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Danville resident Tyler Tsang brings his own electric motor for several hours of fishing at the Res.

Photo Pippa Fisher

## Boaters lap up the last days of summer on the Res

By Pippa Fisher

Although the kids are back in school and Labor Day is over, summer fun doesn't have to be a distant memory. With some of the area's best weather still to come there is always fun to be enjoyed right here in Lamorinda, in Lafayette's jewel – the Res, as it's known. And what better way to relax on a sunny day, than on the water?

"For many visitors, boating provides a different perspective of the park and a great way to experience the natural, serene setting found at Lafayette Reservoir Recreation Area," says Ranger Supervisor Matt Sporleder.

That's something that Danville resident Tyler Tsang certainly agrees with. On a recent Saturday he explained that he and his friend had been on the water since 6 a.m. for a half-day of fishing. "We caught seven large mouth bass, one blue gill and a

croppie," he said. "We released them though."

Tsang brings his own electric motor, allowed by the park for use in their row boat rental fleet. He explained that the small motor and power supply are affordable and provide enough power on one charge to get right around the reservoir. Tsang says he comes to Lafayette to fish a couple of times a month.

Sporleder says the park recently replaced their fleet of pedal boats in April. ... continued on Page A12

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## Long-sought workshop on Orinda private roads may lead to progress



Photo Sora O'Doherty

By Sora O'Doherty

At least two ideas about private roads seemed to be points of potential agreement between the city of Orinda and the residents of its private roads at a recent workshop. One is that the issue of greater city involvement, one way or another, in the maintenance of private roads should be bundled together with the future funding for repair work on the city's aging sewers and drains. The other is that the residents should conduct polling to test the appetite of the Orinda electorate for extending city responsibility for private roads.

The dispute over who should bear the responsibility for the maintenance of private roads has been appearing on the agendas of the Orinda City Council and the Citizens' Infrastructure

Oversight Commission for several years, with the residents of the private streets asking repeatedly for a forum where they could enter into a deeper discussion with the city – not limited to the three minutes allotted to speakers at city council meetings. The city provided such a forum on Aug. 27, in the shape of a private roads workshop, facilitated by Jim Bourgart, a former California's Deputy Secretary for Transportation and Infrastructure.

Private road residents were given 30 minutes to present their views. In attendance at the meeting in a listening capacity were the mayor and city council members. The Orinda Community Center Founders' Auditorium was packed to capacity for the workshop, and many residents had submitted their comments by email.

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**DANA GREEN**

**Lafayette artist donates time and talent; paints mural at Rec Center**



Photo Pippa Fisher

Artist Mandy Tardif puts the finishing touches on the mural she is donating to the Lafayette Recreation Center's Kindergym room.

**By Pippa Fisher**

The Kindergym room at the Lafayette Community Center has a new look in the entrance area – a local artist

has donated time and talent to create a beautiful butterfly mural that is designed to suggest freedom and movement as the children come in.

It all started as a contest. Former Lafayette resident and artist Mandy Tardif decided to donate her artistic skills to a randomly selected winner. Through social media

and word of mouth, Tardif invited parents to email her a photo of their space that they wanted decorated. She asked for the age of the child and an idea of what they envision for the space. On July 31 Tardif put the names in a hat and pulled out the winner ... and it was none other than the community center whose request was submitted by the city's recreation coordinator, Tricia Young.

The mural is designed to stimulate childhood imagination. With the butterfly deliberately at child-height, kids stand against it, stretching their arms out.

"We are so excited that Mandy chose our program to donate a mural to," says Young. "The butterfly is so welcoming and bright and children have loved to stand next to it and pretend to be a butterfly. It fits so perfectly and will prompt children's imaginations."

Tardif, who has a degree in graphic design, says she has been painting since she was 3 years old. Born in Alaska, she grew up in New Hampshire and moved to California in 2001.

It is through painting, she says, that she has found her

voice. Tardif is open about her struggles with an eating disorder and with alcohol and drugs. She says art has been transformative for her.

"Art was my therapy," she says. It was through a process of 12 paintings – a series she calls "Divine Liberations" – that she found expression. "It was a journey for me," she says.

Although Tardif has suffered from chronic pain for the past 14 years caused by nerve damage to the spine, she also works as a personal trainer.

Tardif says she likes to work on her paintings in local coffee shops, especially Philz in Lafayette, where she is known simply as "the painter." She says she loves that people come up to her and get talking. In fact she has undertaken several commissioned paintings that way.

Tardif has done many portraits including pet portraits in addition to murals.

"I want my butterfly mural to suggest movement, play and freedom," she says.

To learn more about the artist or to see examples of her work, visit her website: /www.mandytardif.com/

**Jennifer Perlmutter pop-up extends to end of year**

**By Pippa Fisher**

Jennifer Perlmutter will be reopening her pop-up art gallery and event space in September with new programming scheduled through the end of the year. And she couldn't be more delighted.

"JPG@The Bank was a huge hit in Lamorinda earlier this year," says Perlmutter. "With packed houses for openings and receptions, lines at the door, and over 3,000 people attending, the community's thirst for art and culture was clearly served."

But Perlmutter says the decision to extend her temporary lease was one she agonized over. "I was given three weeks to make the decision in May," she explains. Struggling with the conflicts and demands on her time of family versus career, it ultimately took the advice



Photo Pippa Fisher

The pop-up art gallery opened in February and has been extended until the end of the year.

of her teenage son to persuade her. "You have to do it," he told her. "It's just the coolest place."

The idea to open a quality pop-up in an otherwise empty storefront (in this case a bank) was borne of a discussion at a city council meeting last year centered on revitalizing the downtown area.

In February the gallery, an extension of Perlmutter's flagship Jennifer Perlmutter Gallery – in business in Lafayette since 2014 – opened its doors in a converted bank building owned by Cortese Development Company on the corner of Mt. Diablo

Boulevard and Moraga Road. Perlmutter describes her exhibits as mid- to high-end contemporary art, primarily from Bay Area artists. "The vault has been updated to exhibit small paintings and sculpture, as well as a 'selfie station' for photos," she says.

Perlmutter acknowledges that running this second gallery requires a lot of work and has taken on Yvonne Banis as director of client relations. Although the flagship gallery has been open as usual, over the summer the hours in the pop-up have been by appointment only.

... continued on next Page

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**City Council**  
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Lafayette Library & Learning Center, Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

**School Board Meetings**  
**Acalanes Union High School District**  
 Wednesday, Sept. 4, 7 p.m.  
 AUHSD Board Room  
 1212 Pleasant Hill Road, Lafayette  
 www.acalanes.k12.ca.us

**Planning Commission**  
 Monday, Sept. 16, 7 p.m.  
 Lafayette Library & Learning Center, Community Hall, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

**Design Review**  
 Monday, Sept. 9, 7 p.m.  
 Lafayette Library & Learning Center, Arts & Science Discovery Center, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

**Lafayette School District**  
 Wednesday, Sept. 11, 7 p.m.  
 Regular Board Meeting  
 Stanley M.S. Library  
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## Movie night in the plaza – free fun for the youngest film buffs



Photo Pippa Fisher

As the sun set on Aug. 23, families relaxed and watched the movie “Wall-E” on the plaza.

The weather was near-perfect Aug. 23 as families enjoyed their Friday evening weekend kickoff with a movie in the plaza. The kids were held spellbound by the Pixar movie “Wall-E.” Some took advantage of picnic delivery from nearby Sideboard while

many others brought their own picnics from home to enjoy on blankets or lawn chairs.

Organized by the Lafayette Youth Commission, the event was free but donations were accepted. - P. Fisher

## Jennifer Perlmutter pop-up extends to end of year

... continued from Page A2

As of its reopening on Sept. 5, JP@TheBank hours will be from 2 to 6 p.m. and also by appointment and for events.

Perlmutter is especially excited about the events, such as “Tahoe Blue” with guest speaker Susan Safipour, former editor of Diablo Magazine who now lives in Tahoe and who is a neighborhood specialist in the region. Safipour will be sharing first-hand knowledge of the transition to mountain living alongside an art collection to reflect “mountain modern.”

Perlmutter says they have a grand piano on loan from Lafayette’s Steve Benjamins Piano. Music will feature strongly in the space. The Gold Coast Chamber Players, led by Pamela Freund-Striplen on viola, will be performing as artist Gabriel Schama brings his 3D, topographical artwork to life with projection mapping by Limelight Studios.

Communications firm Pivotal Twist will be back following the success of their talk in May for organizational leaders. Perlmutter likens the evening to a night of Ted Talks. “No sales,” she says. “Just ideas.”

Perlmutter explains with great enthusiasm that artist and architect Lara Dutto of

Orinda will be creating a colorful mural on plywood to fit in the old ATM niche on the Moraga Road side of the building. “Lara will be gathering artists together to come up with themes focused on what it means to be an artist in Lafayette to create a beautiful colorful mural that reflects community values.”

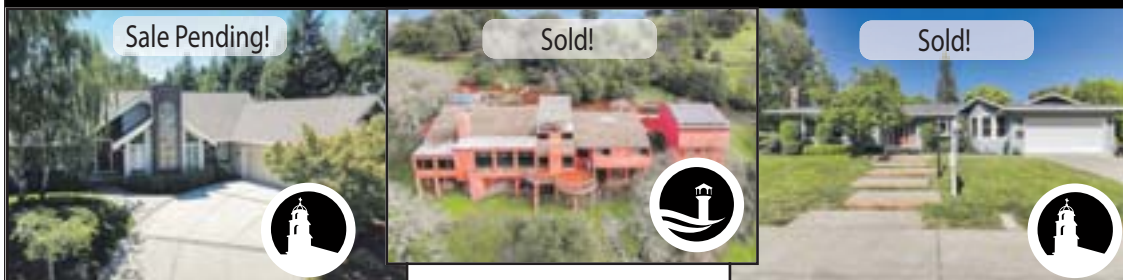
“The cost was daunting for either me or Lara to undertake, so I brought it to a fan and follower of the gallery, April Matthews of Village Associates Realty,” Perlmutter says. “Her whole company said ‘Yes’ and we now have a sponsor, Village Associates for the mural!”

With a couple of holiday-themed events, and one evening featuring Lafayette’s Diablo Foods bringing tastes of holiday favorites created with family recipes, and art offered through a raffle and an auction, Perlmutter certainly appreciates the role of the community and seeks to involve herself in it.

“I’ve always wanted to serve the community while selling art. They’re not mutually exclusive,” says Perlmutter. She says that she is grateful for the support from community members and gallery collectors. “The feedback we’ve gotten has been extensive and entirely positive. We’re clearly serving a lot of people.”

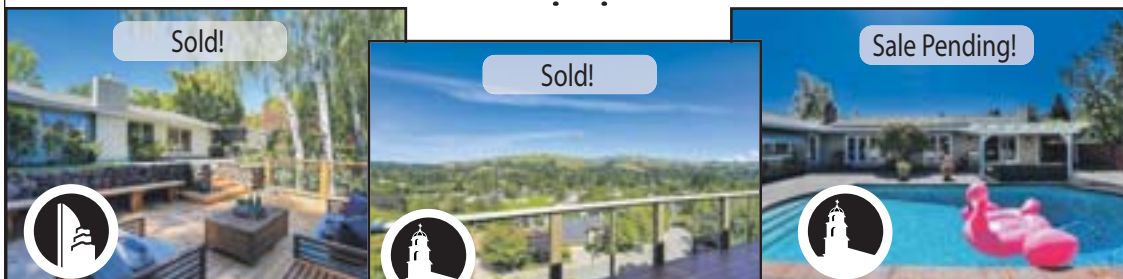
A full list of details including dates of new events and collections is available on the Jennifer Perlmutter Gallery website at <https://jenniferperlmuttergallery.com/jpgatthebank/>

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## Town attorney briefs council on pending lawsuits



Rheem sinkhole still awaits repairs.

Photo Vera Kochan

### By Vera Kochan

To paraphrase Dorothy from "The Wizard of Oz": Landslides and sinkholes and

lawsuits, oh my! During the regularly scheduled Moraga Town Council meeting on Aug. 28, Mayor Roger Wykle reported on a Special Closed Session

held prior to the meeting, stating, "We received a report from legal council. We gave direction on continuing negotiations with (the East Bay Municipal Utility District) concerning the Canyon Bridge landslides." Moraga pulled back the reins on litigation proceedings against EBMUD in June when both parties began to engage in productive settlement discussions.

Wykle added, "We also received a report from legal council and gave direction related to the safety concerns arising out of the sinkhole located on private property at the intersection of Rheem and Center Street."

The current Rheem sinkhole occurred during the last week of March. Since that time, it has undergone a video inspection and

sediment draining. The yellow cautionary tape surrounding the area has been replaced with chain link fencing.

In April, this paper reported that the town's concern at that time was any possible impacts on a storm drain system that runs underneath the intersection where a remaining approximately 500-foot, 96-inch in circumference, corrugated metal pipe carries water from Laguna Creek.

The sinkhole is located roughly 75 feet across the street from the 2016 sinkhole.

Moraga's Public Works Director Edric Kwan said at that time that the video inspection revealed the area was in bad shape and needed immediate attention.

PG&E along with EBMUD

also confirmed to the town that the damage did not involve their utilities.

In referring to the shopping center, Kwan then stated, "What happens next will affect a lot of people. Timing is truly of the essence. If that pipe were to collapse, it's a game changer."

Kwan stated in April that no one knew the cause of the failure and he was going to advise the property owner what steps need to be taken to rectify the situation.

Lamorinda Weekly reached out to town staff for clarification about the recent legal report and any additional safety concerns they might have, but staff said they were unable to comment further at this time.

## Town hires new associate civil engineer

### By Vera Kochan

Associate Civil Engineer Mark Summers began working for Moraga on July 29. Somewhat of a local, he was born in San Francisco and currently lives with his family in Walnut Creek.

According to Public Works Director Edric Kwan, "Mark will focus mainly on land development projects but will work on a diverse array of other assignments, including town capital and storm water related projects."

Summers earned a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from San Diego State University, a master's in civil engineering from San Jose State University and a

Project Management certificate from UC Berkeley Extension, which will all help him to get his feet wet with the new Los Encinos development, the Moraga Town Center Homes and the upcoming Storm Drain Operations and Maintenance Program.

Although Summers was happy in his last job, he admitted, "I've wanted to get into public sector work for a long time. Opportunities are usually pretty competitive." He came across Moraga's listing on CalOpps – a government jobs posting site. His prior experiences were with Walnut Creek's Aliquot, where he served as water resources manager and Australian-based GHD as a

transportation engineer.

Summers had initial concerns about his decision to quit a job that he enjoyed and was worried that the new experience wouldn't be comparable. His fears were soon laid to rest. "Moraga is a great place to work," he said. "Some public sectors are not committed to working hard, but in Moraga everyone is involved and they work together."

Summers was amazed at the level of projects happening around town, saying, "There's a lot of work for a small town. I was surprised at how much work that public works was doing."



New Associate Civil Engineer Mark Summers Photo Vera Kochan

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# 'Town of Moraga' signs get an overdue facelift



Harnoor Lal at the St. Mary's Road sign

Photo Vera Kochan

By Vera Kochan

There are four signs that greet first-time visitors and residents entering Moraga. For years those first impressions of the town had become shabby with neglect. Thanks to the efforts of prospective Eagle Scout Harnoor Lal, three of the four signs have been refurbished. Not stopping there, he will also repair the Moraga Library's sign.


Lal, a 16-year-old Campolindo student, is in the process of achieving an Eagle Scout rank. Only 4% of those enrolled in the Boy Scouts of America earn this highest honor. He credits Chris Kolm, Scout Troop 234 advisor, as the middleman who helped to coordinate with the town on the merit badge project.

Given the choice of either fixing the town's signs or refurbishing the trail signs, Lal chose the town signs for their high visibility. They are located on the town borders at Canyon Bridge, Moraga Way, St. Mary's Road and Moraga Road. The

public works department provided the brushes and paint – choosing brown, green and white for an environmental blending-in effect. Lal provided the rollers, nuts and bolts.

Lal worked on the St. Mary's sign alone. "It took me about two and a half to three hours to do. It involved taping the interior edges to give it a fine detailed look. As I worked, I got the idea of painting the lettering in a way that gave it a 3-D affect." Scouts in his troop helped him with the other signs earning Lal another merit badge for leadership as he managed his work crew.

Not being satisfied to just paint the signs, the perfectionist in Lal intends to drill holes into the tops of the sign posts to allow water drainage, thereby avoiding the wood rot which befell the previous incarnations. His parents, Ashutosh and Aseem, had only one request - that he get the project done over the summer so as not to interfere with school.

 <p><b>Town Council</b> Wednesday, Sept. 11, 7 p.m. Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.</p>	<p><b>Planning Commission</b> Monday, Sept. 16, 7 p.m. Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.</p>	<p><b>Park and Recreation Commission</b> Tuesday, Sept. 17, 7 p.m. Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.</p>	<p><b>Moraga School District Board Meetings</b> Tuesday, Sept. 10, 7 p.m. Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School Auditorium, 1010 Camino Pablo, Moraga <a href="http://www.moraga.k12.ca.us">www.moraga.k12.ca.us</a> See also AUHSD meeting page A2</p>
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## Orinda takes next step toward downtown development - RFP for Downtown Precise Plan

By Sora O'Doherty

Development of downtown Orinda has been on the front burner for some time now, with the focus being on the Streetscape Master Plan as developed by ConnectOrinda. While that project focuses only on public property, the city is now moving forward with a downtown precise plan that will address planning issues for private property. Together, the two plans will represent a comprehensive plan for downtown Orinda, according to the staff presentation by Drummond Buckley, director of planning and Adam Foster, senior planner.

The council had asked staff to come back to them to explain the difference between a downtown specific plan and a downtown precise plan. On Aug. 20, staff reported that they were willing to work on either, but preferred a precise plan because there are minimum

components for a specific plan while a precise plan is not defined by state law, and is, therefore, more flexible. The council agreed, and gave staff directions to draft a request for proposals.

The specific tasks for which consultant assistance is sought includes: community engagement as the city would like to hear from as many community members as possible, and build on momentum from ConnectOrinda and creation of the precise downtown plan. The city hopes to build consensus around a vision for downtown.

Research indicates that a programmatic environmental impact report, rather than a project EIR, would be required. A programmatic EIR would contain enough detail so that it could be relied upon for most development required under the plan. New and amended downtown policies and objectives may require revision of the city's general

plan. The development of amended standards will include topics such as residential density, building heights, and setback requirements.

The precise plan should also include objective design criteria, standards that involve no personal or subjective judgement. Such criteria are increasingly being required by the state. In addition, the city is seeking criteria for mixed use and apartments, for example, orientation of buildings that face San Pablo Creek, facade articulation, and streetscape relationship including renderings and sketches.

The RFP will include specific tasks to embrace the creek, further restoration, and support public access. The city is looking for new goals and objectives for the creek and how development relates to it. In addition, the precise plan should include development incentives for projects that embrace the

creek and further the goal of restoration. Potentially the plan may include a San Pablo Creek Overlay Zone for some parcels, establish objective design standards for creekside areas and support a future creekside trail and public access to the creek.

Interest in the development of San Pablo Creek has been one of the driving forces behind the urge to develop downtown Orinda. At the close of the Aug. 20 city council meeting Council Member Nick Kosla gave a report of his two-hour meeting with the city and the Friends of Orinda Creeks, who are working with consultant, FlowWest. One alternative treatment of the creek was discussed. The Friends of Orinda Creeks are excited about how the creeks can be incorporated into the precise plan, Kosla said. He said that he found it to be a productive meeting, and he thinks there will be another one in September or October.

## Green Infrastructure Plan adopted by Orinda

By Sora O'Doherty

The Orinda City Council unanimously adopted a Green Infrastructure Plan on Aug. 20. The plan, which the city asked staff to develop in 2017, was presented at the city council meeting by Associate Engineer Scott Christie and was developed in collaboration with the city's environmental consultants, Nichols Consulting Engineers, as well as other Contra Costa County municipalities.

What is green infrastructure? Essentially, Christie explained, it is taking stormwater runoff and

bringing it into soil and landscaping so that it gets treated to remove pollutants, including polychlorinated biphenols and mercury. The city is required to do this under its National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permits, and had a deadline of Sept. 30. The methodology for the green infrastructure includes, for example, bioswales around town and in parking lots. Regulations require this kind of treatment for public and private infrastructure, but the city can only provide this on public lands, and can require compliance for new private

buildings and for redevelopment projects.

The plan is a long-term one, extending out to 2040. Christie said that staff do not think that Orinda can meet the goals of the program, because the city has very few, if any, old industrial sites. However the plan outlines a process for planning, designing and implementing the project to the year 2040 and provides for both public and private lands. The target treatment area for 2020 is 0.2 acres, rising to 1 acre for 2030 and jumping to 13.4 acres for the last year of the plan, 2040. "Our numbers," Christie said,

"are comparable to other cities." The overall cost of the plan is around \$2 million.

In response to a question from the council, Christie explained that where in the past the city was required to put in bioswales if the road was big enough, now the city is being asked to retrofit old roads.

In comments from the council, Council Member Amy Worth said that Orinda is a watershed so having a green

infrastructure is really important. She pointed out that such elements are already in place in Wilder, the newest development in Orinda. The council thanked staff for the thorough preparation of the green infrastructure plan, which, after being adopted, will be submitted with the NPDES Annual Report to the San Francisco Regional Water Quality Control Board.

Further information on the city's green infrastructure plan can be found at <https://www.cityoforinda.org/405/Green-Infrastructure>

## Long-sought workshop on Orinda private roads may lead to progress

... continued from Page A1

Director of Public Works Larry Theis opened the workshop with a presentation about private roads in Orinda, reviewing the information that has been presented to the city council in several staff reports. Theis included some research he has collected about how other jurisdictions have dealt with the issue.

Orinda city attorney Osa Wolff also gave a short presentation addressing some of the legal issues that could arise should the city decide either to adopt private roads as public, or to maintain private roads in the same manner as public roads.

The presentation by the private roads residents was divided up between six speakers: Charles Porges, Bob de Oro, Steve Cohn, Joel Libove, Melissa Roeder, and Cathy Finch. Porges pointed out that all of the roads in Orinda were acquired from Contra Costa County in 1985 when the city incorporated. All of the roads were in poor condition at that time, but in 2012 the city passed taxes and bonds for the maintenance of the public roads only. Private road residents, who pay the same taxes, believe that wasn't fair. In addition, last year the council adopted a new fee, added to everybody's garbage bill, to provide more money to

fix the damage caused to public roads by heavy garbage trucks. Again, private road residents pay the same fees, but their streets obtain no benefit from the new revenue.

Road maintenance is a public service, Porges argued, and all roads provide benefits to the public. De Oro agreed that there is no difference between public and private roads, which provide access to residents, to emergency police and fire vehicles, and to utilities such as PG&E, EBMUD, and garbage trucks. He said that there is no difference between public and private residential streets. "We're all one city," he said, "no one should be excluded." Many of the email submissions echoed the same sentiment: public and private roads should receive the same treatment from the city.

Steve Cohn addressed the financial side of the issue: "How much will it cost to repair and maintain private roads, and how are we going to do it?" The costs could be amortized over many years, he said, and added that "most liability comes from poor maintenance of sewers and drains."

Libove agreed that public and private roads are identical, but, under the current law, it is almost impossible for private roads to be accepted because they

cannot meet standards that, he said, many public roads in Orinda cannot meet either. He suggested that any road currently private but accessible to the public should receive public maintenance.

"We can be an exemplary city," he urged.

Roeder pointed out that before 2012, all roads were treated equally in that no roads had any maintenance. Now, she said, 80% of the roads have maintenance and 20% do not. "It can be done gradually," she said, "there are many options." But, she warned, "no option is not an option." One of the big reasons why Roeder urges the city to accept the private roads is that, in the event of a catastrophe, the city has access to county, state, federal and FEMA funds that private residents do not. "We're all the public," she said, and all residents contribute tremendously to the city. There will be a lot more good will, she noted, if private roads are included.

Finch agreed that the city should work for 100% of its citizens, not 80%. Finch also stated that since incorporation in 1985 Orinda has accepted no public roads. She urged the city to treat private roads the same as public roads, and not to scrutinize their condition to

a greater degree than public roads were scrutinized before repairs were undertaken beginning in 2012. But she warned the city that it is going to need more money to maintain the public roads and to work on public sewers and drains, and that it will be difficult for the city to pass taxes or bonds without the vote of the 20% of its citizens who reside on private roads. However, she expressed support for the idea of attaching the maintenance of private roads to a ballot measure on sewer and drain financing.

In public comments, Leslie Wagstaff noted that her street, Mira Loma, is a private street but is used heavily by PG&E to access high voltage lines adjacent to the street. She also noted that there are many pedestrian connections between Lake Cascade and the commercial center of Orinda on publicly accessible paths.

Chuck Harris agreed that PG&E trucks destroy the roads. "Road maintenance is such a basic service," he added. A resident of Hilldale Road, which isn't even on the map, said that their private road is heavily used by PG&E to maintain installations behind their homes. Another person commented that it doesn't

seem fair that the \$645,000 collected from the garbage fees is used only on public roads, and not private roads, and Theis agreed that this argument often comes up.

Nick Waranoff argued that drains are a much more important issue than streets. The retired attorney spoke about a possible prescriptive easement for drains, and city attorney Wolff spoke about several cases that deal with such issues. There was a lot of discussion about drains, and the relationship between public and private drains and streets. The city was urged to treat all drains the same.

The facilitator summed up the issues that had been addressed at the workshop. These included the maintenance of private roads, the liability for catastrophic damage, and drainage issues. The city, he said, was concerned about financial commitment and liability but private road residents seek relief from the financial burden and see it as a fairness issue.

William Abriel ended the workshop on a conciliatory note. "It was brilliant of the city to get the public roads fixed," he said. "Now we would like to join you in moving forward."

For documents from the workshop, see <https://cityoforinda.box.com/s/ugh99xbr2yi1f3b83plug7mcn9y6rzt>

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## Orinda police chief goes back to school



Photo Sora O'Doherty

By Sora O'Doherty

Orinda Police Chief Mark Nagel announced his retirement after 20 years with the Contra Costa Sheriff's Office, including the last six years as Orinda's chief of police. However, Nagel didn't go far. On Aug. 26 he started his new position at his alma mater, Saint Mary's College, as the director of public safety. The outgoing chief was honored by the city council at their Aug. 20 meeting, when they presented him with a proclamation expounding upon his virtues and achievements. Also at that meeting Nagel was lauded by the Orinda Union School District, which decorated the chamber with a giant poster thanking him for his service, as well as by the words of OUSD Superintendent Carolyn Seaton.

Being Orinda's Police Chief has, Nagel said, been by far his favorite and most rewarding assignment in his entire career. Over the last six years, Nagel has focused on community policing and ensuring the police department works with all community members. Nagel has also been recognized as having made great strides in bringing technology to the department to provide not only deterrence but also to

serve as a useful tool in identifying suspects and apprehending criminals. "With the implementation of license plate reading and security cameras, the ability to develop leads has been critical. Our ability to solve crimes increased substantially," Nagel said. More recently, the acquisition of a drone has given the police the ability to respond and assess a situation faster than not having this equipment.

Mayor Inga Miller praised Nagel saying that he has been an asset to the community and that his tenure in Orinda would be a tough act to follow. "Chief Nagel is part of the fabric of our community. He is always quick with a smile and takes the time to listen," Miller said. "Those are attributes that are often contrary to people's preconceived notions about police, and residents voice appreciation for his disarming demeanor and the time he takes to listen and solve problems. He will be missed." The city manager, Steve Salomon, has been conducting interviews to hire a new police chief and hopes to announce a replacement by mid-September.

... continued on Page A9



### Orinda Public Meetings

#### City Council

Tuesday, Sept. 17, 7 p.m. Regular Meeting  
Library Auditorium, Orinda  
Library, 26 Orinda Way

#### Planning Commission

Tuesday, Sept. 10, 7 p.m.  
Library Auditorium, Orinda  
Library, 26 Orinda Way

#### Citizens' Infrastructure Oversight Commission

Wednesday, Sept. 11, 6:30 p.m.  
Sarge Littlehale Community Room,  
22 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563

#### Orinda Union High School District Board Meetings

Monday, Sept. 9, 6 p.m.  
Regular Board Meeting  
8 Altarinda Rd., Orinda  
www.orindaschools.org  
See also AUHSD meeting page A2

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# MOFD hosts international disaster preparedness seminar



International disaster management seminar participants strike a pose at MOFD Station 45

## By Nick Marnell

The Moraga-Orinda Fire District hosted a portion of the U.S. Forest Service International Disaster Seminar Aug. 19, a program that

brought together response professionals from around the world to help them improve their ability to respond to natural disasters. Twenty-five participants from 19 countries participated in the seminar,

which covered three weeks in various locations of Northern California.

At MOFD Fire Station 45, the participants divided into three groups – first responders, the emergency

operations center and the policy group. Each group played a role during a simulated earthquake disaster in Orinda. The first responders used the MOFD sand table simulator to play out an emergency response to a major water main break, natural gas leaks, a wildland fire and a potential dam failure with the associated evacuation concerns. The EOC staff coordinated and supported field operations while responding to the concerns and direction from the policy group, which had to deal with emergency declarations and the cancellation or relocation of the upcoming Orinda Community Fair.

“The goal of the exercise was to give the participants an opportunity to use the knowledge they have gained over the past three weeks to organize and respond to a

simulated disaster. The hope is that they will take the information back to their home countries and implement the principles of our Incident Command System,” said MOFD’s Dennis Rein, who coordinated the Aug. 19 event.

The seminar offered the visitors an opportunity to see how the community and the public sector work together in disaster preparation, mitigation and response. The group toured the North Orinda Shaded Fuel Break to see a real life example of such an undertaking.

Rein said he was especially impressed with the participants from Ethiopia, who planned to take the information they learned back to their country and apply it to not only natural disasters but to problems involving regional conflicts, drought and famine.

# ConFire prods Lafayette School District to address code violations



Stanley Middle School, Lafayette

Photo Andy Schreck

## By Nick Marnell

The Lafayette School District was ordered by the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District to clear up the fire code violations and implement fire district recommendations

at each of its five city schools, before ConFire conducts a fourth and hopefully final inspection of the five schools during the first week of September.

According to inspection records provided by ConFire,

violations at the schools ranged from an uncovered electrical junction box to obstructed exit signs to improperly stored combustible material. Of the nearly 70 violations uncovered by the fire district at the five schools, 27 remained to be corrected in the third week of August, with Stanley Middle School leading the way with 13 unaddressed code violations.

ConFire is required to inspect the 11 public and private schools in Lafayette annually. The Meher Schools, St. Perpetua and the Contra Costa Jewish Day School passed inspection earlier this year, Acalanes High School and the Bentley School will be inspected for a third time in September and the Springstone School will be inspected in October. The five LAFSD schools had been inspected three times in 2019, and in August ConFire sent

each school a letter advising them that, though “progress has been made,” their remaining violations needed to be corrected before the fourth inspection.

“We have resolved or are resolving everything that we can do with our own maintenance and operations staff. A few of the issues require outside vendors for whom we have been waiting patiently, and we were able to accelerate some work with the impetus of the most recent visit from ConFire,” LAFSD Superintendent Richard Whitmore said.

The superintendent acknowledged the vigilance of the fire district and the fire prevention bureau. “All immediate recommendations are being rectified and ... we appreciate the good efforts of ConFire and our inspector to bring the additional scrutiny and safety to our campuses,” Whitmore said.

### Fire District Public Meetings

**Moraga-Orinda Fire District**  
Board of Directors  
Wednesday, Sept. 18, 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, Sept. 24, 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)



## Public Safety

**Emergency response:**  
Emergency: 24 Hours 911  
Police Dispatch: 24 Hours  
925-284-5010

Nixle: Text your zip code to 888777 or go to [www.nixle.com](http://www.nixle.com)

**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

**Aug. 11 - Aug. 24**

Alarms	57
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	17
Traffic	184
Suspicious Circumstances	9
Suspicious Subject	27
Suspicious Vehicle	33
Service to Citizen	45
Patrol Req./Security Check	26
School Assembly Check	23
Vacation House Check	38
Supplemental Report	16
Welfare Check	14

**Vehicle violations**

Auto Burglary	
3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
3400 Block Woodview Dr.	
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
DUI Misdemeanor	
Pleasant Hill Rd./Deer Hill Rd.	
Grand Theft From Vehicle	
3400 Block Woodview Dr.	
Hit And Run Misdemeanor	
30 Block Reliez Valley Ct.	
Police Department	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
3800 Block Happy Valley Rd.	
4000 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
50 Block Lafayette Cir.	
3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	



Stanley Blvd./Pleasant Hill Rd.  
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
Petty Theft From Vehicle  
3500 Block Brook St.  
3400 Block Woodview Dr.  
1500 Block Silver Dell Rd.  
Reckless Driving  
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Lafayette Cir.  
Mt. Diablo Blvd./2nd St.  
Moraga Rd./Old Jonas Hill Rd.  
Stolen Vehicle Recovery  
1st St./Deer Hill Rd.  
Tc - Property Damage  
Pleasant Hill Rd./Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
Via Media/Via Alta  
Police Department  
Pleasant Hill Rd./Acalanes Ave.  
Deer Hill Rd./1st St.  
School Laurel Dr./Deer Hill Rd.  
El Nido Ranch Rd./Acalanes Rd.  
Taylor Blvd./Withers Ave.  
3200 Block Old Tunnel Rd.  
1100 Block Estates Dr.  
3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

**Other criminal activity**  
Fraud Credit Card  
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Bl A  
Fraud False Pretenses  
3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
3700 Block Mosswood Dr.  
3500 Block Wilkinson Ln.  
3300 Block Helen Ln.

Grand Theft  
800 Block Santa Maria Way  
Identity Theft  
900 Block Hough Ave.  
Panhandling  
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
Petty Theft  
3300 Block Woodview Dr. (2)  
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
3300 Block Oak Ct. (2)  
3300 Block Carlyle Terrace (2)  
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Shoplift  
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)  
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
**Nuisance to the Community**  
Disturbance-Domestic  
1000 Block Brown Ave.  
3400 Block Moraga Blvd.  
500 Block Morecroft Rd.  
3500 Block Brook St.

Disturbing The Peace  
3400 Block Silver Springs Ct.  
Loud Music  
Rowe Pl./Moraga Rd.  
Carol Ln./Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
Kingsley Pl./Somerset Dr.  
Old Jonas Hill Rd./Moraga Rd.  
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Loud Noise  
900 Block Colina Ct. (2)  
3400 Block School St.  
3500 Block Terrace Way  
Loud Party  
1100 Block Sierra Vista Way  
Fairholm Ct./Reliez Valley Rd.  
3200 Block Sweet Dr. (2)

Public Nuisance  
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
1000 Block Carol Ln.

1000 Block Dyer Dr.  
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
Vandalism  
3300 Block Mildred Ln.  
4000 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
1000 Block Glen Rd.  
Deer Hill Rd./Orchard Rd.  
**Other**  
Animal Cruelty  
Dewing Ave./Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
60 Block Lafayette Cir.  
H&S Violation  
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)  
Harassment  
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
Ordinance Violation  
3300 Block S Lucille Ln.  
Prom Shoot  
3200 Block Del Mar Dr.  
Public Assembly Check  
1200 Block Pleasant Hill Rd. (3)  
Threats  
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
Lark Creek Ln./Reliez Valley Rd.  
800 Block Moraga Rd.  
Trespass  
3400 Block School St.  
900 Block Moraga Rd.  
Violation Custody Order  
1200 Block Warner Ct.  
Violation Restraining Ord  
3400 Block School St.

### Moraga Police Department Incident Summary Report

**Aug. 13 - Aug. 26**

Alarms	16
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	9
Traffic	46
Suspicious Circumstances	13
Suspicious Subject	7
Suspicious Vehicle	2
Service to Citizen	48
Patrol Req./Security Check	15
Supplemental Report	8
Vacation House Check	3
Welfare Check	7

**Vehicle violations**  
Accident Property  
60 Block Shuey Dr.  
Excessive Speed  
Camino Pablo/Canyon Rd.  
Moraga Rd./St. Marys Rd. (3)  
Canyon Rd./Larch Ave  
Moraga Rd./Lucas Dr.  
Moraga Rd./Donald Dr.  
Hit And Run Misdemeanor  
800 Block Crossbrook Ct.  
Rheem Bumoraga Rd.  
Petty Theft From Vehicle  
300 Block Draeger Dr.  
Reckless Driving  
Safeway  
Moraga Way/Moraga Rd.  
Moraga Country Club  
**Other criminal activity**



Commercial Burglary  
Lafayette Police Department  
Identity Theft  
700 Block Moraga Rd.  
Petty Theft  
1200 Block School St.  
20 Block/24 Hour Fitness  
Not Available  
20 Block Hardie Dr.  
1800 Block Camino Pablo  
400 Block Donald Dr.  
CVS  
500 Block Moraga Rd.  
Homegoods  
**Nuisance to the Community**  
Disturbing The Peace  
30 Block Hardie Dr.  
1400 Block Camino Peral  
Loud Music  
Not Available  
Loud Noise  
Homegoods  
Moraga Way/St. Andrews Dr.  
Loud Party  
80 Block Shuey Dr.  
Vandalism  
400 Block Moraga Rd.  
**Other**  
Harassment  
1900 Block St. Marys Rd.  
Neighbor Dispute  
Not Available  
Ordinance Violation  
Not Available  
Public Assembly Check  
Safeway  
Suicide  
1100 Block Sanders Dr.  
Violation Dom. Viol. Order  
Police Department



### Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report

**Aug. 11 - Aug. 24**

Alarms	55
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	24
Traffic	60
Suspicious Circumstances	7
Suspicious Subject	26
Suspicious Vehicle	15
Service to Citizen	44
Patrol Req./Security Check	12
Vacation House Check	9
Supplemental Report	16
Welfare Check	11

**Vehicle violations**  
Auto Burglary  
El Nido Ranch Rd./Charles Hill Rd.  
Police Department  
Orinda Country Club  
Hit And Run Misdemeanor

Safeway  
Petty Theft From Vehicle  
10 Block Ramona Dr.  
Reckless Driving  
San Pablo Dam Rd./Camino Pablo  
Moraga Way/Valley View Dr.  
Vehicle Theft  
10 Block Altarinda Rd.  
**Other criminal activity**  
Grand Theft  
60 Block Heather Ln.  
Identity Theft  
10 Block Theatre Sq 106  
10 Block Ivy Dr.  
Petty Theft  
100 Block Moraga Way  
Residential Burglary  
10 Block Casa Vieja  
Shoplift  
Rite Aid  
Beverages And More  
Safeway  
Warrant Arrest  
Library  
**Nuisance to the Community**  
Disturbance-Domestic  
600 Block Tahos Rd.  
Disturbing The Peace  
10 Block Owl Hill Ct.  
Safeway  
Loud Music  
Estates Dr./Brookside Rd.  
Glorietta Blvd./Overhill Rd.  
Loud Noise  
200 Block Glorietta Blvd.  
Donald Dr./Hall Dr.  
Loud Party  
10 Block Culver Ct.  
Public Nuisance  
10 Block Camino Pablo  
Unocal Station And Food Mart  
Vandalism  
60 Block Davis Rd.

**Other**  
Accident Property  
Moraga Way/Glorietta Blvd.  
Miramonte High School  
Shell Gas  
Orinda Theater  
10 Block Camino Sobrante  
10 Block Rich Acres Rd.  
Orinda Senior Village  
Failure To Obey  
Wb Sr 24 At Wilder Rd.  
H&S Violation  
10 Block Vallecito Ln.  
Harassment  
200 Block Brookwood Rd.  
Mentally Ill Commit  
Orinda Intermediate School  
10 Block Camino Sobrante  
Ordinance Violation  
10 Block Bobolink Rd.  
Trespass  
Wilder Rd./Windy Creek Way  
The Quarry House At Wilder  
Unwanted Guest  
Safeway  
50 Block Moraga Way  
Violation Dom Viol Order  
10 Block Nonie Rd.



# How the newly structured Lamorinda school calendar came about

By Nick Marnell

A combination of factors including anxious students, concerned parents and financial considerations brought about the earliest ever start to the 2019-20 school year at Lamorinda K-8 and high schools, with the new calendar featuring a one-week Thanksgiving break, a one-week spring break and the conclusion of the high school first semester prior to a two-week winter break.

To grapple with the realities of the timing of final exams and the rise in the number of advanced placement exams, a longer Thanksgiving break, and earlier starts by neighboring, regional and national school districts, the Acalanes Union High School District convened a task force in 2017 to come up with a school year calendar that would mesh with the challenges of contemporary life for students and the community. District Superintendent John Nickerson led the task force that included 48

representatives from the high schools and 41 representatives from partner K-8 districts. Lamorinda includes three AUHSD high schools – Acalanes, Campolindo and Miramonte – and three elementary school districts: Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda Union, which largely follow the lead of AUHSD on scheduling.

Until 1998-99, the school year began the Tuesday after Labor Day in Lamorinda, with two days off for Thanksgiving. That year, the full Thanksgiving week break began, and school started Aug 31. Due to additional calendar changes, the first day of school has gradually crept earlier since then, to the Aug. 13 opening of 2019-20.

An early impetus for change arose from the findings of Challenge Success, a Palo Alto think tank that promotes programs that emphasize student well-being. The firm partnered with AUHSD to help the district work through the above mentioned challenges. “Our

research of schools across the country showed that changing the school year calendar to have students complete final exams before taking their winter break made a big difference,” said company co-founder Denise Pope, whose firm also championed the earlier daily school starting times in 2016. “We are thrilled with the changes the district is making,” Pope said.

Nickerson’s task force met regularly from fall 2017 into early 2018. It held town halls and community forums throughout Lamorinda. The task force surveyed over 7,700 students, teachers, parents and school staff, with more than 79% of students and 78% of parents favoring the earlier August start to the year, and more than 76% of teachers and staff agreeing to start the year in mid-August with “finals before winter break.”

Financial considerations played a role in the calendar change, as California school districts lose state money for each student absence, and when parents pulled students out of school for the

entire Thanksgiving week, schools were penalized for the three-day truancy. Much of the disconnect resulted from the misalignment of school calendars, with parents having children in different district schools.

“I know from my experience that it is vitally important for us to have our calendar as closely aligned with the Acalanes calendar as possible,” Lafayette School District Superintendent Richard Whitmore said. “Each day that we are not aligned triggers an unusually high number of absences, and we lose critical state funding for each student absence. If we have hundreds of absences due to the calendars not matching up, that becomes a real financial concern for us.”

The task force presented its data to the AUHSD board, and to the three Lamorinda school district boards, and after districts conferred with the teachers unions, the revised calendar with a mid-August start was approved in 2018 for this school year and next.

“I’m pleased to report that we have had relatively few absences this week despite the early start,” Whitmore said during the first week of school. “A few complaints, to be expected, but it has been a smooth transition to the new calendar.”

One week into the change, Nickerson said that a teacher expressed a bit of buyer’s remorse, telling the superintendent he would trade a shorter Thanksgiving week for a later start date. Residents grumbled on social media about the early 2019 start date and though not a likely prospect, advocated for pushing it back in future years. But many appeared to take the change in stride. “Summer is summer, and we’ll enjoy the weather whether the kids are in school or not,” Lafayette parent Kathleen Reidenbach said.

“We expect some very happy students and teachers when we hit the month of June 2020,” Whitmore said, as the last day of school is scheduled for May 29.

## Orinda police chief goes back to school

... continued from Page A6

In a statement on his retirement Nagel said, “I would like to thank the city of Orinda for their trust and support in allowing me to serve as their chief of police for the last six years. I also want to thank my neighboring police and fire chiefs for their collaboration on so many projects that benefited our communities. Finally, I would like to recognize the men and women

of the Orinda Police Department for their professionalism and support to this community. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve and protect the citizens of Orinda.”

Seaton said that since she had started as superintendent of OUSD in May of 2016, “Chief Nagel has gone above and beyond to ensure that Orinda’s most precious resource, its children, have been safe at school, at home, and in the

community.” She pronounced his partnership with the schools as extraordinary. Among his efforts, she noted that he presented to the entire staff and the parent community, served on the Facilities Master Plan and Safety Committees and reviewed and made recommendations on all five of the School Safety Plans. “He and his officers even grilled hot dogs to help welcome sixth-grade students to OIS!”

she exclaimed.

She spoke of their monthly meetings at Peet’s to discuss items of mutual interest between the police department and the schools, noting that she always learned important information during these conversations.

“This year is my 36th in education,” Seaton said, “and I have never witnessed a better partnership between a school district and its police department, and that is

because of Mark Nagel. Chief Nagel, you will be greatly missed by the entire Orinda Union School District Community. On behalf of the OUSD board of trustees, thank you for your service. We wish you every success in your new position.” Seaton concluded by quoting one student, who she said, summed it up best: “You’ve been amazing, Chief Nagel!”

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

Orinda Motors Presents



## The 15th Annual Orinda Classic Car Show Weekend

Friday Night Pre-Party,  
**September 6, 5:30pm**  
**“DANCING WITH THE CARS”**

Saturday,  
**September 7, 10am–3pm**  
**ORINDA CLASSIC CAR SHOW** Exhibitors’ Sponsor **Alliant Insurance**

Visit [www.OrindaCarShow.com](http://www.OrindaCarShow.com) for current entry information. Join us as a spectator – **Admission is FREE!**

Enjoy vintage and modern exotic cars and motorcycles, food, music, and more! The show is held in and around Orinda Motors, 63 Orinda Way.

**Cruise in a Classic!**

Donate \$10 and choose your ride for the Drive at 3pm.

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## Enter Your Car and Buy Party Tickets Today at [www.OrindaCarShow.com](http://www.OrindaCarShow.com)

These events benefit the Seniors Around Town transportation program, Educational Foundation of Orinda and other local charities. We would like to thank our partners for helping make these events happen: The Orinda Association, Rotary Club of Orinda, Orinda Historical Society Museum, Orinda Chamber of Commerce, Educational Foundation of Orinda, Lamorinda Arts Council, Orinda Community Foundation and Seniors Around Town.

**Friday, September 6, 5:30pm**  
**“DANCING WITH THE CARS” FRIDAY NIGHT PARTY**  
**Wheels That Won the West**

Presenting sponsor is **Mechanics Bank.**

Our all-inclusive event kicks-off the Classic Car Show weekend and is Orinda’s largest community-wide fundraiser. See a special selection of classic vehicles representing decades of car culture here in the West! Enjoy signature cocktails, fabulous food, awesome auction items, and great music!

**Buy your tickets at:**  
**[www.OrindaCarShow.com](http://www.OrindaCarShow.com)**  
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**NO WALK-INS.**

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**Saturday** **Free Admission**  
**September 7, 10am - 3pm**  
**15TH ANNUAL ORINDA CLASSIC CAR SHOW**

Presenting sponsor for this event is **Orinda Motors.**

- The show is held in Orinda Village around Orinda Motors and on Orinda Way
- 200+ classic and modern exotic cars and unique motorcycles
- Lamorinda Idol Winners performance at noon
- Food and beverages will also be available
- Shaded seating to enjoy lunch and refreshments from the Car Show BBQ Booth
- Loard’s Ice Cream and Candy
- Ride in the Drive of Classic Cars at 3pm
- Buy a 2019 Car Show T-Shirt

Car Show proceeds benefit: Seniors Around Town, Orinda Historical Society Museum, The Orinda Association, Orinda Community Foundation and other local charities.

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## Squeeze smoothie bar opens in Rheem Center



Squeeze owner Aiden Ciani

Photo Vera Kochan

and in keeping with the natural theme Ciani made sure all of the lights are LED and the kitchen is an open area where customers can watch their orders being prepared.

While the specialties are smoothies with catchy names such as Kaly Perry, Strawbrah and Pomma Mama, Squeeze also serves a variety of juices, Boba in smoothies or tea, hot coffee, herbal tea, ice cream in a cone, frozen yogurt and baked goods. Whenever possible Squeeze will use honey in place of sugar as a sweetener, although the customer will have the sugar option. The main philosophy at Squeeze is to provide customers what they want. With that in mind, there will most likely be an evolution of flavors to please any palate.

The name Squeeze came about when Ciani asked friends what a good name for his new venture would be. "It's the idea of squeezing fruit," he explained. "I practiced at home with different flavor combinations and I've worked in juice bars before." Prior to opening, Ciani placed a big blackboard outside asking passersby to write suggestions for flavor combinations. He also asked residents for interior design ideas and color schemes. One interior design touch involves blue panels where patrons can use various colored markers to write statements of expression.

"The goal is for this place to be a local hangout," he said.

### By Vera Kochan

Bright white walls beckon thirsty customers into Squeeze – Moraga's new smoothie bar located just to the right of CVS Pharmacy at 578 Center St.

Owner and Moraga resident Aiden Ciani got his

inspiration while on vacation: "Visiting Europe, I realized how the people love their food. What we were missing in Moraga was natural juices. When I saw this place (the storefront), it was the perfect size for what I wanted to do." He plans on purchasing fruit from locals,

Squeeze hours of operation are 1 p.m. to 10 p.m. (Monday through Saturday) and 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Sunday.

## Orinda agrees to accept donation of \$25K to beautify Miner Road bridge



Photo Sora O'Doherty

### By Sora O'Doherty

Although city staff recommended against it, the Orinda City Council unanimously voted to accept a donation of \$25,000 from residents to beautify the bridge on Miner Road that had to be replaced as a result of the 2017 sinkhole. The proposal was brought to the council by Director of Public Works Larry Theis at the request of Orinda Garden Club members Daphne Bertero, Pamela Goode and Cathleen Sodos, immediate past president of the club.

Since the completion of the sinkhole repair on Miner Road in 2017, some Orinda residents have been displeased by the aesthetic quality of the bridge across Lauterwasser Creek. Although the two outward facing surfaces of the bridge have been finished in a stone veneer, the inside walls of the bridge, those visible to motorists traveling on the bridge, are in contrast stark

white concrete.

Rich Bartlett of the Aesthetic Review Committee worked closely with the three proponents, drawing the original designs, and finding the material that matched the outside walls. Sodos said that Bartlett donated a lot of time to the project. Ted Urban and John Wyro, the other members of the Aesthetic Review Committee, also helped with the plan.

The estimate for the project is \$25,000, which will be privately funded by Orinda citizens through the Orinda Garden Club. The executive committee of the Garden Club is fully in support of the proposal, which will be brought to the full Garden Club on Sept. 19. The proponents of the project requested that the city issue an encroachment permit without charge and waive indemnification. In an email to Theis, Sodos said, "We understand that there are risks, but feel those risks are minimal and are outweighed

by the existing unsightly cement structure."

In fact, staff recommended against the project based on long-term financial and liability considerations. At the Aug. 20 city council meeting, Vice Mayor Darlene Gee commended the community for wanting to do the work on the bridge. She judged it a low risk situation. Council Member Nick Kosla had concerns about the maintenance of the bridge, fearing it might be a target for graffiti. However, he supported the proposal cautiously. Council Member Dennis Fay was pleased to hear that city staff would supervise the project, that a plan would have to be submitted and the finished project would be subject to inspection. Council Member Amy Worth said that she appreciated staff's concerns, but felt the project was low risk, and Mayor Inga Miller was grateful for the gift to the community.

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# DeSaulnier discusses climate change and environment at Town Hall



Rep. Mark DeSaulnier

Photo Vera Kochan

By Vera Kochan

Rep. Mark DeSaulnier, D-Concord, spoke to a standing-room-only crowd Aug. 26 during a Town Hall about climate change and the environment at Campolindo High School.

The congressman from California's 11th District began the evening discussing the government's role in protecting the environment through congressional legislation by citing recent examples such as the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, the Endangered Species Act and the Land and Water Conservation Fund Permanent Funding Act.

He showed obvious disappointment with President Donald Trump's attempts to roll back 83 environmental regulations since taking office in 2017. Of the 83 rollbacks, 49 have already been completed, while the remaining 34 are in progress. Trump's rollbacks affect every aspect of the environment and any progress made toward solutions. From air pollution and emissions, drilling and extraction, infrastructure and planning to wildlife, toxic substances and safety, and finally water pollution.

DeSaulnier takes pride in California's strides to achieve a cleaner environment despite Trump's interference with the nation's status quo.

"California's major climate policies and programs have resulted in a net gain of more than \$13

billion and more than 37,000 jobs. California had more than 519,000 jobs in clean energy in 2017, with Contra Costa in the state's top 10 counties for those jobs," DeSaulnier said. "In 2017, Greenhouse Gas emissions decreased by 5 million metric tons from 2016 as the state's economy grew ahead of the national average."

The United States has recently experienced the hottest July on record, and DeSaulnier attributes the rise in global temperatures to carbon dioxide concentrations as a result of humankind's dependence on fossil fuels and deforestation. California has made and continues to make great strides in the use of renewable energy, which is collected from renewable sources such as sunlight, wind and rain. In 2015, Gov. Jerry Brown signed a law requiring retail sellers and publicly owned utilities to acquire 50% of California's electricity through renewable means by 2030.

The latter portion of the Town Hall Meeting was devoted to questions and comments from the audience. DeSaulnier was asked, "What can private citizens do to help?" He responded, "Become knowledgeable about politics. California's environmental groups are great resources. Please, just stay engaged! Follow the science and believe in what the scientists are saying."

DeSaulnier stressed that

climate change is becoming expensive. "The costs of not responding to climate change must be approached from an economic standpoint. We must not weaken our goals to slow down climate change, but aspire to save the planet for future generations."

Responding to a question about what Congress is doing to enforce environmental regulations, DeSaulnier replied, "We have to stay on it. Project management is essential to carry out the laws and provide for oversight measures. It's a challenge to make people accountable. You can always boycott the products."

DeSaulnier is a "firm believer that strong and forward-looking energy and environmental policy is not the enemy of economic growth, but a key driver of growth, innovation and competitiveness." Most importantly, enforcement of environmental policies is vital to the health and well-being of Californians.

For more information visit: [www.desaulnier.house.gov](http://www.desaulnier.house.gov) or call (925) 933-2660.



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## Boaters lap up the last days of summer on the Res



Photo Pippa Fisher

Berkeley residents Sharon and Charlie enjoy the new pedal boats at the Res.

... continued from Page A1

Observant residents might have noticed a decided sparkle to the new ones. "We have found that over time, the color and finish of a 'sparkly' pedal boat will last longer and look better

than a non-'sparkly' pedal boat," explains Sporleder.

He says they are in the process of switching all the old row boats out with new ones too.

"The hull of the new and old rowboats are composed of aluminum. The old

rowboats had wooden seat tops and the new rowboats have aluminum seats. The aluminum seats will last longer over time," says Sporleder.

In addition to the pedal and rowboats, they also offer two single and one double kayak for rent. Sporleder says maybe once or twice a year they run out of all 20 pedal boats and have to use a waiting list.

While it hardly comes under the category of extreme water sporting at the Res, Sporleder says that occasionally on very windy days, boaters with limited experience will need assistance returning to the rental dock. "For safety, we will assist, utilizing our powerboat."

In addition to boat rentals available to those 18 and older, the park allows private car-top boats to be launched for a fee.

Full details on all guidelines and rental/launch rates can be found at <https://www.ebmud.com/recreation/east-bay/lafayette-reservoir>

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# ~ Life in LAMORINDA ~

## Brilliant show at the Moraga Art Gallery



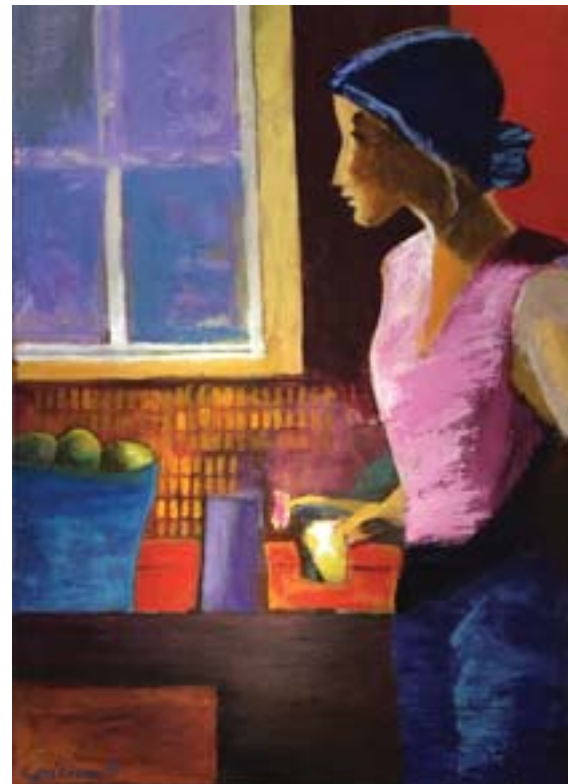
Work by Angelica Samame

Photo provided



Work by Lucy Beck

Photo Sophie Braccini



Work by Angelica Samame

Photo Sophie Braccini

### By Sophie Braccini

The Moraga Art Gallery ends the summer season with a dynamic show featuring two artists whose joie de vivre, imagination and brilliant colors evoke this season of bounty and plenitude. The show is called "Pattern Parade," featuring Lafayette's Angelica Samame and guest artist Irene Needoba from Orinda. The show's end date cannot be ascertained since the shopping center's management has informed the artist collective that a more lucrative tenant might soon take their place.

Samame is a painter of Peruvian origin who brings to

the canvas the exuberance and elegance of the women of her Latin country. She explains that her creative process begins as she starts applying color, and that shapes appear as the painting happens, rather than as the result of previous planning. It is indeed part of Samame's inner world that is given to the viewers - images of lightness and happiness, women captured in their daily lives, tending to mundane but happy tasks, surrounded by beauty and joy. The artist explains that her goal is to make people happy.

Samame style is highly decorative. She paints with a classic solid technique and

her stylized portraits are reminiscent of various end of 19th to beginning of the 20th century artists.

Guest artist Needoba's acrylic paintings are quite different but also infused with the same love of warm and bright colors. They bring an entirely whimsical universe to the canvas. The artist creates a whole imaginary world, with birds, mountains, faces, water and endless elements to be discovered by viewers. In a quote for the gallery, Needoba said that she accepted the world as a mysterious, confusing place with no straight answer. Her world may be mysterious, but it is also very dynamic and

powerfully alive – dreamy and exploding at the same time.

If you have missed the previous show at the gallery, there is still some of the delicate photographic work by Lucy Beck on display. The artist creates photographic images of flowers on Japanese Washi paper that produce images midway between photo and painting, and that beautifully reveal the intricate fragility of the flowers, as a metaphor for our natural world. The work of several other resident artists and guests are also being shown.

"Pattern Parade" will be on display at the Moraga Art Gallery, 522 Center St,

Moraga, through Oct. 20, unless the tenants are asked to leave sooner. The owner of that part of the shopping center has rented the current space to the artists for years at a reduced rate. When the artist collective was informed that a new renter was interested in renting the space at market price it was also offered a new space, tucked in the corner in the vicinity of Tangelo Frozen Yogurt. The gallery is currently open Wednesday through Sunday from noon to 5 p.m. For more information, visit [www.moragaartgallery.com](http://www.moragaartgallery.com)

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## 'Balloon' – a riveting true story at the Orinda Theatre



Photo provided

By Sophie Braccini

There is nothing like a well made movie based on a true story to make viewers feel and reflect on the extraordinary experience of ordinary people. "Balloon" is one of these movies, a historical thriller set in East Germany in the 1970s, when trying to cross the iron curtain meant risking death for those who dared to try.

In 1979 during the Cold War two ordinary East German families dream of moving to the West. They have a plan, build a hot air balloon and fly over one of the most guarded borders in the world at the time. And this incredible story is true.

Today, when visiting the Wall Museum in Berlin, visitors are struck by the amazing creativity of those who tried to leave Russian dominated East Germany to reach West Germany, including the craftiness and boldness of these two families who raced the clock to avoid being caught by the

fearsome political police to make their escape together.

The film, directed by Michael Herbig, is built on tension and keeps the audience on the edge of its seat from start to finish. It is suspenseful, orchestrated with precision, and played very effectively by a talented group of German actors. The human aspect is at the core of the movie; it plays on looks and subtle ambiguities, making the audience feel what it must have been like to live in a country where one was always at the mercy of denunciation and vigilante justice.

The scenario deals with the questions the parents ask themselves about their children: Do they have the right to put them through such risks? Hundreds lost their lives during attempted escapes. If caught, the repercussions on the families would be devastating. These people were not heroes, or at least did not think of themselves as heroes or hot-headed, but they had an

uncommon courage. One cannot help but wonder what they would have done in such circumstances. The movie can also make the audience reflect on immigrants today, and what some of them are going through in the hope to give a better life for themselves and their children.

This new presentation by the International Film Showcase is an American premiere. Aficionados of the Showcase will find similarities with "The Little Comrade," the Estonian film that was presented last month. It is a different period, a different country, but there is the same theme of what totalitarianism does to human beings, with those who passively submit, those who collaborate, and those who fight, sometimes risking their lives.

The movie will open Sept. 6 at the Orinda Theatre for at least one week. For more information, go to [www.orindamovies.com/](http://www.orindamovies.com/)

## Gold Coast Chamber 20th anniversary - Raising the bar of excellence



Dmitry Sitkovetsky Photo courtesy Dmitry Sitkovetsky

By Sophie Braccini

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the Gold Coast Chamber Players, led by Pamela Freund-Striplen in Lafayette. Over the past two decades GCCP has performed memorable chamber music, from baroque to contemporary, featuring composers from faraway lands to those closer to home – sometimes attending the American premiere of their creation – and always with groups of top-notch musicians invited by Freund-Striplen. This year of celebration will open on Sept. 14 with a memorable treat: the coming to Lafayette of world-renowned violinist Dmitry Sitkovetsky to perform an all-Schuman program with fellow musicians Grazia Raimondi (violin), Pamela Freund-Striplen (viola), Bernadene Blaha (piano) and Luigi Piovano (cello), who is returning from Italy to play again this year with Gold Coast.

Freund-Striplen was elated talking about being able to host Sitkovetsky for the opening concert of the anniversary year. She met with him in 1994 when she was called to substitute for one of the musicians of the New European Strings Chamber Orchestra that he founded. Since then, it has been Freund-Striplen's dream to work with Sitkovetsky again. His incredibly busy schedule had never allowed it, until serendipitously on this anniversary year.

Sitkovetsky's career spans over 40 extraordinary years that took him from Soviet Russia where he escaped, to playing all over

the world, often as a soloist, but also conducting the leading orchestras of our time including the London and Royal Philharmonic Orchestras, Academy of St Martin in the Fields, San Francisco, St. Louis, Seattle and Dallas Symphony Orchestras, Ensemble Orchestral de Paris, Santa Cecilia and the St. Petersburg Philharmonic. He is also famous for his transcription for strings of major work such as Bach's Goldberg Variations, and he has a varied recording career.

In a recent interview for the Piedmont News, he confirmed that he would be playing in Lafayette, and in Piedmont the next day, the Stradivari violin made in 1717 in Cremona that he has been playing for 36 years, and that many great musicians have played before him. Playing with him will be artists that both Freund-Striplen and Sitkovetsky have known and worked with for a long time, such as cellist Luigi Piovano, who Sitkovetsky considers his musical brother and who Freund-Striplen had already invited last year to her audience's delight.

The choice of an all-Schuman program for this performance was a common choice that will allow GCCP to feature all the musicians individually as well as together with the quintet. It includes the Violin Sonata No. 1 in A minor, Op. 105, the Fantasiestücke, Op. 73 for Cello and Piano, and the very romantic and exuberant Piano Quintet, Op. 44.

For the rest of the 2019-20 season of the Lafayette-based chamber orchestra, Freund-Striplen promises a kaleidoscope of colors. For the first time a contemporary Chinese composer who lives in Ohio will be featured and will come to the concert. This is an example of what the director loves to do: introduce people to new and accessible music, bringing out different cultures and backgrounds and give them a nice showcase.

Another of this year's concerts will feature the Grammy-nominated Azury quartet, while another will present the Eicher quartet that Freund-Striplen calls a "hot new young quartet."

This year Freund-Striplen is also proposing a fundraiser on Sept. 21, which will be a pairing of music and food in a private home, featuring an Italian feast complemented with the music of Italian cellist Luigi Piovano. Freund-Striplen explains that as the level of the musicians keeps rising, funding for the program also needs to increase.

Details, as well as season and individual tickets are available at <https://www.gccpmusic.com/>

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Long weekend getaway

# Refresh and rejuvenate at Four Seasons Hotel Westlake Village's Signature Retreat



Participants in a Signature Retreat.

Photos Evelyne Gaudin

By Fran Miller

Several weeks have passed since I returned home from my Signature Retreat at Four Seasons Hotel Westlake Village, and the effects of this transformative health and wellness weekend continue to reverberate. In partnership with the on-site California Health & Longevity Institute, the immersive four-day, all-inclusive experience provided a much needed nutrition and fitness wakeup call. Too much wine, too many sweets, and not enough weight-bearing exercise had taken their toll and my BodPod body composition scan (part of the retreat itinerary) proved it. It was time to get serious.

The retreat provides a winning combination of the Four Seasons brand of luxury hospitality and CHLI's personalized nutrition and fitness services. Over four days and three nights, participants are led through an hour-to-hour itinerary of curated workshop experiences, cooking classes, life balance exercises, and personalized workouts that inspire optimal health, weight loss, and lifestyle changes. The retreat is customized to each participant based on a pre-program health assessment and phone consultation with an expert nutritionist.

The shocking result of my BodPod scan was enough to lead me on a path to proper nutrition and exercise, and the wise counsel of renowned nutritionist Paulette

Lambert (California's first private practice registered dietitian) proved invaluable. Regaling our group with practical and scientific nutrition knowledge, Lambert led us through hands-on culinary experiences while conveying her passion for healthy foods. She taught us how to weather media and marketing misinformation storms and demonstrated that nutritious meals can be delicious and satisfying. She listened patiently to our incessant questions, and thoughtfully answered each and every one. She even hiked Malibu Canyon with us. And at the end of the program, each of us left with her cookbook, "The Wellness Kitchen," having already mastered several of the recipes within.

Mental and physical fitness played just as large a role throughout the weekend. The early start to morning meditation proved challenging to some, but those of us who set our alarms were rewarded with calming tools we can use in our daily lives. We giggled at first over the unconventional 'sound bath meditation' and the practitioner's manipulation of quartz bowls to elicit supernatural sound waves, but in the end, the gentle snores from several in our group substantiated the serenity of the practice. And some of us struggled with the option of a glass of wine with our Coin & Candor dinner, the hotels' signature restaurant, where we learned to order healthy options off of the menu. Did we really want or need that

glass of wine, equal in calories (we now knew) to a scoop of ice cream? Maybe not.

Perhaps of equal importance to the enjoyment of the retreat was our group's camaraderie. Ours was a wildly varying-in-age flock of 10 – the fellowship of which was as soul-fulfilling as each of our well-planned activities. Strangers at the first Friday afternoon gathering, and friends exchanging phone numbers and email addresses by the Monday end, we shared with each other our individual food vices, our body fat percentages, and our personal wellness goals. Side by side we practiced mindfulness and new forms of meditation. We worked out, cooked, ate, and hiked together. And during our scheduled 'personal time' we continued to gather, chatting on chaise lounges by the posh Four Seasons

pool while foregoing the guacamole, chips, and margaritas enjoyed by those seated near us, opting instead for ice water and the seasonal fruit plate, and feeling good about the choice.

Alive. This was my word choice when our group was instructed during our initial welcome circle to imagine our 'happy places' and to describe how we feel when there. We were encouraged

to elicit during the retreat the expression of our selected words. End result? Four Seasons Hotel Westlake Village Signature Retreat is apparently my new happy place; I'd never felt quite so alive, in such a healthy way.

Travel Tip: Fly JetSuiteX out of Concord to Burbank and then Uber or Lyft (about a 40-minute drive) to the hotel. Free parking, snacks, drinks, no baggage fees, and ample leg room? Yes, please.



Paulette Lambert conducts a cooking class.

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## Troop 204 completes '50-miler'



Photos Pepe Davis

Trek 3, from left: Naoto Watanabe, Ben Thiselton-Dyer, Jon Davis, Andrew Baxter, Ray Adams, Ryan Bea, Josh Gohres, and Nick Owels.

### Submitted by Jenny Shepherd

Lafayette's Boy Scout Troop 204 completed its annual "50-Miler" backpacking trip in August. This has been a tradition of the troop for over 50 years. There were seven different treks totaling over 80 Scouts and dads hiking through the Hoover Wilderness and Yosemite. Each trek had Scouts aging in range from 12 to 17 years old, with older Scouts teaching younger Scouts how to hike, camp and have fun in the backcountry. The senior trek comprised eight recent Eagle Scouts. The trip builds teamwork, camaraderie and leadership while enjoying some of the finest backcountry vistas in the world. The Scouts saw many incredible sites including Mount Conness, Matterhorn, Cathedral Peak, Glen Aulin Falls, Hetch Hetchy Valley, and many lakes, meadows, forests, granite domes and spires.

Scoutmaster Tim Lee, who took over this year from retired Scoutmaster Tom Steuber, said, "This was one of the most memorable 50-Milers in recent history. While we negotiated a few more mosquitos due

to the rainy winter, we enjoyed perfect weather and incredible trails throughout the Yosemite wilderness. I appreciate the tremendous volunteer efforts by the parents, and I'm extremely proud of the Scouts for their accomplishments and the amazing time they had on the trip."

All Scouts safely returned from the wilderness and were greeted by their families at the traditional Welcome Home Picnic, usually involving the hikers' favorite foods. Many stories, both true and definitely exaggerated, were shared by Scouts and dads. This year was especially joyous as the boys supported their sister troop, Troop 402, on their first 25-mile trip starting the next day.

Boy Scout Troop 204 in Lafayette has been serving the community, providing leadership, and having fun in the outdoors since 1932. The troop meets at the old log cabin at First and School Streets on Monday nights at 7:30 p.m. Troop 402, the sister troop, is growing rapidly, and meets at the cabin on Thursday nights at 7:30 p.m. If you are interested in joining or learning more, please contact Jim Coyle at [jcoyle8@yahoo.com](mailto:jcoyle8@yahoo.com).



Trek 3 takes a lunch break on the trail.

## Local literacy nonprofit celebrates 20 years of service



Photo provided

BTSYA Volunteers Brigitte Jia, Chelsea Pelchat, and Jelina Liu at a Saint Mary's college event.

### Submitted by Brigitte Jia

Be the Star You Are, a Moraga-based literacy and positive media message charity, will mark a major milestone on Sept. 9 – 20 years of serving the community, county, and country. Staffed with volunteers, no paid employees, and operated solely with the generous donations of individuals and businesses, the volunteers of this nonprofit host an award-winning international radio show interviewing authors and celebrities from around the globe, provide free books to children at events, ship supplies to survivors of natural disasters across the United States, perform pop-up concerts with other BTSYA volunteer musicians throughout Lamorinda and for seniors at Moraga Royale and Aegis, read books to children at the Moraga Faire, paint faces at Saint Mary's events and the Pear Festival, and help children write letters to Santa at the 5A Rent-a-Space Holiday party.

Bridgitte Jia has been a proud member and volunteer for this top-rated nonprofit for the past six years. "In my freshman year at Campolindo High School, I stumbled upon the opportunity to be a behind-the-scenes 'art coordinator,'" she said. "With the encouragement and enthusiasm of Founder and Executive Director Cynthia Brian, I soon spread my wings to become a

reporter on Express Yourself Teen Radio, brought to the airwaves under the auspices of the BTSYA charity. I quickly sharpened my communicative abilities, giving me the chance to grow from an awkward high school freshman into an open, articulate individual."

There are numerous opportunities for teens to get their community service credits while growing as people and leaders, Jia says. "Besides reporting on the thought-provoking radio broadcast, one of the most popular Be the Star You Are outreach programs is to become a writer on the Star Teen Book Review Team. To date, over 2,000 book reviews have been written and published. The BTSYA motto is: "Read, lead, succeed. To be a leader, you must be a reader."

Through Be the Star You Are programs, Jia says she found her voice and her leadership capabilities. "Because of my involvement with BTSYA, I am no longer afraid to talk to others about my feelings and opinions," Jia said. "As part of this organization, I've grabbed the globe by the horns and have been able to concretely change peoples' lives. The work I do alongside Cynthia and other members of our BTSYA family will stay with me for the rest of my life."

For more information, to volunteer or to make a donation, visit: <https://www.BetheStarYouAre.org>

## Moraga students honored for volunteer service



PSVA and MSD volunteer service awards' recipients at the June 4 MSD school board meeting.

Photo courtesy MSD office

### Submitted by Cathy Harrison

Moraga School District became one of the certifying organizations for the President's Volunteer Service Award in 2018. The program led by federal Corporation for National and Community Service since 2003 honors those whose service positively impacts their communities and inspires those around them to take action. Moraga School District also created a district-level volunteer service award program to recognize exceptional volunteers over the course of a 12-month period. More than a dozen MSD students were honored at a June 4 school board meeting. For more information on the program, please visit: <https://www.moraga.k12.ca.us/pvsa>.

### 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.



# Environmental youth activists make plea to local town council



Earth Guardians Bay Area Crew, from left: Jasia, Rio and Magdalena

Photo Vera Kochan

## By Vera Kochan

Roughly one year ago, Rio (who asked not to use his last name) became depressed after family friends lost their home to the Paradise Fire. That, coupled with continual media coverage about climate change and the environmental timeline of 12 years left to decrease emissions before irreversible damage to the

Earth sets in, made him distraught over mankind's future. Rather than sit on the sidelines, he decided to take matters in his own hands by rekindling Earth Guardians Bay Area Crew, whose members range from grades three through eight.

During the Public Comments and Suggestions portion of the Aug. 28 Moraga Town Council meeting, members of Earth Guardians,

a youth climate activist organization, made a presentation to the council.

Three students, Jasia (11), Magdalena (11) and her brother Rio (13), wore sashes pinned to their shirts with the word "Urgent" boldly written on them. They came to ask the town to consider using MCE Deep Green energy for all town-owned buildings, thereby reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

The Earth Guardians website says they "train diverse youth to be effective leaders in the environmental, climate and social justice movements across the globe – using art, music, storytelling, on the ground projects, civic engagement and legal actions to advance solutions to the critical issues we face as a global community."

Jasia, the first speaker before the town council, stated, "I think that the town of Moraga needs to do 100% renewable energy that will help with stopping climate change. I am terrified about the future and how it will turn out if we do not pull the emergency brake on fossil fuels. I want my kids to have a future."

Magdalena added, "For the ones on the front lines, we are mostly white, rich communities so we don't have to worry about our homes getting burned or flooded. We don't have to live by oils seeping into our homes, schools, food, water and exhaust going into our air. We don't live by refineries and oil fields. I see us making loving decisions for all people, animals, climate and the future – a just future."

Rio ended with, "I'm concerned you as decision-makers know that you need to switch to 100% renewable energy, but decide not to switch because of the cost. I know Moraga can afford it. If you do need help

through fundraising please contact us, because we can help fundraise." He added, "I would like to talk with you about the irony that CalPERS has a lot of investments in the fossil fuel industry that is destroying our planet."

The Earth Guardians are spurred on by the actions of Greta Thunberg, a 16-year-old Swedish student who began to make politicians accountable for the climate crisis by conducting "school climate strike movements" to raise global awareness. The movement eventually took flight around the globe.

Earlier this year, Rio and Magdalena were part of an Earth Guardians group that staged a rally in San Francisco to attract the attention of Sen. Dianne Feinstein. They personally spoke with Feinstein about endorsing the Green New Deal – a proposed United States legislation targeting climate change and economic inequality. Student activists from groups such as Earth Guardians and Sunrise Movement will speak at a rally in Walnut Creek's Civic Park at 1 p.m. Sept. 21, in conjunction with the Global Climate Strike on Sept. 20, signifying the growing urgency of the climate crisis for the young people who will be primarily affected by it in coming decades.

For more information about Earth Guardians visit: [www.earthguardians.org](http://www.earthguardians.org).

# Campo students send 1,000 textbooks overseas



Photos provided

## Submitted by Linda Trecek

Campolindo students Emma Ngo and Amrita Malhotra raised \$1,000 through a GoFundMe campaign to ship about 1,000 science textbooks to the International Book Project headquarters in Lexington, Kentucky. The two found these science textbooks in the dumpster at the high school at the beginning of summer when they were biking around there, and found out that the textbooks were being dumped due to changing science standards in California. "We got permission from the administration to take the books from the dumpster and donate them," Amrita noted on the GoFundMe page, "and we spent time in the summer moving the books and storing them in our garage."

The textbooks will be shipped to the International Book Project, which

will then ship the textbooks to various countries around the world where students can benefit from them. Emma's dad's company, Moz Designs, built a crate and assisted the students with the shipping process.

For more information on the International Book Project, visit: <https://www.intlbookproject.org/>



## In Memory

### Robert Lawrence Mann

2/17/1963 - 6/16/2019

Resident of Aptos



Robert Lawrence Mann of Aptos tragically passed away at the age of 56 on June 16, 2019. He is forever loved and will be forever missed.

Bob was well-known for his love of brewing, barbecuing, boats, 4x4s, and just about anything with a motor. He enjoyed being at Lake Tahoe where he was able to enjoy all of his passions. The first part of Bob's work career was spent catering to the new Micro Brewing community with specialized products he was able to offer through Oxford and Zep chemicals. He became well-known as "Caustic Bob" to

all his brewing friends. In 2009 he married Janell Lund and they moved to Aptos to manage Janell's family mobile home park. Bob took on new hobbies that coastal life offered him, namely deep-sea fishing and crabbing.

He is survived by his loving father and mother, Bill and Joyce of Orinda, sister Carol Cunha of Granite Bay, brother Bill of San Francisco, niece Catherine Cunha of Sacramento and nephew Robert Cunha of San Diego, in-laws Paul Cunha of Granite Bay, Gerald and Bonnie Lund of Aptos, Jayson Lund of Kingsburg and daughters Lauren and Hailey Lund.

A Celebration of Bob's life will take place Saturday, Sept. 21 at the Tahoe Yacht Club, 700 N. Lake Blvd, Tahoe City, California, from noon to 4 p.m. Attire is Tahoe Casual and please RSVP so we have a count for lunch - [bobmanncol@gmail.com](mailto:bobmanncol@gmail.com). Please do not send flowers despite any links on Legacy.com or Tributes.com. Donations in Bob's name to the Rubicon Trail Foundation are appreciated. <https://www.rubicontrailfoundation.org/about-us/>

## In Memory

### Mohammad Rashid

1947 - 2019



Mohammad Rashid passed away on Aug. 24, 2019, two decades after the death of his wife. At the age of 72, he passed away from a stroke, surrounded my family and friends in the end in Walnut Creek. He is survived by his four children and 45 grandchildren who surrounded him every moment from the time he initially got ill. He resided in Orinda for 30 years with his eldest son, Gohar.

A sculptor by training, Rashid leaves behind timeless works of art and many anecdotal stories from his time in Pakistan. He worked hard to support not only his family, but the families of all his siblings. His memory lives on through his

stories, his sacrifices, and his contagious sense of positivity. Funeral prayers were held at the Islamic Center of Berkeley on Sunday, Sept. 1.

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

# ◆ Not to be missed ◆ Not to be missed ◆ Not to be missed ◆

## ART

**Saint Mary's College Museum of Art (SMC | MoA)** presents two new exhibitions on view through Dec. 8. "Kal Spelletich: Significance Machines and Purposeful Robots" explores boundaries between humans and machines, integrating spirituality and mysticism through an unlikely form - robots. And "New Formalism in Painting and Photography," which presents the collaborative work of artists R&D (Diane Rosenblum and Joe Doyle) expanding the boundaries of painting and photography through digital manipulations. MoA admission is free. For information on programming and hours, visit [www.stmarys-ca.edu/museum](http://www.stmarys-ca.edu/museum).

**Youth Maker's Expo at the Lafayette Art & Wine Festival.** Local young entrepreneurs ages 9-16 are encouraged to display and sell their products and services during the festival, Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 21 and 22. Y-ME will be open 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. both days. Entrepreneurs will have

the option to attend business and marketing classes before the festival. To apply for free table space visit [LafayetteFestival.com/y-me/](http://LafayetteFestival.com/y-me/)

**24th Annual Lafayette Art & Wine Festival** from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 21 and from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 22 in Downtown Lafayette. Four stages featuring over 20 Bay Area cover bands, 300 artist / craft booths, 3 kid zones with activities for all. New this year - The Young Maker's Expo and the Xfinity Pigskin Party. Free admission. Free bike valet + parking at BART. Supports local education. [www.lafayettefestival.com](http://www.lafayettefestival.com)

**The Lamorinda Arts Alliance** is delighted to present a juried art exhibition "Under Pressure 2", at the Main Street Arts Gallery at 613 Main Street, Martinez, from Sept. 6 to Oct. 6. All printmaking mediums were considered for exhibition with an emphasis on varied techniques. Intaglio etchings, monotypes, monoprints, solarplate etchings,

Chine-collé, relief print woodblocks and linoleum art will be represented. The \$100 cash first prize and second, third place and honorable mention show ribbons and prizes will be awarded to the winning artists at the reception from 3 to 5 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 7.

**Join Saint Mary's College Museum of Art (SMC | MoA)** from 6 to 8 p.m. on Sept. 5 for their exhibition reception! Interact with Spelletich's unexpected robots and immerse yourself in the large digital paintings of the collaborative team R&D. Meet the artists behind R&D, Diane Rosenblum and Joe Doyle. Experience live music by the Bay Area Jazz performers Charged Particles. Enjoy gourmet bites and refreshing beverages. MoA admission and events are free and open to the public. "Kal Spelletich: Significance Machines and Purposeful Robots" and "New Formalism in Painting and Photography" are on view through Dec. 8. For more information visit:

[www.stmarys-ca.edu/museum](http://www.stmarys-ca.edu/museum).

**Lamorinda Arts Alliance presents "Abstractly Speaking"** by Artist 7 through Sept. 27 at the aRt Cottage, 2238 Mt. Diablo St., Concord. Artist 7 is a group of artists that regularly meet to discuss upcoming shows, museum events and to discuss new art techniques and media. "Abstractly Speaking" presents their current abstract work, with each artist exploring different directions in the genre. Moved by the plight of children at our southern border, the artists will donate 30% of all their sales to The Legal Service for Children in San Francisco. The aRt Cottage is open Tuesday to Friday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday 1 to 5 p.m.

## MUSIC

**Barefoot Chamber Concerts presents Burning River Baroque: 'A Mad, Burning Desire'** from 6 to 7 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 13, at Parish Hall of St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 2300 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. Cleveland's cutting-edge

baroque ensemble sheds light on the 17th-c. fascination with madness in a concert of mad songs by Henry Purcell and others. Cost: \$15. For more info see <http://barefootchamberconcerts.com> or call (510) 220-1195 or email [info@barefootchamberconcerts.com](mailto:info@barefootchamberconcerts.com).

**Join us for the September Song Piano Concert** by the Piano Composers of Contra Costa Performing Arts Society at 7:30 p.m. on Sept. 13 at Grace Presbyterian Church 2100 Tice Valley Blvd in Walnut Creek. This musical event features original, seductive music with occasional reference to Broadway, Brahms, and New Orleans — all this performed by composer pianists themselves. This free event is sponsored by the not-for-profit CCPAS founded in 1974 ([www.ccpas.org](http://www.ccpas.org)) with donations supporting our youth programs. Parking is plentiful.

**Gold Coast Chamber Players concert, 'Sitkovetsky Plays Schumann'** at 7:30 p.m. on Sept. 14 at Don Tatzin Community Hall, at the Lafayette Library. The 20th Anniversary celebration follows the concert at JPG@thebank. Tickets: <https://app.arts-people.com/index.php?actions=4&p=1089>. More information: [www.gccpmusic.com/concert-1](http://www.gccpmusic.com/concert-1)

**Pacific Chamber Orchestra, under the direction of Conductor Lawrence Kohl,** performs Beethoven's monumental Symphony #9 at 7:30 p.m. Sept. 14 at the Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church, 24 Knox, Lafayette. Experience with Beethoven the hero's inner journey from mysterious and humble beginnings to thundering triumph. Tickets are available at [www.PacificChamberOrchestra.org](http://www.PacificChamberOrchestra.org).

**St. Paul's concert series continues** with Greg Dufford and Fernanda Nieto Duet at 7 p.m. on Sept. 28 at 1924 Trinity Avenue, Walnut Creek. From San Francisco Opera and Chamber Orchestra to Denver stages, Greg Dufford bings alive the magic of his clarinet artistry. Renowned from Argentina and Colorado, pianist Dr. Fernanda Nieto joins the stage in a vibrant musical performance. Donation at the door: average \$20, Students \$10 (all are welcome regardless of donation). [www.facebook.com/stpaulsconcertseries/](http://www.facebook.com/stpaulsconcertseries/)

## THEATER

**Town Hall Theatre opens their milestone 75th "Transformations" 2019-20** Season with Matthew Lopez's comedy: "The Legend of Georgia McBride," a celebratory piece about a young man discovering his inner drag queen Sept. 26 though Oct. 19. There will be an opening reception at 8 p.m. on Sept. 28. For tickets and showtimes: BOX OFFICE: (925) 283-1557; [www.townhalltheatre.com](http://www.townhalltheatre.com)

## LECTURE & LITERATURE

**San Francisco Opera previews at 7 p.m.** at Don Tatzin Community Hall, Lafayette Library and Learning Center, 3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. Aug. 28: "Romeo and Juliet" (Charles Gounod), Speaker Timothy Flynn and Sept. 4: "Billy Budd" (Benjamin Britten), Speaker Jonathan Khuner. Contact: Silvia Lin at (925) 838-9255 or [slinalamo@gmail.com](mailto:slinalamo@gmail.com)

... continued on next Page

## Lamorinda's Religious Services

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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



### St Stephen's Episcopal Church

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

### St. Anselm's Episcopal Church

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In-church Youth Zone, 10 AM Nursery Childcare  
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**Sunday Service and Sunday School 10 - 11 am**  
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[www.christianscienceorinda.org](http://www.christianscienceorinda.org)

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955 Moraga Road 925.284.4765 [thelumc.org](http://thelumc.org)  
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Opportunities to Love God, Love Others,  
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**LECTURE & LITERATURE**

**Moraga author Jo Mele will hold** a book signing for her memoir “The Odd Grandmothers” at 3 p.m. on Sept. 8 at Cine Cuvee Wine Bar, 2 Theatre Square, Orinda. She compares the similarities in the lives of her great-great-grandmother, her grandmother, and herself; the odd generations of her maternal family. She follows three strong women from Sicily, to Brooklyn, to San Francisco, and back again to Sicily. An immigration success story you will enjoy. Rsvp: jomele@comcastnet

**SMC Creative Writing Reading Series** with Ada Limón & Matthew Zapruder from 7:30 to 9 p.m. on Sept. 11 in De La Salle Hall: Hagerty Lounge, 1928 Saint Mary's Road, Moraga. Ada Limón is the author of five books of poetry, including “The Carrying,” which won the National Book Critics Circle Award for Poetry and was named one of the top 5 poetry books of the year by the Washington Post. Matthew Zapruder is the author of five collections of poetry, most recently “Father's Day,” from Copper Canyon in fall 2019, as well as “Why Poetry,” a book of prose. He is editor at large at Wave Books, where he edits contemporary poetry, prose, and translations.

**SMC Afternoon Craft Conversation** with Ingrid Rojas Contreras from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. on Sept. 25 at De La Salle Hall: Hagerty Lounge, 1928 Saint Mary's Road, Moraga. Often, the image that comes to mind when we think of dramatic structure is Freytag's pyramid, a shape that visually illustrates rising action, climax, and denouement. In this lecture, we will move away from Freytag's European understanding of structure, and we will investigate how other cultures understand story, how different writers have thought of dramatic structure in architectural and visual language, and how these artists arrived at their visions.

**KIDS, PARENTS & TEENS**

**Moraga Library presents Lego and Listen**, at 4 p.m. on Sept. 10. The Lego and Listen program is designed to hone listening skills and explore creativity. Children ages 4-10 listen quietly to stories while creating projects with Lego building blocks.

**Moraga Library presents Movie and a Craft** at 3 p.m. on Sept. 18. You've got a friend in the library! Come watch the first “Toy Story” as you make your own Forky. Craft supplies will be provided by the library. Best for ages 4 and up.

**The Lafayette Community Garden** and Outdoor Learning Center hosts its eighth annual Harvest Fest from 1 to 3 p.m. Sunday, Sept 29. The garden is located at 3932 Mt. Diablo Blvd., across from the Lafayette Reservoir entrance. There will be tours, talks, music, crafts, scarecrow making, games, food and drink and lots of fun. The event is free.

**Henna program at the Moraga Library** at 4 p.m. on Sept. 19. Rachel Palacios will be able to use the materials to draw temporary body art. Teens and adults.

**OTHER**

**Cancer Support Community is offering** free public tours of our open space in Lafayette. Drop in between 10 and 11:30 a.m. Oct. 12 to meet CSC staff, walk the site, and hear our plans for building a cancer community center. Location: south side of Mt. Diablo Blvd, across from Lafayette

Community Garden. Contact Libby Eppinga at leppinga@cancersupport.net or (925) 953-1216 for more information.

**Loaves and Fishes of Contra Costa** and St. Vincent de Paul of Contra Costa are excited to announce their 2019 Bocce Ball Tournament: The Big La Bocce beginning at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 7 at the Martinez Bocce Federation. The Bocce Ball Tournament will raise funds to support safety-net programs that improve the quality of life for residents of Contra Costa County who struggle to make ends meet. For more information and registration, please visit <https://loavesfishescc.com>.

**The 2019 Orinda Classic Car Show** Weekend with its Saturday Car Show and Friday Party before it will celebrate the history and excitement of classic cars. The car show will run 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 7 and the Friday Party will begin at 5:30 p.m. on Sept. 6 at the beautiful new Orinda Arts and Garden Center. Online car exhibitor entries and Friday party ticket sales are now available. Enter your car or buy tickets for the party at [www.orindacarshow.com](http://www.orindacarshow.com).

**KPFA Radio 94.1 FM presents Randall Munroe: How To: Absurd Scientific Advice for Common Problems** from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 10 at First Congregational Church of Berkeley, 2345 Channing Way, Berkeley. Munroe will discuss his new book, “How To,” answer questions and sign books. Hosted by Brian Edwards-Tiekert. Cost: \$12 advance, \$15 door. For more info see [www.brownpaper.com/event/4268685](http://www.brownpaper.com/event/4268685) or call (510) 967-4495.

**Orinda Junior Woman's Club Open House** from 7 to 8:30 p.m. on Sept. 10 at Taverna Pellegrini 65 Moraga Way, Orinda. Orinda Junior Woman's Club invites Orinda residents to join them for appetizers, drinks and mingle while you learn about what we do and how they give back to the community. An RSVP would be great, but please feel free to drop in even if you didn't get a chance to. [www.orindajuniors.org](http://www.orindajuniors.org)

**Grand Opening Party at Formula3** from 2 to 6 p.m. on Saturday Sept. 14 at 983 Moraga Rd. in Lafayette's La Fiesta Square. Enjoy small bites, drinks and a chance to win raffle prizes. Formula3 signature classes; Forge, Fire, and Flow, are designed with a 60% focus on one of the three core pillars of fitness to offer a complete and effective workout.

**Don't miss Sustainable Lafayette's** "Think Global, Act Local" fundraiser at the Lafayette Community Center's Jennifer Russell Building from 3:30 to 6 p.m. on Sept. 15. The event features Ted-style Talks from local sustainable living experts including Larry Goldzband, Executive Director of the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission, Erica Welton, Founder and Owner of Organic Coup, and Jim Coyle, LEED Accredited Professional and Construction Manager at Equity Community Builders. Lafayette businesses will be providing seasonal appetizers, and beverages will be provided by Jackson Family Wines and Anchor Brewing Company. A silent auction offers a great opportunity to do some sustainable shopping! Funds raised will be used to expand youth engagement programs. For tickets or more information visit [www.sustainablelafayette.org](http://www.sustainablelafayette.org)

**The Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette Branch** of the American

Association of University Women (AAUW-OML) will hold its annual showcase meeting to kickoff its 2019-20 year and give updates on its activities and projects from 10 to 11:30 a.m. on Sept. 17 (with 9:30 to 10 a.m. social hour) at Orinda Community Church, 10 Irwin Way, Orinda. Also, a recent UC Berkeley graduate will speak on her experience at this year's AAUW National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL), the premier leadership training conference for college women. The meeting is open to the public.

**Mountain Shadow's 5th Annual Short Film Competition** at 7:30 p.m. on Sept. 20 and at 3:30 and 7:30 p.m. on Sept. 21 at Las Lomas High School Theater, 1460 S. Main St. (across from Kaiser Hospital) in Walnut Creek. Categories include animated, live action/narrative and documentary short films. The 11 finalists will be present to compete for cash prizes and the audience choice awards. General admission tickets will be available for \$12 at the door beginning a half hour before the start of the competition. Capital One Café will host a free reception between the two Saturday shows from 5:30 to 7 p.m. to meet the filmmakers. All are welcome.

**Middle Eastern Festival 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.** Saturday, Sept. 21 and 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 22 on the grounds of the St. John the Evangelist Orthodox Church at 501 Moraga Way in Orinda. All are welcome to enjoy the food, live entertainment, folk dancing, exhibits, games and more. Admission is \$2.

**East Bay students, families, retirees** and Climate Change activists are gathering in Walnut Creek Civic Park at 1 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 21 to support the Global Climate Strike and learn how to make significant impacts for change on this crucial issue facing our nation and our planet. The Community Climate Rally and Environmental Action Fair, hosted by the East Bay Climate Action Network, is part of an effort by citizens in more than 150 nations around the world to demand action and express their outrage over the failure of the U.S. government and other major economic powers and industries to acknowledge and forcefully address climate change.

**Join the ContraCosta County Library** Accessibility Committee for a screening of Pick of the Litter from 4 to 6 p.m. on Sept. 24 at the Moraga Library. This documentary follows five puppies as they are trained to become guide dogs for the blind. Over the course of their first two years of life, each dog's ability to protect a blind human is rigorously honed and tested by professional instructors. If volunteers are available they will bring puppies from Guide Dogs for the Blind.

**Las Trampas invites you to join them** and the Morgan Family for their 10th Annual Walk n' Roll 1 mile or 5K Run fundraiser from 8 a.m. to noon on Sept. 28. Walk, Roll or Run from Lafayette Plaza Park where we'll have refreshments, music, face painting and more. Your registration fee of \$25 (\$30 if you register at the Walk) includes a t-shirt, raffle prizes, refreshments. Enjoy entertainment by The Jen Coogan Band, and KKDV music and game wheel. 8 a.m. registration, 9 a.m. start time. Register at [www.lastrampas.org](http://www.lastrampas.org) or call (925) 310-2363.

**GARDEN**

**The Walnut Creek Garden Club** will hold its monthly meeting at 10 a.m. on Monday, Sept. 9 at the Gardens at

Heather Farm, 1540 Marchbanks Drive, in Walnut Creek. The featured speaker will be Tina Neuhausel on the topic of “Sustainable Contra Costa - What's happening in our community.” Sustainable Contra Costa is a community of citizens, educators, innovators, and organizations designing and building pathways to ecologically sustainable, economically vibrant, and socially just communities for all. You do not need to be a gardener to join the Walnut Creek Garden Club.

**Lafayette Garden Club's September** meeting will start at 10 a.m. on Sept. 12 in Lafayette Veteran's Bldg, 3780 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Lafayette. Speaker at 11 a.m. Rebecca Byrom designer of home decorations using natural products and owner of 'Something Special with Herbs' will be the guest speaker. She will create some Herb Arrangements and share her favorite Irish Gardens. There is no charge to attend, anyone who is interested please contact [twalklet@comcast.net](mailto:twalklet@comcast.net)


**The Moraga Garden Club Monthly** General Meeting will be held at 9:30 a.m. on Sept. 19 at the Holy Trinity Cultural Center, 1700 School Street. Alex Friedman from Sloat Garden Center will speak on the topic of Fall Planting and Pruning. General meetings are free and open to the public. New

members are welcomed! For more information: [www.moragagardenclub.com](http://www.moragagardenclub.com)

**The Montelindo Garden Club** will meet at 9:30 a.m. on Sept. 20 at the Lafayette Library and Learning Center's Community Hall. Presentation: Bringing Color to Your Garden With Succulents and Their Friends. Speaker: Cricket Riley. After completing degrees in Landscape Architecture, History, Broadcast Journalism and Near Eastern Studies, in April of 2017 Cricket joined the Ruth Bancroft Garden staff. She loves to help people select appropriate plants to produce lush, beautiful and sustainable gardens. To illustrate her presentation, Cricket will be bringing succulents that can be purchased at the meeting's conclusion.

**Bringing Back the Natives workshop** California native plant propagation for beginners: How to create native plants from seeds, cuttings, and divisions from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sept. 28 in Walnut Creek. Join renowned environmental educator Judy Adler in a hands-on workshop at her half-acre garden, where you will learn how to propagate California native plants from seeds, cuttings, and divisions, and take home plants you have propagated yourself! \$40, limited to 15 people. Register: [www.bringingbackthenatives.net/fall-2019-workshops](http://www.bringingbackthenatives.net/fall-2019-workshops)


## Service Clubs Announcements




### Lafayette Rotary Club

**Step in on a Thursday and join us for our lunch meeting.**  
Thursday at noon Oakwood Athletic Club, 4000 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette.

<p><b>September 5:</b></p> <p><b>Behavioral Psychology: Six Barriers to Investment Success</b></p> <p><i>Andrew Parrott</i></p>	<p><b>September 12:</b></p> <p><b>Getting to know our newest members</b></p>
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[www.rotarylafayette.org](http://www.rotarylafayette.org)  
[www.facebook.com/Rotary-Club-of-Lafayette-CA](https://www.facebook.com/Rotary-Club-of-Lafayette-CA)


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**SEPTEMBER WEEKLY MEETINGS**

**6: Thomas Raeth, Youth Leadership at Camps Royal and Venture**

**13: Deanne Pearn, Executive Director, Contra Costa Interfaith Housing**

**20: Chris Laszcz-Davis, Tech Trek/STEAM Girls**

**27: Annie Marggraff, Club Member Presentation**

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

## Lamorinda Weekly

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# La Finestra Ristorante shares stuffed bell pepper recipe



Yellow bell peppers stuffed with risotto and Bolognese sauce

Photo Susie Iventosch

## By Susie Iventosch

Our publisher, Andy Scheck, tipped me off about some amazing stuffed yellow bell peppers that were recently served as a special at La Finestra Ristorante of Moraga. Apparently there were only 20 of these delicious nuggets available, and Andy felt lucky to have one of them. With garden harvests in full swing, I thought it would be a wonderful recipe for using homegrown bell peppers. Chef and owner, Jeff Assadi, was kind enough to share how he makes this dish for our readers. This isn't the first time he's been willing to do this. We featured his Polenta alla Contadina back in May of 2009. That dish, made with sun-dried tomatoes, gorgonzola and wild mushroom sauce is fabulous.

These stuffed peppers are fun to make and very colorful too, but be aware there are a lot of different components. This dish comprises six main elements: risotto, marinara sauce, Bolognese sauce, and the peppers, in addition to grilled eggplant and

provolone cheese. You can either use leftover marinara, risotto and Bolognese sauce to combine for this pepper stuffing, or you can make all of them especially for the stuffed peppers and use the leftovers for spaghetti Bolognese or your favorite risotto dish. For Assadi, the stuffed peppers easily came together, because he always has these dishes as regular menu items.

Some things never change, and in this case Assadi still does not follow recipes, but rather cooks more by feel, so I have taken liberty with his list of ingredients to come up with recipes for the risotto, marinara and Bolognese sauces. There has been one major change for La Finestra, however, and that is a change of location from Lafayette to Moraga. When a fire consumed the entire building where his restaurant and six other businesses were located in July 2017, Assadi was forced to move.

"This was one of the saddest things that ever happened to me," he said. "I put my heart and soul into that place and all of a sudden it was gone in the middle of

the night. Even months later, we still didn't know if reconstruction would be a possibility. We were just very happy that no one was hurt."

People were asking Assadi what he planned to do next, because his wish was to keep the name and the cooking style the same, as well as try to keep as many of his employees as possible. There was a fleeting opportunity to open the restaurant at the Moraga Hacienda, but that fell through and finally, in October, he was able to reopen in the old Terzetto Restaurant location in Moraga. Sadly, due to the fire, Assadi lost all the contents of the Lafayette location, including a lovely collection of photographs he'd taken himself. There were some very interesting and beautiful windows from all around the world in that collection, because, after all, La Finestra literally means "the window" in Italian. Even though he no longer has his collection of photos, his new restaurant is nothing but windows ... practically every wall is glass, befitting a restaurant named La Finestra!



### La Finestra Ristorante

1419 Moraga Way  
Moraga, Ca.

(925) 376-4444

There is a banquet room that holds a maximum of 38 with 105 seats in total in the restaurant.

<http://lafinestraristorante.com/>

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.

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

## Yellow Bell Peppers stuffed with Risotto and Bolognese Sauce

(Makes 6 servings)

### Bolognese Sauce

#### INGREDIENTS

4 tablespoons olive oil  
2 large yellow onions, diced  
2 cloves garlic, minced  
2 carrots, peeled and diced  
2 stalks celery, diced  
1 pound very lean ground beef  
1 pound ground veal (I added veal)  
4-6 tablespoons tomato paste  
2 tablespoons minced Italian parsley  
2 tablespoons minced fresh basil  
2 teaspoons Italian seasoning  
Salt & pepper to taste  
(My Additions)  
½ cup wine (red or white)  
1 cup beef or chicken broth  
1 14-ounce can diced tomatoes in juice  
1 cup milk

#### DIRECTIONS

Heat oil in large skillet. Add onions and garlic and cook over medium heat until onions are translucent. Add carrots and celery and continue to cook for a few minutes longer. Add meat to pan and cook until meat is cooked through, chopping to crumble as it cooks. Add remaining herbs, seasoning and tomato paste. At this point, I also added the wine, broth, diced tomatoes in juice. Heat all until very hot. At the very end, add the milk and heat through. This gives the Bolognese that creamy consistency.

### Peppers

6 yellow, red or orange bell peppers, tops and seeds removed

### Risotto

#### INGREDIENTS

2 tablespoons olive oil  
1 small yellow onion, diced  
1 clove garlic, minced  
1 cup Arborio rice  
½ cup dry white wine  
3-4 cups chicken broth

#### DIRECTIONS

Heat olive oil in large sauce pan. Add onions and garlic and cook over medium heat until onions are translucent. (Shallots are also a great addition here.) Next, add the Arborio rice and cook for just a few minutes, tossing in the oil and onion mixture until rice has a sheen. Stir in wine and allow to cook until it is evaporated. Next, add broth, ½ cup at a time, stirring once and then allowing to cook, undisturbed, until liquid is absorbed. Continue with this process until all liquid is used, or rice is al dente. (You may not need all the broth.)

### Marinara Sauce

#### INGREDIENTS

2 tablespoons olive oil  
1 large yellow onion, diced  
2 cloves garlic, minced  
6 fresh plum tomatoes, diced  
1 14-ounce can tomato sauce  
4 tablespoons tomato paste  
1 teaspoon dried oregano  
2 tablespoons fresh minced basil  
Salt and pepper to taste  
½ cup dry red wine (my addition)

#### DIRECTIONS

Heat oil in skillet. Add onion and garlic and cook over medium heat until onions are translucent. (Sound familiar?) Add diced tomatoes and continue to cook until tomatoes soften. Add tomato paste and stir into veggies. Next add canned tomatoes, herbs, salt and pepper. Heat all the way through until just about boiling. Add wine and continue to cook over low heat. Remove from stove and cool to room temperature.

### Eggplant

1 large eggplant  
2 tablespoons olive oil  
Salt & pepper

Slice eggplant and salt both sides. Allow eggplant to sweat for about 30 minutes. Dry off the moisture with a paper towel. Brush with olive oil and season with salt and pepper. Now, you can barbecue, broil or bake at 400 F on a baking sheet, until just beginning to soften and turn slightly browned. Remove from heat. Cool and chop.

#### TO ASSEMBLE

Mix about 2 cups risotto, 3 cups Bolognese sauce and chopped eggplant together. Fill cavities of peppers with this mixture. Spread marinara sauce in the bottom of your baking dish and place filled peppers on top of sauce. Cover with foil and bake at 400 F for about 35 minutes or until peppers are tender. Remove foil, place a slice of provolone atop each one, and continue to cook, uncovered until cheese is melted and bubbly. Garnish with parsley and pass extra sauce.

# Demystifying Early Application options

## By Elizabeth LaScala, PhD

Hundreds of colleges and universities welcome early applicants. So how do you know if an early option is right for you? The first step is to understand the differences between the major early admission plans.

Early decision is a binding agreement between the college and applicant. You may only use ED for one school and, if accepted, you must attend. ED has become more popular, especially among very selective institutions, because there are clear advantages. From a financial standpoint, colleges get a head start assembling an incoming freshman class, since the yield from accepted ED applicants is 100%. From a competitive stance, ED gives the college the opportunity to admit the desirable students,

those who might have attended rival institutions. The advantages to students include ending the uncertainty of the college admissions process early so they can relax and enjoy their senior year. Also, applying ED can sometimes increase the qualified student's chances of admission.

When deferred, or denied ED, the student is released from the commitment and can pursue other options—including ED at another school. Hence we have witnessed the emergence of ED2 application programs. This is another enrollment strategy used by colleges that know that high achieving students who are denied at their first choice school often look afresh at other selective schools. Applying ED2 may increase the chances of admission there. The downside of both types of ED programs is that it limits

financial aid options. Families forfeit the opportunity to compare financial aid offers from several schools, or negotiate for a better package between schools.

In contrast, early action gives the student an early response without a binding commitment. Students accepted through EA enjoy the benefit of knowing that they are accepted by one or more of the schools on their list, but they can wait until the spring to decide what school to attend. The student is also free to apply to other schools using the regular admission cycle and make a decision once all admission offers and financial aid awards are on the table. A few EA schools place restrictions. The most restrictive is "early action single choice." Under this program a student may not apply ED or EA to any other school. Both ED and EASC are often the most attractive

options for applicants in one or preferably more of the following categories:

- Students who do not require financial assistance
- Athletic recruits
- Legacy candidates
- Children of legacies who have consistently made donations to the college over time—larger donations may have more of an impact.

Families should research and visit colleges to learn about early options and deadlines. If you choose a binding ED option, be totally confident that your first choice school is right for you, academically, socially and financially. Be sure your academic and extracurricular profile is competitive and that you have the support of your parents and high school counselor to submit a strong, cohesive application by the early deadline.



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# LAMORINDA SPORTS

## Rookie coaches and a veteran leading Lamorinda Volleyball



Madi Risch, Acalanes

Photos Gint Federas

Glass, who played for and graduated from Portland State, has been a head coach for the 13-year-old girls for the club team at Xceleration Volleyball, is excited about her opportunity at Acalanes: "I'm incredibly lucky for this to be my first head coaching job with this group of girls."

Glass, who is familiar with the area having graduated from Las Lomas High School ("I'm getting a lot of grief from my family"), has a team with both experience and youth. Senior Madi Risch is the team's top returning player, having been named first team all-conference last year.

Along with a core group of seniors, Glass anticipates playing a number of underclassmen: "Junior Annika Olson is moving to the outside from the inside and is learning the dynamics of a new position. She took the lead this summer bringing the team together. (Sophomore) Aly Kirke, who played on the JV team last year, will be on the right side and should be a factor on the offense."

On defense, Glass is relying on two juniors, Sydney Sowarby and Daisy Sibley, to lead the group: "Sydney has been great and fun to watch and Daisy is going to be a factor here as well. The libero position is still not set but I have four strong options to fill that position."

Glass' plan is for an aggressive, physical group: "I want us to be a scrappy team giving a lot of effort. Our players will be willing to roll off the court and go into the bleachers to save balls. That's the mentality our players are going to have."

### Miramonte

Miramonte head coach Lindsay Ray brings a great deal of experience to the team, having been an assistant coach at UC East Bay and also at the Xceleration

Club, and her first impressions of her players have been favorable: "All the girls are very dedicated and working hard. They are coachable and very passionate about the sport."

Miramonte lost four key players last year but Ray has a number of underclassmen that she will be counting on to step up as starters: "Sophomore Natalie Kurtz will be a big this year in the middle. Freshman Amber Chu is an all-around player that will be an outside hitter. (Senior) Julie Martin is going to be our other outside hitter. Our whole offense as a group has been working together

very well."

On defense, junior Haley Lim was fourth on the team in digs last year and will be the team's libero. Junior Jenna Foster is the backup libero and will play defensive specialist as well. Senior Audrey French is the team's setter and was second on the team in assists last year: "Audrey has taken on the leadership role, communicating well with her teammates, finding out how to give her teammates good sets," says Ray.

... continued on Page C3



Julie Martin, Miramonte



Audrey Pak, Campolindo

### By Jon Kingdon

All three Lamorinda girls' volleyball teams are coming off successful seasons. Campolindo (27-9) made it to the second round of the state playoffs, Miramonte made it to the third round of the state playoffs and Acalanes (17-14) lost in the fourth round of the

NCS championships. John Vuong will be entering his eighth season as Campolindo's head coach having a composite won-loss record of 197-68. The records for Acalanes' head coach Haley Glass and Miramonte's head coach Lindsay Ray are a composite 0-0. **Acalanes**



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# Lamorinda rugby player heading to Cal



Photos provided

## By Jon Kingdon

With the success of the Lamorinda Rugby Club, it should come as no surprise that a number of their players are going to play rugby in college. Miles Beaubelle, one of those players and a recent Miramonte graduate, will be playing for the University of California after being recruited by their legendary, longtime (37 years) head rugby coach, Jack Clark.

Though only 5'10", Beaubelle played basketball at Miramonte through his sophomore year, "which I enjoyed and created a lot of friendships." It was then that Beaubelle focused all of his energy on rugby: "My Dad had a friend who had seen me play football in middle school and she thought I would be interested in playing rugby and there was a concern about concussions when playing football. I had a lot of friends on the rugby team but I didn't know what I was getting into. Still, I was intrigued by the sport when I first started playing, though it did take a while to understand the rules."

With two of his coaches at Lamorinda Rugby having played rugby at Cal, Mateaki Tiki and Gary Hein, it is no surprise that Clark was aware of Beaubelle. "He's pretty athletic with his basketball

and has good speed. I was able to watch him play on the wing and this year he played in the center, which helped him as well with the ball in his hand with passing and catching. He has really improved his instincts and has a lot of raw potential and we're really looking forward to having him join us."

It's said that success breeds confidence. Were that the case, Beaubelle and all of the other first year players on the JV team were certainly entitled to be arrogant. In his first year playing rugby, the team was undefeated and won the NorCal Championship for their grade level.

Soccer has been described as a gentleman's game played by hooligans and rugby is a hooligan's game played by gentlemen, which appealed to Beaubelle: "When we joined the varsity the next season, we brought a family mentality, playing for ourselves as a group and not for the individual. As a junior on the varsity, we finished 13th in the nation and last season we finished sixth in the nation."

Tiki, Lamorinda Rugby's head coach, believes that Beaubelle has a real upside: "Miles has a lot of room to learn the little skills of the game. Still he is very advanced in terms on knowing where to be. He has the strength and speed to play on the next level. (Assistant

Coach) Gary Hein added a lot to Miles game.

Hein, who played rugby for Cal, Oxford and the U.S. National Team, saw something special in Beaubelle from the beginning: "Miles is a great kid who comes from a great family. He was always one of the best athletes in the area. Right from the beginning, it was evident that he was going to be a good player. His first two steps are fantastic and he has the top end speed to get through gaps very quickly and outrun people down the field. He's smart and coachable and was able to pick up the nuances of the game. It all came to him pretty naturally."

Baubelle appreciated what Tiki and Hein brought to the team: "Coach Tiki brought the family mentality to us. Our whole thing was family and being one. He had a fun side and made the game more enjoyable. Gary took me under his wing and helped me throughout the whole process. He showed me how to play and what to do on the field, in practice, and in how I should carry myself. It has all made me a better player, teammate and person."

Tiki and Hein both recommended him to Clark: "Miles has the strength and speed to play at Cal," says Tiki. "He's going to learn a great deal with Coach Clark." Hein concurs with Tiki's optimism on Beaubelle's future: "As he

adds weight and strength at Cal and maintains his burst, he will be really good on the wing and difficult to tackle. Having only played three years so far, the more he plays, the better he will be. Our senior group were great leaders that all worked together very well and Miles in the middle of the discussions and always had good input."

It will be a big challenge for Beaubelle as it is for all college freshmen, says Clark: "It's a big adjustment just going to college the first year and being a student-athlete. There are a lot of good players on our team and the competition for playing time is pretty significant along with the sheer volume of work that he and everyone else has to put in. Still, there is a lot of support and a lot of people that help the freshmen get acclimated."

Cal was Beaubelle's first choice from the beginning: "I followed Cal Rugby and it was at the top of my list though I also considered UCLA and Arizona. When I met with Coach Clark, I was sold in how they work and how their program was all about the integrity behind it. They are a top ranked team so it doesn't get any better than that. For me, it's the same game but it will be faster with bigger

people and I will be 19 competing against 22-year-olds. I know Cal has high standards academically and I will have to focus on that a lot and have the right mentality to work hard."

Beaubelle left for California feeling prepared and confident from having graduated from Miramonte: "It's a great school and I got a great education there. My favorite course was Law and Society which I took for two years that was taught by Michael Rose."

There are a number of other Lamorinda rugby players that will be playing in college – Alex Cortessis (Acalanes) and Zack Barker (Miramonte) will be playing at Arizona. Jeremy Gunderson (Campolindo) will be playing at Oregon. Chris Rogers (Acalanes) was going out for the football team at Cal and may also play rugby.

Clark appreciates the talent he is able to acquire from the East Bay: "We have historically had a lot of success with players from Lamorinda, though not quite as many recently. It does help to have so many Cal guys like Monteagi and Gary coaching at the Lamorinda Rugby Club.

In forecasting Beaubelle's future, Hein puts it succinctly, "He'll be a good Golden Bear."



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# Optimism abounds for Saint Mary's soccer



Jakub Svehlik

By Jon Kingdon

After the finest season ever for the Saint Mary's men's soccer team, finishing the season with a near perfect 18-0-2 record, making it to the third round of the NCAA tournament and finishing ninth in the coaches poll, a cynic might ask head coach Adam Cooper, "So what have you done for us lately?"

Despite only losing two players to graduation, (Stephen Dougherty and Tobias Clauss), Cooper does not feel the pressure of coming off an undefeated year and entering the season as the country's 11th ranked team: "Pressure is what you make of it and how you treat it. Certainly expectations are high. As coaches, we're pretty demanding on ourselves and our players are demanding on themselves. Our focus is not to repeat what we did last year. The focus is to take it one game at a time. We definitely have a bullseye on our backs but it's a good spot to be in and we want to embrace it."

Along with the team accolades, there has been a great deal of individual recognition for the Gael players. Four seniors have been named to the MAC Hermann Trophy Watch list: Forward Jake Rudel, Goalie Remi Prieur, Forward Anders Engebretsen and Midfielder Jakub Svehlik. The Hermann Trophy is awarded to the top men's and women's Division I soccer player each year. Kentucky and New Hampshire are the only schools with as many as three candidates listed.

Despite having most of his players returning this season, Cooper is not looking back: "We are a new team with a new schedule and a new focus. We are coming back with a lot of fire power. Everyone is fit and needs to stay healthy."

With eight seniors and six juniors, eight sophomores and five freshmen, it's very much a veteran team. There are two upperclassmen that did not play on last year's team - forward Dayekh Younes, a transfer from Bradley University, and junior midfielder Jack Mortensen, who

missed last season due to an injury. Younes was named Second Team All-Missouri Valley Conference twice and United Soccer Coaches All-Region as a sophomore. "Dayekh has the Division I experience and it makes the transition to our program that much easier," said Cooper. "He's used to the pace and physicality of the game and should have an immediate impact."

There is no substitute for experience and Cooper appreciates what the team is bringing in that area: "It's huge to have an experienced team and the leadership is crucial and those guys bring it, making my job a lot easier. They do a good job of managing each other and holding themselves accountable. When the grind is tough and in the crucial moments, you look for those players that have played a lot."

Associate head coach Chris Brown has returned to Saint Mary's, having previously coached with the Gaels from 2011 to 2016. Brown's primary responsibility will be working with the goalies. So how can he improve on Prieur's performance from last year, where he only gave up .39 goals per game with 14 shutouts and being named third team All-American? "I want to keep Remi focused on this year, keeping him humble and hungry," Brown said. "We have really good backup goalies behind him (Nicholas Lapind, Jacob Bauer, Zack Littman) that are pushing him every day. Remi is well rounded but we're working on his using both feet more and improving his decision making while the ball is in the air. I'm confident he will have a great year."

The Gaels' defense certainly contributed to Prieur's success last season, only allowing 65 of 172 shots on goal. "Not having a lot of shots on goal has a lot to do with our backline," said Brown. "It's helps to have experienced backs and for the goal keeper and the backline to be familiar with each other is huge."

Baggio Husidic is a first time coach that has 10 years of professional playing experience, eight in Major League Soccer and two years in Sweden. With nine of the top 10 scorers returning from last year's



Jake Rudel

Photos Tod Fierner



Remi Prieur

team, Husidic does not look for a lot of changes: "My playing experience will allow me to relate to them and I look to improve their play in any way that I can. No matter how much experience you have or don't have, you can always learn something new."

Cooper is not opposed to playing freshmen. Last season defender James Person and midfielder Sebastin Schacht both started all season and midfielder Phillippe Van Der Lof was 10th on the team in scoring with seven starts. There are five freshmen on this year's roster and Cooper does not rule out any of them playing this season: "All of our freshmen have come in fit and hungry and are pushing for playing time. Their job is to try and replace any of the starters. Hopefully they will make my job more difficult."

Saint Mary's dominated in all statistics expect one. The Gaels had 334 fouls to their opponents 249 fouls and Cooper is looking to address that area: "We drew more penalties because we weren't patient and disciplined in our one-on-one defending. We were fouling when we didn't need to foul."

With so many returners on offense, the Gaels hope to match last season's performance, outshooting their opponents 140 times. "We were explosive last season and hope to do the same this season. We took a lot of risks going forward," said Cooper. "You can't score if you don't shoot the ball."

Besides playing a number of Top 25 opponents, Saint Mary's scheduled a game versus Northern Illinois University on Oct. 25 in DeKalb, Illinois. Saint Mary's only has seven conference games and their conference starts later than other conferences so Cooper was looking for a game in the Midwest. Cooper sees this game as an opportunity to prepare the team for the anticipated playoffs: "We are treating the Northern Illinois game like an NCAA playoff game. To travel to Illinois and then come home and play another game is good preparation for us."

Cooper knows how difficult a playoff schedule can be: "In the 2011 playoffs, we had to bus down south to play Bakersfield (1-0) and then bused down to play UC Irvine (2-1) and then flew back east to play Brown (3-2) and finally we flew back to Chapel Hill to play the University of North Carolina (0-2)."

Coming into his 14th season at Saint Mary's, Cooper will continue to do what has made his team so successful: "We may manage a little differently but we will coach the same. With Remi, Jakub, Jake, Anders and Jeremiah Michael, we have leaders by example in what they do. They do all the work and it trickles down to everybody. The players know what the expectations and standards are for our program."

## Back-to-Back Tournament Champs



Back row from left: Andrew Ramirez, coach David Landeros, Aiden Rascher, Noah Rabinovitz, Ace Reeder, John Tuggle, Cyrus Rowley, Faisal Shaghasi, Pepukai Allard-Chigamba; bottom row from left: Paulo Trento, Andrew Ryan, Niko White, Ryan Rho-Baity, James Jenkins, Harlem Clemons, Breyden Collins; not pictured: Dylan Tung, Kai Lucas

Submitted by Angela White

The Cal Magic '06 boys soccer team have started off their season with an incredible start. After only a few weeks back training together and in the intense summer heat, they won the San Ramon Futbol Club Summer Classic on July 27 and 28. The boys used great teamwork, defensive skills, and precise passing while collectively scoring 15 goals in four games. The

team displayed their true "magic" again playing four shutout games in the Soccer By The Bay tournament late August. "I am very proud of the way the boys played, it wasn't luck or a magic pill. It was a lot of hard work and time invested that got us to this point and having them self believe," stated Coach David Landeros. The team is excited to begin their Fall League season. Keep up the great work.

## Rookie coaches and a veteran leading Lamorinda Volleyball

... continued from Page C1

As a graduate and former player at Cal State East Bay and coach at Xceleration, Ray is able to empathize with her players: "I have high expectations but the girls are young and still learning so patience is the key. We're basically keeping everything the same but we have added a couple of new things and putting our own style to it."

It is something of a family affair for the Matadors. Lindsay Ray's assistant varsity coach and JV coach is her older sister, Leslie, who was her head coach in college and who is the club director at Xceleration.

Lindsay is keeping it simple as a first-time head coach: "I haven't challenged the players as much at this point. I'm still testing the waters. We just have to work hard. That's what I want from my players and for them to have a good time."

### Campolindo

Campolindo head coach John Vuong, who came on board in 2012, says, "I feel like an old timer now." The consistent success that Campolindo has shown on the court has attracted a number of players to try out for the team. "We have 16 girls on our varsity and 12 girls each on the JV and freshman teams. We had to cut a number of players."

With two 3-0 victories over Amador Valley and Foothill, Campolindo has taken up where they left off last year. Having lost only three seniors to graduation, the Cougars have returned a core of experienced players. "We're a young team," says Vuong. "There are lots of juniors and some seniors and a lot of

young kids."

The team is led by senior setter Audrey Pak, who will be playing for UCLA next year. Pak has been a four-year starter for Vuong: "Audrey is a very good athlete. I saw this in her as a freshman. She has shown great growth and maturity. She could be an outside hitter for us if we wanted to play her there."

Sophia Newman was first team all-league last year and is a key player for the offense. Erin Thomas, who was second team all-league as a sophomore is providing good height in the middle. Junior outside hitter Kate Dendinger has stood out as well, says Vuong: "Kate has grown a lot and improved a lot. She played a lot in the offseason and we're looking for a lot out of her this year."

The defense is led by junior libero Brianna Lee. Senior defensive specialist Arielle Allen brings a lot of experience to the back line. Freshman Olivia Wiseman, is playing for Campolindo for the first time but is no stranger to Vuong: "I've known Olivia since she was a lot younger from the club team."


The Cougars have become victims of their success as they are being pushed up to Division I for the NCS playoffs. Though not backing down, Vuong resignedly says, "It's tough for a small school like us going against schools with three and four thousand students."

Vuong says that this team does not have the height his previous teams have had: "To be successful, our defense has to be very effective. Communication is also a key. If we can use good ball control on offense, we'll be fine. The girls have played in the same system. They know what we run."

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# Lamorinda

# OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 13 Issue 14 Wednesday, September 4, 2019



Home interior by Amanda Eck

... read on Page D4

## Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

### Garden garnishes



The bounty of vegetables and herbs are at their peak.

Photos Cynthia Brian

#### By Cynthia Brian

*“Digging the garden, tending the weeds. Who could ask for more?” – John Lennon and Paul McCartney*

Because I enjoy consuming copious amounts of greens, I have been called a rabbit. When I prepare meals, I use large quantities of herbs, leaves, and juices that emanate freshly harvested from my garden. Long ago my son deemed that I added “weeds” to my menus because basil, rosemary, sage, thyme, parsley, cilantro, oregano, fennel, mint, lovage, and, yes, the occasional weed, were ubiquitous. Years

before the craze of flavored waters hit the market, I was promoting what I called “weed water,” H<sub>2</sub>O infused with fruits, juices and herbs. I began writing a recipe book and even bought the domain name of “weedwater.com,” which I later sold for a hefty profit to a producer of cannabis products.

All of which brings me to my topic of garden garnishes.

The quest for creating delicious and original cuisine and beverages is time-honored. If you have visited any upscale restaurants or taverns recently, you probably have witnessed the rebirth of mixology. Although local wines and craft

beers are always in fashion, adventurous infused spirits with herbs, fruits, berries, flowers and leaves have become the new rock stars.

You can concoct your own personalized beverages and also add a flair for the gourmet to your barbecues with ingredients from your garden. Many herbs including basil, cilantro and fennel are bolting in the heat. Cut back the flowers and enjoy them in your cooking or cocktails. With the flowers shorn, even on thyme and oregano, you’ll get a longer growing time. Cut up pieces of melon, cucumber, peaches, or other fruit to enhance your sparkling water. Sprigs of rosemary are great for skewers and barbecuing. Make sauces with unexpected mixtures. Putting flowers or fruit in ice trays makes tasty and pretty cubes for your drinks. Don’t be shy. Be inventive. Be creative. Take a risk.

... continued on Page D12



A bee pollinates a black-eyed Susan coneflower.

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## Lamorinda home sales recorded

City	Last reported	Lowest amount	Highest amount
LAFAYETTE	14	\$745,000	\$2,800,000
MORAGA	7	\$500,000	\$1,825,000
ORINDA	11	\$799,500	\$2,118,000

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

31 Barn Lane, \$1,650,000, 5 Bdrms, 2321 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 07-24-19

645 Byrdee Way, \$905,000, 4 Bdrms, 2121 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 07-15-19,

Previous Sale: \$775,000, 01-25-07

1363 El Curtola Boulevard, \$1,380,000, 4 Bdrms, 2460 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 07-15-19,

Previous Sale: \$680,000, 11-30-10

3205 Greenhills Drive, \$1,300,000, 4 Bdrms, 3462 SqFt, 1986 YrBlt, 07-25-19,

Previous Sale: \$630,000, 05-02-98

3411 La Caminita, \$1,735,500, 4 Bdrms, 3107 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 07-22-19,

Previous Sale: \$435,000, 09-01-86

892 Mountain View Drive, \$2,325,000, 5 Bdrms, 3214 SqFt, 1946 YrBlt, 07-19-19,

Previous Sale: \$1,290,000, 08-13-10

4015 Natasha Drive, \$1,310,000, 3 Bdrms, 1870 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 07-17-19

932 Old Hawthorne Road, \$2,550,000, 4 Bdrms, 3041 SqFt, 1942 YrBlt, 07-23-19

2531 Pebble Beach Loop, \$1,098,000, 4 Bdrms, 2054 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 07-24-19

3615 Powell Drive, \$2,800,000, 4 Bdrms, 4959 SqFt, 1936 YrBlt, 07-15-19,

Previous Sale: \$1,250,000, 02-25-02

1580 Sharon Circle, \$745,000, 4 Bdrms, 1537 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 07-26-19,

Previous Sale: \$245,000, 12-01-89

3213 Sharon Court, \$1,260,000, 4 Bdrms, 1576 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 07-25-19

3485 Stage Coach Drive, \$1,821,000, 3 Bdrms, 3289 SqFt, 1988 YrBlt, 07-24-19

3323 Woodview Drive, \$1,572,000, 3 Bdrms, 1995 SqFt, 1987 YrBlt, 07-26-19,

Previous Sale: \$1,220,000, 07-09-09

### MORAGA

118 Ascot Court #8, \$500,000, 1 Bdrms, 858 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 07-19-19,

Previous Sale: \$155,000, 12-09-09

47 Miramonte Drive, \$820,000, 3 Bdrms, 1762 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 07-18-19

275 Rheem Boulevard, \$1,260,000, 3 Bdrms, 1679 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 07-25-19,

Previous Sale: \$925,000, 04-25-19

1251 Rimer Drive, \$1,825,000, 5 Bdrms, 2993 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 07-23-19,

Previous Sale: \$1,289,500, 03-16-12

341 Tharp Drive, \$1,260,000, 4 Bdrms, 2360 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 07-24-19

408 Tharp Drive, \$1,195,000, 3 Bdrms, 1689 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 07-17-19,

Previous Sale: \$1,025,000, 05-16-06

532 Woodminster Drive, \$745,000, 2 Bdrms, 1620 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 07-26-19,

Previous Sale: \$581,000, 06-11-14

... continued on Page D7

Orinda | 90mossbridge.com  
90 Mossbridge Lane



5 Bed | 4 Bath | 4,154 Sq Ft | \$2,100,000

Beautiful 5 bedroom, 4 bathroom home in the highly sought after Orinda Downs neighborhood on the end of a private road. This 4,154 sf home is an entertainer's dream with amazing flow between indoor and outdoor spaces. Store your wine collection in either the temperature controlled wine cellar attached to the main house or the wine refrigerator in the pool house. An oasis of relaxation and privacy with stunning infinity edge pool and fully equipped Tuscan pool house with full bathroom and bar area. A built-in fire pit surrounded by citrus trees completes the resort style living.



New exceptional quality construction in Lafayette.

## 1198 Pleasant Hill Circle

5 bedroom, 3.5 bathroom, 3,230 sq. ft. with an additional 380 sq. ft. California Room & 3-car garage on a .29 acre flat corner lot. Viking appliances, Andersen windows, solar powered skylights, linear fireplace, high ceilings & hardwood floors. Sonos entertainment system in master bed/bath, living room & California room. Close to Acalanes HS, Springhill Elementary, BART and Downtown.



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### Claudia Gohler

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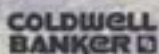
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# Bring life to your design one small piece at a time



Trays allow groupings of items for display.

Photos provided

## By Amanda Eck

One of the most fun parts of interior design is the accessorizing. In my opinion those little details of the space make the design. Accessories bring life to a room and create visual interest. Here are my top five must-have accessories for your home.

### Trays:

Everything looks better on a tray! Trays are perfect for corralling all those little decorative items to a beautiful visual vignette. Trays come in an array of styles from wood, wicker, metal, stone, acrylic, etc. I love to place trays on coffee tables, upholstered ottomans, bedside tables, and in bathrooms. Add books, candles, and decorative objects to your tray. Make sure to have items that are varied in height and shape to keep it interesting. I love using magnifying glass, paper weights, decorative orbs,



Stacking books adds interest.

candles and beads.

### Books and boxes:

Stacked books are great to elevate a decorative item. I stack them in twos or threes and place an object on top.

... continued on Page D6

# //JUST LISTED



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3259 Camino Colorados, Lafayette



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# Bring life to your design one small piece at a time



Fresh cut flowers enliven a room.

... continued from Page D4

You can place them on bookshelves, coffee tables, side tables, and console tables. I will sometimes remove the dust cover on the book if it feels too busy. Use only hardcover books, no paperbacks. I am always on the hunt for bargain books to use in my projects. You can find them at HomeGoods, Half Price Books, Amazon, and thrift stores.

Decorative boxes are also great to elevate an item or use as stand alone pieces. They come in all types of styles from wood, bone inlay, marble, lacquered and mirrored.

#### Unique objects:

From coral to glass spheres, unique shaped items are great to add to a stack of books or boxes. When I travel I always try and find an interesting piece to add to my décor. Online stores like Etsy have unique vintage pieces that don't have that mass produced look.

#### Fresh flowers:

I have said it before and I will say it again, fresh flowers are always a good idea. While I do admit there are some faux flowers on the market now that are realistic, keep those to a minimum and when



Add interesting objects to design.

in doubt, go fresh. They don't have to be an expensive bouquet either. Simple flowers from the grocery store or cuttings from your yard are all you need.

#### Soft goods:

No space is complete without soft accessories. Pillows and throws add a cozy feel to a space. And this time of year throws are in abundance at local retailers like Pottery Barn, Target, and HomeGoods. I drape them over a chair, at the foot of a bed, or tucked in a basket nearby for those chilly evenings. Now when it comes to pillows I will admit I am a bit of a pillow snob. I prefer pillows in designer fabrics instead of something off the shelf at a local retailer. But that does not mean you have to drop \$250 on a pillow. Etsy has a wonderful selection of shops that carry custom pillows at all price points. Just remember to purchase your pillow insert 2 inches larger than your pillow cover to create that full, plump look. I like to use inserts that are a 90/10 combo of down and feathers. If you are allergic to down there are lots of great down alternatives available.

Happy hunting for those special pieces!



Decorative boxes offer classy touch.



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

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

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

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## Lamorinda home sales recorded

... continued from Page D2

### ORINDA

110 Acacia Drive, \$1,360,000, 3 Bdrms, 1928 SqFt, 1980 YrBlt, 07-26-19,

Previous Sale: \$813,000, 04-30-07

29 Canyon View Drive, \$2,000,000, 4 Bdrms, 2732 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 07-26-19,

Previous Sale: \$1,550,000, 11-01-05

49 East Altarinda Drive, \$1,300,000, 2 Bdrms, 1973 SqFt, 1977 YrBlt, 07-18-19,

Previous Sale: \$900,000, 06-16-03

56 Donna Maria Way, \$1,500,000, 3 Bdrms, 1610 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 07-15-19,

Previous Sale: \$642,000, 07-01-15

258 Glorietta Boulevard, \$1,405,000, 3 Bdrms, 1846 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 07-15-19,

Previous Sale: \$930,000, 09-26-08

35 Los Dedos Road, \$1,765,000, 3 Bdrms, 2266 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 07-23-19,

Previous Sale: \$1,085,000, 04-09-13

113 Overhill Road, \$800,000, 3 Bdrms, 1348 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 07-26-19

170 Ravenhill Road, \$1,100,000, 3 Bdrms, 2245 SqFt, 1981 YrBlt, 07-22-19,

Previous Sale: \$801,000, 10-12-11

324 Tappan Terrace, \$1,878,000, 3 Bdrms, 3592 SqFt, 1982 YrBlt, 07-26-19

63 Via Floreado, \$799,500, 4 Bdrms, 3183 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 07-25-19

25 Wilder Road, \$2,118,000, 4 Bdrms, 3380 SqFt, 2015 YrBlt, 07-19-19,

Previous Sale: \$1,899,000, 12-19-16

## *Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian*

### **Garden garnishes**



**Is there anything better than a summer tomato salad with all ingredients fresh from the garden?**

... continued from Page D1

Because of the plentiful rain last winter and spring, the bounty in our orchards is overflowing. If you like to can or freeze fruit and vegetables for winter dinners, this is the season to do it. Apples, peaches, plums, pears, Asian pears and citrus are ripe and ready. Soon the grapes will ripen and winemaking begins for local vintners. All varieties of vegetables, from Brussels sprouts to corn and zucchini are in abundance. My freezer is already filled to the brim with this



**For a tantalizing treat, barbecue nectarines, slathered with honey and nutmeg.**

Photo Cynthia Brian

summer's harvest. Since I won't eat tomatoes that aren't homegrown, having freshly preserved tomatoes with sprays of basil for December spaghetti feeds is a flavor-filled luxury.

Cooking in summer is a plant-to-plate pleasure. My stone mortar and pestle sit on my kitchen counter awaiting the pounding of the "weeds." Not sure what to make for tonight's meal? Take a walk around your garden and pluck a few garnishes while tending the weeds. Who could ask for more?



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**959 Sunnyhill Road** **\$3,195,000**  
5+ Bed 4.5 Bath 5,100± Sq Ft 1.21± Acres  
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Orindawoods



**655 Cross Ridge Court** **\$2,035,000**  
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**COMPASS**

## Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for September

**LAST CHANCE TO ORDER** any spring-blooming bulbs from catalogs. They will be planted toward the end of fall and some, including all varieties of tulips, will need six weeks of refrigeration.

**VISIT** the National Heirloom Exposition happening at the Sonoma County Fairgrounds Sept. 10-12. <http://www.TheHeirloomExpo.com>.

**STAKE** trees for the upcoming autumn winds.

**CUT BACK** Naked Ladies as their flowers begin to wither. If you let the flowers go to seed, you won't get blooms from your bulbs next season. If you want to divide the bulbs, after blooms are spent, this is the month to do it.

**FEED** acid-loving plants such as roses, azaleas, camellias, rhododendrons and fuchsias.

**GARNISH** your beverages and platters with herbs and fruits.

**DIVIDE** crowded perennials when they have finished flowering.

**DEADHEAD** your roses once or twice a week to encourage flowering through winter.

**SKEWER** meats, fish, vegetables, and fruits on rosemary twigs to barbecue.

**GRILL** halved nectarines or peaches drizzled with olive oil and honey.

**DESIGNATE** an area of your landscape to be whimsical. I am enamored with the vintage signs and placards that can reside in a playful garden.

**HARVEST** tomatoes, peppers, onions, lettuce, tangerines and herbs as needed to experience the freshest homestead flavors and nutrients. Never refrigerate tomatoes.

**MARK** your calendar for a visit to the Be the Star You Are!® nonprofit booth at the Moraga Pear and Wine Festival on Saturday, Sept. 28. Thanks to our sponsor, The Lamorinda Weekly. Details at <https://www.BetheStarYouAre.org/events>.

**WATER** lawns deeply as the weather gets hotter.

**PICK** a single dinner plate dahlia to add color to your kitchen.

**FREEZE** extra fruit for winter consumption, share with a friend or donate to a food bank.

**CELEBRATE** the 20th anniversary of local literacy nonprofit, Be the Star You Are!® 501c3 with a tax-deductible donation that will help youth-at-risk. <https://www.BetheStarYouAre.org>

**CONCOCT** your own "weed water" with summer fruits including peaches, pears, tangerines, watermelon, cantaloupe, cucumber, blueberries, grapes and apples. Stir in your preferred herbs and citrus juice.

Happy Gardening. Happy Growing.



Thyme is flowering and the petals add flavor to menus.



The Naked Ladies are as stunning as always with dark blue agapanthus and palms.



Use rosemary as skewers for grilled kabobs. Apples and Asian pears add flavor to the meat.



A close-up of a glorious dinner plate pink dahlia.

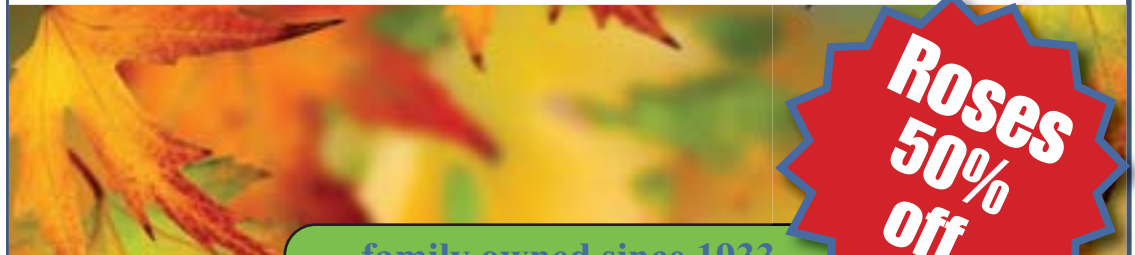


Cynthia Brian dallies in the dahlias.

Cynthia Brian, The Goddess Gardener, raised in the vineyards of Napa County, is a New York Times best-selling author, actor, radio personality, speaker, media and writing coach as well as the Founder and Executive Director of Be the Star You Are!® 501 c3. Tune into Cynthia's Radio show and order her books at [www.StarStyleRadio.com](http://www.StarStyleRadio.com).

Buy a copy of her new books, Growing with the Goddess Gardener and Be the Star You Are! Millennials to Boomers at [www.cynthiabrian.com/online-store](http://www.cynthiabrian.com/online-store). Hire Cynthia for projects, consults, and lectures. [Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com](mailto:Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com) [www.GoddessGardener.com](http://www.GoddessGardener.com)

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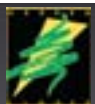
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## ORINDA



### 155 Cañon Drive

Light filled 3 bed/ 3 bath home on .67 acres, ample entertaining space both inside and outside.

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## ORINDA



### 9 Valley Court

Updated Mid-Century close-in cul-de-sac. Chef's kitchen/ family room opens to large deck.

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## ORINDA



### 659 Ironbark Circle

Light & bright 4 bed/ 3.5 bath Orindawoods home, expansive views & soaring ceilings.

\$1,600,000

## ORINDA



### 19 Donald Drive

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

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## ORINDA



### 11 Crestview Court

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## ORINDA



### 145 Meadow Lane

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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

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## ORINDA



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### 1431 S. Villa Way

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