

TG HARDWOOD FLOORS
Moraga California
DESIGN • FINISHING • INSTALLATION
925-376-1118
Lic # 974653

Since 1993!
Tom Gieryng, owner and operator

CALL TOM FOR A FREE ESTIMATE

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM MY HOUSE TO YOURS!

I love to count my blessings this time of year, and they include friends who have worked with me and given me referrals—thanks so much! One common question sellers ask revolves around preparing a home for sale, especially now that the market is shifting. I'm happy to share my strategies and suggestions to help you make the best decisions, whether you are renovating to stay for a while or to move next year. Feel free to reach out any time!

Tania DeGroot
925.259.1380
CalBRE # 01094898

tania.degroot@gmail.com www.bhghome.com

Better Homes and Gardens REAL ESTATE | **RELIANCE PARTNERS**

Bay Area UNDERPINNING
GENERAL CONTRACTOR LIC. 867128

Building Foundations

- Lifting
- Leveling
- Stabilizing

707 310-0602
www.bayareaunderpinning.org

GENERAL CONTRACTOR LIC. 867128

BURKIN ELECTRIC
"Let Us Light Up Your Life"
Residential • Commercial • Industrial

Serving Contra Costa since 1991
More than 40 years experience

All Work Done by Owner
Bonded & Insured
Lic.#C10-631523

Professional Installation of:

- Ceiling Fans, Recessed & Track Lighting
- Kitchen or Bath Remodel
- Exterior/Security/Landscape Lighting
- Electrical Service Upgrade
- Complete Home Wiring - Old & New
- Spa Installation

(925) 672-1519

James Burkin
Sole Proprietor

Lamorinda rings in the holiday season



Photo Gint Federas

... continued from Page A1

While advanced reservations are required for the Lafayette Historical Society's annual Breakfast with Santa benefit Dec. 15 at Sideboard in Lafayette (see story Page B6), children can visit with Santa at Moraga's 5A-Rent-A-Space during its annual free holiday event from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Dec. 14

which will include crafts and treats. Crafts will also be center stage at the Second Annual Girls Crushing It pop-up shop from 2 to 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 15 at the Lafayette Community Center. The Winter Pop-up Shop will showcase 60 local "girlpreneurs" proudly presenting everything from their homemade bath products and pet treats, to original works of art to handmade jewelry (see story on Page B4).

Looking for something to enhance your holiday cheer? Don't miss the free screening of "National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation" at 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 12 at the Orinda Theatre. Interested in something more traditional? The singing and ringing choirs of Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Lafayette will present their annual Christmas concert at 4 p.m. on Dec. 15. "Faith, Fun, and a Feast," includes a little religious Christmas music, a lot of popular Christmas music, and ends with "A Feast of Carols," composed by Randol Alan Bass for the Dallas Symphony and Symphony Chorus. While admission is free, a freewill offering will be taken, with half the proceeds going to Contra Costa Interfaith Housing, helping the homeless find permanent homes.

Finally, the holidays would not be as special without remembering those we love. For 33 years, Hospice East Bay's Tree of Lights ceremonies have offered community members a way to honor the lives of friends and loved ones. Lights are illuminated and names of loved ones those wish to honor or remember are read aloud during the 30-40 minute ceremony. The final Hospice Tree of Lights event in Lamorinda will be held at 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 15 at Moraga Country Club. —J. Wake

Total Clean Congratulates Ernestina Ureña

14 Years

of **Dedicated Service**

Moraga Art Gallery: reincarnated in time for the holidays



The gallery

Photo Sophie Braccini

By Sophie Braccini

The new location of the Moraga Art Gallery exemplifies beautifully how a major setback can turn into an unexpected blessing. Only a few months ago, gallery members heard through the grapevine that their month-to-month lease on a space in the Rheem Shopping Center would abruptly come to an end. Member-artists left, sadness rose. But today, a new place has been found, in the same center but in a much larger and visible space. New member-artists have joined, the inauguration was a blast, and the public visits the new location at a higher rate, finding there unique gifts and wonderful local art.

George Ehrenhaft, a member-artist, was beaming with joy at the gallery shortly after it reopened. He quickly put away the high ladder he was using to fix a light and started showing off the space. Maybe twice as large as the previous location, the gallery is full of light, and can feature many artists at the same time while giving each the space their work deserves to be well highlighted.

Ehrenhaft is a painter who is a longtime member of the artists co-op and he tells how the gallery lost its space to a new consignment store. The center's management proposed the site next to

Tangelo's that was a bit small for the artists, and then mentioned the 2,400 square feet available between Dover Saddlery and Nation's. This specific spot is believed to have been a karate studio and a bank. Now cleaned up, repainted, lighted and furnished by the gallery members it is a very attractive and effective showroom. Current president Lucy Beck commented that the shopping center's management treated them very well and that the group feels grateful. Of course the generous move comes with a counterpart: the gallery would have to vacate should a paying tenant manifest.

But at the moment the sword of Damocles does not dampen the optimistic mood of the artists and, in fact, the group that shrank from 12 to six artist-members is now boasting 20, many of the new ones being former members of the Lafayette Art Gallery that closed several years ago.

A large number of the old and new members' works are on display now in Moraga, creating a symphony of creativity, colors, shapes, styles and mediums that is very invigorating. Painters such as Debbie Koonce, Carla Gerlbaum, George Ehrenhaft and Lucy Beck who were original members are displayed alongside new members like Irene Nidoba and her passionate surrealist imagery;

very interesting abstract painter Susan Erikson; and simple while mysterious landscape painter Jill Landau. Additionally, for this season exhibit called "Serendipities," the gallery welcomes guest painters such as Graig Crossley, who presents his lively abstract work.

Paintings are on the walls, but all around the gallery creations of wood workers, ceramists, jewelry makers and more are on display. Carol Balala's lovely felted wool soaps can be purchased; a large metal mammal by guest artist sculptor Joe Bologna is on display; woodwork guest artist Rick Nelson presents very creative and beautiful inlaid turned wood bowls; MaryLee Miller, the latest artist to join the gallery, presents her skillfully created ceramic decorative balls. The bronze and ceramic sculptures of the incredibly talented new member Judy Bolef Miller attract a lot of attention, and make sure not to miss her bronze "Liberty and Justice" statue.

Very different styles of jewelry are on display, from creations by Kay DeGroot, who designs necklaces and earrings around unique pendants and beads she has collected around the world, or the delicate vegetable parchment jewelry that Margaret Dorfman invents. Coasters, cards and scarfs are also some of the items that can be found in the gallery.

A separate space is still unused and ideas are being proposed by the collective such as transforming it for art classes or offering it as an exhibition space for high school art class students.

During all of December the gallery will be open every day — including weekends — from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and is staffed by member-artists. More information at moragaartgallery.com.

LeapFrog Plumbing
To all our Lamorinda customers:

Head Frog Mo Williams

The one-call plumber Gas, Water & Sewer

- Emergency service
- Repairs & installation
- Video sewer inspection
- Copper re-piping
- Preventive checkups
- Water heater specialist Tank, Tankless, Hybrid

Ho Ho Ho! You're the best!
We thank you for the privilege of hoppin' to it for you this year! We wish you true peace, love and joy. May you have a safe and Plumb Hoppy Holiday.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

LeapFrog Loot **\$150 off** tankless/hybrid water heater installation*

LeapFrog Loot **\$100 off** Any tank-type water heater installation*

LeapFrog Loot **\$25 off** Any new faucet or fixture installation*

*1 coupon per service Exp 1/15/20

We Hop To It!
Family-owned and serving Lamorinda since 1993

LeapFrog is a vendor for PG&E gas service.

(925) **377-6600**
www.LeapFrogPlumbing.com

CA Lic 929641