and ignite your fireplace.
- 7) Set a fresh dining table.
- 8) Display fresh flowers in a vase near your front door.
- 9) Spruce up the guest room using Feng Shui for holiday visitors.

Making small changes has a big impact and by adding small, deeper layers, the spaces you redo begin to blend and feel more comfortable as the Feng Shui also improves. Understanding the balance symbolized in the well known, black and white Yin-Yang symbol, water's fluidity plays a unique role in the natural ebb of seasonal flow. Water feeds the thirsty plants, flowers and trees and lays the underlying foundational planning for the re-emergence of spring. At home, it's not as important to remember all of the specifics of the water element as it is so timely to learn how to stay warm this winter, since now the majority of our time is spent indoors with family and friends. Have a wonderful holiday season and happy New Year! See you in 2019, the abundant Year of the Earth Pig!

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



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I'm thrilled to be a part of such an innovative company where I can better assist my clients with finding their place in the world.

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Terri Bates Walker

Broker | J.D.

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terri@terribateswalker.com

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Off Market Listing

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30 Dias Dorados, Orinda

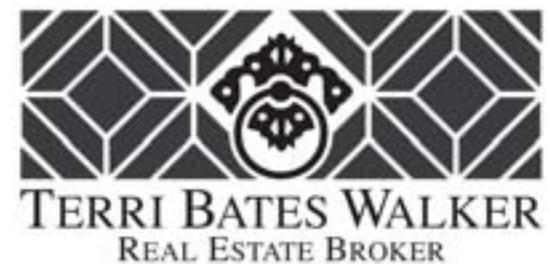
Offered at \$2,750,000
30diasdorados.com

5 Bed 4 Bath 3,761± SQ. FT. .57± Acre Lot



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Off Market Listing

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19 Moraga Via, Orinda

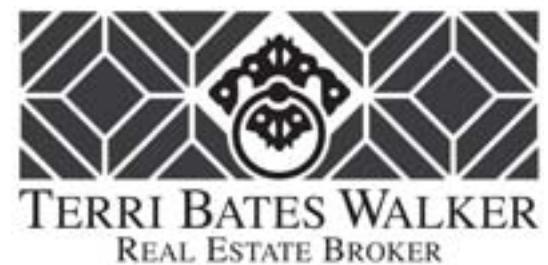
Offered at \$1,595,000
19moragavia.com

4 Bed 2.5 Bath 2,881± SQ. FT. .34± Acre Lot



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Broker | J.D.

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terribateswalker.com
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I am so thankful for all my friends and clients for making this another wonderful year! I'm blessed to love what I do and to do it in the community I've called home for the past 37 years.



Cheers & Happy Holidays!

2018 TRANSACTIONS TO DATE



515 Miner Road,
Orinda



14 Valley Court,
Orinda



2 Crown Court,
Orinda



11 Parkway Court,
Orinda



55 Donna Maria,
Orinda



8 Williams Court,
Orinda



112 Sleepy Hollow Lane,
Orinda



112 Crestview Drive, Orinda
(Sold Twice!)



20 Tia Place,
Moraga



28 Sullivan Drive,
Moraga



725 Country Club Drive,
Moraga



14 Diablo Circle,
Lafayette



1806 Cole Ave,
Walnut Creek



1072 W. Holly Drive,
Walnut Creek



41 Cleaveland Road,
Pleasant Hill



473 Camelback Road,
Pleasant Hill



371 Scottsdale Road,
Pleasant Hill



1031 Bending Willow Way,
Pittsburg



630 Encinal Court,
Walnut Creek



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93 Moraga Way, Orinda, CA



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1 White Diamond Lane

4 Bedrooms | 3.5 Bathrooms | 3,054 SqFt
Den | Breakfast Nook | 2 Car Garage



3 White Diamond Lane

4 Bedrooms | 2.5 Bathrooms | 2,647 SqFt
Den | 2 Car Garage

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COMING SOON IN WALNUT CREEK

La Casa Via is comprised of two single-story new construction homes. These two distinct floor plans offer 3,054 or 3,885 square feet of living area.



300 La Casa Via



302 La Casa Via



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Happy Holidays!

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Lamorinda Home Sales recorded ... continued from Page D2

LAFAYETTE ... continued

1244 Rose Lane, \$7,800,000, 4 Bdrms, 11054 SqFt, 1998 YrBlt, 11-16-18
1106 Sierra Vista Way, \$1,030,000, 3 Bdrms, 1656 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 11-07-18
713 Wee Donegal, \$997,000, 3 Bdrms, 2284 SqFt, 1980 YrBlt, 11-16-18,
Previous Sale: \$879,000, 03-21-08

MORAGA

1984 Ascot Drive #C, \$490,000, 2 Bdrms, 1233 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 11-15-18,
Previous Sale: \$305,000, 04-28-03
31 Broadmoor Street, \$1,350,000, 3 Bdrms, 2828 SqFt, 1984 YrBlt, 11-16-18,
Previous Sale: \$1,150,000, 07-24-07
1369 Camino Peral #B, \$555,000, 2 Bdrms, 1279 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 11-13-18,
Previous Sale: \$272,000, 02-23-11
11 Corte La Rado, \$1,485,000, 5 Bdrms, 2659 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 11-07-18,
Previous Sale: \$887,000, 04-24-03
2 Glen Eagle, \$1,200,000, 3 Bdrms, 3424 SqFt, 1985 YrBlt, 11-05-18,
Previous Sale: \$582,500, 05-01-92
3 Lisa Lane, \$1,650,000, 4 Bdrms, 2657 SqFt, 1986 YrBlt, 11-09-18,
Previous Sale: \$515,000, 03-01-89
127 Longfield Place, \$1,755,000, 4 Bdrms, 2436 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 11-09-18,
Previous Sale: \$1,540,000, 05-07-15
454 Rheem Boulevard, \$643,000, 3 Bdrms, 1322 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 11-05-18,
Previous Sale: \$500,000, 02-19-14
1855 Saint Andrews Drive, \$895,000, 2 Bdrms, 1903 SqFt, 1983 YrBlt, 11-14-18,
Previous Sale: \$295,000, 03-01-88

ORINDA

51 Camino Encinas, \$1,975,000, 4 Bdrms, 3172 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 11-05-18
32 Candle Terrace, \$3,140,000, 4 Bdrms, 4856 SqFt, 1990 YrBlt, 11-15-18,
Previous Sale: \$3,050,000, 06-04-08
5 Darnby Court, \$1,600,000, 3 Bdrms, 1942 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 11-07-18,
Previous Sale: \$1,100,000, 10-20-16
511 Hawkridge Terrace, \$1,840,000, 4 Bdrms, 2959 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 11-09-18
48 Knickerbocker Lane, \$1,765,000, 5 Bdrms, 3570 SqFt, 1980 YrBlt, 11-09-18
12 La Cintilla, \$3,050,000, 3 Bdrms, 3423 SqFt, 1939 YrBlt, 11-09-18,
Previous Sale: \$1,375,000, 07-05-17
11 Moraga Court, \$1,772,000, 5 Bdrms, 2735 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 11-09-18,
Previous Sale: \$912,000, 06-25-04
137 Overhill Road, \$1,575,000, 3 Bdrms, 2214 SqFt, 1953 YrBlt, 11-16-18
31 Parklane Drive, \$1,900,000, 4 Bdrms, 2721 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 11-13-18,
Previous Sale: \$1,566,000, 10-19-12
44 Robert Road, \$1,200,000, 4 Bdrms, 1825 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 11-13-18
9 Saint James Court, \$1,700,000, 3 Bdrms, 2733 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 11-07-18,
Previous Sale: \$1,075,000, 12-05-02

Pristine Orinda Contemporary Built in 2008



**429 El Toyonal,
Orinda**

**\$1,598,000
5 BD 4.5 Baths**

This newer construction spacious 5 bed, 4.5 bathroom home is incredibly private. Designed for modern living with a thoughtful and versatile floor plan. Eat-in Chef's kitchen/family room combo with gas fireplace. Formal dining and living rooms with pastoral views. Delightful outdoor entertaining areas that take full advantage of the privacy and tranquility yet located just a stone's throw from downtown Orinda, Hwy 24, Tilden Park, & hiking trails.



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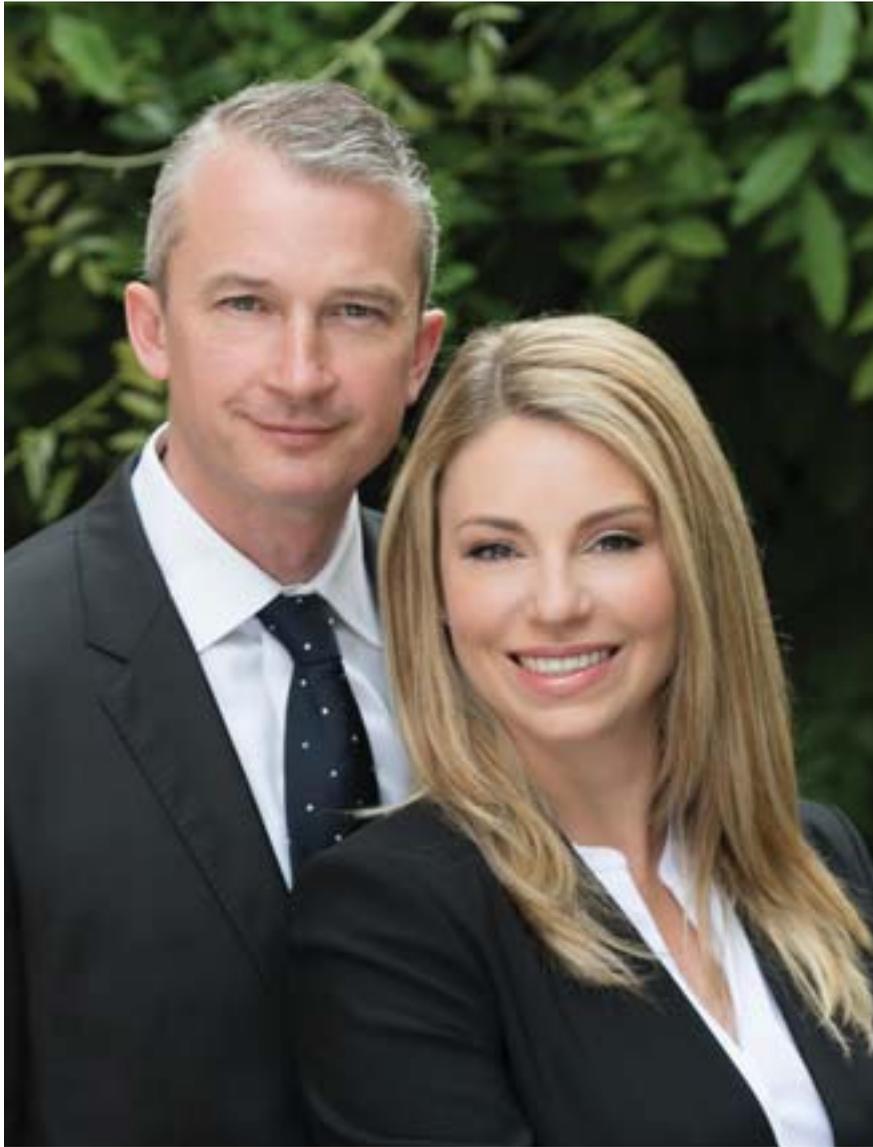
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Happy New Year!

Thank you for all of your support in 2018.
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Thinking of selling your home? Schedule your free sales preparation inspection. Our proven property preparation model has given us unbeaten results in 2018 and we're here to help you in 2019.

The reviews speak for themselves. Paddy Kehoe is the #1 Lamorinda agent on Yelp in 2018.

The Paddy Kehoe Team



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Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian

Garden Trends for 2019, PART 1

... continued from Page D1



Take a walk through our oak forested trails to de-stress.

Photos Cynthia Brian

How is this a positive upward trend for 2019? Here are a few statistics from 2018:

- \$47.8 billion was spent on gardening, including plants and patio furniture.
- \$503 is the average amount spent per U. S. household on garden supplies. This is \$100 more than last year.
- 29 percent of all gardeners are now in the age range of 18-24 years of age, setting record highs. According to GardenResearch.com, millennials were responsible for 31 percent of houseplant sales!
- More than 2 million jobs have been created through horticulture.

For humans to survive, our earth must thrive. Growing plants both inside and outside are proactive steps anyone and everyone can include into daily life.

An indoor generation has been identified where-

by 90 percent of people worldwide spend 22 hours a day inside without going outside for fresh air. Research indicates that Americans spend 93 percent of their time indoors or in their vehicles and children are outside for less than one hour per day. Earlier generations of children spent 50 percent of their time outdoors. As a species, we have migrated from the farms to the screens. Obesity, mental illness, high cholesterol, depression and anxiety are the results of too much technology where we are plugged in and tuned out to the benefits of fresh air, digging in the dirt, and natural environs.

So what can we do to help ourselves be healthier in 2019 if we have to be indoors fixated on our screens? Install a terrarium, buy a bromeliad or, better yet, take a 15-minute break to walk in a nearby park. Eat lunch on a bench outside. Enjoy a forest bath. Improve your

indoor air quality with a peace lily positioned in a corner of your office, add a pot of herbs to a windowsill, fall in love with tropical plants that will flourish indoors with little care.

By spending too much time in front of televisions, playing video games, texting, being on our phones or tablets, checking social media, or surfing the web, we are disregarding our natural state while increasing our physical and mental challenges. When we take care of ourselves by indulging in nature, we will refresh and reboot our world. Mother Nature is always in charge and we can't ignore her warning signs.

In the next issue, I'll continue this discussion on Garden Trends for 2019. Understand what is trending, then start your own. Until then, consider a digital detox. Get up, get out, dig a little, and breathe our clean air.

Wishing you a fresh start and a new leaf for 2019. Happy, happy New Year!



Holly berries are also plentiful, another sign of a protracted winter.



WHAT'S BEST FOR MY BUYERS AND SELLERS?

Village, of course.

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ASSOCIATES

For me, every home transaction is a unique and custom experience. There is no template or shortcutting the way to find the right fit for a buyer or seller (especially in our micro-market of LaMorinda).

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Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for January

FREE seed catalog and free shipping on over 500 seed varieties at Sow True Seed through Jan. 15. Use Code SHIPFREE19 at <https://sowtrueseed.com/>.

FILL a nature RX, even in the cold weather, and go outside for at least 15 minutes a day. The benefits include relaxation, better sleep, fresh air, physical activity and stress reduction.

START a gratitude habit for the New Year. It's the season to be thankful and if you start now being appreciative for the small things in life, you can turn this feeling into a year-round practice, bringing you more joy.

PICKUP for your holiday tree is available through Jan. 18 on your regular collection day. Remove lights, ornaments, tinsel, and trimmings.

Unfortunately, flocked trees are not included in the collection. Schedule a pickup for a fee. Call (925) 685-4711.

BOOST your vitamin C with fresh fruit from citrus trees. Ripening for the next two months you will enjoy sweet navel orange, lime, lemon, grapefruit and Clementine.

HARVEST your Hachiya and Fuyu persimmons that are still hanging.

SHARPEN pruning shears in preparation for the heavy rose pruning you'll do toward the end of January. In the meantime, allow the rosehips to flourish as food for the birds.

PREPARE for winter. A wife's tale from the old country states that when the berries are full, the winter will be long. Cotoneaster, holly, and pyracantha berries are feeding the birds.

IDENTIFY mushrooms before consuming. Many are toxic.

Happy Gardening. Happy Growing.

Cynthia Brian



With the rains, mushrooms have surfaced. Be aware of what ones are edible.



Rosehips can be left for the birds dinner until late January heavy pruning.

Photos Cynthia Brian



Cotoneaster branches are full of berries. Winter is here.



Cynthia Brian's Mom "trending" as Vanna White on Wheel of Fortune with Pat Sajak.

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.

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.

Hire Cynthia for projects, consults, and lectures.

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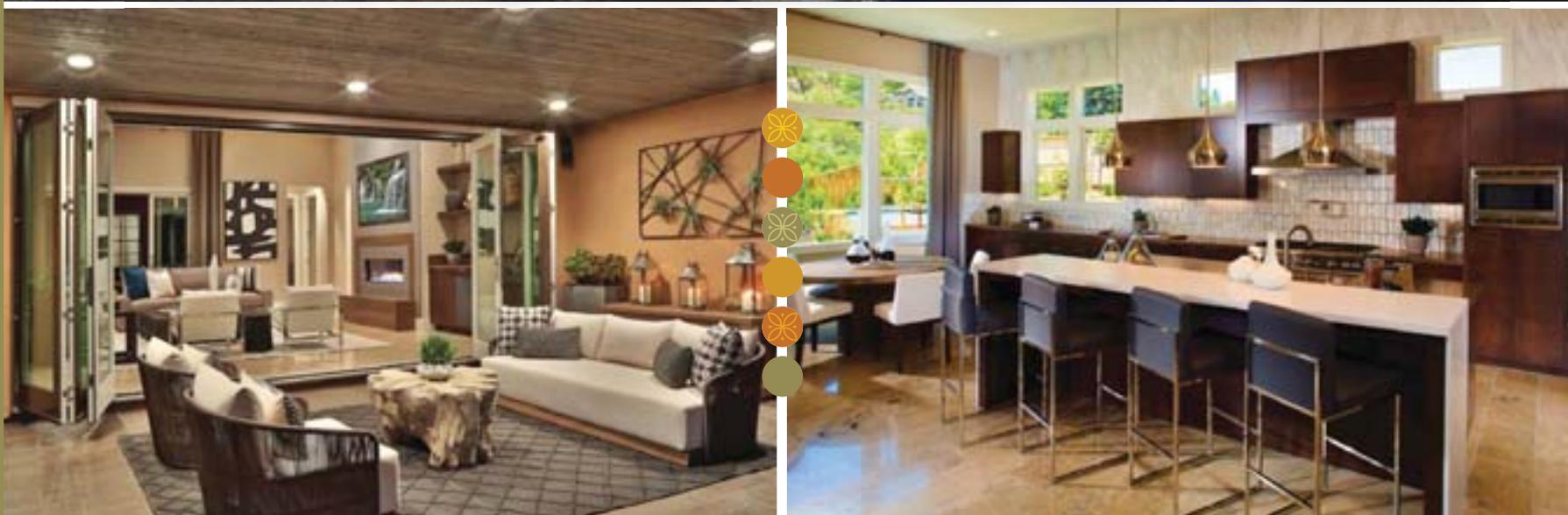
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