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**Lafayette Reservoir**  
**Sat., July 13, 5 PM**  
**Big Band of Rossmoor**  
**FREE EVENT**



9-year-old Lyla Mediano, Moraga Country Club

Photo Gint Federas

## Over 40 years of fun at Bottoms Up Meet

By Jon Kingdon

As a rule, being “odd” does not generally work in your favor and bottoms up is an invitation to take a drink. However, at the Bottoms Up Swim Meet held at Miramonte High School on June 30, being odd was an advantage for all of the swimmers and it had nothing to do with drinking.

At every other swim meet and tournament, the swimmers are grouped by ages of 5-6, 7-8, 9-10,

11-12, 13-14 and 15+. Thus, the “odd aged” swimmers are always competing against older swimmers, if only by one year. The Bottoms Up swim meet has only the swimmers aged 5, 7, 9, 11, 13 and 15, the ones at the bottom of the age groups competing only against their peers by age.

Run by Moraga Valley Pool, The Bottoms Up Meet has been an annual event for 44 years and is made up of the club teams in the Orinda Moraga Pool Association. The nine clubs that competed, listed in order of how they finished the meet were:

Orinda Country Club (910), Meadow Swim Team (855), Moraga Valley Pool Swim Team (639), Orinda Park Pool Swim Team (617), Sleepy Hollow Legends (339), Moraga Ranch Swim Club (315), Miramonte Swim Club (240), Moraga Country Club (124) and Campolindo Cabana Club Marlins (35).

Trevor Rose, the head coach at Moraga Valley Pool says that it’s just like a regular meet: “The meet has a championship feel to it.”

... continued on Page A10

Advertising

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## MOFD conducts first controlled burn exercise in Moraga



By Nick Marnell

Still frightened by the 2018 grass fire near Buckingham Drive, Moraga residents questioned the timing and the safety of a controlled burn conducted by the Moraga-Orinda Fire District on property recently purchased in the town by the John Muir Land Trust.

As residents complained on social media about a controlled fire going out of control, MOFD was pulling together a 30-person team from its district, the Berkeley Fire Department, the East Bay Regional Park District and the Concord Federal Fire Department to conduct a controlled burn and training exercise along the eastern slope of Painted Rock. The trust requested that MOFD conduct the exercise as a safety precaution, and the prescribed burn was set for June 29. “We heard a lot from homeowners

in the area that fire was a real concern. So we wanted to make sure we got off on the right foot,” said Glen Lewis of JMLT.

MOFD Battalion Chief Steve Gehling, the incident commander, conducted a 9 a.m. burn briefing at Fire Station 42 and detailed the eight-page incident action plan to the participants. “This has never been done in Moraga,” Gehling told the crews. “This is a big deal for us to show residents that it can be done safely and without damage to the community.”

Crews atop Painted Rock tested the weather and air quality, and then conducted a small test fire, which Gehling explained was to determine how fast the fire would travel that day and how much vegetation could be burned at one time – so as to not upset the nearby neighbors. ... continued on Page A9

Photography by David Grube for John Muir Land Trust, © 2019

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## Here we go again – PG&E work to close St. Mary’s Road this summer



Photo Pippa Fisher

PG&E will once again be working on a stretch of St. Mary’s Road involving lane closures this summer.

### By Pippa Fisher

If it sounds familiar, that’s because it is the same as last year. Pacific Gas and Electric Company will be replacing sections of its natural gas pipeline between Rohrer

Drive and South Lucille Lane. The utility expects to begin work in early July and continue until late August.

The company held an open house on June 26 to inform the public about the project and about the impact to residents. Representatives

explained to the few residents in attendance that the work will affect traffic with lane closures and traffic control at times. St. Mary’s Road will be closed between South Lucille Lane and Rohrer Drive during the crew’s working hours of 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and from 9 a.m.

to 2:30 p.m. when school is in session.

Residents north of South Lucille Lane will need to detour north on St. Mary’s Road and residents south of Rohrer Drive will have to detour south on St. Mary’s Road during work hours. PG&E will have flaggers to help direct traffic and will clearly mark all work areas.

“This modernizing of our pipelines is one of many projects we are undertaking to become the safest, most reliable gas system in the nation,” said PG&E Diablo Division Senior Manager Victor Baker in a letter to customers.

The work to install new higher capacity 12-inch pipeline was left incomplete after the rest of the line was replaced last summer because PG&E did not receive the necessary Fish and Wildlife permit needed to replace the pipe under the creek at the bridge in time, according to

Project Manager Robert Hartsock when asked, citing the length of time it takes to pull permits.

Neighbors are frustrated. Lafayette resident Susan Callister asked in an email to the city council, “Why did PG&E fail to get this permit in time which would have eliminated the necessity to return for a second digging?”

“Why did PG&E schedule construction (through) late August which will impact school commutes to St. Mary’s College and Campolindo High School?” continued Callister.

Hartsock confirmed that as it did last summer, PG&E will be working closely with police and fire departments to ensure safety and access for emergency vehicles.

For further information on the project residents can contact their local PG&E representative Julian Lacson at (925) 348-3532 or email gasprojectinfo@pge.com.

## Tribute to the Troops to honor military

### By Pippa Fisher

It is a Lafayette favorite – with a backdrop of the setting sun by the tranquil waters of the Lafayette Reservoir, the Tribute to the Troops concert will be taking place on Saturday, July 13 from 5 p.m. to twilight on the stage located up to the east of the parking lot.

This free annual concert is an opportunity to honor and show support for active members of the military, reservists, national guards, veterans and families of fallen heroes. Attendees are encouraged to wear their uniforms.

This year, as in previous

years, the 36-piece Big Band of Rossmoor, first established over 27 years ago, will be providing the music. The band is comprised of musicians aged 14 to 95.

Also this year there will be a special guest – Lafayette’s own David Martin with Rob Ross from David Martin’s House Party. Martin, it’s rumored, can play anything from 1960 onward. Martin is an Acalanes graduate who got his start in the business at the Happy Valley Elementary School sixth grade graduation and at a Kiwanis pancake breakfast and went on to establish himself as one of the Bay Area’s premier party bands.



Photo provided

People are encouraged to bring a blanket, lawn chairs

and a picnic. There will be shuttle service provided from the parking lot to the bandstand area for those needing assistance.

Special recognition will be given to the Blue Star moms who have family serving and to Gold Star families who have paid the ultimate sacrifice. They will be joined by several veterans’ organizations including members of the Marines Memorial Club of San Francisco and Lafayette Boy Scouts Troop 243. Representatives from the Veteran’s Center who support returning veterans will be on hand.

The event is hosted by the Lafayette Rotary.

“We are delighted to support this event over the last five years at a band stand that Lafayette Rotary built and has maintained,” says Lafayette Rotary President Terry Ring.

For the second year Aegis Living of Moraga is underwriting the event.

“Our veterans and their family deserve our support and we are honored to underwrite this event that supports this important community,” says Aegis Director of Marketing Molly Gleason-Kodama.

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## Temporary Lafayette-Moraga Regional Trail Bridge Closure

Submitted by East Bay Regional Park District

The Lafayette-Moraga Regional Trail will be temporarily closed – south of the Glenside Bridge approximately 200 feet to Glenside Drive and north of the Glenside Bridge approximately 350 feet – for bridge replacement and safety improvements. Construction activities began on July 8. The bridge will be closed beginning July 15.

	<b>Lafayette Public Meetings</b>	<b>Planning Commission</b> Monday, July 15, 7 p.m. Lafayette Library & Learning Center, Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.
	<b>City Council</b> Monday, July 22, 7 p.m. Lafayette Library & Learning Center, Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.	<b>Design Review</b> Monday, July 22, 7 p.m. Lafayette Library & Learning Center, Arts & Science Discovery Center, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.
	<b>School Board Meetings</b> <b>Acalanes Union High School District</b> Wednesday, July 10, 7 p.m. AUHSD Board Room 1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette www.acalanes.k12.ca.us	<b>Lafayette School District</b> Wednesday, July 10, 7 p.m. Regular Board Meeting District Office Board Room 3477 School St., Lafayette www.lafsd.k12.ca.us

# Free music and fun marks decade at Lamorinda Music



Photo Pippa Fisher

## By Pippa Fisher

Lamorinda Music celebrated its 10th anniversary June 29 with four hours of free music,

food and raffle prizes. The finale was a big band cover of Sweet Caroline by the complete lineup of all Lamorinda Music's staff and teachers.

# Community saddened as Nifty Thrift shuts after 40 years



Photo Pippa Fisher

It is the end of an era for Nifty Thrift on Golden Gate Way, due to close July 15.

## By Pippa Fisher

For over 40 years the quaint little house on Golden Gate Way has been home to Nifty Thrift, a second-hand retail business. Operated under Futures Explored, the shop has served as a living classroom for developmentally disabled participants in its vocational program. But as of July 15 its doors will be shut for good.

Community members, customers, families, staff and of course participants are devastated, largely because the news seemed to come out of the blue, with little notice and even less communication.

Lamorinda Weekly reached out to Futures Explored Director Will Sanford via phone calls and email but did not receive any response.

A message on the Futures Explored website states, "After much thoughtful consideration, it has become clear that the cost to run this business due to increased operating costs and the steady increase in the state minimum wage has exceeded the revenue we can generate."

"It is a huge blow to us," said Pat Doyle, whose son has participated in the program for many years.

Longtime employee Store Manager Sheila Renfro reflects on the generations of families she has seen come through – both customers and families of developmentally disabled participants. "I have such an emotional attachment to the community. This is a family woven together with the participants in a viable space where they work as an interactive part of the community," she says.

Nifty Thrift grew from its start in 1975 – then operated by a grassroots group as a craft program offering wood-work, stained glass and sewing, according to Renfro.

Futures Explored's mission statement is to provide life skills and work-related training to adults with developmental disabilities. They

have about 20 participants, most of whom work only four to six hours per week in the Lafayette store, although four work full time under the supervision of Employment Specialist Shabboo Navaii.

Staff members have been offered options for other employment, but Navaii asks, "What about the participants? What happens to them next?" Describing how upset they have been, she adds, "They didn't know how to handle it." She questions what has happened to the company's mission statement.

Navaii says that her heart belongs to these people. For her the money is not important. She explains she grew up in Iran – a country where she says people with disabilities such as these are kept hidden away. "This is a special place. There is no other program like this for our participants. I don't know what will happen to them."

Renfro and Navaii stress the importance and support from the community and say there has been such an outpouring of offers to help, including financially, but with no communication such offers appear to be falling on deaf ears.

Lafayette resident Effie Herrick, a retired special education teacher and frequent Nifty Thrift customer is frustrated with the lack of answers. "It doesn't seem right to drop something that's so successful and supported."

Futures Explored's Livermore Nifty Thrift is already closed and the store in Antioch is set to close in October.

The staff at the Lafayette store is marking the end of this era with a potluck party, the Nifty Thrift Farewell Bash from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on July 11, as a token of their gratitude to the community that has supported them through the many years with their generous donations and purchases.

"I just wish we could have worked with the community to keep it open," says Renfro.

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### MORAGA

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**Contact Jim Colhoun for more information or to schedule a private showing.**

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## Town of Moraga and EBMUD in talks to avoid litigation

By Vera Kochan

During a Special Closed Session of the June 12 town council meeting, council members had authorized legal council to initiate litigation proceedings against East Bay Municipal Utility District, going so far as to commit \$100,000 to get the ball rolling. But after a Special Closed Session meeting on June 26 concerning an update to the litigation proceedings, Vice Mayor Kymberleigh Korpous announced, "The town and EBMUD have begun to engage in productive settle-

ment discussions that the parties would like to pursue further. The town will therefore be deferring filing suit against EBMUD at this time."

Moraga Mayor Roger Wykle had stated at the June 12 meeting that the litigation was "primarily due to the fact that continuous discussions with EBMUD have not been successful and they are not taking responsibility for the damages their landslide has caused to the old bridge, the temporary bridge and the increases in the design and construction costs of the new bridge."

Wykle stated that EBMUD's hands-off approach had jeopardized the town's progress in regards to receiving funding in order to begin design and construction of the new bridge.

Public Works Director Edric Kwan agreed, underscoring the town's frustration with EBMUD's landslide inaction. "The pedestrian walkway should have opened in May."

EBMUD Senior Public Information Representative Andrea Pook contended, "Records dating back to the 1970s show that EBMUD

warned the Town of Moraga that urban runoff caused by the then-planned development [Moraga Country Club] could significantly change the characteristics of the creek." She added, "The impacts of these flows and the resulting erosion were part of a study commissioned by the Town of Moraga in 1981, which showed that the creek has fundamentally changed due to storm events, and recommended that the town take measures to protect the creek banks."

Pook went on to explain that EBMUD is seeking emer-

gency funds through a FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant to help repair the damages, but unfortunately the wait time for approval doesn't match up with Moraga's new Canyon Bridge construction schedule.

Pook acknowledged that EBMUD was disappointed that the town had authorized initiation of litigation concerning the 2016 and 2017 landslides adjacent to Moraga Creek but added, "EBMUD and the Town of Moraga have been, and are continuing to discuss an acceptable resolution to the problems caused by natural disasters."

## Broken water main causes minor detour on Canyon Road

By Vera Kochan

Just when Moraga residents thought that the town's underground woes were a thing of the past, on Monday, June 24, the Moraga Police Department initiated a detour off of Canyon Road near Sanders Drive.

For several hours, between approximately noon and 7 p.m., a major water main had been broken at the intersection, creating minor flooding onto the town's street and necessitating a temporary road closure until repairs could be made.

According to Public Works Assistant Engineer Sharon Chan, "Verizon is in the process of installing fiber optic lines under an encroachment permit with the town." An encroachment permit is necessary when using any part of the road right-of-way. Chan added, Verizon's

contractor, ITC Service Group, "is responsible for coordinating and notifying utilities to mark the location of underground facilities through the Underground Service Alert (USA) service. The contractor damaged an underground East Bay Municipal Utility District water main resulting in the temporary closure."

ITC Service Group's website states that they provide "design, broadband, wireless and technical staffing services to telecom and information communication technology sectors within the communications industry."

When asked who is responsible for any damages the town may have incurred, Chan said, "It has not been determined yet who is responsible for the EBMUD damage, but since ITC Service Group has an encroachment permit with the Town, they will be responsible for the cost accrued by the Town."



Photo Vera Kochan

**EBMUD patched intersection's ruptured water main caused by Verizon contractor**

 <p><b>Town Council</b> Wednesday, July 24, 7 p.m. Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.</p>	<p><b>Planning Commission</b> Monday, July 15, 7 p.m. Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.</p>	<p><b>Park and Recreation Commission</b> Tuesday, July 16, 7 p.m. Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.</p>	<p><b>Moraga School District Board Meetings</b> TBA Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School Auditorium, 1010 Camino Pablo, Moraga www.moraga.k12.ca.us See also AUHSD meeting page A2</p>
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## Wildfire prevention and preparedness workshop offers fire safety tips



Photo Vera Kochan

Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan and MOFD Chief Dave Winnacker at the recent Fire Safety Forum.

By Vera Kochan

Campolindo High School hosted a community awareness workshop June 27 to further educate homeowners about wildfire prevention and preparedness. Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan sponsored the event, which was attended by approximately 70 of her Lam-

orinda constituents.

Moraga-Orinda Fire District Chief Dave Winnacker gave an informational presentation beginning with a history of fires to the area. The most deadly fires arrive by winds from the north or northeast due to their dry components. These winds usually happen in the fall season. He further explained,

“Within two miles of the Caldecott Tunnel, 15 major fires have burned since 1923. Eleven of these destroyed 3,542 homes, took 26 lives and caused over \$2 billion in losses.”

Winnacker stated there are two ways a fire typically spreads. One way is from object to object, such as tree to tree or tree to house. Another

way is from floating embers which can be carried on the wind to distant locations. It is for these reasons that the community must maintain a clear yard.

Every home in the Lamorinda area was mailed a yellow resident’s guide to wildfire preparedness. Among the invaluable information on its pages are pointers for reducing the risk of spreading fires. Limit the amount of flammable vegetation and trim branches that overhang the home, porch or deck; remove dead vegetation and dry debris from the property; do not store flammable materials next to the home or other wooden structures; clean all dead leaves from roofs and rain gutters; keep grass cut to less than 3 inches and have a defensible space around your home.

In the event of a fire, parents of school-aged children were urged to trust that the schools know what to do in an emergency. Winnacker stressed, “Schools have Shelter-in-Place procedures. Parents don’t need to come to

a school to pick up their kids. This actually impedes the fire department’s efforts. We spray the whole school with water, and when the fire is out the kids will be transported to a safe location for pickup.”

Also on hand to educate the public was Community Warning System Senior Emergency Planning Coordinator Livia Pop. The CWS is an emergency alert system for residents and businesses in Contra Costa County that are threatened by an emergency or are in immediate danger. The alert instructions will advise the recipient what to do to stay safe: shelter-in-place; evacuate immediately; avoid the area; attempt to locate missing person or law enforcement activity (lockdown).

Pop stressed, “For those with Caller ID the display will read as (000) 000-0000. Do not hang up! This will be your CWS Alert notification. Please follow the instructions in our messages to stay safe.”

**Info:** To register with CWS visit their website at [www.cococws.us](http://www.cococws.us) or call (925) 313-9622. To reach Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan visit: [www.asmdc.org/bauer-kahan](http://www.asmdc.org/bauer-kahan) or call (925) 328-1515.

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# Grand opening of Art and Garden Center gallery curated by Lamorinda Arts Council



Photo Sora O'Doherty

**By Sora O'Doherty**

The public had the opportunity to meet featured artist Judy Chamberlin of Walnut Creek at the grand opening of the art gallery at the Art and Garden Center at Wilder on July 6. Chamberlin is well known for her large-scale oil and acrylic paintings including figurative work, such as portraits, animals, and murals, in addition to expressive biomorphic abstracts. An example of the latter is "Suddenly," a large painting in vibrant colors which is included in the exhibition.

Chamberlin says that she paints with the intention of producing works that are healing, either to herself or others. She was moved when a veteran who suffered with Post Trau-

matic Stress Disorder found that her paintings enabled him to still his body, which otherwise was subject to tremors. He purchased a painting on exhibition in Lafayette, and later, several others.

The Lamorinda Arts Council organizes and curates both the existing gallery at the Orinda Library and the new gallery at the Art and Garden

center. The goal of the LAC is primarily to highlight local artists. The two galleries are curated by Denise Nomura, Maggie Boscoe, Elana O'Loskey and Bill Carmel. Nomura says that the LAC is "excited to manage this new venue, the Art Gallery at Wilder, to further promote art in our community."

Artists install their own exhibits at both the Art Gallery at Orinda and at Wilder. Nomura explained that, when the exhibits are installed, "we want the viewer to have an enriching experience while looking at the artwork. As such, we think about the artwork layout, how it interacts with each other and we want the flow to make sense. Each exhibit provides its own unique experience."

There is a very efficient hanging system in both galleries that allows the artists a lot of flexibility in positioning their artwork to their liking. In a gallery, hanging systems are of the utmost importance, Nomura explained. "We discovered the Walker Hanging System because we had seen it at

The Reutlinger Community in Danville where they have it installed on three floors of their main building. Betty Rothaus, Art Director at The Reutlinger looked at many hanging systems before choosing this one. She had been hanging different kinds of art on it for the past two years and was very happy with its performance. We have had it at the Art Gallery at the Orinda Library now for one year and are very pleased with it."

Nomura also discussed ongoing projects at both the Art Gallery at the Orinda Library and the Art Gallery at Wilder. The LAC is currently seeking grants to provide spot lighting for the artwork. "Each space has adequate lighting for safety but not adequate enough lighting for viewing the artwork, especially on overcast days or in the evening," Nomura said. "We are hoping to add spot lighting in the Art Gallery at Wilder, and at the Orinda Library location we want to add it to the four wood walls across from the library entrance on the second floor."

**The Art Gallery at Wilder is currently open by appointment only. Please contact the curator at [wildergallery@lamorindaarts.org](mailto:wildergallery@lamorindaarts.org)**

# From Broadway to Opera, Orinda Rotary presents Opera in the Park

**By Sora O'Doherty**

Solo Opera teams up again this year with the Orinda Rotary Club to present the club's 11th annual Opera in the Park on Sunday, July 28, from 5 to 7 p.m. at Orinda Community Park. Sponsored by the Orinda Rotary, the free performance, which usually attracts at least 1,000 people, is an opportunity to hear professional opera singers perform favorite arias, duets, and ensembles, which organizers say will thrill even non-opera lovers. This year there will also be a few musical theater pieces added to the mix.

"We have assembled a truly spectacular line-up of talent," says Sylvia Amorino, Solo Opera's artistic director and producer and master of ceremonies for the concert. According to Amorino, the program includes eight singers who have performed at San Francisco Opera, San Francisco Symphony, Lyric Opera of Chicago, Opera San Jose, West Bay Opera, Carnegie Hall, Opera Parallèle, etc.

The performers include: sopranos Liisa Dávila and Diane Squires, mezzosopranos Silvie Jensen and Katja Heuzeroth, tenors Chester Pidduck and Stephen Cannon, baritones William O'Neill and Bradley Kynard; and pianist Chun Mei Wilson. The singers will perform greatest hits from shows such as "Faust," "Norma," "Carmen," "Rigoletto," "Porgy and Bess," "La Bohème," "La Traviata," and "West Side Story."

Enjoying live opera has become so expensive that it's almost impossible for the average family to attend. Solo Opera and Orinda Rotary's free Opera in the Park is a fine way to introduce children to opera, or even friends who might never go to see and hear live opera, organizers say. There is a running commentary on the works that the master of ceremonies shares so even the novice can understand the operatic plots. The music chosen is very likable, and the master of ceremony's short explanations of what is happening in each piece or section will make it even more enjoyable.



Liisa Davila at a prior Opera in the Park .

Photo provided

Those who attend the Opera in the Park will enjoy the following program:

"Man of La Mancha" (Leigh) "The Impossible Dream," performed by William O'Neill; "Samson Et Dalila" (Saint-Saëns) "Amour! viens aider ma faiblesse," performed by Silvie Jensen; "Werther" (Massenet) "Va! laisse couler mes larmes," performed by Katja Heuzeroth; "La Bohème" (Puccini) "Che gelida manina," performed by Stephen Cannon and "O Mimì, tu più non torni," performed by William O'Neill and Chester Pidduck; "Faust" (Gounod) "Avant de quitter ces lieux," performed by Bradley Kynard, and "Ah! je ris de me voir si belle en ce miroir," performed by Liisa Dávila; "Rigoletto" (Verdi) "Caro nome," performed by Diane Squires, "La donna è mobile," performed by Chester Pidduck, and "Bella figlia dell'amore," performed by Stephen Cannon, Silvie Jensen, Diane Squires, and Bradley Kynard.

After intermission, the program takes a turn towards Broadway with two numbers

from "West Side Story" (Bernstein) "Maria," performed by Chester Pidduck and "I Feel Pretty," performed by Katja Heuzeroth. Also from the Broadway stage are the selections from "Porgy and Bess" (Gershwin) "Summertime," performed by Diane Squires, "A Woman is a Sometime Thing," performed by Bradley Kynard, and "My Man's Gone Now," performed by Silvie Jensen.

Rounding out the evening will be selections from "Norma" (Bellini) "Casta diva," performed by Liisa Dávila, "Mira, o Norma," performed by Katja Heuzeroth and Diane Squires; "Carmen" (Bizet) "Habenera," performed by Silvie Jensen, "Votre toast," performed by William O'Neill, and "Je dis que rien ne m'épouvante," performed by Liisa Dávila; and from "La Traviata" (Verdi) "Parigi, o cara," performed by Stephen Cannon and Liisa Dávila, and "Libiamo ne' lieti calici," performed by Stephen Cannon, Diane Squires, and all the cast will bring the program to a close.

# Rheem easement is now a park



An easement that was used for decades to provide access from homes in the Rheem Boulevard area to Glorietta Elementary School has been reopened as an Orinda city park after the city settled its dispute with the owners of the adjacent property for \$45,500. Although the owner has promised to build a fence to separate the property from the easement, the fence has not yet been installed. As in other

city parks that are unlit, the easement allows for pedestrian use from dawn to dusk only. Bicycles may be walked and dogs must be on leash.

- S. O'Doherty

Photos Sora O'Doherty

Golden Gate

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**Orinda Public Meetings**



**City Council**

Tuesday, July 16, 7 p.m.  
Regular Meeting  
Library Auditorium, Orinda Library, 26 Orinda Way  
**Planning Commission**  
Tuesday, July 23, 7 p.m.  
Library Auditorium, Orinda Library, 26 Orinda Way

**Citizens' Infrastructure Oversight Commission**

Wednesday, July 10, 6:30 p.m.  
Sarge Littlehale Community Room, 22 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563  
**Orinda Union High School District Board Meetings**  
Monday, Aug. 12, 6 p.m.  
Regular Board Meeting  
8 Altarinda Rd., Orinda [www.orindaschools.org](http://www.orindaschools.org)  
See also AUHSD meeting page A2

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# Orinda icon loses lease for barn and pasture on PG&E land



Bobbie Landers and her horse.

Photo Sora O'Doherty

**By Sora O'Doherty**

Bobbie Landers, former mayor of Orinda who was instrumental in the incorporation of the city and founded the Fourth of July Parade, must find a new home for her 27-year-old horse, Nevada. For 33 years Landers leased land from the Pacific Gas and Electric Company. Originally she and her husband leased it

jointly with another couple, John and Marylou Fazel, and they housed their two horses on it. The two men worked together to build a barn on the land. Two years ago, Landers invested about \$6,000 on maintenance of the property, including repiping.

Over the years, Nevada became the only horse to occupy the barn and pasture. Landers, who is 90

years old, says they are both too old for riding, so the horse just grazes in the quiet meadow adjacent to the PG&E Sobrante substation on Bear Creek Road. Landers visits the property twice a day to care for Nevada.

Landers was recently notified by PG&E that they would not be renewing her lease. She reached out to William Johnson, president and CEO of the utility, explaining what a hardship it will be for her to relocate, given the advanced age of both herself and the horse. She suggested a compromise, offering to reduce her presence to just a quarter of the 4-acre parcel. She thought that perhaps they could have a double gate, with one side leading to the barn and pasture, and the other for PG&E use.

PG&E has refused this proposal, however. When contacted, PG&E spokesperson Tamar Sarkissian provided the following statement concerning the situation:

"The safety of our customers and the communities we serve is our most important responsibility. With significant safety work planned for the area, it is now essential PG&E utilize its property on Bear Creek Road. As we understand Ms. Landers shared with the news media, we reached out to Ms. Landers early

this year to inform her that we will not be renewing her lease. Additionally, we have been working with her to find an alternative location for her horse and have allowed her to use the property, free of charge, since the lease expired in March. We apologize for the inconvenience and are working to make this transition as smooth as possible for Ms. Landers and her horse. As we continue to work with Ms. Landers to help her find an alternative location for her horse, we have pushed the deadline to August 1."

Sarkissian further explained, "There are multiple functions we have planned for this property. First and foremost, it will be used by our vegetation management department and tree contractors as a staging area as we work to ensure wildfire safety in the area. We also have several other requests from both the gas and electric teams to use the property for safety and reliability projects. We want to avoid renting elsewhere in the Bay Area, which would ultimately cost our ratepayers and could impact neighboring properties. Given there will be heavy equipment coming in and out of the area, it would not be safe to have a customer in the vicinity."

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# Fire prevention rises toward celebrity status at MOFD

By Nick Marnell

To bolster its fire prevention efforts, the Moraga-Orinda Fire District bumped its fuels mitigation manager position from seasonal to year-round, increased the number of fire prevention aides from six to nine and plans to add a full-time administrator to support expanded fire prevention efforts. These actions are in addition to the state-funded North Orinda Shaded Fuel Break project, which commences in mid-July and will be supervised by a project

manager and the district Emergency Preparedness Coordinator. Based on public demand, the MOFD board directed Fire Chief Dave Winnacker to shift \$150,000 from a contingency fund in the 2019-20 district budget into the fire prevention division. The major benefactor becomes the district fuels mitigation program, which increases from a six-month to a year-round program, and now includes funding for one full-time, year-round fuels mitigation manager and two seasonal,

part-time fuels mitigation and outreach crews. These three-person crews will continue to operate the district wood chipper program, which is already booked through August.

Because of the added fire prevention efforts, the district will replace one part-time district aide position with the full-time administrator, who will support the fire prevention division. That job should open later this summer. The fuels mitigation manager position has been posted, along with that of the district fire

marshal, as Fire Marshal Kathy Leonard retired in early July after 10 years with MOFD.

The district brought on retired Alameda County Fire Department Deputy Chief Jim Call to supervise the North Orinda Shaded Fuel Break program, a \$4 million state funded project to remove problem vegetation along a 14-mile stretch running along north Orinda and western Lafayette. Dennis Rein, the MOFD Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, will see his hours increase through the

duration of the project as he helps Call supervise the program.

MOFD also promoted engineer and 10-year veteran Jacob Airola to captain June 6. Airola replaces Steve Gehling, who moved up to battalion chief in April. "I have been very fortunate to have great mentors throughout my career," Airola said. "I'm excited for the opportunity to work in a new capacity in this community."

# Lafayette Fire Station 16: The long and winding road

By Nick Marnell

Eight words from the deputy fire chief summed up the exhilaration and the exasperation of the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District regarding the long-delayed opening of Fire Station 16 in Lafayette.

"We have power! We are up and running," Aaron McAlister said on July 2. The final piece of the power puzzle was the installation of a new transformer by the Pacific Gas and Electric Company, which delivered the equipment by the day it promised.

The excitement of that accomplishment, though, barely masked the frustration over PG&E delays the district experienced throughout the winter and spring.

PG&E approved the fire

station power plan in March 2018, but in February the utility rejected the indoor placement of the power meter. "During a visual inspection, the inside meter conflicted with our safety standards," PG&E spokesman Matt Nauman said. "We told the fire district design team that we required 24-hour access to the meter."

Concurrently, confusion reigned over the type of utility panel required for the station, whether 200 amp or 400 amp. An April design approved by the company proved "unbuildable," according to the district, and approval of the updated design for the indoor meter and 400 amp power supply took more than a month.

Not only did ConFire management become frustrated by the delays, so did

the district governing board.

"Given the role PG&E has played in wildfires in Northern California, you would think that they would do all that they could to get local fire stations open," Director and County Supervisor Candace Andersen said. "It was incredibly frustrating to have these delays and it should not have required a county supervisor and PG&E's legal counsel to get involved to also resolve where an electric meter should be placed."

The city of Lafayette lost patience in June, as the utility had not yet supplied a date for the transformer installation.

"To think that PG&E (yes, PG&E) is responsible for the delay of a publicly funded fire station and capability from becoming operational in the heart of the California fire

season - in the middle of a high fire risk area - is just stunning given what's happened over the past few years," said Lafayette City Council Member Cam Burks who, fueled by public outrage, threatened to convene the city's Emergency Services Task Force to investigate the delayed station opening, which had been expected in March.

The political pressure appeared to work, as in mid-June PG&E promised the transformer by July 2, and delivered.

Nauman again stressed that the safety of the utility's customers and the communities it serves was PG&E's most important responsibility, and said the company worked closely with ConFire to ensure the station met company safety standards. "We work

with first responders every day and will continue to collaborate to keep the Lafayette community safe," Nauman said.

McAlister acknowledged that PG&E was not solely responsible for the station delays, as heavy rains this spring caused the soil to compact and pushed back the paving of the driveway. The deputy chief said that the building should be operational on Aug. 1, with the crews, which have worked out of Fire Station 15 since April, able to move in by the middle of the month.

And then, after six years with no fire station along the winding roads of Happy Valley, Lafayette will lay claim to the newest fire station in Contra Costa County.

# Fire districts prepare for PG&E planned power shutoffs

By Nick Marnell

As they are for any hazard, the Lamorinda fire agencies are prepared for the Pacific Gas and Electric Company Public Safety Power Shutoffs that the utility may implement in extreme fire danger this summer and fall.

"We don't consider the shutoffs any different from any other emergency," said Aaron McAlister, deputy fire chief of the Contra Costa

County Fire Protection District. "We prepare at multiple levels for all risks. Earthquakes, flooding, mudslides. We constantly challenge ourselves."

McAlister said that the district has responded to active shooter scenarios by changing some of its equipment and outfitting employees with ballistic material. To confront catastrophic fires, ConFire has upped its level of preparedness, including the predeployment of resources

during high fire danger and the addition of new equipment, like bulldozers.

For the PG&E shutoffs, the deputy chief said that the operation of the fire station

generators has been evaluated, as has the availability of the contractor who supplies fuel for the generators. A new plug-and-play generator is coming to Lafayette Fire Station 17,

which went dark during a PG&E outage in mid-June. McAlister said that Fire Station 16 will have a state-of-the-art generator when it opens in August.

... continued on next Page

## Fire District Public Meetings

**Moraga-Orinda Fire District**  
Board of Directors  
Wednesday, July 17, 7 p.m.  
Go to the website for meeting location, times and agendas.  
Visit [www.mofd.org](http://www.mofd.org)



## ConFire

Board of Directors  
Tuesday, Aug. 6, 1:30 p.m.  
Board Chamber Room 107,  
Administration Building  
651 Pine St., Martinez.  
For meeting times and agendas, visit [www.cccfpd.org](http://www.cccfpd.org)



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Police Dispatch: 24 Hours  
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**Lafayette Police Department:**  
3471 Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
925-283-3680  
Chief of Police, Ben Alldritt  
925-299-3221  
Police Department Tip Line  
94549Tip@gmail.com  
Police Department Traffic Issues  
94549Traffic@gmail.com

**Moraga Police Department:**  
329 Rheem Blvd.,  
925-888-7055  
Chief of Police, Jon King  
ext. 7049

**Orinda Police Department:**  
22 Orinda Way  
925-254-6820  
Chief of Police, Mark Nagel  
925-254-6820  
Orindatip@cityoforinda.org

**Lafayette Police Department Incident Summary Report**  
June 16 - June 29



Alarms	92
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	13
Traffic	113
Suspicious Circumstances	12
Suspicious Subject	29
Suspicious Vehicle	21
Service to Citizen	53
Patrol Req./Security Check	19
Vacation House Check	63
Supplemental Report	34
School Assembly Check	2
Welfare Check	15
<b>Vehicle violations</b>	
Auto Burglary	
3300 Block Carlyle Terrace (2)	
1000 Block Carol Ln.	
3200 Block La Canada Rd.	
900 Block Dewing Ave.	
1000 Block Carol Ln.	
Hit And Run Misdemeanor	
3800 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Solana Dr./St. Marys Rd.	
Pleasant Hill Rd./Eb Sr 24	
900 Block Dewing Ave.	
3000 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Deer Hill Rd./Oak Hill Rd.	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (3)	
Petty Theft From Vehicle	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
3800 Block Happy Valley Rd.	

1100 Block Hidalgo Ct.	
Reckless Driving	
Pleasant Hill Rd./Olympic Blvd.	
St. Marys Rd./S Lucille Ln.	
Reliez Station Rd./Olympic Blvd.	
Oak Hill Rd./Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Dewing Ave.	
Lucas Dr./Huntleigh Dr.	
Moraga Rd./Silver Springs Rd.	
Oak Hill Rd./Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Pleasant Hill Rd./Eb Sr 24	
Oak Hill Rd./Eb Sr 24	
Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Deer Hill Rd./1st St.	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Springhill Rd./Pleasant Hill Rd.	
Vehicle Theft	
3300 Block Mildred Ln.	

<b>Other criminal activity</b>	
Fraud False Pretenses	
3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Identity Theft	
600 Block Glenside Dr.	
Panhandling	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Petty Theft	
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
10 Block Blackberry Ct.	
3300 Block Moraga Blvd. (2)	
4000 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Petty Theft Other	
3300 Block Johnson Rd.	
Shoplift	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)	
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (3)	

<b>Nuisance to the Community</b>	
Disturbance-Domestic	
900 Block Risa Rd.	
10 Block Shreve Ln.	
Disturbance-Fight	
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Acalanes Rd.	
Disturbing The Peace	
3700 Block Mosswood Dr.	
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Golden Gate Wy	
1200 Block Pleasant Hill Rd.	
Intoxicated Subject	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Loud Music	
1700 Block Reliez Valley Rd.	
Glen Rd./N Thompson Rd.	
Los Arabis Dr./Upper Happy Valley Rd.	
3200 Block Gold Ct.	
3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Loud Noise	
3500 Block E View Dr.	
4000 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
1000 Block Dewing Ave. (2)	
900 Block Moraga Rd.	
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Risa Rd.	
Loud Party	
3400 Block Moraga Blvd.	
Reliez Valley Rd./Toyon Rd.	
Glen Rd./N Thompson Rd.	
3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	

<b>Vandalism</b>	
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)	
3700 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)	
600 Block Sky Ranch Ct.	
3200 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	

<b>Other</b>	
Animal Cruelty	
3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Harassment	
3300 Block Mildred Ln.	
Minor Poss Of Alcohol	

1200 Block Pleasant Hill Rd.	
Ordinance Violation	
Hilltop Dr./Hastings Ct.	
1100 Block Upper Happy Valley Rd.	
3600 Block Chestnut St. (2)	
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Risa Rd.	
Threats	
3300 Block S Lucille Ln.	
10 Block Vista Del Valle	
Trespass	
3200 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	

## Moraga Police Department Incident Summary Report



<b>June 18 - June 30</b>	
Alarms	24
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	11
Traffic	59
Suspicious Circumstances	10
Suspicious Subject	5
Suspicious Vehicle	3
Service to Citizen	23
Patrol Req./Security Check	22
Supplemental Report	18
Vacation House Check	11
Welfare Check	6

<b>Vehicle violations</b>	
Excessive Speed	
Draeger Dr./Moraga Rd. (3)	
Moraga Way/St. Andrews Dr. (3)	
Moraga Rd./Alta Mesa Dr.	
Canyon Rd./Moraga Way	
Canyon Rd.	
Canyon Rd./Larch Ave.	
St. Marys Rd./In Front of Library (2)	
Moraga Way/School St. (2)	
600 Block Moraga Rd.	
Moraga Way/Moraga Rd.	
Ivy Dr./Moraga Way (2)	
Donald Dr./Moraga Rd.	
Corliss Dr./Moraga Rd.	
Camino Pablo/Dickenson Dr.	
Moraga Rd./In Front of Commons	
St. Marys Rd./Stafford Dr.	
Rheem Blvd./Chalda Way (2)	
Moraga Rd./Devin Dr.	
500 Block Rheem Blvd.	
Donald Dr.	
Reckless Driving	
3800 Block Campolindo Dr.	
Rheem Blvd./Moraga Rd. (4)	
Moraga Rd./St. Marys Rd.	
Rheem Valley Shopping Center	
Moraga Commons Park	

<b>Other criminal activity</b>	
Battery Sexual	
Police Department	
Commercial Burglary	
Subway	
Corporal Injury Spouse	
50 Block Miramonte Dr.	
Fireworks	
Joaquin Moraga Int. School	
Forgery	
Police Department	
Fraud Credit Card	
Homegoods	

Fraud False Pretenses	
Police Department	
Not Available	
Grand Theft	
400 Block Kingsford Dr.	
500 Block Moraga Rd.	
Identity Theft	
10 Block Whiting Ct.	
1700 Block Spyglass Ln.	
Shoplift	
Safeway	
Terrorist Threats	
Moraga Country Club	
Police Department	
500 Block Woodminster Dr.	

<b>Nuisance to the Community</b>	
Barking Dog	
Country Club Dr./N Sandringham	
Disturbance-Domestic	
Not Available	
Drunk In Public	
Moraga Commons Park	

Litter	
Campolindo Dr./Paseo Grande	
Loud Party	
1100 Block Alta Mesa Dr.	
Public Nuisance	
Sullivan Dr./Corliss Dr.	

<b>Other</b>	
Accident Property	
Police Department	
Mentally Ill Commit	
600 Block Rheem Blvd.	
St. Marys College	
Ordinance Violation	
20 Block El Camino Flores	
Other Infraction	
500 Block Augusta Dr.	
Public Assembly Check	
Safeway	
Moraga Commons Park	
Rheem Valley Shopping Center	
Verbal Dispute	
Dollar Tree	



## Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report

<b>June 2 - June 15</b>	
Alarms	46
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	12
Traffic	65
Suspicious Circumstances	6
Suspicious Subject	22
Suspicious Vehicle	10
Service to Citizen	29
Patrol Req./Security Check	10
Vacation House Check	10
Supplemental Report	10
Welfare Check	4

<b>Vehicle violations</b>	
Auto Burglary	
Safeway	
Petty Theft From Vehicle	

Police Department	
Reckless Driving	
Camino Pablo/Eb Sr 24	
Moraga Way/El Camino Moraga	
Moraga Way/Glorietta Blvd.	
Ardrith Dr./Ivy Dr.	
Camino Pablo/Claremont Ave.	
Wb Sr 24 At Camino Pablo	
San Pablo Dam Rd./Camino Pablo	
San Pablo Dam Rd./Bear Creek Rd.	

Tc - Property Damage	
10 Block Overhill Rd.	
Vehicle Surveillance	
Tahos Rd./St Stephens Dr.	
Vehicle Theft	
500 Block Tahos Rd.	

<b>Other criminal activity</b>	
Burglary	
10 Block Northwood Ct.	
Grand Theft	
Police Department	
20 Block Big Rock Rd.	
90 Block La Espiral	

Possession Of Stolen Property	
Wb Sr 24 At Wilder Rd.	
Residential Burglary	
4300 Block El Nido Ranch Rd.	
50 Block Davis Rd.	
300 Block Tahos Rd.	
30 Block Charles Hill Cr.	

Robbery	
10 Block Alta Vista	
Shoplift	
CVS	

<b>Nuisance to the Community</b>	
Disturbing The Peace	
30 Block Zander Dr.	
Drunk In Public	
Police Department	

Loud Music	
Orinda Park Pool	
Loud Noise	
20 Block Bel Air Dr.	
Glorietta Elementary School	
Orinda Park Pool	
Dalewood Dr./Lombardy Ln.	

Loud Party	
20 Block Hillcrest Dr.	
Public Nuisance	
10 Block Aspinwall Ct.	
Vandalism	
10 Block Hazel Tree Ridge	

<b>Other</b>	
Accident Property	
90 Block Loma Vista Dr.	
Safeway	
200 Block Camino Pablo	
Camino Pablo/Santa Maria Way	
20 Block Moraga Via	
Sundown Terrace/Silver Oak	

Dependent Adult Abuse	
10 Block Charles Hill Rd.	
Ordinance Violation	
100 Block La Espiral	
10 Block Bobolink Rd. (2)	
Revocation Of Probation	
Safeway	

Unauthorized Possession	
Theatre Square	
Violation Custody Order	
Orinda Theater	



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**Fire districts prepare for shutoffs**

... continued from Page A8

"The generators in the class that we are talking about are designed to run around the clock, in that type of environment," Moraga-Orinda Fire District Chief Dave Winnacker said.

The communications center, which dispatches calls for both Lamorinda fire districts, also must be supplied with fuel, and food delivered to the dispatchers. ConFire has satellite backup for cell coverage, as well as backup radio ability. "But the first thing we do is get the engines out of the apparatus bay, onto the ramps,"

McAlister said.

Both districts expect a spike in emergency medical calls and ambulance transports during a power shutoff, especially as the outage lingers. Again, the agencies look at the shutoffs as any other emergency, and as calls come in, they will respond. Winnacker said of one of the tools at his disposal is the ability to upstaff to meet demand.

McAlister called the sharing of information the most critical component of the planned outages, especially the location of the shutdown. "Don't tell me you're going to shut down 500 customers in

Lafayette," he said of PG&E.

"Give the fire district a map. Is it downtown? Is it St. Mary's Road?"

Though the fire districts have handled emergencies of all types, the PG&E power shutoffs may pose challenges not yet considered. "We're gathering information," McAlister said, such as ambulance transport data from North Bay counties that experienced a power shutdown in June. "It's a new program and we're wrapping our arms around it."

"Our regulators agree that this program can be effective," Tom Guarino of PG&E said.

**MOFD conducts first controlled burn exercise in Moraga**



Photography by David Grube for John Muir Land Trust, © 2019

... continued from Page A1

At 11:30 a.m., Gehling approved the test results and the exercise began.

An unusual sight was firefighters setting fires, as they poured a mixture of diesel fuel and gasoline onto the brush. Even more unusual was to see

firefighters making no attempt to extinguish the fires. "The fire will put itself out," Gehling said. "If done right, this is very easy to do."

The steep terrain proved anything but easy for the fire crews. But plenty of safety precautions were in place, as a hose line circled the perimeter of the exercise, and the Berkeley engine trailed along the ridge to protect the back end, toward Buckingham. Two 2,500-gallon water tenders sat nearby and Medic 41 was parked at the top of the hill, just in case.

The exercise began slowly, but once it became obvious that the "safety strip" – the black path that remained after incineration – was able to hold off the oncoming fires, crews began taking out bigger chunks of vegetation as they moved down the hill toward Moraga

Road.

Lafayette resident Jerry Kent watched the proceedings from the Campolino High School parking lot. "It's a smart move, to do this with the fire department here and things under control," Kent said. "I saw this hill burn last year when it was out of control."

By mid-afternoon, a 5-acre, 1,100 foot strip of the 15-acre property was completely charred. Gehling reported that no one was hurt and that he had heard no complaints of smoke drifting into the neighborhoods. "They did exactly what they said they were going to do, and did it very cautiously," Lewis said of the firefighters.

"We can use this tool to make the community safer," Gehling said. "The black part of that hill will not burn the rest of this year."

**Letters to the editor**

**Foul language**

A fight broke out in Colorado among parents and coaches at a Little League game for 7-year-olds after the 13-year-old umpire issued a warning about their foul language. Recently we tuned in to an acclaimed TV show and found that the dialogue relied primarily on the relentless use of F-bombs. Julia Louis-Dreyfus, one of our favorite performers, starred in Veep for four years, and we looked forward to enjoying the whole series, but the first episode turned us off.

There used to be societal standards regarding public speech. We are debasing our language and ourselves, and we should think about the long-term effects.

Dale Walwark  
Moraga

**Affordable Housing**

My husband and I have been residents of Lafayette since 1969. And we wanted to comment on the article by Nick Marnell about Assembly Woman Rebecca-Bauer-Kahans positions on AB 1482 and AB 1487 by saying that we are the supporters of Bills that would help make fair and affordable housing in our city a possibility. The Assemblywoman did not vote against these bills for clear reasons stated in the article. We would like to see both of these bills get a chance to address the issues of housing which is so unfair and discriminatory for so many living in our city and in this county.

I cannot help but feel that the inequities of the housing situation most often will not be addressed by many citizens, just like the issues on segregation and equal education were NOT addressed by so many localities during the 1960s and '70s. We need the State Assembly to step up like the federal government did when it was necessary to take the lead and give direction on how we begin to make this issue and the many issues that divide our

communities between the "haves" and the "have nots" a basic question of fairness. WE are better than this, and we need to make America a just and decent place with opportunity, especially in housing, available to all.

Thank you.  
Lynn MacMichael  
Lafayette

**National Lineworker Appreciation Day**

July 10 is National Lineworker Appreciation Day, a day that we ask East Bay residents to take a moment to recognize the men and women who work around the clock to keep the lights on for our community.

PG&E has thousands of lineworkers serving 5 million customers across our service territory, and they are often unsung heroes. Day and night, no matter the weather, these lineworkers are up in bucket trucks, operating heavy machinery and often arriving first on emergency scenes, all to serve our customers.

The dedication and sacrifice of a lineworker is something to be celebrated, and that's why the Edison Electric Institute (EED), the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), and the Utility Workers Union of America (UWUA) has established July 10 as Lineworker Appreciation Day. If you see a lineworker today, please stop and say thank you and let them know you appreciate the work that they do.

Vic Baker  
Senior Manager of PG&E's Diablo Division

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 must be factually accurate and 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

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**The Lafayette City Council is soliciting applicants to fill a vacancy on the Planning Commission**

**Planning Commission.** This seven-member body is responsible for matters relating to land use and development in the city. The commission serves as an advisory agency to the City Council for administering the laws and ordinances governing the approval of general and specific plans, zoning text amendments and rezonings. The commission also hears and decides on applications for subdivisions, land use permits, variances, and ridgeline development. Members of the Planning Commission are required to be qualified electors of the City of Lafayette, and are selected on the basis of training, education, occupation and expertise. The commission reviews design drawings, construction plans and technical reports. The following are planning documents that commissioners must be familiar with to execute their duties. 1) Lafayette General Plan; 2) Lafayette Municipal Code, Title 6 -Planning & Land Use; 3) Downtown Specific Plan; 4) Downtown Design Guidelines; 5) Residential Design Review Guidelines. Link to the application and additional information [www.lovelafayette.org/pc](http://www.lovelafayette.org/pc)

Individuals with questions may call Interim Planning & Building Director Greg Wolff (925) 299-3204. Completed applications must be received by 5:00pm August 30, 2019.



**Community Panel for Lafayette City Manager Selection**

Lafayette's City Council is looking for five residents to serve on a community panel to interview finalists for the City Manager position.

**Requirements**

1. Available to serve on August 2, 2019, from approximately 9:00 am to 1:00 pm at City offices.
2. Lafayette resident (must be able to provide proof of residency).
3. At least 18 years old.
4. Willing to sign a confidentiality agreement to protect the privacy of candidates.

**How to apply**

- Fill out the online form at [www.lovelafayette.org/communitypanel](http://www.lovelafayette.org/communitypanel).
- Complete a form in person at Lafayette City Offices, 3675 Mount Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, California 94549, or
- Fill out a form at the City Council meeting on July 8 or July 22.

**Selection**

- Applicants will be divided into geographical sections of the City (Happy Valley, Reliez Valley, Burton Valley, Downtown/Acalanes Valley).
- One member will be randomly selected from each geographic location.
- After the geographic selections are made, one more member will be randomly selected from all remaining applicants.
- The random selection will be done on Monday, July 29th and live-streamed on Facebook.

Applications must be received by 5:00 pm on Friday, July 26, 2019. For more information, or to apply, please visit [www.lovelafayette.org/communitypanel](http://www.lovelafayette.org/communitypanel).



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Over 40 years of fun at Bottoms Up Meet

... continued from Page A1

It's a fast pool and the kids are competing against their equals. We award the winners and those who place in the events and give a Most Valuable High Point prize to whoever scores the most total points in their three composite events for their age bracket."

Rhys Hire is 13 years old and attends Orinda Intermediate School. He looks forward to swimming for Miramonte when he begins high school and has been swimming in this event since he was 7 years old. Hire competed in the free style, back stroke and the butterfly this year: "It's great to race against people that you know. There is a little less pressure here than in the other meets."

With over 700 swimmers and 150 volunteers, it serves as a refreshing change from the 10-15 meets over the summer that have the older swimmers competing against the younger swimmers in each group. Besides the usual races, there was a mixed medley relay and mixed freestyle relay, both of which were comprised of two girls and two boys.



Photo Gint Federas

In the 70 races, there were two meet records set: Hailey Birkby (Sleepy Hollow), 9-year-old girls backstroke - 35.60 (old record 35.68) and Charlotte Shamia (Orinda CC), 11-year-old girls

breaststroke - 34.53 (old record 34.65). The swimmer whose record she beat was Sophia Kosturos, a recent Campolindo graduate who will be swimming for UCLA next year.

Following are the high point winners for each group:

- 5-year-old girls, Reese Cobo, Meadow
5-year-old boys, Sean Baitx, Moraga Ranch
7-year-old girls, Teagan Devinger, Meadow
7-year-old boys, Henry Deal, Orinda Park
9-year-old girls, Amelia Knutson, Meadow
9-year-old boys, Miles Gaffney, Miramonte
11-year-old girls, Charlotte Samia, Orinda C.C.
11-year-old boys, Jax Cherry, Orinda Park
13-year-old girls, London Menard, Sleepy Hollow
13-year-old boys, Miles Pieper, Meadow
15-year-old girls, Ella Dulski, Moraga Valley
15-year-old boys, Dax Sherwood, Orinda C.C.

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# ~ Life in LAMORINDA ~

## Local artists' work offers glimpses of our modern world



"Path to the Beach" by Jeanette Crawford Baird Photos provided

### By John T. Miller

Taking their inspiration from the 19th century Impressionists, a pair of local artists will be showcased at the Orinda Library with their paintings titled "21st Century Flâneurs." The show will run through the month of July.

The word flâneur originally meant a lounge, or loafer, but in the context of the Impressionist movement came to mean someone who strolled through the modern world to observe and record that world.

Jeanette Crawford Baird and Joanne Taeuffer, both members of Bay Area Studio Artists located in the Saranap area, have chosen to adopt the lifestyle of the flâneurs in their approach to their art. Rather than get caught up in the hustle and bustle of deadlines, traffic jams, and checking their phones for updates, the two prefer to

stand back and use their paintings to portray glimpses of modern life.

Both artists are self-professed Francophiles, traveling often to France and immersing themselves in the French milieu. While taking a French language class, Taeuffer was introduced to the concept of the flâneur and suggested that she and Baird adopt the idea in the way they pursued their art.

Another similarity between the two women is that they both got into painting later in life as they neared 50 years of age.

Baird took up painting when the last of her three boys left home for college, leaving her with an empty nest, while Taeuffer, who did not have children, retired early due to shaky economic times with her internet business.

They both eventually enrolled in art classes with Marcy Wheeler, a local artist with a

studio in Lafayette, and joined with a small group of other women artists to form BASA. Five years ago, Wheeler relocated her studio to Boulevard Way in the Saranap area.

Once the two of them put brush to canvas, however, their approaches are quite different.

Baird says, "When the last of my boys moved away, I searched for serenity and calm in my paintings." She began with a Realism style, but now paints more in the way of Impressionism. "Taking workshops with a variety of teachers has led me to develop my own sense of taste. My painting is constantly evolving."

She works slowly on her subjects and portrays serenity through the use of muted colors and a restrained sense of emotion.

Taeuffer, on the other hand, calls her brand of painting Expressionism. Her artwork is filled with color and life's quirkiness. A turning point for her came when she was introduced to acrylic paints by Wheeler.

"I like to work quickly, splashing color on the canvas," she says. "Acrylic paints dry so much faster than oils, it allows me to get the scene down quicker. Plus I can cover up my mistakes sooner."

Their two visions complement and contrast with one another throughout the show. There are approximately 36 paintings shown, with prices ranging from \$300 to \$2,200. Some of the pieces are not for sale, however.

Writing in the Paris Review, Bijan Stephen notes that, with increased productivity and the influence of technology, "The idea of flâneurie as a desirable lifestyle has fallen out of favor," but he wonders if it might be due for a revival: "The figure of the flâneur ... removes himself from the world while he stands astride its heart."

While Stephen writes using the male gender exclusively, Baird and Taeuffer challenge that assumption, calling themselves the 21st century flâneuses.

A well-received reception, attended by over 100 guests, was held on July 7 at the library

gallery. Also on display were "Illuminating Illustrations and Their Books" by Elaine and Rob Drew, and "Paintings and Painted Wine Bottles" by Kath Balmuth. The exhibit will run through July 31 at the Orinda Library at 26 Orinda Way from

10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday and Saturday; and from 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday. For more information on the artists, see their websites at Jeanette-Baird.com and JoanneTaeuffer.com.



Self portrait by Joanne Taeuffer



"Rockin out on the Bay" by Joanne Taeuffer



Self portrait by Jeanette Crawford Baird

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you say "neighbor."



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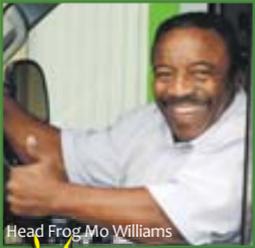


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## A bitter subject at Sweet Thursdays author talk



Julia Flynn Siler, Author

By Garrett Leahy

The topic at June's Sweet Thursdays author talk at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center was anything but sweet. New York Times best-selling author and Wall Street Journal reporter Julia Flynn Siler discussed her new book, "The White Devil's Daughters," which chronicles the stories of several young Chinese women sold as sex slaves in San Francisco's Chinatown throughout the 19th century, including after the abolition of slavery.

These women escaped their owners and sought refuge at the Occidental Mission Home on 920 Sacramento Street, which served as a sanctuary for trafficked Chinese women forced into prostitution. There, the mission home's superintendent, Donaldina "Dolly" Cameron, a Scottish immigrant, and her assistant and Cantonese interpreter, Tien Fuh Wu, would care for between 50 and 60 girls behind barred windows and brick walls, keeping their former masters from reclaiming their human property, with Cameron's success earning her the moniker "White Devil" by the slaves.

Siler's book is a shocking account of a dark aspect of San Francisco's past, where Chinese young women, aver-

aging between the ages of 8 and 14 years of age and sold by their families in China, were sold again as prostitutes, only to be left on the streets to die of disease as soon as four years after their sale.

For Siler, "The White Devil's Daughters" is about the friendship between Cameron and Wu, who despite coming from vastly different backgrounds, one a well-to-do Scottish missionary, and the other a victim of sex trafficking, ended up depending on each other to run the home, ultimately to be buried in the same family plot in Evergreen Cemetery.

Siler closed the event with what she believes we should take away from her book: the desire to help others in need, to treat immigrants with dignity, and to support women. "Stepping back, this book is about how we treat immigrants, its a book about radical empathy and that moment that people take the leap to care for the other in their communities - the same kind of empathy that fueled the abolitionists, [and] an inspiring story about women helping other women," she said.

Siler's book chronicles the Occidental Mission Home's operation from 1874 until the 1930s, but the subject of the book continues to have relevance today. Over 5,400 human trafficking cases nationwide were reported in 2018 to the National Human Trafficking Hotline, a 24-hour hotline for victims of human trafficking or those concerned to report cases and tips about cases of human trafficking, while 1,758 calls about human trafficking and 760 human trafficking cases in California were reported to the National Human Trafficking Hotline

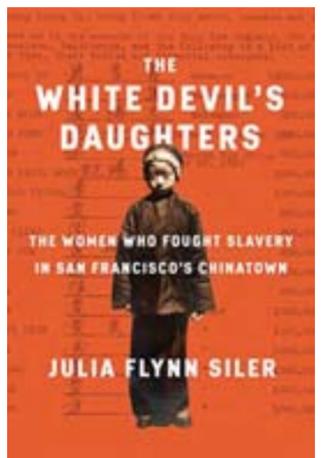
during the first seven months of 2018.

HEAT Watch, an award-winning program run by the Alameda County District Attorney's Office, states that California has more human trafficking victims than any other state in the U.S. and describes the San Francisco Bay Area as a "hotspot" for human trafficking. The median age for trafficked girls is between 12 and 14 and the median age for trafficked boys and transgender youth is between 11 and 13, according to HEAT Watch.

Although these statistics can demonstrate the scope of the issue of human trafficking, some warn that they may underestimate the number of victims and who they are.

Dr. Kimberly Chang, a physician and anti-trafficking activist at Asian Health Services, an Oakland-based clinic founded in 1974 whose mission is providing "health, social, and advocacy services for all regardless of income, insurance status, immigration status, language, or culture," explained the issues with reliance on statistics.

... continued on Page B8



## Lynn's Top Five

### Meaningful family gifting that won't break the piggy bank!

By Lynn Ballou CFP®

A lot has been written about how to get our adult children to launch, to stop living on our couches, and to get their stuff out of our houses, closets and garages already! But I don't think enough is written about next steps - how parents and grandparents can affordably help their successfully launched children and grandchildren in ways that are beneficial and enjoyable to both. If you have a little wiggle room in your budget, and you'd like to make a positive impact now and enjoy watching the results, here are five time tested ideas from my many years as a CFP® for your consideration.

**Help fund their Roth IRA annually!** Whether you add \$600 or \$6,000, I think we can agree that it adds up. In fact, if you help out by adding just \$1,000 per year to your working child's Roth, and it grows at 6%, that will be a nest egg of \$36,786 in 20 years. If they can't qualify for a Roth, think about a nondeductible IRA. Some clients have a matching program idea going on with their adult children by matching dollar for dollar money they invest.

**Pay for travel.** Another fun idea involves asking your grown children if they'd enjoy a vacation and fund it for them as their annual holiday, birthday or anniversary gift. You can be cost conscious by keeping it small such as paying for an overnight weekend in Monterey, all the way to a week-long Disney cruise, just for some examples. I know a lot of us will pay for our grown children and their families to accompany us on a trip, but perhaps they'd enjoy some family time on their

own. House and dog sit for them and give them the gift of time and the space to connect with each other.

**Piano, ballet and soccer, oh my!** Working parents in the Bay Area typically are on the tightest of budgets. Stepping in and paying for extras for their kids can be hugely impactful. Maybe you treat for a week at Space Camp? Or swim team, violin lessons or maybe gymnastics? Talk to your children about what they'd appreciate having help budgeting for. Many of us remember the deep enrichment program activities at the schools we attended as children. Most of those are add on costs these days. By stepping up and offering to pick up the costs (don't forget the uniforms and equipment!) you are helping recreate those same opportunities. No grandkids? How about treating your grown children to a gym membership, kickboxing class or adult softball leagues?

**Babysit and underwrite Parent's Night or Weekend Out.** It's an incredible gift for your children when you offer to take care of the grandkids for a night or even a weekend. But remember that often still leaves them short of funds to afford a nice dinner out and a movie. Be there with a gift certificate to their favorite restaurant and the movie theater they enjoy most. And for adult kids with no children, no problem, they'll also appreciate those gift certificates!

**Estate Planning and Financial Planning - the Gift of Counsel:** A session with a financial planner or an estate planning attorney is something very few adults can fit into their budgets, especially when just launching. What a positive impact you can make

on their lives by treating them to consultations with pros early on in their working years. I've never met anyone who says they wish they had waited longer to get their financial plan and estate plans set up. Be the hero in their lives and help them have a leg up with life changing advice.

Enjoy living your life even more by providing a small financial leg up to those who matter most to you. The joy of gifting doesn't have to involve enormous sums that sabotage your own financial future because as they say, it's the little things that count.



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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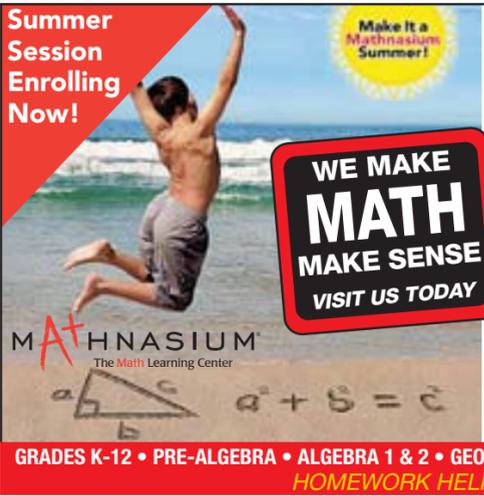
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*Looking Good in Lamorinda*  
**Summertime livin' with style**



The staff at Parker Thatch: Cloey Delsanto, Irene Chen holding the shop mascot, and Marisa Kjartansson. Photo provided

**By Moya Stone**

Summer is here! It's time to freshen up our warm weather duds. Trends for the season include white, white, and more white. But color is important too and this year is all about off shades such as fiesta (red-orange) and turmeric (mustard-yellow).

Layering is big, which is good for us in our Nor Cal microclimates. Jumpsuits have made a comeback and they are a cool option in lightweight fabrics. Silhouettes are simple and sneakers continue to dominate in the shoe department. Prints for summer are florals and mixing prints is very trendy, not to mention very tricky. But Eliza Jamkochian from Glamorous Boutique at 1048 Brown Avenue in Lafayette says, do it!

"This summer I encourage all my clients to challenge their inner self and shop for bold patterns, colors, and styles," said Jamkochian, who works closely with her customers and she takes a picture after she works her styling magic. "They are beyond shocked to see that stepping outside of that zone is not only attractive, but really sets a tone for a new look and wardrobe for this summer and going forward."

A new look needs a new handbag. I've spotted a local trend in the Mimi bag by Parker Thatch in Orinda. Their signature canvas bag is on the arm of many a fashionable woman around Lamorinda and it's been reported that Los Angeles is in on the trend too, with the likes of actress Reese Witherspoon carrying the Mimi.

The must-have accessory comes in white with various color block options, as well as

solids and prints, including the ever-popular camo and leopard. The people behind Parker Thatch are husband and wife team Irene Chen and Matthew Grenby. Chen says she designed the bag combining her favorite details of several purses she owned. Every Mimi is made in California of sturdy cotton canvas. There are inside pockets and an optional cross body strap.

Like your monogram? You can have that added. Chen says the Mimi is the ease of California and the elegance of New York all in one stylish handbag. "Our customer," says Chen, "is a busy person seeking to find something chic but practical and easy."

Although many sales are made on the Parker Thatch website, customers also like to visit the shop. They come from Piedmont, Montclair, and even as far away as San Francisco. Chen says she really likes the sense of community that having a bricks and mortar offers. Sometimes customers come by just to say hello or pick up a conversation where they left off last visit. Parker Thatch, 19D Orinda Way, Orinda. Online at: www.parkerthatch.com.

Summer isn't summer without a good book to read. "Wildchilds," by former model Eugenia Melian (Fashion Sphinx Books), combines two of my faves - suspense and fashion. It tells the story of Iris de Valade, a former 1990s Paris fashion model. Having given up her modeling career years ago, Iris is now a sculptor and lives in rural Northern California with Lou, her teenage daughter. Lou is greatly puzzled as to why her mother would walk away from the glamorous Parisian life of a model. Why would she? Iris is called back to Paris as the

executrix of her former lover's estate and there she finds old friends, old foes, and more than she bargained for. Armchair travel, fashion, and a mystery. In my book, that's a perfect summer read.

Keep it cool and go forth in style.



The Mimi handbag by Parker Thatch. Photo Moya Stone



Summer trends available at Glamorous Boutique in Lafayette. Moya Stone is a fashion writer and blogger at www.overdressedforlife.com.

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# First Court of Honor for Lafayette Girls BSA Scout Troop



Photo provided

Submitted by Mary Markey

Nineteen girls from Lafayette Troop 402 celebrated a historic ceremony Thursday, May 23, as they participated in their first Scouts BSA Court of Honor Ceremony. This inaugural ceremony marked the beginning of a new troop and a new future of scouting.

Just over three months ago, on Feb. 1, Boy Scouts of America changed their name to Scouts BSA and welcomed girls into the historically all boy program. A small group of scouts and scouters in Lafayette hit the ground running, quickly establishing a troop on par with long running Scouts BSA boy troops. The troop marks the start of a new era that allows girls access to the same programming boys have participated in for over 100 years.

As a sister Troop to 204, the troop meets in the historic Lafayette cabin. The two troops use some of the same resources, but the programming and leadership are separate. For example, the girls have their own troop, they are not coed with boys. Other troops have used different formulas for integration. Troop 402 meets on their own and has their own patrols. While the national organization still holds on to "BSA", Troop 402 is all about the girls.

The troop comprises Scouts aged 11-16, in grades 5-10. They are led by a 10th grade Senior Patrol Leader and

meet weekly. The Troop has already gone backpacking, camping, and earned awards and recognition for advancement. Typically, it takes four-five years for scouts to advance the ranks to become an Eagle Scout, but since girls were only allowed in this year, they need to quickly advance if they aspire to scouting's highest rank. All scouts were awarded their first rank, Scout, and seven scouts achieved the rank of Tenderfoot. The scouts were also awarded a cumulative total of 14 merit badges for their work on subject matters of interest to them. The Troop attended a BSA summer camp in June and are going on a 25-mile backpacking trip in August. The girls are eager to work hard and achieve the requirements for advancement and learn new skills. They are picking up the skills rapidly and really taking off with the program.

Troop 402 is supported by a charter organization called the Lafayette Dads Club. This club first began supporting scouting in 1932 as the Boy Scout Troop 204 was formed. Troop 204 has a long history of scouting in Lafayette; it is the oldest troop. Many of the girl Troop 402s traditions are being built on the longstanding traditions of the Boy troop. The girls are just adding their bright ideas, fresh faces, enthusiastic spirit, and moxie.

Interested future scouts can learn more about joining the troop by emailing [troop402lafayette@gmail.com](mailto:troop402lafayette@gmail.com).

## ~ Celebrations ~

### Orinda resident wins Emmy



Orinda resident Randy DeVecchi recently won an Emmy award at the 48th Northern California Area Emmy Awards recognizing excellence in television broadcasting. DeVecchi, who is a video photographer who has worked at KTVU Channel 2 in Oakland since 1990, won the Emmy for 2019 Outstanding Achievement in the Sports-News Feature/Segment Category. The heartwarming story, called "Ty Whisler - "Ty's Team," was about a 10-year-old boy who was battling cancer at Stanford Medical Center in Palo Alto and the Stanford men's basketball team, which was performing community service and was visiting Ty. The team and the boy made a personal connection. Inspired by Ty, throughout the next year the basketball team "adopted" him, and

during Ty's cancer treatments the team made him team ball boy, and team captain. Both team and Ty had one of their best years ever. DeVecchi, along with reporter Scott Reiss followed the journey of both Ty and the men's team. The 48th Annual Emmy event was held on June 8 in San Francisco and the event had more than 560 individual nominees. The National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences represents the talented professionals working in California, including Western Regional States.

## In Memory

### Yolande Lesley Rowe



Yolande Lesley Rowe, born on February 25, 1929, passed away on May 24, 2019, in Grass Valley, CA. She was 90 years old. Yolande was born in Plymouth, England and emigrated to the United States with her parents, Leslie and Florence (Poppy) Rowe in 1946. Yolande and her parents later lived in Orinda, CA until her parents passed away and Yolande moved to Grass Valley to be closer to her daughter and son-in-law. Yolande graduated from St. Mary's College in Moraga, CA, first with her BA and then returned to get her Masters in Business Administration.

She worked for American President Lines and then Eagle Marine, both based out of Oakland,

CA, as a top accountant. She is survived by her daughter and son-in-law, Lesley and Mike Bullock, their children Kyle Bullock and Shannon Marengo, grandson-in-law Ricky Marengo, son and daughter-in-law, Brett and Jenny Burkett of Captain Cook, HI, and Brett's son, Tyler Burkett. She is also survived by two great grandchildren, Mason and Madison Marengo of Long Beach, CA. Yolande will be missed immensely by her family and all of her friends from Orinda and Grass Valley. A private memorial service will be held in the fall. In lieu of flowers or cards, memorial donations can be made to Hospice of the Foothills in Grass Valley, CA, or to the Alzheimer's Association.

# Moraga Lions Pride Award winners announced

Submitted by Ray Casabonne

The Moraga Lions recently handed out its Pride awards to students from Lamorinda middle schools. The students are recommended by teachers and selected by the administration of each school.

Award winners are: Hanna Mirzai and Eva Toney (Stanley Middle School); Vito Crudele and Ty Madsen (Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School); Will Davalos and Marilynn Hasset (Orinda Intermediate School); and Kevin Henderson and Ellie Scheberies (St. Perpetua).



Photos provided

Back row: Linda Mara, Brian Mangold (A.P.), Alice Cyr, Susan Olson, Student supporters; front Row: Hassan Mirzai, Simin Mirzai, Hanna Mirzai (recipient), Dan Hagan, Moraga Lions, Eva Toney (recipient), Joan Toney, Fred Toney, Jule Gladden, and Claudia Windfuhr.



Lurue Crudele, Cathy Schultz, Pawan Datta, Vito Crudele (recipient), Jerry Gilbert, Dan Hagan (Moraga Lions), Ty Madsen (recipient), Debbie Standrind, Heidi Madsen, Kristin Cortright, and Joan Daniels (principal).



Carolyn Druger, Stephen Davalos, Shelly Davalos, Will Davalos (recipient), Stacy Wayne, Dan Hagan (Moraga Lions), James Hasset, Marilynn Hasset (recipient), Liv Hasset, and Maria Rosas.



Brian Henderson, Brenda Henderson, Kevin Henderson (recipient), Heidi Schwarck, Dan Hagan (Moraga Lions), Ellie Scheberies (recipient), Beatrice Schmugler, and Mark Scheberies.

**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.

# 'Secret Ingredient' – Macedonian movie in Moraga



"Secret Ingredient"



Photos provided



**By Sophie Braccini**

Macedonian movies are somewhat of a rarity in the U.S.; having one presented at the Rheem Theatre in Moraga is probably an all time first. "Secret Ingredient" is part of the International Film Showcase that opens on July 12 for a week and is a unique opportunity to discover the charming and a little old-fashioned humor of a nation where the middle class, like everywhere else, tries their best to make a better life for their loved ones.

North Macedonia is an independent state located north of Greece; it is

a former piece of defunct Yugoslavia and has one of the lowest per capita GDPs in Europe. Macedonia has a film-making history that started over a century ago with the Manaki brothers, who were cinema pioneers of the Balkan Peninsula at the turn of the 20th century. "Secret Ingredient," directed by Gjorce Stavreski, follows a long tradition of creating movies that portray the life of ordinary people and their adventures.

Vele is a young mechanic who works on trains and lives with his father, a difficult old man suffering from advanced lung cancer. Vele loves the

old man and will take extreme risks to get him a "secret ingredient" to alleviate his pain and seemingly get him to remission. The chances taken to get the ingredient, and the gangsters who try to get it back, create the first layer of the movie, which includes action and suspense with a bit of physical violence.

The extent of the secrecy the son has to go through to get his father to try the vilified substance, the gullibility of the people who see Vele as a powerful healer once the cat is out of the bag, create the second layer – the gentle and often sweet humor of the movie. Of course in a state that has legalized cannabis consumption, this entire imbroglio could appear to be a bit dated, but this is another country that seems to be a bit stuck in the 20th century.

But the real crux of the movie is not, in fact, the secret ingredient, or if there is a secret ingredient, it is not the illegal substance, but the difficult love between a father and a son who have been struck by drama and have such difficulty communicating. This layer is indeed the most endearing and touching aspect of the movie – how two very stubborn men can finally manage to

tear away the cloak of silence that has frozen their relationship in a state of banal frustration without deep connection and love.

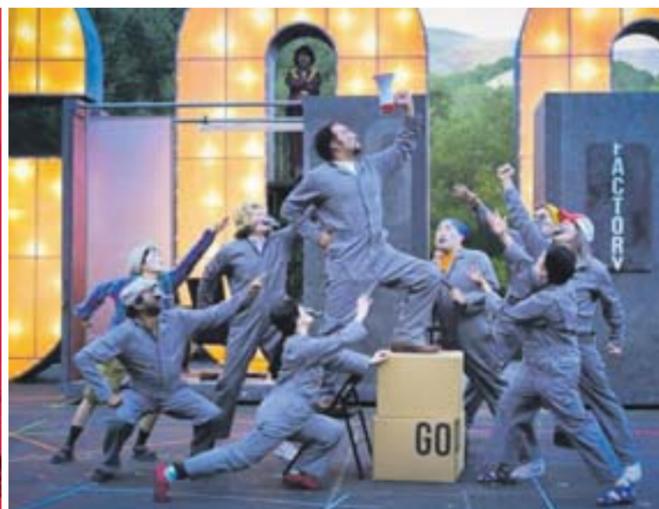
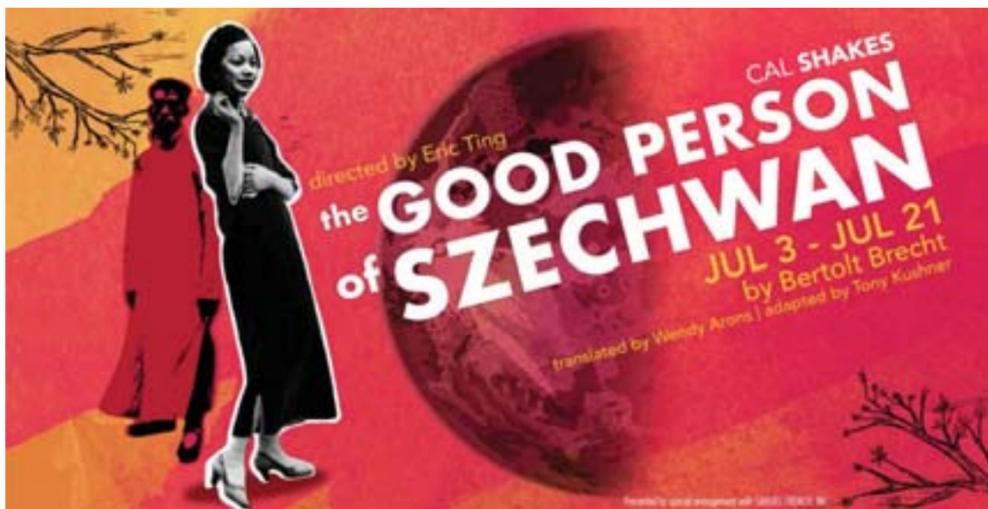
Also interesting is the documentary aspect of the movie. North Macedonia is said to be the poorest of the former states that formed Yugoslavia. In the movie, the characters live in rundown apartments, take care of old trains with mostly manual tools, and drive beat-up cars. The health care system seems to be understaffed, and there are constant remarks about the Macedonian way, which appear to imply selfishness and bureaucracy. Not that different from parts of the U.S., after all, it just gives the feeling of having been filmed in 1990 and not in 2017. Once the father and son leave for the countryside, the audience finally gets a glance at the natural beauty of this Balkan country.

The actors have interesting physical characteristics, like anyone you might cross in the street, and they play their roles with genuine talent. The ending, which is very refreshing, will certainly surprise the American audience.

**The movie opens at the Rheem Theatre in Moraga on July 12 for at least one week. Info:**

[www.orindamovies.com/location/1629/Rheem-Theatre-Showtimes](http://www.orindamovies.com/location/1629/Rheem-Theatre-Showtimes)

# 'The Good Person of Szechwan' in Orinda



Photos provided

**By Sophie Braccini**

The first Bertold Brecht play chosen for the magnificent Bruns theater in Orinda by Cal Shakes is "The Good Person of Szechwan," an epic fable set in an imaginary Chinese province sometimes in the past, leading to a very contemporary reflection on the nature of good, human decency, and the possibility to stay true to one's principles in a corrupt society. The play also shows that communities put individuals in a box with a defined set of attributes and expectations that can be alienating. In response to this

constraint, "The Good Person" finds a unique and interesting way to regain a degree of freedom.

The play takes place in a metaphorical very poor region of China, sometimes in the past, where most people are struggling to make a living while others prosper. In a fit of desperation the gods come down to earth in this forsaken place looking for one authentically good person before giving up on the whole human race. In this pit of despair where cheating, lying or stealing is the norm for survival, the only good person is Shen Teh, the young prostitute who would rather love only one

man, but needs to sell herself to survive. For one night, she gives up on her income to offer housing to the gods. To thank her, they give her a little purse of silver coins that allows her to buy a small business that should lift her from poverty.

No sooner that Shen Teh becomes a little better off than her poor surroundings, a flock of parasites descends on her to live off her generosity. She cannot say no; she is the good person. To save herself from this onslaught, she invents and personifies a male cousin of hers, Shui Ta, who is business savvy, kicks out the bloodsuckers, and regains

some economic footing. Then love comes knocking on her door, sending her to other extremes of naivety and generosity.

All the elements of Brecht's view of the world are present in this play. The German playwright who wrote during the first half of the 20th century, exposed the difficult living conditions of the working class and its impact on human nature. His epic theater is written to bring social elements to the fore. Shen Teh is locked in a no-win scenario: she wants to be a well-doer, but people around her are so poor themselves that they scramble to take advantage of anything, including the one they have affectionately called the angel of the outskirts.

Shui Ta is Shen Teh's opposite, selfish and harsh. Interestingly enough, Shui Ta manages to create good for some, by being demanding rather than giving. Beyond the obvious weak-woman/ tough-man contrast created by the two personas, the play shows how people refuse to see anything else in Shen Teh than the simplistic image they have constructed of her. Having the courage to invent a new character for herself, to switch paradigms, lets her stretch her abilities, and interestingly it does so for others around her.

The audience will appreciate

the complexity of human nature rendered with mastery by the excellent German playwright: no one is really good, no one is really bad. There is no message of hope at the end. Instead, the audience is asked to find the response for themselves: Is there a possibility to be good in the society we live in? Brecht's personal answer, at the time he lived, having fled Germany when Hitler rose to power, was that society had to be changed.

Kudos goes to the excellent actors of the play directed by Eric Ting, Cal Shakes' artistic director. They all present very convincingly their multifaceted characters. Francesca Fernandez McKensie is most impressive as Shen Te/ Shui Ta, giving a nuanced and touching rendition of her character(s); Lance Gardner as Wang, the water seller is fun and energetic, adding an excellent humorous vibe; while Armando McClain as Yang Sun the unemployed pilot is alternately seductive, terribly repulsive, and finally honest, all of it quite convincingly.

Cal Shakes' "The Good Person of Szechwan" runs through July 21 at the Bruns Amphitheater in Orinda. More information and tickets at [www.calshakes.org](http://www.calshakes.org).



## Not to be missed

### ART

**The Moraga Art Gallery's new show running** through Aug. 10 will feature the work of Lafayette artist-photographer Lucy Beck, who "paints" floral portraits with light to show the astonishing variety of colors and shapes of small flowers in our gardens, fields and woodlands, and guest artist, Oakland ceramicist Tomoko Jarrell, who specializes in the design and creation of simple, comely, Japanese-inspired functional and decorative vases, cups, bowls, and more. For hours and more information visit [www.moragaartgallery.com](http://www.moragaartgallery.com), call (925)376-5407.

**Anne Morrison Rabe will be the featured Artist** at Dr. Samadian's Center for Reconstruction and Implant, 23 Orinda Way suite 301, Orinda. The show will run through the beginning of September. Dr. Amin Samadian is proud to have affiliated with the Lam-

orinda Arts Alliance for the opportunity to showcase the artwork of the organization's artists. For more information please call the office at (925) 254-2360.

**Art Embraces Words 2-4 p.m. on Sunday, July 14,** Lafayette Library and Learning Center, Arts & Science Room. Emerging writers will read excerpts from their works surrounded by visual artwork by local artists. In this way art literally "embraces" the spoken word. Accepting applications online for art and writing at [Lamorindaarts.org](http://Lamorindaarts.org) under Programs. Questions contact [literary@lamorindaarts.org](mailto:literary@lamorindaarts.org).

**The July exhibit at the art gallery** at the Orinda Library will feature illustrations and their books by Elaine and Rob Drew, paintings by Jeanette Baird and Joanne Taeuffer, and paintings and painted wine bottles by Kath Balamuth. The exhibit runs

through July 31. 26 Orinda Way.

**Valley Art Gallery presents "Two for the Show"** Through Aug. 10 at the Valley Art Gallery, 1660 Botelho Drive, Walnut Creek. Featuring the distinctive and beloved ceramics of Gerry Wallace and the colorful abstracts of Phil Simon. Both have ties to the gallery's long history. Phil will be present at a reception from 5 to 7 p.m. on Saturday, July 13. [www.valleyartgallery.org](http://www.valleyartgallery.org)

### MUSIC

**Cantare Con Vivo's Summer Choir** of 125 singers will present African-American spirituals and gospel songs, offering heartfelt passion in reflecting life rooted in American slavery at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, July 27 at the Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church. We hear the perspective of an oppressed culture, embracing the promises professed in Judeo-Christian traditions that

proclaim freedom, justice, equality and respect. These expressions of faith must now turn toward a spiritual plane where such promises can ultimately be trusted. Ticket price: \$20. [www.cantarecon-vivo.org](http://www.cantarecon-vivo.org).

**SonoMusette: Bastille Day Concert** at The Freight & Salvage at 7 p.m. on July 14 at 2020 Addison Street, Berkeley. SonoMusette's renditions of timeless French classics provide a freshness and excitement that is contemporary, yet faithful to the spirit and tradition of the original versions. Tickets: \$18 advance; \$22 door. <https://www.thefreight.org/event/1813128-sonomusette-berkeley/>

**Outdoor concert with local singer-songwriter** Laura Zucker at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, July 20 at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 1035 Carol Lane. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. \$20 cover and bring a drink of

choice to share. Laura weaves the heartbeat of the human experiences into her lyrics with guitar driven melodies that make you want to sing along. The outdoor courtyard, intimate stage, ample free parking, open tapas bar, and plenty of seating, make this a night for some Art and Soul. For more information, call (925) 876-5612. <http://www.oslc.net/>

**Revel in the beauty of the gardens while** enjoying an enchanting selection of romantic favorites by Ravel, Debussy, Chopin and more! The Gardens at Heather Farm's Summer Concert Series continues at 7 p.m. on Sunday, July 21 at 1540 Marchbanks Drive Walnut Creek. Performers Ernie Mansfield (flute), Larisa Smirnova (harp), and Pawel Walerowski (cello) perform for the second time in the garden as the Romance Trio, offering inspiring arrangements to thrill the spirit and soothe the soul. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Venue seating is limited. Food, blankets and lawn chairs are welcome. Outside alcohol is prohibited. Tickets: \$40 General Admission Adult; children ages 12 and under are free. For more information and to purchase tickets, go to [Gardenshf.org](http://Gardenshf.org).

**Lafayette Rotary, Aegis Living of Moraga,** and the Rossmoor Big Band will be producing the annual Tribute to the Troops at the Lafayette Reservoir Band Stand from 5 to 8:15 p.m. on July 13. This free concert honors our troops and the Blue Star and Gold Star Mothers who support our troops. Lamorinda residents are encouraged to attend and bring a picnic and enjoy music from the Rossmoor Big Band and Lafayette's very own native son David Martin and Rob Ross from David Martin's House Party. Seating will be provided but attendees can also bring a blanket to spread out on the grass and enjoy the concert.

**Cantare Con Vivo presents My Lord,** What a Morning, a 100-voice choir singing African-American spirituals and gospel songs that are seldom performed today. Fundamental to the formation of essential American genres such as ragtime, jazz, blues and R&B. The history of this music is rooted in American slavery mixed with Christian indoctrination, leading to these insightful and emotionally powerful personal expressions of faith at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, July 27 at the Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church. Ticket price: \$20. [www.cantarecon-vivo.org](http://www.cantarecon-vivo.org).

**Free and Fabulous Opera in the Park** Concert from 5 to 7 p.m. on July 28 at the Orinda Community Park. The Rotary Club of Orinda & Solo Opera proudly present the 11th Annual Opera in the Park. Bring the entire family, a blanket and a picnic to enjoy an afternoon of best-loved opera arias/duets/ensembles and musical theater favorites performed by first-rate professional singers. Free admission - BART and handicapped accessible - free parking. For more info, contact [cm-roeder@comcast.net](mailto:cm-roeder@comcast.net) and [www.soloopera.org](http://www.soloopera.org).

... continued on next Page

## Lamorinda's Religious Services



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### Lafayette United Methodist Church

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3454 Hamlin Road | Lafayette | [stperpetua.org](http://stperpetua.org)  
925.283.0272 Parish | 925.284.1640 School



### St Stephen's Episcopal Church

66 St. Stephen's Drive, Orinda  
254-3770. [www.ststephensorinda.org](http://www.ststephensorinda.org)  
Sunday 8am, 10am

### Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church

433 Moraga Way, Orinda, 254-3422  
[www.holyshepherd.org](http://www.holyshepherd.org)



9:30 a.m. CONGREGATIONAL WORSHIP  
10:30 a.m. Coffee Fellowship  
in the Center for Ministry

visit <http://www.holyshepherd.org> for more details



10 Irwin Way, Orinda | 925.254.4906 | [www.orindachurch.org](http://www.orindachurch.org)

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Mass Times: Daily Mass Monday - Friday 9:00 am  
Saturday - Confessions 3:30 - 4:30 pm / Vigil Mass 5:00 PM  
Sunday - Masses at 7:30, 9:00 and 11:00 am

**Please submit:**  
**Events:**  
**calendar@**  
**lamorindaweekly.com**

◆ Not to be missed ◆ Not to be missed ◆

**MUSIC ... continued**

**Moraga Commons Park Summer Concerts** from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday evenings in the summer. July 11 features the Smoking Hot Rock & Roll band Apple Z and July 18 will showcase Foreverland, an electrifying tribute to Michael Jackson. Join your neighbors for a relaxing free concert. Bring your picnic blanket or lawn chairs to the grassy hillside in front of the band shell. Enjoy the music while your children enjoy the park. The volunteers of Moraga Park Foundation cook food with the Snack Bar opening at 6 p.m.

**Orinda Concerts in the Park, with food trucks**, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Tuesday evenings at the Community Center and Park: July 9, Flashback; July 16, Lamorinda Idol; July 23, Dirty Cello; July 30, Vintage Jukebox.

**The Kyle Athayde Dance Party is coming** to Lafayette on Wednesday, July 24 for a one set performance at the Lafayette Library, featuring special guest, Bijon Watson. The 20-piece big band features world class musicians from New York City, Los Angeles, and the San Francisco Bay Area. Kyle's music draws inspiration from a wide variety of sources, from video games and internet memes to jazz and classical masterworks. If you like the big band music of Duke Ellington, Stan Kenton, Woody Herman, or Don Ellis, then you'll love the Dance Party! Show starts at 7:30 p.m. Tickets: \$20 at the door. [kyleathaydedanceparty.com](http://kyleathaydedanceparty.com)

**THEATER**

**California Shakespeare Theater's** "The Good Person of Szechwan" by Bertolt Brecht; translated by Wendy Arons; adapted by Tony Kushner July 3 - 21 at the Bruns Amphitheater, 100 California Shakespeare Theater Way, Orinda. Single tickets start at \$20, with discounts available for seniors, students, persons age 30 and under, and groups. For more information and showtimes, visit [www.calshakes.org](http://www.calshakes.org).

**LECTURE & LITERATURE**

**Planned Giving: Tips & Techniques - For an Elegant and Efficient Charitable Legacy** seminar at 9:30 a.m. on July 13 in the Brother Jerome West Hall at the Saint Mary's College campus. Thoughtful charitable planning is the hallmark of any true legacy. And charitable planning is especially elegant when designed to fit efficiently with your tax and estate planning goals. Through several common-sense examples, you will learn how your gifting strategies can stretch your generosity and leverage your legacy. The event is free, but we ask that you RSVP for planning purposes to [cab35@stmarys-ca.edu](mailto:cab35@stmarys-ca.edu) or (925) 631-4168.

**KIDS, PARENTS & TEENS**

**Cinderella Story Time from 11 a.m. to noon** on Aug. 3 at the Pleasant Hill Library 1750 Oak Park Blvd., Pleasant Hill. Diablo Ballet School faculty members Amanda Farris and

Edward Stegge will bring the classic tale to life in this 30-minute interactive reading. Following the reading, Cinderella and her prince will teach the audience a short class demonstration. Admission is free for children of all ages. Children are invited to come dressed as their favorite fairytale character! To RSVP or for more information, visit [diabloballet.org/events](http://diabloballet.org/events).

**OTHER**

**Pacific Gas and Electric Company** is hosting open houses in Oakland and Walnut Creek for customers in Alameda and Contra Costa counties to share information about its Community Wildfire Safety Program. Topics will include expansion of the Public Safety Power Shutoff program, accelerated safety inspections of electric infrastructure, enhanced vegetation management around power lines, and hardening the electric system for the future by replacing equipment and installing stronger and more resilient poles and covered power lines. PG&E is inviting customers to participate by dropping in any time between 6 and 8 p.m. Webinars will also be available for those who are unable to attend an event in person. More information, as well as the schedule for upcoming open houses and webinars can be found at [pge.com/wildfiresafety](http://pge.com/wildfiresafety).

**Summer Rose Care Workshop 10 a.m. on Saturday**, July 13, at McDonnell Nursery on Moraga Way in Orinda. A rose expert from the East Bay Rose Society will review the best way to care for your roses during the summer. Email [info@mcdonnellnursery.com](mailto:info@mcdonnellnursery.com) or call (925) 254-3713 to reserve a seat.

**Golden Gate Audubon Society presents Sahul - A Paradise for Birds** from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Thursday, July 18, at Northbrae Community Church, 941 the Alameda, Berkeley. Australia, New Guinea and Tasmania compose Australia's geological plate, or Sahul. We'll discuss geological history, taxonomy, and bird families. Cost: \$5 donation for non-members. For more info see <http://www.goldengateaudubon.org> or call (510) 843-2222 or email [ggas@goldengateaudubon.org](mailto:ggas@goldengateaudubon.org).

**Document Shredding Fundraiser** from 10 a.m. to noon on July 20 at 400 Taylor Blvd., Pleasant Hill (Back Parking Lot). Bring old tax returns, bills, business records, bank statements and other documents containing personal information to our shredding event. Make a charitable donation to the Cancer Support Community and all of your documents will be shredded on site by Diablo Paper Shredding Company. (925) 677-5041 x272

**The Contra Costa County Library** is hosting its annual book giveaway 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. from July 16 through 20 at Pleasant Hill Library, Shipping and Receiving Area, 75 Santa Barbara Road Pleasant Hill. Tens of thousands of paperback and hardcover fiction, non-fiction and children's books from the 26 Con-

tra Costa County community libraries are available to the public during the five-day giveaway. All books available at the giveaway have been removed from the library collection due to lack of circulation, poor condition or relevance. Books are available on a first-come, first-served basis and members of the public are advised to bring their own boxes or bags to transport materials.

**Prostate Health Seminar from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.** on July 23 at the Walnut Creek Library - Oak View Room, 1644 N. Broadway. This seminar will highlight newer approaches to treating enlarged prostate without medication or major surgery. The presentation will also include a discussion about in-office therapies for treating incontinence. Q & A session to follow the presentations. Hosted by Pacific Urology. Please RSVP by calling (925) 677-5041 x272.

**Fascia: The Mystery Tissue That Holds You Together** at 7 p.m. on July 30 with Tim Appleford, PT, MPT, OCS, ATC, Clinic Manager at Lafayette Physical Therapy at 3468 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Suite B110 in Lafayette. This is a free event, but space is limited, so please sign up at [lafayettept.com/events](http://lafayettept.com/events) or call (925) 284-6150.

**HighlineKites.com presents Berkeley Kite Festival** from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on July 27 and 28, 2019 at Berkeley Marina's Cesar E. Chavez Park, 11 Spinnaker Way. Arts & Crafts, Bounce Houses, Pony Rides, Petting Zoo, Candy Drop, Free Kitemaking, Team Kite Flying, Giant Kites, Japanese Kites, Kite Shop on site Cost: Free For more info see <http://BerkeleyKiteFestival.com> or call (510) 235-5483 or email [HighlineKites@gmail.com](mailto:HighlineKites@gmail.com).

**POLITICAL GATHERINGS**

**State Assemblywoman Rebecca Bauer-Kahan** (CA District 16) will address the Rotary Club of Orinda at its luncheon meeting at noon on July 10 at the Orinda Community Center. She will provide an update on important issues facing our District, as well as statewide initiatives and their potential impacts on our community. The public is welcome. Cost of the luncheon is \$20 and reservations can be made online at [www.orindarotary.org](http://www.orindarotary.org).

**SENIORS**

**Lafayette Community Foundation's 10th Annual Senior Symposium**, "Aging By Design" will take place from 8:30 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Aug. 10 at Acalanes High School. Attendees will hear from a variety of experts about the latest findings on aging while maintaining independence. In addition, many vendors and non-profit agencies will have booths at the Symposium's Resource Fair providing information about their products and services. Attendance is FREE. Please register in advance by visiting <http://www.lafayettecf.org> to fill out the attendee registration and to have your name included in the raffle drawing.



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**Service Clubs Announcements**



**JULY WEEKLY MEETINGS**

**12: Toy Story 4 - Director Josh Cooley** (Ticket required for non-members)  
**19: Forbes & Fox News Analyst Tom Del Beccaro: 2020 Election Preview**  
**26: Mark Cohen: Member Story**

**Breakfast, Friday 7:00 a.m.**  
The Lafayette Park Hotel & Spa, 3287 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, CA  
[www.lamorindasunrise.com](http://www.lamorindasunrise.com)

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## Flaky, fluffy buttermilk biscuits a perfect jam accompaniment



Photo Susie Iventosch

### By Susie Iventosch

It's fresh fruit season, which also means it's going to be canning season soon. I have never buckled down to make a production of homemade fresh fruit jams, instead relying on my friend who always sends us a care package of her homemade jams. But I am definitely going to be making huckleberry jam this summer. Here is an amazingly fluffy buttermilk biscuit for serving up your homemade jam, and if you like to give jam as a gift, a batch of these biscuits would make your friends and family extra happy!

The key to making flaky, fluffy biscuits is to use cold butter. Take it right out of the refrigerator just when you're ready to use it in the recipe. During the baking process, the steam from cold butter as it melts creates pockets in the dough, which help make the biscuit flaky. Handle the dough as little as possible, because the more the dough is handled, the warmer the butter becomes. I like to use a pastry cutter for cutting the butter into the flour instead of using my fingertips for biscuits, because it results in the butter staying colder for longer.

### Buttermilk Biscuits

(Makes 6-8)

#### INGREDIENTS

1 ½ cups all-purpose flour  
1 tablespoon granulated sugar  
½ teaspoon salt  
2 teaspoons baking powder  
¼ teaspoon cream of tartar  
6 tablespoons COLD butter  
½ cup + 2 tablespoons buttermilk  
1 tablespoon Egg Beaters (or any liquid egg whites)

#### DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 450 F. Cover a baking sheet with parchment paper. Place flour, sugar, salt, baking powder and cream of tartar in a large bowl. Mix well with a whisk. Cut butter into small pieces with a knife and put directly onto the dry mixture. Using a pastry cutter, cut the butter into the dries until the butter is the size of small peas. Mix the Egg Beaters into the buttermilk and mix into the dries. Form into a ball and place on a floured board. Flatten to about ¾ inch in thickness. Cut out the biscuits with a 2 or 2 ½-inch biscuit cutter. Gather remaining dough, and continue until all of the dough is used up. Place the cut biscuits onto the baking sheet and bake for 10 minutes, or until golden brown on the outside and done on the inside. Serve immediately with your favorite jam! Store any extra biscuits in an airtight container and reheat in a toaster oven just until warm and crispy.

*If your dough seems too dry to incorporate all the flour, add more buttermilk as needed, a tiny bit at a time. You don't want the dough to get too wet.*

Susie can be reached at [suziventosch@gmail.com](mailto:suziventosch@gmail.com).

This recipe can be found on our website:

[www.lamorindaweekly.com](http://www.lamorindaweekly.com). If you would like to share your favorite recipe with Susie please contact her by email or call our office at (925) 377-0977.



## STARS 2000's ABBA-solutely fun production of 'Mama Mia!'



Photo provided

### Submitted by Brian Purcell

Stars 2000, which includes 15 Lamorinda cast members, will bring the storytelling magic of

ABBA'S timeless songs and the enchanting tale of love, laughter and friendship to the stage starting July 19 at the Diablo Valley Performing Arts Center.

On the eve of her wedding, a daughter's quest to discover her father's identity brings three men from her mother's past back to an is-

land paradise. Featuring over 20 ABBA hits, including "Mamma Mia," "Dancing Queen" and "Take a Chance on Me," this high-spirited, feel-

good musical will have audience members singing and dancing in the aisles. The show runs from July 19 through Aug. 4. For tickets, visit [www.stars2000.org](http://www.stars2000.org).

Stars 2000, a nonprofit organization was created in 1992 so that local aspiring young actors could refine their theatrical skills and talent, while performing in a full-scale, Broadway-style musical.

Lamorinda-based cast members and their characters include:

Nora Schultz - Ensemble  
Jocie Purcell - Donna  
Kacie Hennessy - Tanya  
Olivia Harris - Ensemble  
Maddie Ikeya - Ensemble  
Kiera Glenn - Ali/Lisa  
Tess Hornbeck - Ali/Lisa  
Maggie Heiskell - Donna  
Max Younger - Sky  
Sabrina Gottlieb - Sophie  
Matthew Shieh - Ensemble  
Jessica Noal - Ensemble  
Kat Daniel - Ensemble  
Sydney Lauer - Ensemble  
Kai Echeverria - Ensemble



Photo provided

## Students perform at Music Teachers Association convention

### Submitted by Chris Casado

Lamorinda piano teacher Katharine Austin had six of her students perform at the Music Teachers Association of California convention in San

Jose over the June 29 weekend. The kids were among 250 selected from over 23,000 in the State of California to perform based on the quality of their Certificate of Merit evaluation that took place earlier in the year.

Submit stories and story ideas to [storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com)

## A bitter subject at Sweet Thursdays author talk

... continued from Page B2

"It's really only the tip of the iceberg that gets counted," said Chang in a phone interview. "It's an underground thing ... they [victims of trafficking] can be boys, girls, men, women. You don't need to be moved across borders to be trafficked," added Chang,

referring to the two definitions of human trafficking under Section 103 of the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000.

HEAT Watch also acknowledges the difficulties of acquiring reliable statistics, part of the reason being that human trafficking can also intersect with other types of sexual assault, including do-

mestic violence, make it harder to clearly identify trafficking victims.

Living in an area where human trafficking is particularly widespread makes "The White Devil's Daughters" by Julia Flynn Siler a compelling book to read. Siler narrates a dark moment in the history of San Francisco and reminds us of the importance to take a

brave step to help those in need in our communities.

If you or someone you know is a victim of human trafficking, contact the National Human Trafficking Hotline at 1-888-373-7888 or text "BeFree" to 233733. If you want to make an anonymous report, call the HEAT Watch Tip Line: (510) 208-4959. If you want to support

the fight against human trafficking, you can donate to the Polaris Project, an anti-human trafficking organization which operates the National Human Trafficking Hotline, at <https://polarisproject.org>.

For information about the next author discussion at LLLC, visit [www.lllcf.org](http://www.lllcf.org).

# LAMORINDA SPORTS

## Cassidy Haskell – running from Miramonte to California



Cassidy Haskell in 2016

Photo Gint Federas

By Jon Kingdon

With a high school career that could be described as ranging from the ecstasy to the agony and back again, Cassidy Haskell took a trip to Norway where she was able to visit “lots of family.” It was here that Haskell was able to get some space and look back on her

track career and time at Miramonte High School and to look forward to her upcoming freshman year at the University of California.

Haskell was drawn to running whether it was cross country, which she began in the second grade, or soccer, which also entailed a lot of running. “My love for running

just grew and grew,” said Haskell. “Around seventh grade I quit soccer and focused exclusively on running.”

As a freshman, Haskell ran 4:52.29 in the 1600 meters and 10:51.37 in the 3200 meters, time that rated her the No. 2 freshman in the country and garnered her a lot of publicity which for one so young is not always easy: “It was not tough then because I did well that season but it got tougher when I got that exposure and then I was getting injured and I wasn’t where I wanted to be. It may have been a little scary because I was new to high school running and I was running against people that were four years older than me.”

The challenges seemed to come one after the other through her high school career starting with a stress fracture in her foot and an assortment of illnesses that constantly set her back, forcing her to miss most of her sophomore year and her junior year of cross country.

Tristan Tool, the head track coach at Miramonte, was a first-hand witness to what Haskell went through: “It’s been a tougher road for Cassidy than most. Last year, we very slowly weaned her back on to running and enjoying it and being passionate about it and not feeling any pressure. It’s been a long road back for her. She really fought back against everything to get where she is today and she has a really bright future because she has barely tapped into what she did as a freshman.”

Haskell developed a new appreciation for what she got out of running when she was forced to sit out so much time: “It was pretty hard because I relied on running for more than just the sport. It helps my everyday life as well in many ways so not having that was tough. Overall, it gave me the

motivation to come back even stronger because I wanted it that bad.”

For Haskell and the other long-distance runners, it has to be more than just running for times. There is a camaraderie with her teammates and other runners: “We’re all a little bit insane to be able to constantly push ourselves beyond what we think we can. When you tell a non-runner that you run about 50 miles a week, they will look at you like your crazy. I think that we all have that crazy mentality to push each other to be better.”

It was Haskell’s endurance that stood out most to Tool: “Cassidy has a great ability to maintain her pace and to push herself and maintain high speeds for long periods of time. That’s something that you can’t teach or coach. As people would fatigue and fall out, Cassidy would grind and maintain.”

When Haskell returned to running competitively again, her perspective was to take it, appropriately enough, a step at a time: “When I started running the 1600 meters in my junior season, I was 50 seconds slower than what I ran when I finished that season. I did not have any goals and wasn’t aiming for any times, but I was just putting it out on the track each time and seeing what it led to.”

Tool was a very important factor in Haskell’s comeback: “He was very, very supportive. He always wanted the best for me and so he would work with me individually if I had an injury or I wasn’t feeling my best, he would know exactly what to do and offer support the way I needed it. He would create workouts that would be beneficial to me and would put the time into my training and see where I needed to improve.”

Tool appreciated how Haskell took on the leadership role for the underclassmen:

“We have a great group of freshman and sophomores and she sort of mother-ducked them. She would drive them around and sit with them in the weight room. They all loved her a lot.”

It was the mental aspect of running that Haskell saw as the most important part in the maturing process: “It’s the biggest thing in running. You develop a lot of mental strength. Being able to push past the barriers that you didn’t think you could take time and a lot of practice. We had a lot of new runners that lacked experience so there was a lot of teaching and showing them how to do things in the best way. I created a lot of bonds with the younger runners which I really enjoyed.”

Miramonte made a large impression overall on Haskell: “I made a lot of friends through running and school. I also made a lot of connections with my teachers with whom I could talk to and get advice from that prepared me for a lot of many of life’s situations. In particular, I took journalism and wrote for the school paper and my teacher was Mrs. (Donya) Goussios. I had her for five different classes. She became a mentor to me and someone I could talk to and someone I know I can continue talking to through college and beyond. She is very important to me and I know for a number of other students as well.”

Choosing to go to Cal was an easy decision for Haskell: “I will be running cross country and track. I wanted to run in the PAC 12 and I know a ton of people on their team so I will have connections going in. Geographically, it’s close but on another level, it doesn’t feel very close. I’ll be gaining a lot of independence and look forward to joining the college and track community along with getting a great education there.”

## Swim team snack shack profits sink under county regulations



Photo John T. Miller

Jon Llama, center, of Agave Restaurant in Concord, oversees catering the home meets for Campolindo Cabana Club.

By John T. Miller

A routine water quality check by the county health department at the Sun Valley pool in Lafayette a couple of years ago turned disastrous for the team’s snack bar, essentially forcing its closure.

The health department official discovered that not only were the facilities inadequate, but they didn’t have an operation permit for it. Adding to these troubles was the discovery that they had never filed a use permit.

The use permit had never been filed because the pool was in operation before the city was incorporated. It was brought under question when a neighbor complained about noise at the pool. The permits, along with an Environmental Impact Report, lawyers’ fees and other expenditures, ended up costing over \$100,000.

The person in charge of the snack shack, Beth Kring, says, “We used to net about \$1,200 at each home meet and

provide food for the coaches. Now, we have a food truck come in, and all we get are eight free meals for the coaches and long lines at the truck.”

The team had to set up a fundraising arm to try to make up for the lost money. They’ve held lapathons, raffles – with donated prizes from community members – and numerous other fundraisers, in addition to selling magnets and team apparel at the pool.

A spokesperson for another pool in the Lamorinda area, who asked to remain anonymous, said, “The snack shack has become a four-letter word! We had to spend over \$20,000 in facility improvements. The county makes it nearly impossible to run a snack shack.”

Some clubs have let outside restaurants take over the snack shack, essentially having their home meets catered. One such case is Campolindo Cabana Club in Moraga, which, after having a food

truck sell at the curb – with the attendant long lines – has its home meets catered by Jon Llama of Agave Restaurant in Concord.

“We have the license and insurance and everything else covered, so the pool just provides the volunteers in the snack shack,” says Llama. “The restaurant kicks back 4% to the club as a community service.”

The Cabana Club had to remodel and upgrade the kitchen, and the monetary kickback is a far cry from what the snack bar used to make.

One swim team that’s been able to continue business as usual at its meets is the Moraga Country Club, since it has a full commercial kitchen to accommodate the 81 points of the county health code that must be followed.

... continued on Page C3

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# Two local water polo champs head to USC and Stanford



Lexi Rowell

Photo Gint Federas



Alex Fellner

### By Jon Kingdon

It was Billie Jean King who said, "Champions keep playing until they get it right." Starting as freshmen for the Acalanes girls water polo team, Lexi Rowell and Alex Fellner led the Dons to an improved record each year, culminating with an undefeated senior season, winning the North Coast Section championship (over Campolindo) and each being named first team all-league. Next year, Rowell will be playing for Stanford and Fellner for USC.

To have so much success in and out of the water is a long and demanding process. Rowell, who comes from an athletic family, played various sports but said "I ended up being more of a water person. I've been swimming since I was 3. I also swam for the Acalanes team but that was more of a supplement to water polo."

When Rowell turned 12, she began playing water polo: "Without telling us, my mom signed up me and my sister (Claire – also first team all-league) for water polo because she knew the coach that was running it. I really liked it because swimming could get boring and water polo is very competitive and it is a team sport. My dad played baseball and taught me how to throw and water polo incorporated the throwing motion."

Fellner began swimming when she was 4 at Orinda Country Club. Water polo came along in the eighth grade, following in the footsteps of her older siblings: "My dad pushed me into the sport and my siblings told me to play as well and when I tried it, I loved it. It's a team sport and I liked how you could swim and add elements like basketball and soccer to the game."

Rowell and Fellner proved to be complimentary players in the pool. Rowell was an offensive force as a center with the appropriate skills: "My job was to create the offense for the team. My strongest point was being a creator

on offense, making plays and scoring goals. My vision was a key factor at this position."

Fellner was a force on defense: "As the defender in the middle, my long arms enabled me to steal balls from the opposing players. I am a fast swimmer since I have been swimming for so long and I was able to get break-aways and my height allowed me to block shots and to get around the set player."

Beginning with their freshman seasons in 2015 at Acalanes, the team won 16, 17, 21 and 27 games for a composite record of 81-24. "We got better every year. Water polo has recently become more popular and everyone on the team is playing all year," said Rowell. "That has helped with our experience and knowledge of the game which is reflective of the number of girls now playing in college."

Fellner attributed the team's success to the continuity of the roster: "A lot of us were close in age and have been teammates for a long period of time at Acalanes and playing club."

After losing in the semifinals their junior season, Rowell said there was a real focus on winning this season: "We knew from the beginning that we had a good chance of winning the NCS. We went into every game expecting to win."

It was a unique year, said Fellner: "It was such a special season. We knew what we wanted to do this year and we worked hard right from the beginning through the 27 games. At the Acalanes Invitational, nobody lost focus and we kept pushing each other and swimming hard and never let up and that showed me that we were not a team to be trifled with."

There was a genuine feeling of family to the team, which contributed to the leadership by Rowell, Fellner and senior Kylie Walker, who is Rowell's cousin, and the underclassmen showed great respect to the seniors

and junior Jewel Roemer.

Pulling it all together was Acalanes head coach Misha Buchel. "Misha was my first coach in the eighth grade," said Fellner. "If it wasn't for him pushing me to get better, I would not be going to where I am going because he pretty much taught me everything I know, and he's always been very supportive and helping me with any questions that I had and how to improve from the get-go."

Rowell was equality appreciative of Buchel's efforts: "I've known Misha since I was 12 and he was coaching my club team. He's so great at bringing everyone together and making it more than just a game. He gets personal with the players and develops a family feeling within the pool. He would tell us each year that this would be the best thing that we would do in our four years of high school and everyone would agree with that."

Buchel had reciprocal feelings towards Rowell and Fellner: "Lexi was a generational talent with a great work ethic and the innate ability to score goals out of nothing. She was bull strong – no one could push her around. She always had to battle as she was often double teamed. She had a good sense of leverage to take advantage of the defenders overextension one way or the other. Alex was a scrapper from the start and carried that all the way through her career. Her nickname was Scrappy-Doo. She's the type that you need on your team. Her work ethic and determination just made herself better. She was the type that would keep running at a brick wall until she broke through or until you told her to stop trying. Her endurance was second to none. She always made the opposing player keep working and made them earn anything they got."

Though neither player was the rah-rah type, Buchel valued their leadership: "Both led by example. They always knew the pulse of the team and worked well to make sure that the

team worked together. They had a good connection in handling the responsibilities of leadership. I would also include Kylie Walker who will be going to Cal next year as being a key component on the team these past four years as well."

Choosing to go to Stanford is generally an easy decision for anyone, but that was not the case for Rowell:

"We're a Cal family. My grandfather and my parents went to Cal and my brother Robbie is currently a sophomore on their football team. It was a tough decision but no one put pressure on me to go to Cal and it was totally my choice to go to Stanford. I have a friend who is there now and she gave the school great reviews as to the balance it has with academics, athletics and the social life. I will have a running bet with my brother each year on The Big Game."

At USC, Fellner will be playing alongside two other Lamorindans, Grace Tehaney (Miramonte) and Kari Jensen (Campolindo): "I'm very excited to be going to USC. I plan on being a communications and psychology major and they have the top communications department in the country and I'm looking forward to joining the Trojan family."

Both leave Acalanes with great feelings: "Acalanes had high academic standards and I know that Stanford will be more difficult but everyone has told me that Acalanes prepared them very well for college and I'm very thankful to them for that."

Fellner had a similar reaction to her time at Acalanes: "I absolutely loved going there. It's such a great school and there is so much pride both for the school and the sports teams."

Buchel put it all succinctly: "Lexi and Alex have been part of a golden generation at Acalanes. They have been two big pieces in our success these past four years."

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# LMSC U15 Boys win Norcal Premier Spring League



Photo Jennifer Brucker Murdin

Front row, from left: Alex Lodewick, Tony Carranza, Sean SooHo, Nauder Maghsoodnia, Zach Murdin, Max Thomas, Jose Cervacio, Marco Green; back row: Diego Young, Jackson Martin, Tyler Holder, Alex Canales, Henry Hill, Jorge Ramirez, Damon Holbrook, Alex Aoki, Michael Vaccaro; not pictured: coach Masood Ahmadi

Submitted by Carolyn Martin

The Lamorinda Soccer Club 04BW team finished the NorCal Premier League Spring season undefeated and top of the table in the gold division.

# 9U MBA wins Touch Em All South Bay Tournament



From left: coach Brian Shaffer, Gabe Haroutunian, Ben Shaffer, Justin Fabo, Riley Schnurr, Hudson Ortland, Peter Angelo, Oliver Ruotsi-Falk, Riley O'Toole, head coach Brandon Angelo, Oliver Murrin, coach Charley Murrin; not pictured: Dylan Hamilton, Matthew Morelli, coach Chad Hamilton

Submitted by Andrea R

The 9U Moraga Baseball Association All Stars team went 3-1 to win the "Touch Em All South Bay Tournament" in Fremont, California over the June 22-23 weekend. The boys dominated the scoreboard, with 70 runs over the course of four games, showing their batting and base running skills.

# LMYA Minors Girls Softball Champs



Photo Erin Riley

Bottom row, from left: Nina Kepler, Paige Williams, Grace Wolpert, Grace Colaco, Ruby Killian, Amelia Riley; top row: coach Rich Zirkel, Caroline Jeffers, coach Jackie Zirkel, Ava Adamson, Grace Getze, Madison Bernstein, Peyton Tallarico, coach Todd Wiilaims, Riley Zirkel, and coach Sean Riley

Submitted by Rich Zirkel

The Arizona Wildcats LMYA softball team beat Oregon 5-2 in the Championship game at Acalanes High School.

# Moraga Mavericks 12U begins summer with a blast



Photo Shirley DeFrancisci

12U Mavericks players, from left: Brendan Baldelli, Reed Norton, Jonathan Wang, Kyle Ting, William Myers, Jack Luster, Ryan Rittmann, Colin Rutzen, Joe Revelos, Drew DeFrancisci, Cal Chivers and Levi Olsen.

Submitted by Shirley DeFrancisci

The 12U Mavericks of the Moraga Baseball Association earned second place after playing five games in the

2019 American Diamond Classic baseball tournament held on June 8 and 9 at Big League Dreams in Manteca.

The team was coached by Hal Marty assisted by parents Dan Chivers, Brian Myers and Ted Ting.

# Swim team snack shack profits sink under county regulations

... continued from Page C1

Al Ranganian, the director of food and beverages for the MCC, says, "Depending on whether it's a morning or night meet, we sell pancakes, breakfast burritos, salads, sodas, ice cream, and more. We have warmers to hold the

temperatures at appropriate levels and post sell-by dates on the salads."

The money from the sales goes into the general fund for the MCC, while profits from the team's sale of wrapped candies go to help pay for bonuses to the coaches.

At Sun Valley, Kring says, "We are considering converting the coaches' room at the pool into a quality snack shack and finding somewhere else for them to meet, but it would be costly."

Although this article represents only a small sample size of the numer-

ous swim clubs in the Lamorinda area, it becomes apparent that the county health regulations have made it prohibitive for many of them to continue to fundraise at former levels unless they upgrade to commercial quality kitchens.



# Summer Fun with LMYA Swim Team



photos by Elizma Kemp and Lauren McSorley

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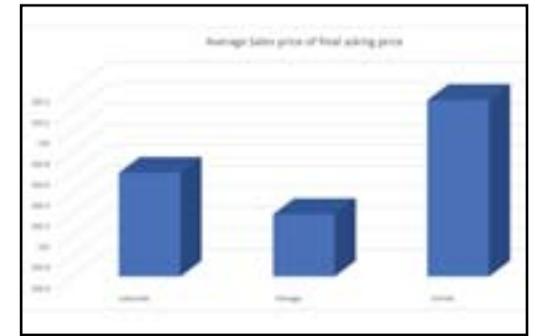
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# Lamorinda

# OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 13 Issue 10 Wednesday, July 10, 2019



The Real Estate Quarter in Review ...

read on Page D4

## Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

### Parks not pills



Colorful succulent flowers

Photo Cynthia Brian

### By Cynthia Brian

*“Everybody needs beauty as well as bread, places to play in and pray in, where nature may heal and give strength to body and soul!”—John Muir*

How often are you outdoors? Are you

spending most of your time sitting in a chair staring at your computer screen? Do you feel lethargic, tired and anxious?

You are not alone and help could be right outside your door. In today’s technological world, many people, including children, are increasingly living their lives indoors. Ac-

ording to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 20% of children (one in five) and 30% of adults (one in three) in the United States are obese.

Back in 2005 when I was doing my weekly radio broadcast, StarStyle®-Be the Star You Are!® ([www.StarStyleRadio.com](http://www.StarStyleRadio.com)) on World Talk Radio out of studios in San Diego, I invited author Richard Louv to be a guest on my program with his newest hardbound book at the time, “Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder.” Before the program, we sat in the sound booth lamenting the startling facts that the average child of the day could identify TV personalities yet knew nothing about bugs, flowers, trees, or nature in general. Kids were not outside playing as we did as children because they wanted to be plugged in and tuned out. His book and the interview have remained lodged in my psyche as a warning that we don’t want our child to be the last to witness the woods.

Fast forward to 2019 and although nature-deficit disorder is not an official medical disease, children and adults are more alienated from nature than ever before with increased attention difficulties, higher stress levels, poorer body image, obesity issues, and a plethora of physical and emotional illnesses. Pills have been prescribed yet people are sicker.

Could spending more time in nature be the answer to our woes?

Physicians throughout the ages have encouraged people to go outside more. Hippocrates wrote that walking was “man’s best medicine.”

... continued on Page D8

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City	Last reported	Lowest amount	Highest amount
LAFAYETTE	23	\$830,000	\$3,150,000
MORAGA	13	\$400,000	\$1,780,000
ORINDA	15	\$1,125,000	\$2,200,000

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

- 556 Arrowhead Drive, \$2,037,000, 4 Bdrms, 2584 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 05-31-19, Previous Sale: \$1,000,000, 12-26-12
- 3289 Beechwood Drive, \$1,025,000, 2 Bdrms, 1178 SqFt, 1947 YrBlt, 05-31-19, Previous Sale: \$792,000, 07-21-14
- 870 Birdhaven Court, \$2,300,000, 4 Bdrms, 2505 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 05-24-19
- 1 Casa De Cima, \$2,185,000, 4 Bdrms, 3337 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 05-20-19, Previous Sale: \$1,355,000, 04-17-09
- 3966 Cowan Road, \$2,295,000, 4 Bdrms, 2754 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 05-20-19, Previous Sale: \$1,795,000, 10-07-14
- 134 Haslemere Court, \$830,000, 3 Bdrms, 1638 SqFt, 1988 YrBlt, 05-21-19, Previous Sale: \$417,500, 09-03-99
- 3269 Judith Lane, \$960,000, 3 Bdrms, 1642 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 05-30-19, Previous Sale: \$960,000, 05-28-19
- 2 Juniper Drive, \$1,310,000, 4 Bdrms, 3208 SqFt, 1941 YrBlt, 05-20-19
- 808 Las Trampas Road, \$1,427,500, 3 Bdrms, 1752 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 05-21-19, Previous Sale: \$1,525,000, 04-25-19
- 883 Las Trampas Road, \$1,995,000, 4 Bdrms, 3608 SqFt, 1946 YrBlt, 05-30-19, Previous Sale: \$859,000, 06-09-98
- 1136 Laurel Drive, \$2,610,000, 5 Bdrms, 3410 SqFt, 1953 YrBlt, 05-30-19, Previous Sale: \$450,000, 08-20-98
- 620 Michael Lane, \$3,150,000, 4 Bdrms, 3877 SqFt, 1987 YrBlt, 05-30-19, Previous Sale: \$2,395,000, 05-31-16
- 755 Moraga Road, \$1,240,000, 3 Bdrms, 2625 SqFt, 1946 YrBlt, 05-24-19
- 857 Mountain View Drive #A, \$1,510,000, 3 Bdrms, 4222 SqFt, 1995 YrBlt, 05-22-19, Previous Sale: \$1,309,000, 08-24-07
- 1146 Palomares Court, \$1,238,000, 4 Bdrms, 1552 SqFt, 1935 YrBlt, 05-31-19, Previous Sale: \$1,050,000, 04-20-16
- 3973 Rancho Road, \$1,759,000, 4 Bdrms, 2738 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 05-31-19, Previous Sale: \$155,000, 05-01-78
- 841 Santa Maria Way, \$3,900,000, 3 Bdrms, 1844 SqFt, 1946 YrBlt, 05-30-19, Previous Sale: \$1,425,000, 04-05-17
- 3425 Shangri La Road, \$3,000,000, 5 Bdrms, 3383 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 05-29-19, Previous Sale: \$2,637,000, 08-07-14
- 561 Silverado Drive, \$1,450,000, 4 Bdrms, 2347 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 05-20-19
- 635 Sky Hy Circle, \$2,017,500, 5 Bdrms, 3248 SqFt, 1977 YrBlt, 05-30-19, Previous Sale: \$1,085,000, 04-26-02
- 625 St Marys Road, \$1,101,000, 3 Bdrms, 1386 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 05-20-19
- 21 Tofflemire Drive, \$1,650,000, 3 Bdrms, 2479 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 05-22-19, Previous Sale: \$1,023,000, 08-08-05
- 821 Topper Lane, \$2,675,000, 5 Bdrms, 3021 SqFt, 2010 YrBlt, 05-22-19, Previous Sale: \$1,625,000, 07-31-12

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- 106 Alta Mesa Court, \$1,042,500, 4 Bdrms, 2486 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 05-24-19, Previous Sale: \$515,000, 11-22-10
- 2087 Ascot Drive #226, \$400,000, 1 Bdrms, 790 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 05-23-19, Previous Sale: \$113,000, 06-17-99
- 97 Corliss Drive, \$1,700,000, 4 Bdrms, 2204 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 05-20-19, Previous Sale: \$1,453,000, 02-12-18
- 144 Cypress Point Way, \$1,550,000, 3 Bdrms, 2021 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 05-28-19, Previous Sale: \$650,000, 03-14-02
- 10 Gloria Court, \$1,150,000, 3 Bdrms, 1608 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 05-22-19
- 1 Harrington Road, \$1,512,000, 4 Bdrms, 2740 SqFt, 1985 YrBlt, 05-29-19
- 5 Josefa Place, \$950,000, 2 Bdrms, 1845 SqFt, 1985 YrBlt, 05-29-19, Previous Sale: \$800,000, 05-04-17
- 111 Merion Terrace, \$1,055,000, 3 Bdrms, 2680 SqFt, 1987 YrBlt, 05-31-19, Previous Sale: \$815,000, 01-25-10
- 312 Rheem Boulevard, \$1,450,000, 3 Bdrms, 2096 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 05-22-19, Previous Sale: \$810,000, 09-19-11
- 486 Rheem Boulevard, \$718,000, 3 Bdrms, 1322 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 05-31-19, Previous Sale: \$490,000, 12-10-13

... continued on Page D9



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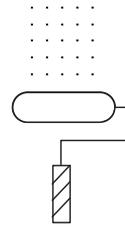
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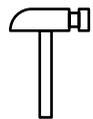
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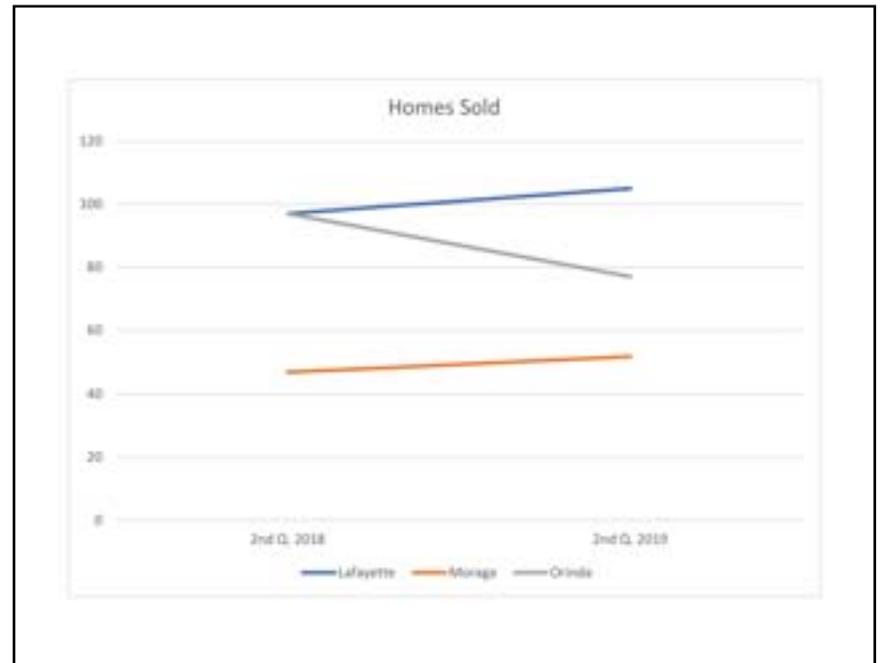
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# The Real Estate Quarter in Review



By Conrad Bassett, CRP, GMS-T

The second quarter of 2019 was again seasonally strong with a solid volume of closed sale activity on the residential side of Lamorinda real estate, excepting Orinda. Supply, however, increased significantly in Moraga and especially Orinda while in Lafayette inventory continued to be low. Pending sales stayed consistent with sales prices moderating in Lafayette and Orinda.

Per Contra Costa Association of Realtors statistics reported from April 1 through June 30, 105 single family homes closed in Lafayette. This was an increase from the 97 single family homes closed in the same period one year ago. Sales prices ranged from \$540,000 to \$3,487,500 and the average number of days on market was 22. In the year ago second quarter it was 19 days. The average sales price was \$1,779,112 down a bit from \$1,818,600 a year ago. In 2017 it was \$1,684,206 and in 2016 it was \$1,548,267.

In Moraga there were 52 single-family closings, an increase of five from the year ago period. Prices ranged from \$925,000 to \$2.805 million. The average sale price was \$1,542,888, a slight rise from a year ago when it was \$1,508,591. It was \$1,401,392 in 2Q17, which was an increase from \$1,316,655 in 2Q2016. The average marketing time was up slightly to 17 days from 14 days a year ago.

In Orinda, there were 77 single-family closings, down from 97 in 2Q18. Sales prices ranged from \$669,000 to \$3.15 million with an average price of \$1,623,995. A year ago it was \$1,705,473. In 2017 it was \$1,723,552.

... continued on Page D6

# Relaxing Summers in Lamorinda



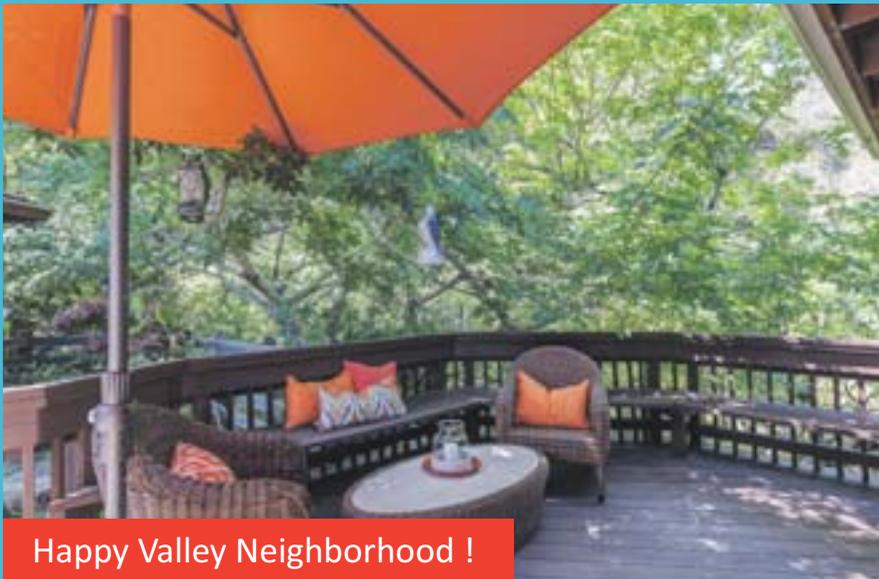
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New Construction in Orinda!

48 OAK DRIVE, ORINDA | \$2,765,000  
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Happy Valley Neighborhood !

110 CAMELIA LANE, LAFAYETTE | \$1,699,900  
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# The Real Estate Quarter in Review



... continued from Page D4

This makes the second year in a row that the average price has fallen during the second quarter. It took an average of 23 days to have a house go pending, about the same as the 24 days in the same period a year ago.

In the quarter ending June 30, on an average price per square foot basis, Lafayette detached single-family homes sold at \$708.33, slightly up from \$693.66 per square foot in 2018. It was \$660 per square foot in 2017, \$598 per square foot in 2016 and \$594 in 2015. Moraga homes sold for \$620.42 up from \$577.39 per square foot in 2018. Orinda was down from \$672.90 a year ago to \$635.35 in this most recent quarter. It was \$626.18 in 2Q2017.

In Lafayette, the average sales price was 102.6% of the final asking price, almost identical to a year ago. In Moraga it was 102.2% and in Orinda it was 103.3%.

In the condominium/town home category, Lafayette had five resale closings between \$627,000 and \$1.039 million, Moraga had 20, down from a year ago when there were 34. They ranged from \$400,000 to \$1.12 million and Orinda had one at \$1.125 million.

As of July 5 there were 78 homes under contract in the MLS in the three communities combined with asking prices of \$799,000 to \$3.995 million. A year ago, there were 72 homes under contract per the MLS in the three communities combined. There is only one "Potential Short Sale" that is currently

pending and subject to lender approval. At this same time a year ago, there was also one. There are no pending REO (bank owned) sales.

This is due to property values continuing to increase versus the low point and many of those sellers are no longer "under water" or have been able to refinance their homes and are no longer at the point of foreclosure.

Inventory, however, is increasing. There are 146 properties on the market and a year ago there were 100 available properties in the three communities combined. That is the largest year over year increase in several years.

There are "only" 42 properties on the market in Lafayette—about the same as the 45 at this same time a year ago. Asking prices in Lafayette currently range from \$829,000 for a townhome to \$13.5 million. In Moraga, buyers have their choice of 34 homes or condominiums listed between \$545,000 and \$2.528 million. A year ago at this time, there were 14. Supply is way up in Moraga but this does include the newly constructed homes off Rheem Boulevard.

In Orinda there are 70 – again a huge increase from 43 on the market at the same time a year ago. The list prices range from \$785,000 to \$5.25 million, with a few being new construction in Wilder.

At the high end, 56 homes sold above \$2 million in the three communities combined. A year ago, there were 62. There are also 51 currently available above this amount in

Lamorinda.

Interest rates continue to be at very reasonable levels and many corporations have expanded their businesses and continue to relocate families both into and out of the area.

We are also seeing an influx of buyers from San Francisco and even the Silicon Valley who find the local prices reasonable versus those areas and they are willing to make the commutes.

Lastly, it is important to look at what homes are selling for versus their list prices. Often homes come on the market at unrealistic prices, and they do not sell, but in the second quarter of this year many homes have had multiple offers and have sold at or above the list price.

We are also seeing many buyers having to make offers without the traditional contingencies of obtaining financing or having a home appraise or even having the home inspected. Many sellers are now opting to obtain pre-sale inspections in order to understand the condition of their homes and to also prevent a buyer from trying to renegotiate a lower price or repairs.

Of the 105 single family sales that closed in Lafayette in the second quarter of 2019, 78 sold at or above the final list price.

In Moraga, 36 of the 52 sales were at or above the asking price and in Orinda, 52 of the 77 sold at or above the final listing price.

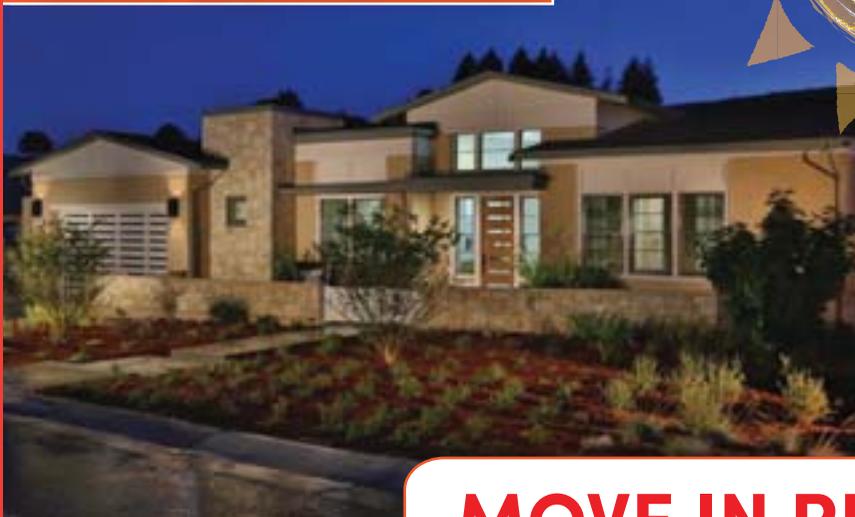
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## Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

# Parks not pills



Create a bucolic space with a gazing ball, birdbaths, and birdhouse.

Photos Cynthia Brian

... continued from Page D1

To ward off aging, physicians in the Han dynasty suggested outdoor “frolicking exercises.” In the 19th and 20th centuries, people were instructed to visit the mountains to enjoy the “magic airs” or “take in the waters” at a mineral spring to mitigate a variety of infirmities.

Science supports the fact that exposure to natural stimuli, especially gardening, lowers blood pressure, bolsters immune systems, reduces the levels of stress hormones, improves our disposition, increases confidence, promotes healing, lessens inflammation, minimizes obesity problems, and decreases our dependence on pain medication.

Besides having fun, a brisk walk in the park three or four times a week may stave off cognitive impairment for older adults. For

kids, the exercise and fresh air of playing will help with maintaining a healthy weight as well as heighten their cognizance of the natural world. Community gardens offer people an opportunity to commune together to grow and harvest fresh food promoting better health.

Nature is a healer. For me, my garden is my happy place, my refuge, and my innovator. I get all my best ideas for my endeavors while outside listening, watching, tasting, feeling, exploring, experiencing, doing and being. Right outside my office, a beautiful redheaded house finch perches on my gurgling fountain singing his heart out daily. The frogs croaking, the buzzing bees, the wind in the palms, the scent of the star jasmine, the rustling magnolia leaves, the beauty of blossoms, the trickle of the water, the cooing of the doves and the chants of the quail activate

my imagination and soothe my soul. The repeated refrains of Mother Nature are my nurture and my medicine.

It won't be long before physicians everywhere will be writing prescriptions for parks instead of painkillers. Being in the outdoors inspires awe and wonder. We are blessed to have an abundance of open space, meadows, trails, mountains, and local parks where we can experience the tranquility and magic of the outdoors.

It's summer. Nature is calling. Get up, get out, and welcome the fresh air. Spend more time in a garden or a commons. See for yourself how you feel. Although I'm not a doctor, I am prescribing more parks instead of pills. There is no downside.

*“All my hurts my garden spade can heal.” – Ralph Waldo Emerson*



A dragonfly rests on a reed.

# Lamorinda home sales recorded

... continued from Page D2

### MORAGA ... continued

72 Sanders Ranch Road, \$1,780,000, 4 Bdrms, 3466 SqFt, 1989 YrBlt, 05-20-19  
60 Wandel Drive, \$1,610,000, 3 Bdrms, 2374 SqFt, 1991 YrBlt, 05-29-19,  
Previous Sale: \$950,000, 07-11-11  
40 Woodford Drive, \$1,315,000, 4 Bdrms, 1907 SqFt, 1968 YrBlt, 05-23-19,  
Previous Sale: \$955,000, 05-25-07

### ORINDA

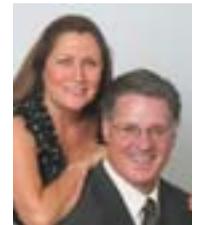
85 Bates Boulevard, \$1,900,000, 5 Bdrms, 2750 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 05-30-19  
79 Bates Boulevard, \$2,051,000, 5 Bdrms, 2526 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 05-31-19,  
Previous Sale: \$730,000, 12-29-99  
171 Crestview Drive, \$1,810,000, 4 Bdrms, 3685 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 05-31-19,  
Previous Sale: \$725,000, 03-09-99  
115 El Toyonal, \$1,250,000, 3 Bdrms, 1594 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 05-28-19,  
Previous Sale: \$777,000, 09-11-02  
213 Glorietta Boulevard, \$1,800,000, 4 Bdrms, 2381 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 05-22-19  
15 Glorietta Court, \$1,390,000, 3 Bdrms, 1845 SqFt, 1941 YrBlt, 05-29-19  
12 Jack Tree Knolls, \$1,510,000, 4 Bdrms, 2385 SqFt, 2014 YrBlt, 05-24-19  
89 La Espiral, \$1,335,000, 3 Bdrms, 2456 SqFt, 1980 YrBlt, 05-21-19,  
Previous Sale: \$1,075,000, 02-11-15  
48 Longridge Road, \$2,014,000, 3 Bdrms, 1271 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 05-20-19,  
Previous Sale: \$758,000, 05-25-16  
491 Moraga Way, \$1,310,000, 3 Bdrms, 1832 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 05-20-19,  
Previous Sale: \$760,000, 08-09-18  
9 Southwood Drive, \$1,605,000, 3 Bdrms, 1960 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 05-22-19,  
Previous Sale: \$935,000, 11-28-11  
9 Valley View Drive, \$1,795,000, 3 Bdrms, 2726 SqFt, 1940 YrBlt, 05-21-19,  
Previous Sale: \$321,000, 04-01-87  
45 Tara Road, \$1,850,000, 4 Bdrms, 2904 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 05-28-19  
15 West Hill Way, \$2,200,000, 3 Bdrms, 3538 SqFt, 2017 YrBlt, 05-29-19,  
Previous Sale: \$24,440,000, 12-23-15  
412 Wovenwood, \$1,125,000, 3 Bdrms, 2284 SqFt, 1981 YrBlt, 05-24-19,  
Previous Sale: \$999,000, 02-19-15



## 25 MORAGA VIA, ORINDA

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# Cynthia Brian's Garden Goddess Guide for Increasing Health Through Nature

**IMPROVE** physical skills for kids by getting them to play outside more.

**BUY** a supersize bubble wand and blow bubbles in the yard.

**EAT** healthier with a Mediterranean diet loaded with freshly harvested vegetables and fruits.

**SOURCE** produce hyper-locally at your Farmers' Market or rural fruit stands if you are not growing your own. Summer is the optimum time for the freshest fruits and vegetables with high nutritional values. Did you know that the USDA defines purchasing local produce and food as within 400 miles of your state? Most food on the American dinner table has traveled between 1,500-2,500 miles, according to the Worldwatch Institute meaning that nutrients and antioxidants have been diminished. If you really want to pack a punch with your food, you have options. Eating in season while growing your own or being part of a community garden is the number one solution. Frequenting farmers' markets will reduce your carbon footprint and offer fresher alternatives. Or take a drive to a local farming community to purchase freshly harvest crops at road stands. This serves a dual purpose of getting you out into nature as an RX for better health and stocking your kitchen with food that will be delicious and nutritious.

**FLOAT** bougainvilleas blooms as a creative centerpiece.

**SOAK** your tired feet in a bowl of warm water filled with healing marigolds and chrysanthemums.

**COOL** off on a cushion of green moss.

**EXPRESS** awe at a dragonfly hovering on a reed in the water.

**ENLIGHTEN** your perspective with a copy of "Last Child in the Woods" by Richard Louv.

**PICK** chamomile flowers to make a soothing tea. Save some of the seeds to plant.

**INSTALL** a birdhouse and a fountain to entice the songbirds.

**WANDER** through a colorful succulent garden to see the various textures and forms.

**WONDER** at the sight of a flower that you've never seen before.

**SOAK** in the beauty of the delicate blossoms on a silk tree.

**GAZE** at the clouds and be grateful for your health.

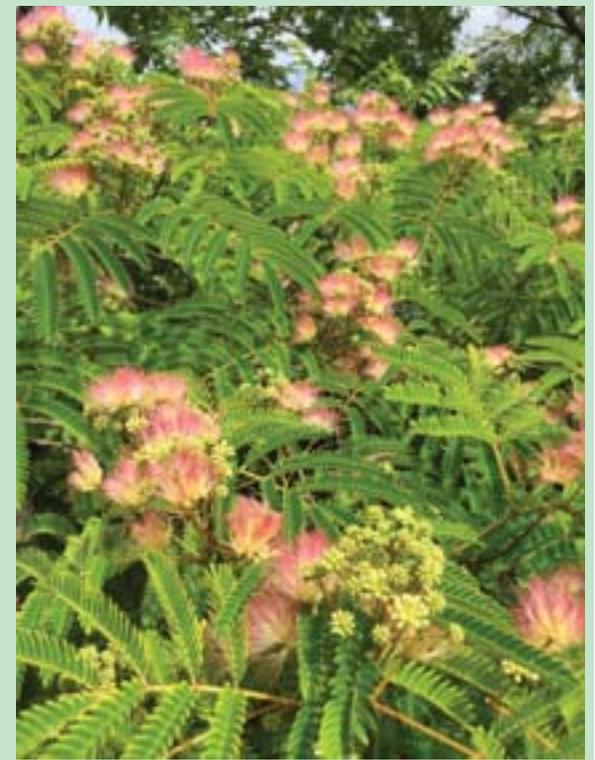
**DRINK** plenty of water to stay hydrated.

**LISTEN** to the sounds of our beautiful earth to experience calm.

Happy Gardening. Happy Growing!



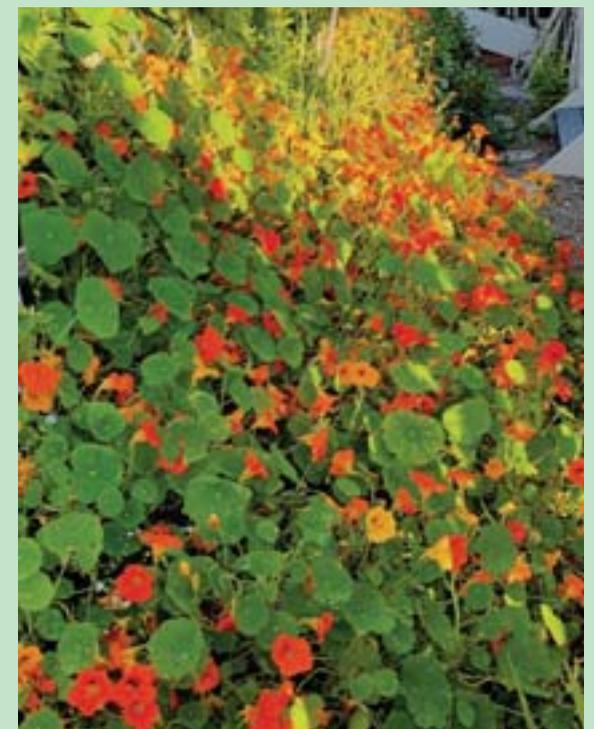
Float bougainvilleas bloom as a creative centerpiece.



The delicate fronds and flowers of a silk tree.



Wander through a colorful succulent garden.



Nasturtiums are beautiful, edible and nutritious.



**A field of charming and restorative chamomile.**



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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).

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## ORINDA



### 537 The Glade

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## ORINDA



### 54 Hazel Tree Ridge

Part of the Orinda Grove community this 4 bed/ 3 bath home offers modern and tasteful finishes.

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## ORINDA



### 114 Goodfellow Drive

Updated 5 bed/ 4 bath storybook home in the heart of Orinda on an oak tree studded .48 lot.

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## ORINDA



### 8 Santa Lucia

Lovely 5 bed/ 5 bath restored Spanish style home with quality features & craftsmanship.

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## ORINDA



### 19 Donald Drive

Serene 3297 sqft garden oasis with panoramic views, luxurious interiors & numerous meditative retreats.

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## ORINDA



### 48 Oak Drive

Elegant 4 bed/ 3.5 bath two level new construction home with remarkable views from terrace decks.

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## ORINDA



### 3 Honey Hill Court

Gracious gated estate, sweeping lawns, sports court, on a close in cul-de-sac. Privacy & views.

\$2,795,000

## MORAGA



### 259 Lakefield Place

Open and spacious, light and bright, incredible 5 Bed/ 4.5 Bath Moraga estate on 1.72 acres.

\$1,895,000

## MORAGA



### 218 Willowbrook Lane

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