

Lamorinda

OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 13 Issue 15 Wednesday, September 18, 2019



Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian

... read on Page D12

Mighty oak comes crashing down



Photos Robert J. Schroeder Photography

By Jennifer Wake

Bob and Sue Miller have had a magnificent Valley oak tree in their Lafayette backyard to enjoy since their house was built in 1954. “It stood close to 100 feet high, was beautifully symmetrical and was estimated by arborists to be from 500-800 years old,” Sue Miller exclaimed.

The tree was affectionately known as Odin, the German god of war.

Over Labor Day weekend half the tree fell, followed less than a week later by the

other half. “Fortunately no one was hurt,” Miller said. “It’s obvious from the exposed roots that it had extensive root rot.”

According to Dan Dauchauer, a certified arborist with Tree Sculpture in Orinda, the tree appeared to fail because of decay and weak trunk attachments that became vulnerable because the decay was weakening their structural strength. “Valley oaks are very drought tolerant and like a dry climate during the dry season. The best advice I can give is have your trees assessed by an arborist on a regular basis. Arborists

are trained to identify trees under stress and many times they will be able to alert a resident to a problem.”

Dauchauer says there are two different types of arborists: consulting arborists and tree care arborists. “Often times tree assessments overlap between the two different types, but generally speaking a consulting arborist can help guide a resident to what their trees need and through their recommendations, a tree care arborist affiliated with a tree care company can do the work,” he said.

The tree in question had decay and a consulting arborist would have been able to perform a risk assessment on the tree and then determine if the tree needed to be pruned, cabled for stability or removed, Dauchauer said.

“Our message to everyone is to please be conscientious about the health of your large trees and see that they get proper care,” Miller said. “Had this tree come down in another direction it might have been catastrophic.”



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Lamorinda home sales recorded

City	Last reported	Lowest amount	Highest amount
LAFAYETTE	17	\$500,000	\$3,500,000
MORAGA	9	\$425,000	\$1,500,000
ORINDA	15	\$600,000	\$2,863,500

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

- 820 Acalanes Road, \$3,500,000, 5 Bdrms, 5883 SqFt, 2004 YrBlt, 08-09-19,
Previous Sale: \$15,000, 03-15-11
- 30 Chapel Drive, \$1,375,000, 3 Bdrms, 2225 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 08-06-19
- 6 Chapel Drive, \$1,645,000, 3 Bdrms, 1843 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 08-08-19,
Previous Sale: \$1,145,000, 05-23-07
- 28 Diablo Circle, \$1,285,000, 4 Bdrms, 2128 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 08-09-19,
Previous Sale: \$830,000, 04-30-08
- 3286 Gloria Terrace, \$500,000, 4 Bdrms, 2848 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 08-07-19,
Previous Sale: \$960,000, 02-11-13
- 217 Happy Hollow Court, \$1,228,000, 4 Bdrms, 2081 SqFt, 1976 YrBlt, 07-30-19,
Previous Sale: \$805,000, 05-20-10
- 3660 Happy Valley Road, \$3,500,000, 5 Bdrms, 5235 SqFt, 1954 YrBlt, 07-29-19,
Previous Sale: \$1,292,000, 06-05-02
- 1001 Hawthorne Drive, \$1,200,000, 2 Bdrms, 1764 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 08-09-19
- 1010 Katherine Lane, \$1,375,000, 3 Bdrms, 1583 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 08-01-19,
Previous Sale: \$1,175,000, 11-14-17
- 1234 Laurel Lane, \$1,140,000, 4 Bdrms, 2536 SqFt, 1947 YrBlt, 07-29-19,
Previous Sale: \$555,000, 04-19-01
- 3473 Moraga Boulevard, \$1,180,000, 3 Bdrms, 1620 SqFt, 1947 YrBlt, 08-02-19,
Previous Sale: \$425,000, 01-05-00
- 3261 Quandt Road, \$1,480,000, 4 Bdrms, 1698 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 08-05-19,
Previous Sale: \$772,000, 07-27-04
- 3 Scenic Lane, \$1,867,000, 5 Bdrms, 6930 SqFt, 1988 YrBlt, 08-06-19,
Previous Sale: \$391,500, 12-01-88
- 3977 South Peardale Drive, \$2,617,000, 4 Bdrms, 3580 SqFt, 2012 YrBlt, 08-07-19,
Previous Sale: \$1,925,000, 03-26-13
- 1250 Sunrise Ridge Drive, \$1,299,000, 5 Bdrms, 2972 SqFt, 1998 YrBlt, 08-05-19,
Previous Sale: \$719,500, 08-24-99
- 3360 Sweet Drive, \$1,330,000, 4 Bdrms, 1979 SqFt, 1955 YrBlt, 08-09-19,
Previous Sale: \$352,500, 09-28-98
- 914 Webb Lane, \$2,400,000, 4 Bdrms, 3703 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 08-08-19

MORAGA

- 2083 Ascot Drive #131, \$425,000, 3 Bdrms, 1444 SqFt, 1971 YrBlt, 07-30-19,
Previous Sale: \$500,000, 01-05-17
- 1988 Ascot Drive #A, \$695,000, 3 Bdrms, 1472 SqFt, 1970 YrBlt, 07-31-19,
Previous Sale: \$595,000, 04-30-18
- 235 Calle La Montana, \$1,275,000, 3 Bdrms, 1775 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 07-30-19
- 244 Corliss Drive, \$1,500,000, 4 Bdrms, 2294 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 08-09-19,
Previous Sale: \$1,300,000, 09-28-15
- 381 Donald Drive, \$1,400,000, 4 Bdrms, 2253 SqFt, 1969 YrBlt, 07-31-19
- 1012 Sanders Drive, \$1,100,000, 3 Bdrms, 1488 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 08-09-19,
Previous Sale: \$875,000, 02-08-07
- 140 Sandringham Drive, \$1,450,000, 4 Bdrms, 2122 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 07-29-19
- 86 Warfield Drive, \$1,200,000, 4 Bdrms, 2198 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 07-31-19
- 1035 Wickham Drive, \$1,300,000, 4 Bdrms, 2189 SqFt, 1969 YrBlt, 08-08-19

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LAMORINDA
999 OAK HILL RD., #100
LAFAYETTE, CA 94549
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1910 OLYMPIC BLVD., #100
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LISA TICHENOR



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DRE# 01478540

MATT McLEOD



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10 DORAL DRIVE, MORAGA \$979,000



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3235 CAMINO COLORADOS, LAFAYETTE \$1,350,000



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RACHEL DREYER



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SHERRY HUTCHENS



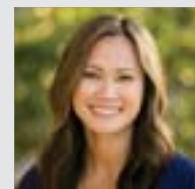
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TINA FRECHMAN



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JOY WIEHN



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MARY PISCITELLI



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DRE# 01426129

VALERIE DURANTINI



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DRE# 01376796

5 HEATHER LANE, ORINDA \$4,199,000



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2 ASHBROOK PLACE, MORAGA \$1,595,000



MATT MCLEOD 925.464.6500

1152 FAIRLAWN COURT, #4, W.C. \$485,000



SHERRY HUTCHENS/ADAM HAMALIAN 925.708.5630

7 NATIVIDAD LANE, MORAGA \$860,000



LISA TICHENOR 925.285.1093

1837 CHAPARRO CT., WALNUT CREEK \$1,695,000



HURLBUT TEAM 925.383.5500

126 HILLCROFT WAY, WALNUT CREEK \$1,195,000



HURLBUT TEAM 925.383.5500

951 JANET LANE, LAFAYETTE \$1,170,000



TINA FRECHMAN 925.915.0851

125 HAZELWOOD PLACE, MORAGA \$1,270,000



MATT MCLEOD 925.464.6500

Heading into Fall

As we head into October, this is the time of year we describe as “now or never” or at least “not until next year.” When talking to clients who are considering selling after school is back in session, we describe September and October as the last window in the year to get a home prepped and sold. Once November hits buyers are distracted by the Holidays and many consider waiting until next year after they pocket their year-end bonus. Buyers and sellers do not want to be unsettled, potentially looking for a rental or looking to buy in late November or December when there are even fewer options available. The weather has been holding which is key to a successful Fall market and there continues to be many buyers looking to purchase a home before settling down for the Holiday season. We continue to see homes that are remodeled and prepped to appeal to younger buyers fly off the market. Compass Concierge, an interest free loan to cover costs for prepping your home for sale, has been extremely successful for our sellers. Under the program, Compass fronts the upfront cost of repairs and gets reimbursed at close when the home sells. We also routinely help clients with repair work as we are also licensed contractors. We look forward to hearing from you with your real estate questions.



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COMPASS

Feng Shui

Location, location, location



Photos Mandala Feng Shui

The front entrance door should ideally always be visible from the street and the door color should pop.

By Michele Duffy

So many of you have asked me specific questions about the location of your homes, and whether they're in an auspicious or favorable position, as well as what specifically to avoid when considering a home purchase, so let's take a deeper dive with this theme.

Healthy Feng Shui includes a lot of common sense characteristics as well as the “Qi” or energy of all structures. Auspicious Feng Shui structure locations include those on wide streets that meander near water, those with ample natural light, homes that are located above the road and that sit squarely in the middle of an even lot, and have a curvy path to a well-appointed home front entrance door. Inauspicious locations include neighborhoods where the surrounding Qi is industrial, draining, dirty, noisy and chaotic. Narrow dead-

end cul de sac roads can choke Qi, and homes that are located below the road, have a steep drop-off in back, or face a steep hill in front can drain energetics as well.

Feng Shui aims to attract and maintain good fortune, health and happiness, and it is why so many Chinese cities are purposely cited adjacent to moving water and mountains to the back, if possible. The strength of the “Landform Feng Shui” has its roots in rural China and even earlier, in the indigenous Tibetan Bon peoples, using the seasons in their nomadic lifestyles and building monasteries and the communities around them in strategic, often lofty and difficult to reach places. Even the Minoans of Crete knew that the sea should be in front and the mountains in the back and the Minoans are also credited with having created some of the earliest bathrooms, with long-lasting slate tiles for floors.

... continued on Page D6



Avoid long hallways like in this Moraga home.

This Swarovski crystal “cure” is placed in the center of the hall at ceiling height and well above eye-level.



New exceptional quality construction in Lafayette.

1198 Pleasant Hill Circle

\$2,495,000

5 Bed | 3.5 Bath | 3-Car Garage | 3,230 Sq Ft



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This newly constructed 3,230 sf modern ranch single-level smart home with 5 bed, 3.5 bath, 3-car garage on a pancake flat lot, with Wi-Fi enabled amenities includes exquisite finishes throughout and includes Viking kitchen appliances, custom cabinets, wide plank hardwood floors, smooth walls and 10 ft ceilings.

The great room features vaulted ceilings with feature beams and built in speakers, linear gas fireplace and glass sliding wall that opens to California room. Master retreat with gas fireplace, over-sized finished walk-in closet with custom cabinets and spacious bathroom. Conveniently located close to BART, freeway, downtown & top rated schools.

1198pleasanthillcircle.com



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Lamorinda home sales recorded

... continued from Page D2

ORINDA

- 100 Acacia Drive, \$2,000,000, 3 Bdrms, 1829 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 08-01-19, Previous Sale: \$250,000, 03-08-17
- 73 Bates Boulevard, \$1,955,000, 5 Bdrms, 2606 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 08-01-19, Previous Sale: \$1,323,000, 10-11-16
- 19 Briones Vwx, \$1,900,000, 4 Bdrms, 3173 SqFt, 1972 YrBlt, 08-01-19, Previous Sale: \$1,475,000, 03-28-16
- 436 Camino Sobrante, \$668,000, 2 Bdrms, 1282 SqFt, 1937 YrBlt, 08-06-19
- 114 Goodfellow Drive, \$1,615,000, 5 Bdrms, 2735 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 08-09-19, Previous Sale: \$195,000, 10-27-06
- 27 Knickerbocker Lane, \$1,200,000, 5 Bdrms, 2949 SqFt, 1981 YrBlt, 07-30-19, Previous Sale: \$825,000, 01-04-02
- 11 La Espiral, \$1,085,000, 2 Bdrms, 1405 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 08-09-19, Previous Sale: \$890,000, 03-05-08
- 12 Los Arboles, \$1,480,000, 4 Bdrms, 2884 SqFt, 1947 YrBlt, 08-02-19, Previous Sale: \$850,000, 01-08-03
- 207 Moraga Way, \$600,000, 2 Bdrms, 772 SqFt, 1953 YrBlt, 07-30-19
- 428 Moraga Way, \$1,265,000, 3 Bdrms, 2108 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 08-02-19, Previous Sale: \$810,000, 10-12-04
- 31 Oak Drive, \$850,000, 4 Bdrms, 1604 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 08-08-19, Previous Sale: \$725,000, 05-24-13
- 127 Rheem Boulevard, \$1,125,000, 4 Bdrms, 1548 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 08-06-19, Previous Sale: \$680,000, 08-04-03
- 537 The Glade, \$1,225,000, 3 Bdrms, 2127 SqFt, 1985 YrBlt, 07-31-19, Previous Sale: \$360,000, 12-01-85
- 61 Tomcat Way, \$2,418,000, 4 Bdrms, 3538 SqFt, 2018 YrBlt, 08-06-19, Previous Sale: \$24,440,000, 12-23-15
- 65 Tomcat Way, \$2,863,500, 4 Bdrms, 4194 SqFt, 2018 YrBlt, 08-06-19, Previous Sale: \$24,440,000, 12-23-15

G | The GRUBB Co.

30 MORAGA VIA, ORINDA



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Sleek, spacious and modern, this Orinda home is significantly remodeled from top to bottom. Top-of-the-line kitchen, vaulted ceilings, open floorplan and chic finishes, luxurious baths on expansive lot. Coveted Glorietta neighborhood near schools and minutes to downtown Orinda.

4+BR • 3BA • \$1,495,000

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Feng Shui

Location, location, location

... continued from Page D4

Please don't worry if you already live in a home with difficult Feng Shui, because the art of Feng Shui alone can "adjust" even the most challenging Qi. Having said that, it is still recommended to begin with beneficial Feng Shui so that fewer Feng Shui "adjustments" or "cures" are required, to immediately correct and then to maintain balance over time.

Any "feelings" or "vibes" we get from a structure should not be overlooked. This should also include the neighborhood and street that leads to the actual property. Is it hard to find the home or are the streets that lead to the structure narrow? There's not much one can do about those concerns after you purchase a home, but you can create a soothing Feng Shui environment by applying effective time-tested remedies. This can be used for interior fixes of things like the front door aligned with the back door, the kitchen stove visible from the front door, or the bathroom located in the center of the home, for example.

As we move from outer (yang) factors influencing the Qi that comes to your door, the Qi that affects us the most is inside the home (yin).

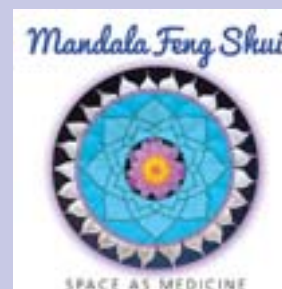
Always start by overlaying the Bagua over your home and land lot. (Stand in the front yard, looking into the yard. The far right Bagua area is always the Relationships/Marriage area). We can overlay the Bagua over a home, a yard, your office desk, even Ford Motor Company overlaid the Bagua on their cars.

To give you an example of focusing on one Bagua area, a few years ago, a Canyon Ranch Tucson colleague was interested in having a partnership after many years of going solo. When I visited her lovely adobe home, I found that she had numerous broken clay pots in the Relationship yard area.

After clearing the broken pots we next placed two new large clay pots (Earth) with healthy red (Fire) geraniums symbolizing fiery, blooming, and grounded partnerships. It was only a matter of months before she met someone special and moved to Phoenix to make it official. We continue to meet annually to assess new goals for the coming year and the couple remains intact.

If you pay attention to your environment you will experience the true restorative properties that home is meant to create and sleeping well at night will be a blessing ... but that topic is for another time!

Michele Duffy, BTB M.F.S. is an Orinda resident who, since 1999, enjoys creating "Space as Medicine" Feng Shui one space at a time, as well as hiking in nature, cooking, and spending time with her family; Canyon Ranch Feng Shui Master, International Feng Shui Guild (IFSG) Red Ribbon Professional. To schedule a professional 2019 Feng Shui Consultation, contact Michele at (520) 647-4887 or send an email to spaceharmony@gmail.com.





2 EL CAMINITO, ORINDA | 4 BEDROOMS | 3 BATHS | 2861 SQ. FT. | .27 ACRE | \$1,840,000
A private, knoll setting adjacent to Lake Cascade and within a short walk to The Club.



11 CROWN COURT, ORINDA | 3 BEDROOMS | 2 BATHS | 1491 SQ. FT. | .71 ACRE
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Farmers' Market in Moraga. Movie in the Plaza in Lafayette. Food Truck Feast in Orinda.

I've spent the last decade leveraging my experience as a Realtor, mom, and active member of the Lamorinda community to help countless families find their place here. I want to help you find yours.

Call me today so we can get started.



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Rheem Valley Manor Updated Traditional

4 bed • 2.5 bath • 2700+ sq. ft. • 0.4 acres



AVAILABLE 9/27

Views. High-end updates.
Flat yard. Cul-de-sac location.

This 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath single story has them all. From Carrara marble countertops to herringbone backsplash and Miele appliances, the kitchen couldn't be more gorgeous.

The master bath has similar finishes. Beautiful down to the door hardware. With a central location, a great room, large formal dining and spacious living room, the layout is perfect.

Call for pricing and further information

www.holcenberg.com

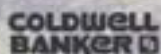
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Matt Knows **LAMORINDA** ...AND BEYOND!



2 Ashbrook Place, Moraga

4 Bedrooms, 2 Bathrooms, 2,244 sf, .35 acre flat lot

JUST LISTED! Offered at \$1,595,000



125 Hazelwood Place, Moraga

4 Bedrooms, 2 Bathrooms, 2,160 sf, .25 acre lot

SOLD, Represented Buyer • \$1,270,000



143 Birchbark Place, Danville (Blackhawk)

4 Bedrooms, 3.5 Bathrooms, 3,062 sf, 5,200 sf lot

NEW PRICE! Offered at \$1,675,000

Matt McLeod, REALTOR® DRE 01310057

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LISTINGS FROM THE OLSEN TEAM

ACTIVE



105 Devin Drive, Moraga
SELLER REP. \$1,295,000



2532 Vernado Camino, Walnut Creek
SELLER REP. \$1,095,000

OFF MARKET



2 Altarinda Circle, Orinda
SELLER REP. \$2,150,000



1003 Woodbury Rd. No. 207, Lafayette
SELLER REP. \$995,000

*Also Available: 3419 St. Marys Road, Lafayette | \$995,000 For Lease: 432 Stonefield, Moraga | \$5,300

AVAILABLE OFF MARKET

Exquisite Newer Construction by Branagh in Moraga
3800 + Sq. Ft / 4 Beds plus Office | Call for details

Wonderful Gated Estate Property in Camino Pablo area.
4000 Square Foot Home / Yard is kid's Paradise! | Call for details

COMING SOON!

147 Donald Drive, Moraga
280 Summit, Walnut Creek
1156 Running Springs No. 11, Rossmoor
15 La Salle Avenue, Moraga

NOW PENDING



122 Corliss Drive, Moraga
BUYER REP. \$1,500,000



171 Cypress Point Way, Moraga
SELLER REP. \$1,595,000



140 Walford Drive, Moraga
BUYER REP. \$1,395,000



9 Valley Court, Orinda
BUYER/SELLER REP. \$1,585,000

JUST SOLD!



60 Santa Rita Drive, Walnut Creek
BUYER REP. \$1,650,000



716 Augusta Drive, Moraga
SELLER REP. \$845,000



104 Coral Drive, Orinda
BUYER REP. \$1,450,000



30 Chapel Drive, Lafayette
BUYER & SELLER REP. \$1,375,000



BEN OLSEN



SUE OLSEN



LORI TRUE



ERIN KELLY

VANGUARD
PROPERTIES



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Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

Fall forward and waste not



Sliced apples on the dehydrator trays.

By Cynthia Brian

“And all at once, summer collapsed into fall.” – Oscar Wilde

In the fall of my freshman year at UCLA, I began working at one of the very first health food stores ever created in California. It was called Nature’s Health Cove and all the offerings were organic: pesticide, insecticide, and colorant-free. The fruits and vegetables were pathetic looking. Worms bored into apples, the Swiss chard had holes from munching snails, greens boasted fringed tips, a gift from hungry marauding rabbits, tomatoes were cracked, zucchini was malformed. Yet the produce tasted delicious and even though the prices were at least double of anything one could purchase at a grocery store, the crops sold rapidly. One of my tasks was to cull through any severely damaged items, putting them in a bucket for a compost pickup by an urban farmer.

Having worked in the fruit drying yards and big barn dehydrators growing up on our farm, it dawned on me that usually, half or more of any fruit or vegetable is salvageable. I suggested to the owner that perhaps we could cut out the decaying parts and create healthy drinks and dried snacks with the ripe remainders. The initiative became an instant success with both students and the general public clamoring for a revolving menu of inexpensive tasty treats.

As summer collapses into fall, my trees and vines are heavy with fruit. As much as I eat and give away, there is still more for the picking. I detest waste and besides canning and freezing the extras, I wanted to create some of the dried fruits of my youth.

While cleaning out one of our barns this summer, I came upon a vintage portable dehydrator that my grandfather used eons ago to dry his autumn bounty of pears, apples, figs and grapes. I cleaned the appli-



Asian Pears are bountiful.

Photo Cynthia Brian

ance and set to work slicing and dicing.

The results were phenomenal.

If you’ve bought any dried fruit lately, you know how expensive it is. But if you are like me and enjoy DIY projects, I have a simple recipe for you to create your own personal organic fruit leathers. You can use trays and dry your produce in the sun the way it has been done for centuries, but it takes longer and critters may creep in to steal your sweets. My suggestion is to purchase a small dehydrator with four or five drawers. My dehydrator has four drawers and only a single heat setting. My thermometer says it’s dehydrating at 125 degrees, which is perfect. Every three hours I move the drawers from the bottom to the top. From start to finish, it takes 24 hours. If you buy a dehydrator with adjustable temperature settings, you’ll be able to dehydrate more rapidly.

Here’s what to do:

1. Wash and pat dry your desired fruit and vegetables.
2. You can peel if you wish, but I don’t. Cut away any bruised or damaged parts. Cut into slices about ¼ to ½ inch thick.
3. Some vegetables including eggplant, cauliflower, broccoli, carrots, zucchini, potatoes and radishes need to be blanched for a few minutes.
4. Cut the slices in a bowl and toss with lemon juice or apple vinegar to reduce browning. Although this step is optional, it helps in preservation.
5. Spray the trays with a light spritz of canola or olive oil to prevent sticking.
6. Place slices of the same fruit or vegetable on dehydrator racks in a single layer without overlapping. Use different trays for different varieties.

... continued on Page D15

Every home has a story. Let me tell yours.

::



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Cynthia Brian's Mid-Month Gardening Guide



A tree filled with tangerines kissed by honeybees.



Tomatoes tossed with cilantro for an end of summer salad.

PRUNE “widow makers” – dead branches on trees. You can identify the dead branches before the leaves fall from the rest of the tree.

CHECK the crape myrtles in bloom. If you are considering planting a tree or two later in autumn, this is the perfect time to decide what color will be an advantage to your landscape. Crape myrtles are excellent specimens for year-round attractiveness. The leaves will turn red and golden in late autumn, the bark is bare and beautiful in winter, the leaves are shiny green in spring, and the tree blooms midsummer to late fall.

REFRIGERATE crocus, tulips, and hyacinths for six weeks before planting.

ADD aged chicken manure to your soil if you are noticing that it is less fertile.

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>.

DEADHEAD tuberous begonias to keep them blooming until frost. The flowers are edible with a tangy, citrusy flavor.

ENJOY the final days of freshly picked tomatoes tossed with basil or cilantro.

HARVEST tangerines, Asian pears, and grapes as they ripen.

PHOTOGRAPH your deciduous trees as the changing colors emerge. The contrast of colors will amaze you as you reflect on the timeline.

DEHYDRATE extra fruit and vegetables for tasty snacks. Kids especially love these dried sweets.

CUT and compost the damaged parts from “ugly” produce and cook with the rest.

WASTE NOT! Be a steward of our planet with simple up-cycling.

WELCOME the cool and crisp days of autumn. Fall forward!

Happy Gardening. Happy Growing.



A bowl of bruised, cracked, malformed but tasty “ugly fruit”.

Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

Fall forward and waste not

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7. Check on the process until done. Let the racks cool before removing the fruit.
8. You can enjoy your items immediately, but if you want to store your stash, pack the dried fruit in glass jars or sealable plastic bags. Shake jars or bags once a day to make sure there is no condensation. If there is any moisture, return the product to the dehydrator for a bit more drying.
9. Store in a pantry or a room temperature darkened area.
10. Voila! Your very own dried fruit and leathers.

You can also put the dried fruit in bags and the freezer. I've experimented with over-ripe bananas, apples, pears, Asian pears, and I even made raisins with chardonnay grapes, seeds and all. Crunchy!



Cynthia Brian by the pink bower vine in bloom.

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.

Buy a copy of her new books, Growing with the Goddess Gardener and Be the Star You Are! Millennials to Boomers at www.cynthiabrian.com/online-store.

Hire Cynthia for projects, consults, and lectures.

Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com
www.GoddessGardener.com

Everything turns out delicious and I know these dried trials are nutritious because except for the bananas, they originate in my organic orchard. My next testing will be to make sweet potato chips from the sweet potatoes I'm growing. I plan to go exotic by drying mangoes, strawberries, pineapple and papayas.

Recently we witnessed a rise of what I call the "ugly fruit." Stores, farmers' markets, and online sites are popularizing the value of imperfect produce. This is a giant step forward in eliminating waste and re-educating our families to value all products provided by nature. Farmers using organic methods know that crops are not always pretty, but the nutritional value and health benefits outweigh perfection of form.

As summer slowly fades into fall, I wish you abundance and a garden of eating.



The dried apples cool down after dehydration.

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15 Easton Court

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New Listing

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\$1,595,000

ORINDA



New Listing

271 Orchard Road

Updated & expanded rancher in the heart of Orinda. Large lawn, patio, sport court & rooftop deck.

\$1,695,000

ORINDA



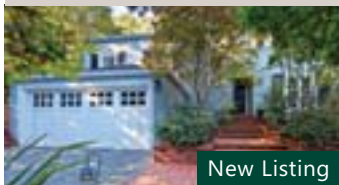
New Listing

8 Santa Lucia

Lovely 5 bed/5 bath 3917 sqft restored Spanish style home with quality features & craftsmanship.

\$1,795,000

ORINDA



New Listing

2 El Caminito

4 bed/ 3 baths, 2861 sqft home in a coveted Orinda Country Club neighborhood with views of Lake Cascade.

\$1,840,000

ORINDA



New Price

48 Oak Drive

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

\$2,599,000

ORINDA

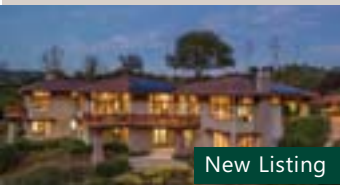


145 Meadow Lane

New construction to come! Plans approved by city, existing fixer home to be torn down.

\$2,600,000

ORINDA



New Listing

13 Gardiner Court

Custom craftsman home. 6 Bed/4.5 bath with spectacular views, flat play areas, & stunning infinity pool.

\$3,595,000

ORINDA

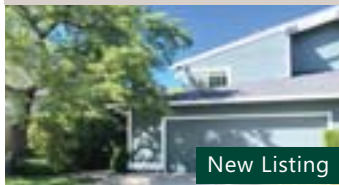


57 Charles Hill Road

A new SpringHill Homes masterpiece! 5 bed/5 baths +2 half baths with an open floor plan on a .75 acre lot.

\$4,395,000

MORAGA



New Listing

12 Josefa Place

Spacious, updated Carroll Ranch Town home w/ hardwood floors & tile throughout. 2 beds / 3 full baths in 1845 sq. ft.

\$885,000

LAFAYETTE

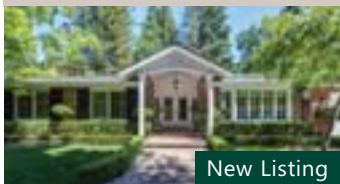


3259 Camino Colorados

3 bed/1 bath Burton Valley fixer-upper on a great lot. Much loved family home.

\$902,000

LAFAYETTE



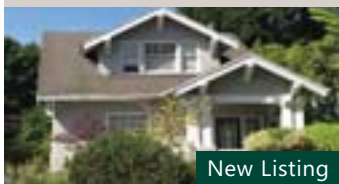
New Listing

1410 Reliez Valley Road

Incredible, updated home with hardwood floors & open floorplan. Outdoor living, gardens & pool.

\$1,980,000

BERKELEY



New Listing

1132 Amador Ave

3 bed/1.5 bath fixer-upper in North Berkeley. Panoramic views of San Francisco & Bay Bridge.

\$779,000

WALNUT CREEK

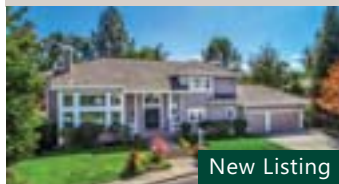


1670 San Miguel Drive

Spacious 2 bed/ 2.5 bath condo with remodeled kitchen, hardwood floors, & oversized master bedroom!

\$735,000

DANVILLE



New Listing

807 Waingarth Way

Traditional 4 bed/ 3 bath remodeled 3,439 sqft home featuring private .23 acre yard located near top K-12 Danville schools.

\$1,549,000

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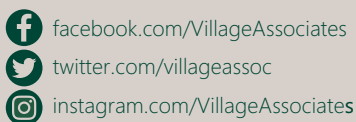
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